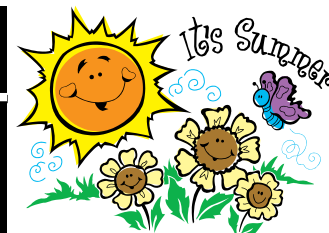


Bear Fax



August, 2009

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

Roof project is underway!

Thank you for your great generosity. To date we have raised over \$37,500 for the roof project. Although we have not yet met our goal of \$60,000, we have sufficient funds to get started.

If you have not made your contribution to this important project, please do it soon. Every dollar that we raise for the project reduces the amount of our capital reserves that we will have to commit to the project.

One of the goals of our Stewardship and Finance Committees is to increase the level of our capital reserves in order to handle projects such as the roof repair, emergencies and normal wear and tear. Our facility is an enabler for our mission and, just as with other mission projects, we need to keep investing in it. Our capital reserves are currently much less

than we would like to have on hand. Please help in any way you can.

As we hit the halfway point of summer, our weekly contributions have decreased as folks take vacations and miss the weekly worship service. Our treasurer and the Finance Committee watch our cash flow very carefully during this time of the year. If you can catch up or even get a little ahead on your giving, it would help immensely.

It can not be said enough times—thank you for your great generosity!!!



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Take a "vacation" to Rome!

Bring your family to "Rome" August 2-6 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. We'll start with a light supper at 6:00 and "travel" to Rome at 6:30.

Ever wonder what it was like to be one of the very first Christians? Walk in their sandals this summer!

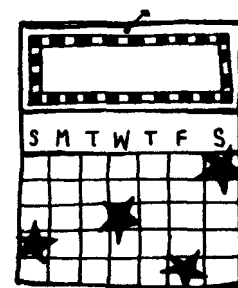
Elbow through a crowded Roman marketplace. Visit with Paul while he is under arrest. Tiptoe past the Roman guards to a cave where first-century Christians eagerly await your arrival.

*There's
no place
like Rome*



Each day, your family can become part of history as they see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Bible times. You'll explore the Roman marketplace, become a student at the Grammaticus School, take part in games, dance to lively songs, try new craft projects, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about what it was like to be a first-century Christian.

These experiences make God's Word come alive for your family!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 2-6
Evening Family Bible School
- August 11
Charge Conference (Election of Officers)
- August 16-22
Honduras Mission Trip
- August 18
Community Blood Drive at BCUMC
- Sunday, August 30
Picnic Potluck at Cottage Lake Park after worship

Picnic Potluck in the Park

Sunday, August 30, after worship

Cottage Lake Park

Games! Music! Food!



PICNIC POTLUCK



Particularly persuading all Bearcreekians to please participate!

Join in for some old-fashioned food, fun, and fellowship after worship on Sunday, August 30, at Cottage Lake Park! (Head to the shelter at the East end of the park closest to the church around 10:45ish)

How do we make this an old-fashion picnic/potluck?

- 1) Dig out your old picnic basket and tablecloth.
- 2) Bring your own plates, napkins, silverware (i.e., table service), plus a plastic bag to take home your dirty dishes.
- 3) Put in your favorite drinks for your family.
- 4) Bring a couple of lawn chairs and/or a blanket to sit on.
- 5) Bring a favorite dish or two to share with your church family.

Celebrate the summer with your church family—good food, music, dancing, enjoyment, and games for all ages!

 FINANCE REPORT	<h2 style="margin: 0;">2009 FINANCE REPORT</h2> <table style="margin: 10px auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Amount budgeted for 2009</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">\$329,368</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2009 Offerings <i>to date</i></td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">\$168,8709</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">1.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2009 ahead/(behind)</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">(\$14,816)</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">-8.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Projected Year End Shortfall</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">(\$27,909)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Remember to keep up with your summer offerings!</i></p>	Amount budgeted for 2009	\$329,368		2009 Offerings <i>to date</i>	\$168,8709	1.9%	2009 ahead/(behind)	(\$14,816)	-8.1%	Projected Year End Shortfall	(\$27,909)		 DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURCH
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2009 ahead/(behind)	(\$14,816)	-8.1%												
Projected Year End Shortfall	(\$27,909)													

Andrew and Danielle Walsh welcomed **Grady Marcus** into this world on Saturday morning, July 19, weighing in at over nine pounds. Grady joins siblings Damon, Zachary and Josie. Everyone is healthy and happy!



IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations!



Thank you Norm [Broome] for inviting Homeward to come to the Dads, Dogs and Doughnuts event on Father's Day. Jazz and I had a great time. Marley and Sneakers are great canines!

Sincerely yours,
Peggy

Homeward Pet
Rescue Shelter Adoption
www.homewardpet.org
425.488.4444

Golf tournament benefits Habitat

Habitat for Humanity of East King County and Thrivent Builds invites you to the 2009 Golf Tournament and Auction on Monday, August 31.



The schedule is:
 11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
 4:30 p.m. Social Hour/
 Dinner/Auction

The event will be held at Bear Creek Country Club in Woodinville.

To date, Thrivent Builds volunteers have built more than 1,000 homes across the US for families in need of simple, decent, affordable housing.

These two new Thrivent Builds homes will be the sixth and seventh houses that Habitat for Humanity of EKC has built through the Thrivent Builds Homes project.

For more information, go to www.habitatekc.com/golf. Register today to participate as a golfer and/or attend the dinner and auction. You may also become an event sponsor to receive valuable exposure for your company.

BCUMC participates in PrideFest

PrideFest, held on June 29 this year, is a festival dedicated to honoring the diverse GLBT (gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered) community in Seattle. This year was Bear Creek's second year to participate. There were five different UMC congregations represented this year. Folks could not walk down any aisle without seeing a church presence! Bear Creek UMC shared its table with Tibbett's UMC. This year, we offered open communion to all participants.

It was a deeply moving experience as a visible, tangible statement that all are welcome to worship God. In addition to communion, we had a representation of foot washing in the presence of neck coolers sewn by Brook Self. Many thanks go to the participants: Chris Aakre, Debbie Brown, Brook Self, Kennedy Stewart, and Terri Stewart. Below is a reflection written by Terri that captures her experiences of that day.

child of God

pink hair, ponytails
 outrageous make-up
 silicone popping
 the buttons of a polyester shirt
 rainbow scarf waving in the air
 a neon-green mini-skirt
 revealing muscled legs
 in tattered fishnets
 with size 11 feet
 in 6 inch heels
made in the image of God

brown hair, styled
 like Clark Gable
 lightly speckled face
 from a long-ago shave
 baggy Fitch shirt over a
 naturally expanding chest
 faded jeans worn at the hips
 and a rainbow belt
 with size 9 feet
 in brown loafers
beloved child of God

the bread of life
 given for you
 to live a life as you were
 made and created
 loving as you
 were made to love
 the cup of a new covenant
 given for you
 to create a space
 to meet the one
 who loves you
communion with God

© 2009, Terri Stewart



Did you know that the Pastor Dave's sermons are now available via iTunes on www.bcumc.org? You can also read the printed version, get the latest calendar dates, youth info and lots more! Check it out today!



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.
 Shari's Restaurant in Kirkland
 All are welcome!

Thank you, Celebration Choir!

In the four years that I have been blessed to direct the Celebration Choir, one thing has become clear to me. Choir, like any group in the church, is all about relationships. There isn't a member of the choir that I have not come to love like family. We have grown close through prayer requests, sharing, laughing, teasing—and yes, singing.

I have always believed that choir must be, first of all, a *spiritual* group before it can be a *musical* group because we aren't just singing for the fun of it (although we do have fun!)—rather, we are singing to and for the Lord. Choir selections are not sung just to “fill in” during the offering, but they are sung to inspire, bless, challenge, and give joy to the congregation. I truly believe the choir music is as important as the sermon, and I know Pastor Dave will back me up on that.

Four years ago the Lord laid it on my heart that I was to step up to the void left by a wonderful director, Nancy Barr, and that I was to direct. This spring, the call of the Lord was no less clear that I was to step down. My life is going in a new direction—I will be starting graduate school in the fall at the UW, and I have been blessed to be offered a Research Assistant position with a professor for the next two years. I do not feel I would be able to do justice to the choir with all these new challenges. My arthritis and other health issues compel me to be very careful of how many hours I can study/work/be involved in church activities.

