



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Beacon October 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

CHURCH (Charge) CONFERENCE 2018

I have been involved in Charge and/or Church Conferences for over 30 years and they continue like anything to evolve. Early in my ministry Charge Conferences were big events and very well attended. Lately they have become less important and much more poorly attended, in some cases with only two or three people present. Because of these declines, I wonder if they will continue to be a part of our process but for now they are and thus I want to fill you in on how this year is different.

On October 23 at 7pm as a part of our regular Church Council meeting we will have our Church (charge) Conference and it will be led by another Elder from another UMC in our area. The District Superintendent will not be present. We will be meeting in the sanctuary for this conference. A Church Conference differs from a Charge Conference in that at the Church Conference all members of the church can vote. At a Charge Conference members and guests can speak, but they cannot vote as only the members of the Church Council can vote. There will be a few important votes to take such as the Nominations Report and the Pastor's salary (neither of which can be amended) and must be simply voted up or down. There will be a few other pieces of business that we will do which will be for information. When the Church Conference is over we will then have our regular Church Council meeting.

This change has been initiated by the district with the hope that it will save time by not asking our church leadership and membership to set aside a half a day to have a separate charge conference. I will be doing a Church (charge) Conference for another church the following week at their church. Of course the one person at our church that will not be saving time in this process is your pastor. Because of this system, I had to go to a half a day of training, still do my own Church (charge) Conference, and do one and maybe more other church conferences. It's worth it though because our laity already do so much and if we can save them some time then that is good. I hope you will come out to our Church conference on Tuesday, October 23rd at 7pm. You are welcome to then stay for the Church Council meeting but you are also free to go once the Conference portion is over.

I will never be able to think about my time as a pastor and not think about the often important role Charge Conferences have played. My first act after having received my call to ministry from God was to go to my home church's SPRC and then to the next Charge Conference and have my call recognized and then begin the process of seminary, conference qualifications, testing my call, and then finally being ordained. When I retire, the one thing I have to do in retirement is pick a church where I will report each year to its Charge Conference as to my continued status as retired. Thus my ministry began at and will enter its final, retired status at a Charge Conference.

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

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday Night Dinners Are Back! Join us for delicious food and Christian fellowship. We have gotten off to a good start this Fall, but need the numbers to stay where they are for this event to continue.

The Women's Bible Study also meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. We have started a series on the ten women of the bible. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Seen at dianaseen4@comcast.net.

New Bible Study! Join us on Wednesday nights following the community dinner for a new bible study for Adult Teens through Thirties. We're offering a time of fellowship and fun studies of the Bible. Any questions about the study can be directed to Kevin Roby at kmcl.robby@comcast.net, or Mitzi Roby at mitzidawn@verizon.net.

Nominations Committee. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on a committee either immediately (if filling a vacancy) or starting on January 1, 2019 (if you are part of a new class for a committee). We will include the committee memberships list in the January 2019 newsletter and also post it in the church Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glen.

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.

The **Tuesday morning Bible study meets at 10am** and is studying the Book of Hebrews. We are always open to new people attending. The next book we are going to study is Genesis. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

New Members Class. Please let Pastor Glen know if you are interested in joining the church.

Our Church Conference is Tuesday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. See "From the Pastor's Desk" article in this newsletter for details.

The rumors are true, the once a month Bible Study will during the September 2018 to May 2019 period study the **Book of Revelation**. While the class has already had its first session it is not too late to join us. Contact Pastor Glen to get the materials needed for the second class.

