



# the Quarterly

## Cedar Ridge Newsletter



**SPRING 2017**

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It's spring: a season of freshness and growth. Soon it will give way to summer, with all its fruitfulness and harvest. There's a certain natural inevitability to this growth cycle, but we also put a lot of intentional work into it. On our community farm this year we have planted certain seeds, we've weeded regularly, and although we've not had to do much watering (thanks to a very wet May!) we've already started to harvest some of the crops. None of this could happen without thoughtful, careful planning, and then following through on that plan. We don't just hope for the best. The same is true for us as human beings. We grow as people, we mature, we develop, and we become healthier as a result of intentional planning and action, as well as positive responses to unexpected (even adverse) circumstances. As followers of Jesus, we call this process discipleship—it's our very purpose here at Cedar Ridge. We don't just hope for the best. True hope is not idle. We don't just expect God to do all the work. We pursue hope.

And all this is true for us corporately too. As a community of hope and transformation seeking to follow Jesus, we cannot let that hope be idle; we have to pursue it. That's why we embarked on a strategic planning process together several months ago. Rather than just hoping for the best and expecting God to do all the work, we are called to careful, thoughtful action. This is the exciting adventure of partnering with God's Spirit in the reconciliation of all things. We have an amazing vision; we have an incredible community of people; and we have had many, many years of wonderful experience together. But our journey continues, and this year our church leadership sensed a challenge to reflect, pray and plan thoughtfully and carefully for the future (the next 10 years in fact), believing that our best years lie ahead of us. We believe the best is yet to come because "the kingdom of God is at hand," because transformation is possible, and because love will never fail. That's why we have hope, and why we will not let that hope be idle.

So our Pastoral Team and Board of Trustees have worked together along with other teams in our church to develop plans for the next 10 years; plans to increasingly turn our vision into a reality. Over the past few weeks our whole church community has given input and feedback into these plans, culminating in our strategic planning forum on May 21. In this newsletter, you can read about some of this planning process and feedback. You can also read all about it on our website. We are now working to integrate this input into a final plan by the end of June. Each year we will use the plan to map out our annual activity, beginning this September.

This plan will not save us; only God can do that. Nor will it do the work for us; only we can do that. But it will inspire us, guide us, and help us to make our vision real. It will challenge us to rise up and believe in a better future; to reach out with God's love, strive for a more just world, and build a relational community that breaks down all barriers that keep us apart. And it will encourage us to personally embrace and experience the life-giving presence of God. Our dream is nothing less than the dream of Jesus: heaven on earth. Together let's continue to dream, let's never give up, let's believe the best is yet to come, and let's give ourselves the work of the kingdom of God. ■

*Matthew*

Matthew Dyer, Lead Pastor



## Cedar Ridge Hosts Documentary Screening

By: Tinica Mather

I talk about going to church. I do. Not all the time, and not in a pushy way. (I don't think so anyway!) The topic typically comes up when coworkers, friends, neighbors or family members ask me, "So, what are you doing this weekend?"

Cedar Ridge really is a mainstay of my family's weekends, so CRCC happenings tend to work their way into my "regular" life. I've had a number of the folks from my little spheres of influence join me at CRCC services and events.

Recently, Cedar Ridge hosted a documentary screening about food insecurity in the US called A Place at the Table. About 50 people came to watch the film. I posted about it on Facebook, chatted about it at our neighborhood corner pub, and personally invited folks who I thought it would appeal to, including my neighbor and new friend Drennan. She and I connected after the politically turbulent fall last year. We had similar philosophical leanings, and we both felt a charge to serve our community in a positive way. She has made it clear to me, in no uncertain terms, that church and God are not her thing. But, what a cool gal...she bravely crossed the threshold at CRCC and her family joined us for the screening night.

