



The Beech Grove STAR



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August - September, 2012

Upcoming Events:

Monday, Sept. 3
Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 11
Patriot Day

Saturday, Sept. 22
First Day of Fall



More News Inside:

- Birthdays
- Calendar of Events
- Book Scholarship Recipients
- 5-Talent Academy
- Scouting News
- Annual Conference Report
- School Supply Drive
- Disciple III Class
- Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Fold... *"An Invitation to Harvest"*

Dear Beech Grove Family,

As a church, we have partnered with the 5-Talent Academy as part of a conference-wide event to become more faithful, fruitful servants for our Lord Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that this journey helps us become more aware of the key ministry areas and respond accordingly within our community here at Beech Grove.

Part of this opportunity is to attend day-long continuing education events at a UMC in the Tidewater area. The first event is on Tuesday, October 2nd entitled Ministry with the Poor. Send me a note if you are interested in attending with me, and read more about the 5-Talent Academy inside (page 4).

Thoughts worth pondering,
Pastor Keith

Witnessing About Self-Examination

by David Willis

I recently felt convicted after a friend pointed me to the following "22 Questions." This set of questions has its origin in the spiritual accountability group started by John Wesley while he was a student at Oxford, nearly 300 years ago.

Wesley started the club with his brother Charles, which was mockingly dubbed "The Holy Club" by some. The club members would rigorously self-examine themselves everyday by asking the following questions:

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I'm better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
6. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
7. Do I pray about the money I spend?
8. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

(continues on page 9)



Happy Birthday!

AUGUST

- 2 Brenda Bell
- 2 Kaitlyn Willis
- 8 Chase Magrisi
- 8 Shaina Zirkle
- 10 Pat Mims
- 13 Bill Blackwelder
- 13 Kristi Willis
- 15 Mark Kiessling
- 16 Julie Welch
- 17 Dorothy Blackwelder
- 17 Renee Spencer
- 18 Joanne Derring
- 18 Nathanael Bartholomew
- 18 Charles Goff
- 19 David Welch
- 21 Toni Smith
- 25 Les Devers
- 25 Edith Munson
- 27 Jeff Nicholas
- 28 Melissa Stevenson
- 28 Brenda Thole

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Doreen McIntosh
- 4 Hinton Hurff
- 5 Elizabeth Stevenson
- 6 Eric Magrisi
- 6 Andrew Cherry
- 7 Barbara Hill
- 10 Darrell White
- 10 Susan McCook
- 15 Hunter Kiessling
- 16 Gage Pierce
- 17 Frances Craig
- 18 Lisa Davis
- 19 Lindsay Dykes
- 19 Hannah Hill
- 21 Dorothy Moss
- 23 Bob Spencer
- 24 James Coggins

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



Enjoy the daily devotional guide published by the United Methodist Church. The Upper Room is a global ministry dedicated to supporting the spiritual formation of Christians seeking to know and experience God more fully.

Annual subscriptions are \$6 each or \$12 for a large-print version. To subscribe or renew, contact Sydney Eberwine Tabor at #484-0230.

Linwood Stalls Turns 85 and Takes A Dive!



What a big day Linwood Stalls had recently! Besides turning 85, he took to the skies with Skydive Suffolk to check off a special item on his bucket list: skydiving! You can watch the full video of his tandem dive on YouTube by clicking <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbkA1LNssxU>.

Congratulations, and many happy returns!

More milestone birthdays are coming up, too. Bill Blackwelder marks his 90th next week and his wife, Dorothy, celebrates 93 a few days later. All of us at Beech Grove send our very best wishes!

Looking Ahead: It's time to cool down, and mark your calendar to submit items for the fall edition of our Beech Grove newsletter (October and November) by **Monday, Sept. 17th**.



Beech Grove has joined the social media scene at <http://www.facebook.com/Beech.Grove.UMC>

Thank You!

