

# Bear Fax



March, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

In the March worship calendar you will find the days and times of what will prove to be a remarkable week of God with us.

Beginning on Palm/Passion Sunday, the Worship Committee is arranging for us both the story of **Jesus' Passion and the** remarkable music it has inspired. On Thursday is the Passover Seder



(reservations required) and once again the da Vinci tableau. Both are a **celebration of God's** saving power and wonderful opportunities to share that Good News with a family member or friend. On Friday is the very moving Tenebrae, in which we descend by story and light into darkness at the death of Jesus. And then on Sunday we are raised with Jesus to life again.

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## Traditional Seder

Thursday, March 20

6:00 p.m.

\$5/child \$10/adult \$25.00/family

Celebrate our Jewish heritage with an authentic Maundy Thursday Seder meal prepared by Pastor Dave and Vickie Orendorff at Bear Creek UMC.

Reservations are required. Children are welcome and wanted!

## da Vinci's "Last Supper" Tableau

Thursday, March 20 7:30 p.m.

Come and see Pastor Dave as "Jesus."

All are welcome! Invite your friends and relatives!

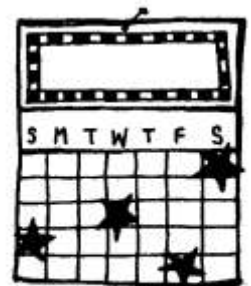
Friday,  
March 21  
7:00 p.m.

## Good Friday Tenebrae Service

A special service in remembrance of Christ's passion for us.  
Communion will be served

## Easter Sunday Worship

March 23 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, March 11  
Community Blood Drive  
(Woodinville UUC)

Sunday, March 16  
Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 20  
Seder 6:00 p.m.  
Last Supper Tableau 7:30

Friday, March 21  
Good Friday Service 7:30

Sunday, March 23  
Easter Sunday Worship  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

## PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,  
My favorite joke: The lion awakes from a nap not feeling fully himself. And so he goes into the forest, sees the orangutan and roars, "Who's the king of the jungle?" And dutifully the orangutan says, "You are, O mighty one."

The lion feels a little better but still not fully himself and so, seeing the hyena, he roars, "Who's the king of the jungle?" And the hyena answers rightly, "You are, O mighty one."

Feeling almost himself but not quite, he sees the lowly mouse and roars, "Who's the king of the jungle?" And the mouse answers, "Not me, I've been sick."

I would be the king of my life, except I have been sick. Lent reminds us that we need forgiveness for the illnesses of our souls, and healing for the illnesses of our body. And I am glad Lent is almost over, because I need Easter to reign in my soul.

This Lent has marked concerns over various family members' health, including Vickie. By Easter we will know the new life set before us, and we will be glad because God is with us forever.

Our worship in March follows the path to death and then explodes with resurrection. I encourage you to take advantage of this healing journey, especially all the events of Holy Week. It will be good for your soul.

Shalom,  
Dave O

## WORSHIP

March 2—4th Sunday in Lent  
One Great Hour of Sharing

### "Whose Fault Is It?"

A man has been blind from birth. The followers of Jesus ask the "why" of the man's blindness. They think it must be from sin. For some in Jesus' time, and for some in our time, blindness, deafness, leprosy, poverty, all kinds of physical and mental illness, were thought to be the results of a personal failure, of sin. Whose fault is it that we suffer?

*John 9: 1-41*

Sunday Vespers *Exodus 20: 1-21*

March 9—5th Sunday in Lent  
"Why Is There Suffering?"

The hardest question I am asked about God and us is, "Why is there suffering?" Usually it is not asked as a mere academic wondering, but by someone in the midst of suffering wanting to know why this is happening, or by someone with a dying loved one, or by someone in the midst of depression or anxiety, or by someone sensitive to the innocent victims of inhumanity, violence or disease.

*John 11: 1-16*

Sunday Vespers *Exodus 32: 1-14*

March 16—Passion/Palm Sunday  
St. Matthew's "The Passion of Christ"

Beginning in the narthex, we will sing hosanna as we enter to read, sing and sign our way to the death of Jesus. With the gifts of special music, this promises to be a powerful preparation for Holy Week.

Sunday Vespers *Psalms 22*

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

March 20—Holy/Maundy Thursday  
Passover Seder Dinner 6:00 p.m.

