



The Beech Grove STAR



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April - May, 2014

Upcoming Events:

Ongoing thru April 12
Easter Egg Factory
Lend A Hand!

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday

Friday, April 18
Good Friday

Saturday, April 19
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20
Happy Easter

Monday, Apr. 21
Earth Day

Sunday, May 11
Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 13
UMW Chicken Salad
Luncheon

Monday, May 26
Memorial Day

Thursday, May 29
Salvation Army Lunch

More News Inside:

- **UMW News**
- **Scouting Reports**
- **EEF Rolls On!**
- **Holy Week Schedule**
- **2014 Annual Conference**

Pastor's Note

Years ago, in a cartoon strip named "Tumbleweeds," the captain of the fort sent his trusted scout to find out what was up with the Indians in their area.

The scout returned announcing, "Captain, I have lived with the Indians, eaten their food, taken part in their ceremonies and listened to what they have to say."

The captain replied, "What have you to say?" and the scout responded, "Get off our land."

When we truly learn how others live and feel, when we have eaten with them, spent time with them and heard their stories, only then can we truly begin to understand them.

Like that scout, when we truly understand

others, we will begin to identify with them. This is the meaning of the Christ journey, the incarnation of God, who willingly offered his life on our behalf.

What a blessing we will share through our own Holy Week experience; beginning with our Palm/Passion Sunday Precession and services, then celebrating the Last Supper on Maundy

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The Legend of the Easter Lily

Lilies have long been used as a prominent Easter symbol, but do you know why? It often is associated with the Virgin Mary, representing her purity, and having a golden soul. The white petals flowing around the golden anthers conjure the image of a white-robed saint with a heart of gold. In fact, the lily is sometimes known as the "white-robed apostle of hope."

In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is shown extending to Mary a branch of pure white lilies to announce that she is to be the mother of the Christ child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. A legend also holds that after Jesus' resurrection, white lilies were found to have sprung up in the Garden of Gethsemane where he walked and prayed - wherever a tear fell, a lily grew.

No matter the origin of the Easter lily, be sure to order yours to enjoy on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 20th.





Happy Birthday!

APRIL

- 1 Chad Kozoyed
- 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
- 3 Erin Bonney
- 6 Ray Vaughan
- 7 Susan Cherry
- 8 Kathy Dykes
- 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 Spring will ever get here, much less Summer! Even so, May 15th is the deadline to submit items for our next newsletter (June/July).

Easter Lily Orders Due April 6th

There's still time to remember a loved one or honor a friend or family member with a lovely Easter lily this year. Pick up an order form in the sanctuary and submit with \$11 per plant by Sunday, April 6th. Lilies are displayed at the altar on Easter Sunday and may be taken home to enjoy after the 11 am service. All sale proceeds benefit the Choir's music fund.



**On Memorial Day, please remember all the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.
~Monday, May 26, 2014~**



United Methodist Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Keep reading, friends! The UMW reading program welcomes your participation with books and Kindle readers available to lend from our reading shelf in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 22nd at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall where we'll make final preparations for our annual Chicken Salad Lunch. Our monthly meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month, and all ladies are welcomed.

To complement our reading program, we'll also host a Tea & Talk at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 7th to discuss the current book selections.



Scouting at Beech Grove

Girl Scout Troop 5292: After a busy and successful cookie selling season, April's focus will be on our "Helping Hands Food Drive." In May, we are planning a "Me and My Gal" game day at the church to celebrate Mother's Day with our moms!



Boy Scout Troop 16: After a fun winter highlighted by a trip to the Admirals game, a Lumberjack weekend and work on merit badges, we've got a full calendar to round out our programming year. Coming up, we'll support landscaping clean-up efforts at Beech Grove, prepare for our Spring Court of Honor and begin summer camp planning with opportunities to travel to Camp Shenandoah, Camp Powhatan and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Cub Scout Pack 89: Our Blue & Gold Banquet is always a highlight of the year, but a March campout and trip to the Admirals game offered big fun for all our boys and leaders alike. Coming up, we'll spend a couple Saturdays sprucing up the grounds at both Beech Grove and Glebe churches before hosting our Pack 89 Olym-packs chock full of goofball games like pool noodle javelin toss, tug-o-war, chicken sack races, giant ring toss and more! 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.

Passion 2014
 "Believe!"
 A live performance spanning the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ

West Park Church of Christ
 926 Cherokee Rd
 Portsmouth VA
 (757) 488 6680

April 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th 7:00 PM
 and April 19th 2:00 PM

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys!"

Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

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

Serve at the Salvation Army Lunch Thursday, May 29th • 11:00 am

Please consider joining the Mission/Outreach team as they serve lunch at the Salvation Army on Thursday, May 29th at 11:00 am. Dessert donations also are needed and may be delivered to church by Wednesday, May 28th.





