

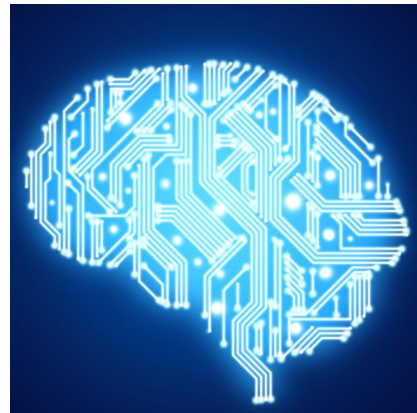
February 23rd
2017

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

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

As the Finance Committee gathered on Tuesday night, we were surrounded by the sights and sounds of all the activities going on at that moment. Through the window we could see that the preschool was being prepared for a new day. Across the parking lot, in the Ministry Village, ReVision was at work with its young people. The Fellowship Hall was full of the Houston Northwest Community Center's participants in a new assistance endeavor. Their children were in the gym and the nursery. Cristo Reina's dance ministry was practicing in one of the rooms in the Fellowship Hall. Upstairs in the Family Life Center, Cub Scouts were running around. And back across the parking lot, in Hope, the Boy Scouts were meeting.



walk

So many people...So much life...So many opportunities to impact lives...Just another evening at Bear Creek United Methodist Church.

We have the resources to share in these acts of love and service because of generous givers at Bear Creek. Everyone who gives gets to share in the joy of the cacophony of ministry.

That's the perfect context for a Finance Committee meeting.

As we dove into the January financial data we saw that our accounts had come up short-our income was lower than expenses. While the amount wasn't dreadful, it still fell below expectations.

That got me to thinking of the inspired givers.

- If you know how much God has given you, you are an enthusiastic giver.
- If you grasp the depth of God's love for you, you are supernaturally generous.
- If you believe God's promises to provide for you continually, nothing is going to hold you back from sharing.
- If you recognize God's power at work in your life, you aren't fearful about finances.
- If you trust God, you are a tither.
- If you acknowledge how blessed you are, you are a blessing to others.
- If you live in his grace, you are a joyful giver.

If you don't feel that way about your giving, don't despair. You can. All you have to do is give—even a little. Then you will find you can give a little more. Then a little more. In no time you will give, not out of obligation, but out of your need to give, your desire to touch more lives, your strangely warmed heart. Just give giving a shot. But please don't miss out on sharing in the good news God is working right here among us.

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.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 1 @ 6:30pm.

Full service with imposition of ashes. Child care will be available.

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.



walk

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. The ashes are produced by burning the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday.

Campus Tour Video

Visit our website.

If you haven't already seen it, visit our [website](#) for a stunning

aerial view of our church campus. Share it with friends, family and potential visitors. Maybe it will help them feel more "at ease" when they visit for the first time...and, it's just fun to watch!

Video courtesy of [Unmanned Pixels](#).



walk

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! Don't forget to tip your server - proceeds will benefit the HNwCC Food Pantry. Child care will be available.



work

Emmaus Prayer Clock

Sign up to pray for pilgrims.

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!



walk

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.

We will have snacks at Youth @5 this week. If you would like to provide a meal for the Youth, we would be happy to receive it! Please contact John or Lea to volunteer to feed us.

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.



walk

AWANA on Wednesdays

February 29, 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 29, 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

March 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

