



Bear Fax

August, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Be a hero—give blood

Every day, there are patients in our community who need blood transfusions. Whether it is due to an emergency or ongoing medical care, there are children and adults who depend on frequent lifesaving transfusions to keep them alive.

Summer is a tough time of the year. High schools are closed, many regular donors take vacations, and more cars on the road can lead to more car accidents and a potential increase in the need for blood.

It takes 900 people, registering every week-day, to keep our community's blood supply at stable levels. When you make your list of supplies for a visit to Mt. Rainier, a barbeque party, a trip to the beach or a ferry ride to the San Juan Islands, consider putting "donate blood" on your to-do list.

Donating blood takes about an hour out of your busy summer schedule, but it is an hour well spent. Each blood donation is a gift of life, potentially saving three lives.

Blood donations help not only those who have suffered trauma, but also those with cancer, surgery patients and premature babies.

The Puget Sound Blood Center is an independent, community-based blood center internationally recognized for its research, medical and blood and tissue services. Celebrating over 60 years of innovation, the Blood Center has a long and unique tradition of blending community volunteerism, medical science and research to improve patient's lives. The Blood Center, serving patients in more than 70 hospitals and clinics in 14 counties with blood services, pro-

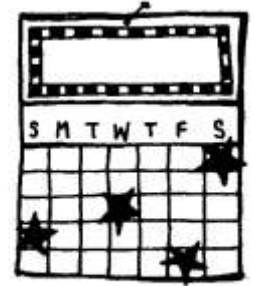
vides tissue and transplantation support to 185 hospitals across the Northwest.

All who are able are encouraged to donate. Donors must be 18 or older (16 or 17 with a Blood Center parental permission form), weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health.



A bloodmobile will be here at Bear Creek UMC on Tuesday, August 12, from 1:00-7:00 (dinner break 3:00-4:00). However, because the bloodmobile has limited space, we suggest making an appointment. You can call the church office at 425.788.2953.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

August 3
Picnic Potluck at Cottage Lake Park

August 12
Blood Drive at BCUMC

Saturday, August 23
Amazing Grace Seminar



Thanks
for remembering your
Summer Giving!

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,

"And that's the truth—blpppp."
(with your tongue flapping out)

As I write this, it is July 8. I will be on vacation when the Bear Fax deadline comes around and Bonnie wants my stuff early.

She's funny that way and keeps me on track as best she can.

But—it is July 8. How do I know what will be important on August 1, 2008? How do I know what we will be thinking about or doing almost a month from now? I could write this now and not agree with myself in four weeks.

Of course, if I stay open to the Holy Spirit, I might not agree with myself as soon as I finish

writing. So what do I write? I have decided to write the eternal and transcendent truth as I know it. Hear goes:

God is Love. God is Loving-kindness. God is Servant Action. Which are various ways of saying that God is Love.

That's it. That's all. It doesn't get any better or more profound. It will be true August 1, 2008, and August 1, 9999. Of course, I have a lot of explaining to do about just what I mean in these three little words. And how we might live this truth could change by 9999. So I try not to think too far ahead but **attempt in living with today's** scripture to make some sense of it for this day and maybe even this week.

I have kidded with you that this really is my only sermon. It *really is* my only sermon, and each Sunday is just a variation on this one truth. It is the truth that I believe is forever and above all other truths.

Now, what do you believe to be the eternal and transcendent truth? What do you believe will still be true in 9999? Why not write your own confession or witness for the Bear Fax? Bonnie, other readers and I would love to have some folks tell of their faith. Are you up to the challenge? What will still be true in 9999?

Shalom,
Dave O

WORSHIP

Join us Sundays 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.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 and with our brother and sister disciples of Jesus will be just right.

August 3—12th Sunday after Pentecost
"What Do We do When Our Mentor Is Murdered?"

Jesus has just begun his ministry when he is told that his spiritual director, his mentor, his teacher and friend, John, called the Baptist because he baptized for the forgiveness of sins, has had his head cut off. Now what does Jesus do?

Matthew 14: 1-21

Sunday Vespers

Mark 8: 22-26

August 10—13th Sunday after Pentecost
"The Rock, Saint or Sinker?"

John Ortberg writes, "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat." Peter (the rock) gets out of the boat, takes a step, and sinks. And the church is built upon this rock? And now we are the rocks of the church? Is that a good thing?

