



Cedar Grove UMC

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www.cgumc.org

The Beacon November 2017



REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

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

ALL SAINTS, STEWARDSHIP, THANKSGIVING, ADVENT

I want to begin by thanking the Martha Lydia Circle for their leadership in organizing our 125th Anniversary Service and meal. While the Trustees did their part, the church council assisted, and I did what I could, it was the Martha Lydia Circle who made this day such a great day of joy, faith, remembrance, and celebration. For many of us we got to just show up and enjoy the day, trust me when I tell you a lot of planning and hard work went into a day we will all remember. I want to include a line from a poem about our church written in the 1950s which I had meant to read at the service. "When you are tired and weary and life seems quite a trial come to the church on the corner and rest your tired body a while. You will find this church at the crossroads when travelling on Deale highway. Stop in, and ask God's blessing, and peace to your spirit today."

The first Sunday of November has always been a special day for me in the life of the church as it is All Saints Sunday when we remember those of our church who were an active part of our church when they died. While we only name those who died since last All Saints Day, we do light a candle for all the Saints and it allows all of us the chance to remember those brothers and sisters who helped us in our Christian journeys.

As Thanksgiving comes every November I hope and pray that you will take the time to thank God for all of your blessings. Even when we are in difficulty we still have much to be thankful for and it is good to take time to give thanks. Do not forget our Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday night November 22nd. Trust me the food is delicious!

On November 12th we will have Stewardship Sunday where I will preach about stewardship in our lives which while it does indeed include our money, it also includes are time and talent. The Church is doing okay financially this year, but as people in our church move away and retire we see the potential for us to struggle in year 2018. That won't happen if each of us prayerfully considers the work this church does and what we can give of our time, talent, and money to see that this work is continued. I hope you will read the article in this newsletter on the biblical principles of stewardship and come to church on November 12th to hear God's call to you and what He is asking of you in 2018. And then spend time in prayer and let God lead you to your commitments in 2018.

This year Advent will begin on the first Sunday of December and we are again using a book to enrich our preparations for remembering the birth of our Lord and Savior. The book we will read is to be determined and the church will be purchasing 50 copies. (We are asking for a donation if you take a book to defray the cost, but let me be clear, if you cannot make a donation please still take a book and read it.) Look for a mass email and bulletin insert soon with information about the title of the book and guide to as to what to read at what time.

Let me close with my thanksgiving for 2017 as your pastor and I am most thankful for God's Grace and the faithful people of Cedar Grove UMC. THANKS!

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

New Members Joining the Church! We have a small group of people interested in joining the church and we will be choosing a Sunday in late November to have them join. If you are interested in joining the church please let Pastor Glen know.

Confirmation 2018. If you are interested in having your youth confirmed, please contact Pastor Glen. The classes will begin in January. All youth going into sixth grade or older are eligible.

The once a month study will start a new topic in January and going through May and that topic is **Women of the Bible**. The study meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm and the Monday prior at 10am thus enabling those who prefer daytime or evening to come to the study. (Of course, this assumes enough people sign up.) If you'd like to attend this class, please sign up. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glen.

Thanks to everyone who came out to our **Church (charge) Conference** at Davidsonville UMC .

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 14-16 people present and have room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

Wednesday Dinners and Activities! Come out and join us at 6:00 pm each Wednesday night for food and fellowship, and then at 7:00 pm for the women's Bible study, youth group, and kidz group. (*Please note:* December 6 is the last dinner until 2018.)

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.

CGUMC's **Annual Thanksgiving Eve Dinner** is Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 5:00-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The dinner is open to everyone, so invite your friends and neighbors! Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and cleanup. If you can help, a sign up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Bill Kline. Also, if you know of someone who is shut in that we can deliver a meal to that night, please contact the office.

We are looking for someone or a group of people to lead the **decorating of the church for Advent/Christmas on December 6** in conjunction with the dinner. If you are interested please let Pastor Glen know. The decorations are in the storage building and generally a number of people show up to help with putting them up. **So please volunteer!**

Family Movie Night is Friday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing "Cars 3." 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. Hope you can join us for a fun evening! Movie night is held on the 2nd Friday of every month. On each movie night in October through December we will be collecting blankets for the homeless. Each year we collect different items to help the homeless, so this year we are going to try our best to keep them warm with blankets. New or used blankets are welcome. If you are donating a used blanket we ask that you please make sure they are washed and ready for giving. If you have any questions on our movie night or this year's blanket drive, please don't hesitate to contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry Presents: *From Darkness to Light* - Women's Retreat Weekend Featuring Anita Gutschick from Women of the Bible and Bible teacher, Joanne Guarnieri Hagemeyer, Friday, March 2, 2018 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018 At the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. More information on this trip can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The **Church Office** is open Monday-Wednesday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **If you need assistance when the office is closed**, please contact Pastor Glen at pastor@cgumc.org or by cell at 443-699-3645. The office emails will not be read until the office admin is back in the office. So if you have an immediate need, please reach out to the Pastor.

