



Cedar Grove UMC

5965 Deale-Churchton Road
Deale, MD 20751
410-867-7417
office@cgumc.org
www.cgumc.org



The Beacon
March 2017

REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Lent 2017

What does the word Lent mean? Your answer to this question, if you know the answer, will go one of two directions, you will either define it as it has become in the Christian church, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that are prior to Easter Sunday or you might know where the word comes from in secular terms, 'spring', and in terms of the Christian year 'the forty'. Well, to a degree that is simply trivia about the word, but what about the reality of Lent? Why is it 40 days? Why are Sundays not included? Why is it the 40 days before Easter?

The length of 40 days or years occurs many times in the Bible. The two most important are the 40 years the people of God spent in the wilderness (a time of testing) and the 40 days Jesus was tempted by Satan. (We could add the 40 days of rain leading to the flood of Noah fame and Moses and Elijah each dwelt on Mt. Horeb for 40 days, and so on.) Thus, Lent is 40 days for us to test our faith, whether in denial of something, growing in some aspect of our faith, or some demonstration of our faith. And given its rich history in the Bible, the 40 should also be a reminder of those who went before us and who like Jesus passed the test and proved their faith.

Since Lent originated as a time of fasting, Sundays were not included. Sunday is always to be a day of celebration for it was on a Sunday that Christ rose from the dead. So technically if you give something up for Lent, chocolate is always a favorite choice, you can have some on Sunday and still be keeping your Lenten commitment. I however feel compelled to say that your fast of this type will be more meaningful and an even greater evidence of God's grace and your faith if you do not 'break' your fast on those Sundays. (That is why on calendars that care about the Christian year call Sundays that occur during Lent, for example '3rd Sunday in Lent' while say a Sunday during the Easter season are called '3rd Sunday of Easter', for the Sunday is a part of the season and not simply a day apart from the season and held during that time.)

As I have pointed out myself many times, we do not have to wait for Lent to demonstrate our faith, to fast, to prove our commitment to Christ. But as I have also said Lent, human created tradition that it is, is an opportunity we should not pass up. And I believe that by doing it as the lead up to Easter you will better appreciate the celebration that is triggered by the greatest news (definitely not fake news) ever given that Christ is Risen! The last week of Lent is Holy week when we remember the suffering and death of Jesus for our sins where Jesus faced His final temptation as

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

He expressed so clearly in the garden, 'Father if you are willing take this cup (meaning His suffering and death on the cross) from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Of course after the cross, comes Easter and thus Lent leads up to Easter.

For me Lent is a time to do three things. First, spend more time growing in your knowledge of God. Second, doing something more for God as a sign of your faith. Third, some variation of the traditional fast, whether it be actually fasting from food one day a week during Lent or giving up something you enjoy to demonstrate that God is more important than that thing. (One of the hardest Lenten fasts I ever did was not buying any books!)

Cedar Grove UMC through special services, our Lenten book and sermon series on the 10 Commandments, Sunday school classes, and Bible studies offer you many opportunities to learn more about your faith. You can do any number of things by yourself, for example, reading a book of the Bible or a spiritual book or spending time in prayer, can make for a great Lent. Know this; God is calling you to grow in your faith. God is always pleased when you demonstrate your faith. And remember you are not doing this to impress others or to show off, but rather to grow, to witness to the power and truth of God.

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

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Reminder: Please join us for our **pancake supper Wednesday, March 1 at 5:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Then following the dinner at **7:00 pm** we begin our **Ash Wednesday Service** in the Sanctuary. Come and begin Lent as we should by remembering that we are sinners and need Jesus for salvation and to grow as Christians.

Our **book for Lent** which Pastor Glen will coordinate with his preaching is **Keeping the 10 Commandments by J.I. Packer**. This book has 17 short chapters (110 pages of actual text) so we will have to do more than one chapter a week as Lent is only 6 Sundays starting on March 5. So please read chapters 1-5 for March 5, chapters 6-8 for March 12, chapters 9-11 for March 19, chapters 12-13 for March 26, chapters 14-15 for April 2, and chapters 16-17 for April 9. The 10 Commandments is an excellent topic for us to learn more about and apply to our lives during the season of Lent.

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 continues to meet 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.

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

Are you interested in becoming a **member of Cedar Grove UMC**? If so, please let Pastor Glen know.

The **Martha Lydia Circle** will hold their **annual soup & bake sale** on **Saturday, March 11 at 9:00am-1:00pm**. Featuring hearty homemade soups (Vegetable Beef and Ham & Bean) and scrumptious baked goods. Cost for the soup is \$7.00 a quart. Pre-order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletin. For more information contact the Church office.

Join us for **Family Movie Night on Friday, March 10 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. We will be showing Disney's **"Moana"**. Wear your favorite slippers and you will get free popcorn! 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. Family Movie Night is every 2nd Friday of the month, however, in April we will have it one week earlier. On Friday, April 7 we will be showing the "Storks" movie and then in May we are back to regular schedule on May 12 and will be showing "Rogue One, A Star Wars Story". Hope you can join us for a fun evening!

Save the Date for our Community Easter Celebration--Saturday, April 15 at 12:00-2:00 pm. Lots of fun activities are being planned. Details coming soon!

