



Cedar Grove UMC

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Beacon September 2015



Summer 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

FALL 2015

Fall is always a busy time for churches and pastors, and this year we are going to be busier than any time since I was appointed your pastor in 2013. You will find throughout this newsletter the reasons why we are not just busy, but rather finding more and more ways to do the things God wants Christians to do.

This fall will also be busier for me, not just because our church is doing more, but because I will be taking a class (there is a small chance the class will not happen and then I will be looking for something else) at Wesley Seminary on Wednesday mornings to fulfill my quadrennial continuing education requirements which is why I am taking this class and will most likely be taking a class in 2016 as well. (I need to fulfill this requirement by the end of 2016.) The annual conference mandates that all of our clergy have two weeks of education leave. I will be using these days to attend the classes and to do the reading that comes with the class.

Also, as General Conference 2016 nears and The United Methodist Church might be making changes that will greatly affect clergy and churches, I will increasingly need to commit some of my time and attention to these matters. I hope that you all will pray for our denomination as we struggle with difficult issues and change.

I write this article as I prepare to take the second half of August off. I hope this will help me to have the energy and focus to get it all done. I hope that all of you have had a good summer and are ready for a busy and faithful fall. We need everyone to help us be the church we can be by giving what our membership vows ask of us, to give our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior,

Glen



CHURCH NEWS

Sunday School at 9am for all ages starts on September 13th. The Sunday School for grades k-5 during the worship service returns on that date as well. Sunday School for High School starts September 20th. **Please note:** We do not have a leader for the 9am Sunday School class for Middle School ages, so please prayerfully consider serving the church by being a Sunday School leader (this class only has a few children in it). Also, we are in need of adults to help Kathy Deale in the pre-K room during worship service. If you can help, please sign up on the list in the pre-k room or let Kathy know.

Martha Lydia Circle Yard & Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, September 19th at 8am-1pm. Please rent a table if you have stuff to sell and certainly come on that day to buy and eat.

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.

On September 14th at 10am and September 15th at 7pm Pastor Glen will be teaching a once a month class on **World Religions**. (The class is offered twice each month so that those who don't like to drive at night can come and those who work during the day can come as well.) See the more detailed article in this newsletter on the class with information about how to sign-up.

New Youth Group members are asked to come with their parents to a meeting after the worship service on September 13th in the parlor. The purpose of this meeting is for you all to meet our youth leadership, learn about the youth covenant, the youth group activities, and to ask any questions you might have. Our youth group is for youth 6th grade to 12th grade.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Activities are back on September 16th. The dinner is held at 6pm and the CGkidz, youth, and women's bible study groups meet at 7pm. Peggy Singleton continues to provide meals for about half of the Wednesdays but for this great program to continue we need other volunteers to 'cater' the other Wednesdays. Contact Bill Kline or the Church office if you would like to help or have any questions.

The pastor's **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10am continues to be well attended (about 15 people) but we have room for more to join us. We are continuing to study the Gospel of John.

The **Nominations Committee** is working on filling our committee spots prior to our **Charge Conference on Nov. 7th that will be held with other churches at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side**. If you would like to serve on one of our committees, please contact Pastor Glen who is the chairperson of the nominations committee.

Over the summer we had successful events, **Vacation Bible school**, the **SPY trip**, and **The Breakfast Club**. While the numbers for VBS were down, those children that came had a great week of fun and learning. The SPY trip saw more youth go than ever before and we had a good number of adult chaperones. We also had another great summer of providing meals for children in need in our community through the Breakfast Club. I want to **thank** all who made these events and services possible and successful!



BOOK CORNER



Five Marks of a Methodist: the Fruit of a Living Faith
Steve Harper Abingdon 2015 70pgs

I bought this little book at annual conference and it is little not only in terms of pages, it is also only a little bit bigger than an index card from top to bottom and from side to side. It consists of five short chapters, one on each of the marks, which are: loves God, rejoices in God, gives thanks, prays constantly, and loves others. This book is easy to read and I certainly have no disagreements about what it calls upon Methodists to “mark” their lives with.

My only disagreement with this book is that for me these five marks are of any Christian and not in particular the unique and important contribution the Methodist movement has made to Christianity in general. Just to name a few, a mark of a Methodist would be to engage in regular small group meetings for prayer, Bible study, and accountability; another would be to take the preaching of the Gospel outside the church to where the people are; and a third would be our theological emphasis on grace.

