

August 25th
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

I got a fair amount of catcalls (though not really meant to be catty) for my comments about felines in Sunday's sermon. I laughed on Monday when I came across an article entitled, Cat Theology, by Andrew Jordan, Research Coordinator for the United Methodist Church Development Center. I thought I would be a copycat and share it with you:



walk

There is no mention of cats in the Bible. There are all sorts of other animals mentioned by name, and in fact dogs are mentioned over 40 times. Birds, fish, and donkeys make multiple appearances as well, but no cats.

So often, cats are pitted against dogs as supposed natural domestic enemies. Dogs are loyal, lovable, and always happy to see you. Cats, on the other hand, couldn't care less about you as long as they have what little they need. Independent and curious, cats are content to spend their days doing their own thing.

Our cat, Kali, was the epitome of being a cat. We moved into a new home and within minutes, she had already hopped the fence and was off exploring the neighborhood. It wasn't uncommon for us to find her out on the deck with her latest catch, or maybe just a few feathers. She could take care of herself and made sure we knew it. At the beginning of every summer, she would disappear for a couple days. I don't know where she would go but sure enough, right around the time I'd start to worry, we'd hear her little meow at the window. Even after all the time she spent hunting, exploring, taking care of herself, she would crawl under the covers and sleep with us when it turned cold.

Come to think of it, cats aren't too different from us. How often do we think we can do it all on our own without God's help? Maybe the reason cats aren't mentioned in the Bible is because we are all too familiar with that state of mind. We imagine ourselves to be independent and able to provide for ourselves. We explore the world around us, so eager to try the newest and latest thing and wander far from our loving home. We may stay away for long periods of time, but just imagine how happy God is when we do come back. How nice it is to know that when things turn cold and we do return, there's a comfy warm spot for us to curl up and know that we are loved.

Purrhaps those words will cause you to paws to think.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

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



walk

You can:

- be free
- be empowered
- be a mature follower of Jesus
- be whole as the Holy Spirit is unleashed so you can know the power of an authentic life in Christ

You can quit:

- avoiding conflict in the name of being a nice Christian
- trying to ignore your anger, sadness, and fear
- staying so busy working for God you don't spend time with God
- feeling manipulated because you live without boundaries

We are offering you:

- sermons
- small groups
- seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for you

Here's what to do:

- sign up for a small group this Sunday (click [here](#) for list of small groups)
- purchase the resources to enrich your experience:
 - 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*
- listen to the sermons
- participate in your small group

Our Guest from India

Reverend M.A. Daniel. General Secretary of UMC India.

On September 4, at all three of our worship services, we have the honor of hearing the Word of God proclaimed by Reverend M.A. Daniel, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in India. Joining



him will be his wife, Asha, and elder son, Roger. As a member of the Bombay Regional Conference, Rev. Daniel has served several churches and held important leadership positions in the church and in non-church organizations. Beginning next week, he will participate in the World Methodist Conference convening here in Houston. He has expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to share in worship with Bear Creek and he asks for our prayers for their journey and their time in the U.S. Invite someone to join you and welcome Rev. Daniel to Bear Creek UMC.

worship

Our Father...

How to Pray Sermon Series.

During the sermon series, *How to Pray*, our pastor has given us assignments to work on our prayer lives. Here is a recap of the first two weeks:



worship

- Start every prayer with, "Our Father..." and when you say, "Our Father," smile
- Add the words, "Our Father, we want to want what you want for us," and (once or twice a day) after you say those words, spend at least two minutes in silence so we can start to learn to listen to what God wants for us
- Then open your hands, palms up. God is a giver so we assume a posture ready to receive. Say, "Because you have us, we have enough. Because we have enough, we have peace." This is an expression of trusting in our Father's provision. Then we can pray with confidence for all the needs the Lord has laid on our hearts for: ourselves, our family, our neighbors, those who don't know Jesus, our nation, our world
- Now, keeping your hands open, raise them up in celebration, claiming, "You set us free. Now let us live to set others free." We carry no baggage of our past. Our Father wants us to be free of all sin and failings.

