



THE QUARTERLY Cedar Ridge Newsletter

Welcome to the fall edition of our newsletter! I hope you enjoy the various articles, stories and updates as we take a look back at the year that's passed and look ahead to the one to come. As I reflect on both, I am struck by two things. Firstly, we are an amazing community! Together we are a unique church and are following Jesus in some distinctive and challenging ways. That's not always easy, but I am so grateful to be part of a community that is really trying to embrace the radical way of love that Jesus shows us. Thank you for all you have done to that end! Secondly, I am really excited about what is yet to come. It's so important that our church flourishes and thrives, so we can make room and a way for others to experience what we have. So this year our plans and intentions are all about becoming a more healthily diverse and inclusive community that reaches out to others.

The early followers of Jesus formed incredible communities of women and men, young and old, Jews and gentiles, pagans and Pharisees, tax-collectors and Zealots—a collection of very different people from radically different backgrounds and perspectives, who came together in reconciliation and found astonishing unity. They had their struggles, but the love they shared transcended their differences and was a sure sign of the presence of the "Kingdom of God" (the new way of life that Jesus taught and lived).

This year, we will continue to strive to be a community where all people are valued and given a voice. To that end, we will continue our work in racial justice and will seek to integrate the needs and perspectives of older adults, children, and youth. This intergenerational focus will be reflected in our church wide activities and Sunday services,



as well as in our decision-making as a community. In addition, we remain resolutely committed to welcoming and affirming all people, regardless of beliefs, gender, sexuality or ethnicity.

We will also reach out beyond our church community and strive to become better friends, family members, workers, and neighbors who share the hope, healing and creative possibility that following Jesus means. Let's intentionally work on being good news in our families, neighborhoods, schools and workplaces, and invite others into our movement of healing and reconciliation.

All of this will take each of us stepping up to own our vision in new ways. Change begins with us, so let's each embrace the challenge to reach across the various barriers within our own church community and reach out to love and serve our neighbors.

Let's be the change we want to see in the world!

Matthew

Matthew Dyer, Lead Pastor



SEPTEMBER 2018

2018-19 BUDGET
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
AND MORE!

Cedar Ridge 2018-19 Budget

Spending at Cedar Ridge

Cedar Ridge is a generous community. Members and attenders donate approximately 90% of the money we spend each year. We give to finance the vision to which we are committed. And we give as an expression of our vision—demonstrating good stewardship, generosity, service, and discipleship. Below is a summary of how we spent our income last year, and our plan for spending in the coming year¹.

Over the last 12 months, our operating expenses totaled \$830,842². Our budget goal for September 2018–August 2019 is to finance the annual plan priorities detailed below through community donations of \$706,975, and rental income and corporate sponsorships amounting to \$127,092, for a total operating budget of \$834,067.

Worship Services

FY19 Budget \$121,255

Cedar Ridge is where we worship, celebrate, and grow together as a diverse community. Throughout the year we will explore ways to strengthen intergenerational interaction, and will celebrate and learn from all our members, embracing the creative possibility of our different beliefs, gender, sexuality and ethnicity.



Spending in FY18 \$114,017

Over the last year, we together explored ways to practice empathy, listening, and creating safe space. We wrestled with understanding traditional descriptions of God as holy, just and good, and embraced the call to worship with our whole selves. We celebrated the seasons, and mourned the passing of dear friends; and welcomed new members into our community.



Children and Youth

FY19 Budget \$48,761

Our children and youth leaders encourage and challenge our students to follow Jesus passionately and help make the world a better place, while welcoming doubts, questions, and struggles. This year we will strengthen youth leadership and intergenerational connections, and continue to offer plenty of age-appropriate fun.

Spending in FY18 \$43,766

Highlights from last year include the middle and high school retreats, which provided more than 40 youth and their leaders opportunities to deepen relationships, safe

space to explore life's issues, and a chance to enjoy the great outdoors. Cedar Ridge Kids engaged in stories, songs, spiritual practices, and creative learning activities—including collecting money for children's school books in Ipala and building birdhouses for the property.

