



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon January 2018



REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

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

The Year of Our Lord 2018

2018! It is hard to believe we are rapidly approaching being one fifth through this century! I have commented many times that when I was growing up in the early 1970s I didn't think the 70s would ever end. Well they did and they seem a long time ago now. Years come and go and I believe God wants us not to squander our time or let the years pass us by, but rather see each year as an opportunity to grow in our faith, in our service to Him, and in our Christian walks. God has given us 2018 and we are to use it to serve Him.

I am challenging every person in this church to do four things this year at a minimum in their Christian walks. First, volunteer, at least once and work in one of the ministries of our church that either you never have or haven't for a long time (usher, work day, homeless trip, SPY, praise team, a committee, etc.). Second, that you pick a book of the Bible or a Christian topic and read what the Bible says or read a book on the topic. Third, practice a spiritual discipline either more deeply or for the first time (for example, as a church we are going to challenge you this Lent in the areas of fasting and prayer). If you read your Bible each day or spend time in prayer each day or whatever your spiritual discipline is expand it, deepen it. Fourth, and finally, talk more about your faith in your life. We talk to people about our cars, our vacations, our families, sports, and so many things that are important to us, why not our faith as well, and besides God commands us to do so.

One last time let me thank all of you for what you did for our church and our ministries in 2017. And let me thank you for the first time for what you will do this year! Let's make 2018 a great year of serving God.

Your Fellow Servant of Jesus Christ,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to all those who served on a committee here at Cedar Grove in 2017 and have finished their terms. If you have not been on a committee, but were asked this past Autumn and said yes your terms begin on January 1. A special word of thanks to Ida Mae Williams who has stepped down from her job of keeping our campus looking so beautiful.

Confirmation Class 2018. Please pray for the confirmands as they go through the classes and decide whether or not to commit their lives not just to the church, but more importantly to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The once a month study will start a new topic this month and this class will go through May 2018. The topic we will study is **The Women of the Bible**. The class meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm and the Monday prior at 10am thus enabling those who prefer daytime or evening to attend (if you can't figure out when we meet, check out the calendar in this newsletter). Of all the once a month studies this will be the easiest and most basic as we are going to look at a number of the important passages/stories in the Bible where women play a prominent roll. The stories are usually fairly straightforward but are also very important in the Bible's message to us. While I am still in the process of organizing each session at this point we will have a class on the mothers of our faith, women of faith, the not so good women of the Old Testament, a look at the important un-named women, and the women of the New Testament. At the end of the 5 classes we will discuss how fair or unfair the Bible is in terms of its treatment of women as compared to men. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and please sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glen.

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 Night Dinners and Activities! Come out and join us for food, fellowship, and then women's Bible study, youth group, or kidz group. Wednesday night dinners and activities resume on January 10, 2018.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study meets at 10am** and is studying the Gospel of Luke and if you would like to come please do. We usually have 14-16 people present and have room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

Family Movie Night is Friday, January 12th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will watch a fun, new January movie (to be announced). Wear your favorite Winter hat! Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! As always, our movie night snack bar will be open selling pizza, popcorn, candy, and sodas. Everything is \$1.00 or less. Hope you can join us for a fun evening! If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com.



MISSIONS CORNER

As I look back on 2017, I do so with mixed emotions - for our Missions committee, we lost our loving sister in Christ, Stacey Witte, who was such an important part of Cedar Grove and epitomized service, love and ministry for God - however as much as we miss her, we know that she is in a far more glorious place with our loving Father.

We also bade farewell and safe travels to Gennie Fisanich and her family who moved to Florida this past summer.

We do have much to celebrate, however including a successful Missions Fair in February to drive more awareness of the numerous ways Cedar Grove is "Reaching Out, Growing Close, and Changing Lives Through Jesus Christ." We had a fantastic turnout and will take the lessons we learned from that first event, as we try and turn this into a biennial event. We will also continue to contact those that expressed an interest in our various missions, but as always, please reach out to any one of the missions committee members.

In 2018 we will continue to share opportunities for outreach and invite all members of our congregation to get involved in the sharing of God's love and message of salvation through missions work. We will also continue to support key missions work in our community and to this end, our 2018 missions supported by Cedar Grove UMC are the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry (Reverends Chase Wood and Britt Fletcher), the South County Faith Network, and our international mission is Ripe Harvest Ministries (Bob and Jay Lanning). You will see that in 2018 we are not supporting CRU ministries in Croatia as a church, but we will continue to pray for the work of the Malovic family and if you would like to donate directly to their ministry, we are happy to share the details with you.

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 committee members from 2017 - Sandy Burns, Pam Morton, Theresa Lumsden and Pastor Glen for their time, dedication and support. In addition, a hearty welcome back to the Missions committee to Julie McNamee and Mary Day.

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 committee as we seek to do God's work and make disciples for Christ.

