

May ALREADY? WOW! May is always a busy month with college graduations, college students coming home, preparation for high school graduations, baseball, soccer and lacrosse games, recitals, Mother's Day with the children's program, Beulah Day with Dr. Stamps being our guest preacher this year, Memorial Day celebrations, and this is just the tip of the iceberg!

May has always been a month of beauty with the flowers, warmer weather and usually a better attitude about life, in general, because we can get outside and enjoy nature. It seems to be Mother Nature's way of saying welcome world!

This month our General Conference will meet from May 10 – 20 in Portland, Ore. For those of you who may not know, General Conference is the top policy-making body of the United Methodist Church. It meets every four years to consider revisions to church law as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years.

The Council of Bishops had asked each local Conference to designate one day to be in prayer for the General Conference. These prayer vigils began on January 1st with the Greater New Jersey Conference and are continuing through the 131 days from January 1- May 10, the opening day of conference. This was done because there are 131 conferences throughout the world; each annual conference is able to take one day.

April 10 was the Virginia Conference Day but I hope that you will not stop praying for the actions of conference.

It is important that we continue to pray not just for what happens here at Beulah but across the world. Our General Conference needs our prayers. It needs YOUR prayers. Each prayer is important. Please pray that each delegate will feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and will make decisions based on what is best for the whole church, not just personal agendas. Pray that the decisions will be scripturally based and filled with God's grace to all who will be affected by those decisions. It is important that we as a church and we as Christians continue to base all our actions on scripture and the grace of God.

"Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so..." is a song that is theologically correct. He loves us all. Let us continue to reflect His love for all in our actions and in our words.

Happy May!

In His service, **Pastor Keith**

It was a marvelous treehouse. The boards were pressure treated, the ladder was secure to the tree, and a couple windows allowed sunlight to stream in. My friends and I would eat apples and peanut butter on the floor of the tree house, talking about how yucky girls were and deciding once and for all: Superman or Spiderman.

In that area of the forest, green, fluffy moss proliferated. You could walk along the forest floor like you were strolling through your carpeted living room. I saw an opportunity. Ripping up moss in whole swatches, I pieced the moss together on the floor of the treehouse. At the end of the day, I was proud of my work, and lay contently down on my new flooring.

By week's end, however, something began to happen. The moss began to brown and fall apart. My idea to have a place to lay my head while I read Hardy Boys books in the tree house had died. Realizing my mistake, I returned to original wooden floorboards.

As a pastor, I'm called to equip the saints for ministry. What that means is I'm to train and encourage people to serve God in a multiplicity of ways. I'm to find flooring for the house and to encourage the installation of that flooring. Sometimes, the flooring just doesn't work. Moss needs dirt - I learned that pretty quickly. If you've served in a ministry before and it just didn't work, don't lose heart. Don't think "I'm not useful to God." All of us have a place in the kingdom of God. I'm praying that the Spirit will guide me as I encourage and equip you to serve in the way God's gifted you to serve. Each person is different. Moss is not meant to be carpeting for a tree house. There is a place for it, just as there is a place to serve!

In Christ, **Pastor Will**

PRAYER CALANDER:

Often we get so busy doing the work of the ministry we forget to acknowledge how awesome it is for us to be chosen to be God's hand or feet. We are so busy blessing others we forget that we are blessed to be chosen to help. Amelia Gibbon, Friendly Center, Toledo, Ohio

Please pray for our missionaries in Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain, Latvia, and those serving at home in California, Colorado and Delaware. The Prayer Calendar is published annually by the General Board of Global Ministries.

LECTIONARY:

May 01 – Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

May 08 – Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

May 15 – Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 34b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 22 – Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

May 29 – 1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96, Galatians 1:1-12, Luke 7:1-10

COMMUNION OFFERING:

Society of St. Andrew and Shalom Farms, two missions helping to fight hunger.

FAITH BUILDER:

“There is a basic truth to shifting your life out of reverse and into a forward gear, and it is this: no matter what your circumstances are or what you have done in the past, God loves you with an everlasting love, and He will make your life count for something wonderful, if you will place your trust in Him.”

