

BEULAH BEACON

LAY LEADER REPORT FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Ken and Beth Spitzley

We had the privilege to represent Beulah as delegates to the 241st session of the VA Annual Conference, which took place in Roanoke June 15-17. The theme this year was “United as One in Mission”. We have been delegates since 2020, but this was the first Annual Conference we have attended in person due to its cancellation in 2020, virtual attendance in 2021, and a personal conflict in 2022. Since we had no previous in-person experiences to compare, we weren’t entirely sure what to expect. Overall, it was enlightening in that it educated us as to how the UMC functions.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson officiated during the 2-1/2 day conference and opened on Thursday morning with worship where she spoke on “Going Beyond the Walls of the City”. She reminded us not to look inside the walls of the church to find Jesus, but instead to go out to those who are suffering and troubled, and we will find Jesus there. Communion was offered immediately following worship, and then the business of the conference began. There were approvals of the agenda and minutes, a few elections of secretaries and editors, and many reports given. Here is some of the information shared in several of the reports we heard: Two new faith communities were announced – Provision Church in the Northern VA District, and in our own Three Notch’d District, St. Andrews UMC will launch a Korean language sister congregation. Since October 2022, 107 churches have been disaffiliated under Paragraph 2553. For 70 of these churches, the legal process has been completed. The remaining 37 will be finalized in the weeks to come. Once the process for all 107 churches is complete, the total amount paid to the conference will be \$8.46 million. It was also reported that at least this many churches will be seeking disaffiliation at the final called session on Oct. 7.

There were motions made and voted on, which came out of some of the reports we heard. During the Equitable Compensation Report, discussion ensued on UMC clergy in VA being underpaid, especially in comparison to other states, such as NC. Following the discussion, a motion was raised and approved to increase the minimum salary for full-time clergy in each category by \$1,000 for 2024. Additionally, a motion was also made and approved to appoint a work group to analyze and give new recommendations on housing allowances.

During the Virginia Delegation report, the delegation conveyed their unanimous support of the Christmas Covenant Regionalization Plan. As explained on the VAUMC.org website, *“The Christmas Covenant emerged from the United Methodist Church outside the United States and is built upon the values of “connectional relationships rooted in mission, respect for contextual ministry settings, [and] legislative equality for regional bodies of the church. It is our belief that the Christmas Covenant provides a framework for a healthy and fruitful future for the United Methodist Church – one that honors the glorious diversity of our worldwide connection. The Christmas Covenant would transform the existing Central Conferences into Regional Conferences and create a United States Regional Conference. It would increase the ability of each Regional Conference to adapt the **Book of Discipline** to fit its missional context and create a more equitable structure for our global church.”* The delegation presented a motion to the conference for endorsement of the Christmas Covenant. After a brief period of discussion, the motion was approved. The Christmas Covenant will be presented and voted on at the 2024 General Conference.

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LAY LEADER REPORT FROM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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During the session on Friday, a Service of Remembrance was held to honor 75 deceased conference clergy and laity, all of whom had passed since the last Annual Conference. On Saturday morning, there was a Recognition of Retirees. There were 58 people in the class of 2023 retirees with a combined total of 1,210 service hours. Following this was a Service for the Ordering of Ministry. During this service, 1 certified lay minister and 23 lay supply pastors were recognized, 16 local pastors were licensed, 1 provisional deacon and 12 provisional elders were commissioned (one of which was Beulah's Associate Pastor, Daniel), 1 associate member was recognized, and 1 individual received recognition of orders (former Beulah Director of Christian Education, Tracey Lyons), and 5 elders were ordained (including former Beulah Assoc. Pastor, Jonathan Poarch). We were especially honored to stand in support of Daniel's commissioning!

One of the highlights of the annual conference for us was reconnecting with former Beulah pastors and associate pastors. We caught up with Keith and Linda Mottley, Jonathan and Vanessa Poarch, Marti Ringenbach, and Will Waller. We learned from discussions with others who had attended the annual conference before that this year was a little different from previous years in a few ways. First, attendance was much lower than previous years. With about 1,400 people in attendance, the center was full but definitely not packed. Also noted was the much larger number of retirees for 2023, as well as the lower number of ordained elders. Finally, this year's conference was much more efficiently led, we were told. Many people were pleased that we ran ahead of schedule each day and were recessed for the day before 5:00 on Thursday and Friday, with no evening sessions to attend. This allowed for clergy and laity to spend time together and was received with joy by many attendees. We were happy to see Youth involvement in the annual conference. A group of youth acted out a song played by the worship band, and it was powerful to watch. Several youth stood up to speak during discussions. And towards the end of the conference, the Bishop asked for all who felt God tugging them towards ministry of any kind, to come forward in an altar call. We saw several youth go forward for this. We didn't expect to see any youth involved in the conference, and we were happy they felt included and heard.

