

# Bear Fax

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

## Prepare for Advent with fun family festival on December 2

The Advent Festival is a joyous time for all ages. Enjoy a warm, satisfying meal of soup and salad; make craft items for Advent; listen to the sounds of Christmas music; and enjoy the fellowship gathering of friends and church family.

**Sunday, December 2**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Special Soup Supper**

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**"Hooray for Christmas"**

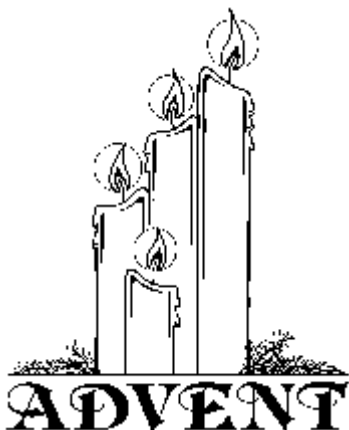
**musical presentation**

**at 7:00 p.m.**

\*Please bring homemade Christmas cookies to share\*

\*Invite your friends and neighbors\*

Recommended donation of \$3.00 per person/\$10.00 per family at the door



**Start the  
Advent season in a  
festive way!!**

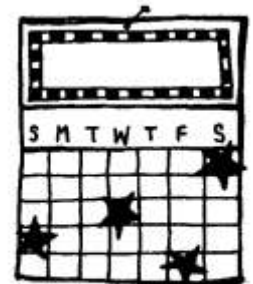
Sponsored by your Fellowship Committee



December, 2007

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message	2
Worship in December	2
All-Church Conference	3
Campus Outreach	3
Stewardship	4
Prayer Concerns	4
Celebration Luncheon Recipes	5
Thank You Letters	6
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	7



### DATES TO REMEMBER

*Sunday, December 2*  
Advent Festival

*Wednesday, December 12*  
All-Church Conference

*Monday, December 17*  
Bear Fax Deadline

*December 21-January 1*  
Office Closed

*Christmas Eve*  
Family Christmas Pageant  
Candlelight Worship

## PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,  
Some scriptures and a couple of people got me to thinking about the second coming. You know that, in the early church, there was a belief that Christ would come again with an army of angels to establish the reign of God upon earth. Many Christians **of that time expected this "second coming" to happen before the first generation of Christians had completely died.**

I wonder if some of the early church, and some of us who are

still waiting, might not have missed the real meaning. I feel like Christmas is a second coming every year. I love the story of the birth of Jesus and when I hear it, especially at the Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant, Jesus comes with angels to me and establishes the reign of God in my heart.

There are other second comings in my life. There are the ones who make me cry with love. And when they come to me, it is Jesus **with the angels, and God's reign of servant love** is made my life.

And there are the amazingly compassionate folks who invite me to serve Tent City with them, or work a Chrysalis with them, or sing with them and, in these moments, Jesus comes with angels and God rules the universe. And it is Christmas all over again.

Vickie and I wish you a Merry Christmas of the second, third, and infinite comings of Jesus.

Shalom,  
Dave O



## WORSHIP CORNER

December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent  
**"Assembling a Merry Christmas"**

Romans 13:11-14

Advent Festival 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
Sunday Vespers 8:00 p.m.



December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent  
**"Don't Miss Christmas"**

Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday Vespers 8:00 p.m.



December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent  
**"Hearing and Seeing God"**

Matthew 11:2-6

Sunday Vespers 8:00 p.m.



December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent  
**"Women Who Knew Jesus"**

Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday Vespers 8:00 p.m.

December 24  
**Unrehearsed Children's Christmas**  
Pageant 6:00 p.m.

All children are invited to come in costume or to use one of the costumes available at the church to dress as a nativity character (excluding Mary, Joseph and Jesus) of their choosing. The service is truly an unrehearsed telling of the story and the singing of favorite carols.

Lessons, Carols and Candles 11:00 p.m.

A traditional Christmas worship service



December 30 - 1st Sunday after Christmas  
**"A Child Is Born"**

Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday Vespers 8:00 p.m.



## BCUMC All-Church Conference

### Wednesday, December 12

### 7:00 p.m.

Come to midweek dinner at 6:00 and stay for our all-church conference. If you are a member of BCUMC, this is your opportunity to help us set direction and finances for 2008.