I asked her to share a bit about why she is passionate about issues surrounding social justice and how she felt about coming to a "church sponsored event" despite the fact that she is not a "churchy person." Here is what she had to say:

*"Due to recent events and pending further budget cuts to services for our neighboring families who are already in need, I have felt a greater obligation to serve those who will suffer the hardest in the coming years. Going to see "A Place at the Table" inspired me to re-think the time I could spend helping get food to families in need. The fact that we live in one of the wealthiest communities/counties in the country makes me realize 1) that no one in our county should be food insecure, and 2) how much harder hit other communities must be since we have so much more opportunity/accessibility/resources in our local area.*

*I left the documentary with my mind reeling about how to serve others.*

*I'm not a church-goer, but I feel strongly about aligning myself with other people who share a similar desire to do good things for those in need. I appreciate the opportunity that Cedar Ridge Community Church offered in sharing this documentary with me and my family."*

From our church vision: Imagine a community that dares to dream of heaven on earth; a community where everyone is accepted and respected and their journey cherished, regardless of their background, beliefs or place in society; where everyone looks out for the concerns of others and no one is alone.

I've read Drennan's blurb a few times, and each time it gives me the chills. I recently sent an email to a group of friends from CRCC where I said that our vision has become a part of me. It still makes me take a deep breath each time I read it, and it inspires me to turn toward Jesus, toward personal transformation, toward loving the world around us.

Let's invite others to the party. Let's invite others to join us on the journey. Let's invite others to partner with us in our work: Imagine a community scattered throughout the region around Washington, Baltimore and beyond working as agents of love, peace and hope wherever they are; serving our neighbors, caring for the poor, helping the oppressed. Imagine a community of people who live simply and ethically, who share their land and resources with their neighbors; a community that treasures the Earth and reaches out beyond global, cultural and political barriers to offer friendship and practical support. ■



# Cedar Ridge Hosts Multi-Faith Day of Service



Greetings! My name is Atyya Chaudhry, and I am from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. I had the privilege of joining your community for the multi-faith day of service held on Sunday, April 21. Reverend Matthew invited our faith community to join the event. He has participated in interfaith services with our community in the past.

When I heard about the event, I immediately felt that it was such a beautiful idea to bring together people of all faiths in the service of our neighbors and community. Service to community and helping those in need are

universal principles of all faiths, it makes complete sense for us to join hands in this work. Especially in times like these, it is even more important for people of different backgrounds to come together in partnership and rise above the negative rhetoric.

At the event, I had the opportunity to pack gift bags and create artwork with the kids for women residents at Sophia's House. This project was of interest for me as I work in women's health. I made great connections with the other women working on this project and I hope to join Caroline at Sophia's House in the near future. ■



The farm at Cedar Ridge grows well over a ton of fresh, organic fruit and vegetables annually. This year we will distribute most of that food to low-income families at the East County Community Center, in collaboration with Manna Food. New on the farm this season are spring onions, carrots and cantaloupe. The crazy "mini spring" last March has our raspberry and blackberry bushes all confused, but everything else is off to a good start. By the end of May, we had already harvested almost 100 lbs of strawberries, radishes and asparagus! In response to feedback, we have introduced more social events on the farm calendar: monthly Friday sangria nights, an ice cream sundae Sunday, and Wednesday IPA nights. Check the Cedar Ridge website or Facebook page for all the details.

Each year, we log around 700 hours of youth/adult work time on the farm—plus the invaluable efforts of our younger helpers! Farming is a great way to unwind at the end of the day, and there are tasks for all ages and abilities, so come and join us any Wednesday evening from 6 PM onwards. Or prepare for the Sunday service by cultivating a worshipful attitude on the farm, starting at 9 AM. Need to get your kids off the couch and physically active this summer? We can put them to work! (And they can earn SSL hours at the same time.) Or stop by anytime and follow the instructions on the white board in the farm shed. Please contact me with any questions or suggestions: [ruthc@crcc.org](mailto:ruthc@crcc.org). I hope to see you on the farm soon!

# A Look Back at this Winter's Workshop: *"How We Got Here"*

By: Sarah Clark and Hubert Dixon

In February, we gathered with over 35 others in the barn for a workshop titled, "How We Got Here: The Racial history Behind Today's Headlines." We spent the morning looking at the connection between aspects of U.S. history and current events, such as the number of ongoing fatal shootings of unarmed African American men and women by law enforcement. CRCC's Racial Reconciliation team organized the event, where we took a quick dive into how the past influences systemic racism today, with a particular emphasis on policing, education and voting rights.

