

Bear Fax

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

June, 2007

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Graduates can apply for scholarships

We are blessed with many young people who have the opportunity to attend college and university classes to prepare for future careers and vocations. It has become a tradition for Bear Creek UMC to show support to those with the gifts and desire to learn. We do this in many ways, from care packages during the Advent and Christmas season, to e-mail messages, cards and prayers during finals.

Each year, we also collect funds to distribute to students from our church family who express an interest. This year, during our celebration of graduating seniors on Sunday, June 10, we will once again receive donations toward the BCUMC Student Scholarship Fund.

Last year's recipients include Audrey Garrett, who is preparing for a nursing career at Washington State University. Audrey will study and work in Africa this summer. She hopes to eventually become a traveling nurse, filling in where there is a need and exploring various cities and hospitals around the country.

Susan Jackson is a candidate for a Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on Gifted Education and the effects of parental pressure and standards-based assessment practices. She writes that, "The discipline and interaction with an international cohort have added a personal and professional depth to my experience. I remain grateful that my church family supports me with prayer, love, and patience. The donation of a financial contribution is an important symbol of your love and support for this significant life endeavor."



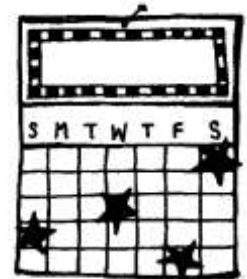
Kyle Daugherty, at Montana State University, always appreciates the care packages and support from his Bear Creek friends and family.

Jamie Wilson has spoken at worship about her experiences working with a youth group participating in the 30-Hour Famine. She is finishing her second year at Whitman College and will study abroad next year.

Christina Rupley just graduated from the University of Evansville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Theater and Design. She has returned home to work and join her BCUMC family for the summer.

These students and others have come to appreciate the love and support they find from Bear Creek folks, both when at school and at home. Please join us in supporting their efforts to create a better church and a better world with their accomplishments.

If you are a high school graduate or someone planning to pursue higher education at a college, university, or vocational school this year, please contact Sonya Garrett at sonyag788@aol.com or 425.788.0240.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, June 2.
All-Church Work Party

Sunday, June 3
Youth Sunday
Confirmation Sunday
All-Church Conference
Sojourners Concert

Sunday, June 10
Recognition Sunday/
Scholarship Offering

June 12-16
Annual Conference

Saturday, June 23
Amazing Grace Seminar

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Our challenge and opportunity is set before us. As a congregation and as individuals, we are called (as John Wesley said) "to go on to perfection," by which he meant: if we cooperate with the love of God in our lives we will more frequently be the love of God made flesh for others and know the peaceful joy of grace. We are called and formed to be students (disciples) of Jesus.

On my altar at home I have a card to remind me each day of what being Jesus' student means. On one side is a saying and on the other side is a Psalm. I copied the saying from a poster at a retreat center where I was spending eight days of directed silence and prayer. The Saying:

*It is Jesus you want to see,
to gaze upon,
to think about deeply,
and with desire to imitate.*

The Psalm (131) comes from the same retreat. My spiritual director asked me to spend the day with this thought. When I got home, I went to my Hebrew Bible and several translations and, along with the notes from the retreat, made this translation:

*Yahweh, my heart has
no lofty ambitions,
My eyes do not look too high.
I am not concerned
with great affairs,
Or marvels beyond my scope.
Enough for me to keep my soul
tranquil and quiet,*

*Like a child in its mothers arms,
As content as a child
that has been weaned.
Israel, rely on Yahweh,
now and for always.*

I pray that in your study (remember worship, study, service) you can keep Jesus before you, not with the striving of an overachiever (this congregation has its share), but with the peace of a child being held in the arms of a loving mother.

Shalom,
Pastor Dave

WORSHIP CORNER

June 3
Confirmation Sunday/Youth Sunday

The youth are planning and will lead this service including their own words of faith. This is one of our "must not miss" Sundays. We will also have a special offering for the Peace and Justice work of our conference and the United Methodist Church in the world.

June 10
Graduate Recognition Sunday

"Where Is God?"

We will recognize our graduating seniors, the Celebration and Star Choirs will sing together, Jim Morris will do our Mission Minute, and we will take a special offering to honor and support our students in post high education.