This traditional Jewish meal, remembering how God save the people from bondage and slavery in Israel and then led them to the Promised Land, is the last meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples.

March 21—Good Friday  
Tenebrae Worship 7:30 p.m.

As we read of Jesus' last days, the lights are dimmed and the candles extinguished until we sit in the darkness of the world with the mercy of Jesus. This is the perfect preparation for the return of Christ and light on Easter morning.

March 23—Easter Day  
Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

### "Jesus Knows Your Name"

Mary is in a desperate hunt for the body of Jesus. She has lost his life and lost his love, and the body was the only thing left to her grief. But when she goes to the grave, it is empty. Through her fear and tears, she sees a gardener, and the gardener knows her name, and she knows the truth.

*John 20: 1-18*

Sunday Vespers *Exodus 32: 1-14*

March 30—2nd Sunday of Easter  
"Students of Jesus"

Easter is a miracle with a purpose. It is more than a sign of the victory over death; it gives our lives meaning and direction. We are not just accidents of probability; we are miracles with a purpose.

*John 20: 19-23*

Sunday Vespers *Psalms 16*

## STEWARDSHIP

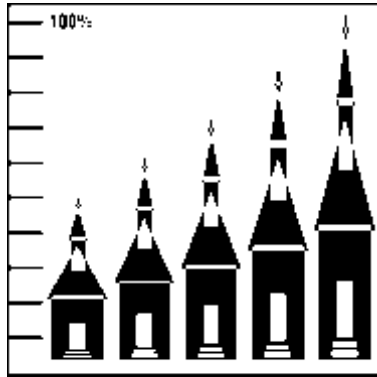
# Capital Campaign exceeds goal!

The Capital Campaign ended on February 10 with the children of the Sunday School making a donation of over \$85.00. This donation took us over the top and allowed us to beat our goal of \$800,000!

We are truly blessed as a congregation. There are so many people to thank that they could not all be listed here. However, I would like to specifically thank four groups.

First, the Conference gave us a gift of over \$100,000 by forgiving the loan we had on the church property. This was a huge start to our campaign.

Second, last spring the youth of the church raised over \$500 in a carwash and presented this money to the Capital Campaign to get us moving toward our goal.



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Third, there is the BCUMC congregation—each of you—who made such generous commitments.

Lastly, who would have ever believed that the children would give over \$85 to complete the campaign. Many of the children

did extra chores in order to make a statement about their commitment to BCUMC. Thank you all!

As a result of this campaign, we will reach our goal of being debt free in seven years. By eliminating the debt portion of our budget, we will be able to expand our outreach to the community, expand our outreach to the world, and expand our educational programs.

In addition to eliminating the debt, some of the funds from the Capital Campaign will be used to improve our Sunday School space, reach out and be part of Habitat for Humanity in the local area, and provide some needed support for additional staff.

The Lord truly is at work in our congregation.

## It helps to designate a fund for giving

When making contributions to the church, please make sure that you identify to which fund it is going.

Our major funds are:

- \$ General Operating Fund
- \$ Capital Fund
- \$ Endowment Fund



Periodically during the year, contributions are asked for special funds as well, such as the One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 2. By clearly indicating a designated fund, you will greatly simplify the job of the counters and assure that your contribution gets credited properly.

Thank you!



## 2008 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2008  
\$361,717

Year to-date offerings  
through February 24  
\$45,816                      82.3%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)  
(\$9,833)                      -17.7%

Impact to Annual Budget  
(\$9,833)

**Missions – Around**  
A sneak peek at upcoming

## The Corner

### Mission events

#### March

- Eastside Baby Corner – collecting all items related to kids from newborn to 14 years old thru March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Volunteers help sort items at Eastside Baby Corner in Issaquah, Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign up at Mission table.
- Habitat for Humanity Ground Breaking and Blessing, 9 a.m. Patterson Park
- TC4 Dinner – Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Kirkland Congregational Church

#### April

- Pastor Marlu Scott from Wilbur UMC (White Swan) visits on Native American Sunday – April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Mother's Day Baskets for Matthew House (bring to BCUMC by May 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### May

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Fear change? Leave yours here...