So it is with sadness that I have stepped down as of July 31, but also with the clarity that it is God's will. He has brought us a new, wonderful director—Arianna Guthrie! She is eminently qualified and experienced, and I know already that she will be able to bring the choir to new heights that I never could have reached. She is exactly what the choir needs right now.

And so, I thank you, Celebration Choir, for the gift you gave me—the gift of being able to lead you, the gift of letting me raise the bar, and the gift of you meeting that bar (aka the Easter cantata) head on. I have written just a brief little note about each one of you, some of them about your choir gifts, some about personal gifts. Know that I love each and every one of you, and know that when my schedule allows it, I will be there assisting in the alto section!

Love in Christ Jesus,
Debbie Brown

Sara Lambert. In the years I have been at BCUMC, Sara has gone from a colleague in the music program to a dear friend. To know Sara is to know that she has the most humble spirit and the kindest heart you will ever meet. Plus, she gets my jokes, which is a *really* rare gift!

Vickie Orendorff. Vickie recently took an hour out of her busy day to come over and show me how to use Microsoft Publisher. That's just the way she is. If there's a need, she's there to fill it. As the holder of the red wallet for the choir, she shows

her deep care for our fellow choir members.

Ann Rupley. Ann sings to God. It is written all over her face. Next time she sings with the worship band, take a look. You'll get an instant blessing!

Joan Ernest. Joan was instrumental in getting the music to “He Never Failed Me Yet” to sing to Mary K Orendorff, shortly before Mary K went home to the Lord. Joan's sharing heart is always in evidence, and the soprano section has been really glad to have her with us this year!

Christina Rupley. It has been a true pleasure to watch Christina come out of her shell this past year and to hear her sing! It was like discovering diamonds in my own back yard the first time I heard her sing! I hope she shares her gift with us often.

Mimi Johnson. Mimi has been such an integral part of the choir for so many years. She often comes straight from her office directly to rehearsal, without stopping for dinner. Her faithfulness inspires us all! Before we got Christina in the choir, Mimi often held the second soprano part down by herself!

Johanna DeLong. We are so fortunate in our choir to have so many soloists, and Johanna is among the best. Yet, she was willing this season to sing alto (she is normally a first soprano) so that our choir could be more balanced. Her humble attitude and willingness to pitch in where needed is to be admired!

Sonya Garrett. Sonya dedi-

(Continued on page 5)

Choir appreciation

(Continued from page 4)

cates herself to learning the alto part—we all can learn from her desire to get every note right. She also makes the best chocolate chip cookies this side of the Mississippi—actually on *both* sides of the Mississippi! When I was very new to the church, and hardly anyone knew me, Sonya sent me a beautiful card when I was so sick for several months. It truly cheered my heart!

Joan Pierce. Joan is one of those people who just quietly goes about her business—the business of being Jesus here on earth. Besides her wonderful prayer shawl ministry, she has been the filer, compiler, and caretaker of our choir music. Joan likes to work in the background—but I hope she knows that we all notice and appreciate all she does.

Chris Aakre. A couple of years ago the passenger seat of my car became unusable. I sent out a plea to the men of the choir. Chris called around, found a seat in perfect condition at a wrecking yard, went and got it, and installed it in my car. This is just the kind of thing Chris does. And it typifies the way our choir cares for each other.

Andy Pierce. Andy likes to think he's the choir "curmudgeon," but we all know he's got a heart as big as the world! Andy really *cares*. And he's as steady as the Rock of Gibraltar. Unless he's fishing, he's at rehearsal, no doubt about it.

Randy Garrett. Randy Garrett was the first winner of our "Choir Member of the Week" trophy. He came to rehearsal straight from

the airport after a business trip.

Now *that's* dedication! Plus, rehearsal just wouldn't be half as much fun without him.

Steve Garrett. Steve stepped up to the plate to sing in the Easter cantata and made an invaluable contribution. The men's section is always happy when Steve can be there.

