



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

May 19th  
2016

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

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## Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

General Conference is close to wrapping up. We have wrestled with legislation, practiced every maneuver of Robert's Rules of Order, and tried to discern how God wants us to proceed as the United Methodist Church. I have also had time to think about our Wesleyan way of following Jesus.



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It was at a Methodist Conference that the question was presented, "What may we reasonably believe to be God's design in raising up the Preachers called Methodist?" The answer was, "To reform the nation, particularly the church, and to spread scriptural holiness over the land."

On another occasion, John Wesley wrote, "Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth."

In describing who a Methodist is, Wesley explained, "A Methodist (Christian) is one who loves the Lord his God with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength. God is the joy of his heart, and the desire of his soul, which is continually crying, 'Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth whom I desire besides thee.' My God and my all! 'Thou art the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.' He is therefore happy in God; yea, always happy, as having in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life, and over-flowing his soul with peace and joy. Perfect love living now cast out fear, he rejoices evermore. Yea, his joy is full, and all his bones cry out, 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten me again unto a living hope of an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, reserved in heaven for me.'"

But he also had a word of warning, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

So we must focus on "our main doctrines, which include all the rest, are three - that of repentance, of faith, and of holiness."

More than ever, I am confident that the Wesleyan way of following Jesus is the most clear, comprehensive, and authentic path. On that account I pray for the same desires that drove John Wesley to say, "I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship and the whole world for my mission field."

## *Dedication of Memorial Stone*

In Memory of Casey Owens. Sunday, May 22.

For anyone who knew Casey Owens, there will be a dedication of his memorial stone in the Prayer Garden immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 22. Casey grew up in this church and he and his family were long-time members.



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## *Core Ministries*

Congregational Connectedness.

Are you looking for a ministry opportunity? Have I got an opportunity for you! Core Ministries is starting **a new ministry with the purpose of keeping in touch with our congregation**. Since this is a new ministry, you will have the opportunity to



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work alongside Core Ministry leaders to shape and improve the ministry activities as we determine our congregational needs. If you are interested, contact Nancy Vickers, 281 217-2185, for more information.

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## *Following Jesus...*

Fellowship Hall. 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 24.



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**Celebrating Life's Changes.** This month will bring many changes for many people. Are you graduating - 8th grade to high school, high school to college, college to a career? Maybe your change is related to family - getting married, having a baby or becoming an empty nester? New home, new job, retirement? What are you doing to make sure your plans are "in step" with Jesus? Come on Tuesday, May 24 to hear how you can make that happen. Even if you have no changes in the foreseeable future, come anyway because the one constant in life is change.

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## *VBS Helpers Needed*

Cave Quest. June 20 to 23. From 9 a.m. to Noon.

Bear Creek UMC is providing a week of Bible Discovery and fun for the children of our church and community. Cave Quest VBS will be the week of June 20 - 23 from 9 a.m. to noon.



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Opportunities for Service:

- Adult Crew Leaders - guide a group of 6 - 8 kids to stations, facilitate discussion
- Teen Cavers - assist the crew leaders
- Music Assistants - learn words and moves to camp music, lead each day
- Set designers - construction of and art work for stage and stations

Dates to Remember:

- Safe Sanctuary and VBS Training for all participants will be held in FLC 212 - 213 on Sunday, June 12 from 12:45 - 1:45 p.m.
- There will be a set-up day on Sunday, June 19 from 2 - 6 p.m. starting in the Sanctuary. Please help us prepare for the week by helping with sets, music and supplies.

To volunteer, please call the church office, 281-463-2330, or message [John Henley](#).

## Call to Action

Be the hands and feet of Christ.



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Bear Creek was the hardest hit area during the recent flooding. The impact is overwhelming - physically, financially, emotionally and spiritually. Unfortunately, as life gets back to normal and other events steal the headlines, this flood will be just a memory for most; but for the residents of Bear Creek it will be an ongoing recovery process. The greatest challenge will be for homeowners who have no flood insurance. So much work remains to be done.

