



March, 2017

BEULAH BEACON

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

EASTER

Easter brings a meaningful life and it is a life "Freed by Grace." Romans 11:6 says, "And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace." Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." It is by grace alone and through faith in Jesus Christ that we can give God the glory. When we really meditate upon it, God has "Amazing Grace."

Grace means that we are justified freely by God's own hand, not ours. We have free forgiveness through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and therefore we have reconciliation to God.

We cannot have victory over sin merely by the things we do. All salvation comes by God's grace. It is through grace that even a sinner like me can think about being in a relationship with God, much less think that He cares enough for me to send His Son, Jesus, to die for my sins.

God is willing and wanting to give us all grace. On the Cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ paid the only payment that could purchase your freedom or mine from the bondage of sin.

Let the Holy Spirit of Christ keep you from the cancers of this world. Trust only in God's grace in Christ. May the 2017 Easter season help you to reflect the Grace of God in your words, your actions and your faith.

In His service, **Pastor Keith**

OUR FOCUS

When was the last time you went to a restaurant? Did you have leftovers? Did you take them home? Did you eat them or did they go bad in your refrigerator? Have you ever gone to your pantry, looked in and you didn't see anything that you wanted to eat? Was there food in the pantry but you were just not interested in eating that? Have you ever said, "There is nothing to eat in this house", when in fact there was plenty to eat, just not anything you wanted? I have a friend who calls this the "There is no food in my food complex". There is food but not what you want.

I think we sometimes forget how truly blessed we are. We have a difficult time recognizing blessings because our blessings are so plentiful. It isn't until we experience the absence of blessings that we notice just how blessed we are.

Lent is upon us and many of us may have experienced "giving up" something in past years. Why are we "giving up"? We sacrifice in order to turn our focus on God rather than the "something" we give up. One year I sacrificed watching TV. It was a difficult Lent for me but my prayer life grew much stronger. So this Lent, if you desire to grow closer to God, what are you willing to sacrifice that might be distracting you from your relationship with God? May you take time this Lenten season to focus less on the things of this world and more on the Creator.

Grace and peace, **Pastor Marti**

PRAYER CALANDER:

When we were in the deepest, darkest despair, feeling that because of Ebola the world had abandoned us, Operation Classroom gave us hope. It wasn't the amount-it was the presence. You were there for us, doing what you could to provide hope-with sanitary supplies, with emergency rice rations, with teacher funding and with student scholarships. We thank you for that. Princess Knuckles-Jalloh, Global Ministries missionary, Operation Classroom coordinator, Liberia

Please pray for our missionaries in S. Africa, Zimbabwe, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania and those serving at home in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas and Arizona.

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

LECTIONARY:

March 05 – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 12 – Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 19 – Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 26 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

COMMUNION OFFERING:

UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as “One Great Hour of Sharing”.

FAITH BUILDER:

*When we work for Christ out of obligation it feels like work .But when we truly love Christ, our work is a manifestation of that love, and it feels like love.
— Francis Chan*

THE READINGS FOR MARCH

March 01	Deuteronomy 5-7	March 17	Joshua 22-24
March 02	Deuteronomy 8-10	March 18	Judges 1-2
March 03	Deuteronomy 11-13	March 19	Judges 3-5
March 04	Deuteronomy 14-16	March 20	Judges 6-7
March 05	Deuteronomy 17-20	March 21	Judges 8-9
March 06	Deuteronomy 21-23	March 22	Judges 10-12
March 07	Deuteronomy 24-27	March 23	Judges 13-15
March 08	Deuteronomy 28-29	March 24	Judges 16-18
March 09	Deuteronomy 30-31	March 25	Judges 19-21
March 10	Deuteronomy 32-34	March 26	Ruth 1-4
March 11	Joshua 1-4	March 27	1 Samuel 1-3
March 12	Joshua 5-8	March 28	1 Samuel 4-8
March 13	Joshua 9-11	March 29	1 Samuel 9-12
March 14	Joshua 12-15	March 30	1 Samuel 13-14
March 15	Joshua 16-18	March 31	1 Samuel 15-17
March 16	Joshua 19-21		

WHY “DO” LENT? HOW DO I START?**FROM UMC.ORG**

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to “repent” to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, tv, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some activity like worry or reality tv to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or “fast” from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker, or friend every day of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

VIRGINIA U. M. ADVOCATE

Several years ago, while my family was going through the final illnesses of my parents, a dear friend gave me a prayer shawl. I hugged it to me and burst into tears, surprised and comforted by the impact of being given something so lovingly hand-made. The cover articles of the February issue are filled with stories of the impact prayer shawls and other hand-crafted items have on not only the recipients, but also the crafters. We are so blessed to have our Beulah Prayer Shawl Ministry. The commentary in this issue is about our slogan, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors", seeing it not just as an invitation for others to join us, but as an invitation for us to open ourselves to God. The issue concludes with "A Covenant Prayer", a fitting response to the commentary. There are also articles about an organization helping Afghan refugees who were interpreters for our military forces and some wise New Year's resolutions. Good reading!

The Advocate is available at the Welcome Center. Subscribe at any time by calling their office at 804-521- 1100.

