



Cedar Grove UMC

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From the Pastor's Desk . . . Office Hours

The Beacon May 2014



Monday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am to 5:00 pm

STILL EASTER -- OPPORTUNITIES

While most people think Easter is just one Sunday in the year, it is actually a season much like Advent and Lent. This year it goes all the way to June 8th which is Pentecost Sunday, the day we remember and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. I want to encourage you to read the stories of the risen Christ beyond the familiar empty tomb and doubting Thomas stories. These can be found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20-21. While in my preaching we will return to where we left off before Palm/Passion Sunday in the Sermon on the Mount, I hope you will continue to allow the Bible to guide your learning about what it means that Jesus rose from the dead.

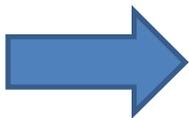
We have a number of important events ahead and I hope you will support us in them through your presence and prayers. On June 7th the Martha-Lydia Circle will be having a yard/bake sale. From June 22nd through June 26th we will have our VBS. Finally, from July 12th through July 18th the Youth and Adult chaperones will be going to SPY. Also, don't forget the resumption of the Breakfast Club, our monthly shelter meal, and homeless trip. At a minimum pray for all of these events and ministries; volunteer to help, and give to support these life changing ministries. Please contact the office or Pastor Glen if you have any questions about all of these events/ministries and know that we would love to have more help!

I have been a little frustrated that I have not been able to have a weeknight Bible study. I am considering doing something during the summer. If you might be interested, please let me know.

Finally, while I am not having any trouble filling the few pages of this newsletter, I would like to see others submit articles as well. All you have to do is email them or drop them off at the office.

Your Fellow Servant of our Risen Savior,

Glen



Scripture Readers, Acolytes, Sound Room Help and Nursery Workers: We continue to need people; young and old alike to sign-up to help us on Sunday morning. As I always say, if everyone would do a little, no one would have to do too much. Please sign-up in the Narthex.

Martha Lydia Circle Yard Sale and Bake Sale



The Martha Lydia Circle will hold a Yard Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 8 am to 1 pm in the front church parking lot. Please contact Mabel Beneze or Evelyn Broyles if you would like to rent a table. They are \$15 each. The Men's Group will be cooking breakfast. Please come out and support this worthwhile event!



Book Corner



The First Seven Ecumenical Councils(325-787): Their History and Theology

Leo Donald Davis 342 pgs.

Creeds in the Making: A Short Introduction to the History of Christian Deeds

Alan Richardson 128 pgs.

This month I look at two books on the same basic topic, one very detailed and the other not so detailed. The first is one I just finished reading with a clergy colleague, The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787): Their History and Theology by Leo Donald Davis Liturgical Press 1983 342 pages. This book is a serious history of how the church came to define the most basic and important doctrines of the church such as the Trinity, Jesus being divine and human, how we are saved, and so on. In recent years a number of books and movies have come out attacking the way the early church determined what was orthodox (right belief) and what was heresy (wrong belief). Usually the attack on the church consists of saying that politics and power had more to do with this than a faithful reading of the Scripture and intelligent discussions. Davis' book will show that these attacks are unfair and will give you a well written, but academic and serious history of this process. It also gives you some neat stories about the lives of some of the key actors at these councils, and that really made reading the book a joy for me.

I realize that not everyone likes to read academic books, which I really do! Academic does not necessarily mean better, it often has more to do with the degree of detail and style of writing. So the other book I would recommend on this topic is Creeds in the Making: A Short Introduction to the History of Christian Doctrine by Alan Richardson SCM Press 1935 128 pages. If you do choose to read either of these books I would be happy to answer any questions you have about either book.

Church News

We had a really strong **Holy Week** from Palm/Passion Sunday to Good Friday to the Easter Saturday event and finally Easter Sunday. I was really pleased to see 93 people come out for our Good Friday service and the many positive comments I received about the service. We had over 100 children and adults at the Easter Saturday event. Thanks to Sharon Staley and all of her helpers who made the event successful. Finally, on Easter Sunday, it was nice to see our sanctuary almost completely full, and I thought the confirmation cookies added a nice touch to the service. Next year, along with having a traditional Ash Wednesday service since we will have the palms to burn to make the ashes, we will also have a Holy Thursday service in addition to the Good Friday service.

Thanks to the Martha Lydia Circle and Peggy L'Hommedieu (in memory of her husband Ron) for funding the two new **benches** near the Sanctuary entrance. Thanks to the Trustees for assembling them and installing them.

Three young people who made up our **Confirmation Class 2014** committed their lives not only to the church but more importantly to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to thank the three ladies who served as mentors to the confirmands; Peggy Singleton for the reception; Pam Morton and the Homeless Trip ministry for allowing the class to go on the trip; the ladies of the Quilting Group for the lovely quilts that were given to the confirmands; and special thanks to Trish Blankinship for coming to every class and helping me to lead the class. The class thanks the congregation for their support in bringing in 170 pairs of socks, 10 hats, 12 pairs of gloves, and 9 t-shirts that were distributed during the Homeless Trip.

The **Men's Breakfast** has added a little program component to their monthly breakfast. We would love to see more men come out, so please come on the last Saturday of the month at 7:30 am at Happy Harbor.

During the last week of May, Jeannie & Mike Haas and I will be attending the **Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference**. Look for a report from us in the July newsletter about what happened there and if any of it will impact the life of our church.

We continue to look for a new **chairperson for the Missions Committee**. If you are interested in this position, please let Pastor Glen know.