

# Bear Fax



December, 2010

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

## Candlelit joy times two planned for Christmas Eve

Come and bring your children, family, friends, and neighbors for a heart-warming, affirming and joyous Christmas Eve service at BCUMC!

We will have two candlelight services this year, one at 7:00 p.m. and one at 11:00 p.m. Both will be in a familiar lessons and carols format, retelling the Christmas story for all ages. The service is appropriate for both those who know the story well and those who are new to the wonder of it all.

There will be special music presented, as well as the opportunity to participate in singing some of your favorite carols. The service, which lasts about an hour, ends with a memorable and beautiful passing of Christmas peace by candlelight.

Children are invited and welcome to attend the service.

*Note: There have been some discrepancies in the Christmas Eve service times published. The definitive times are as listed here, 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.*

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## Calling all children for the Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant on December 26

Again this year on December 26, the first Sunday following Christmas, the morning worship service will include an unrehearsed, all-children-welcome Christmas pageant. Costumes for a wide variety of characters in various sizes will be available to borrow the morning of the pageant. Children are also invited to bring their own costume, if desired. (No special costume requirements, and yes, Spiderman or Santa Claus may show up.)

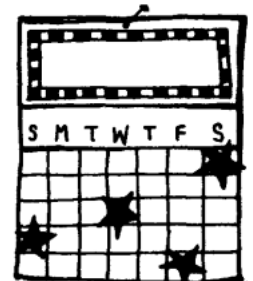
The service begins at the normal worship time of 9:30 a.m. Those planning to use a BCUMC costume are encouraged to show up a little early to get outfitted.

This pageant is always a delight, and you never know exactly what may happen. What you can be sure of is a living, breathing demonstration of God's love for us, given in the gift of Baby Jesus and shown in the faces of the children in the pageant.

We're looking forward to seeing you there, and extend a special invitation to those children who may be visiting Grandma and Grandpa or aunts and uncles!



Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 4  
Walk to Emmaus Christmas Ultreya 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 12  
Amazing Grace Seminar  
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 12  
Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Worship  
7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26  
Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant 9:30 a.m.

## Pastor's Mumblings

**D**ear Bearcreekians,  
A man is stranded on the proverbial deserted Pacific island for years. Finally, one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper's attention. The boat comes near the island, and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man.

After awhile the sailor asks, "What are those three huts you have here?"

"Well, that's my house there."

"What's that next hut?" asks the sailor.

"I built that hut to be my church."

"What about the other hut?"

"Oh, that's where I used to go to church."

No comment.

Thanksgiving has just passed and Christmas is around the corner. That is how the calendar works. It is also how the soul works. Practice gratitude (count

your blessings (Thanksgiving) and new, deeper, mysterious and wonderful blessings (Christmas) will descend as a star from heaven upon you.

A grateful heart always precedes great gifts of the heart. And where better to practice a grateful heart with others than in worship at Bear Creek. I thank God for all you Bearcreekians.

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.

### December 5—2nd Sunday of Advent

Repentance—a new attitude—trusting that God is both near to us and on our side.

*Matthew 3: 1-6*

### December 19—4th Sunday of Advent

The faith of Joseph—he marries a pregnant little girl, raises her son as his son, and the boy becomes the Messiah.

*Matthew 1: 18-25*

### December 12—3rd Sunday of Advent

Christmas is for everyone: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

*Matthew 11: 2-11*

### December 26—1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant



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.

# Try alternate giving this Christmas

This Christmas season we will again offer alternative giving opportunities. You can make a difference in the world while giving a GIFT OF LOVE as an alternative Christmas gift.

Alternative giving is donating money to a worthy organization in honor of a family member or friend. You can give a card to that person, explaining that a donation was given in their name.

This is a different sort of gift. You're not giving an item, you're giving a donation. We all have so much "stuff" and many of us are trying to simplify, making this the perfect gift!

This is a three-way blessing: to the person who gives the gift; the organization who receives the gift; and the person in whose name the gift is given. One hundred percent of your giving will go to the project you select.

Gifts that serve others honor the birth of Jesus and show our concern for the whole family of God. Remember God's greatest gift by giving in Christ's name to help members of our extended family locally or around the world.

