



December, 2016

BEULAH BEACON

Transforming lives as we seek, share, and serve God.

RECEIVING A GREATER JOY

Jennifer was at the age of 11 and was “too old” to be that excited about Christmas, after all she was now in middle school. However, every chance she got she would check each present under the tree, read the tag would guess what was in it.

As each year before the children were told not to expect too much for this was a hard year.

Jennifer went on to say that even though she had been taught that it was more blessed to give than receive, but she thought that whoever said that was out of their mind. Getting presents was the whole point. It was the reason for the season.

On Christmas morning Jennifer and her siblings waited until Dad told them everything was ready and they could come in. They rushed in and let the wrapping paper fly. She said that she would quickly glance over at what someone else had received but would quickly get back to opening hers.

“Here’s another one for you,” her mom said as she handed her another package. Jennifer looked at it and was confused. She knew every package under the tree and this one was not hers. Then she realized that this was a package that had her mom’s name on it but a new label had been put on it with her name on it in her mom’s handwriting.

“Mom, I can’t...” but was stopped short with a look that she did not understand. “Open it up honey, let’s see what it is!”

It was a blow dryer. Jennifer said that tears came to her eyes when she realized that her mom had given her the gift that was supposed to be for her mom!

Jennifer remembers that Christmas fondly. As an adult with her own children, she understands her mom’s actions. She went on to say that her mom was not “giving up her Christmas” as she had thought, but was really receiving a greater joy by giving up that present for her.

May you remember that the greater joy is in the giving as God gave his Son and as Christ gave his life on the cross for us.

Have a Merry Christmas, **Pastor Keith**

HOLY ANTICIPATION

Have you ever received a gift that you asked for but at the time you didn’t realize that this gift would require something from you?

The first Christmas after Mallory, my daughter, was born I asked for a sewing machine. I didn’t know how to sew but I had a friend that was willing to teach me. I thought it would be easy. It looked easy. I thought, I’ll make Mallory’s clothes, some pillows, and curtains for the house, even gifts. The truth is- sewing is hard! It is not easy to learn, at least it wasn’t for me, and let’s be honest- there is math involved! I’m not great at math and turns out not so great at sewing either. I gave up and ended up giving the sewing machine away about 15 years later. My point is that sometimes gifts require something from you. You have to give a little of yourself to truly experience the benefits of the gift. Gift giving is tricky too.

We get this kind of nervous anticipation, don’t we? Right now, the shopping has begun. You wonder- will the kids like their gifts? Will my husband or wife or mother-in-law? What about the gifts others are buying for me? Will I like them? This can make us a little crazy, this unknown gift. As they begin to appear under the Christmas tree we get a little curious- we might even shake the gift. Come on- I know I have some shakers in the church.

But do we have the same anticipation when it comes to the best gift of all coming? Even though this gift came a long time ago - I still get excited about it. Pastor Peter Zahnd of Word of Life Church in Missouri talks about this anticipation for the coming of Christ. He calls it Holy Anticipation. I love that!

This anticipation is for the gift of Christ coming ... God himself is coming! That’s exciting. May you experience holy anticipation as you await the celebration of the Christ child’s arrival this advent season. Wishing you all the joy and blessings this Christmas!

Grace and peace, **Pastor Marti**

PRAYER CALANDER:

He looked at me and asked if he was really worth and welcome to receive communion. I shared that in our tradition ALL are welcome at the table. He turned around and walked up to the communion table and received communion for the first time in many years. Each day I enter into a sacred story with the communities, congregation and clergy I serve, it is a privilege. Darlene DiDomineck, deaconess Easter Pennsylvania Conference

Please pray for our missionaries in Israel, Palestine and Algeria and those serving at home in Rhode Island, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The Prayer Calendar is published annually by the General Board of Global Ministries.

