



## Cedar Grove UMC

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# The Beacon February 2014



### Office Hours

Monday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

#### AM I STILL THE NEW PASTOR OR JUST THE PASTOR?

As I go through what I plan to be my last new pastorate, it is always interesting to go through the transition from being the 'new pastor' to just 'the pastor'. I still have people in our church sometimes not realize that when they ask me about why we didn't do something that we did last year at this time, that I wasn't here and have no idea as to what they are talking about. On the other hand I am getting a feel for who are the church regulars and have learned many names, but not all of them. I am getting used to the weekly rhythm of our church and what the strengths and weaknesses are and what I think God is calling us to do about it.

I hope that you all will continue to be patient with me as I continue to learn names, experience each season of the church year here, and as I figure out what I as the pastor can do to help lead this church where God wants it to be.

Our Church Council will be setting some goals for 2014 for our church. If you have some ideas about some things you think God is calling us to do, please share them with the Council and be ready to help us to make them happen. We are still looking for a new Missions Committee chairperson. If you are interested in the position please contact me.

Finally, please pray for our church. Pray that we might be effective in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and deeds with everyone.

Your fellow servant of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

*Glen*

### BOY SCOUT NEWS



We are starting a set of new classes and awards to encourage young scouts at Cedar Grove. We will be using training materials called the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) that applies to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The Scouts established the program in 1945 as the God and Country Program to actively promote relationships between churches and youth-serving agencies in order to encourage the Christian spiritual growth of children, youth and families. This program is open to any scout from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup>. The elementary age Scouts class will begin on Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> and will meet the following three Sundays. The middle and high school class start date is to be determined. Successful participants will receive an award in one of four different age groups. Any Scout who receives all four throughout their scouting career is eligible for a special fifth award.

The BSA version of the Scout Law states, in part: "A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion." Anyone interested in joining this fun opportunity to learn about God and his relationship with each of us should contact Pastor Glen or Carla Hultberg at the office.

Ms. Joan Golden recently made a memorial donation to Cedar Grove UMC in honor of her brother, Mr. Jon Hyde. She donated a white board in the Education Center that will be used for Confirmation classes, new member classes, Sunday school, and other classes that are held at CGUMC. *We sincerely appreciate Ms. Golden's generosity!*





## Book Corner



### The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections on the Humanity of Christ

Bruce Ware

Crossway 2013 156 pages

Those of you who heard my sermon on January 19<sup>th</sup> heard me talk briefly about this book which beyond being the best book I have ever read on the humanity of Jesus and why it is important, it is one of the best books I have ever read period. Bruce Ware wants us to realize that affirming Jesus as a human being just like us is just as important as affirming that He is the Son of God. If you know any early church history, debating about how Jesus was both divine and human was one of the most dominate theological issues the early church faced. In the end, faithfully to Scripture, the early church affirmed that Jesus was fully divine and fully human. Ware's book will do more than simply show you why this was an important issue but will also show you how this should impact not only our understanding of Jesus but also its implications for our lives as Christians.

The book is divided up into 8 chapters which cover all the aspects of the humanity of Jesus but do a particularly good job on the issues of how we are to understand Jesus as a child, growing up, and facing temptation.

I would recommend this book to every Christian to read for I believe that this is a big problem in the church today and among Christians. It is a serious book though it is very well written and easy to read. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter to allow a group or individual reader to really explore the meaning of the points this book makes.

## CHURCH NEWS

The finishing touches are being done to our redesigned and redecorated **Fellowship Hall**. I think it looks fantastic, and we will be able to enjoy using it in our service to God for many years. Please thank the Trustees and all their helpers for doing such a good job.

For those of you who didn't hear, we finished the year well **financially**. I want to thank all of you for your generous giving and we are counting on you all again this year. (See the attached Year-end 2013 budget and 2014 budget.)

The **Youth Group** continues to do well with usually between 20-25 youth. Next month they will have their Winter Meltdown, and we are already beginning the planning for SPY this year. It was with great joy to hear during worship on January 19<sup>th</sup> that Robin and Chuck Case have volunteered to go this year and be chaperones. We barely had enough chaperones last year (only one woman went which was less than ideal) and the Cases going will really make this year's SPY a better experience for everyone, and especially the other adults. And remember, just because their going really helps, doesn't mean we couldn't use a few more. If you are interested or have any questions ask a Youth Group Leader.

By the time you read this we will be enjoying the final few Sundays of **Heather Parks'** leadership of our **Praise Team**. Cedar Grove UMC has been greatly blessed by her leadership and she will be missed. (But we will all enjoy the reason for her stepping down, a baby girl!) Please pray for this vital part of church during this time of transition.

After wondering if the new **Sonshine Fund** policy would work due to lack of requests for help from members or member-sponsored people, the system is working, and we are helping a lot of people in need. I want to thank you all for your generous donations to the fund and for bringing to me people who are really in need.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Martha Lydia Soup and Bake Sale

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Martha Lydia Presents: *Discovering Christ's Followers in Iraq*

Monday, March 10, 2014

### **ABOUT THE BEACON. . .**

I have been glad to hear all the positive comments about our new newsletter, and a monthly newsletter is a vital tool for any church to communicate with its members and friends about what the church is doing. I would really like to see some content that does not originate with me so if you would like to include something in **The Beacon**, simply submit it to the office.