– **Charles F. Stanley,**
Stuck in Reverse

CELEBRATING BEULAH DAY

Beulah Day is the celebration of the years Beulah UM Church has proclaimed the gospel and served the Lord on the corner of Hopkins and Beulah Roads since starting as a brush arbor in 1883. Our homecoming day has been celebrated in many different ways through the years including outdoor picnics, indoor potlucks, catered lunches, pictorial and historical displays, “This is Your Life” presentations, “Mr. and Mrs. Beulah” honors, live music on the grounds, previous pastors and associates as guest speakers, recognition of 50+ members, and of course, the singing of our beloved hymn, “Dwelling in Beulah Land”.



However this special day is commemorated, Beulah Day is a time for recalling our past as a congregation, and a time for looking towards our future, a time for welcoming back previous members and a time for fellowshiping with current ones.

Come join us on Sunday, May 15 as we celebrate 133 years of service and love. Dr. Stamps will preach at both services and the 11:00 service will be followed by a barbecue & ribs meal with all the trimmings in the fellowship hall. Payment will be by donation, and reservations are not needed, but please sign up in the bulletin so we will have enough tables & chairs for eating and visiting.

The Crystal Lakes Project

The Crystal Lakes project continues with interviews through the month of May. A team of Crystal Lakes teenagers are interviewing their residents with the support of the "go-team" from Beulah. They are asking questions of the residents like "what is good about Crystal Lakes," "do others care about the same things you do?" & "what is your dream for Crsytal Lakes." These interviews not only make people dream again but they connect residents to other residents who are passionate about similar issues. Isolation is being overcome with connection. Along with our dedicated prayer team that meets weekly to pray, in your homes, pray for our interviewers and go-team that they'll stay committed to Crystal Lakes and the building of a better neighborhood.

**600 Conference Kits by Sunday, June 12!**

The chart in the collection area of the outer narthex is already beginning to glow, and the box is ready to receive your donations of help and hope for people struck by disasters, both natural and man-made. Directions for assembling the kits are on the chart. Health and school kits are especially needed at this time. Thank you for being the Hands of Christ in a hurting world.

FRIDAY NITE LIVE

We hope you'll join on **Friday, June 10th**. Pastor Will returns to speak. We will be having special guest musicians "70x7" from Oak Grove Baptist Church.



Children's Musical
May 8th
Mother's Day
8:30am & 11:00AM

Spring Break Work Project a Success!

Wow! Twenty-eight volunteers took part in our project during spring break, working on a Beulah neighborhood home. For 4 days we loaded and hauled trash, replaced windows, played with the kids, removed old cabinets and countertops and installed new ones, and repaired plumbing problems.

A huge shout of appreciation for Louis Corde, who earlier assessed the situation, determined what supplies were needed and procured them, organized and led the work itself. Professionally performing the specialized work were Richard Arnold and David Dudley. These three worked diligently every day.

We are pleased this was an intergenerational team, with Ken, Kass and Lydia Spitzley, and Sarah, Maggie and Andrew Glass taking part, and Kelsey Inman was there every day working with us. D.B. Walston provided his long trailer that Roy Hartless, Barbara Tuttle, Pastor Will and the others loaded and unloaded twice as we spruced up the exterior. Mike..... came by to help assess a plumbing problem.

Oscar Alday and some young men from Beulah's soccer team - Oscar Rivara, Nolvi Garcia, Henry Cortes, and Edwin Villalobos - supplied muscle to carry in the new cabinets and counter top, and also installed a new window

In addition, our kitchen team - Louise King, Sarah Eastwood, Emma Bradley, Tom and Dawn Owens and their two grandchildren - made sure we were well nourished with breakfast and lunch at Base Camp Beulah.

Everything is in good working order, and both parents expressed their appreciation for everything that was done. Thank you so very much, all who participated and otherwise supported this project. - Joanne Barreca

Virginia U. M. Advocate

What is a deacon in the United Methodist Church? The cover articles explain the call to service answered by those ordained to serve in ministry both outside the church and within, taking a leadership role in community outreach and assisting elders pastoring congregations. Deacons Rev. Joanna Dietz and Rev. Roger Dowdy share their stories of answering the call to service. There is an article about the church's need for prayers for discernment, a concern shared by the Bishop in his message. We also read that our own Rev. Lindsey Baynham is now associate director of the conference Center for Clergy Excellence and that UMCOR is preparing for a two- to three-year recovery process for areas impacted by the tornadoes in Virginia. And I'm looking forward to the letters in response to the article on "Pub Theology".

