



The Beacon

April, 2016

Last month, Linda sent me an idea from a quote she had read for this article. I decided to work it up for April. The quote was *"If the Christian faith were like a case of the flu, would anyone be at risk of catching it from you?"* TOUCH!! I began to search the scriptures to see what happened to people who were contagious about their faith. Here are a few of what I found:

In Luke 8:38-39, the man healed from the demons begged Jesus to go with him. Jesus told him to return to his people and *"tell how much God has done for you"*. In verse 39, the man told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

In Mark 1:44-45, Jesus heals a leper and this man talked freely, spreading the news about how he was healed. In two places in John 4, Jesus talked with the woman at the well and told her what she had done. She returned to her village and spread the word. Later in the same chapter, the people came to Jesus because of her testimony. In Acts 3, Peter and John heal a beggar, and in Chapter 5:16, it reads, *"the people brought those who were sick and tormented to Peter and they were healed"*.

Paul was also a person through whom people were healed. In Acts 19, it says that God did miracles through Paul and even the handkerchiefs and aprons that Paul touched were taken to the sick and they were healed. And there are many other acts of miracles which happened because of the faith of a few.

Now, let's get back to the question about our being contagious. One thing we MUST do is to love all the people the way God does. It is easy to criticize others because of their belief, their looks, their tattoos, etc., but Jesus had mercy on ALL people, and only condemned the leaders because they did not care for what the people were going through. In other words, if we are going to be contagious, we must do more than talk about forgiveness, love, compassion, grace, mercy and all. We must demonstrate it in a REAL way.

Are you a CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN? Does the power of Christ in your life infect others to the point that they want to turn to Him? Jesus loves you and me. We can only be contagious if our **actions and comments** SHOW his love through us in our daily encounters with all people. Does God's love show in what you post on Facebook? Does God's love show in your comments about others? Let us be contagious for Christ!

In His service, **Pastor Keith**

"Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Let him who is not in community beware of being alone." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Often, I dream of being alone. Just myself, walking to the crunching of freshly fallen leaves. Just myself, moving against the stiff October breeze. Just myself, hearing the swollen brook babbling down a mountain hillside. Just myself, admiring the swooping circles of the buzzard overhead. In a busy world, solitude is an antidote. But is it attainable? Is it just a dream?

Solitude is necessary for the vitality of a Christian community. We must detach in order to grow. Jesus understood this as he went away from the crowds to pray. In detaching himself from community, he prioritized communing with his Father on a one-to-one basis. Solitude only made Jesus' community of disciples stronger as he was strong in God. If we cannot get away, are we not saying to the community that without us, the community will dissolve? Are we not saying, we are the reason the community exists? No, a community of faith exists because the Spirit makes it so. Solitude isn't just a dream we go to during our busiest times, but it is a spiritual discipline necessary for ourselves personally and corporately in Christian community.

In April, I'll be preaching a sermon series entitled, "Overwhelmed." Our culture worships 'busyness'. Being busy is a prized title for Americans. However, I believe that our 'busyness' is merely a mask for self-importance and is leading to lives unconnected to Christ's offer to have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). Thankfully, the church has a beneficial message to proclaim to those who are overwhelmed. It involves sabbath, solitude, structure, and Spirit. I hope you'll pray for me as I prepare these messages.

In Christ, **Pastor Will**



Apr. 1 – Mae Billow, McKenna Creasey, Beverly Mann, Heather Noel, Vicki Pace
2 – Ben Chapin, Cole Lythgoe, Hilda Taylor
5 – Larry Davis, David Dudley, Raymond Mays, James Richard Worsham

6 – Sarah Hall
7 – William Henry Foote, Tess James, Jerry Lane, Jane Tilley
8 – Hannah Brooks, Will Brooks, Rachel Mustain, Charlotte Sharp
9 – Tray Emory, Stephen Wiley Roach, Karen Tatum, Kelly Elizabeth Taylor
10 – Lauren Brooks, Page Neal Hoover, Jack Lunsford
11 – Sherrie Lizarraga
12 – Jennifer Sadler Daniel, Elaine Johnston
13 – Sarah Ramey, Ashleigh Staneart
15 – John Paul Kutu, Ralph Craig Reynolds
16 – Leonard Lee Lancaster, Allie Malone, Montine Robertson, Seth David Thompson
17 – Connie Beck, Jessica Lyszak, Gillian Staneart
18 – Abigail Conwell, Nancy Goff
19 – Steven Dudley, Cari Walters
20 – Ashley Hart
21 – Karen Myers, Catherine Roberts
23 – Tyler Moats, Susan Payne
24 – Charles Donald Everrett
25 – Cheryl Duffy, Halynn Elizabeth Truesdalem Donald Vaughan
27 – Melanie Huband
28 – Clay Compton, Grady James Speer
29 – Theresa Meadows
May 1 – Chris Anderson, Tim Williams
2 – Donnie Foster
3 – Jaydn Clark, Kristen Wright
4 – Theresa Buckner
5 – Mary Anne Huband

THANK YOU!