Presiding elder will be David Tinney of Aldersgate UMC. David, an avid cyclist, came to pastoral ministry as a second career after being a news photographer.

**We'll vote on the budget, hear the membership report, and more!**

*Everyone is invited!*

## MISSIONS MOMENT

### Advent Campus Reach

Remember our college students with a care package

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 away from home, and many have expressed appreciation for the comfort of knowing their church connection remains unbroken.

For the past three years, BCUMC parents have combined efforts to deliver a variety of goodies to their college-aged youth during the first finals week of the year. Packing the boxes during Advent Festival gives the entire congregation a chance to remember these students, catch up with their parents on how **they're doing, and anticipate the day (soon!) when they'll be back** in our midst during school breaks.

Student response has been heartwarming and overwhelmingly positive. This year we hope to involve the entire congregation in extending our love and encouragement to our youth at their college homes. The Sunday bulletin has been listing the students with verified campus addresses. Start writing your notes now, and get the kids involved, too! During the Advent Festival, drop your notes into 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 will be added to the BCUMC Scholarship Fund.

**If you're able, bring a one-to-two-dozen count of any care package goody to the Advent Festival or deliver it to church (well-marked) in advance.** Smaller sizes

**are preferable and weight doesn't matter.** Though sugary treats are always welcome, also consider nutritious, energy-rich products to power students healthfully through finals. We always get a great assortment!

Packages will be sent on December 3 by flat-rate priority mail and should arrive close to finals week. Please contribute what you can to the cost of a box (\$8.95).

Note to Parents: If we do **not have your student's school** address yet, please e-mail Tracy Daugherty at [touchdown.one@comcast.net](mailto:touchdown.one@comcast.net) today. All students qualify, even if attending school locally and living at home.

*Bless your outreach to our young members on campus, keeping them connected to their church home!*

## STEWARDSHIP

### What a great start to the Stewardship Campaign!

We had a wonderful Commitment Sunday and Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, November 18. As always with our church, we had great food (thank you to the Fellowship Committee), an intense trivia contest and a joyful United Methodist Karaoke. Most importantly, however, we took time to worship and give back a small part of the abundance that the Lord has provided. Thank you to all who attended and participated in this wonderful day.

After counting the commitment cards submitted, our Financial Secretary reported that we have commitments to date of over \$657,000 for our Capital Campaign and over \$239,000 for our General Operating Fund. Thank you to everyone!

But, we still have work to do. Our goal for the Capital Campaign

is \$800,000, and for the General Operating Fund, we received commitment cards from about two-thirds of those who normally make a commitment.

If you were unable to attend on Commitment Sunday, please send in your commitments to the church office with attention to Joanne Wright, Financial Secretary. In a recent letter we sent commitment cards to each of you. If you did not receive the cards or have misplaced them, please call Bonnie in the church office at 425.788.2953 and she will send you some. Thank you in advance for your commitment.



For our offerings we will now have another fund to which to designate your gifts—the Capital Fund. Please make sure that you designate to which fund you are giving—General Operating Fund, Capital Fund, or another special gift. If your donation is not designated, it will automatically go into the General Operating Fund.

Thanks for your attention to this request. It will make the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's jobs much easier.

We have a great opportunity this year to significantly improve **our church's financial future.** Please make sure you have turned in your commitments for both the General Operating fund and the Capital Campaign.

Jim Morris, Chair  
Stewardship Committee

Please keep the following people and their families in your prayers:

**Garland Bellamy**, who is mourning the lost of his sister and dealing with work and health issues.

**Ted Rupley** and **Christina Rupley**, who are recuperating from nose and hip surgery, respectively.

**Andy and Joan Pierce**, who recently became grandparents. Congratulations!

**Don Robson's** uncle and **Kathy Robson's** mother.

**Shallon Tagg**, who continues to deal with post-operative complications.

Victims of the recent California wildfires who lost their homes.

*our  
Thoughts  
and  
Prayers  
are with You...*

### The Same Old Song

Meeting a parishioner on the street, Pastor Dave asked why he had not seen the fellow at worship very often. "Well," the man complained, "it seems like every time I go to church you sing the same old hymns."

"Oh," replied Pastor Dave. "What hymns are those?"

