

Bear Fax



October, 2008

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Give a warm welcome to October's guest speakers

Pastor Dave and his wife, Vickie, will be on vacation the first two weeks of October. We wish them good sailing on their trip to the Greek Islands. While they are gone, we will have two excellent speakers during worship. Rev. Mary Scifres will join us on October 5, and long-time member Garland Bellamy on October 12. Please come and support them with your prayers and presence.

Rev. Mary Scifres is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church who is currently appointed as editor and author of the United Methodist Publishing House. She serves as a consultant in leadership, worship and evangelism, and has also served several churches in our conference. Mary is co-author of the *United Methodist Music and Worship Planner*. She and her husband Rev. B.J. Beu edit the *Abingdon Worship Annual* together. Mary has invited Bill Hoppe and Sara Lambert to write for this book each year since its inception in 2004, in part due to her warm feelings for Bear Creek.

Mary has been a supporter of BCUMC for many years. During a period in our history when we were in the midst of turmoil, Mary was appointed to steer us through nine months of soul searching and healing. We learned much from her ability to clarify issues, teach and guide us. She returned to assist us during Pastor Roger Barr's six-month renewal leave in 2002.

We welcome Mary's visit this time as a chance to say farewell. B.J., a United Church of Christ pastor, has just accepted a call to a church in Laguna Beach, California. Mary, B.J. and their son, Michael, will leave the Pacific Northwest on October 23 to establish a home in a new community.

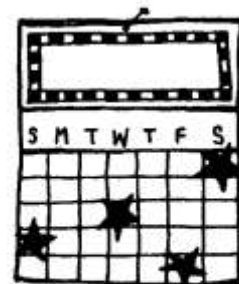
After worship on October 5, we will celebrate Mary's ministry with us during coffee fellowship time. Of importance to her has always been the way we handle relationships with each other, and particularly how we welcome new people into our midst. As a tribute to Mary, we hope you will invite a friend to worship, bring a plate of cookies to welcome visitors, and find someone new to have coffee with on Sunday morning.

October 12 is Laity Sunday, a day to celebrate the people in the pews (or chairs in our case) who contribute to the work of the church. Garland Bellamy will offer the message in worship that day. Garland has been active at BCUMC since its beginning. He has participated in Walk to Emmaus, covenant groups and music ministries for many years. He is a scientist, musician, and quiet supporter of youth. He is a thinking man with a great depth of soul. Please support Garland and local church workers by coming to hear his message.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, October 1*
Love & Logic Teens & Tweens 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 7*
Blood Drive (WUUC) 1-7
- Wednesday, October 15*
Wills and Estates 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 18*
Amazing Grace Seminar 8-4
- Tuesday, October 21*
Finance Workshop 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 26*
Emergency Preparedness Fair
Ad Council Commitment Dinner
- Wednesday, October 29*
All Hallows Eve Celebration

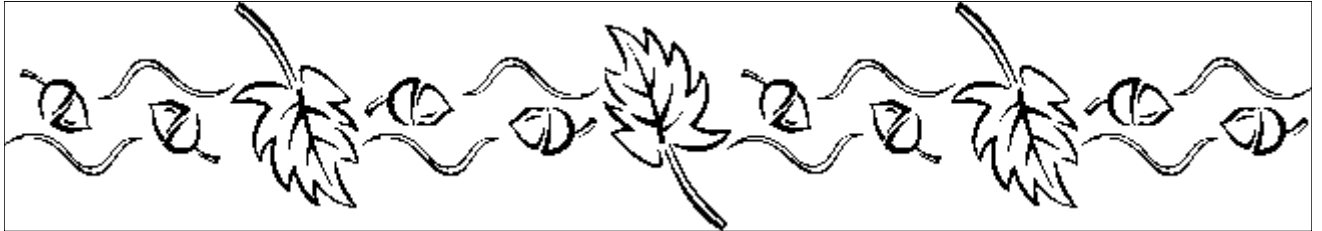
PASTOR'S MUMBLINGS

Dear Bearcreekians,
It is autumn, or as much fall as we have. It is a beautiful time of colors and coolness. It is a time to harvest the growth of the summer. It is the truth of how God has made the creation that plants must die for there to be a harvest. And it is the truth of our lives, if we are to grow into the likeness of Christ, then the selfish and unloving part of who we are must die. Only in this death can there be a harvest. Only in our surrender, our loving submission to the Holy Spirit, can we be resurrected.

