

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. Dr. Connie Wilson

March 2011

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.

Greetings!

In a little over a week we will move into the liturgical season of Lent. We begin the Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday with a service of dust and ashes, symbolizing our human mortality and our sinful nature. We reflect on what separates us from God as we look both inward and outward to weigh the cost of discipleship. It is a time when we commit to practices such as prayer and Scripture meditation, moral inventory, and fasting - as well as acts of generosity and service. This is a wonderful time for baptism and reaffirming our own baptismal promises. We make this journey as individuals and as a community. Have you thought about what practice you might engage during these six weeks?

I am a person who is usually reading several books at a time. I read one about theology, one about church history or current trends, one about spirituality and one from another discipline. My reading also includes the Scriptures, both for sermon preparation and for personal spiritual formation. If you have been in our worship services over the last few weeks, you know I have been asking all of you to read the Bible as a consistent discipline. So, this is what I am doing as my Lenten practice. I am going to fast from books! I am only going to read the Bible, no other books. "No books, just the Bible!" So how will I do it? Will I read chronologically, from Genesis to Deuteronomy (The Pentateuch), or start with the Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John)? I'm still pondering and am open to your suggestions.

There was a day in 1994 when I made a commitment to God to become a radical disciple. For me, this meant to be radically available whenever, however, wherever God chose to use me. It meant listening and discerning the living word of God. My personal mission has been to know God and to make God know. Almost seventeen years later, I believe I know God better and I pray that in some way my life or ministry point others to God, that they might know God better. God reveals Himself in the living Word! To delve into the Word of God is to meet God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are many ways to study the Scriptures. Here are a few recommendations:

Begin with prayer.

Identify the type of literature it is; historical, biographical, poetic, proverbial, prophetic, a letter.
Ask these questions; who, what, when, where, why and how.
Identify the context by identifying facts, people and events.
Look for key words.
Identify key themes.
Pray to God for wisdom to discern how you might apply God's word to your own life.

I encourage you to get into the Word by yourself or get into a small group and begin to study the Bible together. I always learn more through both study and conversation. Everyone has a piece of the wisdom. There will be several opportunities for you during the Lenten season. I pray that we will all grow in knowledge and wisdom. Let me know if you have other ways to study and let's keep talking.

Starting with our Ash Wednesday service on March 9 at 7:00 we enter a new liturgical season, when we begin to examine ourselves, to admit to God our place and patterns of sin and to work at changing these with God's help. I pray we can take this journey together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Connie

THE UNITED METHODIST MEN ... will serve a breakfast in Fellowship Hall for all the men in the church, Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m. We want to invite you to come join us for good food and fellowship. The menu will consist of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee and juice. There is no agenda or program. We simply hope this will be a time that we can come together and get better acquainted with one another. We hope to see you March 5.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Bill Clement, Chair

I again want to remind all members of the congregation that you are welcome to attend our Council meetings on the 4th Monday of each month beginning at 7:00. This year we are meeting in the chapel. You can come just to listen and observe and see how the Council goes about its business. We also designate a time at the beginning of each meeting for members of the congregation to speak to the Council, if they so wish, on some topic that is of importance to them. It is always helpful for you to contact me ahead of time if you would like to address the Council.

In her message Sunday, Pastor Connie mentioned the opportunity we have as a church to engage in meaningful relationships with the staff and students at Baker University. One of the ways this is already being accomplished is our church being responsible for providing the meals for staff and students following the worship services at Osborne Chapel on Thursday mornings. Here is a ministry that you don't have to travel to some distant location or some foreign country to be a part of. And we certainly can use your help. We still need more folks to help prepare meals to serve about 50 people each week. These meals could consist of soup or chili along with a salad; some sandwiches and chips; any other meal that would be easy and inexpensive to prepare to serve about 50 people. Table service, drinks and dessert are provided through other sources. An alternative way of helping would be to contribute toward the cost of a meal as we often purchase pizza, deli sandwiches or meals from the cafeteria in the union. Any amount would be appreciated. Your checks can be made out to Baker University and would be tax deductible. You can give me your check or take it to Ira's office in the basement of Osborne Chapel. If you have any questions about this ministry, please don't hesitate to talk to me about it. I hope you will consider reaching out to our neighbors across the street in offering a helping hand. God bless.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

Food Pantry - The number of persons/families served continues to rise steadily. Thank you for your continued support.

LINK - BFUMC will be serving at LINK on April 2. Talk with Debbie Oakleaf, Nancy Arnold or John Beins if you would like to assist.

