



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon March 2018



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

REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Holy Week 2018 (and how is your Lenten Fast going?)

Many Christians rightly think of Christmas and Easter as the two most important days in the Christian year and indeed the birth and resurrection of our Lord and Savior are two very important days for us to remember what God did for us and generally we have our best attendance in church. But without Holy Week, particularly Good Friday, Christ's birth will not result in our being saved for He had to die for us not just be born for us and if Jesus never died for us, He could not rise from the dead. That might seem obvious, but part of the reasons Christmas and Easter are so beloved is because they are happy stories of new life and defeating death. Who can't get behind those themes?

But my brothers and sisters, our faith and salvation stands not just on God coming to us in the birth of Christ and by His rising from the dead, but the moment these two days come together to save us is on Good Friday when Jesus paid the price for our sins, when Jesus died for us. He was born to die for us. He rose to let us know that by believing in Him our sins are forgiven because He paid the penalty for our sins. It is not a pleasant or happy story for two reasons. First, Jesus suffered a horrible death, nailed to a cross. Second, we are to blame. I commented a few Sundays ago how much I am moved by the words of one of our praise songs, that Jesus 'took the nails for me'. He died for me. Let us repent of our sin and live for the one who was willing and did die for us.

Let us not leave out the importance of Holy Thursday where Jesus has the Last Supper and gave birth to the tradition of having Holy Communion where we remember His sacrifice and death for us the way He told to us to remember it. Did He not say, 'Do this in remembrance of me?' I could go on and remind you of the other great moments in Holy Week, the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, the clearing of the Temple, the teaching He gave, His betrayal by Judas, the prayer in Gethsemane, washing of feet, and so on. And don't get me started about the other great days in the Christian year such as Christ the King, All Saints, Transfiguration Sunday, and so on. Every Sunday is a special day. Christ makes every day special, by what we can learn about Him. Every day is a gift to us from Jesus. I hope you will come out to our Holy Thursday and Good Friday services in addition to our Easter Celebration and grow in your faith.

The last week of March is Holy Week and we again will have Holy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7pm. On Holy Thursday along with many other events we remember the Last Supper. On Good Friday we remember Christ's crucifixion for our sins on the cross. The Father called Jesus to do

things for Him and this week is Holy because He did such incredible things for us. Jesus heard His Father's call and served us. Of course the week ends with Easter Sunday when Christ really rose from the dead. (I phrase it this way because ironically we are having it on April 1 this year, April Fool's Day, and the words 'He is Risen' is not an April Fool's joke!)

How is your Lenten Fast going? The last time I checked 76 of you took up the challenge. (Thank you Sunday school for making the Cross poster!) Remember do more than fast, spend time in prayer and read your Bible. Ask God to speak to you about what He wants you to be doing. Our church has need of more servants who will answer God's call and meet the needs of our church. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will learn that we are trying to form a new committee to lead certain things that need to be done every time we worship on Sunday mornings, that we need a new leader of the Kidz Group, and someone to serve in the nursery on Wednesday nights. Maybe God is calling you or a group of people to help our church do these things.

It is my prayer that we all have our faith renewed as we fast, pray, study, and remember what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

Your Fellow Servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

New Members Class: If you are interested in joining the church please let Pastor Glen know.

Sanctuary/Sunday Committee: The Church Council has asked that a Sanctuary/Sunday Committee be formed which will have a number of responsibilities including the greeting ministry, the chancel area supply/set-up, working with head usher Spike Deale on ushering, volunteers to help in the nursery on Sundays, policing the pews (tissue boxes, prayer cards, envelopes), and perhaps other aspects of our Sanctuary/Sunday morning that need to be done. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Pastor Glen.

Help Wanted! Kidz Group and Nursery on Wednesday Nights: We currently are in need of someone to lead the Kidz Group and serve in the nursery on Wednesday nights. Both of these are important ministries not only in teaching our children about Jesus but in having an activity where adults involved in the Youth Group and who attend the Women's Bible Study can have their children watched. In the nursery you just watch the kids and for the Kidz Group you do a little Bible lesson, organize some kind of game for the kids to play, and/or do some sort of craft such as coloring in Bible pictures or whatever. When we have new families come with their children on Wednesday night to dinner it is vital that we have activities for all ages. If you are interested or are willing to help, please contact Pastor Glen (Note: if you are concerned about the teaching the kids part, Pastor Glen will assist you in this.)

THANKS to Bill Kline, the Robys (all four of them), the Huffmans, Trish Blankinship, Greg Witte, Trish Wood, Carol Plotts, Renee Power, and others who put on a very successful Shrove Tuesday dinner!!!