Ingrid Quimby-High
Missions Committee Chairperson



BOOK CORNER



The Emmaus Code: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

David Limbaugh Regnery Press 2015 420pgs

(Note: This book is now out in paperback and the title has changed by deleting the words 'The Emmaus Code' and simply titling it 'Finding Jesus in the Old Testament'.)

In the October newsletter I reviewed David Limbaugh's (brother of radio personality Rush Limbaugh) book True Jesus which is about how Jesus is portrayed in the four Gospels and I so enjoyed it and recommended it to anyone who wants to grow in their understanding of the Christian Faith, I wanted to also read his first two books and this is the second of the three books he has written on the Christian Faith. I will certainly also be reading his other book Jesus on Trial at some point this year. As I said in the review of the first book, do not let the Limbaugh family connection impact your decision in any way to read these books.

Let me give a basic overview of this book which begins with a very convincing case for why Christians need to spend time in the Old Testament. The book then goes through some major themes about what the Old Testament says about the Messiah (means the same as the word Christ) before going into an excellent review of the various covenants between God and the people of God as covered in the Old Testament. This book is worth reading just for this first 160 pages. The second part of the book goes through every book of the Old Testament and tells you what it has to say about the Christ. Given the reading I have done on this topic (have a whole shelf of books on the topic) I was concerned that I would be bored. I was not and enjoyed being reminded of how much the Old Testament has to tell us about the Christ and how we can understand Him all the better by reading the Old Testament.

I only have one disagreement with this book and the same suggestion that I had about True Jesus. My suggestion is that this book would be so much better as a reference if it had a scripture passage index. The only place I disagree with the book, and it is minor, Limbaugh subscribes to the position that every time God appears in the Old Testament on earth that it is Jesus. Now I have no problem with this other than the text doesn't say it is Jesus but rather that it is God. Yes, Jesus is the Son of God, our one God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and thus it could be Jesus but why not the Father or the Holy Spirit or some combination of all three. It is not a major disagreement Limbaugh uses a Christological hermeneutic (meaning theory or method interpretation) and I prefer a Trinitarian hermeneutic.

It is my hope that Limbaugh, having covered the Old Testament and the Gospels will now write a book on the rest of the New Testament. I cannot recommend this book and his others strong enough. It doesn't matter where you are in your Christian walk or your knowledge of the Bible you will get a lot out of this book and will be glad to have it on your shelf as a reference. Hopefully Jesus on Trial will be just as good and I will let you know once I have read it. Like True Jesus I would love to get a group of people interested in reading it and then meet and discuss it, part by part.

Pastor Glen Arnold



Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry Presents:

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND**

*Featuring Anita Gutschick from Women of the Bible
and Bible teacher, Joanne Guarnieri Hagemeyer*

Friday, March 2, 2018 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018

At the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel

10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

If you'd like to go on this fun retreat weekend, please complete a registration form as soon as possible. Cost is \$35 per person for the weekend (non-refundable). This fee is for the retreat program only and does not apply to your hotel stay. (Each attendee is asked to make their own hotel reservations at the hotel, see info below.) Please make checks payable to "Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry" and put "For Retreat" in the memo area. You may place the check with your completed registration form in the collection basket during Sunday Worship or you can mail it to the Cedar Grove office or to Diana Seen at 4923 Thomas Drive, Shady Side, MD 20764.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Diana Seen: 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net

Sharon Staley: 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com

Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel Package Rates:

- Standard Double/Double: \$269
- Double Occupancy: \$155
- Triple or Quad Occupancy: \$125

The Package Rate is based on single, double, triple or quad occupancy. The package rate includes: 2 nights' accommodations in a standard double/double room, Saturday breakfast buffet, Sunday deluxe breakfast buffet, all taxes and service charge included.

Individual Reservations: All guests will be responsible for securing their own reservations. Please use the Clarion's toll free number, 800-638-2100 when making your reservations and request the special Cedar Grove UMC group rate.

Hotel reservations must be made by Feb. 2, 2018.

Hotel Policies: Check-In: 4:00 PM. Check-Out: 11:00 AM. Personal checks not accepted in hotel. 72-hour notice required on cancellations/changes. No refunds for early check-out.

REGISTRATION FORM

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

REGISTRATION/TICKET FEE : \$35 PER PERSON FOR WEEKEND (NON REFUNDABLE). THIS IS FOR THE ACTUAL RETREAT PROGRAM, DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUR HOTEL STAY. PLEASE MAKE OUT CHECKS TO CEDAR GROVE UMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY WITH MEMO FOR RETREAT ALONG WITH THE FORM BELOW. YOU MAY PLACE IN COLLECTION BASKET ON SUNDAYS, MAIL TO CEDAR GROVE UMC, OR TO DIANA SEEN, 4923 THOMAS DRIVE, SHADY SIDE, MD 20764.

Register by Dec. 1st.

FEEL FREE TO CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

**DIANA SEEN, 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net
SHARON STALEY, 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com**



NAME: _____

ADDRESS : _____

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