



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

July 21st  
2016

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

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## Alternative Thoughts

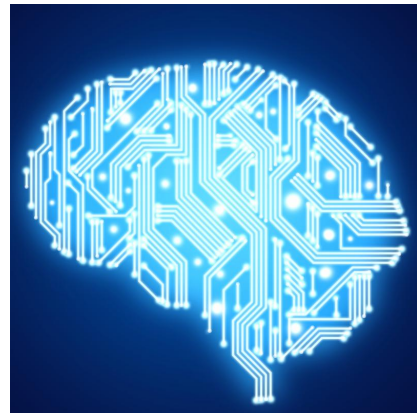
By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Over and over I hear people say, "Somebody needs to..." Fill in the blank-the options are endless. Nobody can argue with the statement. There is a problem that needs to be dealt with so somebody needs to do something about it. Obviously.

Lately, any time I hear someone say, "Somebody needs to...", it has really been bugging me. At first, I wasn't sure why. Then it dawned on me: the words are empty because somebody is nobody. At least, somebody is nobody unless somebody is me. When you say, "somebody," you are addressing nobody. The only way situations change and challenges get addressed is when I take the problem personally. What if that sense of annoyance is the prompting of the Holy Spirit calling you to act?

Think about Israel under the domination of Midian (Judges 6). The Israelites went into hiding because the Midianites and Amalekites and the people of the east were destroying their crops and livestock. Somebody needed to do something-somebody besides Gideon. He was a timid, inept man, threshing wheat down in a winepress so he wouldn't be spotted. He was the most insignificant member of his family, which was the weakest clan in the tribe. Gideon was nobody and he liked it that way because nobody gets to do nothing. Then the angel of Lord showed up, tapped him on the shoulder, and announced, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior." Suddenly, this nobody was somebody: the leader of a small army that would bring a great victory.

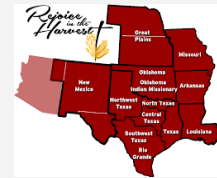
Next time you start the sentence, "Somebody needs to...", stop. Ask, "How can I be somebody?" With the Holy Spirit working through you, nobody is a nobody; you are somebody that can make a difference.



*walk*

## Learning About Conferences

### JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE



You will remember that in May our pastor, Jonathan, participated in the General Conference, the global body of the United Methodist Church that meets to determine church law and doctrine. The General Conference is then broken down into regional Jurisdictions (in the U.S.) and Central Conferences (throughout the world). This past week, July 13-26, Jonathan, was a delegate to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference held in Wichita, Kansas. The South Central Jurisdiction includes the UMCs in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. The most noteworthy work of this gathering is to elect and assign new bishops for the jurisdiction. Three were elected over the course of 35 ballots—a record number of ballots for this jurisdiction. The news that impacts our congregation is the naming of our new bishop. Bishop Scott Jones has served the past 8 years as the bishop of the Great Plains Conference (Kansas and Nebraska). Prior to being elected bishop, he served several churches and then became the professor of evangelism at Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

One other piece of news that you may have seen in the media is that the Western Jurisdiction elected an openly gay bishop. Because this action is in defiance of The Book of Discipline and antagonistic toward decisions made at General Conference, you can imagine the level of distress this is causing in our denomination. However, because the South Central Jurisdiction was still in session very late Friday night when this election occurred, a motion was passed to request that the Judicial Council (our version of the Supreme Court) issue a declaratory statement of church law regarding the election. The ruling will be made at their October session. Until then, please pray for wisdom, compassion toward one another, obedience to the Spirit's leading, and submission to the covenant we have made together as United Methodists.

## Church-wide Faith Groups

### Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.



This fall we are going to begin a church-wide study for adults! We hope to have several groups of 8-10 people that will meet for 10-12 weeks (Sept. thru Dec.) in multiple neighborhoods around the church so that attendance is convenient. This will be a great opportunity to reach out to a friend or neighbor.

We will need many volunteers to make this successful - hosts to open their homes to a group, facilitators to lead a group and, of course, participants to join a group. The curriculum, [Emotionally Healthy Spirituality](#), and training will be provided. Prayerfully consider how you will be involved. Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, to volunteer. Once we have hosts and facilitators, we will begin sign-ups for the various groups.

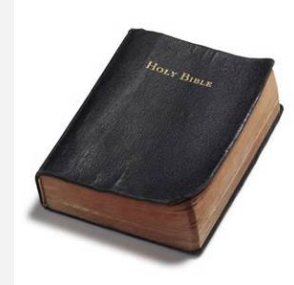
*It's impossible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Let God make you whole!*

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## *Women's Bible Study*

Sundays. Fellowship Hall - Room 102. 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

God's heart is moved by your cries for help, your shouts for joy, your unspoken worries. We know Him to be a God of unparalleled power and authority, but Mark's account of Jesus paints Him as a deeply personal and intimate God too. In *The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For*, follow Jesus through His days of early ministry all the way to the cross. It's there we discover what it means to be the recipients of His excessive compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion."



