



[bearcreekumc.org](http://bearcreekumc.org)

March 2nd  
2017

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

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## Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Lent has begun.

That seemingly gloomy season...that whole ashes thing...that period of fasting and doing without something...that time on the Christian calendar we like to pretend is just a Catholic thing.

Why are we so down on Lent?

It's because it forces us to face the truth about ourselves and sin's infection in our lives.

We don't want to have to do that.

But not facing sin lets sin win...kind of like it has regarding Lent.

It all begins on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins-the last hurrah. The word *shrove* is a form of the English word *shrive*. It means *absolution* - as in receiving forgiveness for sins following a time of confession. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the custom for Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

My, how we have wandered...

You know, *Mardi Gras*. That's French for "Fat Tuesday." It comes from the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. It has become so much more as we have turned it into a bacchanalian spectacle and stacks of pancakes.



*walk*

And when Lent comes we prefer to joke about it than be disciplined by it.

How telling that we have taken a time of turning from sin and turned it into a time that emphasizes sin. The modern message: sin is a party and righteousness is a downer.

Sin is so devious that it twists truth like that. We are convinced sin is the life of the party while sin is stealing life from us.

Then we see Jesus partying with tax collectors, prostitutes, and those who sin religiously. There is something so joyous about him. He is so full of life. He makes reprobates want to live a different life...to really live...like him-the one who went into the wilderness for forty days to draw closer to God.

Maybe there is something to Lent after all.

If you want to learn more about Lent and get some ideas on how you can experience new life through it, I have provided some video links you might enjoy:

- [Chuck Knows Church](#) offers the basics.
- If you want to consider it from a [Catholic Lego perspective](#).
- Here is a combination of [cartoon pictures and contemporary music](#).
- How about a [positive perspective](#).
- [Father Mike](#) teaches really well.
- Let me give you an [invitation for Lent](#).

## *Safe Sanctuary Training*

March 19 @ 12:15pm. Open to all.

Safe Sanctuary is a set of policies and procedures we implement in order to keep our kids in a safe and nurturing environment. Safe Sanctuary training is required for all adults working with children under the age of 18.



*work*

Throughout the gospels, Jesus provides teachings on providing a peaceable kingdom for all of God's people, including our most precious gifts, our children and youth (Matthew 5:9, Luke 18:15-17). The peaceable kingdom begins with sanctuary.

**Safe Sanctuary certification renewal is required every year.** Our next Safe Sanctuary training is Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 12:15pm in FLC 212-213 and should take approximately 30 minutes. To help expedite the training, please [download](#), print and complete and/or sign Appendix C, D, F, G-1, G-2 and H. Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, for more information.

## *Willie's Spirit Night*

Proceeds to benefit the Library. Applies to take-out.

Monday, March 6 from 4pm to close - dine in or carry out! Mention you're there in support of the BCUMC Library and Willie's will donate 15% of your total order to our Library. Copperfield location: 7092 Hwy 6 North, Houston, TX 77095. Thank you!



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## *Books with Friends*

Book Club in the Library. Open to all.

Join us three times this year for a book discussion group sponsored by the BCUMC Library and the UMW.



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Our first meeting will be April 23 from 4:00 to 5:30pm in the Library and/or Narthex of the Fellowship Hall. Our first book is *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*, by Beth Moore. You are responsible for purchasing your own book, which is available at [Lifeway](#) for \$12.49 (half-price until March 20, 2017!) You will also find a description of the book here.

We will meet again on June 10 and October 29. Books for those dates will be communicated once they are determined. We hope to see you there!

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## *HNwCC Food Pantry Donations*

This Sunday, March 5 is the first Sunday of the month.

Please bring your donations of peanut butter, jelly and tuna this Sunday for the HNwCC Food Pantry. **On an average pantry night approximately 200 families are served, representing 600+ individuals, of which about 400 are children.** We will have greeters at the door on the first Sunday each month to accept your donations.



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## *BCUMC UMW Lunch at the Creek*

Old-fashioned Fried Chicken Dinner.

The Bear Creek UMC United Methodist Women invite all ladies to a dinner on Sunday, March 26 at 12:15pm in the Family Life Center gym. The guest speaker is Dr. Jacque Colbert; her topic is: *Iron Sharpens Iron - Women's Strengths*.



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There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Courtyard between services on Sunday, March 5, 12 and 19 or in the church office. Questions? Contact [Cyndi Miller](#).

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## *Thank You!*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Thank you to all those who attended our pancake supper. We had a great time with wonderful entertainment and some sing-a-long songs. Due to your generosity, **we raised \$355**, which will benefit the HNwCC Food Pantry as they support those in need in our community.



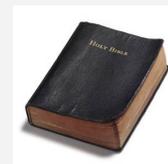
*work*

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## Women's Sunday Evening Bible Study

FLC 102 @ 5pm.

As Christians, we are not promised lives of ease. Often it takes just a small moment of beauty to regain hope and continue on when life is chaotic and unpredictable. Only when we learn to spot the lovely in the midst of hardship can we experience the transcendent peace of God that keeps us persevering when we want to give up.



walk

In this 7-session Bible study, Annie F. Downs examines the ordinary people of the Bible - fishermen, gardeners, women, soldiers - to reveal the moments they found beauty in the darkest circumstances and hope in God's timing. Because they trusted in this: He makes everything beautiful in His time.

Join us in Room 102 of the Family Life Center from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, February 26 through March 12.

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## Youth News

Summer registration deadlines approaching.

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

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## AWANA on Wednesdays

March 8, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



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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, March 8, 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.

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## 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

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## *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.***

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## *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.



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## *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

