

December 2011

# Bear Creek Connection

## Keeping You In Touch with Bear Creek Church

<p>In This Issue</p>	<p><b>EXPERIENCE THE JOY</b> by Pastor Jim Coleman</p>
<p>A Message from Pastor Jim</p>	<p>Enjoy the fact that God has already taken the first step, hoping you'd come to know Him. God wants to help you get to know Him. So He gives you a sign. He always does this, to any genuine seeker. He gives you a sign, a clue, a trail marking, a travel guide so you can find Him. He's not going to just leave you out there on your own. He gives you a travel guide to find Him.</p>
<p>Christmas Brunch</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to read entire article.</a></p>
<p>Reaching Out at Christmas</p>	<p><b>Christmas Brunch</b> <b>When: Sunday, December 18 (11:45 AM)</b> <b>Where: Fellowship Hall</b> <b>What: Food, Fellowship, Christmas carols</b></p>
<p>Student Ministries</p>	<p>The Fellowship Team would like you to join us for a Christmas Potluck Brunch. We will enjoy music by the Joy Belles and sing some Christmas carols together. Sign up at the Welcome Center on Sunday, December 4 or 11. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors to this festive event! Contact Linda Ketcham (303.978.9130) or Becky Johnwesley (303.482.2910) if you have questions.</p>
<p>Kids' Club</p>	
<p>Student Ministries</p>	
	
<p><b><u>BCC STAFF</u></b></p>	<p><b>Love Baskets, Toy Shop, Angel Tree</b></p>
<p><b>Pastor</b></p>	<p>We will be preparing Love Baskets for our shut-ins and those who are going through a serious illness or have had a death in the family recently.</p>
<p>Jim Coleman</p>	<p>Donations of baked goodies, small candies, tea/hot chocolate packets can be brought to the church before December 8. If you would like to help with assembly/delivery of the baskets on Saturday, December 10, please contact June (303.987.0113) or Marilyn (303.985.1234).</p>
<p><b>Director of Student Ministries</b></p>	<p><b>Angel Tree</b> gifts are due back Sunday, December 11. To help with delivery on December 18, please talk with Mary Coles (303.985.1012).</p>
<p>Shane Calvillo</p>	
<p><b>Director of Children's Ministries</b></p>	<p>New or gently-used small toys, books, and games (for children) and CDs or jewelry (for teens) are needed for our Food Bank families this Christmas. Donations for the <b>Toy Shop</b> should be brought to the church no later than December 8.</p>
<p>Josie White</p>	
<p><b>Worship Leader</b></p>	<p>Thanks for helping us reach out with Christ's love this Christmas!</p>
<p>Will Davis</p>	

### Single Women Samaritans Christmas Brunch

Join in the fun of our annual Pot Luck Brunch and White Elephant Gift Exchange on **Saturday, December 17 (12:00 PM)** in the Upper Room at BCC. Call Ellie (303.986.3273) if you want more information.

### It's Here! He's Near!

Hard to believe, but the end of 2011 will be here in just a few weeks. More importantly, our celebration of the miraculous birth of Jesus -- God with us! -- is right around the corner!

Many of us look forward to these next few weeks with anticipation and merriment. We have focused recently on reaching out to the needy near and far away, offering the hope and joy that our Lord provides for us at all times. Now we want to teach our children to SEEK Him. It is very easy to focus on gifts during Advent rather than focusing on the coming of Christ. How do we get away from the secular view of Christmas? How do we deliver the message that Christmas is to REALLY celebrate Christ? Is it enough to wear a button that says, "Jesus is the reason for the season!" or "Wise men still seek Him"?

One way to bring the message home to our kids is to use an Advent calendar - not one that counts the days until Santa comes, but one that highlights the true Christmas story. Use this easy-to-find tool to nurture small hearts and grown-up hearts, sharing the anticipation of opening each little window or putting the next picture on the scene. Free Advent activities and devotionals are also available through our Children's Ministry resources -- at the Welcome Center, on the Sunday School (Pre-School/Infant) welcome counter, and in the Fellowship Hall on the table by the resource room. I encourage you to pick up one or two that meet your child's age and reading level. And don't forget, the Bible readings in the Gospels are a wonderful way to share the TRUE words of the Christ story!

If you need more options or ideas please contact me and we can look into it together. I am excited to celebrate the "reason for this season" with you and your loved ones!



Happy Advent!  
Seeking Him everyday,  
Josie

### Student Ministries



High School and Middle School students meet on **Wednesday evenings (7:30-8:45 PM)**. For information on CREW, small groups for students, or student outreach activities see [www.bearcreekchurch.net/students](http://www.bearcreekchurch.net/students) or call Shane (970.302.7119 or 303.986.5511 x 110).



### Kids' Club

Themes this month:  
December 7 - Crazy Tie Night  
December 14 - Christmas Celebration

After December 14, Kids' Club will take a Christmas Break. Kids' Club resumes Wednesday, January 11.

## Friday Fare

Friday Fare is a ministry at Bear Creek Church which has been going strong since late August, to reach out to students at Bear Creek High School who are in financial need or have unstable living environments. An awesome team of people work hard to provide these students with large grocery bags of ready-to-eat foods each week so they have something to eat in the evenings and on weekends.

Every month a team of enthusiastic women and men meet to bag about 30 large paper grocery bags full of food. At the end of each week a team of women and a few Bear Creek CREW students deliver the bags to the high school office, where the students pick them up after school. We have received many thank-you e-mails from students and faculty (forwarded to us from the school psychologist)!

The funds for Friday Fare have been received from church members and others in the community who do not attend BCC, but have been moved by the need to help these students. Many people from BCC have donated food items as well, and we are able to get some of the food from the Food Bank of the Rockies at a reduced cost. The recent BCC Craft Fair donated over \$700 in proceeds to the fund!

Many thanks to the following people who have given so freely of their time to work with this ministry:

Barbara Kohen, Team 1 Coordinator

Wanda Pritchett, Team 2 Coordinator

Peg Johnson, Delivery Coordinator

Paulette Landrum, Mary Ann Schwabauer, Tom Young, Sally Wiedeman, Don Leonhart, Denise Morris, Marlene Noffsinger, Ellie Oury, Dorothy Darrah, June Holyer, Jeanne Greenfield, Kathy Smaldone,

Mandie Gallagher, Susie McQueen, Craig Havel, and Karrie Havel.

Please contact Linda Ketcham ([slketcham6@msn.com](mailto:slketcham6@msn.com) or 303.978.9130) if you would like to volunteer, make a donation, or have any questions about Friday Fare!

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Saturday, December 24 -- 5:00 PM**

(Please Note: Our leadership has decided to have just one Christmas service.  
There will be NO SERVICE on Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25.)

## December Events

Session/Trustee Budget Meeting -- Saturday, December 3 (9:00 AM)  
Love Basket Assembly & Delivery -- Saturday, December 10 (1:00 PM)  
Angel Tree Gifts Due -- Sunday, December 11  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -- Friday, December 24 (5:00 PM)

## January Events

Soup/Salad Supper & Congregational Meeting -- Sunday, January 29 (6:00 PM)

**Hope To See You on Sunday!** Worship with us at 10:30 AM. Kids (K-5th grade) stay with their family for the Praise Time, then go downstairs for Kid's Church, to enjoy *Worship Kids' Style*, a worship time designed just for kids. Plan to have your elementary-aged kids here every Sunday -- they won't want to miss a thing!

*"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

## Contact Info

[Bear Creek Church](#)

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