



September, 2016

BEULAH BEACON

Whose sin is greater?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV) *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

This passage is near the end of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount where many of Jesus' teachings are located. Matthew 7 also includes the passages of Ask, Seek and Knock, the Narrow Gate, and more. Too often we tend to look at someone else and we easily see their wrongs and don't want to see ours, or at least think their sin is much greater than ours. We can easily see the speck of dust in their life but not the plank in ours. Let me ask you though; is the sin of bearing false witness greater than that of the gossiper? Is the sin of homosexuality greater than gluttony (both are life styles)? Is the sin of stealing greater than that of not reporting everything on our income tax return?

From our own perspective it seems that my sin is never as bad as the sin of "others". "My" dirt is cleaner than "your" dirt. This is why Jesus said to look first at your own faults and correct them before passing judgment on someone else. Jesus is saying that I need to deal with my own sins first; or more realistically, allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and correction to my own sins first. Moreover, he went on to say that I am a hypocrite if I condemn someone else before getting myself right with God.

Now go back to the title question, whose sin is greater? The truth is, sin is sin, and all sin separates us from the Lord. The only way for sinners to be saved is through faith in Jesus Christ. We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. We are not saved because of our lifestyle, or because we go to church most every Sunday. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

When you begin to get riled up because of what someone else does, look at your own self and if there is a plank there then work on that and let others work on their own plank!

A quote on Facebook several months ago stated, "Don't judge me just because I sin differently from you!"

Let me conclude with a prayer from the Rev. Peter Marshall, "Dear Lord, when I am wrong, make me easy to change; when I am right, make me easy to live with."

In His service, **Pastor Keith**

Where were you when...?

I was 7 days old when President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas in 1963. (Yes, now you know exactly how old I am!) Growing up, I always heard people use the event of his assassination as a marker in history. I remember people saying, "Where were you when JFK was shot?" Unfortunately this September marks the 15th anniversary of another tragic day in the life of our country. My adult life has been marked by the question "Where were you on 9-11?" These tragic events change us. We are forever altered by the circumstances of the event and must adjust to a new reality because of it.

As a Christian, I was also forever marked and changed by another tragic event that altered my reality. The hymn, *Were You There*, recalls the events of Jesus' crucifixion to the point when they laid him in the tomb. How sad it would be for us if that was the end of the story. We are blessed to know that the story doesn't end there. Jesus rose from the tomb and with that comes a new reality for all who believe in him.

Salvation is a transformative act. Although we may still live with the consequences of our sin, we are no longer defined by our sin. We are defined by our life in Christ. Maybe you don't have a specific date to recall when Christ entered your heart, but you remember the change that happened in your life. The question is, "Where were you when you noticed that change?" May the tragic event of Jesus' death and the joyous occasion of his resurrection forever alter your reality of who you are and to whom you belong. God's love and presence in our lives will always be the guiding force when tragedy strikes. May you remember the events of September 2001 with respect for those who died and love for our God who continues to walk with us through this time of remembrance and healing.

Grace and peace, **Pastor Marti**

PRAYER CALANDER:

Babies cry indignantly when they get their vaccination. They don't know they are blessed. Sometimes our Father's blessings don't seem like blessings right away. We don't know how blessed we are. – *Rachel Gabler, General Board of Global Ministries missionary, DRC-- Congo*

Please pray for our missionaries in Kazakhstan, Macedonia and the Ukraine and those serving at home in Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, and New Mexico.

LECTIONARY:

Sept 04 – Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Sept 11 – Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Sept 18 – Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

Sept 25 – Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

COMMUNION OFFERING:

The Gray Haven Project was established as a non-profit in 2010 by Josh and Andrea Bailey as a program to offer restoration to human trafficking victims within a supportive community. The Baileys have developed a process adaptable to each client's specific needs and have become a resource for law enforcement. Learn more at www.thegrayhaven.org, and give generously.

FAITH BUILDER:

**“Sometimes” said Pooh,
“the smallest things
take up the most room
in our hearts”**

– *A.A.Mile, Whinnie the Pooh*

You Light Up My Life

In the 70's there was a famous song called *You Light Up My Life*. The song didn't become famous until it was sung by Debbie Boone, the daughter of a well-known singer, Pat Boone. The song went “Gold” and the writer, Joe Brooks, won numerous awards. Like the song that touched the hearts of so many, you have been charged to do the same in the lives of those around you. The scripture says that *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; nor does it give light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16-17).