Children's Sunday School is every Sunday during worship service after the children's message. Our lessons sometimes involve food, so please be sure to let Cindy Rothhaas know if your child has any allergies or dietary restrictions. We can always use middle/high school helpers. Please let Cindy know if you are able to be a helper or if you have any questions at 410-867-2973 or at rrothhaas@comcast.net. The K-5th grade lessons for October are listed below:

10/07/18 - Praying - Jeremiah 29:13

10/14/18 - Changing Seasons - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

10/21/18 - Who's the Best - Philippians 2:3

10/28/18 - Plagues for Halloween - Exodus 7:19 through 11:5

Sanctuary/Sunday Committee Update—Sandy Burns. Again I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped with greeting, nursery and ushers. We had a great response to volunteers to greet on Sunday mornings. Did you enjoy greeting church members? Please sign up again to volunteer for another Sunday. We really need more volunteers to work in the nursery. Are you reluctant to volunteer because you don't think that you have enough knowledge of the bible or scriptures? It is nice to have the knowledge but is not mandatory for this support. We should have two volunteers each Sunday however due to the low response we have not always been able to do that. Please volunteer so that we can rotate the Sundays so that there is no need to miss Church services every week. Please talk to Courtney Roby or Debbie Huffman if you have any questions. We can also use more volunteers for ushers on Sundays. Please talk to Randy Smith or Spike Deale if you have any questions about being an usher. Again thank you for the support each Sunday. Please contact Sandy Burns at 410-867-7898 if you have any questions or want to provide suggestions on how we can better support Cedar Grove UMC. God bless everyone.

Reestablishing our "Handyman" Members—Vicki Marsh. In times past, I have been told that we had an in-house list of members ready and willing to assist those in need of small home repairs. I see a need for renewing of this project. We need to establish a list of members willing to assist our senior members with small home repairs such as: gutters cleaned twice a year, leaf raking twice a year, fixing loose shingles, yard weeding, electrical lights repaired, nail pops, touch up painting, and window repairs to name a few. I am requesting that those interested in adding their name to a "HandyMan" List contact me, Vicki Marsh at 410-867-0967 or at vicki.marsh@aol.com. I'll be waiting to hear from you. Your church family needs your help. I can coordinate the helper with the "helpee" with time and place where you would be needed and what assistance would be required. You will not be contacted by anyone but me as the coordinator. I will arrange a date and time beneficial between both parties. This is a long overdue program and the need is great. So, choose to help your senior church family.

Our Annual Community Fall Festival with a Trunk & Treat is Saturday, Oct. 20 at 4:00-6:00 pm. Join US for a FUN, FREE church event that includes a trunk & treat, face painting, a cake walk, crafts and games. *Rain or Shine!* Costumes welcomed but not required. While you are here participating enjoy a free hot dog, soup, chips, and lemonade! If you can donate candy or decorate your vehicle's trunk to hand out candy to the children, please sign up on the list in the Church narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Staley at sharonstaley@aol.com or Mitzi Roby at mitzidawn@verizon.net.

Family Movie Night is cancelled in October. We will be back in November!! *See ya then!* 😊

Save The Date! The Martha Lydia Circle Soup, Bake, Crafters, and Vendors Sale is Saturday, November 17 at 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Tables are available to rent for \$15 each. Contact Mabel-410-867-2978 or Evelyn-410-867-2818. Baked goods and other food will be for sale. Soup preordering is available. Look for details coming soon in a Sunday bulletin.



MISSIONS CORNER

The Missions we are highlighting this month are: **Holiday Sharing** and **Operation Christmas Child**

Holiday Sharing: 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 Quimby-High at Ingrid.Quimby@gmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child: It's just the beginning of October and some hate to think about Christmas so soon, but Christmas decorations are already displayed in some stores and people are starting to buy their presents for family and friends. So the missions committee is preparing for Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

OCC provides an opportunity for needy children worldwide to receive a shoe box for Christmas and to also learn about our Savior Jesus the Christ and ultimately become Christians. The collection week for turning in our donations is November 12-19; therefore, we only have six weeks to complete the mission. We had a great turnout last year when you bought and packed your own shoe boxes.

Another option that other organizations do is to have people donate individual items and then have a packing party where volunteers pack the shoe boxes together. We'd like to hear from you as to which option you prefer. In the Narthex you will find a survey in which we ask that you please check your preference. No names are necessary. Sandy Burns will then announce the decision during church on Oct 14th.