The 35th Annual Easter Egg Factory Rolls On!

A dedicated team of folks continues to roll up their sleeves every day for the annual Easter Egg Factory fundraiser. From mixing and rolling to dipping and decorating to boxing and filling orders, we couldn't do it all without you! The Factory operates six days and nights every week for a month to make this epic fundraiser a success, and we still need *your* help. Come join us for an hour or a marathon session, no experience required --we even provide stylish hair nets!

The Factory has enjoyed some local press coverage this year from the *Daily Press* and *Suffolk News-Herald* newspapers (read the articles posted on our Facebook page), and the good word continues to spread! So your time is coveted as we roll into the final weeks of production.

A great big **"Thank You!"** goes out to all those who already have volunteered! This church-wide project produces more than 100,000 delectable treats each year, and the resulting profit allow the church to meet all financial obligations while continuing to do great things in our community and beyond.



Don't miss Beech Grove's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19th • 10:30 am

Kids of all ages enjoy special Easter fun at this annual event! Bring the whole family and friends, too, for light refreshments, indoor games and a giant egg hunt on the church grounds. Children are grouped by age to hunt and should bring a basket to fill with goodies they find!

UMW Chicken Salad Luncheon Tuesday, May 13th • 11:30 am – 2 pm

It's your favorite lunch invitation of the year! Hosted by the United Methodist Women, the annual luncheon includes legendary homemade chicken salad, peach salad, three bean salad, a roll, dessert and beverage. Walk-ins are welcomed, and reservations for groups of four or more are requested by May 6th.

Tickets are \$6.50 per plate or \$7.50 for a super-sized portion. Lunch is available for dine-in or carry-out. Pre-ordered dinner boxes also are available for pick-up from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

For reservations, advance orders or questions, please contact Jean Devers at #638-0755 or JeanDevers@verizon.net.



Pastor's Note (continued from cover)

Thursday, spending time in prayerful contemplation on Good Friday and concluding Holy Week with the grand celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

God is counting on us to represent the interests of Christ around us. We will draw people to us by the simple witness of our way of life – the peace that resides within us will be desired. And we will glorify God from whom the power comes for our lives to have purpose and meaning.

In Christ's Service, *Pastor Keith*



P.S. Thank you to our Beech Grove Church Family for all the prayers, cards and meals for Janet and I during her long recovery. It has been an incredible blessing and humble experience to witness the love of God reflected through our church family.



CAMP RAINBOW CONNECTION

Celebrating God's Love

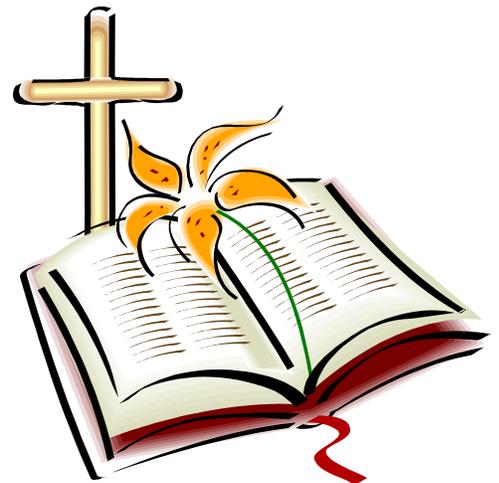
If you have ever thought of connecting with intellectually disabled adults, now is your chance. The United Methodist Conference supports Camp Rainbow Connection held every summer at beautiful Blackstone Retreat Center in south central Virginia. **Each year, a large number of volunteers ages 16 and up are needed** to provide the campers with a much anticipated week-long experience of fun activities and Christian growth. 2014 Camp Rainbow will be held July 5 - 11 and August 9 - 15.

Please consider giving a week of your summer to "go camping" with these very special adults. For more information, call Janice #361-5231 or Alice #467-1892 or contact the Conference Office in Richmond. Additionally, Beech Grove's own Paul Smith and Richard Derring have volunteered and shared about their amazing experience!

Celebrate Holy Week with a series of special services and observances

Following the season of Lent, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Take advantage of the variety of ways to honor this joyous time of year at any or all of our special Holy Week services:

- April 13 – Palm Sunday
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
- April 18 – Good Friday service, 7 pm, sanctuary
- April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 am, church yard
- April 20 – Happy Easter – Christ is Risen!**
 - Early Morning Sunrise Service, time TBA
 - 8:30 am -- Easter Service of Water and Table featuring Holy Communion
 - 11 am -- Service of Easter Day with a special treat for the children in attendance



Rod Vernon Rides in Tour de Cure



Headed for retirement from the Chesapeake School System this year, BG member Rod Vernon isn't slowing down. In fact, he'll keep rolling along with the American Diabetes Association's Annual Tour de Cure on April 26th.