Autumn is also the prelude to winter with its wet days and long nights. Winter seems a dark time and long before it is over we will wish for its end. But when in winter all creation seems to be dead, amazing miracles are happening. Roots are refreshing and preparing for the coming spring. Buds are drawing strength to burst into life. And so it is with us in the winter of our lives. We cannot see it but our roots are growing strong as we prepare for a coming blooming.

By our faithful discipleship in worship, study and service, we are being prepared for a harvest **of God's mercies. I pray each of you will follow the way of Jesus, worshipping God regularly, studying faith and life with others and answering with grace the tasks of mercy set before you. I pray that this fall finds you bountiful in the kingdom of heaven.**

Shalom,
Dave O



WORSHIP

Join us Sundays 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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.

October 5—21st Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

Mary Scifres will be preaching.

October 12—22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday

Garland Bellamy will be preaching.

October 19—23rd Sunday after Pentecost
"Hard to Be Rich"

The prophet Amos will appear pleading with us to care for the poor with a generous heart as God has cared for us. Being generous with our God **given resources is the faith of John Wesley ("Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can")** in action and our Methodist heritage.

Amos 5: 1-15

October 26—24th Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation

"Who Is Christian?"

If we ask the ten churches in the Cottage Lake area **"Who is Christian?"** we are likely to get very different answers. Jesus gives us the answer in the Great Commission (co-mission) and it challenges the popular views as it challenged those of his day.

Matthew 22: 34-46



MISSIONS

I wish I were a writer. I would then be able to eloquently tell you how, according to the Bible, the Holy Trinity wants us to perform missionary work. I would be able to persuasively tell you where in the Bible it says missionary work is not an option.

Instead, it is, or should be, the lifestyle choice for all Christians, for missionary work is the Love of Christ in action. It tells people all over the world that God is Love and Grace and that this Love and Grace is theirs for the asking. Missionaries are Christ's presence in the world as they serve His children.

If I were a writer, I'd be able to express my heartfelt feeling that we, as a church, are a divinely powered instrument of Christ's Love, not just an organization. I would be able to express to you that, in doing missionary work, we get more than we give. I would explain to you that missionary work is not necessarily going to a third-world country and spreading the Good News.

It is praying for our Missions Committee. It is praying for the missionary projects that our church is involved in. It is in lending your gifts to your church. It is in tithing. It is in "being green." It is a million other ways of being

active in Christ's name.

I would write that missionary work makes disciples of Jesus Christ. It strengthens, develops and renews congregations and committees. It alleviates human suffering and seeks justice, freedom and peace. Please read between the lines of this ill-written article. Consider yourself a missionary. Continue to be one with our mission committee. Pray for your Missions Committee and the projects we support. Continue to grow closer to God by giving of your blessings and gifts.

Humbly,
Susan Leveridge

Learn more about our Honduras mission trip and buy some goodies on October 19

Bake Sale

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a bake sale on October 19 in support of the scholarship fund for our mission trip to Honduras on August 15-22, 2009.

If baking is your passion, please donate a home-baked item or two. Just bring the items to church on October 19 for the sale

during fellowship time.

For more information you may contact Tina Stroh at 425. 281. 5735 or Marcia Gordon at 425.301. 7037.

Outreach Missionary

Gerald Varner, UMC minister and missionary working with Honduras Outreach, will travel from Honduras to be with us during

worship on October 19 and hold an informational session during the Sunday school hour. We'll learn more about Honduras Outreach and our mission trip to Honduras in August. Gerald will answer all our questions about the trip.