If your **phone, address, or email has changed recently**, please notify the office at 410.867.7417 or office@cgumc.org so we can update our records. Thank you.

125 Years

Our 125th Anniversary Worship Celebration of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church was a wonderful, successful event held on Sunday, October 22, 2017. It was so nice to visit with and hear from so many who have blessed the life of this church. Following are a few photos captured that day. Thank you to Joanne Riley for sharing them with us.





Celebrating 125 Years

Celebrating 125 Years

A Historical Reflection of Cedar Grove UMC

As we celebrate the 125th anniversary let's reflect on the Heritage of Cedar Grove. Through the passage of time so many changes have been made. So many lives have been ministered in Deale and throughout the area.

1892 — The first structure came from the old church at Oakland and brought by oxcart to the intersection in Deale. This land was donated by Thomas & Mary Deale.
1942 — Cornerstone laid for a new church. Timber was cut from the woods of Thomas and Susie Ford on Franklin Gibson Road.
1923 — Electricity came to Deale.
1943 — Roll of Honor dedicated and given the names of the men from Deale that served in WWII.
1953 — World War II Memorial monument erected.
1954 — Brick veneer placed over the clap board, Sunday school rooms and small social room.
1967 — Fellowship Hall made possible by a bequeath of \$67,000.00.
1972 — Fellowship Hall dedicated.
1980 — Purchased the Deale Memorial Hall from the community for \$21,057.00.
1998 — New roof and remodeling of hall for Sunday school and meeting rooms.
2002 — New Sanctuary. A look to the future.
2014 — Refurbishing of the Fellowship Hall.
2016 — New roof for sanctuary and sidewalks.

So many people have supported Cedar Grove and given freely of their assets. It is difficult to list all of the contributions made and how much they have served the Lord. Cedar Grove is a community church and we are so glad to welcome all of you today to celebrate the 125 years.

Written by Marjorie Johnson 2017

Note from Janell Francl, former Children's Pastor at Cedar Grove:

Greetings precious ones of Cedar Grove,

125 Years! Wow! What a faithful God we serve! 125 years is proof Cedar Grove was founded on the Rock. The letter I received about your celebration hoped that it brought good memories of my time at CG. I have such vivid fond memories of you and my time there! My final day at CG, after clearing out my messy office, I sat in my car in the parking lot and sobbed. It was so hard to leave you.

What I loved about my time there? You enriched and strengthened my faith. You enlarged the meaning of church being the body of Christ. You were my family, brothers and sisters in Christ in your love and support for my ministry, for me and for children and families. I was never a "hugger" and you taught me how to become one. Even though I was from north Anne Arundel County, you warmly accepted me into fellowship. We worked hard but enthusiastically, didn't we?

What I really treasured and why I served wholeheartedly was your love for the Lord and your desire to stand firm in the truth of God's word, not adding or watering it down.

During my time there, CG was effective in serving children and their families through the service of many volunteers, your prayers and always to the glory of God. We learned together how to rely on Him through prayer for the resources to fulfill His purposes. How often He helped us find things, right? June and Kathy?

You placed a high value on bringing children to Jesus, as part of His command to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them. You recognized that children are powerful in the spread of the gospel as well as the future of Christianity. We had a lively group of kids learning how to serve Him, and now those little kids I worked with are graduating from high school and going out, and I pray that the seeds we planted and nurtured will continue to grow their faith in the Lord Jesus.

Thank you for the opportunity to share in your celebration from afar. Know I continue to pray for you and Cedar Grove. From Him and to Him and through Him are all things.