Prayer and Healing

FY19 Budget \$84,454

Through prayer, we experience transformational healing that centers us in the love of God, and enables us to reach out to others. In addition to prayer-focused events and activities, we will continue to promote prayer as an integral part of discipleship for people of all ages.

Spending in FY18 \$81,718

We experienced God's presence together through Quiet Days and contemplative services, as well as through individual and group prayer practices. We responded to the pain and suffering of both church members and our extended community, through prayer, counseling, and practical support.



Small Groups

FY19 Budget \$10,887

Small groups provide a place to experience growth, community and servanthood. We will support discipleship groups as they increasingly reach out to neighbors and friends, and we will continue to encourage the formation of new groups that contribute to our vision.

Spending in FY18 \$16,201

Last year we held challenge groups that encouraged transformative action, in addition to our 13 discipleship groups and various other small gatherings. We developed group discussion materials each quarter, and provided pastoral care to our leaders, and through them to the group members.



Social Justice

FY19 Budget \$19,273

We will provide opportunities to become more engaged in social justice issues—particularly with regard to racial equity in public education. And we will continue to strengthen our relationships with service day and farm-related partners.

Spending in FY18 \$7,912

Achievements included the delivery of over 300 food kits to Greencastle Elementary School, weekly farm food deliveries in partnership with Manna Food Center, events such as The Heart of Immigration, and activism related to the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the celebration of World Refugee Day.

Farm

FY19 Budget \$32,501

We will generate greater publicity for the farm to attract more people of all ages onto our property, and further promote awareness of food justice and ecology issues through signage and events. We will continue to deepen our relationships with partners and volunteers.

Spending in FY18 \$30,261

This summer we invested in a part-time farm worker, from whom we gained invaluable technical input. With a grant from Montgomery County, we were able to purchase drip irrigation, contributing to our highest yielding season ever—at almost 2 tons.



Guatemala

FY19 Budget \$54,950³

To strengthen relationships with our Guatemalan partners and Latinos living in our neighborhood, we will again organize Spanish language classes. We will continue to support Ipala through scholarships, health projects and housing, and will explore additional ways to empower our partners in Ipala and increase sustainable impact.

Spending in FY18 \$74,667

Last year we provided 60 scholarships to secondary school youth, covered the cost of building a house for a particularly needy family, contributed to a health fund that assists with medical needs, and supported 19 members of our community—ranging in age from 12 to over 60—to travel out to Guatemala. We also hosted Spanish classes for over a dozen participants.

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Local outreach

FY19 Budget \$80,408

Our renewed focus on sharing our vision with others will be reflected in a greater number of intergenerational outreach events, more compelling and engaging communications, and an emphasis on creating a welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

Spending in FY18 \$91,088

Over the past 12 months we have hosted a number of strongly attended and well-received events, including two multi-faith days of service, a “breaking down barriers” themed coffeehouse, and our largest Harvest Festival to date. In addition to on-site events, we have participated in community festivals and interfaith events.

Facilities

FY19 Budget \$381,538⁴

We will pursue additional opportunities to generate income from the facilities, and will invest in our property—particularly the historic farmhouse—to fulfill our legal obligations and make the property safe and attractive for all users.

Spending in FY18 \$371,213

In the last year, we secured 3 long-term rentals, as well as other one-time contracts. Major costs included paving the parking lots, much needed repairs to the historic barn, and preparations by architects and engineers for moving forward with plans to dismantle the rear of the farmhouse and stabilize and seal the front portion to allow for future use.



¹ The figures quoted include salaries of staff members who devote time to the respective ministry areas.

² The numbers quoted here may change slightly once the FY18 accounts are reviewed.

³ This figure does not include the cost of the Guatemala Partnership Trip. Once the number of travelers is determined in the spring, this cost will be added to the budget.

⁴ This figure does not include the cost of repairs to the farmhouse, which have yet to be confirmed.

