

Circuit Rider

Big Bear United Methodist Church

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

March/April 2014

Volume 6 Issue 2

Inside this issue:

In Pastor Nancy's Words	1 & 2
What is Apportionment?	2
N.S.C.P.S. News & Church Council News	3
Witness & Food Pantry	4
Birthdays, GriefShare & UMW News	5
Trustees & Finance Committee Reports	6
SPRC CORNER & Escript Update Info.	7
"FUN NOW" Committees-News	8 & 9
Help Wanted & Information Notices	9
Prayer Needs & Fun'raiser Committee	10
March & April Calendars	11 & 12
Outreach News, Cross & Flame & Life Line Info	13



**Bi-Monthly Newsletter of
Big Bear United Methodist
Church**
Rev. Nancy Carlson
Pastor
Robert Ludecke
Lay Leader
Pat Hubby
Secretary

In Pastor Nancy's Words

Lent is here, and no that doesn't mean it's time to dust the furniture. Lent is a Christian season consisting of 40 days before Easter (not including Sundays). It begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Easter. The



traditional purpose of Lent is for Christians to prepare for Easter through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, spiritual discipline, and self-denial. Biblical references show 40 days as a time of preparation: Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God, Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb, 40 days Jonah gave in his prophecy of judgment to Nineveh to repent or be destroyed, and of course the 40 days Jesus retreated in the wilderness while fasting and being tempted by

the devil. These stories show that 40 days has Biblical basis for self-reflection, preparation, repentance, fasting, and drawing near to God.

In order to draw nearer to God, Christians are encouraged to practice fasting, almsgiving, dedicated times for prayer and spiritual discipline. Fasting during Lent has historical documentation dating back to within 100 years after Christ died and includes many forms and times for fasting. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement regularly fasted twice a week. Fasting today means eliminating something from daily habits. Some people fast from food, some from TV, sports, tobacco, alcohol, cussing, gossip, and many other habits. By giving something up for spiritual growth and God's glory a person learns to control a particular part of his/her life which leads to greater self-discipline. Lent then becomes a spiritual training to overcome evil. Fasting also helps us to remember Jesus preparation and temptation in the wilderness before He began His ministry. In Lenten fasting, we prepare each year, by identifying the temptations that may come between us and God as we live out our ministry.

While fasting is about giving something up, almsgiving or charity, is putting something positive in its place. Charity isn't just writing a check to some needy project, it is an act of faith requiring personal attention. It can be helping friends, family, and neighbors, assisting the elderly with yard work, etc. One act of charity we can all do is to exchange any negative thoughts with positive thoughts.

As we are encouraged to put aside more time to pray and study the Bible, we are more active in letting God into our lives. During Lent we try to

develop or strengthen a discipline of regular prayer in our lives until our very lives are a continuum of prayer. Regular attendance in church also allows us to be open to the Word of God through Scripture, proclamation, and song. Jesus relied on Scripture to deal with the devil and we need to read Scripture to help us with the devilish temptations and hardships of our lives as well.

So during spring cleaning when we are dusting all the *lint* off our furniture, we may need to do some spiritual housecleaning during *lent* to clean up our souls and prepare for our greatest Holy day, Easter.

Yours in peace,

Pastor Nancy



In case you ever wondered what “Apportionment “ was all about, read below...

Some members of our congregation have asked to learn more about this apportionment, sometimes described as ‘a portion meant for others.’ Here are the facts:

Where does the money go?

World Service and Conference

Benevolence (40%): this is the heart of the Methodist presence in mission and ministry around the world. It strengthens evangelism efforts, stimulates church growth, expands Bible studies and enriches spiritual commitment.

Ministerial Support Fund

(25%):

This fund pays a significant portion of the health insurance cost for all retired pastors and provides a minimum level of support for pastors assigned to churches that cannot adequately pay them. Big Bear United Methodist Church has needed & used this fund in the past. It also pays a portion of moving expenses for pastors and Episcopal expenses.

Administration (27%): this is

the part that covers administrative costs of General UMC-Boards and agencies, Western Jurisdiction, and the strategic initiatives of Cal-Pac (leadership development, renewal of youth ministries, church revitalization). Expenses for camping and retreat ministries are also included.

Ministerial Education Fund

(4%): one-fourth of this is for scholarships to support the men and women called by God into the ministry. The rest supports the 13 United Methodist seminaries which educated them.

Black College Fund (1.6%): this supports 11 historically African-American United Methodist-related institutions of higher education.

African University Fund

(0.4%): this supports the only United Methodist, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa. It is located in Zimbabwe.

Global Aids Fund (0.8%): this fund was established by the 2004

General Conference to raise money for the global fight against HIV/AIDS and is part of the 4 major emphases for the 2008-2012 quadrennium of the church.

How is our apportionment calculated?

The amount ‘apportioned’ to each church is determined by a formula. 20% of the total is based on our membership, compared to the total membership of the annual conference. 80% is based on our expenditures as compared with the expenditures of all churches within the annual conference. Current Apportionments are based on prior years reports of membership & expenditures.*

***Note:** This information was received from the Cal-Pac Annual Conference in 2008.



News from N.S.C.P.S.

Spring is near and with it comes the blooming of flowers. Children are like new blooms, springing up and reaching new heights. I delight when I hear a child is using the concepts used in the classroom. Recently a parent posted on facebook a conversation that took place between two of the kids from our preschool. It confirmed that what we teach goes beyond the classroom. I am proud that our children are learning to be caring and loving people. They will grow into adults and they will be the kids that make a difference in the world. It doesn't get much better then that! Happy spring!



Peace and love,
Patrice



News from the Church Council



The big news this month is the Church Survey. The Church Council has approved the circulation of a Church Survey form which has been sent out via U.S. mail to everyone on the church mailing list. We truly hope all of you will take some time to look at it and give us your feedback as to how to improve and grow our church. What about the church do you like and what would you like to see changed, added or improved upon. You do not need to respond to every item on the survey, just give us your input on those things that are of importance to you. Once you have reviewed and filled in the form please return it to the church by putting it in the plate during the Sunday offering, drop it by the church office or mail it back to the church at PO Box 2590, Big Bear City, CA 92314. If you have not received a survey please contact me at 909-633-7790 or bkludecke@msn.com and I will be sure to get one to you ASAP. Remember that this is **YOUR CHURCH** and your opinion matters to us.



Shalom,

Bob Ludecke
Church Council Chair



Witness Committee

Donna Edmundson, Chair

Our committee met for the first time in January and a quick and lively meeting was enjoyed by all; seems this team operates together smoothly. We gained one additional member, Bobby Clark!

We planned fellowship food for January and started on a process to know just who among us is missing worship on Sundays. We have volunteers who will send those missing a greeting card as soon as our system is in place.

We want greeters at the doors before worship and our team believes this is the duty of the ushers. We will network with the ushers to make sure that they have enough help but maybe there is another way to make sure visitors are welcomed and "coached" through their first worship service with us. Along with a greeting, the witness team believes that a new visitor needs something tangible to take with them when they visit (thanks for the idea Joan Wolcott). The Pastor and I are developing a brochure presently. Sandy wishes to continue to prepare the communion elements and will call on one of us when she is absent.

Hospital visits began on Thursday, February 6 at 10am. (Due to my absence this has been postponed until another Thursday in February). We welcome our congregation to give us names of people they know who are in the hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility and would like a visit.

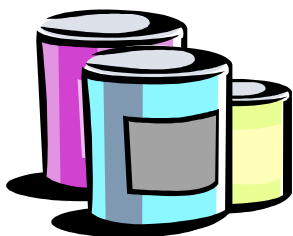
The Welcoming Cup Program is ready to begin. We have divided up the valley geographically and will provide a Coffee cup at the home of the visitors during the week. It was agreed upon to wrap it in cellophane and ribbon.

A future project will be a prayer area where two people will offer prayer for anyone who wishes. We have not discussed this with our Council or Pastor yet so stay tuned.

Our Witness meetings will be combined with Nurture and Outreach on the Third Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm at the church.

I would say that this committee has been a joy to be a part of and we have only just begun.

Needs of the Food Pantry:



Cereal

Fruit Juice

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Cookies/Crackers

Quart size Zip Lock Bags for dry dog food



Many Thanks to those who give!!

~Chris Smith



Happy Birthday March & April Friends & Family

March

- Julie Chatham 2nd
- Jere Souter 2nd
- Bill Evans 5th
- Nancy Wallace 5th
- Bob Wallace 10th
- Shirley Hartwick 11th
- Caden Brown 11th
- Steve Gaghagen 17th
- Ruth Terry 21th
- Bob Tarras 22nd
- Sara Bemisdarfer 27th
- Joan Souter 28th

April

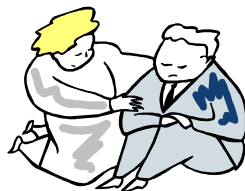
- Margo Frerking 8th
- Walt Campbell 11th
- Kathy Aughenbaugh 14th
- Greg Breuer 24th
- Bob Kuchta 27th

We love each and everyone of you!



GriefShare Support Group

GriefShare will begin March 6th in the Narthex at 2:00 p.m. and will run for 13 weeks.



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matt.5:4

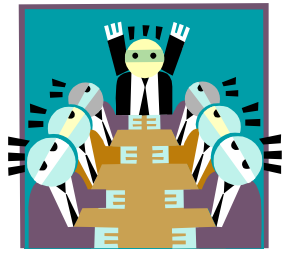
UMW DATE:

UMW starts up again April 10 at 12:00.



Bring a friend and your great ideas for a time of fellowship, planning and lunch.





REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stan Wolcott, Committee Chair

Greetings from your Trustees and the Finance Committee! Since I'm the chair of both bodies, it makes sense to have a combined article in each UMC newsletter, particularly since the finances of the church dictate what is feasible for the Trustees to do in a monetary sense. I will begin with the Trustees' meeting of Monday, Feb. 10, which also includes some carry over "old business" from the January 13 meeting too.

Under the chair's report, I reported that I had renegotiated the bridge club contract to produce a small increase in donations from that continuing rental. Also discussed under my report, were several items from Nancy's *ad hoc* committee, including the church survey (see Bob Ludecke's report), the need for advertising and signage to grow attendance and the retreat which will be conducted for church leaders. Under "old business", we discussed the policy which the church should have in hosting civic and social clubs at the church, such as Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts. Sometimes these activities will have to be subsidized by reduced or no rental fees, offset by *gratis* labor in the case of the Boy Scouts, simply because the church has a duty to participate in such activities in the community. Under "new business", it was decided to reduce our waste disposal bill by going to a once-weekly pickup, which should result in savings over the year. Several maintenance items were discussed and the dissemination of the new maintenance forms which will be used by church members to identify repairs and replacements (such as our new garbage disposal in the kitchen). The Trustees' next meeting will be Monday, **March 10, 2014**.

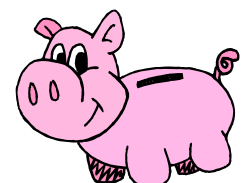
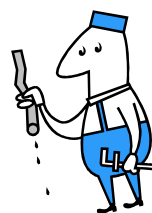


Turning to the Finance Committee, which met on Jan. 16 and Feb. 20. I will give you some of the important bottom line information, according to our Treasurer Jane Gagahan's reports. 2013 ended with a "loss", which was covered by an anonymous and substantial year-end donation. We are heavily dependent on your pledges, which unfortunately are currently running \$21,000 behind what is needed, so we are far from being "in the money". One of the significant actions taken at the committee's



January meeting was to create a revolving petty cash fund to be used for the activities of the Fun'raising Subcommittee for preliminary expenses of their planned events, such as the recent Country Box Lunch Social, which netted the church approximately \$300. Hats off to Pam Walker and Joan Wolcott and the ladies (and gentlemen) who planned and conducted this fun event on Saturday, Feb. 15!! The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on **March 20**.

As always, all church members are invited and welcome to attend either the Trustees or Finance committee meetings and give us your input and ideas. We appreciate and encourage your vital support of UMC!



SPRC CORNER



It's hard to believe we are entering the second quarter of 2014. It feels like we were just preparing for Advent and celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus. Instead, time is flying by and I'm realizing how behind I am in all things. What I would like to do is thank all of you who continue to put your time and effort into growing this Church and supporting the leadership who work diligently to make things better for everyone. This is a goal, one that is attainable, the growth of our Church can be accomplished by the dedication of so many beautiful hearts that have blessed our membership. What we lack in numbers, we have surpassed in spirit, now let us combine the two and see what may happen. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is much like the Human Resource/

Personnel Department of the business sector. Like any other business, we are as great as our employees and volunteers. Every now and again, we need to look outside the box and see what creative forces may stir positive change within the organization. We've been so fortunate with the addition of new membership, people like Steve and Pam Walker and Stan and Joan Wolcott. Their concepts and presentation of special Fun'raiser events have pulled the congregation together while providing a creative means of giving. Having people come in with new ideas is always a plus. "New" is relative, they have been active members for quite some time but after saying thanks to Don Ekberg and Mollie Wilson, in the last SPRC corner, they are new. Thank you, again, for all the dedicated service! My personal goal is to return to active participation. I have been taking care of family issues....a mother I love deeply, and for now, I do need to spend some time away.

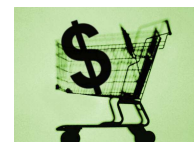
Margaret de Guerena, SPRC Chair

ESCRIP UPDATE!!!

You may donate a percentage of your Von's grocery bill to our church just by registering your Von's card today!! There is no cost to you or the church and the church benefits every month.

It's quick and easy!

1. Just go online to www.escrip.com
2. Select "Welcome to Escrip"
3. Click on "sign up"
4. Follow instructions to register your Von's card (and others if you desire).



Payment at Von's may be made by Debit card, check, cash, smart Check, or gift card. Payment may not be made by Credit Card & receive the Escrip donation.

You will need: Name/Address/Phone #/e-mail address (if you have one)/and Von's card #.

GROUP NAME: United Methodist Church of Big Bear Lake Group #: 5931961

Any Questions? No Computer? Contact the church office or Jan Gaghagen (909) 585-9031.



“FUN NOW” COMMITTEES

(Fun’raiser, Nurture, Outreach & Witness)



Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Committees along with the Fun’ Raiser group had their first combined meeting on February 18th. Realizing that there is a great deal of overlap in these committees and few volunteers available, the committees are exploring a monthly combined meeting to coordinate events, efforts, and time so the overall outcome is better effectiveness for the church and members.

Nurture committee looks to building the church members in faith and supports them in their congregational journey. As the Chairman, Julie Chatham oversees the Sunday School, Small Groups for Christian growth, Messy Church, and events that grow the community of the church. She expressed concern that at times we have no adults in the Sunday School room and we need to seek help to step in on short notice to work with the youngest kids. All volunteers that teach our kids and youth need to be fingerprinted and have background checks done. We are in the process of having 2 young men checked so they can lead the youth church on Sundays during adult worship. We need 2 more young women to work with them.

Outreach committee is chaired by Tammy Stevenson and pertains to the work our church does to reach out and meet needs of the community, and aid in mission work in outlying areas. Through Outreach our church is connected to United Methodists Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which is like the Methodist Red Cross. We often are at disaster sites before Red Cross and stay after Red Cross leaves. On March 30th we will take a contribution for One Great Hour of Sharing and send it to UMCOR. Each United Methodist Church does 1 monetary collection per year and sends it to UMCOR for their administrative costs. 100% of all other donations to UMCOR go directly to victims of disasters. In the past our church has sent mission teams to Hurricane Katrina and we would like to build a team for future disaster mission work. Simple Supper is another outreach that we do for our local community. Sandy Clark, Simple Supper team leader reported that Pine Summit didn’t provide their usual meal this week and we need to follow up to see what the future holds there.

Witness committee Chairman Donna Edmondson gave a brief explanation of their group’s work. Through witnessing to faith in Jesus Christ they visit hospitals, follow up with church members who are missing church due to health and other needs, visit homes. They also work in the church to enhance the worship experience through seasonal banners, alter flowers, and special worship events. Donna reported that the mugs are in for the visitors and she would like to have brochures to put in the mugs for church information. She would also like to put brochures out in the community to get the word out about our church. The group decided that the mugs would be available for church members to purchase and that would help offset the cost of the mugs. Donna asked for suggestions for church attendance programs and volunteers to help with visitations. They would also like to have a table by North Shore Blvd for people who need prayers to just stop and have our church pray with them. They will post a flower sign-up in the Fellowship Hall for alter flower donations.

Messy Church team leader, Alaine Uthus, explained the concept of Messy Church as a new family worship concept that is once a month, informal and communal. People come just after work with their families and do a craft, have a brief worship/song time then eat a meal together. We hope to reach out to families in the valley and grow the church in this way. Messy Church team is going to training on March 22nd in Desert Hot Springs where they

Continued page 9

will receive programming for at least one year.

Fun' raising is a new group headed by Pam Walker and Joan Wolcott. Their goal is to raise funds for the church through having fun and have had some great successes over the last year. The Fun'Raisers plan on selling Holy Hot Dogs at the Rummage Sale on May 23 and 24 and the 2nd annual Bad Poet's Dinner on August 16th with a cowboy theme. They were brought into this group to help fund some of the plans of the other committees and are a welcome addition.

Other discussion:

Baptisms, Confirmations, New Members Joining, and other special events. All agreed it would be nice to have special food for special events. If someone in the church wants to provide special food because of connections to the event we need to involve them in the planning, otherwise the Committee assigned for that month's refreshments needs to be contacted for special food.

Easter Sunday. The group requested that Easter Service would be at 9:30 instead of 10:30 so families can have time together, especially when they may have to drive. Since 2/3 of the Worship committee was in the group and agreed to the time change it will be taken to Church Council meeting on Sunday.



“HELP WANTED AND INFORMATION NOTICES”

MARCH/APRIL 2014

NEED FOR HISTORICAL TEAM

We are looking for a few people who are interested in the history of our church & who are natural organizers. Don Ekberg has been our “go-to man” in the past and he could use some worker bees to help organize pictures, church documents & records. It would be great to have veteran church attendees along with those who are new to our church. If this sounds like you, please contact Pat at the church office at 909-585-4089.

YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED

We are looking for a couple of women who have a heart for youth ministry. We are getting ready to launch a Youth Ministry group here at BBUMC and need a couple of women to help with grades 4th – 12th grades. Please contact Julie Chatham at 909-866-2507.

PASTOR NANCY'S DAYS OFF

In case you didn't know, our dear Pastor's days off are:

Friday & Saturday. The exceptions are: Emergencies, Church Events and Cal-Pac District Meeting requirements.

DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?

Our church is looking for “Pencil Trees” to be donated. If you have one and would like to donate it, we would be thrilled. If you aren't sure what these are, they are non-typical Christmas trees that are tall and slender, Pine trees of various heights. The Fun'raiser committee wants to use them to help promote upcoming events. If you have one, find one, or want to purchase one for the church, contact Pam Walker at 909-585-4280 or Joan Wolcott at 909-866-4220.

Prayer Needs & Praise Reports

“It is a privilege to ‘stand’ in the gap for someone in intercession.”

- Bettie’s nuggets

Please keep these folks in prayer:

Bill Evans

Kyle Chaidez

Ron Edmundson

Kathy Krane & her husband

Jay Hartwick

Chuck Rose

Vicky Rose’s nephew in law, Jerry

Steve & Pam Walker

Leonard Chaidez

Bill George

Jim Frerking’s niece, Betty

Scott Stevenson

Pat & Trent

Paul Waddell

Kate, Jerry & David Meade

Lorna Vernon

Amy Moscrip

Jerry Macgill

Fred Jones

Jane Gaghagen

Contact Susan @909-585-9733 for needs.

“Fun’raiser Committee”

Our Fun'raising committee has been at it again! We had an Enchilada Casserole Lunch in January which raised \$175.00, in February a Box Lunch Social, which had not been tallied by the newsletter deadline. Both events were most excellent and enjoyed by everyone that attended.



