REACHING OUT, GROWING CLOSE, CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2019

Another year has come and God is calling all of us to many things including serving Him here at our church and out in the world. One last word about 2018 and that is the word thanks. I want to thank everyone, in whatever way large or small, that you helped us do God’s work here at Cedar Grove UMC in 2018. I thank God for all of you and all you do. As you will see in this newsletter the list of officers and committee people for 2019 it reminds us to also thank those who have finished their term and are stepping down from their committee and/or leadership positions.

What does God have in store for Cedar Grove UMC in 2019? What does He have in store for each of us in our lives? Are we listening to God’s call to us? My brothers and sisters He is calling out to each and everyone of us and as a church about what we should be saying and doing in 2019. I hope that as you hear God, you will respond and if it involves our church that you will let us know and be ready to help us fulfill God’s vision for our church in 2019.

On the first Sunday of 2019 I am preaching about God’s call to us to make straight paths in our lives for His will to be done. Let us make 2019 a great year of serving God! And let us also be committed to giving God all the glory! I am looking forward to how God will lead our new people in the church and in our organization to make our church even better and more faithful.

I encourage you to read my book corner/book review as it also contains information about the special meeting our denomination is having at the end of February. I hope that all of you will take the time to be informed (article tells you how to do so) and please pray for our church, those who will be meeting, and our denomination.

Your Fellow Servant of Jesus Christ,

Glen
**CHURCH NEWS**

**Thanks** to all those who served on a committee here at Cedar Grove in 2018 and have finished their terms. Welcome to those who begin new this month. Our updated Church Council and Lay Leadership lists are attached to this newsletter.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** We are studying Genesis. If you would like to join us, please do! We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am every Tuesday.

**Wednesday Night Dinners resume on January 9.** Join us for delicious food and Christian fellowship. Things continue to go well in terms of attendance but we need the numbers to stay where they are for this event to continue. Invite your neighbors, the food is delicious!

**The Women’s Bible Study** also meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. They are doing a series on the 10 women of the bible. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Seen at dianaseen4@comcast.net.

**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.

**Children’s Sunday School** is every Sunday during worship service after the children’s message. 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 at rrothhaas@comcast.net.

**Family Movie Night** is Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be Showing Disney’s “Christopher Robin” movie. Wear and show off your favorite socks and slippers while we put our feet up and relax and enjoy a good show! 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 **Church Office** is open Monday-Wednesday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **If you need assistance when the office is closed**, please contact Pastor Glen at pastor@cgumc.org or by cell at 443-699-3645. The office emails will not be read until the office admin is back in the office. So if you have an immediate need, please reach out to the Pastor.

Has your **address, phone number, or email address changed recently?** If so, please notify the church office at office@cgumc.org so we can update our records. **Thank you.**
The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry’s 20th Annual Herman Fletcher Memorial Prayer Breakfast is on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 8:00 AM (doors open at 7:30 AM). It will be held at Trinity UMC, 1300 West Street, Annapolis, MD. RSVP to 410.222.4549 or 410.222.4937 or by email at chase.wood@goodnewsjail.org or brit_fletcher@goodnewsjail.org.

The Deale Elks sent Cedar Grove a thank you note for donating to their Broken Antler Campaign. This fund will help pay for emergency repairs needed for their building. The note is posted on the Missions Thank You bulletin board.

The United Methodist Baltimore-Washington Conference is offering college scholarships for the Fall 2019 semester. Interested students can apply January 3 – March 7, 2019 through an online application system. Scholarships are available to students attending or enrolling in accredited colleges and universities in the United States. Students must be an active member of a church for at least one year and be attending (or will attend) an accredited college or university within the United States full-time. Students will need to provide their official transcript (high school or college) and contact information for two church references (pastor and another member of the church). In addition, the student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. For additional information and to apply, visit www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/.

MISSIONS CORNER

2018 seems to have gone by in a blink of an eye! And as we usher in 2019, I'm thankful for the support of our church congregation and the tireless help of all who volunteer!

We do have much to celebrate, including the success of great newer missions such as Operation Christmas Child, as well as the generous support of the church each and every time a request for help is placed!

In 2019 we will continue to share opportunities for outreach and invite all members of our congregation to get involved in the sharing of God's love and message of salvation through missions work. We will be evaluating and sharing with you in the new year, our missions for 2019. We will also plan another Missions fair, so that you can learn about the various opportunities for which you can engage, support and/or pray.

