



Cedar Grove UMC

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

The Beacon May 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 . . .

Pentecost 2018 and a 50th Anniversary (Of what? Do you know? Before you read on guess.)

Of the three key events that brought about the Christian faith and church—the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, and the coming of the Holy Spirit—in most mainline churches the first two events dominate the third. But it shouldn't. Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to permanently indwell in believers was just as important in the growth and impact of the Christian faith as the death and resurrection were. Yes, it is the death of Jesus that saves us. Yes, Jesus rising from the dead confirmed that the cross was a victory, a saving action, and that death has been vanquished for those who believe in Jesus. But it is the Holy Spirit dwelling in us that makes these beliefs impactful for us, empower us, and lead us to be the Christians Jesus died and rose for us to be.

All one has to do is compare the actions of the Apostles before Pentecost and after Pentecost. Even after the resurrection Peter is still fishing, not for people as Jesus told Him, but for fish. Then the Holy Spirit comes upon them on Pentecost and forever the Apostles are changed, preaching, teaching, healing, and being about the work of the Kingdom of God. I encourage you to read all of Acts 2 and see what the Holy Spirit enabled the first Christians to do. My brothers and sisters that Holy Spirit is still with us and in believers so let us be at work for Christ!

At the end of May I will be going to Annual Conference where along with all of the regular work we do, we will also focus on the special session of the General Conference which has been called for 2019 and the work of the 'Way Forward' commission will begin to be a part of our agenda. Forces within our own Annual Conference who will not wait for the work to be done by the Way Forward commission and the special session of the General Conference which we have all agreed through our ordination vows is the way forward, are attempting to force the issue. Just as Pentecost changed things for the first believers, so potentially is what we will be doing at this year's Annual Conference and in the greater meetings to come over the next few years. Beyond the fact that I know I will most likely be on the losing side of the issue in dispute, I am really angered by the refusal of my fellow clergy to be faithful to the promises they made to me, but way more importantly that they have made to the church, and most of all to God, to keep their word. Further under the banner of being inclusive, this denomination will be telling many like me, you are no longer welcome in the United Methodist Church (UMC). Please pray for our Annual Conference, all the other Annual Conferences, the Way Forward Commission, the special session of the General Conference in 2019, and the future of the UMC.

The UMC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church joined together to form the United Methodist Church. The last time I checked, my home church still had a stone sign that only says 'Methodist Church' because it was founded before 1968. It is sad to me, that come January 1, 2021, the UMC in its 53rd year will most likely enact a policy that the vast majority of those who came together in 1968 wouldn't believe we would adopt in its substance, form, and implementation.

Your fellow empowered by the Holy Spirit servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the 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 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.

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

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 have room for more. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Glen.

Yes, the rumors are true, the **once a month Bible Study will study the Book of Revelation** during the September 2018 to May 2019 period (this can be your first lesson... it's the Book of Revelation, not the Book of Revelations). This class will study every chapter of the book, look at all the various ways of understanding it including how it has been understood through the history of the church, learn the meaning of words like *pre-millennial*, *eschatology*, *apocalyptic*, *mid-tribulation*, *rapture*, and other such words that get bantered about in discussions of this book. We will also look at what Jesus says in the Gospels about His return, the impact of the Old Testament on the Book of Revelation, and other important topics. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and you can sign-up to attend either the Monday morning 10am class (always held on the Monday the day before the third Tuesday of the month) or the Tuesday evening class at 7pm (always the third Tuesday of the month). If you have any questions about this class, please contact Pastor Glen.
Note: If Christ returns before the first class, the class is cancelled!

Sanctuary/Sunday Committee. Are you interested in getting to know more people on Sundays or looking to support our church? We are looking for volunteers to sign up to be greeters (Alice Roehrer), ushers (Randy Smith) or nursery helpers (Debbie Huffman). There are sign up sheets in the Narthex. Please contact the committee lead or chairperson Sandy Burns at sandraburns87@gmail.com or at 301-792-9091 if you have any questions.

Volunteer Needed. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the Sunday Coffee Social that we have after worship service. Mary Day who has been doing it for many years has to step down. We thank Mary for her dedication and service to our Church. Please contact Bill Kline if you can volunteer or if you have any questions.

The **last Wednesday Night Dinner before summer break** is May 23. Please join us until then as we enjoy good food and fellowship. The women's bible study meets after at 7pm in the Parlor.