LECTIONARY:

Dec 04 – Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11 – Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18 – Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 25 – Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrew 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

COMMUNION OFFERING:

United Methodist Family Services

FAITH BUILDER:

“You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”
 – *Linus from Peanuts*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Each month a group of women meet at the church to knit and crochet prayer shawls. The shawls we create are to let those who receive them know that our prayers are with them. Shawls are given to those in need from various causes. Sometimes they go to grieving family members, others go to those facing surgery or recuperating from surgery or a prolonged hospital stay. Many have gone to those suffering from a terminal illness. There are those who need comfort because of a situation that causes them to feel alone in their life's circumstances. Recently we have created shawls for our college students to carry with them to remind them that our church family cares for them wherever they are.

We welcome new people to join us. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month from 1-3:00 p.m. and we gather in the crib nursery of the church. Come join us if you are interested.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

The holidays are quickly approaching. This is when loved ones from far and near come together to enjoy each other's presence. For many the holidays come as a reminder of the friends and family that cannot be with us due to illness, distance, or death. There are various ways we can lift each other up and remember those gone. One way is through the purchase of Christmas Poinsettias that will decorate Beulah this season. Another way is to dedicate an altar flower arrangement during 2017. Very shortly the 2017 calendar will be placed in the Narthex. There you can select a birthday, an anniversary, or that special time for you and your loved one. Each arrangement is offered at the low cost of \$35. You also have the option of taking the beautiful arrangement home after the service. If you have any questions please call Dawn Hall in the church office 804-275-2325.

Kneeling in Bethlehem

A Christmas Presentation

Based on

Kneeling in Bethlehem, by Ann Weems

Director: Sherrie Lizarraga

Accompanist: Anita Adkins

Guest Director: Abigail Cordova

Narrator: Michelle Barclay

Featuring

BUMC 2016 Cantata Choir

Men's Chorus

Bells of Praise

Sunday December 18, 2016
8:30 and 11:00 services

VIRGINIA U. M. ADVOCATE

A pastor once reminded his congregation that when Jesus called his disciples, they were already employed. Our own Pastor Marti answered the call when she was otherwise employed. Former Pastor Linwood Cook entered the ministry as a second career. (And he founded Friends of Barnabas as his third career!) The cover articles of the November issue are written by pastors who answered the call to leave successful careers to enter the ministry. They share how they heard the call and are using what they learned from their previous careers in their ministries. Also in this issue is a tribute to scouting ministries, a description of "emergent worship", and a celebration of the Old Stone Church in Leesburg, Page 11 has just a glimpse of the Spirit that was witnessed at Bishop Sharma Lewis' welcome service and gives the website for viewing the entire service.

You can find the Advocate on the tables in the narthex and at the Welcome Center by the hallway exit doors. Subscribe at any time by calling their office at 804-521-1100.

Barbara Tuttle, Beulah's Advocate Representative

SUCCESS!

Thank you Beulah United Methodist Church!! 142 children in war torn or underdeveloped countries will have a wonderful surprise at Christmas through the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes contributed by our church!! Helping others is such a WONDERFUL way for our church family to begin the holiday season.

CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, November 13, was a beautiful day to walk for your team: Lee Goff, Susan Iglehart, Philip & Bridgette Harrison, Louise King, Dawn Owens, Shirley Pfeil, Debbie & Jonny Phillips, Barbara Tuttle, Carolyn Tuttle & Matt Creecy. Many thanks to Joe Schmierer for driving the Beulah bus. We turned in \$1,634 at the walk, \$75 was raised online, and \$50 in employer matching funds are coming, for a total of \$1,759. Thanks to everyone who supported the team. People you will never meet will praise God for your gifts.

