

# Bear Fax

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

## Advent Campus Outreach expresses our love for church college students

When a child is baptized into our congregation, we promise to stand by their side and love them through all the phases of their lives. The college years are typically a time when young adults venture out, and many have expressed appreciation for the comfort of knowing their connection to Bear Creek remains unbroken.

Annually, BCUMC parents combine efforts to send a variety of goodies to their college-age youth. Packing boxes during the Advent Festival allows the entire congregation to contribute personal wishes, catch up with parents on how they're doing, and anticipate the day (soon!) when they'll be back for a holiday visit.

Student response is overwhelmingly positive. Many of today's students helped with the package-filling for years, patiently waiting their turn, and it's always fun to see a college grad back at the

festival to return the favor. All students enjoy the goodies, but it's the messages from *you* that really set this package apart and make it special. Please join the fun!

Watch your Sunday bulletins for the growing list of students for whom we have campus mailing addresses and start writing your notes now. Get the kids involved too. Their turn will come soon enough! During the Advent Festival, drop your notes in the boxes or fill out a blank card on the spot and consider putting a few dollars in the donation jar to offset postage costs. Any donations exceeding costs go to the BCUMC Scholarship Fund.

### Parents of College Youth:

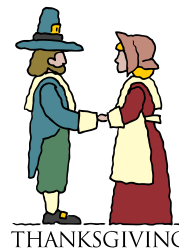
If you haven't already, please e-mail your student's name and college mailing address to the church at office@bcumc.org today. All students qualify, even those going to school locally and living at home. Pack-

ages will be **mailed December 7 by Priority Mail**. If you don't think it will comfortably arrive before your student leaves campus, provide your home address for mailing or arrange to hand-deliver the box to your student at home.

If able, bring a one-to two-dozen count of any individually-wrapped care package goody to the festival or leave in the church office, marked "Advent Care Packages." Though sugary treats are always welcome, also consider nutritious, energy-rich products to power students healthfully through finals. We always get a great assortment!

Postage: All packages will be sent priority mail at actual or flat-rate cost of no more than \$9.85 each. Please contribute what you can to off-set this cost.

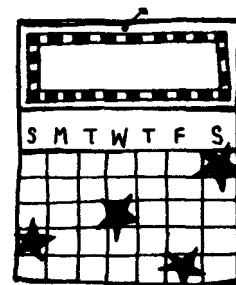
If you have questions, contact Tracy Daugherty at tracydd@gmail.com.



November, 2009

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 1  
African Team Ministries Craft Sale after worship  
Amazing Grace Seminar  
11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 4  
Retirement Planning 6:30

Sunday, November 8  
African Team Ministries Craft Sale after worship

Wednesday, November 11  
Tax Planning 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 15  
Commitment Sunday/  
Celebration Luncheon

Saturday, November 21  
Youth Lock-In 7:00 p.m.  
Women's Group at Thorsons  
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 22  
Thanksgiving Service 7:00  
(Wooden Cross Lutheran)  
Church)

## PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

**D**ear Bearcreekians,  
You remember our God-given mission is "to create a diverse family place of belonging for all people and to reach out and make disciples of Christ." Now, hold that thought.

I was talking with Bonnie about giving priority of usage to Bear Creek folks and events over others who might wish to use the building and said something about it being "our" building. Now, hold that thought.

In Worship Committee we were having a conversation about Christmas Eve and what time the services should be offered. I said something about "our" Christmas Eve worship. Now, I put the three thoughts together.

It seems to me that our Bear Creek mission statement calls us to greatly inconvenience ourselves by welcoming diversity, making the outsider the insider, and giving our guests priority for building use and time of worship so they feel like family (in the good sense) and they know they belong. In light of

our God-given mission, whose building is it? Whose Christmas Eve worship is it?

I suppose we could rewrite the mission statement to read something like, "**create a uniform club of select membership for a few people, and to reach inward and make disciples of us.**" Then the building would be "ours" and Christmas Eve would be "ours."

I like the original statement better. But that means, doesn't it, that the church building and Christmas Eve aren't ours; they are God's. We have a building not for ourselves, but to serve the purpose God has given us.

The words diversity, family (in its best sense), and belonging call us to give our building in radical hospitality to the stranger and the guest. And our God-given purpose calls us to choose the time of Christmas Eve, not because it is what pleases us, but to please the stranger and the guest.

