

Bear Fax

September, 2007

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message	2
Worship	2
Sunday School	3
Five-Year Plan	3
Concert	4
Covenant Groups	5
2007-08 Ad Council	7

White Swan

In July, a team of 21 adults and kids from Bear Creek UMC returned to White Swan Native American Reservation near Yakima, Washington, for the fourth year in a row.

Led by Cindy, Katie and Alyssa Powell and other BCUMC volunteers, 25 children from the White Swan community and five from BCUMC were soaring to new heights with God in the Vacation Bible School Liftoff program. The children had lots of fun participating in drama (they loved dressing up as biblical characters), song (Liftoff!), crafts (the hot air balloons were a hit), and games.

We felt God calling us to return to White Swan to serve side-by-side with our brothers and sisters at Wilbur UMC. Unlike previous years, we didn't have a clear idea what work projects lay in store for us; however, with a trust that God had a plan for us, we began our journey.

As the week progressed, the needs of the church and the community became clear, and we remained very busy the entire week with the following projects:

- ✕ Re-enforcing shelving for the church's community food bank



Eric Shankland and Doug Woodworth repair a hole in the grange

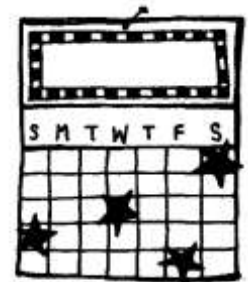
- ✕ Installing new lighting fixtures in the sanctuary
- ✕ Re-roofing a house for a member of Wilbur UMC
- ✕ Weeding and laying pea gravel in the church's memorial garden
- ✕ Repairing the handicap ramp for the Grange
- ✕ Laying laminate flooring in the pastor's office
- ✕ Networking the church's computers and adding an Ethernet connection
- ✕ Laying wood chips around the basketball court
- ✕ Installing a new garage door opener at the parsonage

There is something very rewarding about a good day's work shared with old and new friends. This was my first trip to White Swan, but it won't be my last. I took away many great memories from the trip, but the most indelible memory was a family of six, young and old, playing basketball together on the court we helped pour last year.

Chris Aakre



Marny Livingston and Doug Woodworth join in a circle dance at the Pow Wow



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, September 9
Back-to-School Sunday/
Visitors Sunday

Cindy Reed Concert

Sunday, September 16
"Welcome Home"
Sunday/Potluck

Wednesday, Sept. 19
Midweek at Bear Creek
resumes

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
We are headed into our new program year. We welcome back from the summer (did she ever leave?) Marge Kuykendall, as not only our Youth Pastor, but now **also as our Children's Ministries Coordinator**. I am pleased with her selection, her experience, the depth of her faith and her immediate energy. She, SPRC and I have set some ambitious goals. When you see Marge, congratulate her and ask her how you can help.

We have two important Sunday events this month:

September 9 is "Back-to-School Sunday." All over the Seattle District, families who have children going back to elementary, middle school, high school, trade schools and colleges are being invited to come to worship and receive a blessing from their local United Methodist congregation. We also want to bless staff and teachers. So, bring your children, the neighbors' children, and your favorite school staff member, and together we will pray for their coming year and bless the important work they are doing together.

September 16 is when we'll reveal, in carnival fashion, all the

opportunities for worship, study and service at Bear Creek. We ask that you consider your current and future development as a disciple of Jesus.

By the way, I am now not only a Master of Divinity, I also have an International Certificate of Competency. (Don't ask too many questions about either, okay? They look better on paper and without explanation.)

Shalom,
Dave O

WORSHIP CORNER

September 2

"The Oldest Sin"

I know what you are thinking, and it is not about that. It is about a sin much older even—and our choice. It is Labor Day Sunday.

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

September 9

"Amazing Grace"

It is amazing grace that transforms our lives into the ways of Christ. Hear the history of this hymn and how grace still transforms. This is "Back-to-School" Sunday and Grandparents Day.

