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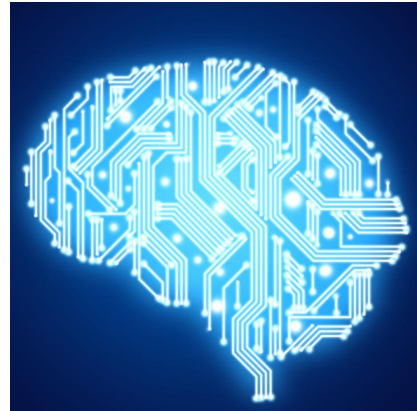
March 16th
2017

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

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Have a wonderful Spring Break! I'll have a fantastic new article for you next week.



walk

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](#),

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.



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!

Financial Report

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm.

Thanks to all who steadfastly share in love at Bear Creek and continue to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness! Because we want to continue to share the love of Jesus with all the people around us, the Finance Committee wants you to stay well informed.



Last year our giving as a congregation was almost 7% short of budget—a decline of over 8% compared with the prior year. We managed to make up over 40% of the full year budget shortfall in giving through controlling expenses. More importantly, the congregation recognized the urgent financial need and many members found ways to increase their giving in the later part of the year. These faithful acts, significantly reduced the year-end shortfall. At the peak of the shortfall in October our spending had out-paced giving by over \$138,000, but during last two months we made up \$87,000 of this shortfall. For both November and December we made a wonderful turnaround as our giving was higher than budgeted. However, we left some ground to make up during 2017 to enable His message and ministries at Bear Creek to move forward, take deeper root, and reach more people for Christ.

Our church leaders, through evaluation, debate, and lots of prayer, have set the budget for 2017 as reflected in the right-hand column below. Now it is up to us, the Bear Creek family, to faithfully act as He uniquely calls us each, to help the church go and make disciples!

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budget
Total Contributions	\$1,255,842	\$1,241,400
Total Expenses	\$1,307,144	\$1,241,40
Deficit	\$51,302	\$ -

If you have not yet done so and wish to make a financial commitment for 2017 to Bear Creek UMC, please call the church office (281-463-2330) or visit the church office on Sunday for help in doing so. Also, if you have any questions, never be shy about

asking. We are glad to provide you with all the information you need to see how you are investing in the Kingdom of God.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm.

The BCUMC Children's Council would appreciate your assistance with this year's Egg Hunt. We need non-chocolate candy, empty plastic eggs and volunteers to help work the event. You may drop off your donation at the church office. Contact [John Henley](#) if you would like to help during the event.

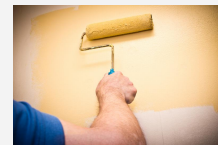


work

Saturday in Service

Saturday, April 8 @ 8:30am.

Saturday-in-Service is your opportunity to help support BCUMC Ministry & Missions with campus-wide service projects for a maximum of 3 ½ hours on Saturday, April 8th.



work

There are various projects on the BCUMC campus for all skill levels, including: painting, adding sand to the playground, cleaning pews, light gardening, power washing, and more. Service projects for both children's and youth ministries are being planned. All projects are underwritten by the BCUMC Trustees, so all that is needed is your presence and willingness to help.

A light snack breakfast begins at 8:30am, with service projects starting at 8:45am. All projects will be completed before noon.

Please visit the Trustees table between services this Sunday with questions and to sign up, or email the church [office](#).

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*.



walk

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](#).

HNwCC Volunteers Needed

Saturday, March 18 @ 8:15am.

This Saturday, March 18th volunteers are needed to help unload

and distribute fresh fruits and vegetables at the HNwCC Produce Truck. Volunteers are needed for set-up beginning at 8:15am in the church parking lot by the Food Pantry. Clean-up should be over by 11:00am. All or any portion of this time span that you can help is truly appreciated. Please contact [Janet Newsome](#) to let her know you will be there this Saturday.



Thank you in advance for the gift of your time!
Houston Northwest Community Center

Musical Opportunities

Chancel and Chamber Choir volunteers needed.

Clarinetist Needed - The Chamber Choir needs a clarinetist to play with them on Maundy Thursday, April 13. For more information, please contact [Sean Saunders](#).



Instrumentalists Wanted - Do you play an instrument and would you like the chance to serve the Lord with your talents? The Chancel Choir sings anthems that occasionally have parts for various instruments and we would like to get a list of musicians who are interested in accompanying them. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex this Sunday, March 19 before and after the 11:00am service. If you're interested, please stop by for more information.

Youth News

Night on the Range planning.

All are invited to come to the meeting Sunday to plan our **Night on the Range** fundraising event and Youth Ministry celebration. If you are a youth or love the youth, you are welcome to come and join us at 4pm in FLC 205/206 to help us make the night a special opportunity to share with others what our Bear Creek UMC Youth Ministry is all about.



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

AWANA on Wednesdays

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



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 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

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 May 12 from 10:00am to 1:30pm.*** The theme for May is *Mother's Day* and the entertainment is Harbor Light Choir. ***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