For Christmas 2010, the Missions Committee has highlighted the following organizations:

- ◆ Mary's Place – Mary's Place is a welcoming and safe environment in Seattle where women and children can build community,

enrich their days and find resources to rebuild their lives.


- ◆ Country Doc Teen Clinic - This free medical clinic for homeless youth is run by volunteer staff and physicians through the University of Washington. It is solely dependent on donations for all the medical needs of the youth, including prescriptions, lab tests and medical supplies.
- ◆ Eastside Baby Corner - This service organization collects and purchases needed items for children from birth to preteen age. Located in Issaquah, they supply basic items to over 160 shelters, food banks, public health nurses, social workers, and other social service organizations.
- ◆ Bus Tickets for SHARE and Tent City – Bus passes for homeless individuals to get to work, job interviews, doctor appointments, etc. SHARE is able to purchase METRO bus tickets for one-fifth the normal cost.
- ◆ UMCOR – This year you can select from an UMCOR gift catalog to support your favorite UMCOR effort. Just note the Advance number with your

gift. Gift selections include clean water, Jamaa Letu, Nothing But Nets and many other worthy causes.

- ◆ P.E.T. – Personal Energy Transportation (PET) Project's mission is to provide appropriate mobility for all of God's children in need. They seek to provide mobility first for those in greatest need and with the least resources in poor or underdeveloped countries.

The Missions Committee will set up market tables at the Advent Festival on November 28 and in the church narthex during coffee hour on Sunday, December 5, and Sunday, December 12. This year you may choose from a variety Christmas cards decorated by our youth.





Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.  
Shari's Restaurant  
at Totem Lake  
All are welcome!

**MEN'S PRAYER  
◆ BREAKFAST ◆**

# Amazing Grace

Sunday, December 12  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# BeadforLife<sup>®</sup> is eradicating poverty one bead at a time

The mission of "Bead for Life" is to create sustainable opportunities for women to lift their families out of extreme poverty by connecting people worldwide in a circle of exchange that enriches everyone.

The beaders, tailors, and shea nut gatherers are primarily impoverished women who are hardworking, intelligent, and strong in their desire to improve their lives. They make gorgeous handcrafted paper beads from recycled paper and turn them into necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

Because the beaders use recycled, colorful paper, the beads help prevent environmental degradation. What was trash becomes beauty, money, food, and hope. The women who gather the shea nuts search the landscape early in the morning looking for the finest nuts. They dry and husk the nuts and sell them to BeadforLife, creating opportunities for themselves and their families.

The goal is for members to be independent of BeadforLife within 18 months by being able to support themselves within the Ugandan economy. To

assist members in launching their own small businesses or in creating new revenue streams, BeadforLife provides entrepreneurial training, facilitates savings accounts, and makes business funds available. In the rural areas their program focuses on agricultural development.

BeadforLife sponsors Community Development projects in health, vocational training for impoverished youth, affordable housing, and business development. These projects are financed with the net profits from the sale of the beads and shea butter products and support not only our members, but other impoverished people living in Uganda.

BeadforLife always pays its members above average Fair Trade prices. They encourage members to open savings accounts and to invest in opportunities which will help them leave poverty behind. All net profits are reinvested in the Community Development projects.

BeadforLife products will be available for sale at the BCUMC Advent Festival on November 28 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

## 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 is supporting Debbie in her efforts. If you can help, please make checks payable to BCUMC and make sure to write "Debbie Brown/Africa Mission" on the subject line.

Debbie is not receiving any support from the UW for this trip, as it is a missions trip and not a school-affiliated class. Any help you can give will be appreciated.

## Matthew House gets 23 turkeys

Turkey Mission Accomplished! Maria and Harvey Olson delivered 25 turkeys, weighing 447 lbs., to Matthew House for Thanksgiving dinners.

The people of Matthew House were overjoyed and a group of school children taking a tour of their facilities all pitched in to help unload the turkeys and put them into refrigerated storage.

The kids had a ball, and this helped them understand how Matthew House and their supporting churches and others do the job of helping families in need.

Your donations helped cover the cost of the turkeys, plus an extra \$35, which was sent to Matthew House also. Thanks for your continued support of Matthew House.