John 14:8-17

June 17
Father's Day

"Could Someone Love Me?"

The Celebration Choir will be singing one last time before a summer break. Join rehearsal on Thursday and sing with them.

Luke 7:36-50



June 24

"A God Who Dines with Demoniacs"

Luke 8:26-39

Every Wednesday—
Midweek Worship

Come worship on Wednesday evenings from 8:15-8:45 p.m. at a quiet and meditative service with gentle songs and extended silence.

It feeds the soul quietly and is good for folks who may not be able to worship on Sunday mornings. It's also a way to close the day with vespers. Won't you join us?

Sojourners Gospel Group will perform on June 3

The Sojourners of Bothell United Methodist Church will be performing in our sanctuary on Sunday evening, June 3, at 7:00 p.m. This is the gospel group of our pianist, Dewey Forrester, and promises to be a fun-filled evening of old-fashioned and contemporary gospel music.

The concert is free, but there will be an opportunity to support, by free-will offering, Bear Creek's mission project, Hope for the Children of Africa. This organization provides relief and reconciliation to thousands of children and families



An Evening of Gospel Music

who have suffered and lost so much from war across the continent of Africa.

Specifically, offerings from the Pacific Northwest UMC Conference go to support the Jamaa Letu ("Our Family") Orphanage in the South Congo. Jamaa Letu is a safe, loving home for up to 60 girls orphaned from war or AIDS.

Refreshments will be served following the concert, and we encourage you to bring family and friends to this exciting event. For more information on The Sojourners, please visit their website at www.sojournersmusic.com.

All-Church Conference Sunday, June 3, 12:00 Noon

Elect officers for 2006-07
Hear program committee reports
Establish a BCUMC Endowment Fund

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

\$ FINANCE \$ REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2007

\$332,260

Year to-date offerings
through May 20

\$117,895 92.3%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$9,898) -7.7%



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

The **Rakus** family after the death of **Tracy's** father.

The **Large/Livingston** family after the death of **Ron Large's** mom.

Steve Stroh, who is recuperating from surgery.

Mary K Orendorff, who received a pacemaker and will have a kidney removed.

Kennedy Stewart, who suffers from recurring migraine headaches.



Eric Shankland was inadvertently left out of the Last Supper Living Tableau acknowledgements in the May Bear Fax.

Eric did an outstanding job of playing the part of Leonardo da Vinci and should be acknowledged wholeheartedly! Thanks, Eric!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School

Elementary Sunday School classes switch to summer schedule on June 10. Summer is a busy time for vacations, which means many children have "hit and miss" attendance during the summer months. Therefore, summer Sunday School have set stand-alone lessons. So please join us for Sunday school at 11 a.m. this summer!! Children going into grades K-5 in the fall will meet in room E8/E9 for a one-room Sunday School lesson.

Teachers/helpers needed!

The success of elementary Sunday School depends on volunteer teachers!!! A signup sheet for volunteers is posted in the Christian Education section of the narthex (by the double doors that lead to the classroom wing). Please consider signing up for a week or two as teacher or helper. If no volunteers are available on a given **Sunday, children's classes will be cancelled for that day.**

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at BCUMC needs you! Station Leaders and Crew Leaders are needed to help out July 16 - 20 from 9am - noon each day. Youth and adults are encouraged to volunteer for this opportunity. Don't miss out on the fun! Contact Louise Aakre at 425.883.9260 or laakre@yahoo.com for more information." Adult (over 18) leadership is especially needed for the *games* and *music* stations.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Church expenses **don't take a vacation!**

As a congregation, we are doing great with our giving. We are nearly up to date with our giving plan. Our giving is about 7% behind the amount budgeted for this time period. If we can all catch up with our pledges, we will be in wonderful shape to start the summer!

Many of us have the opportunity to take a vacation during the summer months. The church expenses, however, do not stop during the summer—electricity, water, salaries, lawn and building maintenance, etc., still need to be paid. If you are travelling, please remember to catch up on your commitment to the church before you leave. If possible, it would be great if each of us could get a little head start on summer giving!!

Remember, just as your home expenses are not put on hold for the summer, neither are the bills for the church. Thank you for being good stewards!