We want to make it as easy as possible for the stranger and the guest to enjoy, as we do, the inward warmth and wonder of the baby Jesus born to be God with us.

I am reminded of what Jesus said to his disciples: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:34-35) If we make the building ours and Christmas Eve ours, we will lose them both. We keep the building and Christmas Eve only when we are willing to give them away.

Our mission statement has caused me to stop whenever I say "my" or "our" and try to think "God's." Is "my" thinking too radical? Is it really "my" thinking? I pray it is God's thinking through me and through us. And I pray that if I am wrong, God will correct me.

Shalom,  
Dave O

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Wooden Cross Lutheran Church

Sunday November 22  
7:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the gifts of God with people of diverse faiths. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with others in a single voice of gratitude. It makes God glad when her children unite in love.

### African Team Ministries Craft Sale

November 1 and November 8  
after worship

Handmade jewelry, instruments, scarves, carved animals and more! Great Christmas gifts, and the money goes to a good cause.

**WORSHIP****Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

Make worship a regular part of your life of discipleship. Whether the music is loud or soft, the sermon good or bad, our worship of God with our brother and sister disciples of Jesus will be just right.

**N**ovember 1—22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
**All Saints Day****“The Faith of Jesus”**

Was Jesus a Jew or a Christian? And are we Christian or Jew?

*Mark 12:28-34*

8:00 p.m. Vespers

*Matthew 14:22-23***N**ovember 8—23rd Sunday after Pentecost**“True Joy”**

Mark contrasts the Scribes' need to take recognition, power and wealth with the widow's generosity in giving her small coins. As Christians, are we givers or takers?

*Mark 12:38-44***N**ovember 15—24th Sunday after Pentecost**Consecration Sunday****“Don't Let Circumstances Limit Your Life”**

Tom Wilson, Executive Director of the Northwest United Methodist Foundation (and a really great guy) is our guest speaker. He will focus on how the wealth of The Rich Young Man limited his life as contrasted to the lack of wealth which did not limit the Widow.

*Mark 10:46-52, Mark 12:41-44***N**ovember 22—Last Sunday after Pentecost**Christ the King Sunday/Consecration Sunday****“When Destruction Comes”**

Jesus announces the destruction of the temple. He may as well have said that God is dead.

*Mark 13:1-8***N**ovember 29—1st Sunday of Advent  
**United Methodist Student Day****“Stand Up and Look Heavenward”***Luke 21:25-36***What is All Saints' Day?**

In the first days and years of Christianity, all Christians were often called saints (see 1 Corinthians 1:2, NRSV). As time went on, certain Christians who lived holy and sanctified lives became special examples of truly living “above the crowd” in their dedication and service on God's behalf.

As other Christians recognized these very pious souls, the Roman Catholic Church began to cherish them as true saints, commendable as examples to be remembered

and appreciated. It was and is still the Pope who, after a thorough examination of the life of the holy person under consideration, can officially designate the person as a saint.

Protestants, following the New Testament, may still consider all Christians as saints. Yet those very unique Christians who have exhibited great commitment to



Christ in special ways are often hailed as being saintly, especially after death. Phillips Brooks, for example, an Episcopal priest in Boston, was honored for his godliness with a statue placed in front of Boston's Trinity Church. The sculpture depicts Christ resting his hand upon Brooks.

On All Saints' Day, all Christians should remember those like Brooks who have faithfully passed the torch of faith and service to Christ's followers. A special service of worship is fitting.

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

**G**ood Day Bearcreekians,  
It's that time of year again. We all should have received our pledge cards in the mail recently, and I want to encourage each of you to take that next step in 2010!

It has been a rough year financially for the economy, for all of us personally, and for the church in terms of the need for a special campaign to repair the roof and for our general budget. We've seen a significant decline in giving (nearly \$30,000).

Normally, we would not be too concerned, because during the fall season our offerings typically rise, but September and October were the lowest for offerings we've seen in five years, which could leave us with a deficit of over \$40,000.

That being said, please make sure you are up to date on your pledges, and if you weren't able to pledge, prayerfully reflect on what you can give. We all need to consider what we are able to give in the coming months and provide all we can to make up for this short-



fall. We are merely stewards of God's gifts and in turn need to show how much He has blessed us.