With that one minor disagreement with the book I still want to make clear that this book would be of value to any Christian who wants to find simple, but powerful ways of marking their lives as Christian. The book is inexpensive, easy to read, and clear.



MISSIONS CORNER

(The Mission we are highlighting this month is the
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry)

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry places Christian chaplains in jails and prisons to minister to the spiritual needs of inmates and staff. They “believe the most effective tool for ministering to the needs of inmates and staff is the daily presence of a chaplain. The chaplain serves as evangelist, pastor, counselor, mentor and friend to those who are incarcerated and the staff who guard and protect them.” Chaplain Chase Wood, a member of Cedar Grove, and Chaplain Brit Fletcher are the chaplains assigned to the Anne Arundel County facilities and we support them in their mission. Their pastoral presence “helps men and women, inmates and staff, come to a relationship with God enabling them to begin to live a life that leads them away from incarceration rather than a life that leads them deeper into the cycle of crime.”

The Chaplains would like to inform you of a new opportunity to support their ministry, “The Sponsor a Chaplain for a Day Program”. The Sponsor a Chaplain for a Day Program is a way for those who would like to support the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry in Anne Arundel County financially in a way that can be remembered and celebrated in honor of or in memory of a loved one or friend.

It costs approximately \$600 a day to cover all the expenses for the ministry of Chaplain Brit Fletcher and Chaplain Chase Wood in the two facilities in Anne Arundel County. We are asking people to consider supporting the ministry of the chaplains for a day. You can support one chaplain for a day, which would be a commitment of \$300 per year, or you can support the entire ministry for a day, which would be a commitment of \$600 per year. You can then designate which calendar day you would like to support, and indicate the recipient of honor or memory for that day. For example, a \$600 commitment for the entire ministry in honor of or in memory of mom's birthday, September 15th. You can fulfill that commitment any way you would like during the year (\$300 or \$600 one time gift, or \$25 or \$50 a month, or \$75 or \$150 every three months, etc.).

Chaplain Fletcher and Chaplain Wood have committed to pray specifically for you and your family on the special day you choose. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

If you have questions about this ministry, or about donating, please talk with Chase Wood or Missions Chair Ingrid High.

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YOUTH LOCK-IN



The Youth group had its first lock-in on August 14th into August 15th. I think it is safe to say all the youth that attended had a great time! We invited the incoming 6th graders to join us for this fun evening and some took us up on it. We ate dinner as a grouppizza is always a hit; we also played a bunch of different games. Together as a group we watched the movie "God's Not Dead" which evoked a lot of emotions from our youth. To watch our youth cheer when the students say God's Not Dead was an amazing thing for the youth leaders that were still in attendance.

Watching our youth sing some of the songs in the movie was also very cool. The group discussion after the movie was very good with getting their input about what they liked in the movie, but more importantly what they took away from the movie. A few of our group went on to watch "Kingdom of Heaven" which while violent (it takes place during the crusades) also raised some comments from our group. At that point half of the group was tired and either already in bed or on their way. We did have 5 troopers that stayed up ALL night. I did find out from one parent that one of those couldn't stay up the whole day though. 😊 I would like to thank Greg Witte for coming and staying out all night with us! Also, thank you to Pam Foster for hanging out with us for part of the night and then being there bright and early for breakfast! We are looking forward to the next lock-in and hope the kids are too!!

Wendy Bernard

WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS

Starting Sept. 14th at 10:00 am and Sept. 15th at 7:00 pm (in other words the same class will be taught twice each month—a daytime class and an evening class), Pastor Glen will lead a monthly class on the major religions of the world.

The class will cover Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, other eastern religions, native American religion, African traditional religions, and a few others. Each month we will look at an introductory level of the history, basic beliefs, basic practices, and sacred texts of each religion. You will get the chance to read samples of the sacred texts of each religion (if they have such texts).

In our modern world it is increasingly important for Christians to understand the faiths of others so that they can understand and respect their neighbors faiths and understand how their faiths are both similar and different from our Christian Faith. The class will end with a single class session on Christianity to make the comparisons easier for you.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Glen. To register for either the daytime or evening class, please see the signup sheets in the Narthex or contact the Church office.