



## Cedar Grove UMC

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*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

## The Beacon October 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

### APPRECIATING CHURCH HISTORY

As I mentioned last month, I am taking a class at Wesley Seminary. The class I originally registered for was on Wednesdays but it was cancelled, so I am now in a class that meets on Thursday afternoons. This class is on church history from the beginning, Jesus and Pentecost to the Reformation. The class is being taught by someone who started full-time ministry just about the same time I did and he is a good friend of mine. It is very interesting for me to be at the seminary and have a professor that I already know, and, who considers me a colleague, with whom I have read books with and talked about ministry with for almost 30 years. Regardless of my being his friend he is a good teacher and I am really enjoying the class and it is reminding me that while our last names might be different, speak a different language, and face unique challenges, the church is always facing issues of conflict, growth, decline, and so on.

But even more than this, all the church does today stands on the shoulders of those who went before them. That is true for the church globally, nationally, and if one thinks about Cedar Grove UMC, locally as well. For example, the very location of our church was not decided by us. Whatever positives or negatives there were about our location we had nothing to do with it. Consider our fellowship hall and the condition it was in when I arrived. Look at it now, hard to argue it is not better. To go the other way, think of the parsonage, once a central part of the life of the church either as the home of the pastor and his or her family, then as the office, and then used for storing items, all functions that helped us be the church and now it is a building that can't be used for anything until it is repaired. We can't change the history of the parsonage, but as the Trustees lead us we are going to make the parsonage building an important part of our church facility again by making it a better storage facility which we need.

I am sure that all of us could point to something here at Cedar Grove UMC in terms of buildings, people, pastors, events, and so on that we like or dislike and want to fix or make better. The question is will we write our part of the history? How will future members of this church read the history we leave behind? Some of it is out of our hands as General Conference 2016 might make decisions next year that will impact that history. Other parts are completely in our hands, led by God, as we worship, learn, teach, work, grow, and struggle together. The past is always with us. Part of the future is out of our hands. Now, is our place in the history of the church. Let us do our utmost to be a positive force so that the Christians of tomorrow will benefit from our wise decisions.

November will soon be upon us and we will have our All Saints service (November 1) remembering those of our number who have passed away. On November 7 at 1pm, at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side we will have our charge conference. Finally, in November we will be having a Stewardship Campaign.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior,

*Glen*

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## **CHURCH NEWS**

The **Martha Lydia Yard & Bake sale** held on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> was a success and we believe they made over \$1,000!

**Family Movie Night will be FRIDAY, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.** We are going classic this month and will show "The Wizard of Oz." **Bring a pair (or a pack) of new socks to donate to the homeless ministry** and you will get a sweet treat! The snack shack will be open selling lots of treats including pizza, popcorn, and drinks. All items are \$1.00 or less. All ages welcome.

**CGUMC's Community Fall Festival is Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm.** There will be a Trunk n Treat, face painting, a cake walk, crafts and games. We will also have food such as hot dogs, chips, lemonade and s'mores! The event happens rain or shine! Help is needed. If you can donate candy or decorate a trunk and pass out candy the day of the event, please sign up on the list in the narthex of the Church or contact the Church office.

The **youth group** is back and we had 22 youth at the first meeting and we are still expecting a few more both new and returning members.

The **World Religions Class** is meeting once a month, the third Tuesday of the month and/or the Monday before the third Tuesday. Both classes are identical and you only need to come to one of them each month. While we have already started, each class is self-contained so if you want to join us for the next class you will fit right in.

The **Tuesday Morning Bible study** meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 11:15am in the fellowship hall. We are currently studying the Gospel of John. Please join us.

The **Wednesday night** dinners at 6pm are back and we would love to have more people come out and enjoy some great food and fellowship. At 7pm we have the kids group, the youth group, and the women's Bible study.

Our **Charge Conference will be held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** with other churches at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side.

If you have a youth who is entering the sixth grade this year or is older who has not been confirmed and you would like them to be confirmed, please contact Pastor Glen as he prepares to organize and schedule the **confirmation classes** starting in January 2016.

If you are interested in joining the church, Pastor Glen is organizing a **new member's class**. Please contact Pastor Glen if you are interested.

If you are interested in doing the **Scripture reading** during the worship service there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you sign up you will be sent the reading electronically so that you can be ready on Sunday.



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### **BOOK CORNER**



Taking God At His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary,  
and Enough, and What that Means for You and Me  
Kevin DeYoung Crossway 2014 138pgs

I had three reasons for buying this book. First, it was a short, practical book on the importance and use of the Bible. Second, it is a book intended for laity so I wanted to read it in hopes of recommending it to my church. Third, I had wanted to read something by Kevin DeYoung an author I had heard good things about.

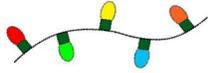
While this book does touch on the content of the Bible its main purpose is to impact how you see the Bible, encourage you to read it and keep reading it, and to show how important it can be to every Christian striving to live the Christian life.

The book reads easily and is divided into eight chapters. The first two chapters introduce you to what the author is trying to do and how we should respond to the Bible. The next five chapters describe how the Bible is enough, clear, final, necessary, and unbreakable. The final chapter encourages the reader to stick to the Bible.

The book has an excellent Appendix titled: Thirty of the Best Books on the Good Book. (I have all but four of them!) So I can tell you the list is right on target.

DeYoung does a great job of bringing serious scholarship and weighty topics to a basic level so that this book really is good for any level of Bible understanding. Having trouble getting motivated to read the Bible? This book could be the cure!

*Pastor Glen Arnold*



Sharing the  
Holiday Spirit

### MISSIONS CORNER

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is the  
**Anne Arundel County DSS Holiday Sharing Program**)

CGUMC supports the Anne Arundel County DSS Holiday Sharing program each year by assisting 25 families/seniors with food at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. As stated on the AA County website: “The Holidays are the time to make memories that our children will treasure throughout the years. Can you remember a Thanksgiving without a turkey... a Christmas without the magic of a Christmas tree, and without presents wrapped just for you? Sadly, there are families in our own county who will be unable to provide these memories for their children unless you help. “ The county matches our church with families or seniors in need from our area in the county. We then purchase and provide the donation to those on our list.

If you'd like more information regarding this mission, please contact Ingrid High or you can visit the county's website at [www.dhr.maryland.gov/annearundel](http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/annearundel).