Thank you to the DISCIPLE I class members for the generous gift certificate to the Surf Rider Seafood Restaurant. It was so sweet and thoughtful!
~Janet Moore



Scouting at Beech Grove

Girl Scout Troop 5292: We celebrated summer with our families at a pool party in Eclipse the end of July. More recently, members sold lemonade outside of the Farm Fresh on Bridge Road in support of CHKD's Lemon-Aid fundraiser in support of children's cancer. Some leaders will be attending a Fall Kickoff mid-August to learn about the changes and activities for the coming year. We all look forward to working with the congregants of Beech Grove in the coming Scouting year!

Sea Scout Ship 16: Well, it's been a busy season for Ship 16! We did some sailing practice on our dinghys and our Hunter 27', Magpie, the last couple of months and worked on our navigation in preparation for our sail up the bay to attend Scoutfleet 2012. Scoutfleet 2012 is the east coast celebration of the 100th anniversary of Sea Scouting.

The crew boarded the 46' ketch Islander and sailed up to Baltimore, stopping in Solomon, MD, to attend the event. We stayed four days in Baltimore to attend a celebratory dinner and dance, provide sea scouting skills demonstrations for the public and enjoy the company of sea scouts from all over the country. After departing Baltimore, we sailed to St Michaels, MD and on to Tangier Island before returning to the Corotoman River off the Rappahanock and driving back to Suffolk.

Additionally, we hauled the Hunter and cleaned the bottom last month and are presently working on the diesel in our Contest 31', Freedom II. Once we get the diesel going, we'll be hauling it out for its bottom cleaning and zinc replacement. We'll also be changing out the head holding tank and repairing our roller furling. Lots to do!

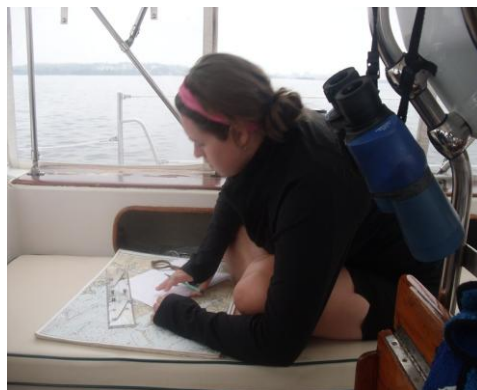
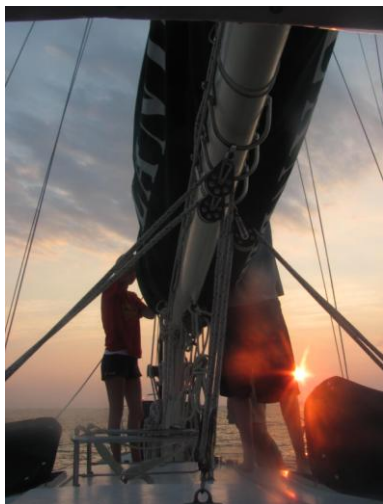
Cub Scout Pack 89: It's been a busy summer! Pack 89 hosted our annual bridging and family camp in June at Historic Ft. Boykins in Smithfield. In total, 60+ cub scouts advanced into their new dens, enjoyed food & fellowship and performed a clean-up service project of the Fort before departing on Sunday.

Sadly, Pack 89 also had to bid farewell to the Dingeldein family at family camp. Jason, Jennifer, Jenna and Joey have been active members of Pack 89 for the last 3 years. Jason recently retired from the U.S. Navy and accepted a new career post in West Virginia. Jason has been a den leader since joining Pack 89 and has also been our most successful Popcorn Kernel on record helping to raise in excess of \$42,000 for scouting over the last 2 years. His wife Jennifer has served Pack 89 as our assistant Kernel and handled the accounting and logistics of our popcorn orders and inventory. Jenna, now 14, has volunteered every Tuesday night for the last 2 years to run Pack 89's "Panda" program. She also attended every local service project as well as assisted with set up for various camps at the district level. Joey, now a Webelos II, is hands-down one of our most spirited scouts. He enthusiastically leads songs and skits within his "rattlesnake" patrol and will be missed next year. Please join Pack 89 in wishing the Dingeldein family farewell and success in their future.