Thank you for allowing us to be your delegates to the VA Annual Conference. We are honored to serve Beulah in this capacity.

GILUY-REVELATION

I'm wondering if I have any brothers in this section of the "great cloud of witnesses"? In college I joined a fraternity known as Alpha Sigma Phi. Still a member, our motto is "Causa Latet, Vis Est Notissima.", "The Cause Is Hidden, The Results Well Known." For me, the meaning lies in moving from one phrase to the next. At its beginning, the "why" of joining might be uncertain, clouded, perhaps hidden. As a brother progresses, things become clear, certain and open. Questions have been answered and those answers reveal the man.

Which brings us to this month's Beacon and our word "giluy" (geeloo/y). The English translation is "revelation". Definitions range from "discovery" to "uncovering" both of which involve finding something, learning something. Knowledge is given. We could almost say someone has that "lightbulb" experience called "epiphany".

Jesus, Yeshua, came as the physical embodiment of God and God's word and will, the revelation of God in the flesh. The book of Revelation is associated with the end of time because, along with Daniel and other prophets, the apostle John has had these "closing of the age" events revealed to him by God. Even so, some things have been kept hidden. What and why is to be announced. When, only the Father, Abba, knows. He is in control. However you might take it, we have been warned. Shalom.

DANIEL & KARIS' WEDDING RECEPTION FOR BEULAH UMC

As excitedly mentioned, all Beulah UMC members are cordially invited to the wedding ceremony of Daniel and Karis on **Saturday, July 8**, at 3:00 pm. Beulah UMC members are also invited to the Beulah reception on **Monday, July 10**, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all who plan to attend to sign up at the Information Center so that we can get a headcount! Thank you.



MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I have chosen to give the history behind two great Contemporary Christian Music songs for the month of July 2023. They are *Goodness of God* and *We Will Glorify*.

Goodness of God was inspired by the adoption of Jenn Johnson’s 4th son. Parts of this song came to her while she was driving down a long country road thinking about God’s goodness. She began singing impromptu into her phone. The song was developed by Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jason Ingram, Brian Johnson and Jenn Johnson. The song was nominated in 2020 for the GMA Dove Award Worship Recording Song of the Year. Cece Winan’s rendition of the song “The Goodness of God” was also nominated at the GMA Dove Award Contemporary Gospel Song of the Year in 2022. Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia The Goodness of God 30 May, 2013, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodness_of_God#:~:text=Jenn%20Johnson%20shared%20with%20Fox,developed%20from%20the%20impromptu%20recording

We Will Glorify was written by Twila Paris who was inspired by Psalms and Revelations in 1982. At a young age she was singing in church, her father was the minister and also a songwriter. After graduating from high school, she completed one year of Bible school before focusing on Christian composition and singing. She says that when God calls us to do something, he enables us. She has released 22 albums and has amassed 33 number one singles. She was named Gospel Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year, 3 times. She has received five Dove Awards and three American Songwriter Awards. History of Hymns: “We Will Glorify” drawn from Psalms and Revelation, Dr. Hawn, 30 May, 2013, Discipleship Ministries UMC <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-we-will-glorify-draws-from-psalms-revelation>

TOWN HALL MEETING

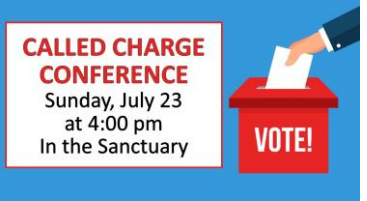


There will be a Town Hall meeting held on **Thursday, July 13**, at 6:30 pm in the church Sanctuary. This Town Hall will be to discuss the Disaffiliation Agreement (including the total cost)

as well as details about the July 23, vote. The Finance Committee has been working on a plan (or money source) for the disaffiliation cost and this plan will be presented during this Town Hall meeting. It is a great blessing to also announce that significant financial gifts have already been received to help offset the total cost of the Disaffiliation Agreement. Please reach out to Louis Corde, Chuck Salmon, Beth Spitzely, or Pastor Don if you have any questions.

CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE

There will be a Called Church Conference of the Beulah United Methodist Church on **Sunday, July 23, 2023** at 4:00 pm in the church sanctuary. The



purpose of this Called Church Conference is to vote on the Disaffiliation Agreement between our church and the Virginia Conference Trustees, and to affirm our desire to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Denomination. All are welcome to attend, but only Professing Members of Beulah United Methodist Church who are present at this meeting are eligible to vote.

SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of July, The Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of peanut butter, jelly, and jams. Many children have peanut allergies so there is always a need for peanut butter alternatives such as almond butter and sunflower butter.



THIS MONTH’S COMMUNION OFFERING RISE AGAINST HUNGER

<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

(Information taken from the Rise Against Hunger website)



Your July communion offering will go towards Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger targets specific geographic regions in the world where access to diverse and nutritious food is limited. They work to nourish lives through meals, respond to emergencies with In-Need resources, and empower communities to stand strong. Please remember to write “communion offering” on the memo line of your check or envelope.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

All Women, Men, and Youth Invited to Participate!
That's right! We want everyone at Beulah to take advantage of our UWF Library! What are you reading this summer? Do you like novels? Biographies? Books that enlighten you about current issues crying out for solutions? What about uplifting books that help you grow spiritually? Books that lead you to explore ways to help your community? Stories of real people dealing with real issues, whether global or personal? Our UWF library in the Fellowship Hall has books of all descriptions just waiting to enrich your life, and we invite you to check it out (pun intended). When you find a book you like, just locate its card in the check-out box and sign it out. And don't miss our UWF bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall entryway highlighting our newest acquisitions.

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Ladies, you are invited to come for a night of Ice cream and fellowship on **Tuesday, July 18**, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please email Sandra Sanderson at sandersonsb@comcast.net.

7TH ANNUAL LIFE IS PRECIOUS CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT THE PREGNANCY CENTER OF CHESTERFIELD

As part of Beulah UMC's Social Action, we will be running a Life is Precious Campaign July 2 to July 30. Did you know this past year there were 154 teenage pregnancies in Chesterfield County and that approximately 19% ended in elective termination? Our drive will benefit the Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield County as they serve our teens in counseling, care during the pregnancy and help during the child's first couple years of life. Their mission statement: "The Pregnancy Help Center of Chesterfield exists to honor God by defending the value of all life, born and unborn, through the lifeline of compassionate care and resources".



United Women in Faith

UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guider is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

Scripture for the Month

You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

Psalm 16:11

Witness

Joy is what I find when I help at the Mason Dixon food pantry – whether it's loading groceries to give to the clients, stocking shelves or talking to the people we serve. We work for all to know joy, not for a select few. All should have hope. I pray that there are people who care about their well-being. I see the joy when I learn from others that are different from me. Joy is what I feel when I see friends who trust me enough to tell their story. How "Rose" works full time at a local school helping underserved students with their homework and finding their way. She works and still needs help in putting food on her own table. I hear the joy in her voice as she tells me about some of the people she helps. She is a person that I wouldn't have known if not called to Mason Dixon. There is also "Bill" who comes in with his grandson. I know that there are times that I wonder where God is, but I know that God is everywhere because of my faith.

Fawn McCallister,
*Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner,
Cross Roads Ministerium, Felton, PA*

Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal and our missionaries serving in the United States in Nebraska, Nevada and New Hampshire.

Scholarship Recipients: On Sunday, June 11, scholarships were handed out to eight college students. Each student received a total of \$2,500.



- ~ **Claire Gibson**, *Virginia Commonwealth University*, Hart Scholarship,
- ~ **Isaiah Gibson**, *Brightpoint Community College*, Hart & Smith Scholarships
- ~ **Aaliyah Hartwill**, *Randolph Macon College*, Holmes, Schmitz, and Smith Scholarships
- ~ **Krissy Henderson**, *Virginia Commonwealth University*, Smith Scholarship
- ~ **Wren Sadler**, *University of Virginia*, Holmes Scholarship
- ~ **Kass Spitzley**, *Virginia Tech*, Holmes Scholarship
- ~ **Logan Spitzley**, *Mary Baldwin University – Murphy Deming College*, BUMC Scholarship
- ~ **Lydia Spitzley**, *Brightpoint Community College*, BUMC Scholarship

Father's Day: On Sunday, June 18, we celebrated Father's Day. Sarah, Jeremy, and



Raymond Hodges gave out smiles and chocolate bars to all the men in the church. The Children and Youth Bells did an excellent job of playing Kumbaya. Ashton Edwards and Kass Spitzley shared the Word of God. Pastor Don Gibson shared a message for both men and women, on how our actions not only share the sweetness of God with others but keeps it from going sour in our stomachs from lack of use.

Provisional Elder: On Saturday, June 17, Pastor Daniel Chun was commissioned as a provisional Elder at the VA Annual Conference. This is one of many steps on his path to becoming an ordained minister. He was supported by his mentors Pastor Don Gibson and Pastor Danny Cho.



