

February 16th
2017

worship... walk... work...

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Henry Van Dyke wrote a novella entitled, *The Mansion*. The story is about John Weightman, an important man with substantial influence and power. With his wealth he has funded the building of one school, three small churches, and a wing of the hospital. He is proud, having soaked up the recognition and respect poured out to him for his many good works. He sees himself as a very generous Christian. But one night, he has an argument with his adult son, who wants to give some money to a friend with a life-threatening lung condition. John Weightman thinks it is a poor investment since there is no guarantee the young man will live, and even if he does, he may or may not amount to anything which add to John Weightman's good name. After the argument, John falls into a tumultuous sleep where he finds himself traveling on a road with a large group of people who are being taken to the mansions that have been prepared for them in heaven. John is the last one to reach his.



walk

"It seemed as if they must have walked miles and miles, through the vast city, passing street after street of houses larger and smaller, of gardens richer and poorer, but all full of beauty and delight...Finally they reached an open field, bare and lonely-looking. There were two or three little bushes in it, without flowers, and the grass was sparse and thin. In the center of the field was a tiny hut, hardly big enough for a shepherd's shelter. It looked as if it had been built of discarded things, scraps and fragments of other buildings, put together with care and pains, by someone who had tried to make the most of cast-off material. There was something pitiful and shamefaced about the hut..."

The Keeper of the Gate tells John that this is his mansion. John is indignant since he has lived such an honorable life, "Is this a suitable mansion for one so well-known and devoted? Why is it so pitifully small and mean? Why have you not built it large and fair, like the others?"

The Keeper of the Gate said, "That is all the material you sent us."

In the discussion that ensues, the Keeper never discounts the good that John Weightman accomplished during his life. In fact, he acknowledges and respects it, but he says, "Were not all these carefully recorded on earth where they would add to your credit? They were not foolishly done. Verily, you have had your reward for them. Would you be paid twice?"

The conversation continues:

"Tell me, then," [John] cried, brokenly, "since my life has been so little worth, how came I here at all?"

"Through the mercy of the King" - the answer was like the soft tolling of a bell.

"And how have I earned it?" he murmured.

"It is never earned; it is only given," came the clear, low reply.

"But how have I failed so wretchedly," he asked, "in all the purpose of my life? What could I have done better? What is it that counts here?"

"Only that which is truly given," answered the bell-like voice. "Only that good which is done for the love of doing it. Only those plans in which the welfare of others is the master thought. Only those labors in which the sacrifice is greater than the reward. Only those gifts in which the giver forgets himself."

It's an amazing story. It's an amazing truth. It's amazing grace.

Instrumentalists Needed

Chancel Choir Instrumentalists.

Occasionally, the Chancel Choir sings an anthem that has an instrumentalist part. We would like to start and maintain a list of anyone who could play for us. All types of instruments are needed.



work

If you are interested, please contact [Sean Saunders](#) to set up a time to meet for a conversation about how you can participate in our music ministry.

Croppin' at the Creek

February 24 and 25. Family Life Center.

Happy New Year Ladies!! Our 1st **Croppin' at the Creek** of 2017 will be Friday, February 24 and Saturday February 25. All crafters are welcome as we join together for fun and fellowship! We welcome knitters, jewelry makers, scrapbookers (traditional and digital), etc.



work

Our goal is to help you connect with other likeminded women, to be encouraged by them and to preserve your family's heritage! We promise you'll be glad you came! We are a fun group of ladies - we laugh, we cry, we eat - and the best thing is, we get things done! Order your pictures, gather your supplies and register now: Friday night

or Saturday or both! [Registration](#) must be made in advance. **Deadline is February 22nd.**

Come and create lasting memories! Proceeds will benefit local women's and children's missions/charities.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28 @ 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes [\$5/person or \$20/family] and stay for the Talent Show! Proceeds will benefit the HNwCC Food Pantry.



work

Book Fair

This Sunday, February 19 in FLC gym.

