



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

The Beacon November 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 . . .

ELECTION 2016

This has been a difficult Summer and early Autumn for me because up until now I have loved politics and election seasons, but this year as we have watched the worst two political candidates (at least that is what the polls say) vie to become president of the USA, I have never been so sure, that no matter who wins I am going to be unhappy with the result this year. Of course, maybe one of the handfuls of third party candidates might win, but they probably won't and they are not very popular either. What does it mean that we are going to elect a president that the majority of Americans think of, according to the polls, unfavorably? Of course you might be happy with your choice and that is great, but if you feel like I do you might ask the question, then why vote? Well, I want to tell you why you should vote and why I, unhappy as I am, will be at the polls on November 8th.

First, there is more at stake on the ballot than simply which generally disliked candidate is going to be president. The other elections matter, votes including the ballot initiatives that determine local issues that cost money and that matter to how we live our lives and other more local political offices.

Second, we need to remember that people died, and families lost loved ones so that we can freely go and cast our ballot. On average when I vote, about 95% of what and who I vote for gets defeated. But I vote for them. No, not the candidates or one or another side of a ballot initiative but rather for those who risked it all or who paid the ultimate price so that I can vote! I think about Captain Parker standing on Lexington Green with his citizen militia as the professional British Redcoats marched into his town to tell him what he could do and not do. They wanted a say in how things were done in their town, to vote for how things will be run in their country and you don't get to vote for a King. Men died on that green so that we could be free and vote. I think about the men on Bataan who while they were defeated, let those who would take our liberty and right to vote know we will not give in. I think about the boys of Pointe de Hoc who on June 6 right near Omaha Beach climbed the cliffs, most were either wounded or killed, so that the time when democracy was in most peril, would see democracy preserved not just for us but around the world.

What I am saying is that while President Lincoln was right, as he said in the Gettysburg Address; "we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it". They have honored this nation and all of us, voters, by risking and sacrificing their lives for liberty and the right to vote, and they did that with their courage, their blood, and some with their very lives. So we cannot add to the honor they earned but we can dishonor those grounds, those lives, and their sacrifice when we fail to vote. For when we don't vote, we tell them and their families they died, they sacrificed in vain. There are people around the world who cannot vote or to vote one way or another is to put their lives at risk and they wish it was not so. I will vote come election day, not because I think my candidate will win (At the presidential level I am hoping they all lose!) or that I will be happy with the result of the presidential election for I know I will not, but I vote for those who risked their lives and/or gave their lives so that I could vote and I am thankful that I can do so without fear. (Well, still fearing who is going to win but you all know what I mean.)

So please vote, for them. Honor them. Thank them. Remember them. Don't let their sacrifice be in vain. I know that on November 8th I will go to the polls, and my main reason for going is I remember and know the price that was paid so that I can go and do this simple but vital thing that separates a free person from an enslaved one. I am voting for them, not the candidates for president, for those who gave me at great sacrifice, some the ultimate sacrifice, the freedom to go and vote. So please, for them, vote this election and every election.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Some of my favorite times at Cedar Grove have been decorating for the Christmas season.

Surrounded by friends and family, trimming the trees, hanging greens, hoisting the Advent banners - it is what the Methodist Book of Worship calls a "multisensory communal event"! Cedar Grove will have our "**Hanging of the Greens**" **Service on Wednesday, November 30**, immediately after the community dinner. We will meet in the **Sanctuary at 7pm for a brief service**, after which we will share various tasks as we transform Cedar Grove. Many aspects of the service have deep meaning, such as greenery that signifies royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing His resurrection. We'll place a sign-up sheet in the Narthex - please let us know that you'll be there so that we can anticipate the help, and then please join us on the 30th as we celebrate the Advent of our Lord's birth!

-- Greg Witte

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.