In July, we hosted our annual "Swim Call" pool party and gathered as a Pack family at the Nansemond Swim Club for an evening of fellowship, food and fun in the pool.

Coming up in August, Pack 89 will actively participate with the Driver Business Association in National Night Out, and our Webelos scouts will head to Camp Powhatan for a week in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia.

We'll kick off the new scouting year on September 4th with a welcome back picnic at Beech Grove.



*"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water."
~Loren Eiseley*

5 Talent Academy *(continued from cover)*

A team of pastors and laity from several healthy, fruitful congregations across the Virginia Conference designed this academy for all of us. We will seek to support the achievement of each of the 5 goals by focusing on one goal at a time.

For each topic, we will learn from an inspirational leader, brainstorm customization of concepts with peers, and have opportunity and 24/7 resources

required for our church to multiply its God-given talents. All are welcome to become a part of the 5 Talent Academy designed to help existing congregations grow in fruitfulness and multiplication of ministries, centering on **worship, mission, discipleship, evangelism and stewardship**.

Participation in the 5 Talent Academy is a three-year covenantal agreement in which local congregations "opt in" with a decision by the church council. Churches of all sizes, contexts and stages are invited to be a part of this exciting work. To learn more visit www.vaumc.org/5talent.



Goals of the 5 Talent Academy

Our goals challenge us to be faithful, fruitful servants and are guided by our Wesleyan values and contemporary emphasis upon Vital Congregations.

- 1. Worship:** 5% annual increase in average worship attendance
- 2. Evangelism:** Professions of faith represent 10% of average worship attendance
- 3. Faith Development:** Small group participation represents 50% of average worship attendance
- 4. Engage in Mission and Ministry with the Poor:** 50% of worship attendance serves by actively participating in relational ministries with the poor; % of annual giving supports ministry with the poor
- 5. Stewardship:** 5% annual increase in giving

In addition, we will prayerfully pursue a plan to plant or partner in planting a new faith community in the next five years.



Vacation Bible School Flies High

Each summer, Beech Grove partners with neighboring churches to host Vacation Bible School. This year, it was held at Glebe Episcopal Church, and we were responsible for the Imagination Station.

We had so much fun! We played with balloons, made fizzie things explode, stood inside a large bubble and enjoyed many other activities related to flying to complement this year's "Sky!" theme.

Many thanks to all our young children and adults who participated, and especially our volunteers Lorraine Mims, Sydney Tabor, Helen Freiler, and Kristi and David Willis!

Book Scholarship Recipients Announced!

Beech Grove continues to honor its members attending college with a \$500 book scholarship!

Just in time for fall coursework, two new* and five continuing students were awarded the book scholarship in support of their academic pursuits. Congratulations!

*Kasey McIntosh -- Tidewater Community College

*Lizzie Smith -- Longwood University

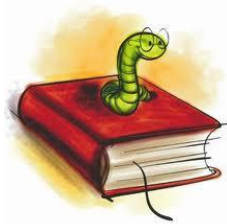
Kaelynn Coggins -- Tidewater Community College

Lindsay Dykes -- Tidewater Community College

Ben Freiler -- Virginia Wesleyan College

Mara O'Keefe -- Tidewater Community College

Seth Sawyer -- Virginia Tech



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."**

Help Our Neighbors Go Back to School with All the Right Tools

Each year about this time, children and their parents begin the process of checking off a lengthy list of supplies for the new school term. But not everyone has the means to provide for all the things they need to be successful. Please consider donating some of the following items in support of our neighboring elementary schools. Collection baskets are available in the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary through the first week of September. For more information, please contact Penny Reynolds at #488-0444.

