



The Beech Grove STAR



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December '15 - January '16

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Dec. 12
Breakfast with Santa
10 am - Noon

Sunday, Dec. 20
Christmas Cantata
& Reception, 7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 24
Candlelight Service
7 pm

Friday, Dec. 25
Merry Christmas!

Friday, Jan. 1
Happy New Year!

Saturday, Jan. 9
UMW Tea & Talk, 3 pm

Monday, Jan. 18
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday

Saturday, Jan. 23
Stop Hunger Now
event, 10 am

Look inside for more news:

- **2016 EEF Dates**
- **Scouting News**
- **Charge Conference Reports**
- **Nominations for 2016**
- **Musical news**
- **Special events**

Pastor's Note

Charge Conference is over and we have made plans for another year of ministry together. My charge conference report is included in this newsletter for your information and reflection. Please note our acceptance, and adopting as a goal, Bishop Cho's *Spiritual Covenant Discipline* that is centered in increased awareness of our prayer life. Prayer is the power source for carrying on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent has begun; is a time of expectation and new beginnings. Will you covenant with God to examine how much time you spend on a daily basis in prayer and spiritual reflection? And will you also set a personal goal to increase your efforts in prayer and spiritual reflection? This practice includes all kinds of prayer, worship and spiritual reading.

Christmas is the celebration of the greatest gift ever given - the birth of Jesus Christ. May you and I accept the charge to give a gift to God in this holy season; increasing the gift of our daily practice of prayer and spiritual reflection.

Hope for a joyful Christmas season,
Pastor Keith



Charge Conference: Pastor's Narrative Report

Our BGUMC plan for ministry "calls us to be a compassionate, nurturing congregation who serves God through prayer, worship, fellowship, study and missions." Striving to live out this calling in the past year has resulted in a 7% increase in worship attendance and a 7% increase in stewardship. Membership has not changed.

We pay 100% of apportionments, support a covenant relationship with a missionary, and reach out far beyond in second-mile giving (refer to Mission, UMW and UMM Reports on pages 5 and 7, respectively).

Our most successful mission celebration raised over \$5,000 to

hold a hands-on meal packaging event for Stop Hunger Now. Ongoing small-group nurturing opportunities expanded by adding a grief support group, a chronic illness/pain support group and a women's small group. Our lay leader and I led an alternative sexuality study encouraged by Bishop Cho that resulted in much diversity and concern. Children in our church and community enjoy the great addition of new playground equipment. The Easter Egg Factory had another extraordinary year, blessing us with more opportunities for mission and building improvements.

(continues on page 6)



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
- 16 Sarah Spencer
- 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*

Wreaths Across America

Volunteer for the annual Wreaths Across America event on **Saturday, Dec. 12th** at the Albert G. Horton Veterans Memorial Cemetery (5310 Milners Road, Suffolk). The event is one of many held nationwide to remember the fallen, honor their sacrifice and teach "every stone has a story."



The laying of 6,000 wreaths at the Suffolk cemetery begins at 9:30 am and is followed by a formal ceremony to honor our nation's fallen.

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. 6/13, 2016 Box labeling/making
- Feb. 20, 2016 Factory set-up
- Feb. 22, 2016 Production begins
- March 12, 2016 Last day to place orders
- March 18, 2016 Factory closing/clean-up
- March 27, 2016 Easter Sunday



Looking Ahead: Are you ready for a new year? Please share any story ideas for the February/March 2016 issue with Robin Magrisi (robinmagrisi@gmail.com or #538.0234) by **Monday, January 18, 2016.**



Bring your children to a workout class designed to fit in a busy mom's schedule! Held from 10 - 11 am on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall, the kids play while the moms enjoy an exercise class.

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 12th • 10 am to Noon

Santa is a jolly fellow, but he needs to start his day with a good breakfast just like the rest of us! Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the season with fluffy buttermilk pancakes, hot cocoa, fresh fruit and more! Of course, Santa will be available for photos, and donations are accepted.

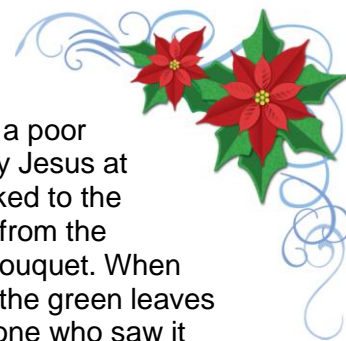


Beech Grove UMC Mission Statement

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



Legend of the Poinsettia



The legend of the poinsettia says that a poor Mexican girl had no gift to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As she walked to the chapel, she picked a handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. When she placed them by the nativity scene, the green leaves burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw it believed it to be a Christmas miracle!

