



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2016: A LOT IS HAPPENING AT CEDAR GROVE UMC

As we move into the Fall of this election year I am glad that the church council has called us to a **day of prayer on September 6th** (please sign up in the narthex to pray). We should pray not just for the election but for the spiritual health of our churches and of our nation. We face many challenges such as Zika, ISIS, economic struggles, and I could go on and on. Thinking largely God wants the churches to make a difference. Thinking on a smaller scale what is God asking Cedar Grove UMC to do. It is not enough to voice concern and pray, we need to act and we need God to show us the way. We have a new bishop for our conference (see article in the church news about her) who I hope and pray will lead all of our conference's churches not only to addressing the issues we face in this great country but also lead the church in revival.

At our **Charge Conference** on October 8th (see church news for more details) we have the opportunity to meet with our District Superintendent and talk about where we are going as a church. I hope all of you will attempt to attend, although only members of the church council can vote.

I am very excited about the **once a month class** offered this year (on both the third Tuesday of each month and the Monday prior) on **the Apocrypha** (please see article about this class elsewhere in this newsletter). If you are interested, please join us.

I am currently working with some people about **joining the church**. If you would like to join the church, please let me know. Also, if any of you has a youth entering into the sixth grade or older and would like to be confirmed, please let me know so that I can organize the class to start in January 2017.

Over the summer some exciting things have been occurring in terms of **our facility**. First, thank you to the Board of Trustees for completing the transition of the 'old parsonage' becoming our 'new storage facility'. Second, through a generous donation of funds the Trustees are also redecorating and getting new furniture for the room next to the main church office which will now become our main room for having meetings. Third, and this is not exciting but I am very thankful to the leadership of the Trustees for tackling this problem, on or around September 1st our sanctuary roof will be replaced. (See church news for additional information.)

Finally, don't forget all the excellent **Bible study opportunities** you have at this church. On Sundays at 9am Bill Kline and I each teach a class. On Tuesday morning I lead a Bible study that is currently studying Romans and Jeanne Haas leads the excellent Women's Bible study on Wednesday nights.

Your fellow servant of Jesus Christ,

Glen

The Beacon September 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



CHURCH NEWS

We have a new bishop. Her name is LaTrelle Miller Easterling. She has not been a bishop before and I am sure in the months to come we will learn what her vision is for our annual conference. Please pray for her. The following is an article about her:

“Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, our new bishop at Baltimore Washington Conference
By Beth DiCocco, DCA Staff --

LaTrelle Miller Easterling is an elder in the New England Conference where she serves as superintendent of the Metro Boston Hope District. She became district superintendent in 2012, succeeding the late Martin D. McLee, who was elected bishop that year. Originally from Indianapolis, Rev. Easterling, 51, received her call to ministry while a member of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where she was ordained a deacon in 1995 and an elder two years later. She graduated from the Boston University School of Theology Summa Cum Laude in 2004. When asked about inclusivity during the episcopal interview process, Rev. Easterling said, ‘I know what it feels like to be excluded. I know what it feels like to be present but ignored.’ But getting to know one another can change that, she said. ‘Once we get to know each other, it’s almost impossible to hate, it’s almost impossible to continue excluding, it’s almost impossible to remain where you were. We are changed when we hear one another’s story.’ Rev. Easterling served Union UMC and Old West UMC in Boston and Pearl Street UMC in Brockton, MA. She was a delegate to General Conference in 2012 and 2016, and served on the NEJ’s Multi-Ethnic Center Board. She also served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. When asked about her self-care practices, Rev. Easterling said that along with keeping the Sabbath, she visits the beach and writes ‘prayers, litanies, liturgies, songs, laments,’ Rev. Easterling said: ‘I read the word of God. I am inspired by it. It gives me new life, it gives me energy. It’s one thing to be reading the word of God for sermon preparation, or Bible study preparation, but I’m still a disciple of Jesus Christ. My relationship with Christ is still growing. I need to have my own firm rootedness and connected-ness. Sometimes when I read it, I get so excited I have to walk around the room a little bit ...’ Rev. Easterling has a law degree, and before entering full-time ministry worked as a mediator and as a Human Resources Manager and Director. She is married to the Rev. Marion Easterling, Jr., the pastor of Parkway United Methodist Church in Milton, MA. They are the parents of two sons, Garrett Walter and Miles Teronza. “

Our Charge Conference with our District Superintendent will be held at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side on Oct. 8th at 10:30 am. This is where we will vote your pastor’s pay package, vote in committee members and officers for the New Year, and conduct whatever other business needs to be done.

On or around September 1, 2016, we will be replacing the sanctuary roof. This work will take approximately two weeks. We ask that you please **refrain from parking in the back parking lot** during this time. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Seen, Trustee Chairperson, at paulseen@comcast.net.

Scripture readers on Sunday mornings! It has been great having some different voices read the Scripture on Sunday mornings. If you are also interested in reading the scripture, 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.

