



**Cedar Grove UMC**

5965 Deale-Churchton Road  
Deale, MD 20751  
410-867-7417  
[office@cgumc.org](mailto:office@cgumc.org)  
[www.cgumc.org](http://www.cgumc.org)

## **The Beacon September 2019**



*REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST*

*From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

AUTUMN 2019

I don't know what autumn means to you, but for me other than football coming back it has always been the time where the church begins its most busy time lasting through Easter. It has changed a little over my 30+ years in the ministry. It used to start abruptly the Sunday after Labor Day but now it is a little more gradual, slowly building through September and into October. For Cedar Grove, this autumn will bring our first interactions with our new District Superintendent, a revamped Wednesday night dinner program, and a new once a month Bible study class on the Miracles of Jesus.

You can meet the new District Superintendent at our Church (Charge) Conference on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00-11:00 am at St. Matthews UMC in Shady Side. It will be a cluster conference and we will be joined by several other UM churches. It is my understanding that we will all be together to begin the conference and then we will break into our individual church conferences.

As you know, the church council made some changes to our Wednesday night dinner program and we hope to see an increase in attendance this fall. They decided that we are moving away from dinners that are reheated, frozen food and will rather be cooked the day of the dinner by volunteer cooks for each Wednesday night. If you would like to volunteer to be the cook there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. One other important change is if no one has signed up by the Sunday prior, the dinner will be cancelled. Bill Kline will not try to hunt up a cook or ask someone to do it. So, if no one signs up there will be no dinner. The dinners resume September 11.

We begin a new once a month Bible study class that will focus on the Miracles of Jesus. You can read more about this study in the "Church News" section of this newsletter.

One last thing about this autumn that I should mention is that I will be taking a class on Thursdays at Wesley Seminary as a part of the requirement placed on all clergy to do continuing education. The class is on world religions and interfaith relations. Our conference provides clergy with a number of education days to use each year and I will be using them, so I will not be available on Thursdays. Obviously if something comes up in terms of a pastoral emergency and you need to communicate with me you can text (preferred) or call my cell phone and I will respond to you as quickly as I can (I can't answer it during class so it will be muted at that time.)

Let's have a great autumn worshipping, serving, learning, fellowshiping, and being the Christians God wants us to be!

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

*Glen*

### **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

**The Once a Month Bible Study** starts on September 16/17 (Monday morning at 10am and Tuesday evening at 7pm, remember the class meets on the third Tuesday of the month and the Monday the day before that Tuesday depending on what class you come to as both are the same). The subject for the study will be **The Miracles of Jesus**. This class will last 3 or 4 months and while touching to a degree on all the important aspects of miracles, the focus and the bulk of the class will be looking at the three types of miracles Jesus performed and what they tell us about Him. While Pastor Glen is still in the process of formulating this class it will be in many ways a basic Bible study, looking at the miracle stories in the Gospels and allowing God's Word to inform our thinking about them. About 20% of the Gospels are miracle stories so we will not be able to study all of them in detail, but all will be touched on. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church narthex so please sign up. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Glen.

**New Members.** If you are interested in joining the church, please contact Pastor Glen.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** We are currently studying Genesis, please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10am on Tuesday. Questions? 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.

**Wednesday Night Dinners return** on September 11 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for delicious food and Christian fellowship!

**Hygiene Kits Needed for the Homeless Ministry.** If you can help make some hygiene kits for the homeless, please put together in a large Ziploc-type baggie 1 each of the following items: toothbrush; travel-size toothpaste; bar of soap; travel-size shampoo; travel-size deodorant; comb; razor; and a wash cloth. There is a container in the Church narthex to leave them in when you bring them on Sunday morning. Thanks for your continued support! **Also, we are in desperate need of men's jeans** – waist sizes 34, 36, & 38, length 30 or 32 preferably (we have plenty in the size 40 range for now). We also need large & extra large t-shirts. Thank you for your help with this Ministry! It would not be possible to do this if it were not for generous people like our congregation. Contact Pam Morton if you have any questions.

**Family Movie Night** is Friday, September 13 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be **showing "Aladdin!"** 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.

**Has your address, phone number, or email address changed recently?** If so, please notify the church office by email at [office@cgumc.org](mailto:office@cgumc.org) or call 410.867.7417. Thank you.