God bless.  
Marty DeLong  
Finance Committee

### 2009 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2009	<b>\$329,368</b>	
2009 Offerings <i>to date</i>	<b>\$242,959</b>	<b>89.2%</b>
2009 ahead/(behind)	<b>(\$29,403)</b>	<b>-10.8%</b>
Projected Y/E Shortfall	<b>(\$42,496)</b>	



## Finding the Joy in our Lives!



### Speaker and Dessert!

**Saturday, November 21**

**7 o'clock pm**

Our speaker is from Harborview Hospital, well-known for her lectures on laughter in our lives!

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED—Bring A Friend!**

Joan Thorson's Home

16818-198th Avenue NE

Woodinville (425) 788-7450

(Just a few minutes behind the church!)

Questions? Connie Gagnon (425) 402-4797

## MIDWEEK AT BEAR CREEK

### Lots of activities on Wednesday evenings

If you aren't coming to Midweek at Bear Creek for dinner on Wednesday nights, you are missing out on a special opportunity. The food is always delicious and plentiful; the opportunity to be in fellowship with old friends and make some new friends over dinner is always a blessing in our busy lives. The menu will be sent out each Tuesday via email and of course PB&J is always available. There is no charge for dinner;

however, a suggested donation of \$4 per person or \$10 for a family will be gratefully accepted.

Come for dinner only, if you like, or you are welcome to join one of the classes currently going on. Current activities after dinner include a Bible study led by Pastor Dave, a *Love and Logic* course for parents, a retirement series, and Godz Kidz for school age children.

In the future watch for a Dave Ramsey financial workshop as well as other community programs. These activities are free and open to the public and part of Bear Creek's commitment to serving the community. Childcare is available.

If you need more information, or are interested in cooking a meal, please call Ellen McKee at 425.822.0822 or email her at [cemckee@comcast.net](mailto:cemckee@comcast.net).

## African crafts for sale November 1 and 8

For several years, Bear Creek UMC has supported African Team Ministries by selling a collection of their items in our narthex. These crafts are hand-made by artisans in Africa, primarily Kenya, purchased at a fair trade market value, then brought to the U.S. to be sold. Proceeds are then returned to Africa to support orphan relief, education, and healthcare needs.

African Team Ministries was founded in 1984 as an intermediary ministry between African and American churches to provide funds to help support the needs of the people of East Africa. This is an interdenominational ministry with a number of churches of different denominations working together to be the body of Christ to others less fortunate.

Included in these crafts are beautiful jewelry, carved items, fun musical instruments, nativity scenes, and various other hand-made items. These make wonderful gifts for yourself and/or others. Be sure to enclose a brochure so the recipient can learn about this ministry and how the gift they received will help others in Africa!



**R**emember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Halloween

## The Making of a Saint

**W**hy were the saints, saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient; because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still; kept silent when they wanted to talk; and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all.

It was quite simple, still is, and always will be.

# Advent Festival is December 6

## Advent... did you know?

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word meaning "to come." In the church, Advent is a special season in preparation for God's greatest gift, the birth of Jesus Christ. This year Advent begins Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, November 29, and lasts until Christmas Eve, December 24.

We, as a church family, will begin the celebration of the season on Sunday morning, November 29, coming together for worship. Advent Devotional booklets will be available for you to take home beginning on Sunday, November 22, to start a daily scripture reading with an Advent thought and a prayer written by our own Bear Creekians. (Please consider writing one to be printed in the booklet by contacting Ellen Boyer or by saying "yes" when she requests.)

Ted Kuykendall has generously cut birch logs to be used as our "Advent Wreaths" this year.

Historically at BCUMC, we have made Advent wreaths using five candles—the circle representing God's love; the evergreen symbolizing the hope for eternal life; and the four purple candles signifying the four weeks of Advent. The white candle in the middle is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The candles are often said to represent hope, love, joy, and peace. But the purpose of the Advent wreath is to help prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior—His coming! We feel the birch logs that God (and Ted) have provided from our Pacific Northwest area will be a nice change and will hold the meaning of the season just the same. Along with your devotional guide, you may also pick up your birch advent log on the 29th for this season's Advent devotions at home.

