



# The Beech Grove STAR



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December '14 - January '15

### Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec. 14  
Cookie Exchange  
12:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 21  
Christmas Cantata  
7 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 24  
Candlelight Service  
7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25  
*Merry Christmas!*

Thursday, Jan. 1  
*Happy New Year!*

Monday, Jan. 19  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday

Saturday, Jan. 24  
Stop Hunger Now  
event, 10 am

### Peek Inside for More News:

- **2014 EEF Dates**
- **Stocking Stuffers Needed**
- **Scouting News**
- **Charge Conference Narrative**
- **UM Day at General Assembly**

## Pastor's Note

It is almost Thanksgiving as I write this article. The Advent season follows immediately as we enter a time of hope and expectation around the greatest gift ever given. The birth of Christ changed the world forever in how Christians respond in the living of their lives.

The entire Christmas season is the most joyous time of the year! Perhaps these Ten Commandments of Christmas will help us focus on the true meaning of the holy season.

May you have a Blessed and Holy Season,  
*Pastor Keith*

### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHRISTMAS

1. Think often of Christ. He is the beginning and end of Christmas.
2. Value gifts both given and received, not for what they cost, but for the love they represent.
3. With your gift, give yourself, for truly "the gift without the giver is bare."
4. Remember that Santa Claus is no substitution for Christ.
5. Let neither the busyness of the season, nor the pressure of things to be done, cause you to forget Christian courtesy, forbearance and patience in contact with sales persons, delivery agents, mail carriers, servants, friends and family.
6. Participate in the services and programs of the church. They are planned to lead us nearer to light and peace and love.
7. Help the needy. Many will be hungry and cold unless you are generous.
8. Spend time preparing your mind and heart and soul for Christmas, even as you spend time shopping, decorating, mailing, and eating.
9. Seek to possess the humility and receptiveness of a little child, as Jesus himself taught us to.
10. "What Matters it Much if Christ is Born, If He is not Born in YOU?"



## Wreaths Across America

Join our scouts as they participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event on **Saturday, Dec. 13th** at the Albert G. Horton Veterans Memorial Cemetery (5310 Milners Road, Suffolk). The laying of 6,000 wreaths begins at 9:30 am and is followed by a formal ceremony to honor our nation's fallen.



Happy Birthday!

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Lynn Felton
- 2 Cindy Eberwine
- 3 Flynn Pipkorn
- 7 Carol Jones
- 5 Jack Meyers
- 5 Janet Moore
- 8 Jim Mackey
- 10 Lisa Price
- 11 Chrissy Callahan
- 14 Nicole Leidel
- 14 Morgan Magrisi
- 15 Mary Hassell
- 21 Jean Devers
- 23 Lorraine Mims
- 23 Jim MacCord
- 25 Jesus Christ**
- 28 Bonnie Bagwell
- 28 Richard Stevenson
- 29 Butch Reynolds
- 29 Sarah Smith
- 29 Stephanie McCook

**JANUARY**

- 1 Keira Zirkle
- 3 Marissa Coggins
- 4 Sheri Bartholomew
- 4 Betty Morgan
- 9 Matthew Eberwine
- 9 Steve Shultz
- 11 Jessica Price
- 12 Jason Smith
- 18 Bryant Goodloe
- 25 Donna Sawyer
- 26 Hannah Bartholomew
- 26 Rue Bagwell
- 26 Janice Morris
- 29 Cameron Willis
- 30 Carol Clarke
- 31 Joe Johann

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

**Youth Gift Wrapping  
Saturday, Dec. 13th**



The to-do list leading up to Christmas is typically flooded with gift and food shopping, baking, caroling, gift wrapping, trips to the post office and much more.

This year, let the Youth Group help you cross one tedious item off your list by wrapping your gifts for you! All materials are provided beginning at 10 am on Saturday, December 13th. Bring your gifts to the Fellowship Hall, and take home festively-adorned boxes and bags to place under your tree! There is no set price for wrapping, and all donations support their programming.