Family Movie Night is Friday, May 11 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." 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. Wear your favorite Star Wars gear and you will get a free treat! If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com.

The Martha Lydia Circle's Yard Sale & Bake Sale is Saturday, June 9 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm here at Cedar Grove. Tables are available to rent for \$20.00 each. If you bring your own table, you can reserve a space for \$15.00. Call to reserve soon, they are going fast! Contact: Evelyn Broyles at 410.867.2818.

The Annual Memorial Day Remembrance hosted by the Deale Area Historical Society is Monday, May 28 at 10:00 am here at Cedar Grove. This wreath laying event honors generations of local veterans. It is free and open to the community and will be held rain or shine in front of the Education Center by the WWII memorial and flag.

The Blue Ribbon Project-Backpacks of Love. As mentioned in the April newsletter, Cedar Grove will help the Blue Ribbon Project by collecting some of the most-needed items to complete backpacks for children within our community who are victims of abuse, neglect, and child sexual abuse. **If you can help with this need, please have your donations here at the church by Sunday, June 10th.** There is a collections box in the narthex to put items in. A donation list is included in this newsletter. For more information about the organization, visit their website at blueribbonproject.org, or contact Kristen Wood at kcrohrer@gmail.com or 301-873-4669.



Experience the **"MANE" event** this summer at Cedar Grove and head back to ancient Babylon with Daniel as your guide! **Vacation Bible School** begins on Monday, June 25-Thursday, June 28 from 6:30-8:30 PM each day. To register for VBS, please pick up a registration form from the table in the Church narthex and return it to the office by either drop off (Mon-Wed, 10am-4pm) or mail it to 5965 Deale-Churchton Rd., Deale, MD 20751. You can also contact the

Church Office at 410.867.7417 or by email at office@cgumc.org to have a form sent to you. We will have a volunteer sign up sheet in the Narthex, so if you can help please sign up. For more information, please contact Sharon Staley by email at sharonstaley@aol.com.



MISSIONS CORNER

The Mission we are highlighting this month is the **Mission for Vacation Bible School – School Supplies**)

As most of you know, the last few years the Vacation Bible School (VBS) Mission project has been to support the hygiene kits that the Homeless Ministry provides once a month to the homeless when they go down to Washington, DC. Given the great response we have gotten from the congregation to the change in how we regularly do this part of the ministry, it was decided that we would do something else this year for the VBS Mission.

June is not typically the time most of us think of buying school supplies, we generally do that in August, but because VBS is in June this summer and because there is a desperate need for school supplies for many children in our community, we will ask the kids (and our church members) to bring in school supplies the Sunday before VBS starts on June 24th and during the week of VBS which is June 25-28. These are the items we will be collecting:

- ~ Pencils (standard #2)
- ~ Crayons
- ~ Colored Pencils
- ~ Loose Leaf Ruled Paper
- ~ Composition Notebooks
- ~ Glue Sticks

As some of us get older and our children no longer go to school, it's easy for us to forget how important these supplies are to kids for not only doing their school work, but for fitting in with their classmates too. So on June 24th bring some of the items listed above, there will be a box for you to put them in. Please pray that we have a great VBS this year of helping kids, teaching and learning about a God who says, "love your neighbor."





BOOK CORNER



Seven Events that Shaped the New Testament World

Warren Carter Baker Academic 2013 162pgs

As I was looking for a book to review I saw this book on my shelves of unread books and decided to read it. It is the kind of book I like to read for two reasons, one I will learn about the history of our world and church, and two given that this book selects seven events as being particularly important I can consider whether I agree with the author's selections.

The book along with an introduction and conclusion is divided into seven chapters, one for each event. The seven events are: The Death of Alexander the Great 323BC; the process of translating the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek around 250BC; the Rededication of the Jerusalem Temple 164BC; the Roman occupation of Judea 63BC; the Crucifixion of Jesus around 30AD; the writing of the New Testament about 50-130AD; and, the process of closing the New Testament Canon 397AD.

(*Note:* I continue to use the BC and AD way of describing years, BC meaning 'before Christ' and AD from two Latin words which mean 'Year of our Lord'. The book uses the politically correct BCE meaning 'before the common era' and CE meaning the 'common era'. This is to be sensitive to non-Christians. What I find moronic about this is guess which event starts the Common Era? It's not the birth of the word 'common' it is the birth of Christ. Who are they kidding?)