Driver Elementary

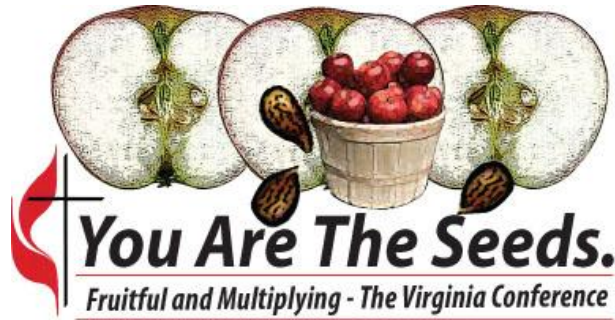
- colored pencils
- 24-count Crayons
- zip-up pencil bag or plastic pencil box
- glue sticks and small bottles of glue
- 1/2" hard cover binder
- dividers for binders
- pocket folders with and without prongs
- Ziploc bags, quart or gallon sizes
- safety scissors
- #2 pencils
- wide-rule loose leaf paper
- 3"x5" lined index cards
- pencil top erasers
- large erasers
- yellow highlighters
- red pens
- dry erase markers
- composition notebooks
- spiral notebooks (70 pages)
- 12" plastic rulers
- page protectors
- boxes of tissue

***Backpacks without wheels also
are needed for both schools***



Florence Bowser Elementary

- colored pencils
- 24-count Crayons
- glue sticks
- pocket folders with and without prongs
- Ziploc bags, quart or gallon sizes
- safety scissors
- #2 pencils
- 3"x5" and 4"x6" lined index cards
- wide and fine-tip washable markers
- dry erase markers
- composition notebooks
- baby wipes and boxes of tissue
- large and small paper plates (no styrofoam)



2012 Annual Conference Recap

David Willis represented Beech Grove during this year's compressed weekend session. Held June 22 - 24 at the Civic Center in Roanoke, Va., agenda highlights included an election, Vital Congregations project report, the Annual Conference offering and collection of health kits for UMCOR. It also was the last conference presided over by Bishop Charlene Kammerer prior to her retirement this summer. David has summarized the highlights in the following report, but you can visit www.vaumc.org for more information and a complete selection of conference activities and results.

- There were over 3,300 in attendance at the annual conference. Overall, VAUMC membership stands at 334,764, down 633 from last year; however, this represented less of a decrease than in previous years.
- There was a 2.2% increase in apportionments collected.
- After eight years, the conference bid farewell to Bishop Kammerer who was recognized as “a sign of hope and grace.” She also was recognized as having “a vision of what the church can be and should be doing ... all with the heart of a pastor and a sense of justice for the poor and disenfranchised.”
- 30 men and women were ordained as elders; 24 were commissioned as provisional members; 29 were licensed as local pastors; 1 was received as an associate member
- A total of nearly 37,000 kits were received at conference with an estimated value of approximately \$475,000! Beech Grove contributed approximately 140 health kits, but overall, there were 19,151 health kits; 11,586 school kits; 3,991 birthing kits; 1,785 layette kits (receiving blanket with baby care items) and 404 cleaning kits (flood buckets).
- For the first time, a consent agenda was adopted to handle much of the business at this year's conference (action items and reports not requiring action by the annual conference, other than a vote to receive the items for publication in the journal, shall be placed on the consent agenda).
- Rev. Tom Berlin, who headed the Virginia delegation at General Conference, described the conference as “embarrassing,” stating that the gathering was best at breeding cynicism.
 - He invited the annual conference attendees to shed their cynicism, set aside broken expectations, and consider our mutual love of the church.
 - Rev. Berlin stated, “You can do good every day, and no one will ever vote you down.”
- Rev. Dr. Young Jin Cho was elected as the Virginia Episcopal nominee for the SE Jurisdictional Conference which begins this week; the SEJC is the conference that elects the new bishops.
 - Rev. Cho asked for prayers for himself, but also for the revival of the UMC, the 15 other (SEJC) candidates, and most of all that God's will be done.
- Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell – representing the retiring class of 2012 - delivered a sermon likening the church to a track meet: the baton is the team symbol, and the key is to pass it successfully. The idea being that the retirees were passing the baton that they had carried on to the next generation.
 - We are supposed to be working to the same goal, with Jesus as our coach.
 - The key point is that “we are not in the race to be winners, but so that *everyone* can be winners” through Christ.
- An offering was taken to support ministries in Mozambique, Brazil and Cambodia, as well as Shalom Farms in Richmond.
- “4 cans 4 conference,” a donation for SW Virginia food bank, collected 13K pounds of food.
- Together, 200 volunteers bagged 45,658 pounds of sweet potatoes for the Society of St. Andrews.

