1 Corinthians 9:19-23 "Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. **I kept my bearings in Christ**—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!" (Mes)

BEAR CREEK BEARINGS

1. CHARACTER

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their **character**." Martin Luther King

Matthew 7:18, 20 "A good tree cannot **bear** bad fruit, and a bad tree connect **bear** good fruit." (NIV)

Proverbs 9:10 "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." (NIV)

Initiative: Wednesday in the Word

2. COMMUNITY

Galatians 6:2 "**Bear** one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (NRSV)

Romans 12:5b "… since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." (NLT)

Initiative: LifeGroups

3. COMPASSION

Romans 15:1 "We who are strong have an obligation to **bear** with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (ESV)

Matthew 9:35-38 "35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When He saw the crowds, **He had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." (NIV)

Initiative: BCDC Project

4. COURAGE

Luke 14:27 "27Whoever does not **bear** his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (ESV)

Acts 4:13 "When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." (NIV)

Initiative: Children/Student Pastor

5. CHRIST

John 15:26-27 "26But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will **bear** witness about me. 27And you also will **bear** witness, because you have been with me from the beginning." (ESV)

1 Peter 3:15 "… Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect …" (NIV)

Initiative: Saturday Night Alive!

6. CALLING

Philippians 3:13-14 "13No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to **bear** on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking

forward to what lies ahead, [14]I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us." (LB)

Acts 20:24 "… my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." (NLT)

Initiative: Don't Give Up! Step up!