Good Morning,

The I. A. staff at Meadowbrook High School and I wish to thank you and your caring ministry for the St. Patrick's Day goodies. I passed them out to the I.A's this morning, and as always, it makes them smile. While I appreciate being included in the goodies, it is not necessary. Maybe we could give the hardworking I.A's a little extra love. Once again, thank you so, so much for your kindness. **Susan Haga, Meadowbrook HS**

Dear Beulah,

Well, dear friends, what a blessing you are to our family and ministry here in Haiti. The amount you collected to supply our medical clinics is amazing. We are so looking forward to handing out all the precious pillows. We will post pictures for you all to see, when we do. Thank you for your faithful support!
The Colemans - Kris, Rach, Anna, Levi, and Lydia

VIRGINIA UM ADVOCATE

“Just Save One”. “Nothing But Nets”. “Imagine No Malaria”. Over the past decade, the UMC has been involved in efforts to fight preventable diseases. The cover articles of the March issue provide a history of our church's involvement in global health initiatives, including a new one, “Every Woman, Every Child”, which plans to improve the health of 15 million children by 2020. The church's goal in this movement is to reach 1 million children. We can do it! We are close to

reaching our goal of \$75 million in the fight against malaria, of which \$1 million was raised by Virginians, and the World Health Organization reports a dramatic decrease in the number of deaths caused by malaria. (If you donated, you were part of this!) As always, this issue offers much more, including coverage of UM Day at the General Assembly.

We began our annual subscription campaign with 14 subscribers, several with subscriptions for multiple years. There were 7 renewals and 1 new subscription, for a final total of 15. The *Advocate* is available at the Welcome Center. Subscribe at any time by calling their office at 804-521-1100.

Barbara Tuttle, BUMC Advocate Rep

CONCERT FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER –

APRIL 9th at Beulah!

The Optimist Club of Greater Richmond Presents:

LYNNE CARNES with Brothers 2

And guest: Shirley Lowry

7:00 pm \$15 per person

600 Conference Kits by Sunday, June 12!

Your UMW has set a goal of 600 kits for Conference. All kits are needed: bedding, birthing, cleaning, health, layette, school and sewing. Whenever you learn of a disaster, when natural or man-made, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there, and you – every group and individual in the congregation – can be there too. Instructions for assembling a kit are available in the collection area of the narthex.

UMUMR GERANIUM SALE

The United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond Auxiliary is selling geraniums to benefit Shalom Farms. The plants are \$4.50 each in 4 1/2 in. pots. The order deadline is Sunday, April 10. Order forms with more information are available on the "Upcoming Events" bulletin board in the outer narthex.

WANTED: Drivers for the Church Van

Training for drivers of the church van will be on **Sunday, April 24**, immediately following the late service. The training consists of a short video plus instruction on how to operate the van's chair lift. All licensed drivers 18 and older can drive the van. Drivers over 70 years will need a statement from their doctor stating there is no medical reason for not driving. Sign up for training in the Narthex today after both services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

New Centurions Dinner Theatre presents:

“The Unusual Suspects”!

Saturday, April 30th 7:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale every Sunday in April!

\$15 per person

LECTIONARY: APRIL

April 3 – Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

April 10 – Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

April 17 – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

April 24 – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

The April Communion Offering will benefit UM Native American Ministries.

Why do United Methodists observe Native American Sunday? We believe that every person and every culture offers unique gifts to refresh the church. Native people are among the poorest and most marginalized of society and also the church. By observing them this first Sunday of April, we afford Methodists the opportunity to become aware of the lives, gifts and ministries of Native people. Proceeds from offerings support Native ministries within conferences, provide educational assistance for Native American in the form of scholarships, and assist with the establishment of urban Native ministries.

PRAYER CALENDAR – APRIL

Blessedness is defined in many ways. Epworth and United Methodist Women bring blessedness by working together to fulfill our mission to strengthen our communities by serving and supporting children, older youth and their families to achieve health, housing, education and employment. *Kevin Drollinger, CEO, Epworth Children and Family Services, St. Louis, Missouri.*

Please pray for our missionaries in Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and those serving at home in California, Colorado and Delaware. *The Prayer Calendar is published annually by the General Board of Global Ministries.*

**VA Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat
For All Women**

The annual Spiritual Life Retreat will be held at Blackstone the weekend of April 29-May 1. The registration deadline is April 25, and the cost depends on whether you come for the day or the weekend. Details & registration forms are on the "Upcoming Events" bulletin board in the outer narthex.

