

# Bear Fax



May, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## BCUMC Patterson Park crew takes on a new foundation

**B**CUMC members participated in the first work day with Habitat for Humanity East King County (EKC) at the Patterson Park complex of four townhouses just off Avondale Road in Redmond. We shoveled dirt, cut wood, drilled holes and got to know the other volunteers under beautiful sunny skies. The back-filling of the foundation is finished, and now the fun really begins. The townhouses will start to take shape as the framing begins.



Marcia Gordon and crew prepare the townhome foundation

We invite you and your friends to sign up for any second Saturday of any month this year. (Although the project will last 12-15 months, the schedule is only open through November 2008 thus far.) The sign-ups are now open to any size group from any of the coalition churches on a first-come-first-served basis. No experience is necessary! All you need is a willing heart, and the team leaders will guide you **through the day's work. So grab your friends, family or Covenant Group and sign up.** An updated sheet to guide you through the online signup process is on the Missions table, or you can call or e-mail Marcia Gordon to sign up you and your group. 425.485.3647 or [marcia.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.gordon@gmail.com).

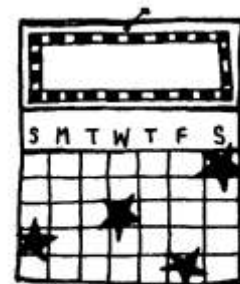
Habitat is still in the selection process for families for these townhouses. By the end of May we should know the name of the family to whose house we are donating our funds.

### A few reminders:

1. Volunteers must be 18 years of age, but 16 and 17 year olds are welcome with an adult. There can be a ratio of five teens to one adult.
2. The work day is 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month.
3. Car pool if possible due to limited parking at the site.
4. Bring a lunch.
5. Further details are on the website when you sign up, or contact Marcia Gordon.

Hope to see you on May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, or November 8.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

*Saturday, May 3*  
Amazing Grace Seminar  
Labyrinth

*Sunday, May 10*  
Sojourners Concert

*Monday, May 11*  
Tent City 4 Dinner

*Wednesday, May 14*  
All-Church Conference

*Saturday, May 17*  
Eldercare Workshop

*Sunday, May 18*  
Baccalaureate (LDS Church)

*Saturday, May 31*  
Babysitting Class

## PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,  
Since the Apostle Paul, Christians have used some form of the greeting "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 1:7b)."

This simple greeting sums up all we believe and trust with our lives in the faith. We are wished knowledge of God's mercies. We are wished shalom for all the trouble of life. We are reminded that God is our true loving Abba and that it is Jesus we serve and to Jesus that we are loyal.

I like this greeting, and I give my life to its wisdom and way. I pray for the world which in so many ways needs to know its promise and deliverance.

I pray that in this Bear Fax you discover ways of being perfected by worship, study and service through the grace and peace of our Abba and our Lord Jesus Christ. Read what follows with the heart of Christ that together we might grow in the mind and deeds of Jesus for each other and our world.

Shalom,  
Dave O

May 1 is Ascension Day

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the **Ascension. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven.** The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

## WORSHIP

Make worship a regular part of your life of discipleship. Whether the music is loud or soft, the sermon good or bad, our worship of God and with our brother and sister disciples of Jesus will be just right.

May 4—7th Sunday of Easter  
**"Under the Protection of God"**

As Jesus prepares to die, he prays for his disciples that God will protect them. It is a protection we need, for the path of agape love, of serving a world of pain, is not easy. Viktor Frankl, a survivor of the Nazi holocaust, has much to teach us about **God's protection.**

*John 17: 1-11*

Sunday Vespers *Mark 1: 29-34*

May 11—Day of Pentecost  
**Mother's Day**  
Festival of the Christian Home

Terri Stewart will give the message.

Sunday Vespers *Mark 1: 40-45*

May 18—1st Sunday after Pentecost  
Heritage Sunday  
Peace with Justice Sunday

**"Teach the Students Well"**

These last words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel have been called the Great Commission, and they have been used to exhort Christians for two

millennia "to go and make disciples." But what does it mean "to go?" And what does it mean to "make disciples?" And can it be done without the use of force? I have an idea, and it is, as it seems so often the case with me lately, not the traditional idea.

*Matthew 28: 16-20*

Sunday Vespers *Mark 1: 1-12*

May 25—2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
**"God Comforts the People"**

Joseph Jaworski is the son of Leon Jaworski who, before he was Attorney General (and a good one he was), was one of the prosecuting attorneys at the Nuremburg trials. Joseph will lead us in reflecting on Isaiah, God, the holocaust and synchronicity (the idea that just what we really need comes to us when we really need it.)