TRUCK DONATION NEEDED

As we set up Long-Term Recovery in areas affected by the Feb. 24 tornado outbreak, we're hoping to find donated trucks for use by our construction folks. We will need three-quarter ton trucks with 4-wheel drive and towing capabilities. The trucks do not have to be brand new. Possible connections for truck donations: car dealerships (obviously), contractors, companies like Dominion Power that replace trucks frequently, etc. If anyone has a connection for potential donations, please have them contact Forrest White at virginiaumvim@gmail.com or on my cell phone (804-938-1026).

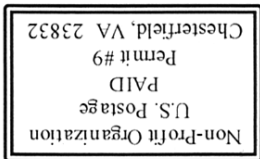
BIRTHDAY'S FOR JUNE

- 01 – Chris Anderson,
- 02 – Donnie Foster,
- 03 – Jaydn Clark,
Kristen Wright,
- 04 – Theresa Buckner,
- 05 – Mary Huband,
- 06 – Abigail Soyars,
- 08 – Virginia Lauver, Andrew Mutemba,
Lindsay Wheatley,
- 09 – Butch Beatty, Phillip Glass
- 10 – John Lancaster, Meredith Smiley,
Sonny Turner,
- 11 – Tracy Christian
- 12 – Nic Ward, Anne Williams,
- 14 – Kristie White
- 15 – Mike Bates, James Harris,
- 16 – Katherine Cordova, David Jones,
- 18 – Anne Jones, Kevin Mason
- 19 – Becky Chapin, Cindy Wyatt
- 21 – Pam Beck, Michael Stephens,
Hope Wallin,
- 22 – Tom Bradmon, David Conner,
Masayo Umermura,
- 23 – Jessica Bates, Jake Brooks,
Zachary Glazier, Inez Johnson,
Mason Leonard
- 24 – Timothy Sanderson
- 25 – Bertha Harvey
- 26 – Betty Robertson
- 27 – Sydney Inman
- 28 – Rose Byers, Jeff Jones,
Norma Tyler
- 30 – Doris Clarke, Iris Payne
- 31 – Diane Kleis

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 03-** Ladies Night Out
- May 05-** Mariners Dinner
- May 10-** Mary E. Farmer Circle
- May 14-** Friday Night Live
- May 15-** BEULAH DAY
- May 16-** Beulah's Best
- May 17-** UMM Dinner
Ruth Robertson Circle
- May 18-** Circle of Love
Wesleyan-Stratton
- May 19-** Rebekah Fellowship
- May 24-** COM

- Mon. 10am:** Men's Bible Study
- Thurs. 10am:** Lady's Bible Study



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY**

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

THANK YOU:

*To: Rebekah Fellowship
From: The Gray Haven Team*

Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for your group's many generous donations to survivors of human trafficking! We have already been able to use many of the items. We are so encouraged by your heart and passion for the people we serve. As I am sure you're aware, we are a small non-profit, so we could not do what we feel called to do without the support of amazing groups like the Rebekah Fellowship Circle.

*To: Volunteers
From: Rebekah Fellowship*

We want to thank everyone that participated on the Annual Tea Fund Raiser for the Gray Haven Project. Here are the totals of what YOU did to help the victims of human trafficking in our area: \$792.00, 2 gift cards, \$350.00 worth of direct gifts from Amazon, and a full back section of Jann's SUV full of gifts. WOW!!!! The people at Beulah (and their friends) rock!!!! How wonderful it feels to know we are supporting and loving those that are victims of human trafficking - spreading love fashioned after Christ's example.

*To: Leon Reynolds
From: Beulah UMC*

Thank you for the donation of rocking chair in memory of Janie. It is appreciated by all.

*To: Sherrie & Beulah UMC
From: Abby Pratt
& Central Baptist Youth Group*

Thank you so much for lending our youth the costumes used for our worship experience, The Table. The costumes added a fantastic creative element and allowed the youth to truly get in character. The experience would not have been the same without them! Thank you again!

*To: Beulah UMC
From: Kitty and Marvin Waldrop*

You are truly thanked for your uplifting prayers, cards, and your calls during my extended ups and downs. You were so kind to visit my sister at the Hermitage Home. As many know she went to live with "Our Lord" the 6th of April. Your thoughtful cards have meant so much. God bless you all!