Much news and discourse about these lethal shootings zero in on a particular situation, focusing the lens on a single, interpersonal encounter – considering whether the officer is justified in an unavoidable incident or microscopically dissecting the character of the officer and the victim for clues of who is at fault. Widening the lens, our group did a dive into the history of slavery in the US, the revolutionary elements of Reconstruction, and the backlash/roots of institutionalized segregation through to the beginning of Jim Crow. We ended in the early 1900s. The framework of history provided a way to look at the systemic roots of current incidents.

After looking at some myths and misperceptions about the complexity and extent of slavery in the US, we explored the Civil War Amendments to the US Constitution (the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments), which ended slavery, recognized African Americans as citizens, and expanded the right to vote to African American men. We discussed some aspects of Reconstruction, which created a time of jubilation and hope for free blacks, newly freed enslaved people and abolitionists, and included the creation of new educational institutions and the election of Black people to government positions. We also examined the immediate counter effort to this progress, including the Black Codes and Jim Crow laws legalizing segregation. We looked at some examples of how the counter efforts purposefully restricted African Americans' freedom, including by preventing voting, property ownership and access to education. We also looked briefly at some of the ways violent oppression of Black people in the US was carried



Photo: (Left) Sarah Clark with her husband, Hubert Dixon, leading the February workshop in the barn.

out by and supported by various societal systems and institutions.

Does it sound like we covered a few history courses in just a few hours? We covered these topics at a very high level, and included some time for reflection, discussion and making connections to the ways racism impacts current institutions and systems in society. If you want to learn more, check out some books recommended at the end of the article.

At the end of the session, participants reflected on what they took away from the morning and what they might do as a result. Common themes included:

- Interest in learning more – through more reading, researching and engaging (listening/talking) with others of different backgrounds
- Praying individually and through CRCC's monthly racial reconciliation 15-minute prayer circle
- Desire to get involved in addressing racial issues in our own communities/organizations and through CRCC

Some of the goals of the racial reconciliation team are to ground our efforts in prayer, increase our understanding of issues, equip our community to engage in productive dialogue about issues, and to strategically take action.

As members of CRCC, we personally appreciated the opportunity to gather with other people of faith who are interested in better understanding current issues of racism that impact all of us and were refreshed by people's willingness to engage and openness to dialogue – especially in table discussions. We noticed that as a community there are a lot of experiences and interest to draw from and build upon in CRCC's efforts, including people with deep knowledge of history and issues and people who are newer



to the issue who are moved to learn more and take actions.

#### To learn more. . . .

If you have time for one thing, we encourage you to listen to This American Life podcast episode 562: The Problem We All Live With by education reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones. You can listen online at: <http://bit.ly/2ednahv> or wherever you get your podcasts. This program provides a

current look at the continued, pervasive issues of de facto and systemic segregation in education.

#### Books to Check Out:

- Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow – Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
- Carol Anderson's *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*
- Eric Foner's *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* ■



God has many ways of communicating with us and transforming us. Many of my best memories are a genuine moment shared with a close friend. As we journey toward our more authentic selves, we often find opportunities to become more interconnected to those around us. What if we were more open to God's promptings? Often it's a few extra moments of conversation with a friend, offering a shoulder to cry on, or taking an opportunity to offer a prayer.

As a means to draw these closer connections, knitted, crocheted and sewn shawls have been making their way around the Cedar Ridge community. They were carefully crafted, all with different patterns, colors, and textures. Although "shawls" sometimes have a feminine connotation, I encourage you to think of them as a warm blanket, helping us physically experience the love of God, which knows no boundaries.

Knitting has come to symbolize so much for me, reminding me of how God knit us together in our mother's womb. How mothers and fathers knit together

families. How we are knit together as a community. There is a give and take and an interlocking of the tapestry of life: when we're woven together, we form something completely new.

We hope you'll continue to pray for one another by giving and receiving the prayer shawls that have been distributed. The idea is that you receive a prayer shawl, snuggle in it when you need comfort, and keep it as long as you'd like. When you're ready, look for someone in need of prayer. Offer to pray with them, then give the prayer shawl to that person. It's a chance for us to practice praying together, being open to God, and allowing God to knit us together in deeper community. If you'd like to receive one, we'll circulate new shawls periodically through the prayer servants on Sunday mornings in the back of the sanctuary. Whether you have a prayer shawl or not, let's all be more in tune with God's gift of praying with one another. Thanks for participating in the powerful work of God! ■



of us spent the little free time we had. We also got to attend a Quaker service in which we sat in silence for thirty minutes to pray and reflect.