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DISCIPLE III Class Offered in Fall

Thanks to the continued interest in the Disciple Bible Study programs, the very first Disciple III course is planned for this fall!

Similar to the other courses, this level spans 32 weeks of intense Bible reading and study. The Old Testament portion of the class is devoted to study of The Prophets, and the New Testament segment revolves around study of The Letters of Paul.

Pastor Frances Craig and Cindy Eberwine will facilitate the program which is open to anyone who has completed Disciple I. Class is tentatively planned for Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with breaks included for holidays and Easter Egg Factory. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway, or contact Cindy Eberwine if you have questions.



Notes from the Music Director

- ♪ Following a trip to India with her husband, pianist Connie Palmer will return to the 8:30 am service in August --welcome back!
- ♪ We hope you enjoyed the summer break and all the wonderful music of our special vocal and instrumental guests.
- ♪ Choir practice resumes August 23rd. If you're interested in sharing your vocal talents, we welcome you as part of the Praise Band or traditional Church Choir. Please contact Patty Yandle for more information and schedules.

2012 Annual Conference Recap *(continued from page 6)*

- Resolutions were approved for the following:
 - developing an endowment of \$1M over the next four years for Africa University
 - opposing uranium mining in VA
 - opposing capital punishment in VA
 - ending stigmatization of ex-offenders who have “paid their debt to society” by, among other things, restoring their voting rights
 - Time ran out before the last resolution (“On being our brother’s keeper”) could be considered, so it was tabled until next year
- Roanoke DS Steve Hundley delivered a message about stealing “now” by trying to control the future and controlling the past while ignoring the present. We are good about how things used to be. We set goals and then sit around wringing our hands about how we are going to reach our goals for our church, Sunday School, Bible study, etc. It is as if we in the church are waiting for someone to tell us it’s time to start. So while we sit around and watch our membership dwindle and wonder how we are going to make it better, we are ignoring our NOW and we are jeopardizing our future. The time to get going is NOW. We need to understand that we are the church that is open to all, and that the church of Jesus Christ that understands there are those that are hurting and struggling that need the gospel of Jesus Christ. They need to know the love of God, but because they don’t act like us, look like us, or even smell like us, we don’t know what to do. We need to be transforming, changing and understanding who we are and understanding all of the thievery and the larceny that is stealing our NOW has got to end. We need to be a part of what is happening NOW. Because God calls us to a life of losing our lives so that we can gain it.

Lord, forgive us for not being the church you have called us to be. By conviction of the Holy Spirit may we all fall on our knees in repentance for not yearning to fulfill our responsibility to the Great Commission. Father, let us be the seeds sown in the earth to be harvested by you. For when one seed dies it produces much fruit. May we follow wherever you lead us. Give us fresh hope and joy in serving you all the days of

The Genieve Shelter

*Creating a safe and supportive environment
for victims of domestic violence*



**Because love
shouldn't hurt!**

Serving the cities of Suffolk and Franklin, the Town of Smithfield and the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton and Surry.

