



Cedar Grove UMC

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REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

The Beacon September 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

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

CEDAR GROVE UMC, PRAYER, AND EVANGELISM

My brothers and sisters Cedar Grove UMC continues to be faithful to God's call in so many ways. Do we have problems? Yes, and I hope that we will address them. But even as we address them let us not lose sight of our faithfulness. Recently, in a conversation with my dad I shared my feelings about each of the five churches I served as an ordained minister and what I felt about each of them. As we discussed it and while I had only been thinking about the four churches I have finished at, I realized and said that 'I am really enjoying my ministry at Cedar Grove UMC.' AMEN! That doesn't mean I am not aware of our weaknesses and problems but in terms of the week in and week out activity of this church I enjoy it and am proud of how faithful we are in responding to God's call. There are some things we need to work on such as our youth group (will there be one?), creating more opportunities for families with young children/youth to be involved in our church (praise God for such a well-attended and well-run vacation bible school this year), and I believe we need to do more to not just invite people to our church but to share the Good News of Jesus Christ (formally called evangelism).

Those of you who heard me preach this summer on 1 and 2 Thessalonians heard how the Scriptures call upon us to pray for one another. We need to pray for health and wealth matters and also in our work as Christians we need to help people in need, encourage people to live Godly lives, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am asking you to pray this September for Cedar Grove UMC, praising God for our strengths, asking for God's help in improving where we are weak, and in being a church that, like the lighthouse in our stained glass window symbolizes, shines the light of God into our community.

One more prayer request and this one goes all the way to February 2019. As I explained in prior newsletters, the United Methodist Church is having a special meeting in February 2019 to discuss the issue of sexual morality and the results of this meeting will have an impact on the denomination and our little part of it that we call Cedar Grove UMC. Please pray that God might guide our denomination to make the decisions that God wants them too. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to ask me.

Many of our regular activities return this month after having a summer break. Sunday School for children resumes on Sept. 9. Our Wednesday night community dinners and Women's Bible Study return on September 12. And, the once a month class on the Book of Revelation begins the third week of September. (I have over 30 people already signed up and would be happy to have more, so if you are interested please sign up.)

Hopefully, you have noticed that we have renamed the Education Building to the Ministry Center and the trustees have replaced the signage on the front of the building to reflect that change. I think it was really well done. So just like we now call the old parsonage the "storage building" because that is what we use the building for, the Education Building is now the "Ministry Center."

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

Glen



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."

Since its founding in 1961, this ministry is fully supported through donations. They hold several fundraisers throughout the year. Coming up in October is their 2018 Annual Golf Event. It will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11 at Compass Pointe Golf Course in Pasadena, MD. Your participation in this event will help their chaplains stay where they belong—behind bars ministering to the needs of inmates and helping them make life-changing decisions. Please pick up a flyer in the Church Narthex for registration and other information or contact Chaplain Chase Wood at 410-222-4549 or by email at: chase.wood@goodnewsjail.org.

Please be in prayer for this ministry and, if you feel called, support it with your time, talent or tangible gifts.



CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday Night Dinners return on September 12 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for delicious food and Christian fellowship!

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee will begin its work early in September so if you are called to consider taking a position we hope you will prayerfully consider your decision to accept or decline. As always we will have vacancies to fill on the various committees of the church, Trustees (building/grounds/safety), SPRC (issues involving the pastor and staff), Nominations (nominating people to serve on committees and leadership positions), Sunday/Sanctuary (to keep the sanctuary stocked and staff the various supporting jobs like usher, greeter, nursery, etc.), and Missions (outreach into the community, nation, and world). If you have an interest in serving on one of these committees, please let Pastor Glen know. We currently have a vacancy on the Trustees and on the Sunday/Sanctuary Committee and if you are interested you can start serving on these committees as soon as you are elected by the Church Council. All the other positions will not start until 1/1/2019. We elect people to three-year terms. If you have any questions about any of this 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.

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

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 15-17 people present and have room for more. If you have any questions contact Pastor Glen.

Yes, the rumors are true! **The once a month Bible Study will study the Book of Revelation** during the September 2018 to May 2019 period (this can be your first lesson... it's the Book of Revelation, not the Book of Revelations). This class will study every chapter of the book, look at all the various ways of understanding it including how it has been understood through the history of the church, learn the meaning of words like *pre-millennial*, *eschatology*, *apocalyptic*, *mid-tribulation*, *rapture*, and other such words that get bantered about in discussions of this book. We will also look at what Jesus says in the Gospels about His return, the impact of the Old Testament on the Book of Revelation, and other important topics. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and you can sign up to attend either the Monday morning 10am class (always held on the Monday the day before the third Tuesday of the month) or the Tuesday evening class at 7pm (always the third Tuesday of the month). If you have any questions about this class, please contact Pastor Glen. ***If Christ returns before the first class, the class is cancelled!*** Assuming we are able to meet **the first class will be on September 17 at 10am for the morning group and September 18 at 7pm for the evening group.** (Remember both classes are the same and you are free to come to either as your schedule permits each month.)

