



Transforming Lives As We Seek, Share, And Serve God.



THIS MONTH'S THEME

BACK TO CHURCH

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

A LETTER FROM PASTOR DON

THE START OF FALL GROUPS

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

UWF HAPPENINGS

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

TIME TO RESET

By Pastor Pam Anderson

As the air turns crisp, the leaves begin to drop, the smell of erasers fill the air, we go back to school shopping, and we are full of anticipation of changes. Fall brings an opportunity for us all to focus on how to refresh and how to reset. Whether we are going back to school or not this season has the opportunity for new beginnings like settling in to 'Back to Church' after summer holidays.

Vacations and traveling can often lead us to fall out of the patterns or habits of our spiritual disciplines. As we approach this season, it is a good time to inventory ourselves and see what we need to get back to. Coming to church? Inviting neighbors into our community of church family to join us? Studying scripture? Volunteering to serve in needs of our church? Joining in a new type of small group?

For me, the beginning of a new school year always meant a new opportunity to reinvent myself. Maybe I hadn't gotten as high of grades as I wanted the year before – a new school year meant a fresh start with a new teacher. I could reset and start over with more focus on my studies. Maybe I would try out for a new sport. As Christians we know who we are, but each year means we can try something new.

Continued on page 2





We are new and different in Christ. Just like we become something different when we choose to follow Him, Christ turned the world upside down and did things different than everyone expected. He expects us to live differently and not conform to the things of this world. That often requires discipline, spiritual discipline. We are planning to focus on a foundational discipline this year as a church family, reading scripture together. But consider other ways in which you may want to reinvent yourselves as a Christian this Fall by coming back to church with hope and optimism with our future. Consider structured daily prayer, attending worship more regularly, joining in with small groups, volunteering to help one of the ministries or events.

This Fall we have some great events coming up. Do something different. Wednesday Worship Meals: – Can you cook some chili or lasagna? Invite a young adult to connect with the Alpha Program, where we will have general conversations about the meaning of life. Join in one of our events like Trunk or Treat or Live Nativity, they are great fun - fellowship with other volunteers and seeing your hard work enjoyed by the community is very rewarding. Maybe sign up to support the music ministry or attend a Spirit Squad fun night. Or do you have an idea for a fresh expression of how we can make disciples?

If you are interested in refreshing in a new manner this Fall reach out to one of your Pastors to discuss options.

LISTS OF SMALL GROUPS AND STUDIES STARTING THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays at 9:45 am

Belong (Middle and High School Age)	Youth Pod
Children (Elementary Age)	Room 110
Nursery (Ages 0 to 4 years)	Nursery
Crusaders	Room 112
Disciples of God (DOG)	Room 251
Harvey	Room 106
Mariners	Room 248
New Centurions	Room 250
Pathfinders	Room 246
Sojourners	Room 249
Wordseekers	Room 107

OTHER GROUPS

Beulah's Best	Fellowship Hall, Third Tuesday at 10:00 am
Card Ministry	Room 107, Mondays at 10:00 am
Dog Ministry	Goyne Park, Fridays at 4:00 pm
Family Group	Pastor Daniel's, First and Third Thursday
Hugging Hearts	Room 251, First and Third Tuesday at 2:00 pm
Prayer Meeting	Room 111, Last Tuesday at 5:30 pm
Prayer Shawls	Room 111, Third Tuesday at 1:30 pm
Senior Council Meals	Once a Month
Spirit Squad	Second Friday at 6:00 pm
United Methodist Men	Fellowship Hall, Third Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Youth	Fellowship Hall, Sundays at 5:30 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

Alpha	Room 109, Wednesdays at 6:45 pm
Braxton	Braxton Club House, Mondays at 1:00 pm
Men's Study	Room 111, Mondays at 10:00 am
Springdale Study	Springdale, Third Tuesday at 1:30 pm

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH CIRCLES

Mary Farmer Circle of Love	Second Tuesday at 10:00 am
Rebekah Fellowship	Second Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle	First Tuesday at 10:00 am
Wesleyan Stratton	Third Wednesday at 1:00 pm

MUSIC GROUPS (see Deborah Wenrich)

Adult Groups

Bells of Praise	Mondays at 6:00 pm
Beulah Land Quartet	Thursdays at 6:00 pm
Sanctuary Choir	Thursdays at 7:00 pm