Prayer is an integral part of our Christian lives. We are charged to devote ourselves to prayer. We should bring our requests to God with thanksgiving and pray without ceasing. Our world is a sinful place with troubling events happening nearly every day. Our country is on the verge of choosing a new president to lead us through these uncertain times. Even our own denomination is making some decisions that could impact our church. Perhaps you are facing your own giants in your life. We need prayer more than ever before. Prayer is a mighty weapon that can help us in all things. On **Tuesday, September 6th we will hold a prayer vigil here at Cedar Grove UMC from 7 am to 7 pm followed by a short service** to focus on praying for all those areas in our lives that need God from the world to our country, community, family and our own personal lives. **Please sign up to pray for 30 minutes in the sanctuary for all these things especially for our county as we approach election time. Pray that God's will be done and lives are changed and drawn closer to Him. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and there are still spots to fill. Please come join us.** To God be all the glory, honor and praise!

We would like to begin the process of building a new **Church Directory** and we are looking for **one or two volunteers to manage this project.** All that is required is for the volunteers to serve as liaisons with Lifetouch Photography, and using the promotional material provided by Lifetouch to sign families up for a photo over several weeks. This can be done before and after Sunday service over several weeks before the photo date. It's just a matter of getting the families signed up. Lifetouch will take care of the rest. Please contact Carla Hultberg at the church office, 410.867.7417, if you would like to volunteer for this project.

Family Movie Night is Friday, September 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be showing "The Angry Birds" movie. It's 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 **SOCKS** for the homeless. If you donate you will receive a free treat! If you have questions, please contact Stacy Crine. Come check it out! We host family movie night every 2nd Friday of the month. Here is the schedule through November:

- September 9 – *The Angry Birds Movie*
- October 14 – *Goosebumps*
- November 11 – *The Jungle Book*

Given the success of our 10am Sunday School for children we will no longer be having Sunday school for k-12th at 9am. We will continue to have Adult Sunday School at 9am and the nursery will be staffed for anyone who comes to our adult classes. Sunday School for k-5th grade resumes on **Sept. 11 at 10:00 am after the children's message in worship.**

Our **Wednesday Night Dinners** followed by Kid's Group, Youth Group, and Women's Bible Study resume on **September 14th.** We will also have a **Blood Drive that day at 2:30 pm-6:30 pm.** The AAMC Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot. Signup online at: SignUpGenius.com/go/20F084CABA5FB6-cedar2.

The Martha Lydia Circle will hold a YARD & BAKE SALE on Saturday, September 17 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm here at Cedar Grove. *Rain or Shine!* Baked goods and other food will be for sale. Tables are available to rent for \$20.00 each. Call to reserve yours today! Contact: Evelyn Broyles at 410.867.2818 or Mabel Beneze at 410.867.2978.



UMM West River Retreat Center Workday—Saturday, Sept. 17. Each year, the Annapolis District United Methodist Men gives back to the UMC West River Retreat Center with a special workday. Join them to use your skills to help with various maintenance projects including painting, cleaning the grounds, repairing cabins, building kayak racks and outdoor games for youth and much more. This outreach opportunity for men of all ages enhances the Center’s ministry to youth, children, young/older adults, and kids with disabilities. To help with the project, please contact Greg Witte, at 443-302-9866 or AnnapolisUMM@gmail.com.

UMMen to Feed 60,000—The annual meeting of the United Methodist Men of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) will be held **on Saturday, October 15** at First UMC in Hyattsville, MD. The event features a morning of speakers including Reverend **Rod Hairston**, life coach and past chaplain for the Baltimore Ravens; **Chris Holmes**, a life coach and former BWC District Superintendent; and **Rebecca Iannicelli**, Superintendent of the BWC Washington East District. Registration for the morning session is \$30 (\$35 after 9/15/16). After lunch, the men have taken on the ambitious goal of completing a mission project to support the worldwide school feeding program [Stop Hunger Now](#). *Stop Hunger Now gets food and life-saving aid to the world’s most vulnerable people, and works to end global hunger in our lifetime. Established in 1998, they have provided over 225 million meals in 74 countries.* Those meals encourage school attendance and help put these children and their families on a path out of poverty. For tickets call: Greg Witte, District UMM President at 443-302-9866 or go online at UMMGathering.com **Save 15% and register by Sep. 15th!**



Our VBS collection for the Homeless mission was a huge success! We collected: 102 Toothpastes, 84 Toothbrushes, 67 Combs, 33 Shaving creams, 54 Deodorants, 61 Shampoos, 155 Washcloths, 82 Soaps, 188 Razors, and over 150 miscellaneous health items such as tissues, mouthwash, body lotion, zip lock bags, etc... .) *Wow! Thank you for your support.*

Andy Thornton, Director, BWC Retreat & Camping Ministries, wrote to Pastor Glen on 8/19 to thank us at CGUMC for *“graciously allowing the West River Faith in Action program use the church van. We had 6 teams working on sites within our community. They built 3 ramps, rehabbed 2 others and then made a major repair on a porch. Sixty campers and adults participated from all over the Conference. Working with the South County Faith Network and some of the area churches we were able to identify families that needed the assistance. Your support made that happen. I also want to thank you for all the support you give to getting campers to come to camp. A week of summer camp can have a profound impact on the life of a young person. Coupled with the continued care they receive from their local church; we can be effective partners in creating disciples for Jesus Christ. Thanks to all for their ongoing prayers and support for this ministry.”*

APOCRYPHA CLASS

The Apocrypha Class, to be taught by Pastor Glen, starts Monday, September 19 at 10:00 am and September 20 at 7:00 pm. (The Monday morning class is identical to the Tuesday evening class. Choose which day/time you prefer.)