This book is written more from the perspective of a historian as opposed to a Christian perspective. (I am not saying the author is not a Christian, I assume he is, but his purpose is to write a book using the techniques of a historian, not that of a Christian advocate. I do sense in several places that he and I as Christians would disagree on a number of issues.) This is not a complaint. The purpose of the book is to understand the historical events that shaped the New Testament world not to argue why Christianity is true. So for example at one point in the book Carter uses the term 'Jesus glasses' to explain why Christians saw things in a certain way. What he means by this is that their beliefs in Jesus led them to see things a certain way. That is how a historian writes a book. A believer perspective might say that God led them to see it that way or that it is true because they were inspired by God to see things that way. A historian can't make those judgments. So while I still think this is an excellent book for Christians to read, remember it is written from the perspective of history and not faith.

For the most part I agreed with everything in this book. I would dispute a few of his dates and not agree always with the way he presented some of the material (while I agree with what he says about why Jesus was crucified, he puts too much weight in my opinion on his advocacy for the poor being what Rome feared and why he was killed) but for the most part this book gets it right. It is strongest in the four chapters on Alexander, Rome, translating the Old Testament into Greek and the Temple and I think not as good on the two chapters on the New Testament and I have already mentioned my problem with the chapter on the crucifixion of Jesus. I particularly appreciated Carter's integration of the cultural, religious, military, and political aspects of this period. The Bible was not written and the church has never existed in a 'religious vacuum' and understanding the

other factors involved in these things is important. Further, God doesn't just work through religious writings and the church and thus it is good for us to have an understanding of the all the ways God could/is acting and understanding the way the Bible/church can work with or against these other factors. For example in this book one will clearly see that regardless of what Alexander the Great thought he was doing, his military victories and bringing the Hellenistic world view and the Greek language to a large part of the world the church would find itself in, aided the spread of the Christian faith. (Further, Rome conquering Judea and its road network would help as well despite and including its episodic persecution of the Christian Faith!)

For the most part I think Carter was right on in his selection of these seven events as the lens by which to describe the whys and hows of the New Testament world. Outside of the working of God, which naturally Carter does not consider because this is a history book Alexander the Great/Rome from the political/military/cultural side of things and the Rededication of the Temple/Jewish Scriptures into Greek from a religious background combined with, well I would argue not just the death of Jesus but also His life, teachings, resurrection impacted the world most of all that the church found itself in. And this is shown and aided by the writing and then closing of the canon of New Testament writings that along with the Old Testament still influence the world we live in today.

Carter has included along with the general text of the book a number of little sidebar discussions and illustrations which are a nice bonus to what is, even without these features, an interesting book. I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to know more about the New Testament world and the events that shaped it. I didn't agree, and you might not as well, with everything he writes but the book is thought provoking and I think that many of you will learn a lot about this period and our Bible that you have not previously known. And while I found the approach interesting, picking seven events as the way to teach about the early church, Jesus, the Bible, etc., the book simply teaches you about these things so whether you like the 'gimmick' of the book or not, you will have a better understanding of the early history of the Christian Faith. The book is not long and easy to read; although I would say its written in a slightly academic style (which you know I prefer).

Pastor Glen Arnold



The Blue Ribbon Project "Backpacks of Love" Donation List

*supporting children within our community who are victims of abuse,
neglect, and child sexual abuse*

CLOTHING (new) - any size from birth to 17 years, boy or girl

- " shirts
- " pants (stretchy or elastic waist)
- " Underwear
- " Socks
- " pajamas

MOST NEEDED CLOTHING

- " ALL size pajamas- birth to 17 years, boy or girl
- " Boys Pajama's- sizes 7/8, 12/14, 14/16, and 16/18
- " Girls Underwear- Size 16 and over
- " Boys Underwear- Size 2/3, 3/4
- " Boys Pants (elastic or stretch waist)- Size 8 and over
- " Boys Shirts- Size 8 and over
- " Girls Pants (elastic or stretch waist) - Size 10 and over

An Amazon wish list is also located on the website at
<https://blueribbonproject.org/our-programs/backpacks-of-love/needed-backpacks.html>

Please bring to church by Sunday, June 10th.

If interested in delivering the donations to the Crownsville headquarters on June 10th and participating in the Volunteer Day, please sign up on the sign up sheet.

Contact **Kristen Wood** at kcrohrer@gmail.com or **(301) 873-4669** with questions.