

Bear Fax

November, 2007

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

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Try alternative 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. 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. You will also be remembering Whose birthday it is.

For Christmas 2007, the Missions Committee has highlighted the following organizations:

Country Doc - A free medical clinic for homeless youth run by volunteer staff and physicians.

Habitat for Humanity EKC - works in partnership with low-income families in our area and throughout the world for affordable housing.

Matthew House - This unique ministry provides for families of incarcerated men in Washington. Funds are being raised for a playground at Matthew House where the children can play while their moms are visiting dad at the prison.

Aids/HIV Ministry - This year the United Methodist Church hopes to complete the goal of raising \$8 million targeted for education, prevention and care initiatives in the worldwide struggle against HIV/AIDS.

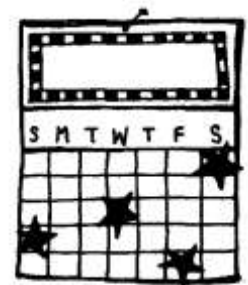
Disaster Relief - Worldwide and U.S. - **Enables UMCOR's quick response** to emergency needs from natural disasters both in the U.S. and abroad.



Heifer International - Provides animals ranging from cows and pigs to fish and bees to provide food to those in need and a means of raising their own food. The first offspring is then passed on to another family in need and the cycle of love continues.

Sponsor a Child - For less than a dollar a day you can feed, clothe and cover costs associated with the care of a child at Jamaa Letu Orphanage. This is a mission of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

The Missions Committee will set up "market tables" in the church narthex on Advent Sunday (December 2) as well as December 9 and 16. This year we are asking that you make out your shopping list one Sunday and pick up your card(s) the next Sunday.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 4
African Team
Ministries Craft Sale

Sunday, November 18
Commitment Sunday/
Celebration Luncheon

Tuesday, November 20
Community Blood
Drive (Woodinville
UUC)

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
This year's financial campaign reminds me of an old story I love.

A Texas columnist tells of two little boys whose mother was tired of their noisy ways in the house and sent them out to the hen house to check the chickens for chicken snakes. The boys checked the bottom roost and it was clear. As they checked the upper roost, just about face high, they found themselves nose to nose with a chicken snake. In sudden panic, they nearly destroyed the chicken house door in their flight to escape. Crashing into the house, they told their mother of the snake.

"Now boys," she said, "You know a chicken snake won't hurt you."

"Yes, Ma'am," a son replied, "but some things will scare you so

bad that you hurt yourself."

Talking finances is, for some, the chicken snake in the hen house.

In 30 years of ministry I have never been a part of a financial campaign that was so critical to health and ministry of a congregation. Our operating funds are in desperate need of cash. And our debt load prevents us from being **all we could be. But let's not let the size of this chicken snake scare us.**

If we all pull together, each as he or she has been blessed, we can cast this snake out on its ear (do snakes have ears?). Look to how blessed we are and celebrate the gift of life and Bear Creek. And **if you can't make the Biblical tithe (10% of whatever you want to estimate your income to be), then choose a percentage of God's gifts to you and put those to work for**

the Kingdom of Heaven at BCUMC.

If we pull together this way, the snake will be removed, the chickens secure, and the eggs wonderful.

Which reminds me of another old story: The pig and the chicken were across the road from the church. Posted in front of the church was a big sign announcing "Annual Ham and Egg Breakfast."

The chicken said to the pig, "Are you going?"

The pig answered, "I don't think so."

"Why not?" puzzled the chicken.

"Well," said the pig, "from you they want a contribution. From me they want total commitment."

Shalom,
Dave O

WORSHIP CORNER

November 4

"Up and Down the Tree?"

This is the well-known and loved story of Zacchaeus and how a greedy little man is transformed into a big and generous man by an encounter with Jesus.

Luke 19:1-10

Sunday evening worship (8 p.m.): Psalm 119:133-147

November 11 **Veteran's Day**

"She Gave It All"

This is another well-known story—the widow's mite. What makes her gift of a few pennies so great?

Mark 12:41-44

Sunday evening worship (8 p.m.): Psalm 145:1-5

thing is doomed in this life) and good news (for we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens—Paul).

Luke 21:5-19

Sunday evening worship (8 p.m.): Psalm 16

November 25 Christ the King Sunday
UM Student Day

"Christ the King"

Many would like Jesus to be the nice man next door and even resist the idea of Christ the King. What could it mean for us, the world and the cosmos if Christ really were the King of our lives, our world and the universe?

Luke 23:33-43

Sunday evening worship (8 p.m.): Psalm 47

November 18 Commitment Sunday

"This World Is Not My Home"

This is both bad news (we are mortal and every-



Nursery/Sunday School Help Needed

Wanted: Teacher for first and second grade Sunday School class.

Wanted: Adult volunteer substitutes for the nursery and toddler room on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Please contact Marge Kuykendall at 425.883.0248 or Joan Thorson at 425.788.7450

Thank you!

New children's activities on Wednesdays

October 7 began a new program at Midweek at Bear Creek—**Children's Activity Time**, for children ages five years through the fifth grade. After a "programmed" day at school, children look forward to coming together for some unscheduled social activities and fun. From 6:30-8:00 p.m. they can meet their friends and classmates for unstructured play and fellowship.



