

# Bear Fax



November, 2010

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

## Let's round up some turkeys for Matthew House

**G**obble, gobble, gobble!!! It's that time of year again when your Missions Committee holds its annual Turkey Round Up.

Each year we ask our wonderful and generous congregation to purchase turkeys for the families of Matthew House so that they too can have a joyous Thanksgiving holiday.



### Turkeys for Matthew House

Families of Matthew House often have no extra income for "high ticket" items such as turkeys. They struggle with just the basics

of making ends meet. Matthew House is a non-profit agency that supports families of prisoners.

BCUMC has successfully helped these families for the past nine Thanksgiving holidays, and we hope to continue the tradition of spreading God's love and generosity.

Our goal is 25 turkeys at a cost of from \$15-20. You can include a check in the offering—make your check out to BCUMC and mark it with "Matthew House Turkeys" in the notation. Or stop by and see Chris Aakre or one of the Missions Committee members with your cash donation.

Thanks for your support.

## Handling Credit and Debt Wisely

Wednesday, November 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Speaker Denise Rodriguez, Community Outreach Director, Apprisen Financial Advocates, will answer these questions:

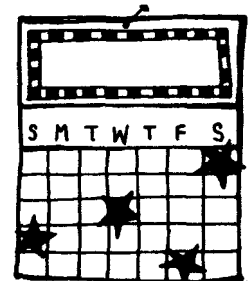
- ◆ Why is credit an important tool for reaching financial goals?
- ◆ How can I manage debt in order to build my credit rating?
- ◆ What are the various types of loan products and how do they work?
- ◆ What are the interest rates associated with various loan products?
- ◆ How can I create a "Powerpay Plan" for paying down debt?

Come for dinner at 6:00 p.m. and stay for this valuable workshop. All are invited and childcare is available.

# DOLLAR\$&CENTS

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, November 3  
Handling Credit and Debt  
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 7  
African Team Ministries  
Craft Sale

Saturday, November 13  
Women's Group to Sizzle  
Works 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 23  
Interfaith Blood Drive at  
BCUMC 1-7 p.m.

Sunday, November 28  
Advent Festival 5:00 p.m.

## Pastor's Mumblings

**D**ear Bearcreekians,  
I found the following at light-bulbjokes.com:

**Q:** How many Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?

**A:** We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb; however, if, in your own journey, you have found that a light bulb works for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship to your light bulb and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-lived, and

tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence through Jesus Christ.

*This is what I know:* God changes our bulbs to light. We are not the source of light, but the instruments of God's shining into the world.

*And I know:* Bear Creek shines well. Consider the classes, events, service and prayers of this newsletter to be God's shining.

*And I know:* We shine best when we are firmly seated in God's grace. Regular worship, service and study are not a checklist of duties to be done, but are how we firmly screw ourselves into God's mercy and power.

*And this is what I know:* We shine best when we shine together. The filament cannot say to the base, "I don't need you." Nor can the glass say to the contact point, "You are less than me." It is together in worship, study and prayer that the whole circuit is completed.

*And this is my request:*

- Be together in God as often as possible.

- Be generous in time, talent and gifts that we might not only pay the utility bills, but that we might also grow disciples and magnify God's brightness.

**Keep the Light On**

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.

**N**ovember 7—24th Sunday after Pentecost  
"Is There Life after Death?"

**Mission Moment:** Stewardship

*Luke 20: 27-38*

**N**ovember 21—26th Sunday after Pentecost  
Christ the King Sunday

"Like Two Thieves"

*Luke 23: 33-43*

**N**ovember 14—25th Sunday after Pentecost  
Consecration Sunday

Jenny Peterson will preach—Keep the Light On

**Mission Moment:** Stewardship (Luke Ward)

**N**ovember 28—1st Sunday of Advent  
United Methodist Student Day

"Staying Awake for the Coming of God"

*Luke 18: 9-14*



Please save the dates!

All-Church Retreat

March 11-12, 2011



ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

This will be a time to play and learn together.

More information coming soon.