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are often thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. The red leaves represent blood of Christ, and the white leaves represent his purity.

Purchase your own Christmas flowers this year in support of the BGUMC choir! Proceeds underwrite the purchase of choir music. The potted plants are \$10 each and can be ordered in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. Please place your order by **December 13th**. All poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Hymn Story: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

There are several variations on the story of the writing of this hymn, but they all center on the little Church of St. Nicholas in Obendorf, a village near Salzburg, Austria, on Christmas Eve, 1818. They all recount a church organ that wouldn't play and a priest who was determined not to let the broken organ spoil the Christmas Eve service.

In one telling of the story, a band of roving actors came to Obendorf with their Christmas play, which so inspired

Fr. Joseph Mohr that he wrote this song. In another telling of the story, when Fr. Mohr discovered that the organ was broken, he remembered a poem that he had written two years earlier. He took the poem to the church organist, Franz Gruber, who set it to music.

But the story most frequently told has Fr. Mohr discovering that the organ was broken. Distraught over the possibility that the Christmas Eve service might be ruined, he sat down and quickly wrote these verses—and then took them to Franz Gruber, who composed the music.

At this point, the facts are lost in antiquity—and the variations all support a central theme of adversity and inspiration and determination to save the evening. From that point the stories merge into one. Fr. Mohr did write the words for this carol. Franz Gruber composed the music. It was first sung on Christmas Eve, 1818, in the Church of St. Nicholas in Obendorf, and the original accompaniment was a guitar. All the stories agree on those facts.

Later, when Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard the story and obtained a copy of the song. As he went about his business, he made the story and song known to other churches in the region.

Then a family of glovemakers, the Strasser family, came into possession of a copy of the song. As they traveled through the villages in the area selling their gloves, their children would sing songs to entertain passersby and to draw attention to their merchandise --and they added this song to their repertoire. They also sang the song at the Leipzig fair, which spread its fame further.

Then, in 1838, "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" was published in a German Catholic hymnal—and in 1839 the Rainers, another musical family from Austria, traveled to New York City, where they sang "Stille Nacht!" at Trinity Church—and German immigrants brought the song with them and sang it in their churches.

By the time of the Civil War, "Silent Night" had long since been translated into English, and was a Christmas favorite in both North and South. Today it is the best known and loved Christmas carol around the world.





Scouting at Beech Grove

Boy Scout Troop 16: We have enjoyed a great year of camping, canoeing, leadership training and beyond with our boys earning more than 100 merit badges this past summer alone. As we gather for the annual Christmas Court of Honor, we're also incredibly proud of the FOUR young men who obtained their Eagle Scout Rank in 2015! Please help us congratulate:

- **Matthew Werner**
- **Zachary Rood**
- **Dylan Kania**
- **Jay Echols, II**

Cub Scout Pack 89: Another successful popcorn fundraiser is in the bag, and we just wrapped up a Webelos Skills Weekend, Flapjack Fundraiser for our Venture Crew (a co-ed adventure program under the scouting umbrella) and support for the Driver Ruritans' Toys for Tots campaign. Top of the list for the new year is our annual Pinewood Derby race in February, and many of our boys are already busy designing and shaping their speed wagons for the big race!

Beech Grove again will collect monetary donations throughout the holiday season to benefit our very own Stop Hunger Now event, celebrating our third anniversary of participating in this amazing program.

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 \$5,000.00 so that we can host an event to package 18,000+ meals in the new year! Save the date for **Saturday, January 23rd**. Set-up is at 8:30 am, and assembly begins 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."**

Another Way to Help Feed the Hungry Here at Home



The holiday season can be especially hard for some folks to meet all their family's needs. Please take advantage of your grocery store's sales and consider adding a few items to your cart to help keep our Food Pantry fully-stocked into 2016 (*no glass jars, please*). Some suggestions include instant oatmeal, cereal, pop tarts, canned soups and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, chili and canned meats.



Happy Anniversary!

January 25: Bob & Helen Freiler (1986)

Missions Outreach Report for 2015

The **purpose** of Missions Outreach is to raise awareness of opportunities to help others and bring out the desire and commitment of our congregation to become involved in Mission Work.

