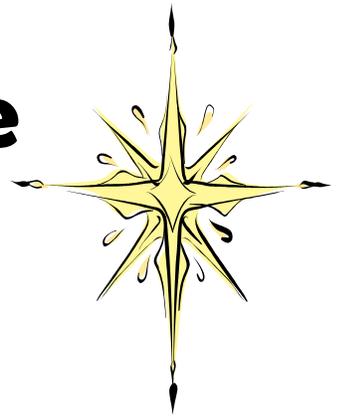




The Beech Grove STAR



4251 Driver Lane, Suffolk, Virginia 23435
(757) 538-8353 phone
office@beechgroveumc.org

April - May, 2013

Pastor's Resurrection Note

John 20:1-9

New International Version (NIV)

The Empty Tomb

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said,

"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon

Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb

(continues on page 5)

CATCH:

A Church-wide Program for Invitational Evangelism

Would you like to be part of a pilot study of CATCH: A Church-wide Program for Invitational Evangelism developed by The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection? Well, beginning Sunday afternoons in April we will start to move through approximately six weeks of Bible study and evaluation designed to help our church attract visitors and then welcome them into the life of our community.

You will receive a participant book which will introduce concepts and practices of invitational evangelism through daily readings that include Scripture, devotion, and reflection questions. *(continues on page 4)*



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, Apr. 9
Knitting Classes begin

Tuesday, Apr. 15
"Catch" program
launch event

Monday, Apr. 22
Earth Day

Tuesday, April 30
UMW Chicken Salad
Luncheon

Sunday, May 12
Mother's Day

Monday, May 27
Memorial Day

More News Inside:

- **UMW Reading Program**
- **Scouting Reports**
- **EEF Goes on the Road**
- **Witnessing about Fishing**
- **Financial Peace University**
- **Outreach Update**

Every Day is Earth Day this Summer at Beech Grove



Happy Birthday!

APRIL

- 1 Chad Kozoyed
- 2 April Waydula
- 3 Laurel Goff
- 6 Charlie Rintamaki
- 7 Brenda Wray
- 7 Robert Dillingham
- 10 Lynn Harris
- 11 Matt Price
- 12 Bobbi Lassiter
- 14 Joanne Johann
- 14 John Woodard
- 15 Melissa Bartholomew
- 19 Debbie Evans
- 24 Debbie McIntosh
- 27 Lizzie Smith
- 28 Theresa Nicholas

MAY

- 2 Hazel Winbourne
- 3 David Evans
- 6 Ray Vaughan
- 7 Susan Cherry
- 8 Kathy Dykes
- 9 Shelby O'Berry
- 13 Chris Davis
- 20 Dorothy Guill
- 22 Barbara Cross
- 24 Frank Cross
- 24 Kaelynn Coggins
- 25 Carol Vernon
- 25 Joel Davis

***please let us know if we've missed your special day*



With snow falling earlier this week, it doesn't seem like summer will ever get here! Even so, May 15th is the deadline to submit items for our summer newsletter edition (June/July).

We set aside a Saturday in April each year to celebrate and care for our Earth. But at Beech Grove, when the weather changes, every day is like Earth Day and the church yard needs your attention!

Volunteers maintain the church grounds during the spring, summer, and early fall by mowing the lawn, trimming/edging sidewalks, flower bed borders, etc., and blowing clippings from paved areas. The total time required each week is about 2 to 3 hours.

With 32 weeks to cover on the calendar, we sure could use your help! Please consider signing up on the clipboard in the hallway for a week or two. Work may be performed on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, and all equipment is provided.

For questions, please contact Rue Bagwell (#966-9791) for more information.



Your help in keeping our church grounds beautiful is greatly appreciated, and the ongoing support from our Scout groups makes a difference, too!



The newly-launched UMW reading program is gradually taking hold! Check the bulletin board during April as we will be posting what the reading is about, the different plans and available books that are on hand to lend or buy. We have purchased two Kindles and hope to incorporate them in our system. Remember to check the bulletin board as we develop this program for all readers including children.

Join us each month on the 4th Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall at 11 am.
We are a mission-centered group devoted to helping women and children around the world.
All ladies are welcomed!



Scouting at Beech Grove

Girl Scout Troop 5292: Girl Scout cookie sales went very well and are completed for another year. Using proceeds from last year's sales, we're planning trips to the Botanical Gardens (Daisies), Busch Gardens (Brownies), Great Wolf Lodge (Juniors), Pennsylvania (Cadettes) and the Eastern Shore (Seniors).