# Bear Chat

## Church needs funds for paint and lighting

After 11 years of service in the Northwest environment, the church is in need of a coat of fresh paint. We need to pressure wash, caulk, and repaint early in 2011.

Unfortunately, due to our current budget shortfall, we cannot add this significant amount of cost to the church/trustees budget. While we are still working on an

estimate, it will probably be in excess of 100 gallons of paint.

Other urgent needs include replacement light bulbs throughout the building and interior paint.

Individuals who would be willing to contribute a gallon or more of paint can donate \$25.00 per gallon. Just put the desired amount in an envelope marked

"paint" or write "paint" on the memo line of your check.

For lighting donations, please mark your envelope or check as "lighting."

Any amount given toward these church needs will be appreciated!

The Bear Creek UMC  
Board of Trustees

### BCUMC Open Position

#### School Ministry Coordinator

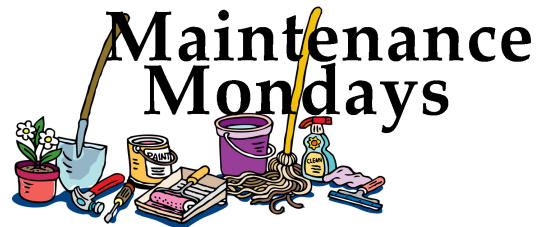
We are expanding our ministry to our neighbors. Although we are in the early stages, we have recognized that, in order to continue, we will need someone called and gifted to be the coordinator/facilitator.

If this tickles your heart, please contact Ruthann Litchford at [r.litchford@comcast.net](mailto:r.litchford@comcast.net) or 425.844.9625 for more information.

#### Visit Galilee, Jericho, Nazareth and Jerusalem

Do you want to explore the Holy Land with Pastor Dave sometime in 2011?

Visit [www.eo.travelwithus.find\\_trip/results.aspx?c=6](http://www.eo.travelwithus.find_trip/results.aspx?c=6) and let Pastor Dave know of your interest (no commitment at this time) and any preference of trips and dates you might have. This trip will change the way you read the Bible and strengthen your faith.



### Maintenance Mondays

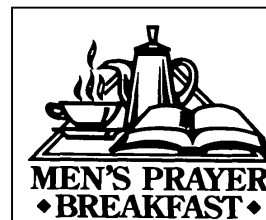
Chuck McKee and Gordy Brown are working around the church every Monday to take care of items that need maintenance or repair.

Please come and help at 10:00 a.m. any Monday that you are available. All hands are welcome!

Also, if you see things around the church that need attention, let the church office or Chuck McKee know.

## 2010 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2010	\$323,600	
2010 Offerings to date	\$267,592	87.3%
2010 ahead/(behind)	(\$34,074)	-12.7%
Projected Y/E Overage (Shortfall)	(\$24,052)	



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant  
at Totem Lake

All are welcome!

# Calling all college students!

Is that you—or your son or daughter?

If you or your child is attending a college, community college, technical or other secondary school, we need your updates! We would like to know where you are this year. Please send us your updated address as well as a current e-mail address.

We like to send out College Care Advent Packages each year in December, as well as the Bear Fax newsletter and BCUMC scholarship information. Please call or e-mail the church office as soon as possible (425.788.2953 or office@bcumc.org) We want to share Bear Creek's news and stay connected!

If you are interested in applying for a BCUMC Scholarship, please e-mail Sonya Garrett at sonyag788@aol.com letting us know of your intent, where you're attending school, and your area of study. This is our way of saying that we care, we want to share in your future endeavors, and we want to stay connected.

## Time to get your African-made craft items

Once again, it's time for the African Team Ministries craft sale! On Sunday, October 31, and Sunday, November 7, beautiful handmade crafts made by artisans in Africa will be on sale before and after worship in the narthex.

These crafts were purchased at a fair trade market price, then brought to the United States to be sold. Proceeds are fed directly back into Africa to assist in the various needs of the communities. In the past we have seen some beautiful jewelry, hand-carved

items, fun musical instruments, baskets, and more.

These craft items make great gifts for the holidays and hold a special meaning for the recipient and the giver!

