

Bear Fax



April, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Many hands and hearts contribute to memorable Holy Week at Bear Creek

From the excitement of Palm Sunday, to the thoughtful Thursday and Friday events, and back to the resurrection promise of Easter of morning, we experienced the highest and lowest emotions of the Christian year during Holy Week 2008. Through the work and participation of many loving hands, feet and bodies, the message of Christ's love through his ultimate sacrifice came through in crystal clear moments shared together.

Palm Sunday began with everyone crowded together in the narthex waiting to join the joyful procession. Young and old were encouraged to take a real palm branch and join in the celebration. Through a series of scripture readings, we heard the story of Jesus' last week, from the Last Supper through his death on the cross.

Interspersed with these readings were beautiful music devotionals, including Johanna DeLong, Debbie Brown, Hannah, Isaac, and Dewey Forrester sharing "I'll Fly Away"; the Garrett family singers; Caitlyn Stewart singing a solo; and Ann and Christina Rupley, Garland Bellamy and Bill Hoppe with "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" during communion.

A moving arrangement of "In the Garden" and "Were You There?" by Dewey Forrester led us toward the close of the service. We left with the hope to be found in the rituals and experiences of the coming week, to learn of the healing grace and mercy



of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Thursday evening a traditional Seder Pass-over meal of delicious roast lamb, rice and salad, hosted by David and Vickie Orendorff, was enjoyed by 80 people. Pastor Dave, as the father, read many of the lessons, and mother Vickie lit

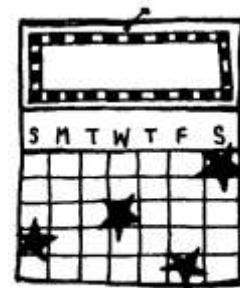
the ceremonial candles and led prayers. Children asked the traditional questions, including, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" Parents responded, and we learned again about the Passover—*matzoh*, or unleavened bread made in the haste of escaping Egypt; *haroset*, representing the mortar the Israelite slaves used; bitter herbs; and the salt water of tears reminding us of the time of captivity.

We moved to the celebration space for the inspiring portrayal of the Last Supper. Leonardo da Vinci, portrayed by Eric Shankland, gave us his vision of that critical moment in time when Jesus announces he will be betrayed. As the apostles introduced themselves and settled into places at the table, Jesus spoke of this last supper together, and the moment was frozen as Jesus explained that one of them will betray him.

The words and music of "Is it I?" flowed through our souls as we felt the weight of this statement. When Judas, accused by his own words, erupted from the table to flee his guilt, he threw his bag of silver down in misery.

(Continued on page 6)

Pastor's Message	2
Worship Opportunities	2
Native American Ministries Sunday	3
Scholarship Offering	3
Christian Education	4
Missions	5
Children and Youth	7
Spring Fling Dinner	7



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 6
All-Church Potluck

Sunday, April 20
Scholarship Offering
Bible Sunday

Saturday, April 26
Adult Spring Fling Dinner

PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
What a great Lent it was in worship. I particularly love the orchestral movement from Passion Sunday, to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The whole of our lives, body and soul, is told in these few days. And what a great telling it was this year. Many of you worked hard on the variety of ways we looked inside ourselves, reviewed the world, and saw God with us even in the hard places of life.

Every Lent teaches me something about God's grace in the midst of hard living. The Lenten journey this year had to do with a suspicious spot in Vickie that

might have been cancer. Almost exactly on Ash Wednesday we began a journey of scans and doctors, traveled through tests, a **biopsy that didn't happen and then two weeks later did happen. It wasn't until the Wednesday of Holy Week that we learned, "Be at peace, there is nothing to fear here."**

So Easter was four days early in our souls. But it needed to be early so we could prepare the Passover Seder for Thursday and go into darkness with hope on Friday, decorate the sanctuary with Judy, Sara, Randy and John on Saturday and then rejoice with all of you on Sunday.

And as a bonus, on Saturday, just as the decorations were finished, I held a wedding for a Persian Jewish groom and a Persian Christian bride. The witnesses were a first generation Japanese/Chinese Buddhist and a recent immigrant from Mexico. The photographer was a 13-year-old Mexican American. And the congregants were decorators, window washers, musicians and sound techs. The room was a book of life. This is our Easter world, hard living stories filled with wonderful love.