Garland Bellamy. Garland is willing to sing any part, from bass to alto—yes, I said alto! He won't let me tell you about the kindnesses he and Linda have shown me, but I'll just say here is yet another servant heart with a song to sing (and a flute to play!).

Marty DeLong. Marty has been so helpful to the choir: by singing tenor this year, by blessing us with his beautiful solos, and by doing a lot of work with the sound. He's always willing to help out if we need microphones or monitors at the last minute.

Bill Hoppe. Bill and I have shown each other pictures of our respective cats. Once you've swapped cat pictures with someone, there is a bond there that no one can ever break! Plus, of course, that gift thing he has with the piano, *and* he's been half of the tenor section this year.

Hannah Forrester. Though Hannah was our youngest choir member for the Easter cantata, she made as big a contribution as anyone.

Isaac Forrester. Isaac played the violin and mandolin with the choir many times this year, as well as playing violin for the Easter cantata. He is tireless when it comes to rehearsing, and we as a choir are richer for his musical gift.

Kay Forrester. Kay is another

one of those background kind of people, yet her contribution cannot be overestimated. She organized the Interfaith Choir Festival two years ago when we hosted it, and she was the driving force behind the Easter Cantata. Kay and I are looking forward to working on a project together next spring. I can't thank Kay enough for all she has done for the choir.

Dewey Forrester. What can I say about Dewey that hasn't already been said? No two ways about it—Dewey is the best pianist I have ever worked with in my nearly 20 years of directing church choirs. Not just his technical skills, but his willingness and ability to lead men's sectionals, to work with soloists, to meet with me to pre-rehearse the music, to aid in selecting the music, and to just be there.

Last December Dewey and Isaac took me grocery shopping when I was snowed in. He gave me Publisher for my computer, which is really going to help my projects in grad school. I really love Dewey like I love my own brothers. The whole Forrester family has been like my own family and has really cared. Thank you, Forresters!

And thank you again to all of the choir members who have made my job much easier!



Crocodile Dock rocked thanks to you!

I'd like to send a huge *thank you* to everyone who helped to make this year's Vacation Bible School happen. We were small, but very successful! Praise be to God!

A special thank you goes out to:

Ruthann Litchford
Marge Kuykendall
Carla Woodworth
Jeannie Morris
Kristina Thorson
Louise Aakre
Sara Smith
Arianna Guthrie



Holly Ward
Taylor Woodworth
Kela Broome
Lisa Buonpane
Taylor Woodworth
Kelly Litchford
Kirsten Litchford
Elyssa Shoup

Maya Vasishth
Sam Smith
Jahan Vasishth
Pam Pearce
Debra McKnight
Mimi Johnson
Kevin Seeley
Sara Lambert
Ron Large
Ted Rupley
Bonnie Peltola
Jamie Wilson
John Lambert

Tresje Seeley
Director of Children
and Family Ministries

The Red Backpack Society is here!

The Red Backpack Society. Just what *is* the Red Backpack Society, you ask? Well, we are a group of women "of a certain age" who are going back to college! Our participants so far are Susan Jackson, Sara Lambert, Terri Stewart, Susan Leveridge, Tina Stroh, and Debbie Brown.

We are a support group. We meet just once a quarter, because we are all very busy. The idea is to have a safe environment in which to talk about the unique challenges we face as returning students, and to talk about and share whatever else comes to mind. We meet after Sunday School at Debbie's house, eat a

light lunch, and just talk. There is no format and there are no rules (except the rule that whatever is shared stays in the room).

To be a member of our "society," just come, relax, be at ease, don't think about the homework, the phone, the computer, the family, or any other obligations. Just come for a couple of hours, feel *unencumbered* and relaxed with other women who are going through the same things!

If *you* would like to participate in the Red Backpack Society, we would love to have you! Please contact Debbie Brown at debbie.jean.brown@gmail.com.



A fishy excuse

Two men were in a boat fishing on a Sunday morning.

"I supposed we should have gone to church this morning," said one man. "Don't you feel a wee bit guilty about it?"