Barbara Tuttle, Beulah's Advocate Representative

SPRING FEST

Spring is right around the corner and the time is drawing near for the annual BEULAH SPRING FEST. The date will be **April 22** from 8 am to 1 pm. It is expanding again this year to include concessions, sponsored by the youth. There will be vendors, yard sales, crafters, and a new addition, BRUNSWICK STEW, cooked right there in the parking lot and will be ready for pickup after 10 am. The price for the stew is \$8.00 a quart and it can be reserved in THE BOOK at the Volunteer's Desk prior to Spring Fest.

This event provides a fantastic opportunity for organizations to do a fund raiser for their missions and projects. The cost is \$25 per space. Tables, umbrellas chairs, etc. are the Renters' responsibility. Space can be reserved by calling 804-275-2325. Set up will begin at 7 am. Anyone who has items left they do not wish to take home can leave them under the breezeway and a thrift store will pick them up.

Help us spread the word, tell your friends, family members, neighbors.
Thank you for your support. The Bazaar Committee

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| Mar 01- Ash Wednesday | Mar 17 - VBS Training Retreat |
| Mar 03 - Mariners Diner | Mar 18- 4 th Annual Gray Haven Tea |
| Mar 04- UMM Dinner | Mar 19 - Outreach Meeting |
| Mar 07 - Green Acres Garden Club | Education Meeting |
| Mar 08 - Hugging Hearts | Mar 20 - Beulah's Best |
| Mar 10 - Friday Nite Live | Mar 21 - Prayer Shawl |
| Mar 12 - Conversation with Alexis | Ruth Robertson Friendship |
| Mission Meeting | UMM Dinner |
| Mar 14 - Mary Farmer Circle | Mar 22 - Hugging Hearts |
| Finance Meeting | |
| Mar 15 - Circle of Love | Mon. 10am: Men's Bible Study |
| Wesleyan Stratton | Thur. 10am: Women's Bible Study |
| Mar 16 - Rebekah Fellowship | Wend. 6pm: Wednesday Night Dinner |

BIRTHDAY'S FOR MARCH

- 01- Jennifer Smith,
- 02- James Barclay, Hugh Coleman, Rosanna Strauss
- 03- Dale Childrey, Backy Taylor
- 04- Cyndi Goforth, Rob Martin
- 05- Bobbie Glick, Carter Mackey, Carole Morris, Diane Patton
- 06- Kenneth Foster, Ronnie Mann
- 07- Joan Garton, Deborah Rhodes,
- 08- Taylor Cunningham, Don Lenhart
- 12- Becky Brooks, Shelby Mays
- 13- James Sponaugle Sr.
- 14- Andrew Kuti,
- 15- Dave Casler, Charles Jenkins Jan Ramsey, Richard Robertson
- 16- Natalia Rengifo, Glynn Soyars
- 17- Gail Conner, Brandi House
- 19- Doris Gilmore
- 20- Faye Arthur, Debby Bates, Brad Conner
- 21- Dylan Ghosh, Linda Taylor
- 22- Susan Iglehart, Betty Poore
- 23- Melissa Gillette, David Kuti, Abby White
- 24- Valerie Glazier, Harvey Griffith
- 25- Gene Coward
- 26- Enos Slaughter, Joan Trovalli
- 28- Allison Sullivan
- 29- Teresa Hart, Laban Lauver, Brad Mustain
- 30- Morgan Cunningham, Angie Dudley, Jewel Turner
- 31- Chuck Snow

CARITAS REMINDER

Beulah will be hosting Caritas **March 4 to March 11**. There will be no Wednesday Night Dinner on March 8.

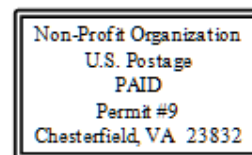
Volunteers are needed to stay overnight, do laundry, and help with unloading and set-up. Sign up and be a part of this important mission by calling the office at 804-275-2325.

4TH ANNUAL TEA FOR GRAY HAVEN

Please join the Beulah UMW for a Tea in support of The Gray Haven Project, **Saturday, March 18**, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Beulah Fellowship Hall. The Gray Haven Project is a non-profit organization committed to providing hope and restoration to survivors of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

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

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY



Return Service Requested

THANK YOU'S

To: Beulah Family

From: Cindy Staneart

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, support, visits, and food during my recent surgery and recovery. Special thanks to Keith and Marti for your hospital prayers and visits. I am so blessed to be a part of such a caring, prayerful church. Love you all!

To: All My Christian Friends at Beulah

From: Cathy Keller

Harry and I want to thank you to all our friends at Beulah for all the delicious food, wonderful cards and especially for your prayers after my knee operation.

To: Ken Pierce

From: Barbra Dudley, Worship chair

Many thanks to Ken Pierce for loaning us two of his "beautiful" stained glass churches that he bought in Europe. They are displayed on the table in the Narthex for all to enjoy!

FRIDAY NITE LIVE

Friday, March 10, at 7:00 PM. Join us as we explore temptation through the story of Jesus' wilderness experience.

CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR ALEXIS

We will have our second conversation with Pastor Alexis in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 am worship service on **Sunday, March 12**. Snacks will be provided. All are invited - please join us! únete a nosotros por favor!

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet **Monday, March 20**, at 10:00 am. Our program will be music and singing by "The Finneys". Come join us for the good fellowship and entertainment.

UMW ANNUAL DISTRICT PRAYER BREAKFAST

The District Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, April 15, at Providence UMC, 901 S. Providence Road, Richmond. Look for details in your weekly bulletins.