We know lots of people want to help. As our neighborhood's church, we are committed to providing long-term help. Though we were caught off guard by this disaster, we have formulated a plan to love our neighbors in tangible ways. **Our intention is to continue this effort throughout May**, then assess what needs to happen beyond that. To make this ministry a reality we need you to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please prayerfully respond to as many service opportunities as possible. Here is a list of opportunities to serve:

- Make / pack sack dinners\* each Tuesday & Thursday
- Prepare and serve hot meals\* each Wednesday
- Join a work team - skilled labor (ie: drywall repair) and cleaning crews needed
- Help us provide free child care (for infant to 5th grade) each Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for those repairing/cleaning their flood-damaged homes
- **We have set up a disaster relief fund to benefit our local community. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to: *Bear Creek UMC* and write "flood relief" in the memo.**
- **We are in need of the following donations: bleach (tighten that cap!), paper towels, toilet paper, heavy duty trash bags (33 or 39 gal.), bug spray.**

**On Sunday, please take your "cleaning supply offering" to the FLC Gym and place them on a table in the back.**

**Work teams will continue this Saturday, May 22** - meet in church parking lot at 9 a.m. **Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, to volunteer.**

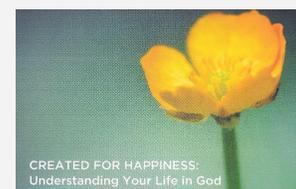
*\*sack dinners and hot meals will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., so preparation time will vary depending on the size of the volunteer group preparing them.*

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## UMW Summer Bible Study

Saturday, June 4. Fellowship Hall. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Start the summer spiritually refreshed! Summer Bible Study at



the Creek will be based on the book *Created for Happiness:*

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*Understanding Your Life in God* by Cynthia A. Bond Hopson

and Sarah Heaner Lancaster. The study will be facilitated by guest speaker Reverend Nancy Kellond, a former BCUMC member.

Rev. Nancy Kellond was a charter member of BCUMC and experienced her call to ministry on Bear Creek's first mission trip to Haiti, later becoming an associate pastor at Bear Creek. She has served many churches as pastor, was a delegate to General Conference, and has participated in many mission trips. Nancy currently is teaching, writing, preaching, and leading retreats. She is a facilitator of the Conference Ministry called "Laity Unleashed" for lay persons who want to further explore God's call in their lives. She is an artist and enjoys traveling with her husband Bill and visiting with their seven grandchildren.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Books are available for purchase \$11 (while supplies last) in the Bear Creek UMC office, between Sunday church services beginning May 8, or you may purchase your own E-Book. **A reservation is required for child care.** Please call the church office, 281.463.2330, to reserve child care before May 20. A love offering will be taken for a community outreach project that specifically benefits women.

*The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with Joy.*

Psalms 126:3

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## *New Faith Group for Adults*

4-week Study. Sundays @ 9:40 a.m. FLC room 211.

Not currently in a Sunday School class? Want to try one? Or, do you just want to learn more about prayer and how to pray? Join us as often as you can in the four weeks beginning May 8, continuing through May 29. Our study is *Before Amen* by Max Lucado, facilitated by Nancy Vickers. You will be provided with **simple tools to build a stronger, deeper prayer life.**

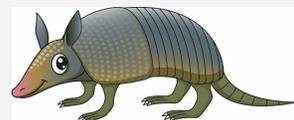


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## *Summer Reading Program*

Mondays in June and July. 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.



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Get ready for the Summer Story Program (for 1 year to kindergarten) and the Summer Reading Program (must have completed 1st through 6th grades) happening on Mondays: June 6, 13, 27 and July 11, 18, 25 in the Bear Creek

## *Rummage Sale this Summer*

July 15 & 16. Family Life Center Gym.

In July the *Family Missions Committee* will be sponsoring a rummage sale. Please start saving your 'treasures' for us.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to help fund our continued **Angel Tree** activities and our other community outreach events such as **The Day of Thanks & Giving**. We will be collecting items daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 10 through 13. No major appliances, non-working TVs or tube-type TVs please. Thank you!

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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!

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*worship*

## *Fellowship Friday / Energizers*

June 10. Fellowship Hall. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**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 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided.



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**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. The theme for May is "Father's Day" and the entertainment is *Sunshiner's Band*.

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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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## *Pray Together*

FLC Room 101. Meets @ 9:15 a.m.

Are you free on Wednesday mornings? Want someone to join with you in prayer? Come for *A Time to Pray Together* as we lift up our concerns and rejoice in our joys.



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

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