



Cedar Grove UMC

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Beacon November 2015



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

CHARGE CONFERENCE, STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN, ADVENT BOOK, AND THANKSGIVING

It used to be that a major part of the charge conference was a time for the pastor to report on what is going on in the church (I will still get to do that vocally) and to thank the congregation for all they have done this past year. So, I am using this newsletter to thank everyone in the church, whether you did a lot or a little. For whatever you have done to help this church be faithful in 2015 I do indeed thank you.

This November we will be having a **stewardship campaign** where we ask every member and friend of this church to think concretely about what they do for God here at Cedar Grove UMC in terms of their time, talent, money, prayers, and witness. We need more leaders and workers to get the work of this church done. We need more giving to fund the many wonderful and life changing things that we do. We need your talent and prayers to help us be the church God wants us to be. And most of all we need you to witness out in the world of what Cedar Grove UMC and God has to offer to everyone. I hope you will take the time to consider these questions and to submit a sealed pledge (only God and you will ever know what you committed to giving) to be blessed on November 22nd. You will be receiving a letter and pledge envelope in the mail the first week of November.

Just like we did this past Lent we will be doing a book for Advent and I will coordinate my preaching on the Scriptures to match the chapters of the book, **Christmas Gifts that Won't Break by James Moore**. We will have 50 copies of the book in the Church narthex on Sunday, Nov. 15th. We want everyone who plans to read it to take one. For those who can donate, we are asking for \$5 to help defray the cost of the books. But again, please take a book if you will read it even if you can't afford the \$5. Read a chapter a week and then come and listen to my sermons on the Scripture from that chapter on November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20. I will be available to discuss any part of the book with anyone who would like to discuss it.

As Thanksgiving Day nears it is an excellent time to count your blessings and to let family, friends, and God know that you are indeed thankful. It is my hope and prayer that as you gather with your family and friends that you will let them know that you are thankful most of all to Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior. So let me again express my thanks to the people of Cedar Grove UMC for all that you have done this year. **THANKS!**

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior,

Glen!



CHURCH NEWS

Advent Book! We have 50 copies of the Advent devotional book [Christmas Gifts That Won't Break](#) by James Moore which as a reading for each Sunday of Advent. We want everyone who will read the book to take one but if you can give \$5 to defray the cost of the books it will be appreciated. The books will be in the Church narthex on Sunday, Nov. 15th. So get a copy, read the appropriate chapter before each Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13, 20) and grow as a Christian as we remember the coming of the baby Jesus and anticipate His return.

Stewardship Campaign: You will be receiving a letter, pledge card to be sealed and thus what it is on it will only be known to God and you, and envelope to put the pledge in, in the mail. For more information read the "From the Pastor's Desk" article in this newsletter, read the letter, or you can contact Pastor Glen with any questions.

Be looking in the near future for information regarding ways you can help **needy students** at Deale Elementary School have a nicer Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who helped us have the **Fall Festival** and those who attended. I want to give special thanks to **Sharon Staley** for leading us in this fun community event and the **youth** who really helped the kids enjoy the event.

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 of them or hard to pronounce names) you can always let Pastor Glen know you have changed your mind. So please sign-up.

The **World Religions Class** continues to meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month in the evening and the Monday the day before that Tuesday in the morning. In November we will be looking at Hinduism, so even if you have not come to the first two classes, if you are interested in learning about Hinduism please come to the class. (There is a reading of Hindu sacred texts that you can get from the pastor which it would be good for you to read prior to coming.)

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues to meet and study the Gospel of John. All are welcome!

This is the last call for anyone interested in being a part of the **Confirmation Class of 2016**. I would like to know by December 1 if there is any 6th grade or older youth who would like to be confirmed. The classes would begin in January, and if I have any confirmands we would meet in December to pick a time and day that would work for everyone.

Our **Charge Conference** will be held on Nov. 7th at 1pm with other churches at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side. All are welcome.

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. **We are in need of help for our CGKidz Wednesday night group** (Grades K-5 from 7pm-8pm) We are looking for 2 adults or one adult/one youth helper to lead a 1 hour group for our elementary school kids. We can provide a simple curriculum or the leader can provide their own - 30 minutes of indoor games, followed by simple faith-based stories and craft time for 30 minutes. Please contact the church office or ingrid.quimby@gmail.com for more information.

Family Movie Night is **Friday, Nov. 13th at 7:00 pm**. This month we are showing the “Inside Out Movie” and collecting HOODIES for the HOMELESS. So, if you bring a sweatshirt to donate you will get a sweet treat! The snack shack will be open selling snacks such as pizza, popcorn, and drinks. All items are \$1.00 or less. Family Movie Night is fun for everyone!