* * *



MISSIONS CORNER

The Mission we are highlighting this month is **Service Project Youth (SPY)**

SPY *aka* Service Project Youth is a week-long mission adventure for middle and high school students and their adult chaperones. Physically, it's a home repair ministry, making homes safer, warmer and drier, for families in the New River Valley in the Christiansburg, VA area. Spiritually, we seek to be God's hands and feet in the world. Because of God's love for us, we work to love others in tangible ways. Some examples of projects include: painting, roofing, replacing gutters, yard work, building ramps, decks, wiring, paneling, plumbing, flooring, supports, masonry, ceilings, fixing leaky toilets *and more*. Cedar Grove has been attending SPY at Fieldstone UMC since 2009 and the program gets better each year!

This summer we are headed to SPY on **July 15-21**. If you are interested in going, please contact Pam Foster by email at pamjimf@comcast.net. If you'd like more information on the mission project, please see this website: www.fieldstoneumc.org/#/project-spy/what-is-project-spy.





BOOK CORNER



The Decalogue through the Centuries: From the Hebrew Scriptures to Benedict XVI
Jeffrey Greenman and Timothy Larsen, editors WJK 2012 239pgs

My favorite type of biblical/theological book is the history of interpretation book. In other words, along with defining the issue, in this case the 10 Commandments, gives a history over the years of all the text or principle was understood. This book is a collection of essays tracing how the 10 Commandments was interpreted, first in the Old and New Testaments and then in the early church. Including an introductory chapter that looks at the 10 Commandments directly this is the opening part of the book and quite excellent. It reveals how little, in particular the Old Testament refers to the 10 Commandments and never in total. Of course one could make the case that there was no need as it is a famous text and well known.

The remainder of the book covers what the following people have taught using the 10 Commandments through the centuries and not just Christians: Thomas Aquinas, Moses Maimonides, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Owen, Lancelot Andrewes, John Wesley, Christina Rossetti, Karl Barth, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI. For me, even as well read as I am, it was a mixed bag of the obvious and the unknown. Until I read this book I did not know who Lancelot Andrewes and Christina Rossetti were and was not surprised to see the other names and particularly pleased to see the name of the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley. It is very interesting to see how the commandments have been understood by different people, in different contexts, and in different times.

I would recommend this book to anyone who really wants to understand how the commandments have been interpreted over the years. The book is easy to read, but is not light reading. For many the book we are using during Lent by J. I. Packer will be all you need, but if you hunger to go deeper in your understanding of the 10 Commandments, then this book along with a few others (The Ten Commandments by Patrick Miller and The Ten Commandments by Mark Rooker) would not be a bad choice to read. Each chapter has a different author so there are differences in style from chapter to chapter.

Pastor Glen Arnold



Cedar Grove UMC Events/Meetings Calendar

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 pm —FHall Pancake Supper 7:00 pm —Sanctuary Ash Wednesday Service <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	2 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Relax 7:00 pm —Sanc. Praise Team	3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	4 9:00 am —FHall YOGA Stretch
5 9:00 am —Adult Sunday School 10:00 am —Worship Service 10:00 am after the children's msg —K-5th Sunday School (& pre-k child care) <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	6	7 10:00 am —FHall Bible Study (Led by Pastor Glen) 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Stretch 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Trustees Meeting	8 6:00 pm —FHall Community Dinner 6:45 pm —Parlor Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Youth Group 7:00 pm —FHall CGKidz	9 12:00 pm —FHall Chesapeake Ramblers Meeting 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Relax 7:00 pm —Sanc. Praise Team	10 7:00 pm —FHall Family Movie Night showing: "Moana" 	11 9:00 am —Ed Ctr YOGA Stretch 9:00am-1:00pm FHall - Martha Lydia Circle Soup & Bake Sale 
12 9:00 am —Adult Sunday School 10:00 am —Worship Service 10:00 am after the children's msg —K-5th Sunday School (& pre-k child care) <i>2nd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	13 10:00 am —Parlor Martha Lydia Circle	14 10:00 am —FHall Bible Study (Led by Pastor Glen) 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Stretch	15 6:00 pm —FHall Community Dinner 6:45 pm —Parlor Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Youth Group 7:00 pm —FHall CGKidz	16 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Relax 7:00 pm —Sanc. Praise Team	17	18 9:00 am —FHall YOGA Stretch
19 9:00 am —Adult Sunday School 10:00 am —Worship Service 10:00 am after the children's msg —K-5th Sunday School (& pre-k child care) 11:30 pm —Kitchen Prepare Homeless Meal Bags 5:45 pm —Ed Ctr Meet-Homeless Trip <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	20 10:00 am —FHall Apocrypha Class	21 10:00 am —FHall Bible Study (Led by Pastor Glen) 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Stretch 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Apocrypha Class	22 6:00 pm —FHall Community Dinner 6:45 pm —Parlor Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Youth Group 7:00 pm —FHall CGKidz	23 7:30 am —PLOT Chesapeake Ramblers Depart for Trip 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Relax 7:00 pm —Sanc. Praise Team	24	25 9:00 am —FHall YOGA Stretch
26 9:00 am —Adult Sunday School 10:00 am —Worship Service 10:00 am after the children's msg —K-5th Sunday School (& pre-k child care) <i>4th Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	27 5:00 pm — Lighthouse Shelter Dinner Mission (Meet at Shelter)	28 10:00 am —FHall Bible Study (Led by Pastor Glen) 6:00 pm —FHall Yoga Stretch 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Church Council Meeting	29 6:00 pm —FHall Community Dinner 6:45 pm —Parlor Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm —Ed Ctr Youth Group 7:00 pm —FHall CGKidz	30 6:00 pm —FHall YOGA Relax 7:00 pm —Sanc. Praise Team	31	