March Madness - The Missions team will be hosting "March Madness" at Collins Gymnasium on March 27th between 6pm and 8pm. Funds raised will support the Nothing But Nets project whose goal is to eradicate malaria by 2015 with worldwide distribution of mosquito nets. Come out and shoot some hoops for a worthy cause!

LENT... *Connecting gifts and talents through churches and community...*

The community choir and the chamber singers will sing at the Ash Wednesday service on March 9 at 7:00 p.m..

The BFUMC choir is collaborating with Edgerton FUMC to present John Rutter's Requiem on Maundy Thursday, April 21. The piece will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. It will be sung at BFUMC at the 7:00 service.

Save the date, invite your friends for two meaningful Lent experiences; Ash Wednesday to begin our journey and Maundy Thursday to remember the journey Jesus faced...

UMW ...

Donna Curran, President (594-2381)

UMW is hosting World Day of Prayer on March 4th at 6:30 pm. The program is from Chile. EVERYONE is welcome to attend.

Circle meetings this month-

Sarah - March 9th, 9:30 am at Wanda Samuels

Dorcas - March 16th, 1:30 pm at Vintage Park, Claire Wismer host

Eve - March 24th, 7 pm at Barbara Pressgrove

We invite you to attend, if you have any question please call Donna Curran Chair 594-2381

BIBLE STUDY ... A women's' Bible study will begin Tuesdays, March 22nd, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the church library. We will do an inductive study of the book of Philippians. There will be no purchase of a book, and a study Bible is recommended. If you would like to come or if you have any questions, please contact Lisa Hodges (785.241.1145 or lisa.hodges@bakeru.edu)

NEW GRANDSON ... *Martin and Barbara Pressgrove have been blessed with a new grandson – Jonas Isaiah Pressgrove, born February 13, 2011 in Craig Colorado. He is the son of David and Jennifer and has an older brother, Ryun.*

We are so grateful for the prayers, thoughtfulness, and cards during the illness and passing of Kelly's Dad. Blessing to you all.

-The Welches

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Shelly Todd, Director (594-2921), ksl1987@embarqmail.com

***Safe and Sacred Spaces Training:** The Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church requires that any adult (ages 18 and up) who works with children and/or youth complete a sexual abuse prevention program titled Safe and Sacred Spaces. There will be a Safe and Sacred Spaces training on **Saturday, March 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the church library.** Participants will need to download training forms and the training workbook at the Kansas East website (kansaseast.org). Simply click on the Safe and Sacred Spaces link on the left hand side of the page and it will take you to the Safe and Sacred Spaces page. The cost of the training is \$30 and participants need to come with all forms completed. Please be sure to make a copy of the forms for your own records, as well. Safe and Sacred Spaces Certification is good for 5 yrs. Thank you for helping us make sure that BFUMC is a safe place for kids and youth to learn about God and Jesus!

***Save the date:** Summer seems far away during these cold winter months, but it will arrive sooner than we think. We are already thinking about Vacation Bible School! Please save the dates of July 11-14 because Pandamania VBS is coming to town!! Beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m, kids will learn through Psalm 139 that God is WILD about them!

Last year, we ministered to 125 kids during our 5 day VBS! This year, our prayer goal is 150! To do this, we need lots of ministry partners. How can YOU be a ministry partner? We need loving adults and youth to help and assist at activity stations. We also need adults and youth to act as walking leaders. If you cannot physically be present at VBS, maybe you would like to financially support VBS. And one of the best ways you can support our VBS is through your prayers. Contact Shelly if you would like to hear more about VBS or to offer your hand in ministry!

***Nursery:** Baldwin FUMC offers nursery services each Sunday morning beginning at 9:15 a.m. and ending at the end of our morning worship service (roughly 12:00 p.m.). Our nursery is located in the basement level of the church and can be found under the stairs that lead to the first floor. We provide nursery for children ages infant through 3 years old. Our nursery is staffed by 2 paid attendants each Sunday morning (all are Baker University students) and all of our nursery staff have received Safe and Sacred Space Training (an abuse prevention program through the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church), as well as having passed criminal background checks. We strive to provide a safe and loving space for our youngest congregants.

***Sunday School:** Our Sunday School classes begin at 9:30 a.m. The Children's Ministry at BFUMC offers Sunday School for toddlers through grade 5. Children ages preschool through 3rd grade gather at 9:30 in the Chapel for a 15 minute opening time of singing, visiting, and praying, after which they are dismissed to their teachers for the remaining Sunday School hour. Toddlers, 4th, and 5th graders report directly to their classrooms at 9:30. Sunday School dismisses at 10:30 a.m. We ask that parents please pick up toddlers through 1st grade students directly from their child's classroom. 2nd grade through 5th grade students are dismissed from their classrooms and instructed to meet up with their parents in the church Chapel.