# BCUMC Women's Group December Event!

## Sunday, December 5

Join the BCUMC Women & Friends on  
Sunday, December 5, at 2:00 pm to  
celebrate friendship and the holidays with...

### **"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"**

**Sunday, December 5  
2:00 pm**

11500 Redmond/Woodinville Road  
Redmond, WA 98052

Evergreen Family Theater  
Housed in Redwood Family Church

**TICKETS: \$14.00**

See Ann Rupley for tickets  
or call her at 425.486.7443

For more information about the play,  
ask Christina Rupley,  
who is on the production staff!  
Caitlin Stewart performs in the play.

To car pool from the church or for more information,  
contact Connie Gagnon (425) 402-4797  
or [kcgagnon@frontier.com](mailto:kcgagnon@frontier.com)

## **Holiday Desserts**

**Sunday, December 5**

**4:30 pm**



**Joan Thorson's Home**

**16818 - 198th Avenue NE  
Woodinville, WA 98077**

(uphill, behind the church)  
(425) 788-7450

Join the BCUMC Women for dessert  
following the show—  
our traditional Christmas party!  
Bring your favorite holiday dessert!

If you can not come to the play,  
join us afterwards  
for dessert and Christian fellowship.



## An up close and revealing look at our planet

If we could shrink the earth's approximately six and one half billion population (6,881,148,298 and counting, according to [opr.princeton.edu/popclock/](http://opr.princeton.edu/popclock/)) down to a village of precisely 100 people, it would look something like the following:

60	Asians	33	would live in substandard housing
12	Europeans	25	would sleep in their own bed at night
15	from Western Hemisphere: (9 Latin Americans, 5 North Americans, 1 Oceania)	16	would be unable to read
13	Africans	33	would suffer from malnutrition
50	would be male	14	would be undernourished
50	would be female	30	would have enough money for a bank account
73	would be non-white	8	would own a car
27	would be white	6	would have a college degree
70	would be non-Christian	5	would own a computer
30	would be Christians		

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding, education, and compassion becomes glaringly apparent.

Debby Heimfeld  
Missions Committee



### Marian Arlin

August 1, 1920-September 19, 2010

A memorial service for Marian Arlin is planned for Monday, December 6, at 1:00 pm. at Emerald Heights, 10901-176th Circle N.E. Redmond, WA.

This will be an opportunity for all who loved Marian to celebrate her life with others.

Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!



John and Lynda McIlwaine became grandparents of a beautiful granddaughter on September 16. Stella Beth Bacon was born to their daughter, Amy, and her husband, Tony Bacon. Stella was 7 lb. 15 oz. and 19 inches long. They are all doing well!



Stella Beth (McIlwaine) Bacon

# 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.

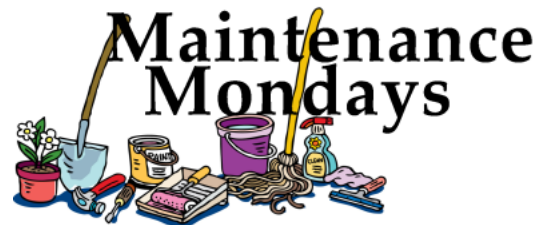
### Visit Galilee, Jericho, Nazareth and Jerusalem

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.

## 2010 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2010	\$323,600	
2010 Offerings to date	\$253,643	86.7%
2010 ahead/(behind)	(\$38,842)	-13.3%
Projected Y/E Overage (Shortfall)	(\$28,435)	



Chuck McKee and Gordy Brown are working around the church every Monday to take 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.

## Merry Christmas!



# 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



## December

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, January 8*  
Ad Council Retreat

*Saturday, January 22*  
Women's Group Jewelry Making  
10:00 a.m.

*Sunday, January 23*  
Family Fun Day

*Friday, February 11*  
Women's Group Soup and Movie  
(at Gordon's) 7:00 p.m.

*March 11-12*  
All-Church Retreat

*Sunday, March 13*  
Interfaith Choir Festival at LDS Church 7:00 pm

*March 25-27*  
Women's Retreat at Camp Indianola

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.**