**Coming Soon... EEF!**

While the blessed holiday season is fast approaching, the grand opening of the Easter Egg Factory will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- Feb. 14/21, 2015 Box labeling/making
- Feb. 28, 2015 Factory set-up
- March 2, 2015 Production begins
- March 21, 2015 Last day to place orders
- March 27, 2015 Factory closing/clean-up
- April 5, 2015 Easter Sunday



**Money Matter\$:** Recently, BGUMC added a committee to manage the church's Endowment Fund. It allows present and past members to donate to the church or leave a legacy after their death that will last indefinitely. Only the interest, not the principle, is used for investment. The committee includes Mack Tabor, Cindy Eberwine, Jason Bartholomew and Eric Magrisi. Newly-formed, the committee is in they information gathering stage at this time. For more information, please contact Mack Tabor at #288-1824 or mgt1942@yahoo.com.



**Beech Grove Cookie Exchange  
Sunday, Dec. 14th at 12:30 pm**

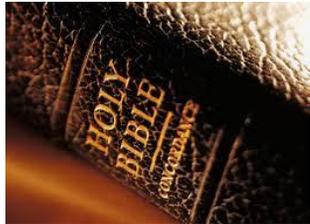
Simply bake and bring 4 dozen of your favorite cookies to trade with the other church bakers and cookie aficionados following the 11 am service. We'll sample and exchange in the spirit of fun and fellowship and toast the season with hot chocolate! Please RSVP to Kristi Willis (kristiw@cox.net or #270-2222).

## Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

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



## Covenant Bible Study Begins Jan. 7



Please join us for our weekly Covenant Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Twenty participants took advantage of our first eight-week session that

centered on "Creating the Covenant." The second session convenes on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, but participation in the first session is not a requirement. In the second segment, emphasis will be on "Living the Covenant" and understanding how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life.



Registration is now open for "Ministry with the Poor" featuring Shane Claiborne. As the visionary leader of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped birth and connect radical faith communities around the world, Shane Claiborne brings a fresh perspective to the practice of ministry *with* the poor.

Shane joins the 5 Talent Academy as the keynote speaker on February 21, 2015 from 9 am - 3 pm at Grace Harbor UMC in Chesapeake.

Do you want to make a difference in your community by partnering with and serving alongside the poor? Then this is the event for you! Bring your outreach team and your chair of missions. Come with your Sunday School class or your UMW. This event is designed for all who desire to be in mission in new and different ways. Group discounts available.

For more information and to register, contact the Virginia UMC Center for Congregational Excellence toll-free at #800/768-6040.



## Scouting at Beech Grove

**Boy Scout Troop 16:** Following a Thanksgiving in the woods outing and a successful popcorn sale, we're headed back to Merchant's Mill Pond in mid-December for a weekend camp and canoe outing at one of our favorite retreats. Some of our boys also will participate in the wreath-laying event at Horton Veterans Memorial Cemetery. We have the Winter Court of Honor and Christmas Gathering planned for Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and are gearing up for a fun winter challenge at the annual Klondike in mid-January.

**Cub Scout Pack 89:** We're revving our engines ahead of the annual Pinewood Derby and will be hosting clinics in the new year to assist with car design and learning how to properly use power tools (with adult assistance!). We'll head to the frozen wastelands of Johnson's Nursery for Klondike in January with the Boy Scouts, and continued work ahead of the Blue and Gold Banquet keeps our boys busy.

**Girl Scout Troop 5292:** Cookie season is coming with a Cookie Rally planned at Beech Grove in early January! We just hosted a "Frozen: Me and My Guy" dance and will participate in an International Tea Party in February.