In the meantime, if you would like to help, you can start buying your presents for children ages 2-14. There is also a need for volunteers to donate four (4) hours of your time for one day in November at the central distribution center in Baltimore. If interested in doing this, please put your name and phone number on the survey in the Narthex so that we can contact you and then the center to schedule. Again thank you for your support for this worthy mission! **Please note:** Some items cannot be placed in the shoe boxes, they are:

- "Candy and Gum;
- "Toothpaste;
- "Used or damaged items;
- "War-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures;
- "Chocolate or Food or Seeds;
- "Fruit rolls or other fruit snacks;
- "Drink mixes (powdered or liquid);
- "Other Liquids or Lotions;
- "Medications or Vitamins;
- "Breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; and
- "Aerosol Cans.



BOOK CORNER

Doomsday Delusions: What's Wrong with Predictions about the End of the World

C. Pate & C. Haines Jr. IVP 1995 180pgs

As I continue to prepare and now teach the class on the Book of Revelation, I have been reading many books on Eschatology (theology of the end of the world and eternal destiny) including this one criticizing people who try to predict doom and the end. Beyond the fact that so many people get it wrong it often causes people to do things that are harmful to themselves and to the church.

This book is divided into five chapters on the following themes: When Prophecy Fails; The Signs of the Times; This Generation Will Not Pass Away; The Separation of the Saints; and, Thy Kingdom Come. In these chapters examples are given from history of how people have interpreted the Bible wrong, started doing things such as selling all they have because the end is tomorrow, churches dividing over disagreements as to the date the end will come, and other often harmful consequences of predicting exactly when Doomsday, the Tribulation, and/or the return of Christ will come.

One example that the book touches on and some of you may remember is David Koresh and the Branch Davidians in Waco Texas. Without going into all the details about why all those people died (and there were plenty of reasons) one of the reasons was certainly because David Koresh believed the time for the end had come so he then did things that contributed to the horrible outcome based on that mistaken idea.

Another example you may not be aware of is the 'Millerite' movement that predicted the end of the world, doomsday in the mid-1800s. When it didn't happen some people lost their faith. Others survived and formed denominations that we still see today like the Seventh Day Adventists. It is amazing to me that people who gathered together convinced in a doomsday prediction could survive it being wrong. By the way, the day the end didn't come was called the 'Great Disappointment'.

One last example and I was pleased to see it because I in a small way lived it. There was a very popular radio Bible teacher named Harold Camping and he wrote a book titled 1994?. Well, at least he put a question mark on it but he essentially predicted the world would end in 1994. Believe it or not he published another book later titled, Are You Ready?. My question would be, ready for what, the end of the world happening last year? What possible credibility would the book have given how wrong the author had been. My little memory of this one was certain church members who believed in Camping wanting me to preach a sermon telling them that September 27 is the day of the end. Also, at the time my local Christian book store was still trying to sell the book 1994? in 1995! None of them sold....

Let me be clear about two things about this book. First, while criticizing doomsday predictors this book does not demean or belittle them and is often quite sympathetic to them. Second, the book does support the belief that Christ will return, that there will be end, that indeed for every human being, whether it be death or the return of Christ, doomsday awaits. It then proceeds to encourage the proper response to our impending doom, not trying to figure out the day and time but rather living the life of faith in Christ today and every day.

I would recommend this book to every Christian who wants to think concretely about the Christian belief that there will be an end to history, the Christ will return, and that the judgment awaits all of us. It points out the downside to such predicting and to a degree reveals why so many are enticed to make such predictions. The book reads easily, plenty of Scripture is cited, great stories, and a good summary of the many that predicted the end and were wrong. For me God knows when the end will come, my job is to be the Christian He wants me to be today because one day, who knows when, the end will come and I want to be ready.

Pastor Glen Arnold