A diabetic himself, Rod is one of the 1,000+ cyclists who'll pedal the 10, 30, 65 or 100-mile circuits from King's Fork High School through Suffolk to raise money in support of ADA's research, advocacy and education programs.

Cheer on Rod and his team of fellow teachers from Western Branch Middle School, aptly dubbed the Bruins Bikers, and click on <http://www.diabetes.org/hamptonroadsvatour> for more information or to make a donation.





Ministry

**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."**

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 today on the bulletin board in the hall and help us continue this lovely tradition!

Special honorary or memorial references will be published in the bulletin upon request.



My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life it's start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem...
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough-
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me .

*Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11, 2014*

New Kits Needed for Conference

As a church, we've traditionally assembled a large supply of health kits to take to the Virginia UMC Annual Conference in the summer. This year is no different with the call to action, but the Mission/Outreach team is instead asking for your support with two "new" types of kits.

Sewing kits foster independence rather than dependence. Women can make clothing in their own size and in the style of their culture. Cottage industries often grow out of the sewing classes where women use these kits to practice valuable income-generating skills. Packaged in a gallon-size sealed plastic bag, sewing kits include:

- ✓ 3 continuous yards of cotton fabric
- ✓ 1 pair of fabric scissors
- ✓ 1 package of needles
- ✓ 1 spool of thread (not travel size)
- ✓ 1 package of 5 - 8 buttons

In other parts of the world, many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. **Layette kits** provide basic supplies for their baby's needs. All supplies are carefully wrapped and pinned inside a receiving blanket and include:

- ✓ 6 cloth diapers
- ✓ 2 diaper pins
- ✓ 2 undershirts or onesies
- ✓ 2 gowns or sleepers
- ✓ 1 sweater or jacket
- ✓ 2 washcloths
- ✓ 2 receiving blankets

If you can assist with providing any of the items for the sewing or layette kits, please deliver them to the church by June 8th. For questions or more information, visit www.UMCOR.org or call Penny Reynolds #488-0444.



Every Day is Earth Day this Summer at Beech Grove

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.

Please contact Joe Bonney (#488-0792) or Rich Stevenson (#538-3717) 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!

2014 Cleaning Bucket Project

Our initial Cleaning Bucket drive last year had a bold goal to compile as many as 25 buckets to send to Virginia Annual Conference. Beech Grove's generosity never disappoints, and your donations of supplies and money brought our grand total to 35!

This year, we're again asking for your support for this Mission/Outreach project to be given at the summer conference in Hampton. Please consider donating a full bucket stocked with sponges, rubber and work gloves, laundry detergent, clothespins, dish soap, scouring pads and trash bags to support areas recovering from natural disasters around the globe. A complete supply list is available at www.UMCOR.org or in the hallway. The buckets will be dedicated at Beech Grove prior to delivery and stored in Louisiana until they're needed in action.

2014 Annual Conference



June 20-22

The Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, VA



The 2014 session of the Virginia Annual Conference is being held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Va., Friday, June 20, to Sunday, June 22. Laity and Clergy sessions will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday. First plenary session begins at 3 p.m. Ending time should be around noon on Sunday.

Housing Information was mailed out from the conference office mid-February. You can access it on the conference website: [vaumc.org / resources / 2014 Annual Conference](http://vaumc.org/resources/2014-Annual-Conference).

Orientation will be held on **June 1st** at Memorial UMC in Virginia Beach.

Kits for Conference

The depot at Sager Brown has indicated that all types of kits are always welcome but there is an increased need for: **Sewing Kits** ~ **Layette Kits** ~ **Bedding Kits**

Kit instructions & patterns can be found on the UMCOR website: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

Kit updates:

- 1) If the **American flag** is depicted on any item (and we're told it is on boxes of Crayola crayons) that flag **has to be removed** simply by tearing it off of the box. Do not simply mark it out: physically remove it. The issue lies with foreign customs and especially the fact that some of our kits are going to Syria and Lebanon. If an item says "**Made in America,**" it is **okay** because many overseas kit recipients don't read English but are familiar with our flag.
- 2) For Health Kits: **Cost for shipping and toothpaste is now \$2.00**. This will be reflected on the next itemized list that gets sent out. As a reminder: **ALL KIT MONEY IS TO BE SENT TO THE CONFERENCE TREASURER.**
- 3) For all other kits, especially School Kits: please **pack ONLY the requested number of items**: pencils, rulers, etc. UMCOR is looking at **EXACT** numbers of items and we can assist in their efforts by following all packaging instructions to the letter. Time and money is lost in repackaging efforts.