



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

September 1st  
2016

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

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## Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

With Wesleyan Christians from all over the world gathered here in Houston for the World Methodist Conference, I got to thinking: bet on the Church. There are many who lament that religion-and Christianity, in particular-is in decline in contemporary culture, not able to address the challenges of a scientifically-enlightened, socially-evolved world.



*walk*

Yeah, right.

Empires have risen and fallen. But the Church endures.  
Nations have come and gone. But the Church remains.  
Military leaders and despots have ascended to the heights of power yet their corpses descended into the bottom of a grave. But the Church perseveres.  
Philosophies have waxed and then waned. But the Church still stands.  
Civilizations have dominated only to become historical novelties. But the Church carries on its mission from age to age.

When Boko Haram or ISIS slaughters Christians, as it always has, the Church draws strength from the blood of martyrs.  
When secular voices mock Christians to humiliate us, the Church rises up by bowing down in prayer and worship.  
Whether Russia outlaws evangelism beyond the church walls or America marginalizes the gospel in the name of tolerance, the Church will not be silenced.  
When natural disasters devastate, the Church mobilizes.

Without regard for borders, despite the challenges of different languages, beyond ethnic customs, with no regard for social status, the Church prevails.

I believe in the holy, catholic Church.

I believe we are the Body of Christ.

I believe we have the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe we are "chosen by God, a royal priesthood, a holy people, God's own possession, in order that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (2 Peter 2:9).

I believe we are the inbreaking of the kingdom of God.

I don't believe God is done with us yet because the work that God has given us isn't done yet.

I believe we have the hope of the world in us that will redeem and renew the world.

We will not compromise the Word of God.

We will not surrender the purposes of God.

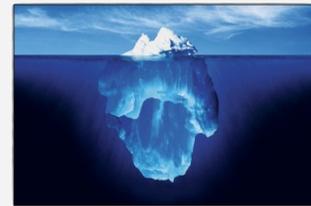
We will not capitulate to any authority but God.

We are the Church.

Because Jesus has us, we have eternal life.

## *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

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## *Our Guest from India*

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

This Sunday, 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*

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## *Our Father...*

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:



*walk*

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

- Start every prayer with, "Our Father..." and when you say, "Our Father," smile.  
*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
- Add the words, "...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 because our Father's will for us is better than what we want for ourselves.  
*Give us this day our daily bread.*
- Then open your hands, palms up. Our Father 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.  
*And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.*
- Now, keeping your hands open, raise them up in celebration, claiming, "You set us free. 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. Bring before God all your sins- those you commit and those committed against you. Be delivered from guilt and bitterness.  
*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*
- Leaving sin behind, fold your hands and pray, "Make us wholly yours; make us holy." We want the Lord to sanctify us, giving us the heart of Christ and the mind of Christ.

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

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## *Bring Your PB&J and Tuna Donations*

This Sunday, September 4. Donation baskets in the Narthex.

Please continue bringing your peanut butter, jelly and tuna donations. You have been very generous in the past few months and the HNwCC Food Pantry clients are very grateful for the assistance.



*work*

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## *Food 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.



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## *UMM Labor Day BBQ Menu*

Pick up this Sunday, September 4.

Don't forget to pick up your BBQ orders from the UMM this Sunday before, between and after services.



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## *Labor Day Office Closure*

Monday, September 5.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, September 5 for Labor Day. We pray you have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend.



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## *Bear Creek Elementary School Mentors*

One hour, once a week. Lifetime impact.

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."



*walk*

Please consider helping the children by volunteering to be a mentor through Katy ISD's KEYS (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success). It's a rewarding experience to make a difference in a child's life!

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

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## *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).



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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.

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## *Library Spirit Night*

Monday, September 12.

Come out **between 5 and 8 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!



*work*

## *Houston West Emmaus*

October 6-9 for men. October 13-16 for women.

There are slots left for both the Women's and Men's Walks in October. Let's make sure we fill up both of these walks as soon as possible. You can start by asking someone if you can sponsor them. They will be flattered, they will be excited, but most importantly, they cannot say yes unless you ask them!



*walk*

### **Whom will you sponsor?**

Men's Walk: October 6 - 9

Women's Walk: October 13 - 16

Pilgrim and sponsorship forms found [here](#). October Prayer Clocks are open for [sign-up](#).

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## *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."



*work*

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.

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## *AWANA on Wednesdays*

September 7 @ 6:30 p.m. in the FLC gym.



*worship*

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:

- 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

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## *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.



*work*

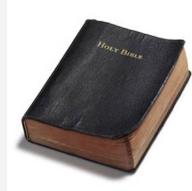
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## *Women's Bible Study*

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. on September 11 & 18. If you would like further information, please call Marilyn Wetzel (832) 606-7942.

## 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

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

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