Matthew 14: 22-33

Sunday Vespers

Mark 9: 14-29

August 17—14th Sunday after Pentecost
"Getting Help from God"

How do we have the great faith of the Canaanite

mother? I think it begins with the admission that we need help. Then we believe there is help in God. And finally letting go of our will, we ask for the help we need, **trusting that God answers our cries in God's way and time.**

Matthew 15: 21-28

Sunday Vespers

Mark 10: 46-52

August 24—15th Sunday after Pentecost
"Who Is Jesus"

Even while Jesus was alive there was debate about who he was—Messiah, miracle worker, charlatan, prophet, devil, and more. Are our times any better in truly knowing who Jesus might be?

Matthew 16: 13-20

Sunday Vespers

Matthew 4: 23-25

August 31—16th Sunday after Pentecost
"Jesus Was an Optimist"

Peter, in this passage, is a pessimist. In fact, Jesus calls him Satan for his desire that Jesus avoid a **suffering death. Isn't Peter's prayer for Jesus our prayer for each other and ourselves?** What has Peter done to be called Satan by Jesus?

Matthew 16: 21-28

Sunday Vespers

Matthew 8: 1-4

Missions

Because AIDS isn't over. Period.

Recent progress to expedite HIV/AIDS treatment, boost funding and advance toward a cure has been phenomenal. Now is certainly no time to quit. In fact, it's a great time to pick up the pace in funding the next level of promising research, so this summer I'll once again pedal across New York state (with Caitlin and Kyle on crew!) and one month later continue the journey to the U.S. Capitol.

Why keep cycling in AIDS Rides year after year? My husband gets right to the point with, "It's what you do." True enough, it's not what I did a dozen years ago before losing my brother to AIDS.

We don't always get to choose the kick in the pants that reveals our purpose or the method by which we carry it out. All I know is that somewhere in the shivering cold of Alaska, searing heat of eastern Montana, quad-burning climbs of central New York or another bleary-eyed pre-dawn drive to the gym, I knew it was what needed to be done.

The world is crying out with the cruel indiscrimination of this virus known as HIV, and our response must be greater to force it to succumb. There is much to do, which gives each of us an opportunity to do something. Indeed, we must.

I invite you to visit my blog, now and often, to learn more about "what I do" and what more you can do to go the extra mile and join the outcry to end AIDS. Thank you always and in advance for your powerful prayers to cover the riders and crew of the Empire State AIDS Ride and NYCDC Ride for Research in safety, strength, inspiration and hope on their 900-mile journey.

Tracy Daugherty

Blogging at
www.kickstandup.blogspot.com

Elaine Stanovsky elected bishop

The Rev. Elaine J. W. Stanovsky of Seattle has been elected a bishop by the Western Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church. Elaine is the sister of Doug Woodworth, member of Bear Creek UMC, and Pastor Melvin Woodworth.

Stanovsky, 54, a district superintendent in Seattle, was elected on July 19 on the 25th ballot. She is the last of eight new U.S. bishops recently elected at five jurisdictional meetings across the United States. She will fill one of two openings in the church's Western Jurisdiction. The Rev. Grant Hagiya, of Redondo Beach, California, will fill the other.

Ordained as a United Methodist deacon in 1981 and as an elder in 1983, Stanovsky has served Washington congregations in Renton and Seattle and headed the Church Council of Greater Seattle from 1990 to 1995. She has been a district superintendent in Puget

Sound and in Tacoma, as well as a director of connectional ministries for the Pacific-Northwest Conference and assistant to the bishop.

She will become one of 50 active U.S. bishops, including six serving the 12-state Western Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction is home to 390,000 United Methodists in seven annual conferences that span Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, as well as one missionary conference in Alaska.

Elaine has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

"I claim my baptism this day and the special callings to which God has called me," said an emotional Stanovsky after her election was announced. "...May God lead

us faithfully forward in the name of Jesus Christ."

Surrounded by her husband, Clinton Stanovsky, and their three grown sons, she said she has thought a lot about family as of late. "I am so grateful for a family that brought me into the church," she said.

The United Methodist Church was created in 1968 by a merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches. Methodists elected their bishops at one national gathering until 1940, when the jurisdictional system was instituted. Bishops in the EUB church were elected at one national gathering until 1968.