Come this Sunday-the final sermon of the series-to hear how powerful it is to pray, "Deliver us from evil."

UMM Labor Day BBQ Menu

Order this Sunday, August 28. Pick up on September 4.

Look for the UMM table outside after each service to order:

- Slow-smoked brisket (avg 9-12 lbs) - \$65
- Special recipe chicken (1 whole bird) - \$13
- Pork ribs (1 rack, avg 3-5 lbs) - \$22
- Hot link sausages (two 6" links) - \$9
- Big baker (huge, slow-cooked potato) - \$5
- Jalepeno poppers (10 pieces) - \$5
- PARTY pack #1 (1 chicken, 1 rack of ribs, 2 bakers) - \$40
- PARTY pack #2 (1 chicken, 1 order hot links, 2 bakers) - \$30



work

Chamber Choir

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Would you like to sing beautiful music but can't

rehearse every week? Chamber Choir is the group for you! The Chamber Choir will rehearse twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. The group will sing occasionally at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service, as well as during the Christmas and Easter seasons.



work

Chamber Choir members must read music and have some choral experience. To audition, schedule an appointment with Sean Saunders (choir director) on either Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7 p.m. or Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Contact [Sean](#) to set up your audition time. You do not need to have anything specifically prepared for the audition.

Praise God!

Successful surgery. Knuckols family rejoices.

By now you have no doubt heard the great news of Jay Knuckols' successful liver replacement surgery. Jay is at home and recovering; unfortunately, he is not allowed to have visitors and his diet is restricted. If you would like to reach out to the Knuckols family, the staff is collecting gift cards and will see that they are given to the family. Thank you for your prayers, phone calls and encouraging words. You can follow "Jay's Journey" on FaceBook by clicking [here](#).



walk

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

Online Church Directory

Coming soon. Opt out if necessary.

In a few weeks we will place a link on our website that will allow you to access an electronic version of our church directory. If you are an active member in Shelby (church administration software), then you will have access to your information (including the ability to update it) as well as other members' basic information (name, address, phone number and birthdates).



work

If you do not want your information to be accessible to others, you may opt out by [emailing](#) or calling the church office, 281.463.2330; however, doing so will also negate your ability to use the online directory.

Library Spirit Night

Monday, September 12.

Come out between 5 and 7 p.m. and support the Bear Creek UMC Library for our Spirit Night at Chic-fil-A, 6175 Hwy 6 N (on the NW corner of Hwy 6 and West Little York). We hope to see you there!



Bear Creek Elementary Outreach

Mentors needed. One hour each week.

Partnering with Bear Creek Elementary School is a fantastic way to reach out to our church's immediate neighbors. The most urgent need is for mentors to meet with one student for one hour each week for one school year. Days and times are very flexible and all meetings are at the school during school hours. Bear Creek Elementary has a great number of students that need some extra one-on-one attention - someone to talk to and give them a "helping hand." Most mentors play games with their student - a great way to "break the ice."



Please consider helping these children by volunteering to be a mentor. It's a rewarding experience that makes a difference in a child's life!

For more information, visit the Katy ISD [website](#), email [Martha Brown](#) or call her at 281-396-2468.

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 M.A. Daniel, 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. Even though that's Labor Day weekend, please come share in the fulfillment of John Wesley's passion: "The world is my parish."



AWANA on Wednesdays

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 Wednesday, 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 you 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 Wednesday, 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

Emmaus Reunion Group

Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. in Hope 1.

The *Brothers of Hope and Faith* Emmaus Reunion Group is looking for additional members. We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in Hope 1. Contact Ron DeFoor, 281.398.7902, for more information or to join.



Blood Drive

Please donate! Save the Date - September 25.

We are partnering with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a church-wide blood drive on Sunday, September 25. Details regarding our blood drive will be communicated soon.



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."



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 28 and September 11 & 18. If you would like further information, please call Marilyn Wetzel

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

October 21. 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