## Advent... now you know!

## Bear Creek UMC Advent Festival

Sunday, December 6

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

- \*Come and Prepare!
  - \*For all ages—invite your friends and neighbors!
  - \*Enjoy a Soup and Salad Supper.
  - \*Bring some Christmas cookies to share.
  - \*Make a variety of Advent crafts.
  - \*Write a note to our college students to be sent off in care packages during finals week (packaged snacks to put in the boxes are welcome).
  - \*Enjoy the music and singing of Christmas time.
  - \*And receive the message of love and hope.
- (Suggested donation \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family)

Let's celebrate! Mark your calendar! Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

## All-Church Conference

## Why We Love Children

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang, so she asked her four-year-old daughter to answer the phone. The mom gasped when she heard her daughter say, "Mommy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter? Haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

## Housing Needed

I am looking for a room to rent or a granny flat in the Woodinville area that is clean, comfortable and affordable. Any leads of such a place would be appreciated.

Also, I am looking for rides to church as backup for my friend, Janine, if you have time to give it some thought. My current address is 14611-127th Avenue NE in Woodinville.

Marcena Brook  
425.482.1614 (or find me at church)



## FELLOWSHIP

### Coffee Hour

Thank you, thank you to all who bring and share cookies, fruit, little sandwiches, and nutritious snacks for our Sunday morning coffee hour! They are such a treat to making our fellowship time together special right after worship and before Sunday School. We also appreciate donations of the special coffee creamers. Please feel free to bring and share anytime the spirit moves you!

### Coffee Hour Hosts

Always a *big thank you* to our coffee hour hosts! Very committed to serving you are Marian Arlin, Tim Allen, Nancy and Keith Larson, Chris and Louise Aakre, Pam Pearce, Holly Ward, Jana McClain, and Johanna and Marty DeLong. We would dearly love to have new hosts to come and serve in this capacity. Please contact Sonya Garrett at [sonyag788@aol.com](mailto:sonyag788@aol.com) or just catch her at church near the kitchen!

## Save the Date


<b>African Team Ministries Craft Sale</b>	November 1	10:30 a.m.
<b>Amazing Grace Seminar</b>	November 1	11:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday Vespers</b>	November 1	8:00 p.m.
<b>All-Church Charge Conference</b>	November 2	7:15 p.m.
<b>Retirement Planning Workshop</b>	November 4	6:30 p.m.
<b>African Team Ministries Craft Sale</b>	November 8	10:30 a.m.
<b>Tax Planning Workshop</b>	November 11	6:30 p.m.
<b>Commitment Sunday/Celebration Luncheon</b>	November 15	Noon
<b>Youth Lock-In</b>	November 21	7:00 p.m.
<b>Women's Group Speaker and Dessert</b>	November 21	7:00 p.m.
<b>Thanksgiving Service (Wooden Cross Lutheran)</b>	November 22	7:00 p.m.
<b>Emmaus Christmas Ultreya</b>	December 5	7:00 p.m.
<b>Advent Festival</b>	December 6	5:00 p.m.
<b>Unrehearsed Children's Pageant</b>	December 24	6:00 p.m.
<b>Communion Worship Service</b>	December 24	11:00 p.m.

[www.bcumc.org](http://www.bcumc.org)  
 Click on "Calendar" to get up-to-date information and plan your committee's events!



**The winds of grace are always blowing,  
 but you have to raise the sail.**

*~ Sri Ramakrishna,  
 nineteenth-century Indian saint*

 <p><b>MEN'S PRAYER                  ♦BREAKFAST♦</b></p>	Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.
	Shari's Restaurant in Kirkland
	All are welcome!

# Bear Creek United Methodist Church

A family place  
of belonging

16530 Avondale Road N.E.  
Woodinville WA 98077-9178

425-788-2953  
info@bcumc.org

**David Orendorff, Pastor**  
pastor@bcumc.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.bcumc.org](http://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](mailto:news@bcumc.org). The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## On the Horizon



*Saturday, December 5*  
Emmaus Christmas Ultreya 7:00

*Sunday, December 6*  
Advent Festival 5:00-8:00 p.m.

*Christmas Eve*  
Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant  
6:00 p.m.

Communion Service 11:00 p.m.

*Saturday, January 9*  
Ad Council Retreat

*Tuesday, January 12*  
Community Blood Drive  
1:00-7:00

*Friday, January 29*  
Women's Group Soup and Movie

*Sunday, February 7*  
Amazing Grace Seminar  
11:00 am  
Family Fun Day Noon

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.