Multi Generational

Ensemble	Sundays at 2:00 pm
Theater Players	Sundays at 1:00 pm

Children and Youth

Children's Bells	Monday at 5:15 pm
Children's Choir	Tuesdays at 5:30 pm
Interpretive Dance	Sundays at 3:00 pm
Youth Bells	Sundays at 4:00 pm

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR, DON GIBSON

Hello all and blessings, I pray this letter find you well and blessed as we close out the summer and move into the fall. Recently, after questions and conversations around news of disaffiliation or change in the United Methodist Church, I have made myself available to speak with individuals or groups to offer some clarity, answer questions, and encourage our faithfulness in the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. It was brought to my attention that some members are not currently connected in the ways that information is shared, and suggested, that I present it in a written document- what a great idea.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND DISAFFILIATION:

Recently questions have resurfaced regarding the future of the United Methodist Church as there are many news reports of UM churches disaffiliating (or leaving the denomination). If you recall, more than three years ago the church voted (at General Conference) to maintain its current stance (the Traditional Plan) on issues dividing the church- primarily the interpretation of scripture around human sexuality. The vote also included preserving the current UMC Book of Discipline and enforcing it when violations occur. The decision, the vote to retain the traditional stance, was immediately met with opposition and new legislation (the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation- a move toward an amicable split) was drawn up and was to be voted on in 2020. However, the worldwide pandemic prohibited this vote. The United Methodist Church (globally) was to meet this year (General Conference 2022) to vote on this legislation, however it was decided by the Council of Bishops to postpone the vote until 2024. As a result of the decision to prolong the vote, the Global Methodist Church (the new denomination forming to provide a church home for those choosing to exit the United Methodist church after the split) decided not to wait until 2024 to launch and did so on May 1st of this year, 2022. Currently churches and pastors are disaffiliating from the UMC and affiliating with the Global Methodist Church and other denominations. I have been meeting with individuals, Sunday School classes, United Women of Faith Circles, and other groups to share this information and answer questions. I, along with your pastoral staff, sense that it is in the best interest of Beulah UMC to be open and transparent regarding these realities and to commit ourselves to continued faithfulness in prayer, discernment, and the gleaning of information because we must be prepared to make a decision, how and when needed, and as God moves us to do so.

MORE NEWS:

Annual Conference 2022: Our delegates for Annual Conference this year (Ken and Beth Spitzley) were unable to attend so myself, Pastor Daniel, and Pastor Pam represented Beulah UMC. News to note from this year's Annual Conference was the merging of Districts (and Superintendents) from 16 Districts and 16 Districts Superintendents to 8 (see the image below).

Here is the explanation for this change: (taken from the Virginia United Methodist website- District Alignment)

Why are changes needed at all? Our churches sit within a larger landscape of adaptive challenges for the 21st century. In the midst of decline and the growing disinterest and disconnection with the church in our communities, the urgency of the Gospel has never been more palpable. More than ever, our commitment must be for the mission of the church to drive the institution, rather than the institution driving the mission.

Among the feedback we have already received has been the question of whether now is the right time to make changes – amidst the uncertainty of a pandemic, the unease of a looming General Conference, our country's racial and political division, and the impact all these challenges have on church ministry.

Continued on page 4

Our answer to this question is that these challenges named are precisely why change is needed now. We can choose to WAIT, or we can choose to ACT. We can choose the status quo, or we can choose the new thing God is doing in our midst, in our churches, and in our communities. These adaptive challenges have the capacity to turn us inward toward our own survival, or they have the capacity to turn us outward toward the world that needs the church to offer something new, something substantive, something inspiring in this very moment.

We choose to step out boldly in faith with a strategy that will do the following three important things:

- 1) Resource our clergy
- 2) Foster clergy-clergy and church-church collaboration
- 3) Collaboratively engage our communities in new ways

NEW DISTRICT	FORMER DISTRICTS
Coastal Virginia District	Eastern Shore & Elizabeth River
Living Waters District	Farmville & James River
Mission Rivers District	Rappahannock River & York River
Mountain View District	Danville & Lynchburg
Northern Virginia District	Alexandria & Arlington
Shenandoah River District	Harrisonburg & Winchester
Three Notch'd District	Richmond & Charlottesville
Valley Ridge District	Roanoke & Staunton

Again, please know that it is my goal, along with our pastoral and administrative staff, to aid in guiding Beulah United Methodist Church into a hope-filled future where God stands already to bless us and use us all in “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” If you would like to talk with me, please know that I am available.