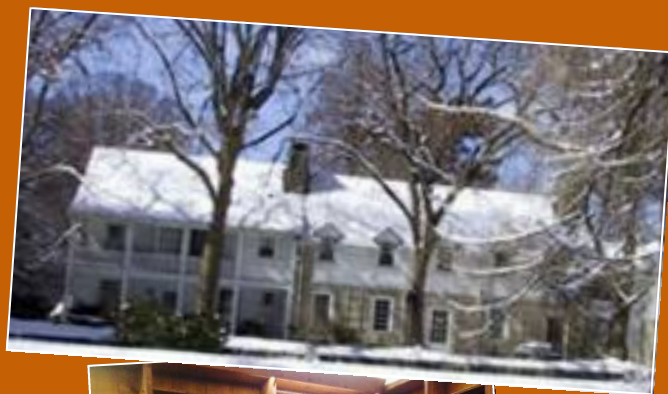
Overall, this was a very productive retreat. I am so blessed to be a member of a community where everyone is listened to and looked out for. We made decisions regarding our community's future, and, perhaps equally as important, we strengthened the friendships within the leadership at Cedar Ridge which will lead to even greater things for our community. ■

When I joined the Board of Trustees two and a half years ago, I was excited to see what happened behind the scenes at Cedar Ridge. Matthew jokingly warned me, "Now you get to see how the sausage gets made, Derek." Throughout the years, I've been privileged to see a lot of hard work by caring people who are constantly trying to do what's best for Cedar Ridge and our community.

In February, the Board and Pastoral Team went on a two-day retreat to Pendle Hill Retreat Center near Philadelphia where we made many important decisions regarding Cedar Ridge's future. The pastoral team prepared for months, so everyone attending knew and understood the ideas and issues at hand before the first meeting.

As you might have heard, ten strategic planning papers were prepared and are available for all on the Cedar Ridge website. Of those ten, we discussed these five topics on the retreat: children and youth, discipleship groups, the Cedar Ridge property, the farm and sharing the vision. We spent hours discussing the material for each topic. Everyone shared their thoughts and respected each other's ideas. We decided what we were going to move forward with and made incredible progress.

Some of the most memorable moments from the retreat, however, happened outside of our scheduled meetings. The retreat center had a dining hall where we ate breakfast, lunch and dinner. I had the opportunity to sit and talk to people that I do not regularly talk to on a normal Sunday morning. It was a wonderful time to build relationships and make new ones. They had a 24-hour art center where many



Photos: (Above) The Pendle Hill Retreat Center; (Below) Trish Audi, Youth Pastor, reporting back after her small group discussed the vision to farm.



# GUAT'S UP

## Refreshing Our Vision in Guatemala

Back in 2008, a devoted team of Cedar Ridge members led our community in seeking a location where we would try to “reach out beyond global, cultural and political barriers to offer friendship and practical support.” They started with “the world”, and through socio-economics studies, statistical analysis,



conversations, input from our community, serendipitous connections, and prayer, they landed on Ipala, Guatemala. Nine years later, we celebrate the thriving partnership between Cedar Ridge and the people of Ipala—a partnership that has remained true to the original vision and values of that founding team.

We know that many lives both here and there have been touched through the generous friendship we have shared. We’ve met dozens of students who are able to continue into secondary education; we’ve seen infants and toddlers recover from malnutrition; we’ve heard God praised by those who

have seen their dangerously compromised home replaced by a newly constructed one; and we’ve played with laughing children on their freshly renovated school grounds. Though we are truly grateful for the past, we believe that the best is yet to come! As we move forward in our partnership with CIDHER, we want to support them as they continually seek ways to improve the services we offer together, and we’ll try to tap into the expertise of those who work in health and education in Guatemala and other developing countries. We also want to build on the trust we have established to help congregations and their leaders in Ipala work together to meet the needs of their fellow townspeople.