Missions Outreach Committee consisted of Steve and Brenda Bell, Joanne Derring, Les and Jean Devers, Sydney Eberwine, Rebecca Hodges, Carol Jones, Lisa Price, Penny Reynolds, Butch Reynolds, and Donna Sawyer. The Congregation is a huge support system and the reason for our success in ongoing projects.

Missions Outreach held our second annual **Stop Hunger Now** event on Saturday, January 24th. Sixty volunteers, including adults and children, worked for two hours to fill the bags, weigh them, seal them, and put the completed bags into shipping boxes. We filled 3,103 bags which will provide 18,620 meals.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** has continued to provide hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need of peace and spiritual sustenance. Several times a year, the church sets aside time to bless the shawls being distributed.

This year, Missions added the **Military Heroes Project** chaired by Rebecca Hodges. This ministry provides quilts, blankets, and caps for military members and their family members who are going through chemotherapy treatments at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia.

In February, the annual **“Souper Bowl” Sunday** event provided more than 200 cans of soup that were donated to the Wesley Center in Portsmouth, Virginia.

The **Kits for Conference** annual event was very successful with the donations of 190 health kits and 20 sewing kits.

In June, our annual **Book Scholarships** were awarded to five college students.

Also in June, we raised money for **Imagine No Malaria** through donations and a spaghetti dinner.

Over the summer and into the fall, Missions assisted Beech Grove UMM in the refurbishing of a bathroom in an elderly couple’s home, making it handicap friendly. Missions provided for the supplies needed.

From late August to the first week in September, we held our annual **School Supply Drive**. Yearly, we collect basic school supplies for the two elementary schools near Beech Grove: Driver Elementary and Florence Bowser Elementary. Generous donations included backpacks, construction paper, binders, crayons, dry erase markers, highlighters, composition and spiral notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, and loose leaf paper.

Missions also provided financial support for one of our teens who is a student at Hampton Christian Academy for a **mission trip in 2016** to aid teens who are in need.

Lunch for the Salvation Army was provided in January, April, and July and is currently scheduled for October and December. **Thanksgiving baskets** for the needy will be provided in November (9) and December, and **Christmas stockings** will be filled for the Salvation Army in December.

During this year, our **Food Pantry** has provided basic canned and packaged foods as well as gift cards to Food Lion for the needy in our community. The donations for this pantry are a year-round project.

During November and December, Missions Outreach will also collect a special offering for the **third annual Stop Hunger Now** event to be held on January 23, 2016.

God has blessed us, and we are very thankful for these wonderful individuals who support our ministry.

Respectfully,

Penny Reynolds, Chairman



Pastor's Narrative Report *(continued from cover)*

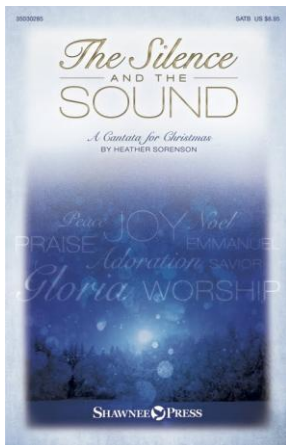
We also finished the second floor access elevator and accessible/family bathrooms on first and second floors. Our second year of Trunk-or-Treat nearly doubled in the number of children who attended. Beech Grove also adopted an endowment policy to help build the future. This past year has resulted in many positive opportunities to build on our commitment to Christ and His Church.

All three continuing education events I attended this year have explored new territory; church leaders reach out to new people, building relationships where they are. Thomas Bandy wrote in his book "Spiritual Redwoods" that we now live in a pre-Christian world. He wrote, "It is a world similar to the first century after Jesus. It is a world of technological change and population migration; a world of systemic injustice and apocalyptic longing; it is a world of excessive materialism and spiritual yearning; it is a world of deep anxiety and utter cynicism toward the religious institutions of the past."

In response to the challenge, "How to Reach New People", I am going on prayer walks in nearby communities, meeting at Panera Bread on Wednesday mornings (Coffee with the Pastor), and holding individual meetings at Starbucks and Cracker Barrel on Monday afternoons. I have even attended ball games and other community events. These opportunities have offered more visibility in the community and possibilities for meeting people where they are. Some members of our church are focusing on establishing elbow activities, trying to hand-off to the next upcoming event. Hopefully more people will join in this effort. New and ongoing elbow activities include a yoga group and No Excuses exercise group. Our first "Breakfast with Santa" event is being planned to target the community.