Luke 15: 1-10

September 16

"The Cost of Discipleship"

Too many Christians practice a cheap discipleship. Jesus calls us to be followers who give our all, even our lives. It is a hard choice. This is "Welcome Back" Sunday.

Luke 14:25-33



September 23

"That's Not Right!"

Read the parable and you will know that what Jesus teaches is just wrong by usual standards. If you practiced Jesus' advice at work, you would probably lose your job. But it is the way of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Luke 16: 1-13

September 30

"The Choice Is Yours"

It is not God who decides how we spend the gift of our lives and eternity. We make that choice, and it matters for not only our lives, but the life of the world forever.

Luke 16: 19-31

Every Wednesday—
Midweek Worship

Come worship on Wednesday evenings beginning September 16 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?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school resumes on September 9

A new season of Sunday School is coming! Sunday School begins on September 9 from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

This year the children ages 4 through 4th grade will be studying the LIVE BIG curriculum from Abingdon Press. The main topics covered in this series are:

- 1) God is a great BIG God
- 2) God loves us with a great BIG love
- 3) We are part of God's great BIG world

The 5th and 6th grades are being treated to a Bible/Disciple

curriculum developed by Ruthann Litchford.

Sunday School families have been sent a letter with more detailed information for the start of Sunday School. If you did not receive a letter, please call or e-mail Joan Thorson at 425.788.7450 or dthorson@verizon.net.

As we prepare to go back to school, let us all remember how important it is for our children to grow in their faith and in their knowledge of God's love. The late Fred Rogers summed it up quite well:

It's not the honors and prizes and the fancy outsides of life that ultimately nourish our soul. It's the knowing that we can be trusted, that we never have to fear the truth, and that the bed-rock of our very being is firm.

In His service,

Joan Thorson
Sunday School Superintendent

Marge Kuykendall
Director of Children's Ministry

Task Force presents five-year plan

In the Summer of 2006, the Ad Council "commissioned" a Long-Range Planning Task Force to recommend a strategic plan to BCUMC, outlining the long-term goals and strategies for its programs, facilities and finances.

Over the next six months, the task force worked diligently to complete their mission, and many of you Bearcreekians provided some valuable input in that process. In January 2007, the Task Force presented both a draft Five-Year Plan and a draft One-Year-Tactical Plan to the Ad Council, making some specific recommendations. Based upon this input, the Ad Council adopted a One-year Tactical Plan for the 2007-2008 year. These are listed below.

Five-Year Plan

Move toward becoming a "program" church, with targets to double our participation and core programs (worship/education) in five years.

One-Year Tactical Plan (with samples of action items)

- Develop Adequate Staffing
 - Hire Family Ministry staff
 - Develop "nurture" programs for volunteers/staff
- Improve communication and education of Church Members
 - Communicate plans regularly
- Meet our Constituents' Needs
 - Assess K-6 education
 - Foster inclusiveness

- Develop Adequate Infrastructure
 - Conduct a capital campaign
 - Track our progress

In order to ensure that we were moving down the road of execution on this one-year plan, the Ad Council identified some important tasks/roles that were cross-committee in nature. So, in many cases, there are a variety of groups working together on meeting these goals with someone overseeing these efforts. You'll be hearing more about how we are progressing with this plan in the next few months, both via the Bear Fax as well as through announcements at church.

Ellen Boyer, Chair
Long-Range Planning Task Force

Watch your Woodinville Weekly for the following advertisement:



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Come receive your

"Back to School Blessing" at

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

16530 Avondale Road NE

September 9 at 9:30 a.m.

or

Woodinville Community United Methodist Church

17110 - 140th Ave NE

September 9 at 10:45 a.m.

Whether you're a kindergartener or a graduate student, a parent or a teacher, an administrator or a crossing guard, you are part of educating children, youth or adults. Let us offer you a blessing at the beginning of this school year.