**Sea Scout Ship 16:** Owning and operating a boat is no picnic with upkeep and repair an ongoing effort. Our scouts enjoy short and long sails learning seamanship and taking in the sights at a variety of destinations. This fall, we raced in the Soggy Bottom Boat Race against other sea scout ships with our custom cardboard boat design, participated in the Hoffer Creek clean up and volunteered at Lancaster Farms Nursery, Farmer's Market and Haunted Barn. We recently celebrated new rank advancements for several members of our crew.

# Beech Grove: A Charter Organization for Scouting



Most everyone in the church knows that Beech Grove is fortunate to host several Scouting units: Boy Scout Troop 16, Cub Scout Pack 89, Sea Scout Ship 16 and Girl Scout (GS) Group 5292. However, of those four, Beech Grove is the Charter Organization (CO) – the “owner” so to speak – of only two of the units: Pack 89 and Ship 16. The Troop is sponsored by the Driver Ruritan Club and the Girl Scout Group is wholly owned by Girl Scouts of America.

Annually, both Pack 89 and Ship 16 have to “recharter” with BSA. As a part of that recharter, Beech Grove agrees to:

- Use Scouting to further the CO’s aims and values for youth,
- Conduct the Scouting program consistent with BSA rules, regulations, and policies,
- Be represented in the local council and the local district by a Charter Organization Representative (COR); the COR for both the Pack and the Ship is David Willis,
- Support unit committees,
- Assure that adults selected as unit leaders are suitable by having the appropriate leaders of the CO review and sign each application (currently the COR does this),
- Ensure appropriate facilities for the unit for its regular meetings to facilitate the aims of the CO and Scouting, and
- Encourage adult leaders to receive additional applicable training made available by the council.

All of our Scouting units – the Troop and GS Group included – should be looked at as “solutions” to our congregational needs. Think about it, the five greatest needs of any church are membership growth, retention, programs, money, and trained volunteers. What are the five greatest needs of any Scouting unit? Believe it or not, they are exactly the same as those of the church!

Beech Grove and Scouting both benefit by having common goals. The church is always looking for young families with kids, new people to train as “leaders” in the church, and more adult male participation. The Scouting units can provide that if approached properly and here is why. The average size of a unit is approximately 30 people. National statistics show that 50-60% of youth in Scouting do NOT currently have a faith home. The parents of these youth are “pre-qualified” as looking for values for their children. With four units here at our church, averaging well over 30 people per unit, that equates to more than 60 potential, pre-qualified families already in our building without a faith home. So how do we as the church capitalize on that?

We capitalize by getting involved in order to develop relationships with those families. One way we can do that is through Religious Emblems programs. Whether you know it or not, we as a church annually offer a Religious Emblems program in the form of God & Country, which is a youth “bible study” so to speak. It is a CHURCH function that is intended to be used by our youth members (UMYF & Sunday School), but sadly it seldom is. It is also extended by invitation to the Scouting units for use in their advancements. Many of those same “pre-qualified”, non-faith homed families referred to earlier, attend these programs. Now combine those numbers with the fact that we offered the program to the entire Scouting District (over 30 additional units) and the potential membership opportunities grows exponentially. The question for Beech Grove is what are we going to do to tap into this mutually beneficial resource? When we as a church body volunteer and get involved it provides a win-win situation for both sides resulting in stronger youth and families, a stronger congregation, and a stronger Scouting program.



## A Host of Musical Events

The music of the Christmas season strikes a chord in our hearts and is often the backdrop for many wonderful childhood memories. Whether it's aroling through the neighborhood or gathering around a relative at the piano at home, music sets the tone for a memorable holiday season.

Don't miss the children of Beech Grove when they share special music at the 11 am service on Sunday, December 21st . The BGUMC adult choir follows suit with their annual Christmas cantata at 7 pm that evening. The program, "The First Noel," celebrates the birth of a king. Light refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall. They'll also provide an encore performance at the 11 am service on Dec. 28th.