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's best will meet on Monday December 19, at 10:00. Our program will be presented by Sherrie Lizarraga. She will be playing the hand bells. Following the program we will have lunch, please bring a side dish to share and the meat will be provided.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 02-** Youth Retreat
Senior Council Lunch
- Dec 06-** Admin Board Meeting
- Dec 09-** Friday Nite Live
- Dec 10-** New Centurions
- Dec 11-** Mission Committee
- Dec 13-** Mary E. Farmer **Circle**
Finance Committee
- Dec 14-** Hugging Hearts
- Dec 15-** Rebekah Fellowship
- Dec 18-** Outreach Meeting
Education Meeting
Green Acres Garden
- Dec 19-** Beulah's Best
- Dec 20-** Prayer Shawl
Ruth Robertson Friendship
- Dec 21-** Circle of Love
Wesleyan-Stratton
- Dec 24-** Christmas Eve Service
Candlelight Christmas Eve
- Dec 25-** Our Savior's Birth
- Dec 26-** Office Closed
- Dec 27-** Com
- Dec 28-** Hugging Hearts

Mon. 10am: Men's Bible Study

Thur. 10am: Women's Bible Study

FRIDAY NITE LIVE

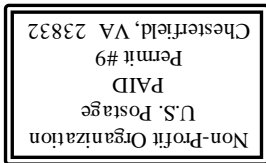
December, 09 Pastor Marti Ringenbach brings us a message of joy.

BIRTHDAYS FOR December

- 01-** Ashton Edwards
- 02-** Joseph Dilday, Joe Schmierer
Elaine Shanks
- 03-** Sonia Gomex, Todd Huband,
Karolyn Soyars,
- 04-** James Castro, Kass Spitzley
- 05-** Martha Everett, Ed Patton, Jim Wade
- 06-** Bill Futch, Tracey Lyons
- 07-** Emma Bradley, Mary Hunt,
Bonfilio Mendoza
- 08-** Barbara Joyner, Denny Quaiff,
Henri Shular, Holly Speer,
- 09-** Brandy Mays
- 10-** Jeffrey Parlier, Marybeth Ramey,
- 11-** Jesse Gerrald, Caitlyn Hastings
- 13-** Kay Garst, Louise King,
Kitty Waldrop
- 14-** Marie Conner, Sharon Robertson
- 15-** David Aldrich
- 16-** Priscilla Bareford
- 17-** Russell Berkley, Donna Smith,
- 18-** Alex Compton, Suzanne Davis,
Lona Dilday, Mike Edwards
- 19-** Florian Costello
- 20-** Linda Mottley, Cathy Turner
- 21-** Willie Moorefield, Jeremy Speer
- 22-** Diane Conner, Donna Harper
- 23-** Michael Arthur, Pat Compton,
- 24-** Evan Mackey, Charles Malone,
- 25-** Jesus of Nazareth, Steve Garton,
Jason Kuti
- 26-** Jeb Harris, Margaret Phelps
- 27-** Otis Fowler, John Harper
- 28-** Ron Mustain
- 30-** Rob Robertson
- 31-** Shannon Coyne

SHERBOURNE CHRISTMAS

Your Beulah Missions Work Area is again supporting the Sherbourne UMC Food Pantry program to provide Christmas meals for the families they serve. We hope everyone will participate in this effort. You will find details on the "Upcoming Events" bulletin board by the hallway exit doors. The deadline is Communion Sunday, December 4. **Please note that completed meal bags should not be left in the food pantry collection area in the exit hallway, but in the sanctuary, behind the communion rail on the band side.** Thank you for thinking of your neighbors in need.



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY**

Return Service Requested
Beulah United Methodist Church
6930 Hopkins Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23234

THANK YOU'S:

To: Beulah UMC Friends

From: Mary Anne Weeks from CCHASM

As we approach the Holiday season, we so appreciate your donation. May the Lord continue to bless each of you with health and abundance.

To: Beulah

From: Laban and Virginia Lauver

We would like to thank all the people in Beulah for their cards of Sympathy in the passing of Laban's sister Dorcas and a special thank you to Keith for his visit.

To: Carol Casler and Aili Lenheart

From: Beulah Kitchen

Many thanks to Carol and Aili who have volunteered to be our "breakfast chefs" on the first Sunday of each month.

The next 6 months the Children's Sunday Classes will cover different lessons from the Deep Blue Curriculum.

January: Jesus is God's son

February: The Parables

March: Jesus Shows Love

April: Hosanna

May: Peter Rock!

June: Courageous Bible People