



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Year of our Lord, 2017 or 2017AD

I still meet many people who think AD stands for 'after death' (of Jesus) since BC stands for 'before Christ', but AD actually means, year of our Lord (Jesus). Of course scholars have now determined that Jesus was actually born on 4BC. Now don't be like some and react in horror. Jesus was born at the right time it was just the guy who invented the BC and AD dating system around 500AD got it wrong. So really we are in year 2021AD or if you join the politically correct who have abandoned both AD and BC with CE and BCE (meaning common era and before the common era) it doesn't matter because the common era can't state when Jesus is born because the whole idea of this change is to get rid of the 'Christian-centric' way of looking at things. One last note, if AD meant after death, and BC means before Jesus was born, what letters would we use between Jesus being 1 and dying around the age of 30-33 which is how old we think Jesus was when He died?

One of the things I like about the AD designation, and I will use it until I die, is that it reminds us who our time belongs too. We all have the year 2017 on a one-time basis to use to serve God. 2017 will not come around again. What is God asking you to do with it? It is my hope and prayer that each of you will take some time in prayer and ask God what He is asking of you in 2017.

By the way, it is good idea to ask God each night or morning depending on your preference as to what He is asking you to do tomorrow/today. As you have heard me say many times, it is never a question of whether or not God is calling us, the only question is are we listening?

I want to thank all of you for all you did for Cedar Grove UMC in 2016. I want to thank you in advance for all you will do for Cedar Grove UMC in 2017. We are only the church God wants us to be because of your hard work and generosity. THANK YOU!

As we begin 2017 know that this is the 125th year that Cedar Grove UMC has been a place where Jesus Christ is proclaimed, salvation offered, help given, disciples trained, and so on. Look for information in the near future about how we are going to mark this great 'Ebenezer' meaning a marker showing how far we have come and how we need to keep on moving forward!

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ,

Glen

The Beacon January 2017



Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm



CHURCH NEWS

Scripture readers on Sunday mornings! It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. We would love to have even more voices. If you are interested there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and if you do sign up we will send you the reading electronically or inform you over the phone as to what the reading is. If you find the reading to be too difficult (length or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

Wednesday Dinners followed by Kid's Group, Youth Group, and Women's Bible Study continue so come and have some food and fellowship. And then if you are a kid, a youth, or a woman stay for our various after dinner activities. **First dinner in 2017 will be on January 11th.**

There will be **no confirmation class** this year as none came forward to be confirmed.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study** is finishing up Romans and sometime around the end of January will move on to study the Gospel of Luke. All are invited to join us, 10am in the fellowship hall on Tuesdays.

THANK YOU Trustees for the sidewalk work that was done and thank you to the Trustees for the new flooring in the hall connecting the fellowship hall with the narthex and to Kevin Roby and Mike Haas for the rail and trim and the painting.

THANK YOU to those who finished their terms in various positions which include the following people (not counting people who re-upped for another three years in the same position) LAY LEADER: Kevin Roby, SPRC: Greg Witte, Vicki Marsh, Janet Manifold, NOMINATIONS: Sam Keiffer, Stacey Scofield, MISSIONS: Jeanne Haas, Robyn Case, TRUSTEES: Cindy Rothhaas.

THANK YOU to those who begin their service in 2017! SPRC Cindy Rothhaas, Charlie Brown, Pam Smith. NOMINATIONS: Marjorie Johnson. LAY LEADER: Greg Witte. CHURCH COUNCIL AT LARGE: Kevin Roby.

SALT AND THE SIDEWALKS: PLEASE READ AS THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: It is very important that we **DO NOT, do not put salt** on the new concrete that was put down the last few months during this Winter. We will have sand and other things to address the ice. Thank you!

--The Board of Trustees

Family Movie Night. Thank you to everyone that came out to our December Movie Night! We collected a bunch of hats for the homeless! It is very exciting to see how much support we have had and that we have collected so many necessary items to keep the homeless warm this winter. Our next movie night is **Friday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.** We will be showing "**Finding Dory**". It's PJ Night, so if you come wearing your PJs you will get free popcorn! Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! Our snack bar will be open, selling items such as: pizza, popcorn, candy & soda! If you have questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com.