VBS: Vacation Bible School was held June 20 to June 23. This year's theme was *Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!* The children learned how heroes are called to follow Jesus, work together, and help others. There were about 54 children who attended throughout the week. There were about 50 volunteers who became heroes for the week by answering the call to introduce many children and families to the love and care of God.



BEULAH COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND-OPENING



Chesterfield Parks and Recreation had the open house and ribbon cutting for the new Beulah Recreation Center (the old Beulah Elementary School) on Sunday, June 25. Pastor Don participated in the program as a representative of all the local community churches. There were family-friendly activities and entertainment on site, including demonstrations by pickleball players and the Fitness Warriors inside the facility. The Community Center opens up opportunities for Beulah to reach out into the community on behalf of Christ.

JULY

- 01 Bonnie Ramey
- 02 Ken Brooks
Joie Jones
Alec Sadler
- 04 Carl Griggs
- 05 Michael Boraski
Jim Eads
- 06 Chuck Salmon
- 09 Brooks Taylor IV
- 10 Connie Cook
Sherry Harris
Patsy Hayden
- 13 Beth VanDenBerg
- 16 Christy Gibson
Jay Wright
Pam Tyler
- 22 Marcia Abernathy
Brandon Brooks
Stan Hartman
- 25 Sandra Sanderson
Logan Spitzley
- 26 Kathy Donovan
Dorothy House
Donald Joyner
Bobby Wadkins
- 27 Benny Boitet
Jimmy Hart Jr.
- 28 Lee Goff
Shirley Pfeil
- 31 Jean Lane

AUGUST

- 01 Louise Coleman
Della Delbridge
Crystal Grady
- 02 David Conner
John Hall
Lois Quaiff
Margaret Schools
John Sherrill
- 04 Julia Grisham
- 06 Jane Mason
Jim Taylor Sr.

THANKS

JULY CALENDAR

To: Beulah Family

From: Carl Griggs

I want to thank everyone who sent me Get Well Cards. They are greatly appreciated. Your prayers too. Beulah's church members are special and caring. I am recovering at home and hope to return to church soon. God bless you all.

To: Beulah Friends

From: Nora Foster

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recovery from surgery. It is wonderful to belong to such a caring church.

To: VBS Decoration Team

From: Sherry Harris

Thank you to ALL OF YOU who helped with the VBS decorations! We had 25 people come out and help paint, glitter, cut, etc., and prepare the church. You all did a great job! We had about 20 folks (young and "older") come out and help put up the decorations! We are so blessed to have such a wonderful congregation that is so "family oriented" and "children friendly". You all made VBS very special. God bless you all!

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Sherry and Jim Andelin, owners of Metro Richmond Zoo

What a wonderful surprise to receive your beautiful handmade card in the mail. Your kind words and beautiful scripture brought tears to our eyes and joy to our hearts. Thank you so much for thinking of us and reaching out to us after the fire, it means so much.

04 **OFFICE CLOSED**

06 VBS Volunteer Dinner

08 Daniel & Karis' Wedding

10 Daniel & Karis' Reception

13 Town Hall Meeting

18 UWF Ice Cream Social

23 Called Church Conference

25 Springdale Bible Study
Prayer Meeting

30 Stockholder's Meeting

REOCCURRING WEEKLY

Sunday 8:30 Worship
Sunday School
11:00 Worship

Monday Card Ministry
Scouts

Tuesday Cub Scouts

Wednesday Staff Meeting

Hymn Xv: Happy The Souls To Jesus Joined

*Happy the souls to Jesus joined,
And saved by grace alone,
Walking in all his ways they find
Their heaven on earth begun.*

*The church triumphant in thy love,
Their mighty joys we know;
They sing the Lamb in hymns above,
And we in hymns below.*

*Thee in thy glorious realm they praise,
And bow before thy throne,
We in the kingdom of thy grace:
The kingdoms are but one.*

*The holy to the holiest leads,
From thence our spirits rise,
And he that in thy statutes treads
Shall meet thee in the skies.*

John Wesley

STAYING CONNECTED

During the summer months people take vacations or go on weekend getaways. Many of the weekly groups at church also take a break for the summer. It is easy to become disconnected from your church family and friends. Here are some helpful tips for staying connected.

- Weekly Emails will let you know what is going on. *(Please email the office to sign up if you do not already receive them.* office@beulahumc.org)
- The 11:00 am worship service is streamed live on [Facebook](#) and can be found on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) after 2:00 pm .
- Every Friday at 9:00 am, Pastor Don offers a weekly devotional and prayer on [Facebook](#).
- Pick up the phone and call the church (804-275-2325). Our classes and groups might not be meeting but you can still gather for lunch or fellowship. We are only a call away.