Family Movie Night is Friday, September 14 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. *Showing:* "Pete's Dragon." 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. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Crine at sweetbooboo16@aol.com. Hope to see you all there!

The Women's Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. We will start a series on the ten women of the bible. If you'd like to attend, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex by Sept. 2. We will be purchasing a book for the study, "Ten Women of the Bible: One by One They Changed the World" by Max Lucado, so we need to get a good head count. If you attend the study and get a book, we are asking for a \$15 donation if you are able to cover the cost of the book. We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact Diana Seen at dianaseen4@comcast.net.

Children's Sunday School begins on September 9. *Welcome back!* Children's Sunday school is every Sunday during worship service after the children's message. The K-5th grade lessons for September are listed below. 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 e-mail rrothhaas@comcast.net.

09/09/18 - Sharing Jesus - Matthew 5:13

09/16/18 - Self-Control - Joshua 7

09/23/18 - Happy With What We Have - Exodus 20:17

09/30/18 - David and Goliath - 1Samuel 17

Sanctuary/Sunday Committee Update—Sandy Burns. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped with greeting, nursery and ushers. We have had a great response to volunteers to greet on Sunday mornings but can never have too many. We really could use 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 to usher on Sundays. 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 Gove UMC. God bless everyone.

Our live streaming is a real blessing at Cedar Grove! If you know of anyone that can't make it to church in person on a Sunday, then please invite them to visit online <http://www.cgumc.org/live>.

If your **address, phone number, or email address has changed recently**, please notify the church office administrator at office@cgumc.org. Thank you.

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.

The Cross in my Pocket – Ida Mae Williams

Since I was a teenager, I have carried a small Cross. Many years ago, when a family member was in the hospital, on Franklin Street, and not expected to live much longer the family went to the Chapel to pray. In the Chapel was a bowl full of little crosses and a wallet size card with the following poem. It is very meaningful to me.



THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be

This little Cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The Cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care

So, I carry a Cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be

-Verna Thomas ©



BOOK CORNER



I thought for this month's book corner I would do a few short recommendations for those who are taking my revelation class or for anyone who would like some resources for better understanding of the Book of Revelation. Of course, the starting point is to have a good study Bible and I recommend the NIV Study Bible, but there are many other excellent ones out there. What matters most is that you get a Bible that will have study notes at the bottom of the page to help you understand what the Bible is saying. Next, I think you should have a Bible dictionary that will enable you to look up words and get extended explanations of what they mean. I like the New Bible Dictionary. Finally, you could consider buying a one or two volume commentary on the whole Bible. This would be a good backup to your study Bible as sometimes you will wonder about a verse, look down for a study note and there is none. A commentary will touch on every verse. I like The Bible Knowledge Commentary which is two volumes.

The End Times Bible. Word Publishing 1995

While this book is out of print it is easily bought in used condition and at a cheap price on Amazon. It is a basic Bible with a number of excellent charts and includes a section in the back on the End Times.

Revelation (New Edition) in Everyman's Bible Commentary series by Charles Ryrie. Moody 1996 & More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen. Baker 1967

These two books are basic commentaries on the Book of Revelation.

A Bible Handbook to Revelation by Mal Couch. Kregel Press 2001

A good basic book on the Book of Revelation that covers the book from many angles and in many ways including a commentary.

Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce Metzger. Abingdon 1993

A good basic introduction to Revelation by a great author.

The Complete Idiots Guide to The Book of Revelation by Stan Campbell and James Bell. Alpha Publishing 2002

& The Smart Guide to the Bible by Daymond Duck and Larry Richards. Thomas Nelson Publishing 2006

Both of these books are excellent. I have an older edition of the Smart Guide book back when the series was called 'God's Word for the Biblically Inept'.

Four Views on the Book of Revelation by Stanley Gundry ed. Zondervan 1998 & Three Views on the

Millennium and Beyond by Stanley Gundry ed. Zondervan 1999 & Three Views on The Rapture Stanley Gundry ed. Zondervan 2010

These books from the Counterpoints series cover their topics (Revelation, Millennium, Rapture) from different perspectives. Each author advocates one of the positions (3 or 4 depending on the volume) on the topic and the other authors write responses to the others.

Revelation: Four Views (revised & updated) A Parallel Commentary by Steve Gregg. Thomas Nelson Publishing 2013

This is a very interesting commentary that traces commentary by several authors, side by side following one of the four ways of seeing the Book of Revelation. The four ways line up with the book above, Four Views on the Book of Revelation.

I will be using all of the above books in my Revelation study. Also, note that in the last issue of the newsletter I reviewed two other excellent books on Revelation, one on the history of interpretation of Revelation and one other good introduction + short commentary on Revelation.

Pastor Glen Arnold