



Cedar Grove UMC

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The Beacon May 2016



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

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

General Conference 2016

As you read this article, delegates from around the world will be heading to the General Conference in Portland, Oregon from May 10 through May 20. The essential jobs of the General Conference is to put forth a budget, make mission emphases, and most important of all go over The Book of Discipline and produce a new one which will take effect on January 1, 2017 and continue in effect until December 31, 2020. While there are many ways they can change The Book of Discipline that will impact our church, the biggest one is on the issue of homosexual sex and same sex weddings. This will be the 17th time, going back to 1972, that this issue has been debated and here we go again.

I ask you to pray for the General Conference that God will guide and direct the decisions they make and that it will be what is right, good, and best for the United Methodist Church. Rest assured that in the next few newsletters I will keep you informed as to what was decided and what that means for our church.

Also don't forget that the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference will be meeting (and I will be attending) in Washington, D.C. from June 1 to June 3. Please pray for the BWC as well and look for my annual report of the conference in the Summer newsletter.

Please invite children in your neighborhood to come to our Vacation Bible School, June 20-23. (More information can be found about this event in this newsletter.) Also, if you would like to help us with VBS, please let the office know. Finally, don't forget to also pray for our mission trip to SPY 2016, July 16-22.

Your fellow servant of Jesus Christ,

Glen



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 Church 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.

We continue to have our **Wednesday dinners** at 6pm and we would love to have more people come out to them. Invite your neighbors! Following the dinner we have Kids group, youth group, and women's Bible study at 7pm. **Good news! The dinners will continue in the Fall!**

Congratulations to Garrett Foster on his confirmation in the church. Welcome to our new brother in Christ!

This month some people will be **joining the church**. Make sure you give them a warm welcome! If you are interested in joining the church please let Pastor Glen know.

Family Movie Night. Friday, May 11th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing *Norm of the North*. All ages are welcome! Wear your favorite hat and get a treat! Our snack bar will be open, selling items such as: pizza, popcorn, candy and soda. Everything is \$1.00 or less.

Vacation Bible School will be Monday, June 20, 2016 through Thursday, June 23, 2016. We will "travel" to Ancient Egypt this year! Get the answers to questions such as, What was it like to live in Bible times? How did they make Mummies? What happened to Joseph (the guy with the colorful coat)? Explore Pharaoh's Palace. For additional information or to register, contact the Church office at 410.867.7417 or by email at office@cgumc.org. There are also registration forms and flyers on the table in the narthex of the Church. Spread the word!



MISSIONS CORNER

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is:
Vacation Bible School's Mission Campaign)



Each year at Vacation Bible School Pastor Glen leads a mission campaign. Last year's campaign of collecting hygiene kits for the homeless was a great success, so we will do it again this year! Our brothers & sisters on the street are so appreciative of the food, clothing, and hygiene kits that we take to them each month. We will be collecting the following items for the hygiene kits during VBS: 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 begin taking donations of items on the first day of VBS which is Monday, June 20th. We will ask 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. If you would also like to contribute, but you will not be at VBS, please bring your donations in on Sunday, June 19th. Thank you for your generosity!



BOOK CORNER



The Story of Christianity Volumes 1&2 (revised and updated)

Justo Gonzalez Harper One 2010 1060 pages

An Essential Guide: Church History

Justo Gonzalez Abingdon Press 1996 95 pages

If you have been reading the newsletter you know that I have been taking two classes, one last Fall and one this past Spring, on the history of the church. I have taken these classes for three primary reasons. First, I need continuing education units to avoid being suspended from the ministry. Second, my church history classes back in seminary long ago were terrible so I thought it would be good to try it again with different professors and being a lot more knowledgeable about church history than I was back then. Third, my good friend the Rev. Dr. Charles Harrell who has been my friend for nearly 30 years taught the first class and I was always interested in seeing him in the classroom setting. Of course the day and time of these two classes fit my schedule and I thus took the two classes and really enjoyed both of them.

The three books I want to introduce to you are the two volumes of Gonzalez's revised and updated books on the history of the Christian movement. I actually had read the originals about 10 years ago and enjoyed them, and maybe because it was a revised and updated second reading it was very easy and enjoyable reading for me. The third book is a guide to aid a reader in reading the two volumes already mentioned which I read at the recommendation of the professor of the second class who wanted to know what I thought about it.

What is great about these three books is that together they present a very readable, accessible to the lay person, history of the church, of the Christian movement, of its theology, its struggles and successes. Gonzalez is an excellent writer and while it is over 1,000 pages it reads easily and never gets bogged down in giving you too much on any one topic. Obviously it helps if you have some knowledge of world history in general, but even with that said, the guide book and certain chapters of the book move your focus beyond just what Christians were doing and what was going on in general in the world.

My only complaint about these books is whether or not they are academic enough for people in seminary going into the ministry. The answer is probably!

While I admit it is a lot to read, if you are interested in the history of Christianity I cannot recommend these three books enough.

Pastor Glen Arnold