"Nope," said the other, "besides, I couldn't have gone anyway. My wife is sick in bed today."

windows

as i look behind
i see a path of aged stone
worn away at the edges
cementing to its neighbor
existing since the
apple flew from the tree

as i look ahead
i see tangles and brambles
and flowers and warmth
and my foot reaches out
as the stone peeks
through the grasses
for a moment
while i hesitantly
test the ground
of all being

as i place my foot
down on the rock
the path is solid and
the tangles and brambles
dissolve into nothing
as the daisies lean towards
the sun gesturing
for me to proceed

as i look up
i see a mansion
welcoming me with
the scent of lavender
and love
calling out like
mama greeting me
after a long summer
away at camp

as i reach the door
i turn the handle
shaking and trembling
with fear and awe
standing at the portal
that leads to
a new place of belonging

as i step forward
realizing this is home
my ragged teddy bear
is waiting for me
on the worn chair
joy glinting off his
button eye

Papa! Mama!
i am home!

"In the garden, child."

as i look out
i suddenly notice
the windows
each stained to create
a beautiful invitation
of loving encouragement
and lively warmth
leading to the garden

as i run from window
to window i am stunned
by the rainbow of promise
that dances before
my eyes
until i see him
and i am caught
by his image
as love overwhelms me
and my heart dances
and the garden glistens
through the
tears in my eyes

as i peek into the garden
i see Papa waiting for me
and my hand reaches out
to touch the beauty of
him and passes
through the glass
holding me in surprise
while i walk through the
window into the light
enraptured with him

i run to Papa
and leap into His arms
knocking Him back and
He receives me with
a chuckle and twirls
me headily through the
clouds with laughter
born of love and
grace.

© 2009 Terri Stewart

A message to BCUMC from Ray Robinson

Twelve years ago I came to Bear Creek United Methodist Church with my two sons Tim and Andy after an emotional dismantling of our family. My emotions were close to the surface. I was often in tears. But God greeted me here. He greeted me through you. I was met with compassion, respect and a faith that guided us through very tough times. There are many angels for me here for whom I will be forever grateful.

For those young people in our congregation who may not yet know, as I did not know, there will be times in your life when God will find you. It is good to begin your lives in an environment like this one here at Bear Creek, since here you learn

the basics on which you can build your lives and be ready for the future.

God has blessed me in so many ways. I fell in love again and married my lovely wife, Jura, whom many of you know. I adopted our son Vytas. I've seen my children grow and move out on their own. My career as a surgeon, teacher, and researcher has flourished. As a physician, and as a person, it has been a blessing to have had the privilege of touching so many lives.

I want you to know that in the last few years my teaching has resulted in opportunities to travel a great deal. Jura and I have been able to attend church services in places as distant as Prague, Sao Paulo (Brazil),

Vilnius (Lithuania), and even the shrines in Lourdes (France) and Medjugorje (Bosnia). You should know that in all these places I have not felt God's presence any more intensely than right here at Bear Creek.

Jura and I will now be moving to the Miami area where I will be joining the faculty at the University of Miami to continue my teaching and my efforts to further perfect the art and implants of total joint replacement surgery. There are times that I feel God's (not-so-gentle) tap on my shoulder. This is again one of those times.

May God bless you and keep you and give you all peace and good health.

Ray Robinson
7-12-09

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

A family place
of belonging

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pastor@bcumc.org

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We're on the Web!
www.bcumc.org



The Bear Fax is published monthly and is offered electronically or by mail. To change the format in which you receive the newsletter, contact the church office or news@bcumc.org. The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

On the Horizon



Sunday, September 13
Sunday School resumes

Saturday, September 19
Women's Group Brunch
10:00 am

Sunday, September 27
Reach Out Sunday/Ministry
Fair/BBQ Beef Luncheon

Sunday, October 4
All-Church Conference

Tuesday, October 27
Community Blood Drive
(Cottage Lake Presbyterian)
1:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 15
Commitment Sunday

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

Sunday Vespers
8:00 p.m.
(first Sunday)

All are welcome!

Office hours
9:00-3:00
Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays

The mission of Bear Creek United Methodist Church is to create a diverse family place of belonging for all people and to reach out and make disciples of Christ.