Shalom,
Dave O

WORSHIP

April 6—3rd Sunday of Easter
Native American Ministries Sunday

Rev. MarLu Scott, pastor of Wilbur Memorial UMC in White Swan, and her team are leading us in a Native American worship to celebrate **missional relationship. This is a "must be there!"** An all-church potluck will follow worship and education.

Sunday Vespers *Acts 3: 1-10*

April 13—4th Sunday of Easter
"Sunday Dinner"

The act of eating dinner together on a Sunday is fundamental to the well being of families and churches. It is in this dining together that we come to know Christ best.

Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday Vespers *Acts 9: 32-35*

April 20—5th Sunday of Easter
Scholarship Sunday
Bible Sunday

"Where Do the Sparrows Go?"

There are many rooms in God's house, and we are invited by the resurrected Jesus to be at peace and to go with him to this Big, Big House.

Nancy Barr's youth choir from Kennewick UMC will be singing today.

John 14: 1-14

Sunday Vespers *Acts 9: 36-43*

April 27—6th Sunday of Easter

"What Are the Commandments of Jesus?"

As we think politics, life, death and love, we are invited to answer the question, "What would Jesus do?" I ask, "What does Jesus tell us to do?"

John 14: 15-21

Sunday Vespers *Mark 1: 21-28*



April 6 is Native American Ministries Sunday



Bear Creek UMC be celebrating this special offering Sunday with MarLu Scott and guests from Wilbur Memorial UMC in White Swan. Come and enjoy dancing, signing and singing at this special worship service at 9:30 a.m.

An old-fashioned Methodist potluck will follow the service and Christian Education. Please bring ten or more servings of a favorite dish to share (main dish, **vegetable, salad, fruit or dessert**). **Let's welcome** our White Swan guests with a potluck to remember!

On that Sunday we will also be accepting your offerings to nurture outreach with persons of all ages and provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. Please give generously!

Scholarship Sunday is April 20

On Sunday, April 20, we will accept offerings for the Bear Creek UMC 2008 Scholarship Fund. The scholarships go to youth, young adults and others who are pursuing post high school education. Here is a letter from Susan Jackson expressing her appreciation for the scholarship:

The last four years have passed quickly! As I gradually approach the end of my doctoral program, one of the constants in my academic study life continues to be the annual financial donation from my church family. This yearly reminder of your prayers and thoughts comes at the start of a new semester each fall. It means a great deal to know that you honor learning at all stages of life. Every piece of tangible support is well used by each of us! Thanks again!

Agape,
Susan Jackson



2008 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2008

\$361,717

Year to-date offerings
through March 23

\$73,888 88.5%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$9,586) -11.5%

Impact to Annual Budget

(\$9,586)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Volunteers needed for Summer Sunday School and Vacation Bible School

Through Christian Education we invite people and communities of faith to be transformed as they are inspired and challenged to:

Know and experience God through Jesus Christ; and

Claim and live God's promises, and grow and serve as Christian disciples.

Bear Creek, as with most Methodist churches, relies on the congregation to volunteer for a variety of positions to allow a good and working Christian Education Program for our children and youth.

Our volunteer pool has become critically low to support our Christian programs. We are currently recruiting teachers for

Summer Sunday School and a variety of Vacation Bible School positions.

Volunteer teacher teams allow Bear Creek UM to provide excellent Christian Education for our children and youth. Training workshops and mentoring will be provided for volunteers. Please prayerfully consider the following positions. Look for a sign-up display in the narthex.

Summer Sunday School
PreK-6th Grade
June 15-August 24

Two teachers are needed for each date. We have a fun and easy curriculum to follow in this one-room classroom.