Prayers and Praises

Prayers for Nich Traverse and Vanessa Goodman as they are married, look for employment and continue their life together in Rupert, Vermont. They appreciate the welcoming and support they received at BCUMC.

Prayers for Mary K Orendorff as she receives treatment for recurring cancer.

Chuck and Ellen McKee have a new grandson. Ciarán Brook was born to their daughter April and her husband Peter on July 7.

Luke and Holly Ward welcomed a new son on July 16. Emmett Alan Ward joins three-year-old twin brothers, Carsten and Ian.



Thank You Note

Dear Celebration Choir,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, the wonderful card, and your generous gift. Believe me when I say that I get far more out of choir than I could ever give! There has never once been a time that I haven't left rehearsal feeling blessed and uplifted. You are a great group, not only musically, but spiritually as well. I feel honored and privileged to be your director and I am looking forward to a lot of fabulous music next year!

Love in Christ,
Debbie Leyva Brown



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Or Marge Kuykendall
425.883.0248

WE NEED YOU!

The Friendly Skies

The following are factual stories provided by travel agents:

- ☞ I had someone ask for an aisle seat so that their hair wouldn't get messed up being near the window.
- ☞ A man called, furious about his package deal in Florida because he was expecting an ocean-view room. I explained that that isn't possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state."
- ☞ A woman called and said she needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:20 a.m. and got into Chicago at 8:33 a.m. I tried to explain that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she simply could not understand the concept of time zones. Finally, I told her the plane went very fast, and she bought that!
- ☞ A woman called to make reservations. "I want to go from Chicago to Hippopotamus, New York." "Are you sure that's the name of the town?" asked the agent. "Yes," replied the woman emphatically. After some searching, the agent came back with, "I'm sorry, ma'am, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a Hippopotamus anywhere. The customer retorted, "Oh, don't be silly. Everyone knows where it is. Check your map!" The agent scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?: "That's it," replied the woman. I knew it was a big animal!"

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2008 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2008
 \$361,717



Year-to-date offerings *through July 27*
 \$170,216 81.6%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)
 (\$38,467) 18.4%



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant
 in Kirkland

All are welcome!

Lazy Daze in Ellensburg is for older adults

Lazy Daze is an older-adult UMC event on September 23-25 at Lazy F Camp near Ellensburg. This year's speaker is Paul Graves of Sandpoint.

The event is very informal with interest groups, lots of free time, stimulating worship and discussion opportunities. A brochure is available for those who are interested. There is lots of room for everyone.

Here is a one testimonial:

We (at Stanwood) let our older adults know about this camp and an average of 10 people attend, even when I am not driving. Please join us for a fun and meaningful weekend.

John Shaffer, retired clergy

You can register through the Conference Office. If you have questions, contact John Shaffer at 425.210.1399.

Save these Dates

- Community Blood Drive—August 12
- Amazing Grace Seminar—August 23
- Welcome Home Sunday—September 7
- Community Open House/ Carnival—Sept. 21
- Love & Logic (Teens & Tweens)—October 1
- Wills and Estates—October 15
- Amazing Grace Seminar—October 18
- Ad Council Commitment Dinner—October 26
- Commitment Sunday—November 2
- Thanksgiving Service—November 23
- Advent Festival—December 7

Shampoos and painters needed

The BCUMC Board of Trustees is looking for volunteers to help paint and shampoo carpets. Please call Carla Woodworth at 425.788.3679 for more information.

Calling all college students!

If you will be attending college or secondary school classes this fall and would like to apply for a BCUMC scholarship, please contact the church office with the name of the college, university or technical school you will be attending school along with your fall e-mail and mailing address.



A Single's Perspective

by Debbie Leyva Brown

For just about the first time in my life, I find myself single. I got married a month after my 20th birthday, and I was married to Jim for 18 years—10 great ones and eight going steadily downhill. Within just a few months after our divorce, I became involved in a long-term relationship that lasted for a little over a year.

When he dumped me, beating me and leaving me for dead in a gas station parking lot in San Diego, I moved into a Catholic Charities homeless shelter, as many of you know. Six weeks later I got a job at Catholic Charities day center for homeless and very low-income women. I was able to rent an apartment in Tijuana. Within a couple of weeks, husband number two, Mario, moved in, and we were married about six months later. That one lasted five years.