For more information contact Tom Litchford at 425.844.9525 or Marcia Gordon at 425.301.7037.

Declutter your home and help Hopelink with new items you're not using

It's October and a good time to think about cleaning out some unused items that might be useful and appreciated by others in our community during the upcoming holidays. Sometimes we receive gifts, or we purchase items, that are duplicates to something we already have. Or

maybe it's an item we don't need or will ever be using.

In December, Hopelink will be providing donated, unused gifts to those who can't afford to buy gifts for their loved ones. Think about new items you might have at home that have never been used but would be a nice gift for someone. It might be a toy, something

for a teenager, or a gift that an adult might enjoy.

Bring your items to the church, put them in the box by the Missions table, and it will be delivered to Hopelink in time for their holiday gift distribution. Thank you for sharing!

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Conference on Homelessness

The Interfaith Taskforce on Homelessness is sponsoring "Equity and Social Justice: Creating the Political Will to End Homelessness VII." The keynote speaker is King County Executive Ron Sims. Chris Aakre attended this conference last year and reported that it is very worthwhile. I will be attending. If you would like to carpool with me, contact me at 425.765.5470 or debbie.jean.brown@gmail.com.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 11, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 8501 SE 40th St, Mercer Island. To register, contact Bill Kirilin-Hackett at 425.442.5418 or itfh@comcast.net.

Earth Ministry Colleague and Congregational Sharing

Join us at an informal gathering of Earth Ministry members and Colleagues working to "green" the activities of their church. Colleagues are congregational activists who are working to bring creation-care education and events to their church bodies. From carpool Sundays and creation-oriented liturgy to lobbying in Olympia and involving children in **pea patches**, you'll have an opportunity to report on the creation care activities of your home congregation and hear what is working in other churches. Everyone will have an opportunity to share and network with each other as well as Earth Ministry

staff and board members.

This event is open to all Earth Ministry members. If you are not an Earth Ministry member, you can join today at www.earthministry.org or by calling 206.632.2426. Coffee, tea, and a light brunch will be provided.

This event will take place on Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m.-noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 6512 23rd Ave NW, Seattle.

Debbie Brown, Chair
Church & Society



The Election: 10 things you can do right now

- Register to vote.* We want 100% voter registration and participation in the 2008 election on Tuesday, November 4. For information on how to register to vote, visit a public building or www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx. Commit to get five other people to register to vote. Ask!
- Inform yourself on the issues.* Read the Voters Guide at wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/Pages/Online_Voters_Guide.aspx.
- Write letters to candidates.* Let the candidates know what you think! Candidates want to earn your vote because they work for you and are paid by your tax dollars.
- Write a letter to the editor or call talk radio shows.* Did you know that "Letters to the Editor" is the most commonly read section of the newspaper besides the front page? Use the power of mass media to write short (250 words), to the point, civil, well-reasoned, heartfelt letters.
- Use social networking/social media to share your opinion.* Write a Facebook note or blog post about the issues. Post an article to your Facebook account. Record a video and upload it to YouTube. Post your video to Facebook or other social media sites. According to Andrew Rasiej and Micah Sifry of the Personal Democracy Forum, "The 2008 election will be the first where the Internet will play a central role, not only in terms of how the campaigns use technology, but also in how voter-generated content affects its course."
- Organize your church or community.* Churches cannot and should not endorse candidates or political parties but can influence what issues are key to candidates and voters. To learn about what is legal for religious organizations, see rmnetwork.org/flashnet_show.asp?flashnetid=173#6. You can also organize a non-partisan voter registration drive at your church.
- Talk to your friends and neighbors.* Talk to those who know and trust you and speak up about your concerns—and listen to others.
- Think and Pray.* Educate yourself on the positions and priorities of the candidates. Think and pray about who you want to entrust with community, state and national leadership.
- Volunteer to help get out the vote.* Join non-partisan efforts to help register people to vote and to ensure they vote.
- Vote!* The single most important thing you can do!

In Peace,
Terri Stewart

STEWARDSHIP

Prepare for Consecration Sunday on November 2!