Our connection to Guatemala is not confined to supporting projects “down there.” We want to provide friendship and practical support to Guatemalan and other Latino immigrants in our own backyards. Many such immigrants are worried as they face uncertainty and threats. We want to work with our Economic Justice and Racial Reconciliation teams to become more aware of their needs and concerns, pray intentionally, and find practical opportunities for Cedar Ridge folks to come alongside Latino children and adults in our area, extending kindness and advocating for justice. To help us develop those relationships, we want to see more and more of us become



conversant in Spanish. We’d love to have Cedar Ridge go “all in” on this exciting partnership that compels us to listen, learn, and serve locally and globally. ■

Photos: (Left) Bill and Shobha Duncan, Bryan Peterson and Gina Richardson with Guatemalan partners during a previous trip. (Right) Arielle Gantt with Robin Vargas, a scholarship student supported by Cedar Ridge.

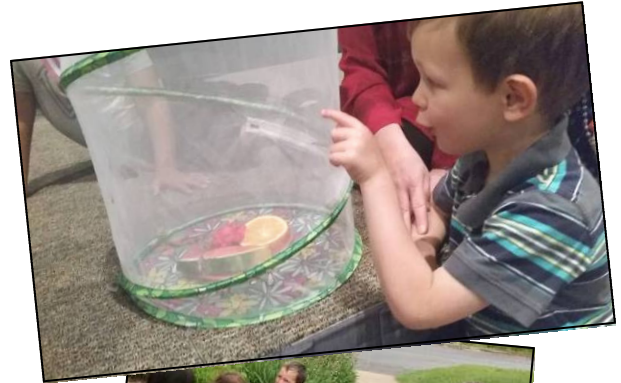
# The Best Is Yet To Come

## Highlights from the Strategic Planning Forum on May 21



Just after church on Sunday, May 21, the auditorium was abuzz with Cedar Ridgers. With food in hand, attendees visited tables representing different aspects of our vision and strategic planning priorities to offer feedback. Here is a look at some of the highlights of the afternoon according to Cedar Ridge ministry leaders in answer to the following questions:

- What were you hearing the most?
- What was a highlight for you?
- What were one or two memorable quotes?



Photos: (Top and Bottom) Patrick Tonkin anticipates the butterfly release at the conclusion of the Strategic Planning Forum. Children crowd around Ruth as she sets the butterflies free.

### MATTHEW DYER - SHARING THE VISION

At the strategic planning forum, what I heard most was:

- We love our church. It's unique and many others would love it too if they knew about it.
- It's hard to invite people to church because it might feel like we are trying to sell or push something even though that is not what we are like.
- Let's invite people to the non-church events we do; especially serving.

A highlight for me was:

- Hearing the buzz around the room and listening in on snippets of feedback which show how much we all love and care for our community and its future

A few memorable quotes from the day were:

- *"We should agree to talk to people we don't know (well) for the first 10 minutes after the service—before just talking with our friends."*
- *"Invite people into our mission, rather than into our worship service."*
- *"We need to build relationships with people—they will come because they know us."*



### MELANIE GRIFFIN - PRAYER & HEALING



What I heard most at the Prayer & Healing station is the need for a variety of approaches to prayer. Some folks are looking for more traditional forms, some want artful prayer, and some want chanting.

A highlight for me was that a number of people stayed a while and then visited other stations and then came back with additional input--they were really thoughtful and wanting to engage and share ideas of what might help others, too.

My favorite quote was from nine-year-old Rebekah Hughey. I had a kid's activity, and one of the questions was how is God like a feather? She said that *"God is like a feather because He is light - God doesn't weigh us down with heavy stuff."*

### RUTH CAMPBELL - PROPERTY

The Cedar Ridge property continues to be an asset we treasure as a peaceful place to think and pray, as well as a social hub for our community. And we long to share our property with our neighbors. Nevertheless, we all recognize the considerable maintenance needs of such a large property, which are difficult to meet with our limited financial and volunteer resources.

A highlight for me was seeing children engaged in thinking through how we can better use our property: from identifying "special places" such as the playground, camping area, and stream, to developing an idea for geocaching to welcome technology-enabled treasure hunters onto our land.

*"We still believe in a place called home."*

### RACHEL BIBEE - THE FARM

The social aspects of working on the farm were mentioned in a variety of ways. A lot of people have made new connections working out in plots, and get to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Additionally, the produce we deliver to the community, the local students obtaining SSL hours, the Walter Reed volunteers, plus the fun events like Sangria Nights and Ice Cream socials, are all ways that the farm provides a holistic space to build relationships. Lots of conversations happen out there while picking weeds.