Cadettes fed the homeless recently in Portsmouth while the younger girls prepared flowerbeds ahead of the church's March mulching event. The troop collected over \$80 in spare change and used it to assemble four large Easter baskets for kids at the HER shelter, and many Cadettes and Seniors had fun assisting with the Egg Factory.

We celebrated World Thinking Day with a focus on Malawi and Morocco. We had to make a flag, sample food and give a presentation on the country's view of women's health.

Donated books were presented to CHKD for local pediatricians to distribute to patients during their well-baby visits, and we held our second Pinewood Derby Race with a track full of unique racers!

Upcoming events include the Teen

Iron Chef, Raingutter Regatta and Mystery Brownie Try-it Night.



Cub Scout Pack 89: After spending a Saturday working the grounds at both Beech Grove and Glebe churches, we're headed back to Beech Grove in April for our Pack 89 Olympacks! Also coming up is a trip to see the Virginia International Tattoo performance and a corsage class to prepare for the Mother and Son Breakfast for Mother's Day.

We'll wrap up our programming year with a Bike Rodeo and Cub-O-Ree before our Scouts venture off to a series of age-appropriate summer camps to hone their skills and enjoy the great outdoors.

Sea Scout Ship 16: Wow, what a 1st quarter we're having! We started the year doing some boat cleaning and checking dock lines, working out the 2013 calendar, running a heaving line rescue station at the Klondyke Derby and went to Bounders to bounce around on giant trampolines!

Then we rode the ferry to Norfolk and visited Nauticus --what a great way to spend a day! We celebrated Scout Sunday at Beech Grove, and our leaders enjoyed some recognition at the annual District Banquet. We helped set up the Easter Egg Factory and sat for ship portraits.

We had a great day at the Newport News Mariner's Museum -- what great displays, the Monitor, the models and the various examples of boats. The crew got to take apart the fuel system on the diesel aboard Freedom II, and it still needs some work, but we'll get it going! We prepped our garden for mulch day and put a lighthouse in our garden to symbolize that Jesus is the light of the world! We've been working on navigation and piloting and reviewed the rules of the road. We did a great presentation to the scouts of Troop 16 and helped spread a truckload of mulch around the church grounds. Whew!

Boy Scout Troop 16: We welcomed the Rattlesnake patrol recently during a soggy Bridging Ceremony at Izaak Walton Park and are happy to have them as part of our Troop! Coming up, we'll head to Newport News Park/Yorktown Battlefield for a Bike Trip and Campout in April and will roll out again in May for the C&O Canal Cycling Trip!

Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

Our Beech Grove family seeks
our Lord's will and shares
Christ's love with all.



Rolling Up Their Sleeves at the 2013 Easter Egg Factory

A dedicated team of folks rolled up their sleeves and rolled eggs again this year for the annual Easter Egg Factory fundraiser. A great big "Thank You!" goes out to all those who volunteered during this month-long, church-wide project that allows us to meet all our financial obligations and continue to do great things in our community and beyond.



Knitting Classes Offered

Join the UMW as they host a series of complimentary knitting classes to teach interested persons how to knit baby capes and prayer shawls for mission needs.

Led by instructor Rose Brown, courses are held weekly in the Annex beginning Tuesday, April 9th at 7 pm. Please bring #8 needles and a skein of worsted yarn. Sign-ups are available in the hall.

CATCH Program *(cont'd from cover)*

The course is designed to help us think a little more "outside-the-box" - to become relentlessly outward focused; understanding what makes our church unique while we help others along their journey.

We will meet to review the material, share in conversation and hear more via video on Sunday, April 14th. Time and meeting location will be announced soon.

NOTE: The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection is one of the fastest-growing churches in the U.S. This newly revised and updated course shows us different ways to attract visitors to our church, connect them with our faith community, and help them learn to better know, love, and serve God.



Province Place residents enjoyed taking part in the Easter Egg Factory production line when Outreach team members came to visit, but sneaking a spoonful of chocolate was the real treat!

Easter Egg Factory Goes On the Road

Even though final figures are not available at this time, the 2013 Easter Egg Factory seems to have been a huge success. Financial success is always wonderful, but more than that, those who worked so diligently found that the fellowship and the new friendships made over the past few weeks are priceless. There was excellent response from the church membership, but we could not have pulled it off without the many volunteers: neighbors from the surrounding communities; groups such as the Sea Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Adventure Scouts; a soccer team; and extended family members from outside the area.

The past weeks proved a most important point in Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:18-20 "...But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body." Each person shared a particular talent to reach our common goal. Many thanks to everyone who participated!

A first this year was "taking" the Easter Egg Factory to Province Place in Churchland. Several members from Beech Grove took the necessary items and helped the residents roll, dip and decorate an egg of each flavor. This event was warmly embraced, and Beech Grove has been asked to do a repeat activity next year.