Measure for Measure

By: Ruth Campbell, Pastor for Ministry Development



Each year, we set a number of quantitative targets to help us track progress towards annual plan objectives.

Numbers never tell the whole story—but they allow us to see trends and to discuss whether activities are leading to intended results, helping us remain faithful to our goals. Below are some of the things we measured last year.

Social justice—we wanted to see 100 people attending one or more of our racial justice-oriented events as an indicator of our community’s willingness to engage in this issue. Over 100 people attended events organized by Cedar Ridge, but about a third of attendees were visitors. This issue is clearly important to our immediate and

extended community and our ongoing challenge is to engage our whole church membership.

Safe space—we intended to provide training to 40 leaders in creating safe space, to help increase empathy, listening and acceptance throughout our community. However, during the year, we decided to make this topic a church wide series, bringing the whole of our community into the exploration of what it means to create, enjoy and extend safe space.

Small groups—we set a target of 50 people attending small groups (discipleship groups or other regular small group meetings) each week as a sign that we are intentionally experiencing more of God’s life together. Total small group

attendance averaged 58 people per week, and discipleship group attendance averaged 41 people per week. Small groups continue to be a valued part of our journey together. (If you would like to join or initiate a group, contact colleenh@crcc.org.)

Newcomers—we wanted to see 25 adults added into our database as newcomers to Cedar Ridge each quarter. We did not meet this target: only 17 adult newcomers were registered on average per quarter. We will therefore continue to focus on this area in the coming year, recognizing that each of us has a role to play in inviting friends and neighbors to benefit from the opportunities for growth, community and service that our church family provides. ●

A LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

WOW! Just incredible. It is actually *incredible* (impossible to believe, extraordinary) to see this amazing group of people time and time again face challenges, embrace opportunities, give everything they can to reach a common goal. Just inspiring! With Javy Baez' amazing season, and the bullpen doing great work and then just the other night Ian Happ hits that seventh inning 3-run homer to give the Cubs the 3-2 victory. It is awesome! Yes, the Cubs continue to inspire us all as they move closer to the postseason and to our goals of another NL Pennant and World Series Title and . . . wait. What? This isn't for the Sun Times article?

Oops.

Well, hey, actually, that is the perfect lead for this letter to our amazing, generous, loving community (a.k.a. team) at Cedar Ridge. Last month we reached our goal of giving \$100,000 in the month of August! And of course our goal was not winning more baseball games! By reaching our giving goal, we can now continue to boldly move forward in many *incredible* ways.

Here are a few of the ways we have and will continue to pursue our lofty and compelling vision:

- Our team of 19 Guatemala Partnership Trip students and adults spent quality time in July with our dear friends in Ipala building and connecting, healing and growing.
- We cooperatively tended our community farm and produced nearly two tons of produce to share with people in partnership with new agencies this year.
- Our dedicated staff frugally and diligently managed spending so that we could maintain our beautiful 63-acre property and useful facilities.
- Our community gave \$720,527 for the fiscal year 2017-2018. That amount reached 97% of our annual goal, which simply astounds me as I put it in the context of my closest Cedar Ridge friends and their financial realities.
- Three new partners now rent and use our facilities, and we project to more than replace the significant rental income we lost a year ago.
- We are actively taking important steps forward with our responsibility to care for historic structures on our property by working closely with contracted professionals and local government agencies on the best path forward. The farmhouse project will be a significant focus for us in this fiscal year.

I'm very excited to share that Alison Pasternak will take over the role of Board Treasurer in this new fiscal year. Not only does Alison have two decades of professional experience as an economist for the Department of Labor plus more than a decade of experience as the Treasurer of her HOA, she has already brought much wisdom and perspective to the Board since she joined a year ago. I'm thrilled that someone with such diligence to our finances and dedication to our vision will take over from here forward. I've enjoyed the last 5 years as Treasurer and will now step into a non-officer role on the Board.