All-Church Work Party

Saturday, June 2

9:30 a.m. - ???

Mark your calendar!

Indoor and outdoor projects will include spreading bark, moss control and window washing.

Come join in the fellowship and fun!

Food will be provided.

Questions?

Contact Karl Brackmann (425.788.8947)

or Carla Woodworth (425.788.3679)

YOUTH NEWS

SYNAGO completes its fifth year

SYNAGO is a youth-led small group gathering for Senior High School youth. SYNAGO is a coming together to talk about their lives in **light of God's good news**. This youth-led group starts with the biblical premise that youth have been given a special gift of ministry just as Timothy was given. Youth can be visionaries and agents of ministry to one another and to the world. The wonderful synergy that happens when youth are given significant leadership roles is something to behold.

BCUMC SYNAGO has completed its fifth year, being led this year by James Cebron, Nicole Gleadle, Scott McAlpine and Danielle Leveridge. Meeting twice a month the group varied from five to 14 youth in attendance. After discussion and prayer, the group would share in a dinner meal before heading off to Youth Group.

SYNAGO will begin its sixth year on September 16 under the leadership of Danielle Leveridge and Benjamin Heimfeld.



Back row: Marge Kuykendall, Youth Director; Benjamin Heimfeld, Brian Gleadle, Jeremy Heimfeld

Front row: Scott McAlpine, Nicole Gleadle, Danielle Leveridge, James Cebron, Talia Cowan, Kirsten Litchford

Congratulations to our graduates

Christina Rupley, daughter of Ted and Ann Rupley, is graduating from the University of Evansville (Indiana) with a degree in Technical Theater and Design and Associates Studies in Visual Communication.

Anna Holm, daughter of Bob and Nancy Holm, is graduating from the University of San Francisco with a degree in Fine Arts and Psychology.

Katie Lynn Williams, daughter of John and Brenda Williams, is graduating from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science/Pre-Physical Therapy.

Nicole Gleadle, daughter of Ian and Linda Gleadle and Kristina Thorson, daughter of Dave and Joan Thorson received the Unsung Hero Award from Woodinville High School. Nicole will attend Pacific Lutheran University.

Other graduates are James Cebron (Willamette University), Caitlin Coggeshall, Ian Fudge, Brent Larson, Scott McAlpine (Western Washington U), Christina McLain, Katie Powell, Christopher Shankland, Tiffany Tagg, Ryan Shelton and Eric Allen.

Please keep the future of these young people in your prayers. Best wishes to all!



Congratulations,

BCUMC GRADUATES

MISSIONS

Three from BCUMC on their way to Kenya

On Thursday, May 31, at 7:35 a.m. Ted and Marge Kuykendall and Danielle Leveridge boarded a United Airlines flight, destination Nairobi, with a day layover in London. Excitement runs high and the love and gratitude for the prayers and support from BCUMC cannot be adequately expressed!

A brief outline of their itinerary follows so that you may be a part of this wonderful experience, and the three ask for continue prayers for them each day.

May 31	Leave Seattle
June 1	Day tour of London, board plane for Nairobi by 5:00 p.m.
June 2	Arrive Nairobi
June 3-4	Worship at local church; orientation; meet Bishop and college president; get instructions on work project
June 5	Chapel with students; meet Nairobi women inflicted with AIDS; teach self-esteem unit and fellowship with them.
June 6-7	Chapel with students; work on construction of a guesthouse on university campus
June 8	Chapel with students; outing with students to Maasai Market; orientation: AIDS/gender issues/ethical issues.
June 9	Chapel with students; Limuru Market to buy food for KICOSHEP, school in ghetto area.
June 10	Worship at Kilimani area and lunch with Rev. Anne Owiti; visit with family members
June 11-13	Chapel with students; visit KICOSHIP, prepare and serve lunch for children; teach in school; visit with youth; home visits to shut-ins inflicted with AIDS; present gifts of Hot Wheels and Beanie Babies, etc.
June 14	Chapel with students; visit Elephant and Giraffe orphanage
June 15-16	Chapel with students; leave for Meru College and visit orphanage with gift bags of toys and necessities for 30-40 orphans.
June 17-20	Safari
June 21	Travel back to college at Limuru to pack and to say our goodbyes; board plane in Nairobi at 11:50 p.m.
June 22	Arrive at SeaTac at 7:54 p.m.