Joy in Jesus, Janell



MISSIONS CORNER

(This month we are highlighting : **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." (www.southcountyfaithnetwork.org)

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. (www.southcountyfaithnetwork.org)

SCFN will have a Pie Sale on November 18, 2017 at 9-11:00 a.m. Pie donations are requested. If you can donate, please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex. The sale will take place at Friendship United Methodist Church. Please drop the pies off at Cedar Grove Church by 8:30 a.m. on November 18th so that they can be delivered in time for the sale. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Lumsden at (240) 678-7512.

We thank everyone for their support of this mission! If you'd like more information, please contact Theresa Lumsden at treselumsden@aol.com or (240)678-7512."

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

2 Corinthians 9:7, 'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

Most Christians understand that God has rules for us to follow that God desires us to live one way and not another in every aspect of our lives. Most people think that the most important moral issues focus on sex – be faithful in marriage; language – don't take the Lord's name in vain; telling the truth – don't lie or gossip; and, church attendance – go to church every Sunday and say Amen. But there are other areas of our lives that matter to God. Did you know that one third of Jesus' teaching is about wealth and money? That in 1 Timothy 6:10 we are told that money is not the root of all evil but the root of many kinds of evil. In the parable of the sower what is the problem with the seed in thorny soil and why it does not bear fruit for God is because of the lure of wealth. Of course, we all know the commandment we shall not steal. In Malachi 3:7-10 God accuses His people of stealing. How can anyone steal from God? Well God tells them by not giving their tithe!

Every person who joins the United Methodist Church is expected to uphold their membership promises to pray, to be present at church, to share their unique talents, to give financially, and to witness their faith. But even if this was not a promise made every church can only do God's will because its members giving of their time, talent, money, prayers, and witness. In other words the church only exists because of the stewardship of its members. And rather than thinking in terms of obligation, think in terms of doing good and changing lives. As you share your time, talent, money, prayers, and witness people's lives are changed. One of the great blessings of being a pastor is I receive the words of thanks and reports of lives turned around from people because of what our church has done and is doing. I can't tell you how many times around particular times of illness and death the difference our church makes. My brothers and sisters we only make this difference because of your giving, sharing, working, prayers, etc....

The Bible lays out four basic guidelines for our giving, yes focused on money but appropriate to think about in term of our time, talent, prayers, and witness as well and how we should view our Christian walks in general. First, is the principle of first fruits. We are to give to God first and give our best. Why was Abel's offering accepted and Cain's was not? Abel gave his first and best and Cain did not. Second, is the principle of the tithe which is giving 10% of our money to God, for doing God's work. Whenever someone says to me that is too much consider two facts, (1) God could have asked for 100% and (2) all we have comes from God. In addition I tell people if you can't tithe, work toward tithing, which introduces the third principle, seeking to grow in our faithfulness to God. Which one of us in any area of our obedience to God can't do better? Let us strive to do better! Fourth, and finally, give as you feel blessed. My favorite stewardship verse which is at the start of this article is from 2 Corinthians 9:7, 'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

Cedar Grove UMC needs every member and friend to prayerfully consider not just how much they will give to our church financially but also how can they use their talents, use their time, and have a more effective witness in 2018. Some look at giving in the church and ask how much do we need to meet the budget. There is nothing wrong with this language but what we really mean is how much do we need to have the worship service on Sunday that enriches my faith walk, to have a pastor to do a loved one's funeral, to go to Bible study and grow in my faith, to have a van to take food, hygiene kits, and clothes to homeless, a youth group to help our teens, and so on. Without your generous giving Cedar Grove UMC will struggle to do God's will here in Deale and around the world. And we need more than generous giving, we need new leaders, more workers, you sharing your talents, and so on and most of all your prayers if we are to be the church that God wants us to be. I shared at the 125th Anniversary the line from the poem about our church written in 1952, 'When you are tired and weary and life seems quite a trial come to the church on the corner and rest your tired body for a while'. That is only true because of all of you and what you give of yourself to Cedar Grove UMC. Let me close by pointing out that every bit helps. That God honors every gift. That God sees the size of our giving in a different way from the world. This is illustrated in my favorite stewardship story when Jesus watches the wealthy put in large sums of money and then a poor widow give a very small amount. Jesus says that she gave more than anyone else because she gave all she had while as the others gave only a portion. (Luke 21:1-4) I am fond of reminding people that Jesus gave His all for us. He didn't die 10%, He died 100% for us. Please spend some time in prayer as 2017 ends and seriously consider what your commitment will be to God here at Cedar Grove UMC in 2018.