The highlight for me was having these conversations. It was so great to hear a variety of impressions and ideas and to meet some really interesting people. There is always an excitement associated with the farm and the possibilities to make its impact greater.

I got really excited hearing about a cover crop that suppresses weeds and keeps them from returning the following year. That's pretty memorable to me!



## TRISH AUDI - YOUTH

I heard discussions about relationships—how to promote more intergenerational relationships and better relationships within each of the groups. I love hearing how much the youth enjoy being with their groups and their leaders.

I really appreciated the opportunity to get the youth's perspective on being a part of the Cedar Ridge community-- what they love about it and how it could be improved. I also loved hearing from parents with kids of all ages and how we can best support them from providing babysitting lists to sending care packages to our college students.



*"I enjoy the bond I have with my Middle School leaders."*

*"A youth planning or advisory group would help us provide more input into what the church is doing."*

## CAROLINE FERRANTE - WORSHIP

One theme consistently voiced at the worship table was simplicity: we need to sing simpler, more singable songs. Not necessarily songs that showcase the abilities of worship teams, but songs written and arranged for congregations that average people can easily sing, remember, and follow. One of the most memorable quotes we heard was-

*"We need songs that are RIDICULOUSLY simple."*

In that vein, we heard that our community would appreciate more repeated songs from week to week.



*"How about repeating one song through a whole series? For every worship team. Then we can relax more as a congregation."*

We also heard that people would like the worship leaders to be worshippers themselves, even if it means that leaders relax a bit and make more mistakes.

*"Be worship leaders, not music leaders."*

Generally the people we spoke with like the direction we are going. They appreciate the cultural diversity in the music. Most said they want us to continue to move away from a performance mindset, and develop worship teams that connect with God, each other, and the congregation.



## STEVE MATHER - FINANCE

At the strategic planning forum, what I heard most as I talked with others about our church's finances was that personal giving is important! We need to develop/grow our community in this way. A few specific points/ideas were shared:

- Develop a rhythm of communicating our finances that isn't reactive or overwhelming.
- Create a series that deals with generosity and giving in a way that is challenging and more inspiring.
- Grow our membership so that we have more people who can invest (time, energy and money) into our challenging vision.

A highlight for me was being a part of deep conversations about money (both our Cedar Ridge finances and our personal money) not out of guilt or pressure, but out of care and passion for our vision.

A couple of memorable quotes were:

*"I'm willing to share publicly with our church community in specific terms just how much we give, how much we earn and how we make our family's financial decisions to be able to give generously to Cedar Ridge."*

*"I've been part of CRCC for more than 20 years. This process and these papers have given me so much background, context, history to our past and present that I see clearly the challenges we face with our finances, our property, our community."*

## TINICA MATHER - SOCIAL JUSTICE

At the strategic planning forum, what I heard most was:

- Folks would like increased social justice awareness; immigration work is important along with the other initiatives raised in the paper.
- Increased sharing of what people are passionate about and already doing would be helpful.
- Not everyone can serve corporately at CRCC, events but they'd like to continue to learn about how to serve as individuals and how to advocate for those in need



A highlight for me was the face to face interaction with folks, hearing feedback from people in a small group setting, and seeing that we are invested in social justice.



A couple of memorable quotes were:

*"I don't just want to do more, although that's important, but I want to understand and know more about social justice issues around me."*

*"Where & how can I get more involved?"*

### BRYAN PETERSON - GUATEMALA

People liked the idea of connecting with Guatemalans locally, at area schools, visiting churches, and through soccer games, Service Day activities and one-on-one friendships. It was suggested that we could pray more for the needs of Ipala - like rainy season prayers. And ask our friends there to pray for us, so it's a mutual experience.

There was a good mix of people - some who've been to Ipala and eager to hear what's next in our partnership, and other who are fairly new and wanting to learn more.