More Thanks to the Trustees for authorizing and Paul Seen, Kevin Roby, Mike Haas, and Spike Deale for doing the bulk of the work in the re-model of our parlor.

WELCOME BACK!!! It is great to have Doug Sheidy back with us leading the Praise team after his surgery. Thanks to Heather Parks for leading during his absence. Also, it is great to have Greg Witte as no longer a temporary fill-in, but now a permanent member of the Praise team. We are blessed to have such talented people in our church!

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 & Activities! Come out each Wednesday and join us for some good food and fellowship at 6pm and then stay after for women's Bible study, youth group, or kids group at 7pm.

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 have usually 15-17 people present and room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

Cedar Grove's Annual Community Easter Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 31, from 12:00-2:00 pm. Lots of fun is planned for this day, including games, crafts, prizes, cookie decorating, face painting, Easter egg dying, hot dogs and chips for lunch, and last but not least the Easter egg hunt for children ages 1 year through 5th grade. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the celebration, you can sign up on the volunteer sheet located in the Narthex of the Church, or you can contact the office at office@cgumc.org or 410.867.7417.

Family Movie Night is Friday, March 9 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It's 80's Night! We will watch the original "Karate Kid." So be stylin' and wear your cool 80's attire! 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.

The Martha Lydia Circle Soup & Bake Sale is Saturday, March 10 at 9:00 am-1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Featuring hearty MLC homemade soups for sale at \$7.00/qt: Vegetable Beef and Ham & Bean. They will also have tasty bake sale items. **If you can please donate an item or items for the bake sale it would be most appreciated.** Please let June Carver or another Martha Lydia member know if you can donate a baked good. Baked goods should be dropped off the morning of the event by 9am. Soup pre-ordering is available. Please contact the Church office. Order forms are also included in the Sunday bulletins now until the sale.



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!

We are in the process of picking a week to go to SPY this summer. If you are interested in going or would like more information, please contact Pam Foster by email at pamjimf@comcast.net.

If you'd like more information on the mission project, please see SPY's website at: www.fieldstoneumc.org/#/project-spy/what-is-project-spy.





BOOK CORNER



Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible
Dietrich Bonhoeffer Augsburg/Fortress Press 1970 86pgs

As most of you know Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of my heroes, favorite author, and whose picture hangs in my office at the church. When we decided to make fasting and prayer our emphasis this year during Lent and I decided to use the Psalms to preach about how God wants us to pray, I decided to read again Bonhoeffer's little book on the Psalms. The book is small in size and thin in terms of pages. While I accurately report that it is 86 pages, there is a page 86, the book on the Psalms begins on page 9 and the actual book on the Psalms ends on page 65, the actual book on the Psalms is only 56 small pages. (The first pages have the title, table of contents, copyright info, etc. and the final 21 pages are a brief biography of Bonhoeffer's life.) It is also not very expensive so if you want to learn a little about the Psalms and read a brief bio of this great Christian this book is a must buy.

The actual book on the Psalms has just three sections. First, Bonhoeffer lays out what Jesus and the rest of the Bible tell us about why we should pray. Second, there is a short section that addresses some of the technical aspects of the Psalms. Third, the longest part of the book tells you about the different classifications of the Psalms which are as follows: The Creation, The Law, Holy History, The Messiah, The Church, Life, Suffering, Guilt, The Enemies, The End, Petition for the Spirit of Life. Finally the book ends with a short section about The Lord's Prayer and the Psalms and an eloquent call to the blessing of daily prayer life.

Another book of interest to this topic was put together by Edwin Robertson which contains 16 sermons Bonhoeffer preached on and/or about the Psalms. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Meditations on Psalms ed. Edwin Robertson Zondervan Press 2002 157pgs and can also be found under the title, My Soul Finds Rest.) And while I am recommending books, here is the list of the other books I recommended on the first Sunday of Lent about prayer, the Psalms, and the Lord's Prayer: On Wings of Prayer: Praying the ACTS Way Reggie Weems, Praying the Lord's Prayer J. I. Packer, Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer Eugene Peterson, Reflections on the Psalms C. S. Lewis, and How To Read the Psalms Tremper Longman III.

I will recommend one other excellent book I am using this year during Lent as I read the Psalms as a part of my fast for Lent, Reading the Psalms with Luther Concordia Pub. 2007 363 pgs. This book gives you all the Psalms with some comments from Luther and a prayer for each Psalm. I am enjoying it!

I would recommend all of the above books to anyone who wants to learn more about prayer.

Pastor Glen Arnold