We are marching in the Light of God

Midweek at Bear Creek

Thanks to all for helping make Midweek at Bear Creek dinners a success for another year. I could never do it without all the dinner, prep and cleanup support I receive on Wednesdays. THANKS!

I will not be the lead for midweek dinners starting in November, so if you can help with or coordinate the dinners, please talk with me, Connie Gagnon or Sonya Garrett.

Carla Woodworth

Deaconess grateful for donations

LETTER OF THANKS



Dear friends at Bear Creek UMC,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Deaconess Children's Services. Your congregation has been such a great supporter of Deaconess and the work we do. It is so good to know that you all care so much about kids! Your donation will help vulnerable families by giving them the tools and resources they need to raise healthy, thriving children! Thank you, again, for caring!

*Peace,
Mieko Moody
Deaconess Children's Services*

Peace begins with you

Often when we hear the word 'peace' we think of world peace. Yet, peace begins closer to home. It starts in our own backyard and extends to people we encounter, from our next-door neighbor to a stranger on the street.

For peace to continue as a process, it must start with you. Maybe your one peaceful gesture will start a chain reaction! Begin with a simple step towards "thinking peace begins with me, one moment at a time. It may be as simple as trying to turn rush hour into "Peace Hour." This hectic time of day offers us many opportunities to be courteous, even if it's as simple as letting another driver pass you. We spend so much time in our cars. If we can find peace there, it can easily extend to other parts of our lives. Be creative...think about each moment that you can turn into a peace moment. (Geneva Powell, Jason Lee United Methodist Church, Salem, OR, Used by permission)

"Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads, she takes her stand." Proverbs 8:1-2, NRSV

"The origami paper crane is a simple yet powerful symbol, and thousands upon thousands of cranes are sent to the Peace Park in Japan every year," says retired pastor Wesley N. Yamaka. When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, he was a high school student in Nevada.



"Years later," he adds, **"when I was serving a congregation in Monterey Park, California, we sent a thousand paper cranes to the people of Hiroshima, and we received a thousand back! Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who died from the effects of the bomb and whose statue stands in the park, began folding paper cranes as symbols of hope for herself. Soon afterward they became symbols of peace for the world."**

Every day people of many faiths pray—and work—for peace and justice. **"The folding of paper cranes is a symbolic gesture that says we need to strive for peace even when it feels impossible,"** notes Portland Area Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata. **"I see it as a way of 'passing the peace.'"**


Across The United Methodist Church, compassionate people respond to God's call to be peace-makers. They advocate for human

rights, buy fair-trade products, care for the environment, demonstrate for a cause, eradicate poverty, feed hungry people, mediate conflict, provide health care, seek affordable housing and model nonviolence.

Because of the special offering received on Peace with Justice Sunday, **God's people learn to coexist lovingly and peacefully.** Global outreach through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conference-related peace with justice ministries transform lives.

In her diary, Sadako Sasaki wrote: **"I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world."**

Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!




Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant
in Kirkland

All are welcome!

**MEN'S PRAYER
♦ BREAKFAST ♦**



**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

Many thanks to Joan Thorson and Louise Aakre for their time and hard work this year making sure our Christian Education and Sunday School programs were a success. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Thanks also to all the teachers and helpers who lovingly nourished our children!

The Sacred Prayers for Peace

On October 27, 1986, spiritual leaders from each of the world's 12 major religions came together, for the first time in history, to share their most sacred prayers for the "Day of World Peace," celebrated in Assisi, Italy, in commemoration of the United Nations International Year of Peace.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of that meeting, we are printing one prayer each month in the Bear Fax. This is the ninth in the series.

Native American Prayer for Peace

A mighty God, the Great Thunder

we cannot evade to tie any knot;

the Roaring Thunder that splits

mighty trees:

the all-seeing Lord up on high who

sees

even the footprints of an antelope on

a rock mass here on Earth.

You are the one who does

not hesitate to respond to our call.

You are the cornerstone of peace.

You provide for us on this Earth.

What If...?

What if...

God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we could not take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if...

God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

What if...

God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if...

We never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if...

God stopped living and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if...