So, let’s be humble, available, and obedient to God as we continue this journey! Grace and Peace, Pastor Don

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE
 Starting **Sunday, September 11**, we will begin a Bible Reading Challenge where we focus on reading the Word of God together as a church. Everyday there will a daily bible reading we must read along with some fun creative tasks throughout the year. Further details will follow. A free NIV Study Bible is being offered to every person. Please sign-up for a copy at the Information Desk as we strive to be a church that is rooted in the Word of God.

BIBLE READING PLAN

09/11 Sunday	09/18 Sunday	09/25 Sunday	10/02 Sunday
09/12 Matt 1	09/19 Matt 7	09/26 Matt 13	10/03 Matt 20
09/13 Matt 2	09/20 Matt 8	09/27 Matt 14	10/04 Matt 21
09/14 Matt 3	09/21 Matt 9	09/28 Matt 15	10/05 Matt 22
09/15 Matt 4	09/22 Matt 10	09/29 Matt 16	10/06 Matt 23
09/16 Matt 5	09/23 Matt 11	09/30 Matt 17	10/07 Matt 24
09/17 Matt 6	09/24 Matt 12	10/01 Matt 18-19	10/08 Matt 25

You can find more information and the complete reading plan at our church website Beulahumc.org.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING



(information taken from
their website at

<https://www.cchasm.org/>)

The September Communion Offering goes towards The Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry. CCHASM is a non-profit providing emergency food, financial assistance, and women's clothing to area residents in Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Prince George, Virginia. If you would like to donate to this ministry, please write "Communion Offering" on the memo line of your check or envelope and then place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

SHERBOURNE REQUEST

During the month of September, Sherbourne Food Pantry is requesting donations of canned food and pantry items to help prepare the pantry for the upcoming fall and winter. Your donation can be left on the wire rack at the Information Center or in the white Afterhours Donation Cabinet in the Breeze Way.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us work towards our pledge of 5000 lbs. We have made great strides towards getting back on track with our goal but are still a just a few hundred pounds behind in our pledge. Thank you for your continued support in feeding those who are without in our community.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS



Did you know you can give to Beulah UMC just by shopping or getting gas at Kroger? Go to the Kroger Community Rewards website and link you shopper's Card to the church. Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger will then donate annually to Beulah UMC based on your percentage of spending. To learn more or link your card please visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

Beulah's organizational number is **KV086**.

ATTENTION: CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Those of you who are obligated to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) can AVOID TAXES ON INCOME if you have your brokerage firm send your donation check(s) directly to the Charity involved (i.e., BUMC---checks to BUMC must be sent directly to the church (not to You) at PO Box 37098, N. Chesterfield, VA 23234---NOT to 6930 Hopkins Road. You may take RMDs from your retirement accounts (IRAs, etc.) numerous times during the year (does not have to be all at one time). AVOID TAXES ON INCOME!!! Contact Sarah Tatum at 804-271-1844 for details regarding transfers of stocks, mutual funds, etc. held in retirement accounts.



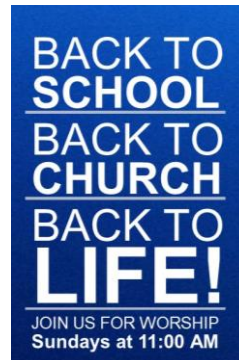
LIFE IS PRECIOUS CHAMPAIGN RESULTS



The Life is Precious Champaign was again very successful. Thank you to ALL those who helped with baby bottle distribution, collecting, and ALL who donated.

In addition to diapers, baby wipes, outfits and a blanket, we collected over \$1750. Because of the Christ-like love and generosity of our beautiful church family, many mothers and babies will fine the help and support they need during this challenging time. God's blessings on you all. Thank you.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY



It is that time of year again! Don't fall into the old back-to-school, back-to-work routine and miss the beauty of the season. At Beulah UMC we want to help you find a new community and ignite your spiritual life! Here you will find meaningful connections, inspiring messages, and fun for the whole family.

We would love for you to join us and get to know each other at our 'Back to Church' event on **Sunday, September 11** at 11:00 am for Worship followed by gathering for food!"



