

September 29th
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Last week Lea and I had the joy of attending the New Room Conference. The New Room name comes from what was intended to be a temporary moniker for the first building that the Wesleys built to accommodate the Methodist movement. (The New Room was constructed in 1739 in the Horsefair area of Bristol, England and can still be visited today).

The conference we attended is meant to be new space where Christians sharing a common Wesleyan-Arminian theological perspective can find fellowship, joining together with passionate believers who share their hope for revival and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit so lives can be powerfully and eternally changed.



walk

One of the focal points of the conference was a net representing our call to be "fishers of people." Most of us hear that and think of casting a line with the most attractive bait to get a fish to bite into the hook. In Jesus' day, fishing meant using a net. At New Room it was pointed out that a net is a series of cords knotted together for a purpose. That means our ability to fish is determined by the depth of our relationships. Effective fishing doesn't need better bait (you know, leaders, facilities, techniques, marketing); effective fishing needs us banding together as a net. Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Isn't that what Emotionally Healthy Spirituality is all about? Here are some quotes from Peter Scazzero:

- "No other religion in the world reveals a personal God who loves us for who we are, not what we do."
- "Our relationship with God and relationship with others are two sides of the same coin."
- "Loving well is the goal of the Christian life...loving well is the essence of true spirituality."

But there is nothing idealistic or sentimental about love. In another place, Scazzero says,

"Love in practice is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams." In other words, love is not easy...because you have to love real people. As a result, love is often painful work: take a look at the cross that evidences true love.

In this study of Emotionally Healthy Spirituality we are learning to love well. But it requires some

- hard work
- in light of the hard truth
- that sinks into our hard heads
- to heal our hard hearts
- that have been bruised by hard knocks
- so that we can be filled with the hard-as-nails love that flows from our Father's tender heart.

The net effect is a church defined by love that is curative, alluring, enthralling, and captivating to the fishiest characters. Is there new room in you for that kind of love?

Peanut Butter, Jelly and Tuna

Bring your donations this 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

Honey Baked Ham Gift Card Fundraiser

Order on Sundays in October or online. \$25 per card.

The **Family Missions Team** will be taking orders for Honey Baked Ham gift cards in the Courtyard on the following Sundays:

October 2, 9 and 16

Pick up your gift cards in the Courtyard on:

October 23 or 30



work

Each gift card is \$25. Use them to purchase a ham for your Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. They also make great gifts. Buy as many as you like - you receive the full value of the card and the Family Missions Team receives 20% of your total order directly from the Honey Baked Ham company, which helps defer the cost of our *Day of Thanks and Giving* and the *Angel Tree Christmas Party*. Last year we raised close to \$1,000! We hope to raise even more this year. You can also order [online](#) (\$10, 25, 50, 100 available) and have them shipped to your house. Thank you for your support of this

HNwCC Backpack Buddy Program

Volunteers needed. Help us deliver food bags to schools.

HNwCC food pantry is one of the many facilities throughout the Houston area that, in conjunction with the Houston Food Bank, delivers food bags to participating schools. The food is then distributed in backpacks to students who are identified by their school counselors to be most at the risk of going without food during the weekend. The student takes the backpack home on Friday and returns it on Monday. This process repeats itself every week during the school year.



The HNwCC food pantry accepts delivery of food bags from the Houston Food Bank on Tuesdays and then our volunteers deliver the food bags to the schools on Thursdays. Currently, we deliver to seven Katy ISD schools.

Volunteers Needed: We need additional drivers willing to deliver the food bags to one or more schools on Thursday mornings during the school year. We also need back-up drivers when our regular drivers are not available. To volunteer or get more information, visit our [website](#) or [contact us](#).

BCUMC Family Missions Spirit Night

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

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



Thank you!

Our blood drive was a huge success.

Thank you to everyone that donated (or tried to donate but couldn't) blood this past Sunday. We had a total of 34 units donated. You just helped save up to 102 lives!



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 for your continued support of our Childrens' Ministry!



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

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!



work

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.

[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).

walk

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!



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

October 5 @ 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, October 5, 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