God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if...

God took away His message because we failed to listen to his messenger?

What if...

God didn't send us His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?

What if...

The door to the church was closed because we did not open the door of our hearts?

What if...

God would not hear us today because we would not listen to him yesterday?

What if...

God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if...

God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?

What if...?

Submitted by Bob Elvidge

DEVOTIONS FROM DAILY LIFE

by Debbie Leyva

Women of Wisdom Part IV Jennifer Maxwell

"Grace is deceitful and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

Over the past three months I have been privileged to speak with a woman who is a breast cancer survivor, a woman whose family was tragically touched by AIDS, and a woman who lives in an interfaith marriage. One of the great things I have learned is that they are all just *women*, women like you and me. **These circumstances happened, but they don't define who they are as women.** The same can be said for Jennifer Maxwell, whom I spoke with this afternoon. She has lived through some tough times, *but it is her faith in the face of those tough times that makes her who she is today.*

Here, then, are portions of my interview with Jennifer Maxwell.

Debbie: Your marriage unexpectedly ended after 24 years. What happened?

Jennifer: My husband, Guy, had been depressed for **some time. I knew something was going on but didn't** know what it was. He kept hinting that there was something he needed to tell me.

One night we were talking and I kept asking "Is it this?" "Is it that?" and finally, just kind of randomly because I couldn't think of anything else to ask, I said, "Are you gay?" and he answered, "What if I am?"

I was stunned. I said, "Well, do you think you're gay?" and he said, "No, I *know* I'm gay." And right then my heart broke.

Debbie: What hurt the most?

Jennifer: I waited for six months for him to figure out what he wanted, and he disrespected me by having an affair with a man while still professing his love for me. It was the fact that he had an affair, *not* the fact that he is gay, that hurt the most. I had what I thought was a good marriage, a good relationship. I had built my life around him and our children, and then I just watched my whole world fall apart.

Debbie: What did you do to recover?

Jennifer: I prayed *a lot*. **I didn't really know what to do. No one I knew could relate to me. I knew I wasn't** the first woman to be cheated on, but for some reason **other women couldn't relate to my situation. I had** been smug in a sense. If you are in the church, and

your marriage is good and your kids turn out okay, **well, you almost can't help but be smug. I thought I** had all that. Now both my kids say they have lost faith in marriage. How could I have prevented that from happening?

Debbie: What advice do you have for women or men who are being cheated on?

Jennifer: If you are being cheated on, your partner **doesn't respect you and you deserve to be respected. Guy didn't want a divorce. I was given the option of** staying in the marriage knowing that he would also be with other men, but I respected myself too much to do that. Respect yourself.

Debbie: So where is your life going now?

Jennifer: **I'm moving to Montana in June to take care** of my mother. I would like to have a relationship with a man and get married again someday, but I have lost a lot of trust, so he would need to be a true partner and **hold himself accountable. But right now I'm ready for an adventure! I don't have young kids or a husband or anyone to be accountable to, so I'm ready for adventure,** and I know God is a part of that.

Debbie: What don't people know about Jennifer?

Jennifer: **Because I'm always smiling and laughing, I don't think people realize how truly devastated I was. I** still feel horrible pain. There is a lot more depth to me than people realize.

Debbie: What has BCUMC meant to you?

Jennifer: BCUMC has been a life-line to me. They held on to me when my life was falling apart, when even **I couldn't hang on to me! They helped me stay grounded** and they allowed me to tell my story.

Debbie: As you prepare to move to Montana, what legacy do you want to leave us here in Woodinville?

Jennifer: That faith is never wrong. Even when there is no hope, there *is* hope—always.

Debbie: Thank you Jennifer, for sharing your difficult story. I know others will see themselves in you and will take hope. Thank you.

Bear Creek
United Methodist
Church

16530 Avondale Road NE
Woodinville WA 98077

Phone: 425-788-2953
Email: info@bcumc.org

David Orendorff, Pastor
pastor@bcumc.org

A family place of belonging

We're on the Web!

bcumc.org



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On the Horizon



July 16-20
Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, July 24
Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 1
CE Training

Wednesday, August 29
Lifeline Screening

Sunday, September 9
Kick-off Sunday/Potluck

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Worship
8:15 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.