Our services include a 24-hour crisis hotline; individual and group counseling; court accompaniment; information and referral; transportation; case management; emergency shelter, food and clothing; and transitional housing.

We also have a Life Skills Program, Family Initiative Program, Employment Program and a Children's Program that offers after school tutoring, weekly support groups and recreational activities.

Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

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



When my daughter said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past).

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, she would say, "And all girls." It soon became part of her nightly routine to include this closing.

One night, my curiosity got the best of me, and so I asked her, "Why do you always add the part about all girls at the end of your bedtime prayers?"

She quickly responded, "Because everybody else always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

Treasurer's Report

	May-June '12	Year-to-date
Income		
Plate offering	\$ 29,417.92	\$ 94,111.61
Sunday School offering	0.00	0.00
Building fund	105.00	401.00
Designated/Memorial Offerings	300.00	748.50
Missions	155.00	550.00
Easter Egg Project	6,897.32	107,638.45
Other	\$ 1,359.02	\$ 17,696.22
TOTAL	\$ 38,234.26	\$ 221,145.78
Disbursements		
Operating/program expenses	\$ 11,319.10	\$ 33,120.18
Virginia UM Pension	1,673.46	5,020.38
Portsmouth District UMC	0.00	1,378.75
Virginia Annual Conference	600.00	22,286.00
Pastor/Staff compensation	18,488.75	54,546.10
Other	\$ 3,991.95	\$ 38,233.78
TOTAL	\$ 36,073.26	\$154,585.19



Self-Examination

(continued from cover)



9. Do I disobey God in anything?
10. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
11. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
12. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
13. How do I spend my spare time?
14. Am I proud?
15. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
16. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what I am doing about it?
17. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
18. Is Christ real to me?

“By regularly examining themselves and the motives of their hearts, they (John Wesley and his fellow club members) were able to keep their heart flames burning red hot for the King of Glory!” (Holiness and Spiritual Accountability – John Wesley’s Holy Club’s 22 Questions, www.encountergod.com/sacred-trust-blog.html, 6/30/2010)

I imagine that all of us, to some degree or another, will stand convicted by these questions. The conviction from these questions, though, is not intended to simply make us feel guilty, but rather they are meant to “draw us into the convicting light of Grace and help us move toward the perfecting reality of living like Christ.” (Wesley’s 22 Questions – Am I hypocrite?, www.livingwaterleakingwaders.blogspot.com, 2/27/2012)

Each question begs for an honest reflection. After reading these questions, I couldn’t help but think of God’s question to Adam in the Garden of Eden, when He said to Adam, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9). God already knew the answer then, just as well as He does now. God only asks so that we may consider for ourselves where we are.

So... “Where are you?”

The Little Things

As you honor the 9/11 anniversary this year, keep in mind the little things that saved lives on that fateful day:

- ❖ The head of a company survived because his son started Kindergarten.
- ❖ Another fellow is alive because it was his turn to bring donuts to the office.
- ❖ One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off as planned.
- ❖ One was late because of being stuck on the New Jersey Turnpike due to a car accident.
- ❖ One of them missed his bus.
- ❖ One woman spilled food on her outfit and had to take time to change clothes.
- ❖ One's car wouldn't start.
- ❖ One couldn't get a taxi.
- ❖ One man stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid because he developed a blister en route to work after putting on a new pair of shoes.

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator or turn back to answer a ringing telephone (some of the little things that can annoy me), I think to myself, "This is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment."

The next time your morning seems to be going wrong and you can't find the car keys or you hit every traffic light --try not to get mad or frustrated. It may be that God is at work watching over you.

May God continue to bless you with all those annoying little things, and may you remember their possible purpose, even if it's never revealed to you.



If you need a break from all the political ads on TV, check this one out. You won't know what it's advertising until the end, but you'll enjoy it!

Turn on your speakers, and watch it here: [Stethoscope ad](#).