BEULAH'S United Women in Faith

BEULAH UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLES

We have four circles in our unit of United Women in Faith, three that meet during the day, and one that meets in the evening. The members provide financial support for global and national missions and financial and volunteer support for local missions, in addition to the emotional support for each other in good times and bad. If you are a woman with a heart for mission, look for our circle meeting dates and times in this issue of the Beacon and in your weekly e-mail announcements, and consider visiting them. If you would like to join our UWF without joining a circle--yes, it's possible--contact Barbara Tuttle, 271-2289. We are also open to ideas for new circles, including online circles that meet on social media.

RICHMOND DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH EVENTS MINI-MISSION ENCOUNTER

Mini-Mission Encounter will be held by Zoom on Saturday, September 10, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Participants will get an overview of the Conference Mission Encounter, "Building Communities of Hope and Joy", led by Rev. Jason Stanley. There is no charge, but registration is required, and the deadline is Saturday, September 3. The program will include an update of All God's Children Camp. Please contact Barbara Tuttle, 804-271-2289 before September 3 to register.

THE 50TH DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

The 50th District Annual Meeting Leadership Development will take place in person at Asbury Church Hill UMC, 324 N. 29th St., Richmond, 23223, on Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Martha Stokes, VA Conference Lay Leader. Registration is not required. We are unable to livestream this event, but we plan to videotape it for sharing later.

UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guide is published annually by United Methodist Women. 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

When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:13

WITNESS

Joy is the fruit I receive when I do something for the good of all and when I'm doing ministries that God called me to do: teaching my little students and seeing them progress while they are in my class; saying prayers for sick people; grieving for the loss of a loved one; blessing them with long life on their birthdays; sharing God's words and promises to a lost soul; listening when they need ears to hear their cries; visiting people in their homes and spending time meeting people in all walks of life. Nature gives me joy and fulfillment because it reminds me how awesome our God is. Looking at the sun rising and setting, the moon in different phases, stars in the night, rain falling from the sky ground covered with snow, birds in the trees, flowers, walking in the sand or just to breathe in air every second of my life are all blessings of joy from our Lord. Thanks be to God in everything and in all that I have!

Roselle Justo-Sales,
Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner,
Inspired Vision Elementary, Dallas, Texas

PRAYER

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Russia, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone and South Africa and our missionaries serving in the United States in Ohio, Oklahoma and Oregon.

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

ALPHA GATHERING AT BEULAH!

Join us **September 7**, for Wednesday Worship Meals at 6:00 pm. Then move to Room 109 for Alpha small group video and discussions. It is low key, relaxed, and fun!

This is a focused small group that will last 11 weeks with one weekend retreat. It is an opportunity to bond with a small group and drill deeper into our faith. It is all about sharing God's love through friendship. This Alpha session is hosted by Pastor Don Gibson and Pastor Pam Anderson.

In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha offers space for open, honest, and judgement free conversations about life's biggest questions and a safe space for conversations about faith. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits.

The overall purpose of the Alpha small group is to give people an opportunity to discover and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this by sharing the good news of the Gospel during the Alpha talk and allowing people to ask any question and hear the viewpoints of others through the small group discussion time.

DANIEL BIBLE STUDY

Come study the book of Daniel, starting **Monday, October 3**, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, at the Braxton Club House. This study is open to all, you do not have to be a part of the Braxton community to attend. Please visit the Information Center to sign up to receive a book and leave your email address. If you have any questions, please call Margert Burke at 804-714-2353.

ATTENTION MEN

We will restart a weekly bible study on **Monday, September 12** at 10:00 am in room 111. All men are welcome to attend. During this study we explore and discuss various books of the bible. Even if you have never attended a bible study before, please come join us. We have study guides available at no charge for all who wish to attend and the meetings usually last about an hour and a half.

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet on **Tuesday, September 20** at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be provided by Beulah Land Quartet. Following the program, we will have a covered dish lunch. Please note our change in meeting day from the third Monday of each month to the third Tuesday of each month. Come join us.



SAVE THE DATE!

