

Bear Fax

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

BCUMC receives \$3,000 grant from Conference

On November 20 we received a grant of \$3,000 from the Conference Connectional Table to help us with our Spiritual Renewal Program and to develop lay leaders for now and the future. We have already received one-half of the funds and will receive the second half in the middle of 2010.

These funds are providing the incremental financial resources to ensure that our Spiritual Renewal Program is successful. The funds will be used in four specific areas.

First, we will use some outside experts to support our Spiritual Renewal Program.

Second, we will fund a Spiritual Formation Seminar in the first half of 2010 for the congregation.

Third, we will provide some much-needed additional funds for our Marketing Committee to publicize, both internally and externally, the many programs and activities offered at BCUMC.

Finally, we will support members of our congregation who would like to attend conference leadership development programs.

We will also on occasion bring in an outside person to teach a group of BearCreekers.

As a congregation we have received both spiritual and financial support from many sources for our journey towards personal spiritual growth and congregational growth. The Pacific Northwest Conference, through this grant, recognizes the importance of our journey.

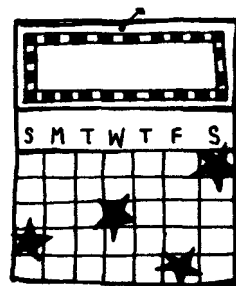
Thank you to the Pacific Northwest Conference!



January, 2010

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, January 9
Ad Council Retreat 9-4

Tuesday, January 12
Community Blood Drive
1:00-7:00 p.m. (Wooden
Cross Lutheran Church)

Wednesday, January 20
Bear Fax Deadline

Friday, January 29
Women's Group Soup
and Movie
7:00 p.m. (Gordon's)

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
I have had the privilege of being with a variety of groups as they discuss our Mission, Vision and Values. The more I hear us talk, the more convinced I am of how difficult it is to get into words just who God has made us to be as persons and as a congregation, and to what purpose God would use us. Not because we don't know, but because the words never quite get it right.

Words, at their best, only approximately say what we want to say; most of the time, this is good enough. Most of the time, we know what someone is telling us

even when they don't say it very well, use a word incorrectly, or use the wrong word altogether.

What is most important, I think, is what lies behind the words, the ineffable—that for which words are never enough so that we use many words, a variety of tones and volumes, and body language. Maybe our Mission, Vision and Values would be best if it were to be a poem, a drama, or even a musical with some snappy choreography.

This leads me to let you know that we are not trying to get the exact right words for God's work at Bear Creek; we are instead

trying to get a good conversation going. God's purpose in us will not be word-driven; it always has been and always will be relationship/conversation driven.

Jesus is the word of God because he is a person living with other people. We are the body of Christ because, with our words and deeds, we relate the love of God to our world. So, love God, each other, your neighbor and yourself, and by our conversation of love, we will know our Mission, Vision and Values.

Shalom,
Dave O

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.

January 3—Epiphany Sunday

The visit of the Magi to Jesus.

Matthew 2: 1-23

Vespers 8:00 p.m. *Psalm 131*

January 10—1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is baptized and God calls him beloved son.

Luke 3:21-22

January 17—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day

The wedding in Cana and water into wine.

John 2: 1-11

January 24—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

The beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee at his home synagogue.

Luke 4:14-21

January 31—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus is rejected by his home church and very nearly killed.

Luke 4:21-30



FELLOWSHIP

Thanks for making the Advent Festival so special!

Big Bear Hugs and Thank You's to all of you who helped to make the Advent Festival a very special evening!

Whether you made a crockpot of soup, brought Christmas cookies to share, helped with a craft, joined in with the singing, or wrote a treasured note to a college student, we are glad you started the Advent Season with your church family.

A thank you as well for inviting friends and neighbors so that they may also share in the fun and spiritual experience at Christmas time. You may have entertained angels without knowing it!

The Fellowship Committee



SHARED VALUES

Our second Shared Value is Accountability to God and to each other. Please prayerfully consider and work toward the values expressed in the two writings which follow:

To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in the doing that make our offering something beautiful for God.

*from "A Gift for God"
by Mother Teresa*

What God requires of those who call on God's name is responsive servanthood. God wishes to act in and through us, so Christian hope does not relieve men and women of responsibility. But Christian faith compels us to re-vision the nature of our responsibility.

We are not primarily responsible for shrewd analysis of problems, for strategic selection of means, for maximizing the chances of success. We are primarily responsible for turning to God, for attempting to know and do God's will. That will lead us into

actions which are not shrewd, strategic or successful, as the life of Jesus suggests. But as Jesus' life demonstrates, human action, which is faithful to God's will, can have a transforming effect.

