



bearcreekumc.org

August 18th
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

You've probably been watching the Olympics. They are hard to avoid. One of the things I enjoy most are the odd sports. Ever seen the hoplitodrome? That's the footrace the athletes run wearing full armor. Or how about the pentathlon, with the five events in one: jumping, javelin, sprint, discus, and wrestling? What about the pancration - that brutal sport with no rules, combined boxing and wrestling? A winner is named only when one man raises his hand in defeat or is unconscious on the ground.

Wait, that was the ancient Olympics.

But competition is competition, even when the names and games change. Athletes train; athletes give their best; athletes win and lose. Back then the winners were crowned with wreaths of olive leaves, hailed as heroes, and showered with gifts. Sometimes a special entrance was cut in the wall surrounding their home city as a symbol that the people of the city felt well protected with an Olympic champion living among them.

Paul says, "You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Msg).

Are you getting stronger in your faith? Are you exercising discipline? Are you pumping up your knowledge of the Bible? Are you lifting up prayers? Are you sprinting from



walk

Small Groups, Big Hearts

8-week church-wide study. Begins September 11.



walk

Do you:

- avoid conflict in the name of being a nice Christian?
- try to ignore your anger, sadness and fear?
- stay so busy working for God that you don't spend time with God?
- feel manipulated because you live without boundaries?

You can be whole as the Holy Spirit is unleashed so you can know the power of an authentic life in Christ.

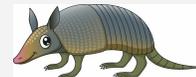
On September 11 we will kick off our church-wide study of **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**. This will include an 8-week sermon series and weekly small groups. For the next three weeks you can sign up for the small group that is in your area or best fits your schedule. You will see the table outside following each service.

You can also purchase these study resources:

- Workbook (for small group participants) - \$8
- Devotional (a twice-daily devotional to reinforce the study) - \$9
- Book (if you like to read and want to study more in-depth) - \$10

Congratulations 2016 Summer Readers!

2,630 books read. 545 hours of reading.



work

What an exciting summer of welcoming 55 children to our church and **Read Your Way Across Texas** reading programs. We had guest readers and a pizza party provided by Peter Piper Pizza. Each week in the months of June and July the Bear Creek UMC Library welcomed children from our church and community for stories, songs, activities, and a chance to earn awards for reading.

Twenty-two of the younger *Armadillo Readers* earned prizes, certificates and read 2,630 books. The prizes winners for most books read are:

- Liam Enderby - 200 books
- Sloane Enderby - 200 books
- Finley Jones - 200 books
- Noah Jones - 200 books
- Naiya Prendergast - 200 books
- Noah Prendergast - 200 books
- Selah George - 160 books
- Kate George - 160 books

Eighteen of the first through sixth grade *Longhorn Readers* earned prizes, certificates and read 545 hours. The prize winners for most hours spent reading are:

- Sophia Diaz - 93 hours
- Ximena Diaz - 93 hours

- McKenzie Rogers - 48 hours
- Jordan Rogers - 45 hours
- Adriana Ibarra - 39 hours
- Camila Diaz - 39 hours
- Eloy Diaz - 39 hours
- Diego Escobar - 39 hours

We would like to thank the following local businesses and individuals for their support: AAA of Texas - Katy, AD Players, Carl's Jr., Casa Olé, Chick-fil-A - Yorktown, Chili's, CiCi's Pizza, Copperfield Bowling Center, Dairy Queen at Yorktown, El Pollo Loco, Famous Footwear, Fazoli's, Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers, Fuddrucker's, James Coney Island, Jason's Deli, Little Beakers Science Lab for Kids, Little Caesars, Main Event, Mardels, McDonalds - Bear Creek, Menchie's, Peter Piper Pizza, Quillian Center, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Spring Creek Barbeque, State of Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Oil Ranch, Texas Roadhouse, The Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Little Gym of Houston - Copperfield, Whataburger, Willie's Ice House and Grille and various BCUMC Adult Sunday School classes and individuals.

Please thank the businesses by your continued support of their products and services. A special word of appreciation to: Deana Avalos, Kathy Black, Gaylynn Brewer, Rose Carter, Susan Lykins, James Sharp, Elizabeth Vargas, Alex Vargas, Sarah Vargas, Lea Bynum and the BCUMC Youth who helped each week with the program.