Pastor's Resurrection Note (continued from cover)

first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

During the Lenten season we have journeyed to the cross while pondering our Lord's agony and engaging in a period of self-examination. It has not been a pretty sight as we followed Jesus to his death, but we now celebrate what follows it—Christ's resurrection. This event in the life of Christianity is the greatest victory ever won to offer to each person the gift of salvation. Yes, it was a costly gift that gives each of us the opportunity to respond with our lives to strive to be Christ-like all of our days.

Today we have new opportunities to see what following Christ means for our future. If we are eager for such outcomes, think of Peter, who was not sure just what he was looking for. We do know he wanted to be the first to find. He was not, according to John, who names Mary Magdalene as the Mary who was first. Later, running, came "the disciple whom Jesus Loved," and coming in third is Peter, who denied Jesus. Now in the empty tomb Peter finds evidence that Jesus is no longer among the dead and, as his living Lord, can invite Peter to follow Him again. No matter, now, that Peter did not get bragging rights about having been first, he quickly grasped the meaning of His Lord, and could (and did) invite others to follow Christ to know new life and new opportunities.

The church's mission is still the same in inviting others to new life in Christ. I have often been asked about how to do this more effectively. One way is to sacrifice your time to sign-up for the church-wide "Catch" study on Sunday afternoons beginning on April 14th from 3:30 - 5:30 pm.

Celebrate this blessed Easter as we follow on in the light of our living Lord!

In Christ's Service, *Pastor Keith*

UMW Chicken Salad Luncheon

Tuesday, April 30th • 11:30 am – 2 pm



You know you can't pass up this legendary lunch invitation! Hosted by the United Methodist Women, the annual luncheon includes delectable homemade chicken salad, fruit, dessert and a beverage. Pre-ordered dinner boxes also are available for pick-up from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Tickets are \$6.50 per plate or \$7.50 for a super-sized portion. Lunch is available for dine-in or carry-out. Join us!



Beech Grove UMC's Plan for Ministry

**We are called to be a compassionate,
nurturing congregation who serves God
through prayer, worship, fellowship, study
and missions as we
"Honor the past, serve the present
and build the future."**

What if God's People Handled God's Money God's Way?

What a question, "God's People Handling God's Money God's Way?" Have you ever sat down and actually given a moment's thought to how different things would be in our lives, our community, our country, and our world if we all embraced handling money God's way, even the money outside of your tithes and offerings. Remember it's all His. We just offer Him our best first.

This is a question for us all to consider and reflect upon, but I know it was not the motivation behind offering *Financial Peace University (FPU)* at Beech Grove nearly five years ago. The first FPU class and all of those to follow are offered to give hope to everyone from the financially distressed to the financially secure. From the beginners who develop their first *Zero Balance Budget* and start a *Debt Snowball* to those more advanced who enhance their knowledge and learn how to mitigate financial and life risk by selecting the proper types of insurance, there is something for everyone.

Through participation by church members and outreach to the community, Beech Grove has introduced FPU to more than 40 families and, in some situations, at little or no out-of-pocket cost. How wonderful it is to achieve "financial peace," and how blessed so many families are to have been given the opportunity to experience and understand what is meant by "financial peace" through participating in FPU.

FPU is an experience that helps us become "Winners" not just in our financial lives, but in other aspects of life from family to religion. You see, winning with money is not just about having a savings or retirement account with lots of zeros. Winning with money is about "Living like no one else, so one day you can live like no one else." It's about "Living like no one else, so one day you can give like no one else." Winning with family and community is learning "Broke people can't help less fortunate people." Winning in life is understanding that our Heavenly Father wants the best for us all and He wants us to do the best with what is His.

If reading this article has you wondering what is "financial peace" and if you have it, then FPU is for you. Even if you feel you don't need money advice, FPU may still be for you. Remember, FPU offers lessons on money and lessons on life. Additional FPU classes are being scheduled for this year, with plans for a young adult class to begin just after graduation (what a great graduation gift idea!). Stay tuned, and look for advertisements on church e-mails, bulletin boards and Sunday handouts.

So back to the title question --what would be different in your world **If God's People Handled God's Money God's Way?** Sharing a statement from a *Virginian-Pilot* news article which spotlighted the **Monarch Millionaire Financial Literacy Program**, a program similar to FPU designed to increase financial knowledge of ODU students, Robert Romm, a senior biology major said, "If Americans had the basic skills we're teaching in this class, we would not have gone through this recession."

Hopefully now you are thinking a little more about financial peace and how it can improve your quality of life. Money doesn't buy happiness. We choose to be happy, but financial peace helps you gain focus and confidence in many areas of your life and that may help put a smile on your face.

If you have questions relating to this article, please contact me. If you have FPU testimonials that you would like to share, please e-mail them to me. Lastly, I would like to wish all Peace and God's Blessings in all that they do. Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Jon Morris
Financial Peace Coordinator
morrisjone22068@gmail.com
(757)651-9257 cell





So Blessed by You, Mom
 A mother who always cares,
 A mother who's always there.
 A mother who always prays,
 A mother who always stays.

When things get rough,
 When life gets tough,
 When all is just too much to bear,
 God's Word she shares.

God's light she shines.

So blessed God made this mother mine.

*Happy Mother's Day
 Sunday, May 12, 2013*



Witnessing About ... Fishing

Have you ever been fishing? No matter what your answer is, you should know it is not as simple as grabbing your gear and casting a line. The object of fishing is to catch fish, and in order to do that, you first have to know some things. You have to learn the fishing conditions in the area. You have to check the weather, get the right equipment and master the proper techniques. Most importantly, you have to go where the fish are!

What a simple concept, to go where the fish are! In the church, evangelism is a lot like fishing; you have to go where the people are. You have to know the conditions of the area you are in and be prepared with the right "equipment."

If you are like me, you struggle with just how to share your faith with those you meet. Maybe you are self-conscious, shy, don't think you know enough or are just plain scared on how to start that dialogue with someone. I know I am. Still, we are expected to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world, representing God's physical presence.

Even in meetings, we start new programs with much zeal to attract people to our churches and, many times, we soon lose that focus and energy. We quickly decide that we like the nice, cozy feeling of our church. We love the size and hope, to some extent, that it doesn't get any bigger. We become unconsciously content to just hang out the "OPEN" sign and expect people to show up. But it doesn't always work that way.

We all know and understand the Great Commission of Jesus to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19). While that commission was given specifically to the disciples, it was intended for the church as a whole. Even though the disciples had spent 3-1/2 years walking with Jesus, learning and growing in their own faith, it all

began with a simple invitation from Christ to "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17).

Do you remember the old children's rhyme, "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people"? Remember the actions that went with it? We would hold closed fists with index fingers extended and all the other fingers inside before "opening" up the doors to reveal all the "people." When you reflect on this idea, you have to question the theology behind it. Why is the church hidden behind tightly closed fists? Why do you need to open the doors to see the people? What if the rhyme began a different way? What if we open our hands and wiggle our fingers and say something like: "Here is the church, see all the people, who have opened the doors to welcome new people!"

We should be a church with open doors, going out to seek and welcome in new people. WE HAVE WHAT THEY NEED, even if they don't know it yet! We need to be outwardly focused, inviting and loving. We need to bring people to church, not so that WE can convert or assimilate them –that is the job of the Holy Spirit. Rather, we need to extend true love; to give them the chance to learn and grow and seek the Truth for themselves to experience new life in Christ. In doing that, we will TRULY be examples of a church with "Open doors, Open minds, and Open hearts."

Peace, David Willis

Outreach/Missions Moment

On March 17th, the Annual Meeting of the District Board of Missions was held at Ebenezer UMC. Representing Beech Grove were Les and Jean Devers, Randy and Janice Morris, Ruth Shumate and Phyllis Goodman.

One of the highlights for Beech Grove was when Ruth presented Bishop Cho and his wife with some of our Easter Eggs --they were both surprised and delighted!



Bishop Young Jin Cho was the Guest Speaker. He has been in office for 6 months and has proven to be a dynamic speaker. His goal was to encourage us to spend more time in our Prayer Life.

He expressed to us his concern about the UMC losing about 10,000 members a month for the last 10 years. Also, that tithing is at an all time low of 3%. Bishop Cho wants all of us to pay attention to this serious reality.

To help with changing this trend, he invites us to spend more time in prayer and meditation--at least an hour a day. He wants us to pray for renewal and revitalization of the United Methodist Church. He suggested that we check our priorities and discipline ourselves to obtain this relationship with God.

He ended his speech by asking, "Have you ever truly loved someone? I truly love Jesus.



One hour of prayer can bring you JOY!

Amen,
Janice L. Morris

April Showers Bring May Flowers...

So, Bring Your Flowers to Church!



Help us adorn our altar each week with blooming examples of God's glorious creation. You don't have to order anything fancy, even fresh-cut flowers or a potted plant will do. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall and help us revive this lovely tradition!

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and had small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked:

"Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?!"



On Memorial Day, please remember all the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

~Monday, May 27, 2013~