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

# FELLOWSHIP

## Good food and fellowship served up at Celebration Luncheon

The Fellowship committee enjoyed preparing and serving the Celebration Luncheon on Commitment Sunday, November 18!

Kitchen angels for the luncheon were Marian Arlin, Nancy Larson, Debra McKnight, Jeannie Morris, Sara Smith, Keith Larsen, Randy Garrett, Carla Woodworth, Ann Rupley, Ted Rupley, and Christina Rupley.

We are providing two recipes from that day. Enjoy!

### **Connie's Chicken Cranberry Croissants**

For 6-8 croissants

1 rotisserie chicken, *cooked and removed from the bone, or 2 whole chicken breasts, cooked and shredded*

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 teaspoon curry powder

1/2 teaspoon celery seed

1/2 cup dried craisins

1/2 cup sliced almonds, *optional*

Mix together the mayonnaise, curry powder, celery seed, craisins. Add shredded chicken, mix well, and scoop into croissants.

### **Sonya's Spinach and Mandarin Orange Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing**

1 bunch fresh spinach greens or a combination of spinach and romaine lettuce

Mandarin oranges (2 cans)

Sliced red onion

Feta cheese

Caramelized pecans or almonds (optional)

Gently mix all ingredients and add dressing just before serving.

### Poppy Seed Dressing

Combine in a blender:

2/3 cup sugar

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 tsp. salt

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

1/3 grated onion (optional)

1 T lemon juice

Slowly add 1 cup vegetable oil. Add up to 1/4 cup water as needed. Stir in 1 tablespoon poppy seeds. Chill dressing before adding to salad.

Connie Gagnon and Sonya Garrett  
"Angel Coordinators"

## \$ FINANCE REPORT \$

Amount budgeted for 2007

\$332,260

Year to-date offerings  
*through November 18*

\$281,652     95.8%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$12,271)     -4.2%

Impact to Annual Budget

(\$30,027)

## Alternative Christmas Giving

In this issue of the Bear Fax, you'll find an Alternative Giving order form. Please fill out the form and bring it to the Advent Festival on December 2 or to church on December 9 or 16.

Pencil\* in the Date!

## Emergency Preparedness

**Saturday, December 8**  
**10 am – 2 pm**

\*Watch your e-mail and Sunday bulletin for more info—we're still working on the details—including the date!

3 Days, 3 Ways, Are You Ready? is a public motivation campaign urging you, your family, and the community to prepare for emergencies and disasters. 3 Days, 3 Ways is more than a campaign; it's a message relying on the participation and action steps each of us takes today.

The message is simple—be ready to survive on your own for a minimum of 3 Days following a disaster. For large disasters, you may not receive any government assistance for up to 7 Days.

Become prepared in 3 Ways – *make a plan, build a kit, and get involved*. Any step we take today will put us in a greater position for resiliency, whether from a major earthquake, a winter storm, a terrorist act or a pandemic flu outbreak.



We've got mail!

## Scholarship Appreciation

Hey BCUMC!

I just wanted to thank you very much for the scholarship that you were so generous to give to all of us college students! It definitely came at a good time—ready for my next round of school supplies, etc., for the semester! Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Audrey Garrett

Dear Bear Creek United Methodist Church,  
Thank you so much for letting us stay at your church. It is a beautiful building and we really appreciate your generosity. Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Dana Diaz and  
Renton First Confirmation Class



Did you know that the BCUMC sermons are now available via iTunes on [www.bcumc.org](http://www.bcumc.org)? You can subscribe for automatic downloads OR you can simply listen to Dave O by going directly to the [www.bcumc.org](http://www.bcumc.org) website Sermon Page and clicking on the "Recorded Version" icon. You can also read the printed version, get the latest calendar dates, and lots more! Check it out today!



# Bear Creek United Methodist Church

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

425.788.2953

info@bcumc.org

David Orendorff, Pastor

pastor@bcumc.org

*A family place of  
belonging*

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



The Bear Fax is published monthly. The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 124  
Woodinville WA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## On the Horizon



*Saturday, January 5*  
Leadership Retreat

*Sunday, January 6*  
Financial Peace University  
Preview Class

*Wednesday, January 9*  
Financial Peace University

*Sunday, February 24*  
Sweetheart Dinner

Sunday Worship  
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.

Sunday Vespers  
8:00 p.m.

**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.*