Thank you everyone for your enthusiastic participation and we will see you next summer! Keep reading - remember the library is open year round.

Amber Woodman, Librarian

Angel Tree

Thank you!

Thank you church
for your
overwhelming



work

support of the *Angel Tree* program! Due to your generosity, 78 children from our community are headed back to school with a new backpack filled with school supplies.

Meals Ministry

Use God-given skills. Be a Blessing. Build relationships.

If that sounds appetizing to you, then share your culinary and hospitality gifts with the church family. We want to build a team of people who will take the lead in making and serving meals at a variety of church functions. Please call, 281.463.2330, or [email](#) the church office.



work

Following Jesus...

Why Pray? Share your story.

On Tuesday, August 23 the *Following Jesus...* topic will be "Why Pray?"



walk

Please come share with others why you pray and how it has been important in your life.

An International Preacher

World Methodist Conference. September 4.

The World Methodist Conference is gathering in Houston at Hilton Americas from August 31 to September 3. We will have representatives from all the Wesleyan denominations across the globe. On Sunday, September 4, our guest preacher will be Reverend Daniel Alfred Munnangi, from the Methodist Church in India. He has been a pastor there for the last four decades and presently serves as the General Secretary of the Methodist Church of India and is a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. We are very honored to have such a prominent guest. Though that's Labor Day weekend, please come share in the fulfillment of John Wesley's passion: "The world is my parish."



walk

AWANA

Begins August 31. 6:30 p.m. in the FLC gym.



worship

Dear AWANA Parents,

We are excited to get our Fall Wesleyan AWANA season underway, with our Opening Night on August 31, 2016. For our opening night, we invite parents to bring a dish and enjoy a potluck meal for a fun night of food, games, and an orientation of our ministry to your children. We will begin in the Family LifeCenter gym at 6:30 p.m. with our potluck meal. We will then have a time of orientation, with a game or two to follow. Bear Creek United Methodist is devoted to nurturing your children with scriptural teaching, fun activities, and opportunities to cultivate great friendships that last forever.

If you are unable to attend with your child, we hope your child will still attend. Here are a few things to remember:

- Starting on September 7, 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 me if you have questions concerning any ministry to children here at Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Thanks,
John R. Henley
281.463.2330

Breakfast this Sunday!

Third Sunday Breakfast. August 21.

The United Disciples Sunday School class will be preparing and serving breakfast this Sunday, August 21. Bring your appetite and a friend!



work

Blood Drive

Please donate! Save the Date - September 25.

Due to the recent flooding in Louisiana, blood donors are in high demand. Details regarding our church-wide blood drive will be communicated soon.



work

Back-to-School Reminders

Fall schedule. Updates.

- **AWANA** begins August 31
- Beginning August 21, **Lil' Church** moves to the Bride's Room
- **BCUMC School** Parent Orientation is August 30, the first day of **Kindergarten** is August 31 and the first day of **School** is September 6 or 7 depending on your enrollment/attendance days.
- Beginning August 21, **Cristo Reina's** Sunday morning worship time moves from 11:00 to 11:30
- **Youth @ 5** begins August 21
- Beginning August 21, **Sunday morning Youth** will meet at 9:30 and 11:00 - your choice!
- **CORRECTION:** In order to have **Wednesday Night Dinner** we need a cooking/coordinating team to volunteer. Please call the church office, 281.463.2330, if you are interested in this opportunity. The alternative would be a pot luck each week, which would still need to be coordinated. *As of now, we will NOT have Wednesday Night Dinner.*

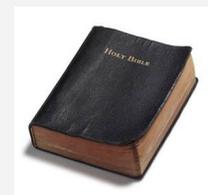


work/walk/worship

Women's Bible Study

Sundays. FLC - 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 Family Life Center. Classes are 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. August 21, 28 and September 11 & 18. If you would like further information, please call Marilyn Wetzel (832) 606-7942.

Backpack Blessing & Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 21. All Services.

This Sunday, August 21 we are asking kids to bring their backpacks to worship. During the children's time at all worship services, and during prayer time at Faith Matters, they will be invited to come forward and receive a special blessing for the coming school year.



work

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

August 19. 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 September 9 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*** The theme for September is "Italy" and the entertainment is Jim Conners.

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

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

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

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