"BEULAH'S BEST" 2016 Trips

2016: Apr. 5-7 (Tues-Thurs): Lancaster, PA, "SAMSON"; May 4 (Wed): Fredericksburg, "MY FAIR LADY"; June 7 (Tues): D.C, Hillwood Museum & Gardens & National Cathedral; Aug. 17 (Wed): Kennedy Center, DC, "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"; Sept. 15 (Thurs): Richmond, Kanawha Canal; Sept. 26-30 (Mon-Fri): NEW YORK, Long Island & Block Island; Oct. 4 (Tues.): "A MONUMENTAL DAY IN DC"; Dec. 10 (Sat): D.C, Kennedy Center – National Symphony Orchestra. Contact Ann Gould for info at 276-2264.



Did you know Beulah has a once-a-month Friday night worship experience? Every month, on the second Friday of the month, Beulah hosts various bands and artists, along with "Beulah Road", our house band, in powerful worship of the living God. We hope you'll join on **Friday, April 8th at 7pm** for a unique and unbelievable worship event!

BEULAH'S BEST APRIL 18th!

Come out and enjoy the music and fellowship!

**NOTICE! NOTICE!
BEULAH SPRING FEST!
APRIL 23 – 8:00 to 2:00**

The annual BUMC Yard Sale will be 'morphing' into the "Beulah Spring Fest" this year to benefit our missions. Everyone is invited to come and share in the fun...Crafters, yard salers, food items, bake sales, or anything you might want to sell. Spaces will be available for \$25. **Individual church groups are welcome, as well as folks in the neighborhood. Please spread the word in the community and to your friends and relatives.** Call Louise King at (804)275-8200 or Sarah Eastwood at (804) 275-2226 to reserve space, or sign up in the reservation book at the Volunteer Desk. Make your checks payable to "Beulah Bazaar Committee". All proceeds will be used for missions.

BEULAH SOCCER SCHEDULE!

Beulah's soccer teams are looking forward to another great season...and you can help! Be there to cheer them on. Volunteer to help out! There is a sign up sheet at the Volunteer Desk. Encourage the kids with your presence and your time. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday! The games have already begun and we've missed a few, but they resume on April 2nd ...here's the schedule!

Week 4	4/2/16	United Training Center 3	10:00am
Week 5	4/9/16	Ironbridge Park 15	8:00am
Week 6	4/16/16	Point of Rock Park 5	8:00am
Week 7	4/23/16	A.M. Davis Elementary D2	10:40am
Week 8	4/30/16	A.M. Davis Elementary D2	10:40am
Week 9	5/7/16	Ironbridge Park 15	12:20pm
Week 10	5/14/16	United Training Center	11:10am

TAX CELEBRATION LUNCH!!!

Complete those tax forms, drop them in the P.O. box, and come on by the Fellowship Hall CAFE' for lunch on **April 15th at 11:30!** Join your friends and neighbors for SOUP & SALAD. Bring along a friend, neighbor, relative and enjoy the fellowship and food. Reserve a table in the reservation book at the Volunteer desk, letting us know if you need a ride. See you there! **The Senior Council**

BEULAH DAY IS MAY 15!!!

Details Coming Soon!



Apr. 5	Administrative Board
Apr. 6	Praise Band Kidz Bells & M&M's
Apr. 7	Ladies' Bible Study Sanctuary Choir
Apr. 8	<i>Friday Nite Live</i>
Apr. 9	UMW Missions Meeting Concert at Beulah for Children's Cancer
Apr. 10	Missions Committee Meeting Men's Chorus Youth
Apr. 11	Men's Bible Study Volunteer Lunch Bells of Praise
Apr. 12	Finance Committee Meeting Mary Farmer Circle Hugging Hearts
Apr. 13	Praise Band Kidz Bells and M&M's
Apr. 14	Ladies' Bible Study Sanctuary Choir
Apr. 15	Senior Council Lunch
Apr. 17	Evangelism Meeting Education Meeting Men's Chorus Youth
Apr. 18	Men's Bible Study Beulah's Best Bells of Praise
Apr. 19	Prayer Shawl Ministry UMM Dinner/Meeting Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
Apr. 20	Circle of Love & Wesleyan-Stratton Praise Band Kidz Bells and M&M's
Apr. 21	Ladies Bible Study Rebekah Fellowship Sanctuary Choir
Apr. 23	Senior Council Spring Yard Sale
Apr. 24	Church Van Driver Training Men's Chorus Youth New Centurion Set Up & Week of Rehearsal
Apr. 25	Men's Bible Study Bells of Praise
Apr. 26	COM Hugging Hearts
April 27	Praise Band Kidz Bells and M&M's
Apr. 28	Ladies Bible Study Sanctuary Choir
Apr. 30	New Centurions Dinner Theater