We will also continue to work with the Baltimore-Washington conference and other area churches to engage in more community advocacy. We welcome and encourage any suggestions for new ministries or questions you may have.
I would like to personally thank our Missions committee members from 2018 - Sandy Burns, Pam Morton, Theresa Lumsden, Mary Day, Julie McNamee and Pastor Glen for their time, dedication and support.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you - our amazing church family who ALWAYS comes through in a time of need - thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support. Please continue to pray for our Missions committee as we seek to do God's work and make disciples for Christ.

Ingrid Quimby-High
Missions Committee Chairperson

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Message from the Homeless Ministry:

Happy New Year Everyone, hope you had a “SAFE” one.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to Thank each and every one of you for all you have done for this Ministry in 2018. You have been very generous with your clothing, blankets/comforters, money, the making of Health Kits, and most of all your Prayers. I look forward to working in this Ministry in 2019.

I want you to know that I feel very privileged to be a part of this Ministry; and, most of all being a part of Cedar Grove United Methodist family. The Lord has really blessed me by directing me here and giving me the opportunity to serve Him in this capacity.

Praise be to God,
Pam Morton
Hopefully by now you are aware that The United Methodist Church is having a special three-day meeting to discuss The United Methodist Church’s position on homosexuality. The publishing house of our denomination, Abingdon Press, has published a series of special books addressing this issue of which I have read a few of them. There are resources available for you to consult on our conference’s webpage and the UMC site. Also, the most recent edition of The Connection had an insert just about this special meeting (this is our conference’s newspaper which you can read online at the conference website and if you pay they will mail you a hard copy, we also currently have copies of the insert available in our Church narthex). The majority of what the UMC puts out about this meeting essentially pushes three basic ideas, one that our denomination should stay together, two that Christians of good conscience can disagree over the church’s stance on homosexuality, and three we should be focused on more important matters such as helping the poor, spreading the Gospel, and so on.

Before I quickly review this short and excellent book I want to comment briefly on the UMC and the three ideas I mentioned above. First, I completely agree that Christians of good conscience can disagree on this issue but that does not mean that both sides are right. Second, we will call a special meeting on homosexuality of all things but won’t address as seriously the other issues, such as helping the poor and spreading the Gospel. Curious isn’t it? Third, as this book argues that I am reviewing not only is it not necessarily true we are better together, we are already so divided, our staying together is at best a mirage and at worst a lie which results in bad publicity for the church and constant acrimony. Consider for a moment that we are a Protestant church that broke away from the Anglican/Episcopal church. Further the Anglican/Episcopal church broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. If better together is a rule, we have a history of breaking it. Finally, yes homosexuality is not an issue over which Christians should divide, but basic honesty, integrity, and Scriptural authority are reasons to divide. (I will say more on this topic when I review the book below.) Finally, regardless of where you stand on this issue, maybe both sides would function better if as this special meeting reveals and all the conflict since 1972 when this first became an issue in our denomination (and we are still fighting about it, expending time, treasure, and talent on the fighting!) perhaps we are indeed better apart.

This book is very easy to read and very respectful to all sides of this issue. The title, ‘Are We Really Better Together?’ is answered by the book with a resounding no. What makes the argument of the book so strong is, without blaming either side, pointing out that we are only together in the most technical and formal ways. One of the book’s best demonstrations of this, based on the many votes and books and discussions on this issue, show that neither side is open to changing their minds because they both think they are right. Yes there is a small number of people in the middle who have moved one way or the other, but large percentages on either end of our denomination show no sign of moving on the issue. In other words, together, means conflict and unhappiness on both sides.
Another thing the book does so well is show the utter lack of integrity on the side that has been pushing a change on our homosexual stance. It is one thing to violate the rules of our church that both lay and clergy have promised to God to uphold and then accept the sanction that comes which has a long tradition in the Christian faith called civil disobedience. But when you do this you accept the punishment. That is a part of the way you demonstrate the rules must be changed. As the book makes clear we currently have a bishop who is a self-avowed lesbian--she is married to another woman. The judicial council of our denomination has ruled that you cannot be married to someone of the same gender and be a bishop. What has happened since this ruling? Nothing! But, this person continues to function as a bishop in every way. Now what is the point of having rules that people do not follow and we do not enforce? Why have meetings to redo our rules when people have made it clear we will do what we want and we do not care what the rules are? I for one do not want to be a part of an organization that wastes time writing rules that it has no intention of enforcing. Further once you allow rules to be broken without sanction, are we then not free to break all the rules? But there is the catch, some rules will be enforced, try not paying your apportionments? Trust me they will enforce that rule.

