



# The Beech Grove STAR



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August - September, 2015

## Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 11  
Blood Drive, 3 - 7 pm

Saturday, August 29  
Church Lunch  
& Auction

Monday, Sept. 7  
Labor Day

Friday, Sept. 11  
Patriot Day

Monday, Sept. 22  
First Day of Fall

## Pastor's Note... *Awareness of Faith-Sharing*

The widely acclaimed Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof* has a central part of its message the idea that there is an ever-present God as close to us as life itself. In the little town of Anatevka, Tevye and his family face the frustrations of the present and the uncertainties of the future with a faith that never falters. With one hand uplifted, Tevye talks informally with his God. As he talks, the audience seems to share this presence as a living reality.

Most of us are not actors on a stage, yet all of us are, in a sense, part of a drama in which the presence of God makes a difference. Jesus shared the meaning of this truth through his own life. He showed us a new kind of relationship, which gave meaning to the mundane and suggested the possibility of the extraordinary within the ordinary.

*(continues on page 4)*

## Witnessing about Justification *by David Willis*

Could you answer "yes" to any one of the following questions:

- Are you a good person?
- Have you grown up or spent all your life in church?
- Have you read through the Bible?
- Do you follow the Ten Commandments?

Well guess what? All of that stuff and just about anything else that you can think of does nothing to "justify" or "save" you any more than someone who has never been to church, lived their life in drunken debauchery and "cusses like a sailor."

In the gospels, Jesus says "No one is good except God" (Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19). And in Romans 3:23, Paul says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Even Paul said that Jews – those born and raised as members of God's chosen

people – are not justified by the works of the law (Galatians 2:15-16).

The "law" that was given by God to Moses in the form of the Ten Commandments is simply a diagnostic of our sinfulness; it cannot provide the "cure". The "law" essentially creates space – a chasm if you will - between us and our Holy God. Jesus' death on the cross, though, bridges that gap.



*(continues on page 6)*



## More News Inside:

- Birthdays
- Calendar of Events
- Camp Rainbow Recap
- School Supply Drive
- New Playset Installed
- Book Scholarships



## Happy Birthday!

### AUGUST

- 1 Sam Spencer
- 2 Brenda Bell
- 2 Kaitlyn Willis
- 8 Chase Magrisi
- 8 Shaina Zirkle
- 10 Pat Mims
- 13 Bill Blackwelder
- 15 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
- 29 Brittany Coggins

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Doreen McIntosh
- 4 Hinton Hurff
- 5 Elizabeth Stevenson
- 6 Eric Magrisi
- 6 Andrew Cherry
- 7 Barbara Hill
- 9 Rebecca Hodges
- 10 Darrell White
- 10 Susan McCook
- 12 Tammy Waters
- 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



## Happy Anniversary!

- August 10: Jason & Melissa Bartholomew (19 years)
- August 11: Keith & Janet Moore (37 years)
- August 13: Barbara & Jeff Hill (21 years)
- August 24: Joanne & Richard Derring (52 years)
- Sept. 13: Allison Cunningham & David Pipkorn (7 yrs.)

**Looking Ahead:** It's time to cool mark your calendar to submit items edition of our Beech Grove (October and November issue) by **Tuesday, Sept. 15th.**



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.

## Conference Donations

Serving God through service to others is evidenced by the mission work of our Beech Grove family. Recently, Beech Grove assembled and delivered **187 health kits and 6 sewing kits** to the Virginia Conference. Many thanks to all those who served in the kit assembly/packing and to those who donated completed kits! They'll assist many in need following recent and future natural disasters.

## August 11<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive

*Donations Urgently Needed*

Summertime is the most challenging time of year for donations. While many of us enjoy vacations, the need for blood remains constant with someone in the U.S. requiring a transfusion every two seconds.

On average, the Red Cross must collect 15,000 blood donations every day for patients at 2,700 hospitals and transfusion centers across the country. The organization supplies about 40% of the nation's blood and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to fulfill its mission.

The safe and simple, four-step process includes registration, medical history and mini physical, donation and refreshments (often including homemade sandwiches and Ruth's famous cookies!).