Richmond CROP Hunger Walk 2022
Sunday, November 13
Beginning and ending
at Ginter Park UMC
Details to come!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 01** Family Group
- 05** Church closed
- 06** Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle
Hugging Hearts
- 09** UWF Prayer Brunch
Spirit Squad
- 11** **Back to Church Sunday**
After Church Meal
Mission Meeting
- 13** Mary Farmer Circle of Love
Rebekah Fellowship
Finance Meeting
- 15** Bazaar Meeting
Family Group
- 20** Beulah's Best
Prayer Shawl
Springdale Bible Study
Hugging Hearts
UMM Dinner
- 21** Wesleyan Stratton
Beulah Pool
- 22** UWF Mission Meeting
- 27** Prayer Meeting

OCCURRING WEEKLY

- Sunday** 8:30 Worship
Sunday School
11:00 Worship
Play Rehearsal
Ensemble Rehearsal
Interpretive Dance Rehearsal
Youth Bells Rehearsal
Youth
- Monday** Card Ministry
Men's Bible Study
Children's Bells Rehearsal
Bells of Praise Rehearsal
Scouts
- Tuesday** Children's Choir Rehearsal
Cub Scouts
- Wednesday** Staff Meeting
Wednesday Worship Meal
Alpha
- Thursday** Beulah Land Quartet Rehearsal
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- Friday** Dog Ministry

BAZAAR UPDATE

Sweet potato order cards will be available soon. Order blanks have been updated. Request for space to sell MUST be received in writing by SEPTEMBER 15 to be considered. Youth will be sponsoring the yard sale. Donated items can be placed in the shed. Talent survey will be available soon. Looking forward to working with many volunteers. Setup for the bazaar will begin after the Wed. night dinner on Nov. 9 when the fellowship hall will be "cleared." On Thurs. we will begin at 9am. Lunch will be provided. On Fri., Nov. 11, we will start again at 9am with lunch provided. The Bazaar will open at 8 am on Nov 12 and last until 1 pm. The Brunswick stew, BBQ, baked beans, curbside orders, and apples will be available for pick up under the breezeway. A bigger selection of baked items, jams, pickles as well as crafts, collectibles, greeting cards etc. will be available inside. Stay tuned for ongoing developments. Remember, "many hands make the job easier". VOLUNTEER!! The next meeting is **September 15**, at 10:30 in room 107.

JEWELRY FOR THE FALL BAZAAR

During the months of September and October, Mary Anne Huband will be accepting donations of jewelry to be sold at the fall Bazaar. Donations can be given to Mary Anne or left in the church office. Thank you for your support.

Thank You!

To: Beulah United Methodist Church

From: Jennifer Boyden, MA, QIDP, Chief Executive Officer, Heart Havens

Your gift has already made an impact at Heart Haven in the lives of adults with a developmental disability. Thank you for your generous gift. As the Chief Executive Officer, I would like to personally thank you for making our work possible. Your kindness provides daily support for people at Heart Havens to play sports, learn to cook, go grocery shopping, and visit local parks. Because of you, the guys at Tate can visit the local zoo and the ladies at Garber Morris are growing their own sunflowers in the spring. Your gift enables residents to be out in the community, enjoy life and participate in fulfilling daily activities. Our current and future success of making sure that people with a developmental disability are successfully woven into the fabric of everyday life is achieved only by the continued generosity of those like you. Thank you.

To: Beulah

From: Sherry Harris

Thank you everyone for your cards, calls, messages, notes, and prayers during my left knee replacement surgery and continued recovery. Thanks to Pastor Don too for coming to the hospital very early (before 5:30 am!) on the day of surgery and praying over my family and me before my surgery. I certainly felt blessed and cared for, and it helped my family a great deal! Sometimes surgery can be a scary thing for everyone concerned!!! Thanks to Suzanne and to Pastor Pam for your support as well!!! I appreciate it more than you can imagine.



CONGRATULATIONS

Sydney and Austin Shakespeare are the proud parents of another son. River Alexander Shakespeare was born August 26, at 4:44 pm weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces. River is the younger brother of Eli, the grandson of Mark and Sarah Inman, and the great grandson of Sarah Eastwood.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Ruth Glick
- 02 Nancy Beasley
Pastor Daniel Chun
Barry Iglehart
- 03 Kim Dell
Sarah Inman
- 07 Pam Collins
Kelsey Cunningham
- 11 Luke Gibson
Beth Spitzley
Sandra Goodman
- 12 Louis Corde
- 14 Stephen Bates
Bruce Sadler
- 15 Walt Hayden
- 17 Rob Childrey
- 18 Freda Agyeman
Rachel Ammons
Ray McKinney
Elizabeth Quaiff
- 20 Terri Griggs
- 22 Tina Cunningham
- 23 Bill Mustian
- 25 Diane Clark
Ryder Sadler
- 26 Gayle Crutchfield
Richard Hensel
- 28 Jennifer Cary
- 30 Nancy Cowardin
Bill Payne III
Ninna Smith

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY