

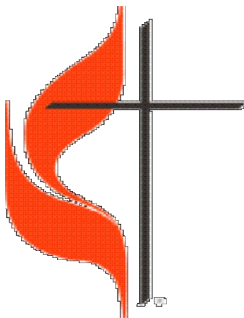
Circuit Rider

1001 Holden Avenue PO Box 2590 Big Bear City, CA 92314 (909) 585-4089

Volume 6 Issue 3 January-February 2012

Inside this issue:

New Changes/Stewardship	1
Pastor's Nancy's Article	2
Lenten Article	
New Year's Resolution	3
More Important News	3
Calendar - January	4
NSXPS News February Calendar	5
Article Lenten Schedule	6



Monthly Newsletter of
Big Bear Lake
United Methodist Church

Rev. Nancy Carlson
Pastor

Robert Ludecke
Lay Leader

Elizabeth L. Evans
Administrative Assistant

Stewardship Pledge Letters Sent



Stewardship Update

Stewardship Letters were sent out in December. A second letter will be sent this month by the newly formed Stewardship Committee.

Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. We know that this is a time of recuperation from the holidays, but by sending in your pledge now will allow the Finance Committee to prepare the 2012 budget!



The Church Web Site is in the Works



Tammy Stevenson has taken on the task of building up our web site. She will be placing information on the web for the church. Please check it out! www.bigbearumc.org If your group is planning any event, please contact the office so that it may be scheduled on the master calendar. This will then be sent to Tammy and placed on the web site. The web will be a great advantage for the church members as the newsletter and calendar will be available on the web site! Elizabeth will be emailing you the January / February Newsletter this month. Please call the church if you have an email address that was **NOT** given to the office previously. Those without email, will be able to pick up the Newsletter after Worship on Sundays in the office. This will save the church postage fees and printing supplies.

“NOW” Committee Formed for 2012



The NOW Committee is a combination of three Committees, Nurture, Outreach and Witness. Sandy Clark is in charge of the newly formed group. Each team will be composed of members that will work under their leader. There will be a larger pool of people to draw from which will help more members to become involved in projects. Volunteer and become involved in the activities of the church! **Fund Raisers always need people to help and this in turn helps the church!**

A Thank You from Pastor Nancy

-thank you, thank you for the beautiful cards and lovely gifts that Nic and I received for Christmas!

- to everyone who acted as acolytes, greeters, liturgists, and ushers throughout the year,

- to those who hosted the fellowship time after church all year long,

- to those who provided flowers and poinsettias for worship

- to Vickie Rose and Sandy Clark for decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas and all other seasons and services,

- to UMW, and all who helped with fundraisers especially Peg Jones,

- to all who help clean and keep our church looking so great (especially after the janitor's position has been removed),

-to all in Nurture for touching our hearts and souls,

-to all in Outreach for touching the hearts and souls of those outside our walls,

- to all in Witness for all you do,

- to those in Worship workshop for keeping me in line for services,

-to Finance Committee for getting us through the year in better shape than we have for years and for being strong enough to make tough decisions and to carry through with them,

- to Jane Gagghagen and Bill Douglas for keeping our books straight,

- to Fred Jones and Shirley Hartwick for their hard work on our audit,

- to all the soloists who blessed us with such beautiful tributes to God,

- to Tammy Stevenson for her music all summer at outdoor services,

- to all who helped with lighting the advent candle,

- and to our wonderful choir, sextet, and musicians who gave of their time to practice and provide music liken to the choir of angels,

- to all who volunteer in the office, keeping things smooth during this financial cut-back,

- to the trustees and all who help keep our church and parsonage in shape,

- to our choir director, Kathy Aughenbaugh, for selecting such beautiful music enhancing the theme of worship and for bringing forth the gifts of the choir,

- to our church administrative assistant, Elizabeth, for working with the volunteers and meeting the needs of our church,

- to both Kathy and Elizabeth for working with the church and so gracefully accepting a cut in pay while still providing so diligently,

- to anyone who has not been mentioned for humbly giving God your time, gifts, and talents without pointed out,

- to all the congregation for just being you! I feel very blessed to be apart of this congregation.

Pastor Nancy

LENT IS ALMOST HERE!

***Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent, comes on February 22, 2012. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God.

***Lent** is also a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day on the Christian calendar. During Lent most churches have additional services. Some offer special Bible study events or classes in strengthening the spiritual life. It is a good time to study the life of a great Christian from the past and the ways that person developed closeness to God.

***It's important** that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).

Looking Ahead



Simple Suppers will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5-7 pm. All are welcome to come for good food and fellowship.

Sandy Clark and Susan Chaidez will be in charge.

If you wish to volunteer, Call Sandy at 584-0187

Soup for The Hungry



Soup Ladle Lunch
January 29 at Noon
Benefit Lunch for the
DOVES Shelter
by the High & Dry
UMC Cluster
\$1 a ladle donation
Served in Fellowship Hall



Souper Bowl Sunday

This year, Souper Bowl will be February 5. Souper Bowl was started in 1990 by a youth group in Columbia, South Carolina. Each year, people all over the United States collect dollar bills in a soup pot following church that day. The money goes to a charity that feeds the hungry.

We, too, will be participating. The money collected in the soup pot, and cans of soup also collected that day, will be used to replenish our food cupboard. Be a part of this annual event.

We need your email address!

If we need to send you information, and the newsletter, we need your e-mail address! This move will help save postage, and paper costs. Please send your information to:

contact.bigbearumc@gmail.com

Also send your Birth date, Month and Day only, so we may update our Birthday List.



Did You Make A New Year's Resolution?

Now that the year is well under way, how are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Have you started to lose those pounds yet, got on schedule, rededicated yourself to your new goal? Our new goal for the church is to increase our congregation by 10% this year. That means only six people plus those we might have lost. While we celebrate that two members have left us to be with the Lord, we face the challenge of bringing two more into our flock.

We often play the numbers game when we really need to focus on the purpose behind the numbers. Of course the purpose is to bring people to the Lord in our congregation. As a congregation we need to pray for the Lord to bring to us the people who are either unchurched or have been away from the church for a time. We pray that the Lord ignite their souls with the Holy Spirit and lead them to us as we open ourselves to them. Let the Holy Spirit be alive in us to accept all God's children wherever they are in their walk of life so that they might feel the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. We are the body of Christ for the world today, reaching out to lost souls, welcoming them in, joining in their stories and lives, and sharing in the life of Christ among us.

I pray that the Lord bring us a rich variety of God's children; rich and poor, spiritually gifted and spiritually broken, leaders and followers, weak and strong. It is the variety within the body of believers that we receive the richness of God's presence. As we commune with those who come in our doors, let us be the welcoming presence of God's Spirit.

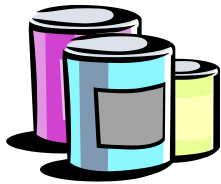
by Pastor Nancy



January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 WORSHIP Holy Communion BOT noon	2	3 9:30 Worship Mtg	4 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Kyrie Choir	5 10:30 UMW 2 Grief Group Finance 5 this month only	6 12-4 Bridge Retreat Group	7 Foothills Youth
8 10:30 WORSHIP 12 NOW mtg	9	10 9:30 Worship Mtg 10-12 Food Pick-up	11 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Kyrie Choir	12 2 Grief Group 5-7 Simple Supper	13 12-4 Bridge Retreat Santa Youth	14 Clarita UMC
15 10:30 Worship 12 Church Council	16 <i>BB Quilters</i> 5-7 pm	17 BB Quilters 10-4 pm	18 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Kyrie Choir	19 2 Grief Group	20 12-4 Bridge	21
22 <i>10:30 Worship</i>	23	24 9:30 Worship Mtg	25 No Bridge 5-7 Kyrie Choir	26 2 Grief Group 5-7 Simple Supper	27 12-4 Bridge	28
29 Worship 10:30 12 Soup Ladle Lunch \$1 a ladle Benefit for Doves by High & Dry Cluster	30	31 9:30 Worship Mtg	1-Charlotte Bruseke 5 Tobey MacQuoid 6 Rick Hackney 6 Vicky Rose 16 Joy Hoover 19 Janet Mellen 21 Sherry Drury 22 Niva Butler Happy Birthday!			



Food Pantry Feeding Many Families

Many families in the Big Bear Valley have been suffering due to the low economy. There are families in need of help with food supplementation. Our Pantry is open on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Chris Smith is in charge of bagging and distributing food on that day. Families need to contact the church office at least a day or two ahead of the pick-up date. Times to pick up are between 10 and 11:30 am. Call 909 585-4089 in order to sign-up.

HELP !!

Our Pantry needs the following items:



Cereal (hot or cold),
Vegetables, small Juices
Package Dinners





NSCPS NEWS



Happy New Year!

The school is taking it's winter break and will return on January 17th. This break feels long and I miss "my kids". Soon their laughter and curiosity will fill the classroom. I know for the kids the first day will be special because they get to bring a share toy that Santa brought them. Children's toys have changed

throughout the year but the excitement and joy remains the same. My resolution this year is to capture joy. There is no better place to capture that feeling then a preschool.

I invite you to join us at school. The children love to be read to and you might just capture some of that joy that the children so easily express. We always have an open door policy so why not come on in?

May peace and love be with you throughout the coming year.

Blessings, Patrice Carlisle
Director



February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Remember your Sweetheart on Valentine's Day !</i>			1 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Choir	2 2 Grief Group	3 12-4 Bridge	4
5 10:30 Worship Souper Bowl Sunday Bring can of soup and \$1 for Pantry	6	7 9:30 Worship Mtg 10-12 Food p/u No Shore Elem Dinner 	8 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Choir	9 2 Grief Group 5-7 Simple Sup	10 12-4 Bridge <div>Poway Retreat</div>	11 <div>Fri & Sat</div>
12 10:30 Worship	13	14 Valentine's Day 9:30 Worship 	15 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Choir	16 2 Grief Group 5 Finance Mtg	17 12-4 Bridge	18 <div>Garden Grove Retreat Sat & Sun</div>
19 10:30 Worship <div>Extra Large Retreat Group</div>	20 Veterans Day Holiday 10 Witness 5-7 BB Quilters Retreat leaving	21 9:30 Worship 10-3 BB Quilters	22 Ash Wednesday Service time tba 12-4 Bridge	23 2 Grief Group 5-7 Simple Sup	24 12-4 Bridge <div>Foothills Sr. High Retreat</div>	25
26 10:30 Worship 12 Church Council	27	28 9:30 Worship	29 12-4 Bridge 5-7 Choir	<div> 3 Cheryl Butcher 14 Bob Carlisle 15 Jan Bemisdarfer 22 Kathy Field 24 Joe Breuer 27 Danny Field Happy February Birthday! </div>		

The Circuit Rider

The Newsletter of the

Big Bear Lake United Methodist Church
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Jan & Feb 2012

For your Spiritual Health

A woman was asked by a friend to attend the friend's church. The friend told her how wonderful her church was. The friend ended her invitation by saying, "And guess what? You don't even have to give any money."

Was that a good selling point? Well, hardly. Without the opportunity to share our appreciation for the gifts God has given us, our spiritual health is hampered.

The great words of the Christian faith are: committing, loving, sharing, sacrificing, giving, serving, worshiping, praying and working. "It is more blessed to give than to receive," Jesus said (Acts 20:35, NRSV).

We will miss blessings ourselves if we refrain from giving.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, the gifted preacher and author, once said that while the Bible teaches tithing, he and his wife gave more than a tithe. They did so, he said, because during hard financial times when they were young, they put giving to God first. They were so blessed they would never consider not being generous givers.

The woman invited to her friend's church decided not to go. She said to her own pastor when telling him about the invitation, "I kept thinking to myself that something is wrong here. I'm not sure it's a good thing to join a church that doesn't ask you for money."

Lenten Season Info



Ash Wednesday Feb 22



Palm Sunday April 1 - 10:30 am



Good Friday April 6



Easter April 8 - 10:30 am

Remember These Dates

Prayer Vigil planned

to be announced at a later date!

