



## Cedar Grove UMC

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*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

PENTECOST 2015

## The Beacon May 2015



### Office Hours

Monday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Pentecost Sunday is May 24<sup>th</sup>, and it is the day we celebrate and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church in Jerusalem. It is the event where the Holy Spirit, which while active in the Old Testament never permanently indwelt in believers, began from that day forward to be the case when someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit brings the one true God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to us in reality. We don't just think the Holy Spirit is with us but we experience His presence in our lives.

Christians are very comfortable and often use the language of how good it is to know that the Father watches over us and that Jesus loves us and intercedes for us through His work on the cross. But we should also speak the same way about the Holy Spirit who brings us the comforting embrace of God and the power and strength to be the people God wants us to be.

Pentecost will seemingly never have the place in our calendars that Christmas and Easter have always had, but it should. For the Jesus who was born and risen for us has provided for us after His time here on earth with the Holy Spirit that should lead us, remind us, comfort us, and empower us to be the Christians He wants us to be. It is the Holy Spirit that brings the love and forgiveness down to us at the direction of the Father and in the name of Son.

Don't forget that even though summer is nearing, the work of the church goes on. I particularly want to invite you all the to the Memorial Day service held in our parking lot around the flag pole at 10am and Vacation Bible School from June 29 to July 1. Invite the kids in your neighborhood to come and please volunteer and help us have a great Vacation Bible School. Finally, the dinners, Kids Group, and Youth Group will end for the Summer on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Your fellow servant of the one who died on the cross for us,

*Glen*



## Book Corner



**Being United Methodist** J. Ellsworth Kalas  
Abingdon Press 2012 165pgs

You will sometimes here me express despair about our denomination and its direction, and you will always hear me complain about Annual Conference but I am very proud to have been a United Methodist and regardless of where my faith journey takes me in retirement, I will always be a Methodist, a Bible Moth, and an admirer of John Wesley and his understanding of the faith and its practice. J. Kalas, who is an author I really like and have many of his books, including almost the whole 'from the back side' series has written this excellent book about what it truly means to be a part of The United Methodist Church (UMC).

The book consists of twelve well written chapters covering all the key aspects of the Methodist movement including a fascinating chapter on John Wesley's young life growing up in the family parsonage and the massive influence both his dad and mom had on his life. Other chapters cover the basics of the movement including its organization, rules, songs, and theology. There are chapters on the UMC in the USA and the book concludes with two excellent chapters on where the UMC is today and what does its future hold.

These last two chapters are really well done and I agree for the most part with Kalas' analysis and prescription for the future of the UMC. Perhaps my only disagreement with him, and this will come as no shock, he is more optimistic than I am about the UMC's prospects. I would love if all of you would buy this book and not just read it but be mobilized to fight the good fight for the true meaning and purpose of Methodism in our denomination. The book is well written and insightful and regardless of your knowledge of John and Charles Wesley, and The United Methodist Church you will enjoy the book and learn more about your church. Methodism has made a major impact on the church, Christian Faith, and the World. Regardless of where it goes from here, its place as an important movement in the history of the church is secure. More than that, whenever people in the future, regardless of the church they attend, take up the Methodist way, good things will happen and God will be pleased. I will always be proud to be called a 'Methodist', but only when it means what Kalas so accurately and rightly says that it is.

## CHURCH NEWS

The confirmation class raised \$1701.50 for the Sunshine Fund! When you see Meagan and Mason (and their parents!) thank them for leading us in this great cause.

We had good attendance at our two Holy Week services, 43 at the first Holy Thursday Service held here in quite some time and 55 at the Good Friday Service.

The Trustees are continuing to work on a plan for the parsonage. Please pray for them and our church as we go through this process.

Please be praying for our SPY trip. We have over 30 people going! They don't leave for a while but we need to be surrounding them with prayer now.

Please be praying for VBS and please let the children in your neighborhood know about our VBS. Also, we need volunteers, the more the better. Please consider volunteering and helping us to have a great VBS.

The Pastor's Study on the Gospel of John is averaging just about 15 people. It is not too late to join us! The study meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Education Center.

The Ladies Spring Brunch will be held Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 am. Janet Brown will be speaking: "By the Grace of God". Wear a special Hat and enjoy brunch in fellowship with your sisters in Christ. (Teen ladies are also welcome.) There will be door prizes and more! For information, please contact the office or Linda Keiffer.

Believe it or not the Annual Conference will be held May 27-30. Please pray for our Bishop and all those who will attend as the work of the Annual Conference is done. This year we will be electing delegates to go to General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference where some important decisions that could have a dramatic effect on all United Methodists will take place.

### **MISSION CORNER**

Each year at Vacation Bible School I lead the mission campaign. This year we want to collect items to support the Homeless Trip. Our focus is on the hygiene kits. While everyone knows how important the food and clothing we bring is to the homeless, I know from the time I went the homeless are particularly appreciative of the hygiene kits. We make two types of kits: one for women and one for men. Each kit has many items, some of which we are well supplied but the items listed below are the ones we could really use a nice supply and will be collecting during VBS.

These are the items we will be collecting: Dark colored wash cloths: Toothbrushes, Bars of soap, Travel size toothpaste, Travel size shampoo, Travel size shaving cream, Travel size deodorant, Combs, and Razors.



We will collect items on the first day of VBS at the worship service on June 28. Please bring as many as you can. We will be asking the kids during the week to bring in at least one item each night. We will keep a count of how many kits we complete with these donations. Thank you for your generosity in advance!



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be traveling to Hometown Nazareth-Where Jesus was a kid. This amazing experience will help children (and adults) explore Jesus' hometown through the eyes of his mother, Mary.

If you have not experienced VBS at Cedar Grove, let me tell you a little about our time during VBS. We begin each night with Celebration-music and dancing! Children are divided into small groups (the tribes of Israel) with two leaders. There is small group time--called Hometown Huddle--where the Tribes get their daily schedule, have discussions, get their Banduras and prepare to learn about God's Love. The Tribes then rotate to the Marketplace, Fun and Games, and Mary's house; then back to closing Hometown Huddle and closing Celebration.

At Hometown Nazareth **everyone** puts God's Love into action. In the past few years we have had about 60 VBS participants and 50 volunteers! Our volunteers include tribe leaders and assistants, celebration leader, sound room, decorators, costume makers, marketplace shopkeepers, volunteer dinner preparation, "Mary", fun and games leaders, our mission leader (Pastor Glen), advertising, registration, photos, ironing decals, child care and other jobs. Many of our youth help with VBS and have been helping for many years.

VBS will be held from 6:30pm-8:30pm for children entering K-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Volunteers will be served dinner Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:30-6:15pm.

Our VBS is a community outreach--a chance to tell others about God's love. If you would like to be a part of this adventure, please let us know. We pray that Hometown Nazareth VBS will allow God's Word to come to life--touch lives, change hearts and draw children and adults closer to Jesus Christ. We, at Cedar Grove, may be the only Bible some children read.

Thanks to all that make our Vacation Bible School a great time!

Sharon Staley