*Isaiah 49: 8-13*

Sunday Vespers *Mark 3: 1-6*



## STEWARDSHIP

# Stewardship is more than money!

Many times we think about stewardship as just about the Operating Budget Campaign and the Capital Campaign. Although these are critical to the operation of our church, stewardship is also about giving of our time and talents and being good stewards of our earth.

One of our goals this year is **to identify BCUMC members'** interests, talents and skills. We are doing this by way of a survey of all members and attendees of BCUMC.

Results of the survey will be entered into a data base which can be used by the church leadership when a need arises. The reason for doing this is because we have a responsibility to not only identify folks who can help in the operation of the church but, more importantly, help folks identify their gifts and develop them. This survey can be the beginning (or a continuation) of a journey for each of us to identify and develop our gifts.

Our desire is for BCUMC to be a nurturing community to help us develop our gifts, whether we

use them in the church or in the community (hopefully both). We may call you from time to time to use your gifts; however, we recognize that you may not have time to help now so we hope your philosophy is the same as ours: "No is as good an answer as yes!"

As disciples of Jesus, we will continue to grow through Study, Worship and Service. Recognizing, sharing and using our gifts will enhance our lifelong journey!!

# Microsoft leases church parking lot

Most Mondays through Fridays, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. you will notice increased parking in our lot. In a step that is economical for Microsoft (they save on building and maintaining massive new parking lots) and green (they encourage employees to use the bus system, saving on gasoline consumption and emissions, and they cover less of the earth with asphalt), Microsoft is creating an area transit system for their employees.

A shuttle bus will make three runs to Microsoft in the morning beginning around 6:00 a.m. and three runs returning from Microsoft from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. After 7:00 p.m. the parking lot will again be fully ours. Microsoft will place signs clearly marking their reserved area.

The Trustees have carefully considered the issues of property taxes and liability with the guidance of the Conference Office and our insurance carrier. Microsoft has agreed to cover the property

taxes on the leased parking spaces (there will be no status change on the rest of the property) and to carry and document full liability coverage. In addition, the Trustees have: 1) negotiated that any leased space not being used after 9:00 a.m. is ours to use; 2) reserved the handicapped parking and the 22 parking spaces south of the education wing for our use at any time; 3) made arrangements for days in which we anticipate the need for **Kol Ami's or our use of the leased area** (e.g., Maundy Thursday and Yom Kippur).

Most, if not all, of the income received will be earmarked for unbudgeted maintenance of the building (parking lot painting and curbing, interior painting, carpet cleaning, etc.) that have been long neglected because of the lack of general income. It also saves us from an emergency capital campaign to fund the repair of the roof over the kitchen.

The lease is for one year and the Trustees, in consultation with the Administrative Council and the congregation, will evaluate the **effect upon Kol Ami's and our needs for parking**. They will particularly watch parking needs for Midweek at Bear Creek on Wednesdays.

Any questions or concerns you might have can be directed to Carla Woodworth, president of the Board of Trustees, any Trustee member, or Pastor Dave.



Microsoft  
Parking

# May 18 is Peace with Justice Sunday

## What is Peace with Justice Sunday?

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. It is celebrated annually on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

How does Peace with Justice Sunday advocate for peace and justice at home and around the world? This offering allows The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs:

- The Ohio-based Faith Communities Uniting for Peace encourages Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, **Muslims and Sikhs "to live from a vision of peace rooted in faith."**

- In Liberia, in partnership with other religious and humanitarian groups, The United Methodist Church provides a place for former child soldiers to live, recreational activities to address war trauma, and basic necessities such as fresh drinking water and medical treatment.

*What exactly will the Peace with Justice Sunday offering go to?* All local church offering dollars are forwarded to your annual conference which retains half of the proceeds and forwards the other half to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Every annual conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator chosen by the conference, and the committee headed up by that coordinator determines how the conference money will be used.

Many conferences give grants to local churches and other United Methodist programs that promote peace with justice; others use the money for training in conflict resolution or other education initiatives within the conference.

*How much was given to Peace with Justice Sunday in the last 3 years?* In 2007, \$301,357 was given to the Peace with Justice Sunday offering. In 2006, \$306,905 was given and \$247,173 in 2005.