This should be an exciting Sunday for Bear Creek UMC as teachers and students, and all others about to begin a new school year, come to our church to receive **this blessing. Don't be left out!**

If you have questions, call the church office or Ellen McKee, chair of your Witness Committee, at 425.822.0822 or e-mail Ellen at cemckee@comcast.net.

See Cindy Luke-Reed in concert September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

In a "Welcome Back" concert September 9, Cindy Luke-Reed will share her music, spiritual journey and unique viewpoint on the world.

Cindy is a former member of Bear Creek UMC who moved to Nebraska several years ago. Along with her family, she was an integral part of the early ministries and vision of Bear Creek. Cindy has taken part in Music Teams and Christian Education, as well as Walk to Emmaus activities here in the greater Woodinville area as well as in Nebraska. We welcome her back to Bear Creek UMC, as we also welcome Bear Creekians and the surrounding community to this heart warming program.

Cindy has an acoustic musical style that focuses on the message of her lyrics. She shares herself in an effort to creatively deliver insights based on her real life struggles and triumphs. She brings a special blend of music, message and hope. As she states on her website:

"My concerts, in the church, serve as a platform to remind believers of the partnership nature of growing in Christ. I've discovered that I'm in business WITH the Lord, and that we all have an active role to play in our spiritual and emotional maturity. I continue to learn what it means to work out my salvation with fear and trembling."

Please invite your friends and join us for an uplifting and encouraging hour of music and the word on Sunday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

A man lost his way in the desert and wandered aimlessly for several days. He ran out of food and thought he would die. Then he saw a bag lying in the sand. He opened it, and at first he thought it was filled with grains of barley. He was overjoyed. But when he tried to eat them, he discovered they were pearls—and he plunged into despair.

Sadi, "Gulistan"

New covenant groups forming

A number of you have been waiting—and the time is here! New covenant groups are forming.

What is a Covenant Group? It's a group of about 8-12 persons who gather on a regular basis to offer support and to encourage accountability in the making of disciples. The focus areas are prayer/worship, study, and service. Groups can be made up of singles, couples, those with children, those without children, men

only, women only, or any combination thereof.

There will be new groups starting this fall, and we want to let all of you who are interested know about this opportunity. You **don't have to be a member of BCUMC**. Covenant Groups are open to anyone who is interested.

Please let me know who you are so that we may assist you in getting connected with this fellowship. We need you. Our covenant group fellowship is a vital part of

the life of BCUMC.

Please indicate your interest by checking the Covenant Group box on the Presence Slip in your bulletin on Sunday or contacting me. If you have any questions about covenant groups, you can contact me by phone or by e-mail.

Joan Pierce
360.668.9691
jpierce622@verizon.net



You're Invited!
"Welcome Home"
Sunday
September 16

Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

Here's an open invitation to "Welcome Home" Sunday on September 16! Please mark your calendars to attend this special Sunday when we can look ahead to the coming year. Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday school for preschoolers through high school youth will begin at 11:00. The nursery will be available for your small ones!

Ministry Fair 11:00 a.m.

Adults will have the opportunity to hear about what's going on within the church. Members from our committees will tell us what their plans are for the year and help us find a way to participate.

Potluck and Fellowship Noon

Please join in at noon for a potluck! We are looking forward to a great Sunday and a great year! **It's the** perfect opportunity to explore the many ways that Bear Creek contributes to the strengthening of your mind, body and soul.

Saturday, September 1

Rod Leveridge needs help with safety lines as he sprays moss killer on the church roof.

Saturday, October 13

Help is needed to put up sound panels in the fellowship hall and to wash windows.

Please contact
Carla Woodworth,
Trustees Chair, at
425.788.3679
if you can help.