The average adult has about 10 pints of blood in its body. You can help save up to 3 lives by donating just one of yours! Please join us from 3 – 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall and help fill this urgent need today and every 56 days after that.



# Enriching Lives at Camp Rainbow Connection

Some of you may be aware of Paul Smith's trips to Camp Rainbow, but he wanted to share more about his experience with anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to hear about the weeks that he gets to spend with the campers. Virginia United Methodist Church's Camp Rainbow Connection is a week-long respite camp held once in July and once in August for individuals with intellectual disabilities. It began in 1985 with 25 campers and has grown to 120 campers ranging in age from 16 to 80 years!

This year's theme is "Jesus Rocks," and activities include Bible class, music, arts and crafts, games, dancing, fitness, movies and more. Special evening activities include a dance, local Christian band concert and camper talent show. Each camper is paired with a staff "buddy" who is a volunteer.



Coming in for the dance, all smiles



Paul and Richard Derring pose with their "buddies"



Winning a game of Bingo!



Cooking up some fun in cooking class

Paul's touching recollections of his camp "buddies" and how their weeks together have positively impacted his life are worth sharing again and again. So, be sure to ask him about it when you see him, and consider joining him in August or next summer!

## Pastor's Note *(continued from cover)*

To live within this context is to accept each opportunity as God-given. It goes beyond the *feeling* kind of faith to an *acting* kind of faith, with the conviction that God can work through men and women like us.

Such a belief permits us to live far beyond ourselves. It develops within us a concern for others which can enable us to intentionally seek ways to build relationships and have relationships with people who do not have a church home.

These small gatherings are called Elbow activities that center around social events and recreation. Elbow activities are normal, simple, repeatable gatherings that take place primarily outside our church walls. As people get to know and trust us, we then can seek an opportunity to share why our faith is important to us and invite them into the life of our congregation.

Please communicate your Elbow activity(s) to the church office and how we can support you especially through prayer. Inform us on your experience so your Lay Leader and I can try to help you point your guests toward another Elbow activity or small group opportunity. All these efforts will help us become more visible in the community.

There are no easy answers to life, no magic formulas for successful living. There is, however, an inner resource which can bring strength and hope into the experience of an average day. Through the years, we have called this faith. And faith centers on God.

In Christ's Service,  
*Pastor Keith*

## UMM Summer Study Series Wednesdays thru August 26

This summer, the United Methodist Men host a special study series entitled "Get Their Name." Join in any Wednesday for an evening of fellowship and education that includes dinner from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call Jon Morris at #651-9257.



### Church Lunch & Auction Saturday, August 29th

Please contact the church office if you'd like to make a donation to the auction. More event details will follow shortly.

### Fall CommUNITY Picnic Saturday, October 3rd ■ 11 am - 5 pm

Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon sharing food, conversation and playing games. It's a great opportunity to meet the families within our community and at church. Free fun for all ages!

## Volunteers install new outdoor children's play set

A huge THANK YOU is offered to all the wonderful volunteers who helped assemble and install the church's colorful new play set! A dedicated team worked through the heat and the rain to complete the project and have it ready for summer fun. Swing by, and take a peek at our newest addition!



## Book Scholarship Recipients Announced!

Beech Grove continues to honor its members attending college with a \$500 book scholarship. This long-running program has awarded more than \$35,000 since 1997 in support of young members' academic pursuits!

Just in time for fall coursework, five students were awarded the book scholarship on Sunday, July 26th. *Congratulations to all!*

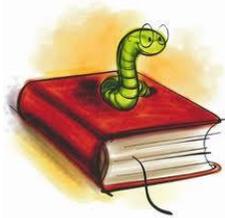
Kasey McIntosh, Old Dominion University

Lizzie Smith, Longwood University

Taylor Doughtie, Virginia Wesleyan College

Hannah Hill, Christopher Newport University

Matthew Price, Tidewater Community College



### 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."**

## School Supply Drive Provides Needed Support for Students at Florence Bowser and Driver Elementary Schools

### Suggested School Supply Items

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Ziploc bags in quart or gallon sizes
- ✓ safety scissors
- ✓ #2 pencils and eraser tops
- ✓ wide-rule loose leaf paper
- ✓ wide and fine-tip washable markers
- ✓ 3"x5" lined index cards
- ✓ large erasers
- ✓ yellow highlighters
- ✓ red pens
- ✓ composition notebooks
- ✓ spiral notebooks (70 pages)
- ✓ 12" plastic rulers
- ✓ boxes of tissue
- ✓ baby or disinfecting wipes
- ✓ small and large paper plates (no styrofoam)
- ✓ Backpacks without wheels