*walk*

Join the Sunday Night Women's Bible Study for this 6-week study by Lisa Harper in Room 102 of the Fellowship Hall. Classes are 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. August 7, 14, 21, 28 and September 11 & 18. If you would like further information, please call Marilyn Wetzel (832) 606-7942.

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## *Thank You!*

From the Chancel Choir.

A big thank you to **Jerry Woodman** from the Chancel Choir for refurbishing their eraser board. It was much needed, much appreciated and saved a lot of money!



*work*

## *The Angels Are Coming!*

Backpacks for students - how you can help!

Next Sunday, July 31, members of the Angel Tree Committee will be in the Narthex passing out angels with the children's backpack requests. The committee will then fill the backpack with their needed school supplies. The backpacks will be passed out at our Backpack Party on Sunday, July 14.



*work*

As always your continued support of this outreach ministry is greatly appreciated. If you would like to become a member of the Angel Tree Committee and help with this very rewarding outreach of our church, please contact Betsy Ayers at [bp.ayers@att.net](mailto:bp.ayers@att.net).

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## *Thank You!*

From the Family Missions/Angel Tree Committees.

*THANK YOU SO MUCH!*

We would like to thank our members for the overwhelming support of the Rummage Sale. The gym was filled with all the

treasures you donated! Special thanks to all our members who donated your time to make the sale a huge success! We raised \$6500 which will be used for all of our outreach missions to our community.



work

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## Youth Summer Activities

Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

### Off-campus VBS

We are going to have a two-day, off-campus VBS the **fourth** week of July. Details will be communicated soon.

We again have opportunities to help unload and shelve items at the HNWCC Food Pantry on **Sunday, July 17**. We will be working with the children in the Library on **Monday, July 18**. More information to follow.

Click [here](#) to view/download/print our summer calendar.

Contact [Lea Bynum](#) for more information regarding any of these activities.



walk

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## KidZone Summer Activities

Don't miss out! Sign up today.

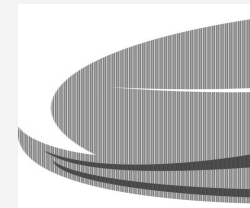
### Tuesday Tennis at Ten

Meet at Bear Creek UMC Gym. Bring a sack lunch.  
Play tennis, eat, and have fun with your family and friends!  
Cost: one can of tennis balls!  
July 26 (Last chance!)

### Secret Service Thursdays

Meet at the church gym, share God's love, go out to eat!  
Parents are needed for transportation.  
Pre-registration forms are available in the church office.  
Who: 3 years to new 5th graders  
When: July 28 (Last date)  
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Cost: \$5 to \$10

Contact [John Henley](#) for more information or to sign up for any of these activities.



walk

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## Following Jesus

Fellowship Hall. 7 p.m.

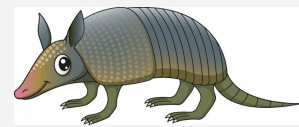
Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26. The topic will be **Spiritual Gifts**.



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# Summer Reading Program

Mondays in 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 Monday: July 25 in the Bear Creek UMC Library. Come **Read Your Way Across Texas!** Click [here](#) for more details.

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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

## Energizers

July 22. Fellowship Hall. 10:30 a.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. Only drinks are provided.



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 August 19 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** The theme for August is "Flying Kites" and the entertainment is Matt Wallace.

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## Pray P. A. S. T. O. R.

*STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER*

As the people of God, we are the people of prayer. This year we are making an effort to equip you for prayer. Starting July 31, we will share in a new sermon series, How to Pray, based on The Lord's Prayer. For now, we invite you to pray for the strength of our church by praying for our pastors: Franklyn, Will, and Jonathan. Here is one way for you to pray for them.

**P** - Purity. Pray that our pastors will remain pure in the face of constant pressure in a sin-celebrating culture.

**A** - Adversity. Pray for our pastors that they will be able to confront adversity with faith, endurance, and wisdom.

**S** - Strength. Pastors work long hours that can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Pray that they will minister by the power of God.

**T** - Teaching. Pray for our pastors that their teaching and preaching will be effective,



walk

clear, and life-impacting.

**O** - Organization. Your pastors have a lot to keep up with. Pray for your pastors that they will be able to prioritize correctly.

**R** - Rest. Your pastors need rest. Pray that your pastors will sleep well each night and that they will take enough time away from work so that they do not get worn out or burn out.

Through your prayers and their leadership God can do a mighty work.

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## *Pray Together*

FLC 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.



*walk*

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

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