*Baldwin FUMC strives to create a safe and sacred environment in which children can learn about God and His great love for them. Teachers working with children and youth have completed Safe and Sacred Space training and have passed criminal background checks. We strive to have 2 adult teachers in the Sunday School classroom each Sunday. Below is a list of our Sunday School classes, the location of the classroom, and their teachers. We look forward to seeing your child in Sunday School!

Toddlers and Twos: nursery, Jennifer Rolland.

Preschool: basement level by the elevator; Jean Baldwin, Donna Curran, Beth O'Neil

KDG-1st grade: 2nd floor; Rose O'Dea, Marve' Ralston, Vonna Torneden

2nd-3rd grade: 2nd floor; Samantha Cheek, Hank Darnell, Cora Martin

4th-5th grade: 2nd floor; Angela Murray, Becky Thomas, Gayla Waymire

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

Eva Durand, Director (594-0345) eva3d@embarqmail.com,

TO SAVE A LIFE * Free Community Movie Night * Sunday, March 27, 6:00pm Baldwin 1st UMC * 8th & Grove Streets

TO SAVE A LIFE is the story of all-American teen Jake Taylor, who seems to have it all. But after a childhood friend's death, Jake's world turns upside down, and he is forced to make a decision that could change his life forever. TO SAVE A LIFE is about making unexpected choices and sacrifices, while having the courage and determination to persevere against all odds.

Last year our small community was devastated by three suicides within a short period of time. We all struggled with putting understanding on the devastation. Our youth want to come together to help us learn to understand and heal... this film can be a starting point for that on-going, open communication.

At some point, every teen has to decide: "What's my life going to be about?" *TO SAVE A LIFE* dares to bring that question into their world, encouraging them to answer it with boldness, honesty and compassion.

TO SAVE A LIFE has started a movement across the country. In communities just like ours, groups are working together to make an organized effort to reach local teens in crisis. Groups like ours are dedicated to offering every teen the opportunity to see this film and hear its powerful message of hope. **Will you please join us? Simply come to the movie night and encourage teenagers and parents to come too.**

In response to the movie's tough topics (*social division, school violence, cutting, suicide, teen pregnancy, alcohol use, and divorce*), we will have a time of small-group discussion directly following the movie for all who want to participate. Helping professionals will be available for those who may be dealing with some of these issues and need to talk. For more in-depth follow up, beginning on Sunday, April 10 the CROSS Culture Youth Group (which is open to every teenager in town) will be hosting a weekly To Save A Life series. All high school teens are invited to come be a part of this powerful learning experience.

For more information about our event, please contact me. More information about *TO SAVE A LIFE* can be found at **ToSaveALifeMovie.com**.

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Sunday, March 6:

3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group

PAYMENT: Mission Trippers: WorkCamp payment due today! Make check to "Group WorkCamps" for \$155.

RSVP/PAYMENT: 4/1 Young Christians' Weekend at Silver Dollar City RSVP/\$42 ticket deposit money due today.

Sunday, March 20:

3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group

Sunday, March 27:

6:00pm: "To Save A Life" Community Movie EVENT

Tuesday, March 29; 6:00pm: Silver Dollar City ADULT SPONSORS Meeting

Friday, April 1, 4:00pm – Sunday, April 3, 6:00pm:

4pm Friday Young Christian's Weekend in Silver Dollar City!
to 6pm Sun Be a part of amazing concerts by Christian rock groups, hear inspiring messages from some of the most respected youth speakers of our time, and thrill your heart with over 30 rides and attractions!
Total Cost = \$125+ food (\$42 for ticket + \$83 for hotel/transportation).
RSVP with ticket money of \$42 due 3/6. Hotel/transportation money of \$83 due 4/1.

I want to thank each of you for all of the prayers of support during Bob's illness. He went home to be with the Lord on November 20, 2010 and will be greatly missed. Your prayers have sustained me during this difficult time and I can never thank you enough. God has been faithful and surrounded me with his love and has met each of mine and my families needs. Thank you again and may God continue to bless each of you with his love and grace.

Love in Christ, Ina M. Benz and family

**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.

March 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
Each Tuesday	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study from March 22 – April 26
Each Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
1st Saturday	9:30 a.m.	UMW Executive Board – Library
1st & 3rd Saturdays	7:30 a.m.	United Methodist Men – Vintage Park

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Fri., March 4	6:30 p.m.	World Day of Prayer – Sanctuary
Sat., March 5	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast for Men of the Church – served by UMM
Wed., March 9	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service – Sanctuary
Sat., March 12	9:00 a.m.	Safe and Sacred Spaces Training – Library