It's already that time again! Back-to-school shopping kicks off with a tax-free weekend on August 7th - 9th. While you're out that weekend and in the coming weeks, please consider adding a few of the items from the list on the left in support of disadvantaged children enrolled at our neighborhood 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.



# Justification *(continued from cover)*

Through faith in Jesus Christ we are justified, which is just another way of saying that we are made righteous. It is because we believe in Christ Jesus that we are justified by faith. What that means is there is nothing that we can physically do to earn our salvation. There is nothing that we can do to make ourselves "right" in the eyes of our perfect God. If it were possible for us to "work" ourselves into Heaven, then we nullify the death of Christ. Instead, we are called to focus our attention on Jesus. His death on the cross was the ultimate atonement for us and satisfies God's holy requirement for justice as a result of our sins. You see, because God is perfect in righteousness and love, He demands perfection.

We will never be good enough on our own. Even if we took all of our best days as a Christian and rolled them into one, without Jesus, the Bible says that it is still like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) to a perfect God. It is only by the blood of Christ that we are made right with God. It is when we ask Christ to come into our lives and let the Holy Spirit work within us that we are made clean and righteous. It is then, when God looks at us, that He no longer sees us, but rather Christ in us.

Are you saved? How do you know? Those are important questions that we, as Christians, should have very definite, unwavering answers for. God knows we are going to stumble and fall, but He also celebrates when we start to take those little steps; making progress. For those of you that have kids or know someone that does, what was the response to a child learning to take its first steps? One step, two steps ... maybe three and fall. Did the parents point at the baby and say "Loser" or did they throw their hands in the air and shout "THEY'RE WALKING!!"? Just like parents pick their fallen children up and coax them to walk some more, our Father in Heaven does the same thing when we surrender all that we foolishly cling to and begin to faithfully walk with Christ. God doesn't lower the bar of His righteousness to suit us, but rather, through Christ we are lifted up to meet His standard. God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us! If He didn't, He would never have sent His son Jesus to die for us on that cross 2000 years ago. It is because of that "gift" that we can run TO Christ, instead of the world, for love, healing and safety.

If you have never truly accepted Jesus Christ into your heart, I urge you today, brothers and sisters, to repent; openly confess your sins to God and prayerfully ask Him to become the Lord of your life. It will require some sacrifice and at times it won't be easy, but your life will be forever changed as a result of it. To get there, though, our daily prayer should resemble the chorus in the song "Empty Me" (by Chris Sligh): "Empty Me, of the selfishness inside, every vain ambition and the poison of my pride and any foolish thing my heart holds to. Lord empty me of me, so I can be filled with you."

Peace, *David*

## Treasurer's Report

	May-June '15	Year-to-date
<b>Income</b>		
Plate offering	\$ 31,168.86	\$ 103,271.95
Building fund	1,100.00	5,357.00
Designated/Memorial Offerings	770.00	4,417.00
Missions	310.00	750.00
Easter Egg Project	5,656.55	110,185.37
Other	\$ 3,390.97	\$ 83,823.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 42,396.38</b>	<b>\$ 307,805.03</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Operating expenses	\$ 14,487.59	\$ 33,244.45
Program expenses	21,798.50	27,537.19
Virginia UM Pension	4,800.10	8,560.30
Virginia Annual Conference	0.00	20,457.00
Pastor/Staff compensation	20,171.49	61,431.48
Other	\$ 2,813.43	\$ 116,245.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 64,431.11</b>	<b>\$ 267,476.03</b>

### Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

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