If you just can't get enough, Ebenezer UMC (1589 Steeple Drive, Suffolk) has invited us to join them for any of their "A Candlelight Christmas" performances on Dec. 14 at 3 pm or Dec. 15 and 16 at 7 pm followed by a reception in their Family Life Center.



Following last year's successful program, Beech Grove again will collect monetary donations throughout the holiday season to benefit our very own Stop Hunger Now event.

We will package meals as a group in a well-orchestrated assembly line process as a hands-on mission project. Meals cost just 29 cents each and are distributed around the world.

Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$2900.00 so that we can host an event to package 10,000 meals in the new year! Save the date for **Saturday, January 24th**. Set-up is at 8:30 am with assembly beginning at 10 am. Come join us be a part of the effort to Stop Hunger Now!



### 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."**



## Bartholomew Named Gold Star Teacher

Our very own Jason Bartholomew recently was recognized as a Gold Star Teacher at Nansemond River High School when at least one of his classes achieved a 90% pass rate during the previous academic year's bi-annual WISE Financial Literacy Certification Tests. Most of his students are juniors and lack basic financial skills, so his coursework focuses on income, taxes, budgeting, charitable giving, insurance, investing, financial pitfalls and more. Congratulations, Jason!



## **UM Day at the General Assembly** **Thursday, February 5, 2015**

All are invited to United Methodist Day 2015 at the General Assembly! This is an opportunity to help faith communities become empowered to serve as missionaries of justice, as well as the more traditional missionaries of mercy. United Methodist Day and other avenues of faithful advocacy help us to look beyond mercy ministry to ask: "What caused this problem? What causes hunger? Global warming?" By joining together and establishing relationships with our elected officials, we empower members of our congregations to wonder, "How can I make a difference? How can I be a Good Samaritan in our world to its fullest sense?" This event gives congregations a vehicle for reaching beyond themselves and introduces them to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church in a meaningful way.

Presented by the Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society and United Methodist Women, registration is \$25 if received by Jan. 16, 2015, or \$35 until Feb. 2nd. A boxed lunch is provided. Online registration and payment at [www.VAUMC.org](http://www.VAUMC.org) is strongly recommended. Hotel accommodations also are available with a special room rate available until Jan. 23, 2015, and Capitol tours are offered during the day's agenda.

## **A Charge Conference Narrative** *by Pastor Keith Moore*

As I reflect on the past year, three words come to my mind: celebration, witness and community. We have celebrated the addition of 12 members; four were profession of faith and also two baptisms. We also celebrated the lives of three of our members who have moved on to heavenly sainthood and also entrusted 3 other members to other congregations for continued ministry.

This year, Beech Grove held its first STOP HUNGER NOW event. Additionally, a women's covenant group, a wellness covenant group and a new family movie night ministry have begun. Our Easter Egg Factory exceeded expectations. Many other successful, existing ministries continue to be vital as Beech Grove remains faithful to witnessing the message and love of Jesus Christ with each other and the community.

Continuing education opportunities for me have included a Pastoral Care seminar, Ethics training and Five Talent Academy events. This year has been the most challenging year of my life because of the serious health problems of my wife Janet. To care for both her needs and the pastoral needs of this congregation has been a roller coaster ride, to say the least. I am so grateful to this church family for trusting me to work from home as much as possible, caring for my wife and discerning when it was necessary to respond to vital pastoral tasks.

I have certainly struggled in my spiritual life with what good could come from this difficult situation. I am convinced the answer to that question is the fact the members of this church family have stepped up to help care for the ministry of the church much more effectively. This congregation has, and continues to, minister to me and Janet in the form of prayers, cards, love, support and many meals over several months. God continues to bless us all.

The family of God has been "community" to my family, as well as the many families visiting our church, striving to share the love of our Lord with both guests and each other. God is blessing us in wonderful ways as we journey in ministry together. My prayer is for this next year to open up more opportunities for more effective ministry, grounded in faith and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.