Come for breakfast then stay and browse our collection of gently-used books! We will be in the Family Life Center gym from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Sunday, February 19.



work

Emmaus Prayer Clock

Sign up to pray for pilgrims.

The Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #95 is February 16, 2017 through February 19, 2017. Click [here](#) to sign up to pray for the pilgrims and the team.



walk

The Walk to Emmaus Women's Walk #96 is February 23, 2017 through February 26, 2017. Click [here](#) to sign up to pray for the pilgrims and the team. Thank you!

Bishop Jones Live Stream

Holy Conversations / Tough Issues. February 25 @ 10am.

You're invited to join a live streamed presentation in which Bishop Scott Jones will provide insights on upcoming action by the Judicial Council, the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, and updated information on the called General Conference which will be held in early 2019.



walk

Click [here](#) and follow the instructions to test your browser configuration in advance. Questions and comments may be [sent](#) to the conference following the event and will be addressed on Facebook Live on March 16 at 7pm. For more information contact your district superintendent or [Paula Arnold](#), Director of Communications, at 713.521.9383.

Youth News

Sunday, February 19.

This Sunday morning we will have a PARTY as we celebrate all God is and as we learn how to rejoice for one another as we live in community (Luke 15:1-24). Come and celebrate with us and bring a friend - Family Life Center 207-209 at 9:30 & 11:00am!



walk

Sunday evening we will have dinner, courtesy of the Mahaffey's, so come join us for lesson and games. Please read your Youth Newsletter for info on signing up for summer activities (registration deadlines are approaching) and planning for **Night On The Range** is underway.

Contact [Lea Bynum](#) or [John Henley](#) with questions.

AWANA on Wednesdays

February 22, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



worship

Bear Creek United Methodist is devoted to nurturing your children with scriptural teaching, fun activities, and opportunities to cultivate great friendships that last forever.

Here are a few things to remember:

- On Wednesday, February 22, please drop off (6:30) and pick up (8:00) your child in the Tree House on the second floor of the Family Life Center.
- Fill out a new Kidzone Registration ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) form for 2016-17.
- Pay the \$20.00 registration fee per family for 2016-17.

Please contact [John Henley](#) if you have questions concerning any ministry to children here at Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Online and Text Giving

Electronic giving. From your smartphone.

We now offer online and text giving on our website. Both options are facilitated through Shelby Systems, Inc., our church administration software, which is highly secure. You will find links and instructions on the [giving](#) page of our website.

Thank you for your faithful contributions that allow us to continue the various ministries of Bear Creek United Methodist Church!



worship

Energizers

February 17, 2017 @ 10:30am.

Energizers, a group of active adults age 50-plus, enjoy gatherings that include day-long excursions. We meet on the third Friday of every month at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided. Join us for games and Christian fellowship.



walk

Fellowship Friday, an Energizers outreach ministry, provides a loving, welcoming and fun environment for family members with mild to moderate memory loss who do not require skilled care. This program, a partnership between Interfaith CarePartners and BCUMC, is designed to give caregivers some much needed time away. ***Our next meeting is March 10 from 10:00am to 1:30pm.*** The theme for March is *St Patrick's Day* and the entertainment is Bear Creek UMC School Children. ***Please note that Fellowship Friday will not meet in April due to Good Friday.***

Western Prayer Wall

FLC 101. Leave a Prayer Request.

Been to the Holy Land? If it's too far or you've already been, visit our BCUMC Western Prayer Wall any time during church office hours or on Sunday. Please leave your prayer request in the crevices of the wall. Thank you - the Prayer Ministry Team.



walk

A Time to Pray Together

Prayer Room - Ministry Village. Wednesdays @ 9am.

Come to pray with us for the congregational needs of BCUMC and for what God puts on our hearts. We are trusting in His Promise, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ~ Matthew 18:20



walk

Blessings, **James Sharp, Communications Director**
281.463.2330 X109