As activities slow down, a video or DVD is put on for some quiet entertainment.

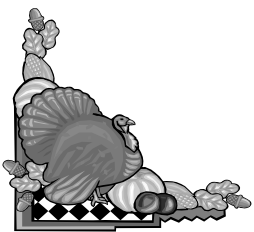
In keeping with our Safe Sanctuary Policy, children must be registered and checked in and out by their parents or caregiver. Two adults and a couple of older children helpers staff the room and join in the activities with the children.

There are a number of choices for the children throughout the gathering. There is always a quiet corner to sit and complete homework assignments; a foosball table to challenge one or more friends for a friendly active game; coloring and/or drawing material is available; and a large box of Legos to let one's imagination go wild.

Routinely Grateful

When a national day of thanksgiving was established on the fourth Thursday in November, it was not because that was a particularly thankful day. It was intentionally chosen precisely because of its arbitrariness to remind us to say "thanks" on a daily basis for the bounties God has heaped upon our lives.

For Christians, every Sunday is a Thanksgiving feast day. Every Sunday at worship, we give thanks for the greatest event ever to hit planet Earth, the greatest "opening" in human history—the open tomb, testifying to Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday. Every Sunday dinner is Thanksgiving dinner.



\$ FINANCE REPORT \$

Amount budgeted for 2007
\$332,260

Year to-date offerings
through October 21

\$247,553 92.2%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$20,811) -7.8%

Impact to Annual Budget

(\$38,567)



Scholarship appreciation

I'd like to thank the church for my scholarship money; it covered my entire cost of books this quarter plus some! I'm enjoying myself up in Bellingham, and am still waiting impatiently for my "yes or no" letter from Western. In the meantime, I'm taking a few fun classes at the community college up here, including Tai Chi! Thanks again, and a shout-out to my favorite congregation!

~Caitlin Daugherty

I would like to thank you for the scholarship money. It is always very helpful with school expenses, and I love having the support of my church family—even all the way over here in Sweden! I miss you all and can't wait to come home and visit. It is such a blessing in my life to have such a great church family! Thanks again for the scholarship!

~Jamie Wilson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The energy level continues to be high in the Sunday School wing on Sunday mornings. Teachers and students are getting to know each other better and are really having some fun. Activities have included cookie baking, "Peace" muffin making, watercolor painting and smelly vinegar science experiments. Each Sunday is a new adventure!

November Curriculum

Pre-K thru 4th grade: Live B.I.G. Idea: We believe we can trust **God's guidance and care** and know that God is always with us.

Live B.I.G. Theme: Moses Leads the Great Escape

Live B.I.G. Bible



Verse: "I will take you as my people, and I will be your God."

Exodus 6: 7

5th and 6th grade: Their unique walk through the Old Testament continues.

Jr. High (7th and 8th grade): Continue to discuss weekly sermon topics.

Sr. High (9th -12th grade): Continue their study of **"The Gospel According to the Simpsons."**

We are still in need of a permanent teacher or teaching team for the 1st and 2nd grade class. Thanks so much to Carla Woodworth and Shelly Torset for stepping in to teach while we search.

Calendar updates:

*November 18: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Stewardship Luncheon)

*November 25: Thanksgiving weekend. YES, we will have Sunday School. If possible, please let **your child's teacher know if you** will be gone so that we can plan accordingly.

Continue to pray for our teachers and our students. This is an important time in all of their lives as they learn from each **other and are touched by God's** loving hand.

Joan Thorson, SS Superintendant

Marge Kuykendall, Children and Youth Ministries Director

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Commitment Sunday is November 18

On November 18 we are celebrating Commitment Sunday during the worship service and with a Celebration Luncheon right after church. Stewardship is part of our discipleship and is about much more than just paying the bills.

Our financial contributions are one way for each of us to grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our mission and ministry with a percentage of our income. If each of us prayerfully considers where we think the



church needs to serve and how we can personally help in that service, then our stewardship campaign this year will be a fabulous success no matter what the result.

On Sunday evening, October 21, the Administrative Council and

the Stewardship Committee met for dinner to discuss our campaign and make each of our personal commitments. Our leaders are leading! We have achieved over 75% of our goal for the Capital Campaign of \$800,000. We have also achieved about one third of our goal for the General Operating fund. We are off to a great start.

Sunday, November 18, is an important Sunday for our congregation...don't miss it!

Jim Morris, Chair
Stewardship Committee

Now is the time to join a "green" committee



Concerned about the headlines lately? BCUMC is forming a Green Church Committee, com-

mitted to further educating and implementing ways to show stewardship toward our environment, starting here at home. We are responsible for the way we use **the Lord's creations, both in sup-**

porting policies and adjusting our lifestyles. If you are interested, please contact Debby Heimfeld at heimfeld@earthlink.net or 425.788.1593. We welcome all ideas!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

"Finding Your Way Through The Bible"

This is a new program offered at Midweek at Bear Creek beginning November 7 5:30-6:00 p.m. for Third and Fourth Graders

In preparation for the third-grade Bible presentation in January, this program will help children:

- Find any book in the Bible
- Find any chapter in any book
- Find Bible passages when referenced
- Know where to look for footnotes
- Recognize Bible study helps
- Learn what some important words mean

The class will meet in the Youth Room (E-6/7). It will be very helpful to know how many children to prepare for, so please respond to Bonnie in the church office (425.788.2953/office@bcumc.org) or Marge Kuykendall (425.883.0248/margentedk@aol.com.)