## Why go to church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and the pastors are wasting their time.

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But, I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!

*When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something!*

*Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!*

*Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!*



# Support Zambia trip

Debbie Brown, who recently spent a month in Zambia, is returning there in December. This time, she is going as a volunteer. She will spend a week volunteering with World Vision in Lusaka (Zambia's capital city); two weeks volunteering for Tikondana Community Center in Katete, in villages in the bush country; and a week volunteering for Project Luangwa in Mfuwe, the largest game park in Zambia.

The Missions Committee would like to support Debbie in her efforts. On the African Team Ministries craft table on October 31 and November 7, you'll find a basket where you may donate in support of Debbie's volunteer mission. Please make checks out to BCUMC and make sure to write "Debbie Brown/Africa Mission" on the subject line.

Additionally, on Sunday, November 7, Debbie will facilitate

a Sunday School class where she will show pictures from her recent trip and will talk about World Vision, Tikondane, and Project Luangwa. All ages are welcome, and an opportunity to donate will be available.

Debbie is not receiving any support from the UW for this trip, as it is a missions trip and not a school-affiliated class.

## Gary William Linstedt

May 1, 1950-October 26, 2010

It is with great sadness that we share the news with you that Gary Linstedt has moved beyond the physical world to be with the Lord. Gary provided great leadership, love and kindness to all of those whom he had the good fortune to know with his glowing smile and charismatic sense of humor. He was loved by so many and provided unique examples of courage and strength as he fought a great fight against Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC), a chronic liver disease, for over 22 years.

We are at peace knowing he is with the Lord and no longer suffering but we'll miss him dearly.

Thank you for your years of support and prayers.

Please join us on Sunday, October 31, for a Memorial Service at Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Following the service a Celebration of his life: Please join the family for a reception at our home. Address: 11207 - 248th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA. 98053.

Rather than flowers, Gary wished that donations be made in a check to either University of Washington or Central Washington University. Gary was denied life insurance 22 years ago when his disease was diagnosed. He wanted

both his daughters to have a college education and a donation to the universities will go toward their personal education. These two girls were the best thing in his life and shared great joy with their father.

God Bless all of you and Gary,  
Tyler Merkeley  
Barbara, Jordan  
and Markelle Linstedt



## Save the Date

- Ad Council Retreat
- Women's Group Jewelry Class
- Family Fun Day
- Women's Group Soup and Movie at Gordon's
- All-Church Retreat
- Interfaith Choir Festival (LDS Church)
- Women's Retreat at Indianola
- Crop Walk
- Women's Group End-of-Year Brunch



- Saturday, January 8
- Saturday, January 22 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 23
- Friday, February 11 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 11-Saturday, March 12
- Sunday, March 13
- Friday, March 25-Sunday, March 27
- Sunday, May 15
- Saturday, June 4

[www.bcumc.org](http://www.bcumc.org)

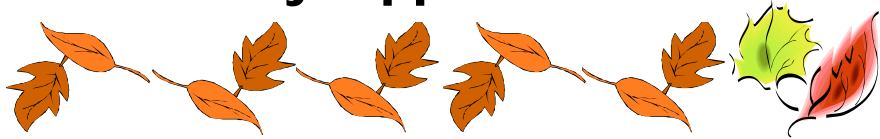
Click on "Calendar" to get up-to-date information on BCUMC activities!

REMI NDER: Please make your reservations by Sunday, October 31!  
 We need 12 women to reserve their space by calling Jan Becker at (425) 485-0665!

*Don't miss the fun and food!*

## Bear Creek UMC Women's Group

### -Holiday Appetizers-



Friend and chef, Julie Johnson, will be teaching a class at SIZZLEWORKS planned especially for our Women's Group. The class will be a hands-on experience where different groups will be preparing the different appetizers for us all to share!