Family Movie Night is Friday, November 11 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing Disney's "The Jungle Book". Movie night is FREE and all ages are welcome! Our snack bar will be open, selling items such as: pizza, popcorn, candy & soda. Everything is \$1.00 or less. We will be **collecting COATS** for the homeless. If you donate you will receive a free treat! If you have questions, please contact Stacy Crine. We host family movie night every 2nd Friday of the month. *Come check it out!*

The Martha Lydia Circle's Soup, Bake, Crafters & Vendors Sale is Saturday, November 19, 2016, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm here at the church Fellowship Hall. Along with the soup sale, baked goods and other food will be for sale. *Rain or Shine!* **Tables going fast...call to reserve yours today!** \$15.00 each. Contact Mabel at 410.867.2978 or Evelyn at 410.867.2818.

Confirmation class 2017 – If you are in the sixth grade or up to including a senior in High School and would like to be confirmed please contact Pastor Glen so that he can organize the class that would begin in January.

Our Wednesday Night Community Dinners followed by Kid's Group, Youth Group, and Women's Bible Study are back. Please come and have some food and fellowship. And then if you are a kid, a youth, or a woman stay for our various after dinner activities.

Advent Book and Sermon Series coming for Advent 2016 – Be sure to look for information coming soon to a Sunday Bulletin regarding the book we will offer for Advent that I will be using in part in preparing my sermons.



MISSIONS CORNER

The mission we are highlighting this month is the **South County Faith Network.**

The South County Faith Network, Inc (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. Information on upcoming fundraisers will be coming soon. "SCFN 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." (SCFN Website)

The senior population of South County is growing faster than any other area of Anne Arundel 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." SCFN takes care of these needs in hope of improving the quality of life of these individuals. (SCFN Website)

We thank everyone for their support of this mission! If you'd like more information, please contact Kathy Deale at 410-867-4748 or Ingrid High at 443-404-8354, or see SCFN's website at: www.southcountyfaithnetwork.org



BOOK CORNER



The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version(Fully Revised Fourth Edition)

ed. Michael Coogan Oxford Press 2010 380pgs

An Introduction to the Apocrypha

Bruce Metzger Oxford Press 1957 (paperback 1977) 274pgs

This month I want to recommend the best version of the Apocrypha for you to buy (only about \$15 hardback) which is the top book above and it is really all you need. It not only has the Apocrypha in it but also introductory articles and study notes at the bottom of the pages of the Apocrypha text. Apocrypha means 'hidden books' and are the books that the Roman Catholic Church accepts as Scripture but the Jewish people and most Protestants do not. These books cover the period between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Apocrypha is of value to us, even though it is not Scripture, because it lets us know what the people who Jesus preached too were thinking, might have in their minds. The Apocrypha shows some development in Jewish thought about God in this period. One thing, for example, that you immediately see is a greater interest in angels and demons that one doesn't find in the Old Testament and is clearly seen in the Gospels as Jesus is called upon to drive out demons.

Finally, the Apocrypha like any religious literature can have value. One might read A Purpose Driven Life or Mere Christianity or An Imitation of Christ to give three examples of different times that Christians have read in they have helped them in growing their faith. The Apocrypha not only has this value but also since it has similarities to parts of the Old Testament and the New Testament it allows us to better understand our Holy Scriptures.

The Metzger book, while old, and there have been other more recent books written on the Apocrypha which are very good, but for me Metzger has some features that none of the other books really have and thus while I keep buying more it continues to be my favorite book on this topic. The best example of this is Metzger's tracing of the history of the Apocrypha and its influence on history and the church. (If you are interested I have a full bibliography which I prepared for the Apocrypha class and would be happy to give you a copy. And while you have missed Tobit you can still come and join the 20 some people who are attending the class either on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Education Center or on the Monday the day before the third Tuesday at 10am in the fellowship hall.)

I would never tell Christians they have to read the Apocrypha but I would encourage them to do so because they will enrich your understanding of our Bible, let you know about what some Christians think is a part of the Bible, and finally there are some really good stories.

Pastor Glen Arnold