*"We should share more with the CRCC congregation about what we learn and how God works in us while we are in Ipala."*

*"Children in local schools are scared because their parents are facing deportation and in some cases the kids will stay here with relatives. And parents are afraid to fill out paperwork (which could benefit their school's ability to meet their children's needs) because they don't want to get "turned in."*



### COLLEEN HEITKAMP - DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Probably what I heard the most at the forum was how challenging it was to make time to participate in a Discipleship Group, especially for families with young children. Yet, one thing that impressed me the most was the willingness to be creative in suggesting solutions for that issue while at the same time recognizing that every family was in a unique place in terms of their needs and interests. I was also very impressed that so many people had invested the time to read all 10 papers and really felt a sense of ownership in interacting with the ideas presented. As one person said,

*"seeing the commitment that the leadership provided in thinking through these areas and putting together such detailed and thoughtful papers inspired me to be involved in the feedback process. I only wish there was time to get in on every discussion!"*





# GETTING TO KNOW ... RAYMOND REHER

*Will Corvey recently sat down to interview Raymond to find out more about him and learn what he likes about attending Cedar Ridge.*

## "Tell us a little bit about yourself."

I was born in DC and I've lived in this area all my life. I work as a gardener for a local company that services properties throughout the area. I mow the grass and do grounds-work. I also volunteer gardening on the Cedar Ridge property. I like planting flowers, and seeing how things grow up.

I love bowling, camping and the outdoors. I've camped all over. I remember one time I took a really great trip with a friend in a pop-up trailer. I'm thinking of going to Mt. Rushmore next year. Then when I retire, I'm going on a cruise (just 5 years to go!). Then I'll have more time to volunteer, both at the church and officiating bingo at a local rehabilitation facility.

## "How did you find out about Cedar Ridge?"

I first came to church the Sunday after the Harvest Festival last year. I found out about the festival from the sign on the road. I took the hay ride and played church trivia; I guessed

the right number of acres on the property.

## "What do you like about our church?"

I was happy to find a church so close to home and where the people are really nice. I like the music at Cedar Ridge for worship, and I enjoy singing in the choir. The Harvest Festival is still my favorite event of the year. I really like the hay ride and the food.

## "What could the church do more of?"

I often ride my bike to church, so it would be great to have a bicycle rack so people could lock up their bikes during service. It would also be nice for members of the congregation to go on a retreat, to have quiet time and visit with people more. And bingo - the church should do more fun activities like that.



Twenty-three students and adults are currently scheduled to be a part of our 7th annual Guatemala Partnership Trip to Ipala. We'll be there from August 5-14, interacting and serving alongside our scholarship students, CIDHER, and other partners in health and education. Our Collecta-palooza! Fundraiser will be ongoing from June 4-July 1—you can bring in gently-used clothes and household items, and we'll turn them into cash. Proceeds of this, our primary fundraiser for the year, benefit students who need some financial help with trip expenses. ■

New!

Read the Lead Pastor's Blog!  
Stop by the website at [www.crcc.org](http://www.crcc.org)  
to read the latest post!

## DOWNLOAD THE CEDAR RIDGE APP TODAY!

### Features include:

- Audio and video sermons
- Event calendar
- Discussion questions for current message series
- Giving option
- Make a prayer request
- Link to our people directory (login required)
- Look for the "Cedar Ridge Community Church" app for your iPhone or Android and download it today at [www.crcc.org](http://www.crcc.org).



Imagine a community that dares to dream of heaven on earth; a community where **everyone is accepted** and respected and their journey cherished, regardless of their background, beliefs or place in society; where **everyone looks out for the concerns of others** and **no one is alone**. Imagine a community of peace and safety where it's possible to shelter from the frenzied pace of life, in order to **slow down** and **explore the mystery** and meaning of our existence; where we can **take time to address the roots of our anxieties and pain**; a place of **hope** where we can find help and healing and the power to change, no matter how desperate our situation. Imagine a community of people devoted to following **Jesus together**, learning to live like him and **helping one another grow** in their relationship with God; where we are gradually **transformed** to become better people; better friends, better family members, better workers, better neighbors; **becoming people who enjoy life to the full** and who can also deal with adversity well, **learning to grow through failure and suffering**.

Imagine that community scattered throughout the region around Washington, Baltimore and beyond **working as agents of love, peace and hope** wherever they are: **serving** our neighbors, **caring** for the poor, **helping** the oppressed. Imagine a community of people who **live simply** and ethically, who **share their land and resources** with their neighbors; a community that treasures the Earth and **reaches out** beyond global, cultural and political barriers to **offer friendship** and practical support.

Imagine a community of people who make the world a better place.



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