Our next opportunity for fellowship, fun, food and "Franklins" is Sunday March 16th. Pastor Nancy is hosting a traditional St. Patrick's Day Lunch of corned beef, cabbage, red potatoes and carrots. Sandy Clark is making homemade soda bread!!! All for a donation equal to what you would typically spend on lunch out.





Our committees goal is to have an opportunity for fun'raising and fellowship each month. We need helper bees so if you'd like to help with an activity let us know. Be sure to watch the bulletin for up coming events.



Note Upcoming Rummage Sale May 23 & 24. Never to early to start "Spring Cleaning" and donate to the cause! We will be selling hot dogs & drinks.

March 2014

Big Bear United Methodist Church




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Fun'raiser Committee 8 A.M. 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Trustees Committee Meeting @ 7 P.M.	11	12	13 Simple Supper 5 P.M. 	14	15
16 St. Patricks Day Lunch @ noon 	17	18	19	20 Finance Committee Meeting @ 5 P.M.	21	22
23	24	25 "FUN NOW" Committees 4 P.M.	26	27 Simple Supper 5 P.M. 	28	29
30	31					

1001 Holden Avenue
PO Box 2590
Big Bear City, CA 92314

Phone: 909-585-4089
E-mail: contact.bigbearumc@gmail.com

April 2014

Big Bear United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fools Day :-) 	2	3	4	5
6	7 Fun'raiser Committee 8 A.M.	8	9	10 UMW@ 12:00 & Simple Supper 5 P.M. 	11	12
13	14 Trustees Committee Meeting @ 7 P.M.	15 FUN NOW Committee 4 P.M.	16	17 Finance Committee Meeting @ 5 P.M.	18 Good Friday Service 7 P.M.	19
20 Ecumenical "Sonrise" Service @ Pine Summit, 6:30 a.m.	21	22	23	24 Simple Supper 5 P.M. 	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1001 Holden Avenue
 PO Box 2590
 Big Bear City, CA 92314

Phone: 909-585-4089
 E-mail: contact.bigbearumc@gmail.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

By Tammy Stevenson

The Outreach Committee will be receiving gifts on March 30, to support the work of UMCOR. The following reminder from Cindy Center of the Cal-Pac East District, explains what this is all about.

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

“Our church is at its best when we reach out to sisters and brothers in need. Our generous gifts through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering support to the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief around the world. UMCOR provides immediate assistance in the wake of disasters and participates in ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. On March 30, our congregations will receive this special offering, which ensures that when a crisis happens, 100 percent of giving for that disaster goes to those in need.”- Cindy Center

DID YOU KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS & FLAME??

The history and significance of the Cross and Flame emblem are as rich and diverse as The United Methodist Church. The insignia's birth quickly followed the union of two denominations in 1968: The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.



Following more than two dozen conceptualizations, a traditional symbol—the cross—was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire. The resulting insignia is rich in meaning. It relates The United Methodist church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The elements of the emblem also remind us of a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed." The two tongues of a single flame may also be understood to represent the union of

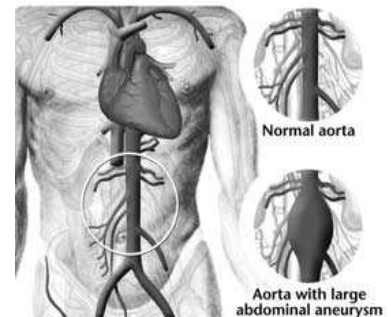
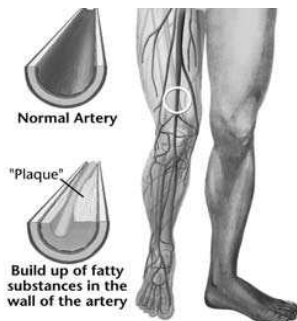
two denominations.

Cross and Flame



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be at United Methodist Church of Big Bear on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and live longer for yourself, your family, and your community, call 1-800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment. You can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease, prices range from \$129 to \$159. There is no time like the present to take action!



The Circuit Rider

Big Bear United Methodist Church

1001 Holden Avenue

PO Box 2590

Big Bear City, CA 92314