In November we come together to present commitments to our church for 2009. It is a fabulous time to renew our connection with the church community. Your financial assurances enable continued support of missions, ministries, and our amazing facilities. You are truly a part of an international giving system.

Financial discipleship, much like the use of our time and talents, is an important part of our spiritual journey. Just as each of us grows in faith, we too can grow in commitment. It is a way of enriching our relationship with God and sharing in the abundance given to all of us.

The United Methodist Church places emphasis on tithing, or giving 10% of your income, as a goal for all of its members. Before November 2 arrives, please prayerfully consider your financial commitments.

Danielle Walsh
Stewardship Committee

The Lord's Prayer revisited

This "green" adaptation of the Lord's Prayer is a beautiful version from The New Zealand Book of Prayer.

Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver, source of all that is and
that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name
echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be
followed by the peoples of the
earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all
created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and
freedom sustain our hope and
come on earth.
With the bread we need for today,
feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one
another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test,
spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil,
free us.
For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love, now and
forever.
Amen.

Submitted by Debby Heimfeld
Church and Society

Popular prayer shawl ministry continues

If you enjoy knitting, quilting or crocheting, please join us in our prayer shawl ministry. Prayer shawls wrap others in love and prayer in times of stress.

Joan Pierce can help with patterns, materials and the process. You can contact her at 360.668.9691 or jpierce622@aol.com.

If you are giving a shawl to a loved one, please record your name and the name of the

recipient so we can keep track of who is using them and follow up on these folks to let them know they are still cared and prayed for. A clipboard is attached to the prayer shawl basket in the celebration space. This will also help us avoid doubling up on our efforts.

If you would like a shawl delivered or have questions about this ministry, please contact Joan or Jeannie Morris (425.398.4746).

There's still time to sign up for a dinner group

There are few things more enjoyable than sharing a good meal with good friends old and new. It's time once again to arrange dinner groups for Bear Creek's "Dinners" groups.

A group of eight people (singles and/or couples) share four meals over a six-month period. The time of day, day of week, and type of meal are set by the group. The meals can be

potlucks in the home or meals at restaurants—whatever the group decides. It's a chance to get to know others in the congregation outside of worship or a committee meeting.

Please sign up on your presence slip, in the narthex after service, or by contacting Joan Pierce (360-668-9691 or jpierce622@aol.com).

Wills and Estates: Planning for the Ones You Love

Presented by Madeline Gauthier, Attorney at Law

Wednesday Evening

Wednesday, October 15
6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.

This one-night workshop is for you if you've ever:

- * Said to your spouse: "We need to get a will made."
- * Thought about what would happen to your loved ones if you died unexpectedly.
- * Worried about what would happen to your parents and your children if you were gone.
- * Been confused about the difference between a Living Trust and a Will.
- * Wondered about ways to give your children money while encouraging their own skills.

Ms. Gauthier is a graduate of Gonzaga University Law School and the University of Florida, Graduate Tax Program. She was formerly an Assistant Attorney General as well as a teacher. She has been in private practice in Bellevue, specializing in estate planning, taxation, and probate since 1992 and is the author of *Where There's a Will There's a Way!* an introduction to estate planning.

Ms. Gauthier has appeared numerous times as a guest speaker on various radio talk shows and teaches a course on writing Last Wills each year for the Washington State Bar Association and has been a lecturer at Golden Gate University's Tax School (Seattle).

She is the mother of three and the grandma to two babies. She is also the proud owner of two yappy little red poodles and 50 rose bushes.

This workshop is provided free to the community through special funding via Bear Creek UMC. Child-care is available upon request and with pre-registration.