Vacation Bible School
July 14-18

Pre-date positions:

Staff recruiter
Pre-registrar
Director

During VBS positions:

Greeter/Check-In
Station leaders
Assistant station leaders
Youth Helpers (7th-12)
Miscellaneous one-day positions
Song leader
Drama coach



The Corner

Missions – Around
A sneak peek at upcoming

Mission events

April

- Pastor Marlu Scott from Wilbur UMC (White Swan) visits on Native American Sunday – April 6th
- Mother's Day Baskets for Matthew House (bring to BCUMC by May 4th)
- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday April 12th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday April 21st 6 p.m. at Kirkland Congregational Church

May

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday May 10th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign-up at <http://habitatekc.volunteerhub.com/>
- Youth deliver Mother's Day Baskets to Matthew House
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday May 12th 6 p.m. at B'Nai Torah
- Sojourners concert – Saturday May 10th 7 p.m. – offering to support Hope for the Children of Africa

June

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday June 14th 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Tuesdays
6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant
in Kirkland

All are welcome!

MISSIONS MOMENT

BCUMC strong supporter of mission projects

UMCOR is in need of layette, sewing and bedding kits. This is an emergency appeal for help. The Mission Committee voted to send \$500 of matching funds to UMCOR Sager Brown to buy items for the kits. If you wish to help, please make checks payable to BCUMC and mark for UMCOR Sager Brown.

Sixteen children's sweaters were mailed to Guide Post to be used for children in disaster areas. Three women from BCUMC and one from Brittany Park contributed to this project. Some hats were knitted also and donated to Eastside Baby Corner. A big "thank you" to the anonymous person who gave two boxes of yarn.

On Saturday morning, March 15, six volunteers went to Issaquah to work for Eastside Baby Corner. They took with them the many items given by you for that ministry. Thanks to those who donated and those who worked!

Watch for news about the upcoming Mothers' Day baskets for Matthew House and the work schedules for our Habitat house at Patterson Park.



Zach Miller and Danielle Walsh sort EBC bins



Nancy Larson stores donations from BCUMC



Chris Aakre shows off a sweater made by a BCUMC knitter



Aubrey Rakus and friend Brittany sort bins at Eastside Baby Corner



Habitat for Humanity Annual Spring Breakfast
Wednesday, April 30
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA

7:00-7:30 a.m.

Buffet Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m.

Program

Our annual fundraising breakfast "Growing with Habitat" will gather the community together to celebrate the successes of our Habitat families and raise money for future Habitat homebuilding. To meet the continuing need for affordable housing on the Eastside, Habitat EKC will build 14 homes in 2008 while working towards long-term goals of increasing our homebuilding to 20 homes per year by 2010.

RSVP NOW! To reserve your place at the breakfast, please confirm your attendance online at www.habitatekc.org/breakfast/.

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, you may safely use your credit card to make a secure online contribution using this same webpage.

All proceeds from this event will help build affordable homes for Eastside families. A minimum donation of \$250 is suggested.

We've got mail

Dear thoughtful care package givers at BCUMC,

Thank you all so much for organizing, contributing and sending such an encouraging package! My roommate and I thoroughly enjoyed the snacks (college kids + snacks+♥) And a special thanks to all of the families, individuals and youth for their inspiring notes. I hope to come to back and visit when I am home on break! PLU is such **a great fit for me and I am happy to call my 12' x 12' dorm room "home" for the time being. But I do really miss those who love me at my real home!**

Thanks again for being such a supportive church family. God bless!

Nicole Gleadle



There are definitely moments of trials and trepidations in our lives, and it takes a whole family sometimes to pull together to get one through such difficult times. I wish I could express in words the gratefulness and thanks I feel for the Helping Hand Fund and all those who gave me a "helping hand" to get Lukas and I on our feet. Lukas and I owe a lot to our church family and we wish to give thanks to God and all those who assisted in our time of need. We appreciate and love all of you very much.

God Bless and Shalom,
Amber Oleson



Prayers and Praises

Praises for Vickie **Orendorff's** clean bill of health on all her recent tests!

Congratulations to former members David and Cindy Reed, now living in Omaha, Nebraska, on the birth of their first grandchild. Luke Stewart was born to their daughter, Laura, and son-in-law, Matt, in March.

Prayers for Debbie Leyva Brown, who has had a series of personal and financial setbacks.

Prayers for Don Robson, whose brother has been diagnosed with cancer.

Terri Stewart, who has been interviewing for an internship.

Bear Hugs

A special thank you should be expressed to Sara Lambert for her **untiring (well, we'll bet she's tired!) dedication** to worship during this holy season.