\$ FINANCE \$ REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2007

\$332,260

Year to-date offerings
through August 19

\$193,128 91.6%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$17,729) -8.4%

Bear Creek United Methodist Church White Swan Mission Team:

Dear "Captain Eric" [Shankland] and Mission Team 2007,

Thank you simply will not suffice. But I will say it just the same. For four years you have been so faithful in listening to the needs, yearning and issues we experience in the "wilderness." **The partnership you and the Mission Team from Bear Creek has been a source of inspiration to continue God's work in this desolate and broken space.**



We've got mail!

Your continuing support propels courage and energizes the soul throughout the year. After you all leave there is a sense of emptiness, but that chasm gets filled with hope and anticipation for your return the next year.

Thank you for your gift of love, time, and presence, which pave the relational path not only for one another but which also point members of the White Swan community to the unconditional love of God through Jesus Christ. This is evidenced by your sacrifice of labor and time. Once again, in behalf of the White Swan United Methodist Church, I thank you!

**Thank you from
White Swan!**

With gratitude and joy,

MarLu Primero Scott, Pastor
The Methodist Church on the Yakama Rez

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.

Sikh Prayer for Peace

God adjudges us according
to our deeds,
not the coat we wear:
that Truth is above everything,
but higher still is truthful living.
Know that we attaineth God when we loveth,
and only victory endures in consequences
of which no one is defeated.

Midweek at Bear Creek dinner, worship and other activities resume on
Wednesday, September 19.
See you then!

Song for Thought

On Fire

Give me one more time around
Give me one more chance to see
Give me everything You are
Give me one more chance to be... (near You)

Cause everything inside me looks like
Everything I hate
You are the hope I have for change
You are the only chance I'll take

When I'm on fire
When You're near me
I'm on fire
When You speak
And I'm on fire
Burning at these mysteries
These mysteries...

Only Grace
Mathew West

2007-08 Administrative Council

Chair	Ron Large
Vice Chair	Marcie Nashem
Recording Secretary	Lillian Russo
Lay Leader	Jeannie Morris
Lay Leader	Doug Woodworth
Finance Chair	Tom Litchford
Treasurer	Marny Livingston
Finance Secretary	Joanne Wright
Assistant Finance Sec'y	Dave Thorson
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Eric Shankland
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference	Ellen McKee
Board of Trustees Pres.	Carla Woodworth
Membership Secretary	Marge Kuykendall
Staff/Parish Relations	Susan Jackson
Church and Society	Debbie Leyva
Fellowship	Sonya Garrett Connie Gagnon
Community Programs	Ruthann Litchford
Nurture	Jeannie Morris
Education	Amber Oleson
Sunday School Superintendent	Joan Thorson
Children's Ministries	Marge Kuykendall
Worship	Sara Lambert
Witness	Ellen McKee
Missions	Chris Aakre
Stewardship	Jim Morris
Special Services Coordinator	Marge Kuykendall
Kol Ami Liaison	Tina Stroh
Youth Council	Marge Kuykendall
At-Large Members	Steve Stroh Susan Mahan Susan Schneider

Star Choir Pianist Needed

The Star Choir is in need of a pianist to accompany us in rehearsal on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. and on the Sundays that we sing in church. Please contact Vickie Orendorff if you are able to **assist this important children's ministry.**

endorff@msn.com or 425.844.2726



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

Steve Stroh, who had some complications following surgery.

Gary Linstedt, who is facing surgery.

Christina Rupley, who is dealing with a health issue.



Have you seen our website? Rob Dickerson has done a great job of getting information on there for you. You can see Dave O's sermons, get the latest calendar dates, and lots more! Check it out now! www.bcumc.org

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

16530 Avondale Road N.E.
Woodinville WA 98077-9178
425.788.2953

David Orendorff, Pastor
pastor@bcumc.org

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belonging*

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Web!**
bcumc.org



SEPTEMBER

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On the Horizon



Wednesday, October 3
Love and Logic class begins

Sunday, October 21
Stewardship Commitment
Dinner

Oct. 28 and Nov. 4
African Team Ministries
Craft Sale

Sunday, November 18
Commitment Sunday

Sunday, December 2
Advent Festival

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.