

The Vine

(Very Important News and Events)

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing."
(Jesus, from John 15:5)*

Pastor: Rev. Paul Babcock

August 2011

***The Mission of Baldwin First United Methodist Church is to love and serve God and our neighbors
as disciples of Jesus Christ.***

PAUL'S PAGE:

I'm impressed! I know, first impressions can be deceiving, but in this case I am sure it is not so. I am impressed with First United Methodist Church of Baldwin City, Kansas. And, I am impressed in several ways:

1. Thank you all for the warm welcome you have given to Debbie and me and our family. We are grateful for it. You have received us well and with lots of smiles. We are glad to be here and to be among you.
2. I am impressed with how the folks in this church seem to care about each other. When someone is in need there are prayers and understanding and concern. There are those who are willing to pick up slack when something happens. There is welcome for newcomers. There is willingness to receive what gifts there are to be given.
3. There is vision and desire to be a better church. There is vision and desire to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. There is vision and desire to reach out to the community and share that faith.

4. Vacation Bible School was a good week. More than 120 children were here, on average each night, as we shared in fellowship, mission, learning, singing, praying, and giving thanks to God for so many things each night. Thanks to so many who volunteered their time and effort to make it such a good week.

5. There is desire to reach out to those who are hurting, lonely and afraid. There is much that is frightening in our world. It is the faith that God gives us that meets that fear face to face. This church is willing to help face those frightening and hurtful things with great love, God's great love.

So, thank you all for being the church you are. Thank you all for your desire to be better and to share the love of God. Thank you all for being the church of Jesus Christ!

Now, let's go make an impression!

SHALOM,
Paul

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

Wishin' For a Mission/Food Pantry Pandamonium - The BFUMC Missions team provided a Missions station at VBS, with a focal point of the Community Food Pantry. We talked about how each of us can actively participate in God's wish for good fortune for all of creation by spreading like bamboo, his love, through acts of compassion toward others. Thank you to the kids of Baldwin for supplying food to sustain the food pantry for one week.

CROP WALK - The annual CROP Walk for Hunger is coming in September. John Lawrenz has been an integral piece of assuring for a successful CROP Walk in our area for many years. With his passing, many hands will have to work to fill the void. Let us make this year a tribute to his years of service with CROP and missional outreach at home and abroad, by having a "bumper CROP".

SCHOOL KITS FOR ROUNDUP - As we gear up for the return to school, it is a good time to purchase items for school kits for the November Bishop's Roundup. If you would like to purchase items and leave them on the stage with the Food Pantry items, they will be stored until the Roundup. Lists of kit items will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs.

UMCOR assesses next steps in Japan ...Rev. Cynthia Harvey, head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Melissa Crutchfield, UMCOR's International Disaster Response executive, are visiting sites hit by the March 11 triple disaster and assessing next steps for the relief agency. The 9.0-magnitude earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis killed or left missing some 23,000 people and drove 150,000 survivors into evacuation camps. Crutchfield noted that the needs provoked by the triple disaster are so huge that progress is slow and resources scant.

"Teach me, God, to pray / in works as much as in words / to make my actions thoughtful messages / to make my actions more beautiful than words."
- James W. Jones

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, flowers, food, visits and prayers. It means so much to be loved and supported.

*Love,
Sharon Gutschenritter*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ksl1987@embarqmail.com

Shelly Todd, Director (594-2921),

***Pandamania VBS ...** Our church became a panda haven during the week of July 10 – 14 and WOW! What a wonderful, exciting and energy filled week!! 151 kids registered for our Pandamania VBS. Record attendance during the week, with our highest night being 128 kids! 80+ adults and youth led the kids throughout the week. Everyone learned that God Is WILD About Us!! Woooo!! Throughout the week, the kids learned bible verses from Psalm 139. Each day they focused on a different bible point and each point was reinforced by a story in the bible. The kids learned that God created us, listens to us, watches over us, loves us NO MATTER WHAT, and that God gives good gifts. And during the week, the kiddoes participated in mission outreach to our community food pantry. It was so exciting to see God working in the lives of our Baldwin City kids. They were truly understanding that God is WILD about them and that they can share that love with others. THANK YOU, GOD!!!

***THANK YOU ...** to everyone who was a part of our Pandamania VBS. What wonderful station leaders and walking leaders ... adults and youth alike! It was so exciting to see God at work in everyone who came out to lend a hand in ministering to our wonderful kids. I also thank those who were a part of our ministry by providing food for our VBS volunteers and thank you to those who generously supported VBS financially by sponsoring kids for the event. And of course, THANK YOU for the prayers that blanketed the event. God was truly at work in this congregation as we ministered to community children and their families!

***RALLY DAY ...** We will kick off our brand new Sunday School year on August 28th with our Rally Day celebration. Come join us during the 9:30 Sunday School hour for fun activities as we look forward to a brand new year learning more about God 's great love for us!

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

Eva Durand, Director of Youth Ministry
(594-0345) 785.766.5803 or
eva3d@embarqmail.com

Sunday, July 31

3:30-5 -- Jr Hi Youth Group

6-8 -- Sr. Hi Youth Group

Sunday, August 7

3:30-5 -- Jr Hi Youth Group

6-8 -- Sr. Hi Youth Group

Sunday, August 14

9:30 -- ALL YOUTH meet for preparation for Youth-Led Worship Service

10:45 -- YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE, highlighting the Indiana Mission Trip

3:30-5 -- Jr Hi Youth Group

6-8 -- Sr. Hi Youth Group

Sunday, August 21

3:30-5 -- Jr Hi Youth Group KICK-OFF PARTY!! (All new 6th graders are invited to Youth Group!)

6-8 -- Sr Hi Youth Group KICK-OFF PARTY!! (All new freshmen are invited to Youth Group!)

Sunday, August 28

3:30-5 -- Jr Hi Youth Group

6-8 -- Sr. Hi Youth Group

Dear Friends,

*Thank you for your care and support after
the death of my father-in-law. The cards and visits
were so appreciated by Tom, me, and our family.*

Blessings,

Dianna Dillon

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Believing that all persons are created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ, the people of Baldwin First United Methodist Church understand that our neighbors include persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation and identity, economic or marital status, and physical and mental condition, and are welcome to participate in the life of our congregation.

**NEWS ITEMS FOR THE VINE NEED TO BE IN THE OFFICE
BY THE EVENING OF CHURCH COUNCIL**

Items received after evening of Church Council will not be in the Newsletter.

August 2011

Sunday Services	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Worship – Sanctuary
1st Monday	7:00 p.m.	Missions – Fellowship Hall
2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Trustees – Fellowship Hall
3rd Monday	7:00 p.m.	SPRC – Library
	7:00 p.m.	Finance – Chapel
4th Monday	7:00 p.m.	Church Council – Chapel
1st Saturday	9:30 a.m.	UMW Executive Board – Library
1st & 3rd Saturdays	7:30 a.m.	United Methodist Men – Vintage Park

Mon., Aug. 1	7:00 p.m.	Mission – Fellowship Hall
		Finance – Chapel
Tues., Aug. 9	7:00 p.m.	Trustees – Fellowship Hall
Mon., Aug. 15	7:00 p.m.	SPPRC – Library
Mon., Aug. 22	7:00 p.m.	Church Council – Chapel