We are a community that rises to the occasion and responds to the call, and I would like to remind us to continue to financially support our community. We hope to get this new fiscal year off to a strong start. I also hope to see you at the October 21 Annual Meeting, which is a good opportunity to get an in-depth update from leadership and share input with our community.

Finally - thank you! We all share, give, love and make Cedar Ridge the place that it has become today. It's a rich blessing to belong to Cedar Ridge Community Church. (And go Cubs!) ●

Steve Mather, Treasurer

Fun on the Cedar Ridge Playground

This summer, Jennifer Anderson initiated an informal opportunity for parents and children to connect on the playground after the service on Sundays. All are welcome to join in the fun, including those who do not have kids. Contact Jennifer Anderson (jmanderson1854@gmail.com) to be added to the email list and come and join the fun! ●



SEPTEMBER 2018

SERVE WITH US

Cedar Ridge has many serving opportunities, and you are encouraged to try a few areas that are of interest to you until you find a place that seems to be a good fit. We will provide you with all the support you need to get started. Feel free to contact the ministry leaders listed below to let us know how you would like to get involved.

The Bee Team

Learn about and care for our bee hives on the property: inspect, feed and care for the bee yard and equipment. No prior experience necessary—come and learn! Contact Linda Hatcher: llhatcher123@gmail.com



Cedar Ridge Kids *

Cedar Ridge Kids provides a safe space where babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary children can form friendships and experience God's love. You can help be a guide on our children's journeys of faith by joining the Cedar Ridge Kids team. Talk with Bryan Peterson to find an age group and frequency of service that works for you! Contact Bryan Peterson: bryanp@crcc.org

Communications

Writers, photographers, social media wizzes, and artists are needed to support our community's various communication initiatives. Write for the Quarterly Newsletter, photograph special events, or display your artwork at the winter coffee house. Contact Sarah Burke: sarahb@crcc.org

Congregational Care

Write cards to those in need, visit people in the hospital, or join a group to pray for Cedar Ridge in general. Contact Melanie Griffin: melanieLgriffin@gmail.com



Community Outreach

Lead a project for our Multi-Faith Day of Service or volunteer to help out at the Harvest Festival. Contact Tinica Mather: tinicamather@gmail.com



Economic Justice

Make a food bag donation to support the children and families of Greencastle Elementary on any Sunday during the 2018-2019 school year. Coordinate delivery of birthday gift bags and arrange book displays for children at local elementary schools, or help distribute farm produce to local low-income families (seasonal: May-September). Contact Ruth Campbell: ruthc@crcc.org

Farm

Join the team to plan operations, or lead teams to harvest, water, or weed on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings (seasonal: April-September). Contact Ruth Campbell: ruthc@crcc.org



Guatemala Team

Translate from Spanish to English letters and cards from Guatemala, help coordinate collections, and build connections with our local Guatemalan community. Contact Deb Frew: debralfrew@gmail.com

Middle School and High School *

Help make meals for a youth retreat, serve as a chaperone or driver for a youth event, or help with communications. Contact Trish Audi: trisha@crcc.org

Music Team **

We are looking for musicians who are worshippers first. If you are interested in getting involved as an instrumentalist or vocalist, contact Brian Markely: bmarkley6@gmail.com or Andrew O'Day: andyoday@gmail.com



Property Team

Throughout the year, every other Saturday is designated as a Property Work Day when we need help to care for our property. Check the Flyer and online calendar for dates. We meet from 8 am through 12 noon working together to accomplish various tasks such as mowing, weeding, trimming shrubs, repairing, painting and a little light cleaning as needed. If Saturdays don't work for you, feel free to take a project during the week. Contact Mark Hartley: markh@crcc.org

Racial Reconciliation

Pray with us for racial justice and reconciliation—individually, and corporately each first Sunday of the month. Sign up to attend our workshop and get engaged in racial justice issues related to public school education. For more information, contact Rachel Anderson: rachel@anderkoo.com. For other events and opportunities, contact Sarah Clark: sarahjclark135@me.com



Audio/Visual Team

Get trained to operate the Sunday morning sound system or run media projection for services. Contact Sarah Burke: sarahb@crcc.org

Sunday Morning Hospitality

Prepare coffee on Sunday mornings, greet people at the doors, or serve donuts and bagels. Contact Colleen Heitkamp: colleenh@crcc.org



Sunday Morning Set-up

Prepare and serve communion elements, or help set up candles, and creative elements for the Sunday service. Contact Sarah Burke: sarahb@crcc.org

* Application required.