### The Appetizer Menu



Skirt Steak Skewers with Balsamic Reduction

Salt & Pepper Prawn Cocktail



Mini Twice Baked Potatoes

Corn Cakes with Guacamole



Cream of Artichoke Soup Shots with Parmesan Twists

Baked Brie with Brandied Cranberries

Roasted Pear and Gorgonzola Crostini



Mushroom Ragu Crostini

Mini Carmel Apple Croustades

Sipping Chocolate with Peppermint Sticks

**Date:** Saturday, November 13

**Time:** 11 o'clock AM

**Place:** The Sizzleworks at 14111 NE 24th Street, Bellevue WA 98007 (425) 644-4288

**Carpooling:** Meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 am

**Cost:** \$55 (Purchase tickets by November 7)

To make reservations, contact Jan Becker at church or home. [dwbfly@comcast.net](mailto:dwbfly@comcast.net)

# Support our students during Advent

November 28 is the date for our all-church Advent Celebration. Part of this fun evening is our chance to extend our love and support to our college students.

We will be sending care pack-

ages full of goodies and notes to remind the students of their caring church family "back home." Please plan to donate non-perishable snacks (candy, nuts, granola bars, etc.), treats (pencils, pens, note pads, etc.), notes of support and/

or money for postage. Donations can be brought to church during November or to the event on November 28. Questions or updated addresses? Please contact Joan Thorson at 425.788.7450 or [tualcogirl@verizon.net](mailto:tualcogirl@verizon.net).

## United Methodist Student Day offering is November 28

Thanks to your generous gifts on United Methodist Student Day, talented students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities can receive scholarships and loans.

In 1866, a special fund was established for the advanced education of Sunday school children and the educational preparation of

persons for the ministry and missionary service. The 1940 General Conference established Methodist Student Day with a churchwide offering. The 1968 Uniting Conference continued this connectional student-aid program to be funded by the United Methodist Student Day offering. Dates for taking the offering have changed through the years.

The United Methodist Student Day offering may assist a seminary student called to be a pastor or a missionary. Maybe it will enable a student to complete nursing school or get an education degree.

Each year a percentage of the contributions are also returned to the annual conferences for merit scholarships.

## Party On!

The idea of tithing in the Old Testament does not exactly fit our contemporary bang-'em-on-the-head-to-get-more-bucks model.

Back then, tithing was not linked to a building program, utilities or payroll. It was a system that subsidized a party—a great festival honoring Yaweh's goodness, grace and forgiveness. It was a celebration that God remembered the people's sins no more and dealt with them mercifully.

The Israelites would make their sojourn to the temple and spend days camping out with family and friends—feasting, drinking, dancing, singing and laughing. Smoke rose to the heavens as the first fruits were sacrificed in thanksgiving to the Lord. The pyre of death was the altar of life, and all of it went to the Lord. (Caring for the physical needs of others came from the coffers beyond the 10 percent).

Sadly, the church has lost the party spirit. We have lost the celebration of life. We think the church could learn a few things from the Israelites of old (about celebrating before the Lord).

Anthony Campolo and  
Gordon Aeschliman

## Faithful Giving

A pastor was asked to define "faithful giving." His reply was simple: "All I ask is that you apply the same standards to your church giving that you would to other important areas of your life..."

If your car starts one out of three or four times, do you consider it faithful?

If the paper boy skips your Monday and Thursday editions, would you miss them?

If you fail to come to work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful?

If you miss a couple of mortgage or car payments during the year, would your bank say, "Oh, well, 10 out of 12 isn't bad?"

If you contribute financially only now and then, are you faithful? Why not try to apply the same standards to your church giving as you do in other areas of your life?



Peace Lutheran Church  
Flagstaff, AZ

# Bear Creek United Methodist Church

A family place  
of belonging

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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. The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## On the Horizon

*Saturday, December 4*

Walk to Emmaus Christmas Ultreya  
7:00 p.m.

*Sunday, December 5*

Amazing Grace Seminar 11:00 a.m.

*Sunday, December 12*

Youth Christmas Party

*Tuesday, December 21*

Charge Conference 7:05 p.m.

*Friday, December 24*

Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 p.m.

*Sunday, December 26*

Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship  
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.

Midweek at  
Bear Creek  
Wednesdays  
6:00 p.m.

**All are welcome!**

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

**Growing in love for God and neighbor through worship, study and service.**