*"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."*

*Isaiah 2: 4b, NRSV*

## SILENCE (A World at War)

Violence as common as  
peanut butter  
Children dying in their  
**mothers' arms**  
Others mutilated and killed in  
the name of God  
Silence

Disease taking lives  
needlessly  
Immigrants torn from their  
families  
Children dying with no  
medical care  
Others beaten and killed  
because they are different  
Silence

The rich get richer, the poor,  
poorer  
The weak lose their lands to  
the stronger  
Civil rights drowned in fear  
Peace lost  
Silence

Is it enough  
To pray for those living in  
hopelessness?  
To give generously to those  
living in poverty?  
To feed the homeless?  
Silence

God speaks to my apathy  
**I'm too comfortable.**  
Jesus takes me out of my  
comfort  
My life is intended to make a  
difference  
And I can make a difference.  
My soul cries out  
I will not remain silent

*Mary Grant  
("Lament and Hope:  
Reaching Out in Love" Peace  
with Justice Advent Booklet)*

## 2008 FINANCE REPORT



Amount budgeted for 2008

\$361,717

Year to-date offerings  
through April 20

\$93,233                      83.8%

Year-to-date Ahead/(Behind)

(\$18,065)                      -16.2%

## The Corner

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

### Mission events

#### May

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

#### June

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tent City 4 Dinner – Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. at B'Nai Torah

#### July

- Habitat for Humanity Work Volunteers – Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- White Swan Mission trip – July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 1st

## White Swan meeting

Sunday, May 4  
10:45 a.m.

Come to an information meeting about the White Swan mission trip from July 28-August 4. Anyone interested in participating or who is just curious is welcome. **We'll meet in the sanctuary** and try to keep the meeting to 30 minutes.

## See the Sojourners here on Saturday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

The Sojourners of Bothell United Methodist Church will be performing in our sanctuary on Saturday evening, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. This is guaranteed 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 who have suffered and lost so much from war across the continent of Africa.

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 [sojournersmusic.com](http://sojournersmusic.com).



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant  
in Kirkland

All are welcome!

## We've got mail

Dear family and friends,

It is hard to believe that Andrew will soon be graduating from Gonzaga University in Spokane, with a major in management information systems and a minor in criminal justice. It is also hard to believe this is his third year as #11 on the GU basketball team, which he will continue to be for one more year as he works on a Masters in Business. The places he has traveled and the people he has met through classes and ball are incredible. He is having the time of his life, playing **the sport he dearly loves and is on the Dean's list** with a 3.6 GPA.

For the rest of us, I continue to work as a Pastoral Counselor and at a local nursing home in social services. Don continues as a special deputy with the Washington State Patrol where he serves **as the agency's Risk Manager. John is a sophomore** at Gonzaga, working on a degree in economics and finance with a minor in criminal justice. John is also considering pursuing a law depress and an MBA.

We are very grateful for your love and support over the years. Particularly, we are thankful for **how your support has contributed to Andrew's** development into a compassionate, talented and motivated young man.

Take care,  
Carol and Don Sorenson  
(former pastor of Bear Creek UMC)



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### Reduce the wear and tear of eldercare: intelligent decision-making for your aging parents, spouse or yourself

On Saturday, May 17, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., we are offering a free step-by-step method of preparing families and individuals to care for aging loved ones (and themselves).

If you care for an older person (or anticipate doing so), this six-hour workshop will help you establish new skills as a savvy consumer in the eldercare market, learning how to find, select, and buy the right services.

- Understand the basic building blocks of care giving: know who pays and how much,
- **assess someone's needs, be** aware of the three legal protections every caregiver needs, and more.
- Care for someone far away.
- Know what to do if you suspect memory problems.
- Find services anywhere in the USA.
- Put the pieces together to help you make the right choices: Why buying *care* is like buying a *car*.
- Understand the strategies to deal with your difficult family.

This workshop is led by noted expert on aging, Liz Taylor. Liz has over 30 years experience in the aging field and 11 years in consumer protection. As one of the first geriatric-care managers in the Pacific Northwest, she has worked with thousands of older adults and their families to select high-quality long-term care.

Today, Liz writes and lectures on a host of issues in the aging market. Her insightful, provocative column, "Aging Deliberately" appears every Monday in The Seattle Times.

## Walk a Prayer Labyrinth on May 3 between 10 and 2

*Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

from The Book of Common Worship

The labyrinth is both an ancient and a recently-revived tool for assisting in the spiritual journey. Deeply rooted in Christian tradition, the labyrinth is a spiral path that leads unfailingly to the center. As such, it is a metaphor, acted out in physical motion, of our journey toward and with God. It is a form of embodied prayer, as sacred as any other **form of prayer. Each person's** experience of the labyrinth is individual, yet all who walk this path share the common reality of being accompanied by God.