So now I'm 48, disabled, unable to work a regular 40-hour a week job, but working two part-time jobs, going to school full time to try to get out of the cycle of poverty I am in—and single. My goal is to teach and write, knowing that far more money will come in from the teaching than the writing.

I want to get off of Social Security disability and be able to support myself. I believe teaching is the answer because teaching two classes at community college here in on the Eastside is considered two-thirds time and makes one eligible **for all benefits. The pay's not great,** but it is enough that I will be able to buy another car someday when my current one dies (and I pray that **isn't for a long time!**). it will put a roof over my head and food in my mouth, and **that's all I really want.** I believe that this is a job I could consistently do with my arthritis. I have two years to go to finish my **bachelor's degree, and once I start my master's program, they will pay me!** I'll teach a **Composition 101 course,** and for that they waive all tuition and pay a stipend.

So anyway—here I am, single—and I LOVE IT!!! I have really never been happier. I know what

some of you are already thinking: ***she's putting on a brave front—of course she'd rather be married!***

No, really! I love being single! For the first time in my life, I am the one making all the decisions. I decide what time to go to bed, what time to get up. I decide when, where and what to eat. I have given **up television while I'm in school, but if I did watch it, I could decide what to watch.** I decide how much time I spend with my kids and how much **time I spend alone (I'm a very outgoing, social person, but I also require large amounts of alone time).**

My clear, well-defined goal and intention is to not even *think* about men or dating or meeting someone during the next four years until I am completely done with college. This is something I have wanted for a long, **long time and I don't want to fall in love with someone, quit school, and once again put my own desires on the back burner.**

Now some of you may be thinking: ***she just hasn't found the right man yet.*** Well, that may be true, I seem to have trouble distinguishing the good ones from the not-so-great ones. ***But I think I can safely say on behalf of all the single folks at BCUMC, that singleness is not somehow a lesser, or diminished, state of being. It truly is possible to be single and to be content.***

So if you're wondering how to treat us single folk, here are some simple rules:

DON'T suggest eHarmony or Match.com. Yes, my daughter and her fiancé met on Match.com and at least one couple in our church met on eHarmony. I know these options **exist, but I'm not interested right now.** Thank you.

DON'T tell me who all the single men are in the church. One dear soul even went so far as to send me a church directory in which she had kindly placed check marks by the pictures and names of the single men. I know who they are. I am **friends with some of them. But it's just not going to happen, so please accept that.**

DON'T fix me up! If someday I

want your help, I will ask. I promise. But not now.

DO invite me to functions or to your homes for dinner, or an evening out. A good friend (also single) has invited me to go with her to the Seattle Art Museum to see the new Impressionist exhibit. I spend tons of time with my kids (Joy and her fiancé Andy and my son Joe). I belong to a couple of social service **women's organizations. But I'd love to spend time with some of you, too. I'm not the type to feel like a fifth wheel or out of place if there are an "odd" number of people at the dinner table.**

DO know that my financial resources are extremely and severely limited. I must say, this is the one draw-back of being single. I am completely alone with my finances! The trip to the SAM will be my outing for August. So inviting me to dinner or to things that are not costly, like out for coffee and dessert, or to a free concert in the park, are good options.

DO treat me like "one of the gang." Singleness is not a contagious disease! It won't rub off on you, I promise! This is one thing I absolutely *love* about the Celebration Choir! We are all friends and we all tease each other, and I always feel included, and not just because **I'm the director! (smile)**

So there you have it. I am content. Right now I am living with the Stewart family and could not be **more grateful. I don't have my own home, my car is the worst-looking car I've ever seen. I barely scrape by financially, and some months not even that.** I am in a rigorous program at a school that completely consumes my time. There are no men in my life and I want to keep it that way for the foreseeable future. But as I said earlier, *I have never been happier!*

So please believe me. Treat me like a regular person. Invite me **over. Let's not have any gap between married and single folks. Let's live together in harmony, but please, just not on eHarmony! (smile).**

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*A family place of
belonging*

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AUGUST

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

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On the Horizon



Sunday, September 7
Welcome Home Sunday

Sunday, September 21
Community Open House/Carnival

Wednesday, October 1
Love & Logic
(Teens & Tweens)

Tuesday, October 7
Blood Drive (WUUC)

Wednesday, October 15
Wills and Estates

Saturday, October 18
Amazing Grace Seminar

Sunday, November 2
Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 23,
Thanksgiving Service

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.