Missions Heifer Project Coin Drive—sponsored by the 5th/6th grade Sunday School class

The 5th/6th grade Sunday school class is using their weekly offerings to purchase Heifer Project animals. We will use what we collect to purchase bees or ducks or rabbits, or even a cow! If you would like to support the class, we welcome your participation. Feel free to leave your change in the collection jar in the narthex before Sunday school classes start.

How Heifer International Works:

- \* Community groups approach Heifer International for help in setting up an animal or agriculture project.
- \* Program staff meet with applicants to make sure the group's goals are compatible with Heifer's mission and that

they have the capacity to carry out the project successfully.

- \* Heifer staff and project participants go through a careful planning process to decide which animals or crops would be most beneficial.

Before receiving their animals, participants must first undergo rigorous training to learn about Heifer's Cornerstones, such as gender equity and sharing and caring, which will guide them toward just and sustainable development. For many project participants, the training is as important as the animals they receive.

Families build shelters and other facilities needed to keep animals healthy. They also may plant trees and grasses to be used to feed their new animals.

Once families receive Heifer animals, they put their training to use. Soon, eggs, milk and meat improve nutrition. Extra eggs and milk can be sold to improve income, while animal manure fertilizes crops. Bees produce honey, and trees, vegetables, fruit and other crops begin to produce food, fuel and fibers. Water buffalo, oxen and camels provide draft power that makes farming and transportation much easier.

Then it's time for project partners to pass on the gift of self-reliance to others. Heifer recipients pass one or more of their animal's offspring, training and skills to another family in need. The new recipients agree to pass on the gift as well, creating a chain of giving that can touch thousands of lives.

## MISSIONS

### BCUMC supports local Habitat for Humanity

BCUMC is excited to report that we are now members of a coalition supporting the building of one townhouse in a complex known as Patterson Park off Avondale Road in Redmond. This is the final phase of a multi-year project for Habitat for Humanity of East King County.

Bear Creek UMC will be donating \$10,000, along with "sweat equity," over the next 15-18 months. Volunteers will work the second Saturday of each month beginning April 12. Sign-ups will be online and the details will be available in about around the beginning of March.

Other members of our coalition are St. Jude's Parish, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Timberlake Fellowship and Woodinville Alliance Church. Woodinville

Community United Methodist Church is considering joining the project, as well. The name for our partnership will be Cornerstone for Hope Coalition.

On Saturday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m., there will be a groundbreaking and blessing of the project, and all partner churches are invited. The townhouse's foundation, funded by Microsoft, has actually been started. Juice and coffee will be served. That Saturday will be a workday for a previously-arranged group.

What we know right now:

- \*\* 20 volunteers from the participating churches will sign up for each second Saturday.
- \*\* Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, although 16- and 17-year-olds may come with a parent or guardian.

\*\* The workday begins at 8:45 a.m. with an orientation, and work begins at 9 a.m. Lunch is from 12-12:30 and work continues until 4:00 p.m.

\*\* Due to a shortage of parking, a shuttle will run between Kohl's parking lot (the site of the former Mervyn's store next to Target near Avondale Road and I-520) and the project.

You can explore the Habitat for Humanity website at [habitat.ekc.org](http://habitat.ekc.org), where you'll find other volunteer opportunities as well.

Remember, everyone is welcome to attend the groundbreaking ceremony on March 15 at 9 a.m. Further details about sign-up for the workdays will be forthcoming.

### Eastside Baby Corner helps families in our community—and you can, too!

Eastside Baby Corner started in 1990 with a mission to collect all items used by children from birth to age 12 and distribute them to service providers who work with families in need. Eastside Baby Corner acts as a distribution center supplying basic items to over 160 shelters, food banks, public health nurses and social workers, operating with extremely low overhead due to a large volunteer network. Items donated are never sold, but are given away free of charge to families in need.

You can drop off new and gently-used items for infants and children at the missions table through Saturday, March 15. Suggested items include absolutely everything needed to raise

a child to 12 years old. Donations of used *cribs (with all pieces attached)* and *car seats* are especially appreciated since these high-cost items can quickly consume EBC's cash donations. (Please note: Due to safety concerns, EBC cannot accept cribs and car seats more than six years old.)

New toys are used to stock the birthday toy bank. Nice books for all ages are a constant need, since each bag of children's clothing includes books.

Tax receipts are available for all donations. If you would like a receipt, please attach your name, address and suggested value of the item(s) to your donation.