Beech Grove's Administrative Council accepted Bishop Cho's request to adopt the Spiritual Covenant Discipline. This emphasis on prayer will only make us stronger in living out our plan for ministry and individual spiritual growth.

I continue to care for my physical, emotional and spiritual well-being by setting aside a day from church responsibilities, meeting with spiritual friends (colleagues), and the daily practice of spiritual disciplines to keep me focused. I aim to maintain an intentional exercise routine and healthy nutrition plan. Series preaching has been my new approach in preparing sermons this past year. I am looking forward to fresh possibilities for reaching new people for Christ and His church, as well as the many blessings of serving God and Building the Kingdom as the pastor and spiritual leader of BGUMC.



Beech Grove Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec. 20th 7:00 pm

More than just a retelling of the Nativity, this year's Christmas Cantata explores both the mystery and the majesty of Christ's birth.

Join the Beech Grove congregation as our talented choir sets the tone for one of the most precious holidays on the Christian calendar when they share the sacred songs and beloved carols of "The Silence and The Sound" by Heather Sorenson. The musical evening includes a post-performance reception in the Fellowship Hall.

In case you miss it the first time, the choir delivers an encore performance during the 11:00 am service on Sunday, Dec. 27th.

Christmas at Blackstone

Each year, VUMAC hosts a special Christmas program and this year is no exception! "An Evening at Blackstone featuring The Hunts" showcases the harmony-laced, ethereal alt-folk sounds of seven brothers and sisters from Chesapeake. Read more about their musical stylings, and hear a sneak peek at www.thehunsmusic.com.



A variety of ticket packages are available for their Dec. 12th performance at Blackstone Retreat. Enjoy just the 3:30 pm show or upgrade your ticket with a dinner banquet or overnight lodging and breakfast. Check the hall bulletin board for BGUMC carpool options.



The United Methodist Men has continued the programs established in previous years. While focusing all efforts on

the local community and the church, the UMM specifically attempted to achieve the goal of reaching the local community of “un-churched” people.

The UMM facilitated summer Bible Study series focused on “reaching the unchurched” and how our church parishioners could develop the skill to freely share the daily impact of Jesus Christ in their lives and the personal impact that our church family and our church events and services mean in their lives with friends and community members. A large effort included support of a church picnic which had to be cancelled due to severe weather. Planned activities included all food preparation and service, kids activities, entertainment support and maximum participation of UMM members in the execution of the event.

Our supported ministries include Heart Havens, Camp Rainbow, and Poncho Pals. UMM hosted a Scout Olympics for our Scout Troop’s Cub Scouts, and is currently refurbishing a bathroom for a local family in Portsmouth. Our largest contributions included \$600 each to Heart Havens and Camp Rainbow, \$200 to Poncho Pals, \$200 to refurbish a cooker for church and scout-sponsored events, \$150 for Scout Olympics and free labor for Bathroom remodel project. UMM participated in Church picnic planning and adopt a highway for Driver Lane in Driver, VA. UMM has funded the next two years of UMM Charter.

All normally scheduled fundraisers were executed as donation only events, allowing participants to have all they wanted for free if they didn’t care to donate. Allowing God to bless the events according to his will, the UMM actually raised more revenue from the events than the average from previous years when a set price for the fundraisers was used. A new Pulled-pork dinner fundraiser was added, with a set price for dinners, which was successful in covering the UMM commitments, even though we lost a fundraising event due to inclement weather.

The UMM has met every month this year, normally on the third Saturday morning of the month for fellowship, breakfast and coordination of UMM efforts, including church grounds maintenance and support of church events. UMM supported the installation of the new church playground equipment.

The United Methodist Women started 2015 by donating \$500 to the Stop Hunger Now Campaign.



Our election of officers welcomed Carol Jones as our new president, with all other officers remaining the same.

Fundraising included:

- Annual Chicken Salad Luncheon - \$1,662
- Driver Days Bake Sale - \$424

Additional donations were made to:

- Camp Rainbow - \$300 in memory of Bo Mahon
- UMCOR - \$300
- Beech Grove Missions - \$100 for Imagine No Malaria
- Blackstone - \$68 from Dimes & Dollars

In August, some of us met at the new Taste Unlimited for an enjoyable lunch and great fellowship.

We gave out two recognition pins for Supporting the Causes of the UMW, and the book reading program was a great success.

We are looking forward to more outings and a successful 2016.