Sara always goes the extra mile to plan, with her committee, our worship services, and this past month was no exception.

Thanks for your faithful spirit, Sara!

Holy Week activities

(Continued from page 1)

The moving experience of receiving communion from the disciples was offered to all who attended this service.

But, the defining point of grace came at the end, when Judas approached as Jesus beckoned him forward. With love and forgiveness, Jesus offered the bread and wine to Judas, the lowest, most despised one. With faith and humility, Judas accepted this gift for all of us.

Good Friday saw a quiet evening of scripture and reflection. As the story of the last days of Christ unfolded in a series of readings, a candle was extinguished after

each. With the assistance of acolytes, musicians, readers, and Nich Traverse as Jesus, the service took us to the depths of despair on this darkest point in our journey toward Easter. With the departure of the Christ candle, all other candles and lights were extinguished. The congregation departed in darkness and silence to ponder the meaning of suffering and sacrifice.

Easter morning dawned bright with anticipation as the celebration space began to fill with friends and families. The beautiful lilies, flowering branches, banners and the Christ candle lent an atmosphere of celebration. From **the first strains of "Christ the Lord**

is Risen Today" to the expanded choir singing the "Hallelujah Chorus," the love of Christ was palpable and visible all around. Music devotionals included Melissa Boyer playing her upright bass; the Powell Family; Celebration Choir pieces featuring soloists Marty DeLong and Sara Lambert; the Shankland family chamber duo; and the handbell choir. It was a privilege to share together with scripture, music and communion.

As the Easter season continues through the next few weeks, we look forward to worshiping, sharing and learning together in **Christ's love.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Save the date for this
summer's exciting
 Vacation Bible School
 Adventure!



July 14-18, 2008

Mark your calendar
 now and join the fun!

Whirlyball "Extraordinaire" provides an afternoon of fun for youth and adults alike

Squeals, laughter, threats (in jest, of course!) and boastings could be heard from both youth and adults as they engaged in the lively game of Whirlyball. Forty-three youth and adults traveled to Edmonds on Saturday, March 1, to spend two hours riding in bumper cars, wickets in hand, as they attempted to scoop up a whiffle ball before being bumped away and launch it toward the target to score points for their team.

Whirlyball was not only a fun-filled activity but also served as an outreach to invite their friends to youth group.

The team of Chris Large, Bryan Mickelson, Kristina Thorson and special friends Scott Daley and Ben Wright walked away undefeated.

The adult team cried "foul" as they went down by one game to the unstoppable young men. One team, who shall remain unnamed, lost all their games, but declared the afternoon a success and "the most fun ever."

Stop by the youth room to view photos of this rewarding outing.

Spring Fling Dinner!

(formerly the known as the Sweetheart Dinner!)

The BCUMC youth group's annual "Sweetheart Dinner" has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m. and has a new name: **"Spring Fling,"** which matches the current season!

The cost of the dinner is \$20 per adult and reservations can be made until April 23. We're hoping that, whether you were planning to come to the February dinner or couldn't attend that one, you'll be able to join us for this rescheduled special event.

Entertainment will be provided by the Bluegrass Buzzsaw, a youth band in which Isaac Forrester participates. BCUMC youth leaders have heard them perform and think they are *terrific*. This is an event you will not want to miss!

\$20/Adult
 By reservation only
 Saturday, April 26
 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment provided by Bluegrass Buzzsaw

Contact Information

425.788.2953
 office@bcumc.org
 prayers@bcumc.org
 news@bcumc.org
 www.bcumc.org

Pastor
 David Orendorff
 Administrative Assistant
 Bonnie Peltola
 Youth Director
 Marge Kuykendall
 Music Director
 Bill Hoppe
 Worship Coordinator
 Sara Lambert



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 "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



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 124
Woodinville WA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

On the Horizon



Saturday, May 3
Amazing Grace Seminar

Sunday, May 4
Crop Walk

Sunday, May 10
Sojourners Concert

Monday, May 11
Tent City 4 Dinner

Wednesday, May 14
All-Church Conference

Sunday, May 18
Baccalaureate (LDS Church)

Saturday, May 31
Babysitting Class

Saturday, June 7
All-Church Work Party

Sunday, June 8
Recognition 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.