Save these Dates

Love & Logic (Teens & Tweens)—October 15 6:30
 Wills and Estates—October 15 7:00 p.m.
 Amazing Grace Seminar—October 18 8:30-4:00
 Emergency Preparedness Fair—October 26 10:00 a.m.
 All Hallows Eve Celebration—October 29 6:00 p.m.
 Ad Council Commitment Dinner—October 26
 Commitment Sunday/Celebration Luncheon—
 November 2 11:00 a.m.
 Health Fair/Flu Shots—November 16 10:00 a.m.
 Thanksgiving Service—November 23 7:00 p.m.
 Advent Festival—December 7 5:00 p.m.

2008 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2008
\$361,717

Year-to-date offerings
through September 21
\$219,934 83.2%

Year-to-date ahead/(behind)
(\$44,398) -16.8%

Late-breaking news!

All Hallows Eve Celebration!

Wednesday, October 29

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Come one, come all!

Boundaries and Relationships

“Where You End and I Begin”

Presented by Barbara Brown, LICSW
And Lawrence Hill, LMHC

This workshop will give you a better understanding of yourself, your relationships and how to improve on them. This is for anyone in any kind of relationship whether it's with your spouse, your children, your neighbor, or with your friends. We will use visualization, group discussion, and experiential exercises to shed light on your current boundary setting and try out new options.

Learn

- The characteristics of healthy boundaries
- Why having healthy boundaries in relationships enhances trust and intimacy
- About unhealthy boundaries and why they sabotage your relationship
- The difference between a healthy boundary and a “wall”
- The characteristics of healthy and unhealthy interactions in relationships
- About different types of relationship boundaries, and
- Become more aware of how you manage yours

Wednesday
November 19

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Free!

We've got mail




Hello, Friends & Colleagues!

As some of you may know, we are moving at the end of October from our home of 13 years in Gig Harbor to Laguna Beach, California. So, here's my new e-mail address so you can still look me up and e-mail me, should you want or need to in days or years to come. I don't know our mailing address yet since we'll be renting a home there, but my spouse B.J. Beu has accepted the call to pastor the Neighborhood Congregational Church (UCC) in Laguna Beach, and our address there will be 340 St. Ann's Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. We are very excited about this new adventure and trust that God is leading us on this journey. I will continue my writing and consulting ministry in worship, evangelism and outreach to seekers, change management and cultural shifts as they affect church leadership and worship.

I hope this e-mail finds you well and enjoying your journey of faith and ministry!

Blessings,
Mary J. Scifres
maryscifres@gmail.com



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.

Shari's Restaurant
in Kirkland

All are welcome!

Dear Pastor Dave,

Once again in behalf of the White Swan United Methodist Church I say THANK YOU! As summertime draws to a close, we count the blessings we have received. One of which is the visit of the *White Swan Ambassadors* from Bear Creek UMC. Your annual visit for a week propels the wind of encouragement under our wings until next summer. You leave an indelible mark reminding us of the transcendent and powerful love of God embodied in sacrifice. Evangelism indeed becomes real as people experience and exchange gifts in common ministry to children and the greater White Swan community.

Once again, though thank you will not suffice, I will say it one more time. The campus continues to **unfold a “haven” that is maintained where children** and their families gather to play as the team witnessed the use of the basketball court even late at night. The projects accomplished continue to improve the maintenance of the building. Clean windows, a repaired drinking faucet, lights in the choir loft, baseboard in the parsonage garage, lines on the basketball court, computer lab organized and up and running, weeded yard, bark spread, **windows calked, a sign made, a neighbor's yard weeded**, are some of the projects to mention a few, but most of all the leading of Vacation Bible School. With our hearts welling with joy we thank our God for you!

LETTER OF THANKS



With deep gratitude,
Marlu Primero Scott
On behalf of the White Swan
Methodists on the Rez

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

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belonging*

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www.bcumc.org



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On the Horizon



Sunday, November 2
Commitment Sunday
Celebration Luncheon
Vespers

Sunday, November 5
Flu Shots

Sunday, November 9
Bible Sunday
African Team Ministries Craft Sale

Sunday, November 16
Health Fair/Flu Shots
African Team Ministries Craft Sale

Wednesday, November 19
Communications and Boundaries
Workshop

Sunday, November 23
Thanksgiving Service

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.