The **UMW Reading Program** encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. For 140 years, members of United Methodist Women and predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action.

Beech Grove UMW promotes The Reading Program. We have new books added to our list and posted on the UMW bulletin board in the hallway! Check them out from the shelf along with the other available books --read and learn! Don't forget to sign out the books in the white notebook. Most books are available on Amazon if you would like your own copy.

Keep Jan. 9, 2016, on your calendar when we get together for Tea & Talk to share our views starting at 3:00 pm. It should be informative and offer time for social sharing. So get a book, and start reading!

2016 Nominations

Administrative Council

Ken Sawyer, Chair
Fanita Morris, Lay Leader
Keith Moore, Pastor
Joe Bonney, Trustee Chair (2017)
Cindy Eberwine, Finance Chair
Minta Wood, SPRC Chair (2017)
Mac Clarke, Treasurer
Chuck Rintamaki, Lay Member to Conference
Carol Jones, UMW President
Bill Hodges, UMM President
Bob Freiler, UMYF Representative
Rich Stevenson, Nurture Coordinator
Jim MacCord, Witness Coordinator
Penny Reynolds, Outreach Coordinator
Betty Stevenson, Recording Secretary

At-Large

Joel Davis, 2016 Class
Ali Cunningham, 2017 Class
Joanne Derring, 2018 Class

Nurture Team

Rich Stevenson, Team Coordinator
Joanne Derring, Worship Coordinator
Keith Moore, Pastor
Patty Yandle, Music Director
Robert Daniel, 8:30 Usher Coordinator
Brenda Bell, 11:00 Usher Coordinator
Brenda Bell, Flower Coordinator
Robin Magrisi, Acolyte Coordinator
Donna Sawyer, Communion Steward
Todd Zirkle, Multi-Media Coordinator

Witness Team

Jim MacCord, Team Coordinator
Bob Freiler, CLS
Ruth Shumate, CLS
Jason Bartholomew, CLS
Tammy Waters, Church e-mail
Jason Bartholomew, Facebook Administrator
Kristi Willis, Facebook Administrator
Robin Magrisi, Newsletter Editor
Ethan Daugherty, Webmaster
Sydney Tabor, *Advocate & Upper Room* Representative

Attendance Care Team

Jason Bartholomew, Team Coordinator
Meredith Daugherty, Children's Ministry
Darry Yandle, Children's Ministry Asst.
Ruth Shumate, Prayer Coordinator
Hinton Hurff, Membership Secretary

Nominations & Lay Leadership

Keith Moore, Pastor
Fanita Morris, Lay Leader
Rich Stevenson, 2016 Class
Katrina Coggins, 2017 Class
Cindy Eberwine, 2018 Class

Endowment Committee

Mack Tabor, Chair
Eric Magrisi Cindy Eberwine
John Morris Jason Bartholomew

Building and Grounds Team

Joe Bonney, Coordinator
Rich Stevenson, Assistant

Outreach Team

Penny Reynolds, Coordinator
Sharon Davis Brenda Bell
Jean Devers Les Devers
Lisa Price Butch Reynolds
Carol Vernon Carol Jones
Steve Bell Donna Sawyer
Joanne Derring

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Minta Wood, Chair (2017)
Fanita Morris, Lay Leader
Chuck Rintamaki, Lay Member to Conference
Carol Jones, 2016 Class
Brenda Tice, 2017 Class
Randy Morris, 2018 Class

Record Audit Team

Hinton Hurff
Betty Stevenson
Les Devers

Board of Trustees

Joe Bonney, Chair (2017)
Bill Blackwelder, Honorary Trustee
Mac Clarke, 2016 Class
Betty Stevenson, 2016 Class
Butch Reynolds, 2017 Class
Mack Tabor, 2018 Class
Joel Davis, 2018 Class
John Eberwine, 2018 Class

Finance Team

Cindy Eberwine, Finance Chair
Ken Sawyer, Council Chair
Mac Clarke, Treasurer/Financial Secretary
Minta Wood, SPRC Chair
Fanita Morris, Lay Leader
Chuck Rintamaki, Lay Member to Conference
Keith Moore, Pastor
Joe Bonney, Trustee Chair
Rich Stevenson, District Steward

Hospitality/Events Team

Joanne Derring & Betty Stevenson

Other

David Willis, Alternate Conference Representative
Sydney Tabor, Higher Education Coordinator
David Willis, Scouting Coordinator
Les Devers, IT Support