The book has a section that points you to what the Bible says about homosexuality and addresses the arguments of those who say these verses and passages do not condemn homosexual practice or even if they do it is time we put away this wrong thinking. And this is where for me the real issue arises and that is the authority of the Bible in our church. If we can start tearing verses and pages out of our Bible that we do not like, it is no longer the Bible, God’s Word to us. How do we then go forward as a church? Upon what should I preach, teach, and use as a guide for my life? The book also addresses the history of this issue in our denomination and covers briefly all the aspects that matter on this issue.

The conclusion of this book begins with the following words, ‘If we are one church, we cannot act as if we are two. If we are two churches, we should not pretend to be one. And the truth is we are two churches.’ I think these words are not only wise and true, but reveal the truth of our UMC reality. It is well worn anecdote that when you are typing quickly and intend to type ‘The United Methodist Church’ you often in your haste type, ‘The Untied Methodist Church’, just a mistake but perhaps some prophetic truth in the mistake. The book ends with the heartfelt words that I am afraid now needs to be said, ‘Let us stop fighting, wish each other well, and open the cage. That’s not a lack of love. That’s the way of love.’ AMEN.

I would encourage all Methodists to read this book and some of the others in the series so that they can fully understand the issue. At a minimum read the insert in our conference newspaper (copies are available of the insert in the narthex) that I mentioned earlier which will not agree with this book or me but will still give you important information about what is going on with this meeting. Also, please pray for our denomination, this meeting, and Cedar Grove UMC as we will be impacted, no matter what they decide by this meeting. Perhaps it is God’s will that we stay together; let Him show us the way.

Pastor Glen Arnold
CEDAR GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5965 DEALE CHURCHTON ROAD, DEALE, MD 20751

CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

Pastor
Glen Arnold

Committee Chairs
Finance Chairperson: Betsy Weinkam
Sanctuary/Sunday Chairperson: Sandra Burns
SPRC Chairperson: Cindy Rothhaas
Trustee Chairperson: Paul Seen

Ministries
Lay Leader: Greg Witte
Lay Members to Annual Conference: Mike & Jeanne Haas
Martha Lydia Circle: Linda Keiffer
Missions Representative: Ingrid Quimby-High
Sunday School Superintendent: Sharon Staley
Treasurer: Bill Kline
Worship Coordinators: Doug Sheidy & Trish Blankship
Men’s Ministry: Greg Witte & Will Seger
Youth Ministry: Pam Foster

Council Staff
Council Chairperson: Mitzi Roby
Recording Secretary: Diana Seen
Church Council At Large: Kevin Roby

Those listed above represent you, the membership, on the Church Council. If you have a question, suggestion, comment, or concern, please contact the individual responsible for the area of interest. Of course, you may always contact the Council Chairperson or the Pastor with your concerns.
LAY LEADERSHIP (2019-2021)

SPRC: 2019 Cindy Rothhaas (Chairperson), Pam Smith, Ed Komen
      2020 Tina Bucolo, Karen Johnson, Shirley Reio
      2021 Terry Prosser, Crystal Rice, Matt Parks
      *Currently meets quarterly.*

Trustees: 2019 Kevin Roby, Renee Power, Pam Morton
         2020 Paul Seen (Chairperson), Mike Haas, Travis Chandler
         2021 Peggy L’Hommedieu, Howard Dew, Doug Ward
         *Trustees elect their own chairperson.*
         *Currently meets every other month.*

Nominations & Leadership: 2019 Peggy L’Hommedieu, Marjorie Johnson
         2020 Bill Kline, Diana Seen

Development: 2021 Sharon Staley, Trish Wood
       *Pastor is permanent chairperson.*
       *Meets two or three times late Summer/Early Fall
       and to fill vacancies mid-year.*

Missions: 2019 Pam Morton, Sandy Burns
      2020 Mary Day, Julie McNamee
      2021 Ingrid High (Chairperson), Marjorie Johnson
      *Currently meets quarterly.*

Finance: Betsy Weinkam (Chairperson), Bill Kline (Treasurer),
         Sharon Staley (Finance Secretary)

Sanctuary/Sunday: 2019 Marjorie Johnson, Randy Smith
      2020 Debbie Huffman, Betsy Weinkam
      2021 Sandra Burns (Chairperson), Janice Komen

Lay Leader: Greg Witte

Lay Members to
Annual Conference: Mike & Jeanne Haas

Church Council Chairperson: Mitzi Roby

Church Council Secretary: Diana Seen

Church Council At Large: Kevin Roby