Labyrinths were a feature of many Medieval cathedrals. One of the best remaining examples is found in Chartres Cathedral in northern France. Unlike a maze, they have only one path—there are no dead ends. People walk the labyrinth slowly, as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise, or as a form of pilgrimage.

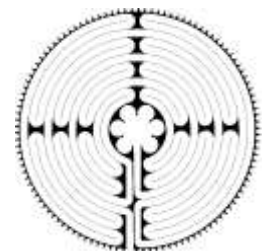
Labyrinth reshapes a century-old ritual for the 21st century. Its maze-like path takes you on a symbolic journey and creates space to unwind and think, in particular about relationships with ourselves, one another, our planet and God. Contemporary versions may include music, meditation, art, media and symbolic activities at intervals along the path. Participants walk the Labyrinth at their own relaxing pace.

The Labyrinth can offer a time to hold up a particular intention to God, such as when you are trying **to discern God's will or pray for** another person. But most often, a

labyrinth walk is a time of opening yourself to God without an agenda.

As you walk the labyrinth, you are invited to leave behind those things that separate you from God and keep you from living a life centered in the Holy. At the center, you are invited to focus on **God's presence. You return on the same path into the world to share God's peace and love. Walking the** labyrinth is a way to pray with the whole body, and it will enrich your prayer life.

You are invited to walk the labyrinth here at Bear Creek UMC on Saturday, May 3, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. *There is no charge to walk the labyrinth.*



# Recycling and yard waste program come to BCUMC

Sustainability is at the heart of economic and environmental justice. How are our lifestyles affecting the rest of God's creation? Can we live our lives so that generations to come will also share in God's created abundance? How does BCUMC fit into the picture?

*Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture?*

*Ezekiel 34 NRSV*

Currently, most residents of the United States and other industrialized nations are using and consuming resources at an unsustainable rate. With the global population projected to increase dramatically in the next 50 years, further strain will be placed on earth's capacity to provide for all God's children. From energy production to water consumption and forest depletion to waste generation, overconsumptive lifestyles are damaging creation and fueling conflict and injustice.

BCUMC supports the following statements from the Book Of Resolutions and is seeking ways

for our church to become better stewards of the earth:

- ❖ We are called to eliminate overconsumption as a lifestyle, thus using lower levels of finite natural resources. We are called to seek a new lifestyle rooted in justice and peace."

(2004 Book of Resolutions, "Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future," ¶17)

- ❖ "We support measures which will lead to a more careful and efficient use of the resources of the natural world. We urge United Methodists to analyze their consumption patterns and to seek and live a simple and less resource-dependent life."

(2004 Book of Resolutions, "Environmental Stewardship," ¶10)

Over the past year, members of Church and Society and the Board of Trustees have noticed that our church lacks a workable, user-friendly recycling program, and too much paper, water bottles, plastic containers, etc., are ending up in the trash. By combining resources, they have

purchased enough recycling containers for every room in the church. During Earth Week, April 20-26, 15 recycling bins were delivered to the church to begin our church-wide recycling and yard/food waste program

From now on, place any recyclable material in the blue recycling bin in any room, and it will end up in the larger recycling container outside to be picked up by Waste Management. We will also be recycling unusable vegetable and fruit waste and paper products, such as used paper plates and cups in our new yard waste container. For kitchen workers, what is allowed in each bin will be clearly marked.

This program will cut back considerably on the amount of trash Bear Creek generates each week. And remember, our children are watching and modeling our behavior, so think twice before you toss something into the trash. By following the three R's—reduce, reuse, recycle—we can live lives that tread more lightly on the earth and more equitably share the abundance God has entrusted to us.



Prayers for Gary Linstedt who is showing signs of rejecting his transplanted liver.

Prayers for a quick and complete recovery for Amy Spain's dad who recently had cancer surgery.

Prayers for Don Robson in the death of his brother.

Prayers for **Lillian Russo's** dad who underwent pacemaker surgery.

Praises for all who made Ayden Mykal Dennison's baptism so very special for Brook Self and her family.



Vacation Bible School  
Adventure!  
July 14-18, 2008



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!**

[www.bcumc.org](http://www.bcumc.org)



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## On the Horizon

*Saturday, June 7*  
All-Church Work Party

*Sunday, June 8*  
Recognition Sunday

*Tuesday, June 10*  
Community Blood Drive at  
BCUMC

*Sunday, June 15*  
Confirmation Sunday

*June 17-20*  
Annual Conference

*July 14-18*  
Vacation Bible School

*July 27-August 2*  
White Swan Mission Trip

*August 12*  
Bloodmobile at BCUMC



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.*