Joan Pierce completes lay-speaker course

Joan Pierce recently completed the Certified Lay Speakers Course, an intensive study and preaching practicum designed to prepare lay leaders for the calls of Word and Order.

Joan can now fill the pulpit at Bear Creek and other area United Methodist churches. She is also called to assist in the work of discipleship at BCUMC. Currently, Joan is our small group facilitator working with covenant groups, dinner groups, financial campaign small groups, adult study groups and Walk to Emmaus reunion groups.

On Sunday, November 4, we will be presenting Joan her Lay Speaker certificate during worship. Congratulations, Joan!

What is SYNAGO?



SYNAGO (syn-AH-go) is the Greek word for "come together." You may recognize it as the root word of synagogue, a place where people come together to worship and to learn the faith. Jesus said: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* Matthew 18:10

One of the purposes of this youth-led small group is to reach out and invite youth in. Youth coming together to talk about their lives in light of **God's good news and to share and strengthen their faith.**

Each gathering is led by youth and supervised by adult youth leaders. Sessions explore topics such as anxiety, gossip, prayer, family relationships, friends, suffering, service, dating, confrontation, self-esteem, setting goals, and a lot more.

Youth openly and confidentially discuss their own experiences and understanding of a particular **life or faith issue and then consider how God's love, grace, forgiveness and call to faithfulness can have an impact upon that area of their lives.** To encourage intimacy and trust, a policy of honesty, open-mindedness and confidentiality is **communicated at each session. "What is shared in the group stays in the group."**

Another important purpose of this small group is to build Christian community within a circle of friends, in which the group practice and experience what it means to be in ministry to and with one another.

SYNAGO meets the first and third Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at the Kuykendall home and is open to ninth through twelfth grade youth. All gatherings conclude with a family-style dinner from 5:30-6:00p.m.

ADVENT FESTIVAL!

Come One and All to
Prepare for the Season!

The Advent Festival is a joyous time for all ages. Enjoy a warm, tasty meal of soup and salad; participate in making advent crafts; listen to sights and sounds of Christmas music; and enjoy the fellowship gathering of friends and church family.



Sunday, December 2

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Special Soup Supper (5:00 - 6:30)

"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

Music Devotionals are looking for "newcomers"

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts! *Psalms 21:13*

The Bear Creek Worship Committee is looking for vocalists and instrumentalists—solos or combos—to provide Music Devotionals for Sunday morning worship services. **Don't be shy—we'll help you put together an ensemble or find an accompanist.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" and celebrate our Bear Creek musicians. For more information, please contact Kay Forrester at 425.882.2709 or music@forrestersong.com.

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. Watch your weekly bulletin during November for the growing list of students with verified campus addresses and start writing your notes now. 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 December 3 by flat-rate priority mail so should arrive during or near finals week. Please contribute what you can to the cost of a box (\$8.95).

Note to Parents: Please e-mail your student's name and campus address to Tracy Daugherty at 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!

Youth car wash helps capital campaign



On October 14 the BCUMC youth group washed cars during worship and Sunday School. They donated all of the proceeds to the Capital Campaign. A "check" was presented to the congregation during the October 28 worship service in the amount of \$508.00. Our youth are the best!

Sojourners perform on Sunday, November 4

The SOJOURNERS Men's Gospel Choir (Dewey Forrester, pianist) will be performing at Bothell United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. This is a free concert, so come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

For more information visit their website at www.sojournersmusic.com or call 425.882.2709.



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant
in Kirkland

All are welcome!



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

Gary Linstedt, who is recovering from heart surgery and facing another liver transplant.

Steve Stroh, who is recuperating from complications of gastric bypass surgery.

Susan Leveridge, as she meets the challenges of furthering her education.

St. Olaf Christmas Festival at movie theatres

The 96th annual St. Olaf Christmas Festival will be simulcast *live* in high definition and cinema surround-sound from Skoglund Center Auditorium on the campus of St. Olaf College in Minnesota on Sunday, December 2, at a movie theatre near you.

Go to www.stolaf.edu/christmasfest for tickets and all event details.



A huge thank you to Kay Forrester for filling in for four days in the church office and to Vickie Orendorff for putting together the November Bear Fax. Your help is very much appreciated!



Did you know that the BCUMC sermons are now available via iTunes on 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 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

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David Orendorff, Pastor
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*A family place of
belonging*

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



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On the Horizon



Sunday, December 2
Advent Festival

Wednesday, December 12
All-Church Conference

Saturday, January 5
Leadership Retreat

Sunday, January 6
Financial Peace University
Preview Class

Wednesday, January 8
Financial Peace University

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening
Worship
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.