** Audition required.



See Guat's New:

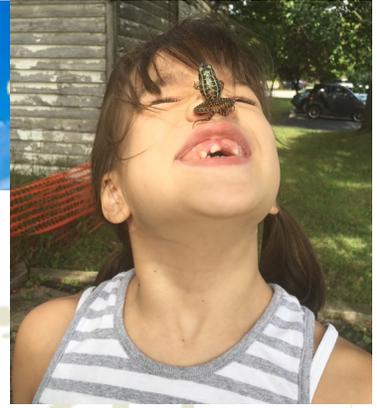
Check Out the Guatemala Display

Our colorful new Guatemala display features items made in appreciation of Cedar Ridge's commitment to Ipala. The video presentation will change regularly to show the various people and projects that make up this partnership. Stop by the 200 corridor, across from the water fountains, to see "Guat's New." ●



Summer on the Farm

By: Cheryl Chairez



I'd prefer to be outdoors in any weather, so it seemed like a good fit to join the farm team when the opportunity presented itself. That said, I had exactly zero experience in this area as I grew up in Southern California where our yard was the size of a postage stamp. But I decided I would trust there were enough competent people in the group that they could teach a willing novice like me.

My two daughters and I would sometimes come on 'off' nights at the beginning of the season because of our schedules. Ruth was kind enough to accept my FaceTime calls asking "this IS a weed, isn't it?" I figured it was better to bother her for a few minutes, instead of weeding out something that was supposed to be growing. But to my delight, most of the time, I had half a clue and was actually weeding the weeds. And in the early season, spending time on the farm when the weather was nothing short of heaven was an added bonus.

As the season went on, the other farmers helped teach me new skills like thinning, spacing, transplanting, and how to properly harvest the various crops. These might be simple tasks for some, but for me, it was new, exciting stuff. I also enjoyed asking Andrea, our part-time farm worker, questions, even though I was convinced she probably thought I was the village idiot. Thankfully, she was always gracious and never made me feel that way. As we would

harvest huge amounts of zucchini, cucumbers, and whatever else was ready, I would try to take a moment to thank God for all the earth had given us, and that it would be bringing joy to the people it would feed. It's easy to look out at the farm while you're driving in and think, "that's great," but it's a special relationship to get your hands filthy on a regular basis and be a direct part of the process of feeding our neighbors.

I am grateful for this season on the farm for so many reasons –the time it created with my daughters to show the importance of working for others, the time I had to just work quietly and not think about the stresses of daily life, the time to chat with fellow friends out there working toward a common goal, and the ways in which it helped me reflect on the bounty we are so fortunate to experience in this world. I could go on and on, but I'd like to leave you with something my daughter said more than once. When we were getting ready to go out on the farm she would state (very loudly), "We are SO lucky to be here! Where are all the people? Don't they know if we have more people helping we can feed more friends?" She said it with such conviction and innocence that it really struck me: if we all do a little, we are able to show and share God's love in a big, big way. ●

A colorful poster for the Cedar Ridge Harvest Festival. The top left features the text "Cedar Ridge Harvest Festival" in a stylized font. Below the text is an illustration of a wooden wagon filled with pumpkins, pulled by a red tractor. The right side of the poster has a yellow background with the text "FREE! SATURDAY OCT. 6 • 4 - 7 pm LIVE MUSIC" and "activities for all" at the bottom. A string of colorful bunting is also visible.



For more information: CRCC.org
Cedar Ridge Community Church
Spencerville, Maryland