The Apocrypha are books written during the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. They are recognized as being somewhat Scriptural by the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches, and some Protestant groups. For the most part Protestants and the Jewish Faith see them as interesting books but not Scripture. In this class you will read the Apocrypha, understand why it is important, see where it agrees with our Holy Scriptures, and other issues. These books vary from

fascinating tales of the faithful to words of wisdom to prayers to history and all will inform not only your understanding of the Bible but in particular understand better the religious environment that Jesus did His ministry in.

Prior to the first meeting in September (remember the Monday morning class is identical to the Tuesday evening class. I do it this way to allow those who can't come in the daytime to attend in the evening and those who don't like to drive at night come in the daytime) it would be great, but not mandatory if you read the following parts of the Old Testament as these are writings with similarities to the Apocrypha: Judges, Daniel 1-6, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs. **Also, you must have your own copy of the Apocrypha.** As for getting your own copy of the Apocrypha here are my suggestions:

Check any old Bibles you have particularly King James Version, Revised Standard Version, and New Revised Standard Version and see if they have the Apocrypha. (Look for the Book of Tobit which is one of the books of the Apocrypha). As long as you are comfortable reading that version you are set. One other hint if you were confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church or Lutheran Church there is a very good chance if you were given a Bible at your confirmation it is a Bible that has the Apocrypha.

If you are going to buy an Apocrypha I recommend the following:

The Harper Collins Study Bible NRSV (make sure it states 'with Apocrypha') You can purchase this on Amazon or at the CBD or Christianbook.com for \$24.99 (paperback student edition) the regular addition is more expensive. This will give you a full study Bible with study notes on the whole Bible including the Apocrypha.

The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha 4th edition for \$13.64 at Amazon. This will just contain the Apocrypha and does have some notes at the bottom of the page but not as in depth as the study Bible above. **(This would be what I would most recommend.)**

Holy Bible with the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books NRSV by the American Bible society \$10.99 at Amazon. No study notes just a Bible with the Apocrypha.

NRSV The Apocrypha Cambridge Press \$10.99 at the CBD or Christianbook.com. Not available through Amazon. No study notes just the text.

Finally, I am fairly sure if you went to Barnes & Noble they would have Bibles with the Apocrypha for you to order or purchase. Remember print size! If you need large print I would recommend you go to Barnes & Noble and make sure what you are buying you can use. (Please contact me if you need any help with getting the Apocrypha.)

I am looking forward to teaching this class. At the first class in September we will discuss what the Apocrypha is, the history of the times it was written, why it is good for Christians to read it, and how the class will go. This class will be very different from both the Genesis 1-11 and World Religions classes. It will be more informal, I will teach less, and it will be more dependent on you all having read the book(s) of the Apocrypha for that month and be ready to discuss them. I will give you each month key chapters to consider and general questions to guide your reading. If we have time toward the end of the class in the spring we might also look at some books about Jesus that did not make it into the New Testament, you might call these, and some do, New Testament Apocrypha.

Please contact me with any questions and even if you have not signed up and at the last minute what to come please do.

Pastor Glen Arnold



BOOK CORNER



Calvin vs. Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice
Don Thorsen Abingdon 2013 158pgs

Those who come to my Bible studies know that the issue of predestination is one that I often focus on and John Calvin is often who I am trying to answer and John Wesley is often who helps me to provide the answer. Don Thorsen's little book Calvin vs. Wesley was just the type of book for me. While it is written in academic style it is not difficult reading, but if you do not have a background in the Calvinist vs. Arminian debates you will have to at time re-read parts.

The heart of the book addresses in a chapter each of the following topics in terms of how Calvin and Wesley understood them for the Christian life and theology. The topics are: God: More Love Than Sovereignty, Bible: More Primary Than Sole Authority, Humanity: More Freedom Than Predestination, Grace: More Prevenient Than Irresistible, Salvation: More Unlimited Than Limited, Spirituality: More Holiness Than Mortification, and Ministry: More Empowering than Triumphant. In each chapter he fairly, while admitting his preference for Wesley describes how each theologian understood their positions. What is particularly good about how Thorsen does this is even when he prefers Wesley's position he also shows what we can learn from Calvin and the value of his perspective. Finally, Thorsen does not demonize or ridicule Calvin and those who support him which is so often the case in books written by Calvinists about the Arminian side.

I have saved the best for last. Notice the subtitle of the book, 'bringing belief in line with practice'. I think that Thorsen convincingly shows what I have always believed that even Calvinists live like Wesleyans.

This book would not be for everyone given the book's style of writing and the difference knowledge about Calvin and Wesley will have on the reader's ability to quickly move through the book. But if you are interested in what we think about God in terms of who He is and how He works along with our role as humans in the life of faith I can't recommend this book enough.

Pastor Glen Arnold



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."