The Martha Lydia Circle Soup/Bake/Crafters, Vendors, & Treasures Sale is Saturday, Nov. 21st, at 9:00 am-2:00 pm. To rent a table contact Mabel at 410-867-2978 or Evelyn at 410-867-2818. See the bulletin insert to pre-order the soup.

Hanging of the Greens. We will be having a Greening (decorating the church for Advent/Christmas) on December 2nd starting with the Wednesday night dinner. All are welcome to help. Additional details will be coming soon. It should be a great time of food, fellowship, and fun. If you have any questions please call Pastor Glen.

Holiday Sharing. We are still in need of financial donations to support our Holiday Sharing ministry. We help 25 local families with food for Thanksgiving and Christmas and this program relies strictly on donations. If you would like to help, please drop off your donation to the office or place it in the offering on Sunday (please note - Holiday Sharing). For more information, please contact ingrid.quimby@gmail.com



BOOK CORNER

The Didache: A Window on the Earliest Christians

Thomas O’Loughlin Baker

Academic 2010 185pgs



As most of you know I am taking a class at Wesley Theological Seminary on the history of early Christianity all the way to the beginning of the Reformation. I am taking this class to fulfill my continuing education requirement to remain an active UMC clergy person. I am enjoying the class and we have occasional classes where we meet for discussion on a certain document or portion of writing. The first one we did was The Didache, which translated into English means either ‘The Teaching’ or ‘The Training’. The whole Didache is only 11 pages in length as printed in this book by O’Loughlin the rest of the book tells the story of this great writing from around 90-110 AD, about how the document was rediscovered in 1873, and a discussion of its contents.

The Didache focuses on four aspects of the Christian life. First, a list of the things Christians can’t do and a list of what Christians should do. It bases most of its moral teachings on Scriptures, particularly the Gospel of Matthew. Second, to discuss the process of be baptized. Third, it describes the weekly Christian gathering of fellowship and worship, centering on Holy Communion. Fourth, it describes Christian hopes about the future and the end of time when Christ will return.

Why should a Christian today be interested in The Didache? O’Loughlin seeks to answer this question and I think he does a fairly good job, but for me it is a fascinating glimpse of how the first Christians responded to the Gospel, how seriously they took it, and it clearly shows that what I was taught long ago that the early Christians didn’t care about basic morality and commitment to the organized church was and is false. Obviously The Didache is not Scripture, though their were some in the early church who thought it should be included, it is still a powerful, inspired and good reminder to us about what the Christian life is and that we should be living it!

I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to read The Didache, understand it, get a glimpse into the life of early Christianity, and who would like to be challenged to live a greater Christian walk.

Pastor Glen Arnold



MISSIONS CORNER

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is the **South County Faith Network**)

“The South County Faith Network (SCFN), Inc is an interdenominational, not-for-profit improving the quality of life for seniors and disabled adults in southern Anne Arundel county. The organization uses local volunteers to provide informal, home-based care and services that enable at-risk individuals to remain in their homes and enjoy a higher quality of life than they might otherwise experience.

The senior population of South County Seniors is growing faster than the over 65 years population growth in other areas of the County. Demographic information suggests that 7%--or roughly 30,000--of the 500,000 local population is senior citizens. Of that group approximately 300 are believed to be the senior client base for this program. A survey of local churches found that the majority of the seniors in South County were women between the ages of 65-85 living alone in their homes. The greatest needs of the seniors are light house cleaning, grocery shopping, yard work, minor home repairs, maintenance and friendly visits. The South County Faith Network, Inc. has been designed to provide these services which will improve the quality of life of these individuals.”

SCFN was founded in 2005 by several local churches, the group has grown to 13 churches, including Cedar Grove UMC. We support SCFN with donations, fundraising, and volunteerism. We will have a sock drive and pie sale soon to benefit SCFC. Details coming soon! We thank everyone for their support of this mission. If you'd like more information on this mission, please contact Kathy Deale at 410-867-4748 or Ingrid High at 443-404-8354, or see SCFN's website at www.southcountyfaithnetwork.org/about.html.



AROUND TOWN



SOUTHERN HIGH SPORTS BOOSTERS 4TH ANNUAL BULL & OYSTER ROAST
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm on November 7th at The American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach
50/50 RAFFLES SILENT AUCTION DJ HORSE RACES WINE PULL CASH BAR
Tickets: \$30 each – includes catering by Adam's Ribs, Oysters and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.
Reserved tables available only through sponsorship. Attire: SoCo Country Style! Hats, Boots, Denim and Cammo! Awards for Best Boots, Best Hat and Best Belt Buckle! **To order tickets or to sponsor the event contact Janna Manifold at 410-703-1669.**