One-time and group volunteer

efforts are a critical part of the annual 5,000+ hours of volunteer service which are required to support the EBC mission. The BCUMC Missions Committee is organizing a group to help assemble layette kits at EBC on Saturday, March 15, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We will carpool from the church, leaving at 8:30 a.m.

A sign-up sheet is available at the missions table in the narthex. For safety's sake, children accompanying adults must be at least seven years old, and children up to 13 years must have one-to-one adult supervision.



## YOUTH

# BCUMC youth attend leadership retreat

The weekend of February 16-17 saw six of our Bear Creek youth engaged in a variety of leadership activities during the **"Empowering You" leadership retreat** held at Snoqualmie United Methodist Church.

Merideth Stroh, Daniel Thorson, Melissa Boyer, Nick Wilson, Kirsten Litchford and Kristina



Pastor Dave helps youth discover their gifts

Thorson joined 31 other youth from across the Northwest Conference to explore not only their leadership gifts but also to learn how to use these gifts while working with a variety of team members.

Led by our own pastor, Dave Orendorff, youth participated in the Myers-Briggs leadership assessment. Not only did youth discover their own leadership styles, they also explored how they can successfully work with other styles to strengthen their teams.

Paul Bland from Lazy F Camp joined the group, directing team-building games which allowed youth to work together during fun activities.

The second day of the retreat started with the entire group joining the Snoqualmie congregation for a contemporary worship service. Youth were delighted to hear **the 'Disciples', a country rock**



praise band.

Justin and Julia Garrett highlighted the afternoon by not only sharing their lives and faith walk, but leading the youth in their closing worship.

Some of the responses voiced by attendees were, **"Awesome experience," "I'm so glad I decided to participate,"** and **"What a great week-end!"**

## Youth Souperbowl Sunday a great success

Thank you BCUMC for your generosity in making the youth **"Souperbowl" Sunday a great success.**

Our youth were able to deliver 161 food items and a check for \$318.75 to the Maltby Food Bank. Volunteers at the food bank expressed over and over again their appreciation to BCUMC congregation for their compassionate caring and generosity.



Chris Aakre, Missions Chair, oversees youth on Souper Sunday

## FELLOWSHIP

### We love homemade cookies for coffee hour!


The Fellowship Committee and Marian Arlin, our Coffee Hour coordinator, love it when fresh homemade cookies are brought to the window in the narthex on Sunday mornings! We love serving them, and I think most of us enjoy eating them. If you can, and when you can, please consider making a dozen or so cookies to share with us.

Parents may want their children to bake with them so they begin to feel the involvement of

showing service in a small way. It truly *is* a service of fellowship and community as we enjoy one another after worship and before Christian Education. Thank you!

Fruit and other nutritious snacks are also welcome.

Look for Connie Gagnon in the narthex with a clipboard for you to sign up to be one of two families hosting coffee hour on future Sundays. We will provide the coffee makers if you provide the cookies or snacks!

Please check the coat rack in the narthex for any items that belong to you. On March 15 any unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.

Susan Jackson, who's mother passed away peacefully in January at the age of 98½!


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

Marcie Nashem, who's sister passed away in January.

Vickie Orendorff, who will be undergoing treatment for possible breast cancer.

## Community Blood Drive

**Tuesday, March 11**  
1:00-7:00 p.m.  
(Break 3:00-3:45)



Call the church office for an ap-

### Medical Equipment Available

We have the following medical equipment available for loan to anyone who needs them. Please contact Andy or Joan Pierce at 360.668.9691 or [jpierce622@verizon.net](mailto:jpierce622@verizon.net).

- Wheelchair
- Walker
- Crutches
- Handicapped toilet (stand-alone or in conjunction with home toilet)
- Set of steps (staircase extender)



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 "MP3" 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



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## On the Horizon



*Sunday, April 6*  
All-Church Potluck

*Saturday, May 3*  
Amazing Grace Seminar

*Sunday, May 4*  
Crop Walk

*Sunday, May 10*  
Sojourners Concert

*Sunday, May 18*  
Baccalaureate (LDS Church)

*Saturday, June 7*  
Work Party

*Sunday, June 8*  
Recognition Sunday

*Sunday, June 15*  
Confirmation Sunday

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.*