“You are the light of the world,” so LIGHT IT UP. As we read or hear the news each day, the darkness of this world is so apparent. People are looking for a light to shine in all the uncertainties and the disarray around them. And there is a light that they can depend on to see their way through. That light is in you and in me. So, LIGHT IT UP!

Light up the world with love. Unconditional love accepts a person without stipulations. We should love others not because of what they do, but because of who they are: God's creation. When we love others, the light of God brightens their day. When we love others, they feel safe in an unsafe world. When we love others, the glory of God shines through us and others see God in us. Yes, and like that song, you will light up someone's life, his heart, and her world.

Rev. Tracey Lyons

EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR

The excitement of the Fall season has begun. Christian Education is on the move with Promotion Sunday, Confirmation, and a new curriculum called *Deep Blue*.

Promotion Sunday will be on September 11, in the Sanctuary with students moving up from Kindergarten -11th Grade. Children moving to the 3rd grade will receive a Bible that is tailored for their age group.

Confirmation begins September 18-November 6, at 4:15pm each Sunday. We have six students who will be completing the journey of confirming their Faith in Jesus Christ. Please keep them in your prayers. Mentors are needed to help guide our youth through this process.

In Children's Sunday School, a new curriculum is being implemented called *Deep Blue*. The teachers are thrilled about the new activities, lessons, and rotations *Deep Blue* includes.

With all the new changes and events in this fall season, lots of prayers are needed for continued success.

WELCOME BISHOP LEWIS: From the Richmond District Dispatch

A welcoming service of worship for Bishop Sharma Lewis will be held on Saturday, September 17 at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the first African-American woman elected a bishop in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, has been assigned to lead the Virginia Conference for the next four years. She will begin her term of office on September 1. Lewis was the first bishop elected by the 376 delegates at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference which met July 13-15 at Lake Junaluska, NC. She is currently serving as District superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District in the North Georgia Conference.



VIRGINIA U. M. ADVOCATE

Why do we pay apportionments, and where does our money go? What is *The Advance*? Who are our Virginia Conference missionaries? Find answers to these questions and more in the August issue, which includes the annual "Mission Opportunities" insert. There's more, including a wrap-up of the 2016 Annual Conference, thought-provoking letters to the editor, a description of the Five-Day Spiritual Formation Academy, and a farewell message from our beloved Bishop Cho. Finally, there's a photo of newly ordained clergy members, including our own dear Pastor Will. Godspeed, Bishop Cho and Pastor Will! I think we will hear more from both of you!

Pick up a copy of "Mission Opportunities" at the Volunteer's Desk. The Advocate is available at the Welcome Center in the hallway and on tables in the Narthex. Subscribe at any time by calling their office at 804-521-1100.

Barbara Tuttle, Beulah's Advocate Representative

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join United Methodist Family Services on Friday, October 14 at Royal New Kent, 10100 Kentland Trail, Providence Forge, for the 2016 "Fore the Kids" golf tournament to benefit the UMFS Children's Greatest Needs Fund. What is the Children's Greatest Needs Fund? All too frequently, children in foster care with UMFS have been taken from an unsafe or abusive home. They come to UMFS with only the clothes they have on. In these emergency situations, UMFS needs to be able to help the child and immediately provide some basic necessities. Please help empower these children by donating to UMFS's Children's Greatest Needs fund. For more information or to register for the tournament go to or call (855)367-8637.

GREEN ACERS

The Green Acres Garden Club will be traveling to the Great Big Green House on Sept.13 for a tour and gardening advice. We will be delighted to have anyone interested to join us. You DO NOT have to be a GAGC member. We will meet in the church parking lot @ 4 pm and then carpool from there. The tour will begin at 4:30 for those desiring to meet at the Great Big Greenhouse. All are invited.

SARE THE DATE

Richmond CROP Hunger Walk 2016 is Sunday, November 13. Please note this is not the first Sunday, of the month as it has been in the past.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sept 09-** Friday Nite Live
 - Sept 11-** Mission Meeting
 - Sept 13-** Mary Farmer Circle
Finance Meeting
 - Sept 14-** Wesleyan Stratton Circle
Hugging Hearts
 - Sept 15-** Rebekah Fellowship
 - Sept 18-** Evangelism Meeting
Education Meeting
 - Sept 19-** Beulah's Best
 - Sept 20-** Prayer Shawl
UMM Dinner
 - Sept 21-** Circle of Love
 - Sept 24-** Harvester's Quartet
 - Sept 27-** COM
 - Sept 28-** Hugging Hearts
Wednesday Night Dinner
- Mon. 10am:** Men's Bible Study
Thur. 10am: Women's Bible Study
Sun. 4:30pm: Christian Education

UMW DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 24, Worship and Praise UMC, 3006 E. Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23223, Registration 9:30 a.m., Meeting 10:15-11:45 a.m. (Pre-registration not required) Carpool from Beulah 9:15 a.m.