*from "The Company of Strangers:
Christians & the Renewal of
America's Public Life"
by Parker J. Palmer*

Adult nursery worker needed



BCUMC is looking for a new employee to provide a safe, nurturing, and orderly environment for all children brought to the nursery on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Candidates must be 18 years old and out of high school to fill this position.

If you are interested in learning more, or know of someone who is, I would appreciate hearing from you!

Contact Tresje Seeley at 425.788.7077 or tresje@comcast.net.

SMALL GROUPS

Dinner groups now forming for 2010

There are few things more enjoyable than sharing a good meal with friends—those we've known for some time and those we'd like to know better. It's time once again to gather groups for Bear Creek's "Dinners" groups.

A group of eight people (singles and/or couples) share some meals over a six-month period. The time of day, day of

week, and type of meal are set by the group. The meals can be potlucks in the home or meals at restaurants—whatever the group decides. It's a chance to get to know others in the congregation outside of worship or committee meetings.

Please sign up on your presence slip or by contacting Joan Pierce at jpierce622@aol.com.



Dear Chris Aakre & Bear Creek UMC:

On behalf of the Bellevue First United Methodist Church I would like to thank you very much for providing food for our Tent City encampment. It has been gratifying that so many community members have reached out to help.

Bear Creek Methodist members have kindly done this kind work before; and we appreciate your returning to Bellevue to help us.

As you serve the residents, I hope you have made friends and received their expressions of appreciation.

Thank You

Blessings,

*Joseph R. Matsen
BFUMC Co-Chair TC Committee*

*Alice Haines
BFUMC TC Food Coordinator*

I received my check for the scholarship last week. I wasn't expecting that much, but it will go to good use buying my book for next semester. I also just got my Advent care package. I have just two more days of class, and then finals, so this will definitely help me while I'm busy studying.

Bryan Mickelson

2009 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2009	\$329,368	
2009 Offerings <i>to date</i>	\$295,630	91.5%
2009 ahead/(behind)	(\$27,404)	-8.5%
Projected Y/E Overage (Shortfall)	(\$40,497)	



Save the Date

Ad Council Retreat	January 9	9:00 a.m.
Community Blood Drive (Wooden Cross Lutheran)	January 12	1:00 p.m.
Women's Group Soup and Movies	January 29	7:00 p.m.
Amazing Grace Seminar	February 7	11:00 a.m.
Family Fun Day	February 7	Noon
Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper	February 17	6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship Service	February 17	7:00 p.m.
Women's Group Speaker and Breakfast	February 20	10:00 a.m.
Community Blood Drive (Cottage Lake Presbyterian)	March 9	1:00 p.m.
Seder	April 1	6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service	April 1	7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Tenebrae Service	April 2	7:30 p.m.
Easter Worship Services	April 4	9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Amazing Grace Seminar	April 11	11:00 a.m.
Family Fun Day	May 2	Noon
Community Blood Drive (Woodinville UUC)	May 4	1:00 p.m.

www.bcumc.org

Click on "Calendar" to get up-to-date information and plan your group's events!



Debbie and Caitlyn write novels in a month



NaNoWriMo stands for National Novel Writing Month, and it is held every November. It began in 1991 in San Francisco when a group of unemployed writers decided to try to write an entire novel in one month. That year, 21 folks participated and five crossed the finish line. The next year they built a web site and invited the world.

This year, over 166,000 people participated, and about 35,000 people "won," meaning they finished their novel. The rules are simple: write a 50,000 word novel between midnight of November 1 and midnight of November 30. It's free to sign up, and everyone who finishes is declared a "winner."

Although NaNoWriMo started as a way for some unemployed writers to amuse themselves, it has turned into a non-profit organization that sponsors a "Young Writer's Program" in over 600 schools in the U.S. and donates money and books to libraries in developing countries such as Viet Nam. See www.nanowrimo.com for more info.

This year, two members of our BCUMC family entered NaNoWriMo: Caitlyn Stewart and Debbie Brown. It came right down to the midnight wire on November 30, but they both "won"! Caitlyn and Debbie can now say they have written a novel. And they did it in one month!

P.S. Caitlyn could have done the easier young writer's program, but she wrote the entire 50,000-word novel.

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

A family place
of belonging

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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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

On the Horizon



Sunday, February 7
Amazing Grace Seminar 11:00 am
Family Fun Day Noon
Vespers 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17
Shrove Pancake Supper 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 20
Women's Group Speaker and
Breakfast 10:00 am (Larson's)

Sunday, March 7
Interfaith Choir Festival 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 9
Community Blood Drive 1:00 pm
(Cottage Lake Presbyterian)

Thursday, April 1
Seder 6:00 p.m.
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2
Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.

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.