



bearcreekumc.org

September 22nd
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

I have to confess that sometimes I am jealous of successful businesses.

- I wish the church was hip, like Apple.
- I wish the church was revolutionary, like Amazon.
- I wish the church was hustling, like Samsung.
- I wish the church was at the center of what people are searching for, like Google.



walk

Then I ran across a study that indicates that tech companies should be jealous of the church.

You may not have gotten around to reading your latest edition of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion, so let me share with you the shocking results of the first-ever documented quantitative analysis of the economic impact of 344,000 congregations as well as the impact of religious institutions and businesses: religious groups contribute \$1.2 trillion to the U.S. economy. To put that in perspective, that's more than the top 10 tech companies...combined. And the bulk of the resources from religiously-affiliated groups goes to helping those who have the greatest need. When tragedies strike and natural disasters hit, who do people turn to?

If you ever wonder what difference giving to the church makes, in macroeconomic and macrocosmic terms the answer is, "King-size."

But what really matters is the most microeconomic, microcosmic level: the individual whose life is impacted by the grace of Jesus because you give.

Because you give, the Lord is worshipped in beauty.
 Because you give, people fall more in love with Jesus.
 Because you give, people know they matter to God.
 Because you give, we have facilities that welcome community organizations that help meet people's most fundamental needs.
 Because you give, little angels have supplies for school and know there's something special about Christmas.
 Because you give, young people are delivered from the prison of foolish choices.
 Because you give, people are eternally and abundantly alive.
 Because you give, our Father smiles.
 In other words, the true impact of your giving is incalculable.

Now that's a great investment!

Blood Drive

This Sunday, September 25. Get a FREE donor t-shirt.

EAT. DRINK. BRING ID. We are partnering with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a church-wide blood drive on Sunday, September 25. Come have breakfast and then donate blood in the FLC gym between 8:30am and 1:30pm. Each donation saves 3 lives!



work

Did you know that giving blood can actually be good for you?

Preserves cardiovascular health

You can reduce your blood viscosity by donating blood on a regular basis.

Reduces the risk of cancer

The reduction of iron stores and iron in the body while giving blood can reduce the risk of cancer.

Burns calories

People burn approximately 650 calories per donation of one pint of blood, according to the University of California, San Diego.

We need **at least 22 donors** to sign up to make this blood drive a success. ***Sign up online now.*** Time slots aren't set in stone, so if you are running a little late or need to donate earlier than the time you signed up for, please still donate. Something new this year - our ***sponsor code is B528.*** If you have any questions, please contact our BCUMC coordinator, [Vanessa Heuvelman](#), at 337-309-7502. Click [here](#) for what you can expect when donating blood.

Financial Report

Prepared by Rick Wilson, BCUMC Finance Chair.

Below is a synopsis of our finances two-thirds of the way through the year. Overall, year-to-date giving has fallen 8% short of budget. Our staff and church leadership have managed to make up half of the shortfall through controlling expenses.



work

	August Y-T-D
(\$ in 000's)	Actual
Total Contributions	\$769,995

Total Expenses \$868,194
Deficit \$(98,239)

Thanks to all who have, and continue to, support the church with their prayers, presence and gifts!

BCUMC School Spirit Night

Tonight - Thursday, September 22. From 4 to 9pm.

Come to Peter Piper Pizza (6127 Hwy 6 in Copperfield) tonight, mention the Bear Creek UMC School, and 15% of your purchase will be given to the school. Visit the [school website](#) for more information about classes and registration. Thank you!



Peanut Butter, Jelly and Tuna

Bring your donations Sunday, October 2.

Last month we collected 188 pounds of donations for the HNwCC food pantry. Please remember to bring your donations again on the first Sunday in October. Thank you for your generosity!



work

BCUMC Missions Spirit Night

Sunday, October 9. From 11:00am to 10:30pm.

Let Chili's do the cooking while we support Bear Creek UMC Missions at the same time. Eat at Chili's (W. Little York, 5841 Hwy 6 N.), mention "BCUMC Missions" and Chili's will donate a percentage of your purchase to our Missions Team!



Following Jesus

4th Tuesday each month. Fellowship Hall @ 7:00pm.

Hopefully, you have joined one of the small groups studying Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Knowing yourself better so that you may **Follow Jesus** more closely has been a common goal. We will **not meet in September**, but will resume on October 25 with a joint meeting of any participant of the EHS that wants to attend.



walk

Trunk-or-Treat

Saturday, October 29. BCUMC parking lot. 4 to 6pm.

Our annual Trunk-or-Treat is next month! **We need your candy and your cars.** We will award the top three best-decorated car trunks with gift cards to popular area restaurants. Please contact [John Henley](#) for more information or to sign up. Thank you



work

EHS on Sunday Morning!

All are invited. 9am in Asbury 2.

So far we have 137 people signed up for/attending our EHS small groups! The [United Disciples](#) Sunday School class invites all who are not already in a EHS small group to join them on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30am. They meet in Asbury 2.



walk

Community Service Fair

Saturday, September 24. Sponsored by HNwCC.

Houston Northwest Community Center is sponsoring a Community Service Fair on Saturday, September 24th from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the Family Life Center at Bear Creek UMC.



work

Over 30 local organizations will be sharing information about service opportunities right here in our neighborhoods. This will be an opportunity to explore various projects, sign up for more information, or participate with these organizations.

Local organizations include YMCA - Langham Creek, HNwCC Community Food Pantry, BP MS 150, Houston reVision, Glazier Senior Education Center, Wreaths Across America, Angel Gowns by Diane, Special Pals - pet adoption, Precinct 4 Senior Adults Program, Citizens for Animal Protection, Coastal Heritage Preserve, and The Holiday Project - for nursing homes.

Join in hands-on service projects including making placemats for Texas Children's Hospital, cards for soldiers and holiday cards for seniors.

This outreach will involve many of the church partners of HNwCC as well as Just Serve. For more information, email [HNwCC](#).

The Sunday Market

October 2. Courtyard. 9:00am to 12:30pm.

The Bear Creek **United Methodist Women** present The Sunday Market. Select from our most popular homemade goodies, including:

brownies, bar cookies, cake balls, cakes, pies, pickles, note cards, soup mix, trail mix



work

Croppin at the Creek

October 7 & 8. Sign up online. FLC gym.

Visit our [website](#) for details. Your family will thank you and adore you for working to put albums together just for them! So print your photos,

organize your supplies and sign up today!

Fall Friend Special - B.O.G.O. 1/2 OFF! Looking to crop with a family member or friend? Then look no further! Sign up, pay full price, then bring your friend and pay *half price* for them! This applies to the entire weekend or for those attending on Saturday (after your fully paid registration). This will be a wonderful way to spend the weekend with family and friends.



work

[Registration](#) and payment **must** be made in advance.

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 and phone number - PLEASE NOTE: birth dates have been removed due to security concerns).



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.

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](#).

AWANA on Wednesdays

September 28 @ 6:30pm 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:

- On Wednesday, September 28, 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

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. 10:30am.

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 10:30am 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 October 14 from 10am to 1:30pm.** The theme for September is "Octoberfest" and the entertainment is Jeff Stewart.

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 @ 9:15am.

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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