Pastor Glen Arnold



BOOK CORNER



The Practice of the Presence of God Brother Lawrence Whitaker House 1982 94pgs

This book is small along with being only 94 pages but is a classic of Christian and Western spirituality. A friend of mine is teaching a class on spirituality and he asked me to read some of the books he is using in the class and discuss them. I have read about Brother Lawrence, was aware of him, and knew he was famous but had never gotten around to reading this his most famous book.

The book consists of two primary types of writing. The first is his laying out how he came to discover the 'practice' and how to do it. He gives practical advice and principles to successfully practice, the 'practice'. Second, there are letters where Brother Lawrence interacts with other people as he advises them in the practice. (My favorite humorous part of the book is when Brother Lawrence writes the following words, 'I must ask you to not show my letter to anyone.' Well he wasn't writing to me and I was reading it so I wrote 'OOPS' in the margin.)

The combination of his teaching with the insight given in the letters makes this a delightful book which I read in about an hour as I awaited my car to be repaired. There is a brief account of his life which was written by someone who was a friend of Brother Lawrence and it puts a nice finishing touch to this short, small insightful book.

So what is the 'practice'? Well it is so simple if I try and summarize it you would only have to read the book to learn some of its nuances because it is very basic, simple and let me add powerful. Now I am not bragging but early on in my spiritual walk with God I adopted a 'practice' similar or should I say God had me adopt it! If you read the book and I believe every Christian should read it, for you will benefit from it regardless of where you are in your spiritual walk.

So if you can't tell I really liked the book and do indeed recommend to every Christian to read. To be honest it really isn't the type of book I generally read, but I am glad I did read it and heartily recommend it to all of you. (It's cheap too. Currently, only \$4 on Amazon.)

Pastor Glen Arnold



Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry Presents:

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND**

*Featuring Anita Gutschick from Women of the Bible
and Bible teacher, Joanne Guarnieri Hagemeyer*

Friday, March 2, 2018 thru Sunday, March 4, 2018

At the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel

10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842

If you'd like to go on this fun retreat weekend, please complete a registration form by Dec. 1st. Cost is \$35 per person for the weekend (non-refundable). This fee is for the retreat program only and does not apply to your hotel stay. (Each attendee is asked to make their own hotel reservations at the hotel, see info below.) Please make checks payable to "Cedar Grove UMC Women's Ministry" and put "For Retreat" in the memo area. You may place the check with your completed registration form in the collection basket during Sunday Worship or you can mail it to the Cedar Grove office or to Diana Seen at 4923 Thomas Drive, Shady Side, MD 20764.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Diana Seen: 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net

Sharon Staley: 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com

Clarion Resort Fontainebleu Hotel Package Rates:

- Standard Double/Double: \$269
- Double Occupancy: \$155
- Triple or Quad Occupancy: \$125

The Package Rate is based on single, double, triple or quad occupancy. The package rate includes: 2 nights' accommodations in a standard double/double room, Saturday breakfast buffet, Sunday deluxe breakfast buffet, all taxes and service charge included.

Individual Reservations: All guests will be responsible for securing their own reservations. Please use the Clarion's toll free number, 800-638-2100 when making your reservations and request the special Cedar Grove UMC group rate.

Hotel reservations must be made by Feb. 2, 2018.

Hotel Policies: Check-In: 4:00 PM. Check-Out: 11:00 AM. Personal checks not accepted in hotel. 72-hour notice required on cancellations/changes. No refunds for early check-out.

REGISTRATION FORM

**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018**

REGISTRATION/TICKET FEE : \$35 PER PERSON FOR WEEKEND (NON REFUNDABLE). THIS IS FOR THE ACTUAL RETREAT PROGRAM, DOES NOT APPLY TO YOUR HOTEL STAY. PLEASE MAKE OUT CHECKS TO CEDAR GROVE UMC WOMEN'S MINISTRY WITH MEMO FOR RETREAT ALONG WITH THE FORM BELOW. YOU MAY PLACE IN COLLECTION BASKET ON SUNDAYS, MAIL TO CEDAR GROVE UMC, OR TO DIANA SEEN, 4923 THOMAS DRIVE, SHADY SIDE, MD 20764.

Register by Dec. 1st.

FEEL FREE TO CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

**DIANA SEEN, 443-618-9759, dianaseen4@comcast.net
SHARON STALEY, 410-562-6646, sharonstaley@aol.com**



NAME: _____

ADDRESS : _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE #: _____