## **MISSIONS CORNER**

The Mission we are highlighting 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. They were recently joined by Chaplain Alisa DePriest who is Chaplain to Women in both the Glen Burnie and Annapolis Facilities. Alisa brings a wealth of knowledge to the chaplains team and has a heart for each of the women in our jails. She has begun the “Healing the Wounded Heart” program in the Ordnance Road Center and is seeing many great things accomplished in both jails for God's glory.

Since its founding in 1961, this ministry is fully supported through donations and as such they hold several fundraisers throughout the year. Coming up in October is their annual golf event. It will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at Compass Pointe Golf Course. Also, their 21st Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held on January 9, 2020, at Trinity UMC. Your participation in these events will help their chaplains stay where they belong—behind bars ministering to the needs of inmates and helping them make life-changing decisions. Contact for this ministry is Chaplain Chase Wood at 410-222-4549 or by email at: [chase.wood@goodnewsjail.org](mailto: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.

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### ***Greetings Cedar Grove Congregation!***

As many of you may have heard, I am leaving my position as Church Office Administrator for Cedar Grove UMC. My last day will be Wednesday, October 30 or sooner if SPRC hires a replacement before that date. I look forward to the new opportunities God has in store for me. I believe that change brings growth and I can't wait to see what the future holds!

I have sincerely enjoyed working for and with many of you at this Church for six years. You are all wonderful, caring, God loving and serving people. I had the pleasure of knowing many of you before I started working here because I have been attending Cedar Grove since Kevin Baker was our pastor. I became a member of Cedar Grove in 2010 and through all those years I have volunteered with you for many Church missions such as in the nursery, at children's events, during VBS, on the Homeless trips, and serving as a Trustee. Working here was a different experience than that of being a church member and it gave me the ability to learn about the inner workings of the Church and how the United Methodist organization operates.

I have been blessed by this Church and this job. Getting to know and serve you was one of the best parts of the job and I wish you every success as Cedar Grove continues to be the Church that Loves and Serves like Jesus.

*Best wishes always and many blessings to you,  
Carla Hultberg*



## **BOOK CORNER**



A Week in the Life of Rome  
James L. Papandrea IVP 217pgs

This is the second book I have read in this series that has the goal of teaching you about what it was like to be a Christian back in the times of the Bible and immediately after by combining historical fact with fictional characters. The first book in the series I read was written by a different author (A Week in the Life of Corinth by Ben Witherington III) but follows the same format. While I thought this one told a better fictional story, both books get the important job done of allowing a reader in a very friendly format learn about how Christians lived back in the early years of the faith.

The details of the fictional characters do not really matter for the purpose of this review, but the main character is "Freedman," meaning someone who was born a slave and then freed. Much of the book centers around his interaction with his former master with whom he is not only in business with, but good friends. There are also some excellent depictions of the worship life of the first Christians. Do not think the book only focuses on the life of men. This book has extended parts where the life of women is depicted and even stories about the life of children--in fact my two favorite characters are girls, sisters Pudenziana and Prassede. In the end all of the men, women, and children are involved in the dramatic climax of the story which I won't describe as I do not want to ruin the story for anyone who decides to read the book. Finally, I must mention a character named "Scrap" as his story is fascinating and tells you a lot about the attitudes of Rome during that time, the compassion of Christians, and I think gives an answer for one of the reasons why Christianity grew so rapidly.

If this was just a fiction book, I wouldn't have read it as I just don't read fiction. Nothing wrong with fiction it just isn't my thing. Some of the characters of this book are historical such as Peter, Priscilla, etc... in other words people mentioned in the Bible. It is in fact amazing how many 'mentioned in the Bible' people are in this book. The book also has pictures of the roman buildings as they look today, pottery, and other artifacts. Additionally it has little sidebars, set apart text that tells you about the Roman Circus, night life in Rome, Worship in Early House Churches, etc.... This makes the book very informative. A good story with some drama, a picture of life for early Christians, and historical information about this life makes this a good book to read, learn from, and enjoy.

This is a good book and anyone interested in a good fiction story being used as a device to learn about the lives of early Christians will enjoy and benefit from reading this book. The book reads very easily.

Pastor Glen Arnold

# HIRING

## **Administrative Assistant**

### **Cedar Grove United Methodist Church**

5965 Deale-Churchton Road, Deale, MD 20751

Flexible Hours: 15-20 per week

Pay: \$15 per hour

#### Skills:

- Strong Organizational Skills
- Strong Communication Skills
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Publisher
- Have Good Technological Skills All Around (like searching the web, using Facebook, and ability to learn new programs quickly)

Send Resume to [SPRC@CGUMC.ORG](mailto:SPRC@CGUMC.ORG)