The **Good News Jail Ministry Chaplains office** would like to **invite you to join them for the 18th Annual Herman Fletcher Memorial Prayer Breakfast scheduled for January 12, 2017 at 8:00 am** at Trinity UMC, 1300 West Street, Annapolis MD. 21401. Doors open at 7:30 am. (Jan. 19, 2017 is the back-up date if AACO schools are delayed or closed on Jan. 12). Please RSVP to Chase Wood by Jan. 6, 2017 at 410.222.4549 or by email at chase.wood@goodnewsjail.org.



MISSIONS CORNER

In 2016 our Missions Council sought to continue our goal to bring more awareness to the various missions supported by Cedar Grove through such efforts as this Missions Corner in the monthly newsletter highlighting our "Mission of the Month", the "Mission of the Month" information to the weekly Sunday slides, our Missions board in the Narthex and our monthly Missions update on the 3rd Sunday.

In 2017, we will continue with this goal by hosting our "Missions Fair" in February -- this will be an opportunity for church members and visitors to walk around and see the variety of missions we support, ask questions and prayerfully consider how they can personally engage and support these missions. We will be confirming the date in early January and will ask you to invite your friends and neighbors as well, as this will be a great chance for them to also look at ways they can "plug in". If you typically "give up" something for Lent, perhaps this year, you will consider committing to simply "giving" of your time, talents, monetary donations to a cause that speaks to your heart.

We will also continue to work with the Baltimore-Washington conference and other area churches to engage in more community advocacy. We welcome and encourage any suggestions for new ministries or questions you may have.

I would like to personally thank our Missions council members from 2016: Jeanne Haas, Robyn Case, Stacey Witte, Pam Morton, Theresa Lumsden, Gennie Fisanich and Pastor Glen for their time, dedication and support. A big thank you to Jeanne and Robyn as they cycle off the council, as well as a big thank you to Pam Morton for renewing her commitment for another three years. In addition, a hearty welcome to the newest member of our Missions Council, Sandy Burns.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you -- our amazing church family who ALWAYS comes through in a time of need -- thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support. Please continue to pray for our Missions Council as we seek to do God's work and make disciples for Christ.

Ingrid High
Missions Council Chair



CGUMC has received the following notes that we want to share with you from people who appreciate the help they were given through the sunshine fund and through the prison ministry:

"Dear Cedar Grove Family, thank you so much for your support! God calls us to serve one another and you are a living example of the word. Love Eternal, C. 'Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.' Phil. 2:4. 'This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.' John 15:12"
(Note from a grateful recipient of our sunshine fund.)

"Hey Chaplain Woods, thanks so much for everything. I'm being released tonight so it was a delight meeting you and I will continue to study myself on the Bible and make better decisions in life. Again, thanks so much and may the Good Lord be with you always. It was a pleasure Chaplain Woods." (Note from a grateful recipient of our ministry partnership with the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry.)



BOOK CORNER



What Are They Saying About Luke?

Mark Allan Powell Paulist Press 1989 151pgs

The Tuesday Bible study group will be starting the Gospel of Luke sometime near the end of January 2017. So, as is my practice, I start reading books in general about the biblical book and try to familiarize myself with the basic aspects of the biblical book and hear what the scholars are saying. This book while dated is from a really good series of books about the Bible, Theology, and the Church all of which have, 'what are they saying about...', in the title. I have 12 volumes in the series including all of the volumes on the gospels.

The book is easy to read though it is geared toward those with an academic and/or scholarly background. Its goal is to let you know the state of scholarship on the Gospel of Luke in terms of the following topics: Luke the author, composition of the Gospel of Luke, concerns of the community that Luke was written from and for the place of Christ and salvation, political and social issues such as dealing with the Roman Empire, poverty and women, and spiritual/pastoral concerns. Essentially this book introduces why the Gospel of Luke was written, its main themes, and the issues that the Gospel of Luke was trying to address.

Despite the expressed doubts of the author as to how valuable his book will be some 30 years later, I am happy to report that it provides a good introduction to Luke. This book is probably only of value to someone who is going to teach the Gospel of Luke. If you are simply wanting a book to help you understand Luke as you read you should buy what is called a commentary which provides explanations for each and every passage in the book and there are many of them of varying detail. If you have a good study Bible, a book like this would be a cheap valuable supplement to the information your study Bible provides. So this book review probably won't result in a bunch of you going out and buying it but it does allow me to give you a glimpse into my process of preparing to teach and a type of resource you might not have ever known about.

Pastor Glen Arnold