END OF SUMMER LUNCHEON

Join us for a luncheon on Sept 14 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. There will be home cooked food, fun, a little music, and tons of fellowship. Bring along a friend, your spouse, or neighbor. Reserve a table in "THE BOOK" at the Volunteer Desk. The Senior Council

BIRTHDAYS FOR September

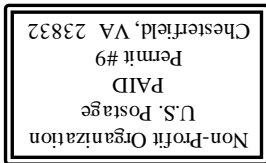
- 01-** Travis Brooks, Ruth Glick
- 02-** Barry Iglehart, Taylor Loftin
- 03-** Kim Dell, Bridgette Harrison, Sarah Inman, Brenda Ridgeway
- 04-** Amanda Collins, Lynne Holicky
- 06-** Betty Wade
- 07-** Pam Collins, Kelsey Cunningham, Bev Roderick, Waylon Smart
- 08-** Shelby Bee, Shane Mims, Kelsey Newton
- 10-** Karen Carter, Kyle Breasey, Morgan Leonard
- 11-** Sandra Goodman, Beth Spitzley, Douglas Walden
- 12-** Jennifer Bowles, Louis Corde
- 13-** Marty Coltrain
- 14-** Stephen Bates, Elizabeth Bowers, James Magee, Bruce Sadler, Maddox Wright
- 15-** Sandra Archer, Walt Hayden
- 16-** Helen Costello
- 17-** Rob Childrey, Ricky Hart
- 18-** Freda Agyeman, Rachel Ammons, Ray McKinney, Elizabeth Quaiff
- 19-** Addie Brooks
- 20-** Parker Eads, Katelyn Garton, Teresa Griggs
- 21-** Keith Mottley
- 22-** Tina Cunningham, Arlene Mays
- 23-** Ryan Moats, Ashley Morgan
- 25-** Will Adams, Diane Clark, Ryder Sadler
- 26-** Gayle Crutchfield, Brad Spencer, Richard Hensel
- 27-** Allan Spencer, Kathy Stearns
- 28-** Michelle Barclay, Jennifer Cary, Michelle Niccoli
- 29-** James Corbitt, Sean Walden
- 30-** Martha Atkinson, Sean Clark, Nancy Cowardin, Kevin Garrett, Bill Payne, Ninna Smith

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet September 19, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will feature vocalist Ronnie Harris (Little Ronnie). We will have a covered dish luncheon afterwards so please bring a meat dish, veggie, or a dessert to share. As always everyone is welcome.

LOOKING FOR A CIRCLE?

Mary Farmer Circle will meet September 13, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not belong to a circle please come and join us and see what we are all about.



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY**

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

THANK YOU'S:

To: Beulah Recyclers

From: Ann Arnold; Recycling Coordinator

Thanks to all who participated in the Recycle #5 Plastics Project. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. Please continue recycling at home. County Recycling and Waste Management now accept recycling of #1 - #7 plastics with your home recycling.

To: Beulah Church

From: Jim Taylor

Thank you for your calls, cards, and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital and recuperation.

To: Beulah Church

From: Pat Compton

To our friends at Beulah. You have truly warmed our hearts with the outpouring or your love and concern for us at the passing our brother-in-law Harold Vance. These sentiments have been passed on to my sister Barbara. It's amazing the power of God's love as it is shown at a time when that love is needed. This is an example of what Beulah Church does because of the care and concern of its members making it truly a church dedicated to the love of God.

 **FRIDAY NITE LIVE**

September 9, at 7:00pm is Friday Nite Live. Join us for this praise celebration as we welcome the Youth Praise Team from Kingdom Life who will join our own praise band. As we explore the parable of the Lost Sheep, we will come to understand that our God will go to great lengths to save those whom he loves. This time of praise and prayer will conclude with Holy Communion. All are welcome at God's table and at Friday Nite Live!

Music Program Start-Ups:

- Sept 08-** Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm
- Sept 11-** Men's Chorus 5:30 pm
- Sept 12-** Bells of Praise 7:00 pm
- Sept 14-** Kidz Bells 6:30 pm
M&M 7 pm
- Sept 15-** Cantata Choir 7 pm