

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)*

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**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 hope and trust that everyone was as uplifted during our Advent and Christmas seasons as I was. What a wonderful time of praying, listening, decorating, singing, playing, and experiencing once again the anticipation and celebration of the birth of Emmanuel, God-with-us, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

This church is wonderfully blessed with talented and remarkable musicians who are able to play, sing, dance and communicate the musical message in such uplifting ways. My thanks goes to the all of them for their extra work. It was appreciated!

When I asked this question of someone the other day, the answer seemed to both of us to be "yes". Does it seem that January is the fastest month of the year? I know others seem fast as well, but January always seems to fly by us. All the things that I put off in December to do later are still there waiting to be done. And that month goes fast. Here we are to February already.

Debbie and I are now moved to the new parsonage. That move took place in the latter part of January (adding to the list of things needing to be done). We thank you all for your approval of the purchase of that house, to the Trustees for their work in making the purchase and in making improvements to the house, to the crew who helped us move, and to all who helped in other ways, including providing food. We thank you and we appreciate it very much.

I am pleased to let you know that at the January meeting of our Church Council, approval was given to an *Adult Education and Ministries Council*. I am aware that such a thing has been discussed for some time and now it is here. This church is also wonderfully blessed to have strong children's and youth ministries. Structure was needed for adult ministries as well.

This *Council* will have these responsibilities: organizing and supervising all adult Christian education matters, including starting classes or programs and use of material, literature or media; encouraging adults of all ages to participate in the Sunday morning Christian Education program of the church as well as other Christian Education programs; encouraging the use of United Methodist materials, literature and media; organizing, planning and implementing local mission education tours of United Methodist ministries; encouraging adults to be involved in the overall life of the church and faith; and, instructing adults in the use of John Wesley's theological guidelines (the "quadrilateral"), and using it in practice and decision making.

Look for this *Council* to be formed and begin their work soon.

Though, as noted, we only recently completed the Advent and Christmas seasons, the season of *Lent* begins this month, on February 22, Ash Wednesday.

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. (from THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP)."

And, *"Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. . . . The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes for this service. (also from THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP)."*

We will begin this penitential season with such a worship service at 7 o'clock that night. The Baker University Minister, Rev. Dr. Ira DeSpain and I will lead this service. We will have music from the Baker Community Choir, the Baker University Chamber Choir, singing of traditional hymns appropriate for the day, and the imposition of ashes.

I hope you will plan to be present for this worship service.

I also invite you to a Lenten weekday Bible study during the season. I will be teaching this class on Thursdays. I'll tell you more later.

I pray for you a blessed and meaningful season of Lent.

SHALOM,
Paul

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bill Clement, Chair.

We have begun a new church year. We can look back at 2011 and be thankful for the mission and ministry that was accomplished by the members of this congregation. A lot of that was due to the leadership of the individuals who chaired the various committees and teams within our organizational structure or contributed in some other way. We can look forward to the same kind of leadership in 2012. Here are the people who will make up your leadership team this year:

Staff

Paul Babcock – Pastor

Dianna Dillon - Office manager

Eva Durand - Director of Youth Ministries

Dexter Gratts - Custodian

Shelly Todd - Director of Children's Ministries

Matthew Potterton - Worship Arts Director

Gary Keller - Organist/Pianist

(This year we will add two positions to the staff, a part-time bookkeeper and an assistant director of Children's Ministries.)

Church Council

Olivia Beins - Youth Representative

Bill Clement - Chairperson

David Cook - Young Adult Representative

Donna Curran - Chairperson of United Methodist Women

Mike Curran - Chairperson of Finance Committee

Carolyn Groves - Lay Leader

Martha Harris - Treasurer/Bookkeeper (Until new staff person is hired)

Adam Hazelwood - Chairperson of Trustees

Chris Lawrenz - Chairperson of Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Dan Neuenswander - Chairperson of United Methodist Men

Clay Thomas - Youth Representative

Kathleen Thomas - Lay Delegate

Advisory Members to Church Council

Carl Butell - Chairperson of Endowment Committee

Kathy Cook - Recording Secretary

Wanda Council - Membership Secretary

Laura Dickinson - Chairperson Mission Team

Ruth Dickinson/Kathleen Thomas - Co-chairpersons of Worship Team

Bill and Anita Neuenswander - Co-Chairpersons of Caring Ministries Team

Janet Venable - Financial Secretary

Richard Wellman - Church Historian

Connie Neuenswander - Chairperson of Welcoming/Membership Team

Ruth Ann Nutt - Chairperson of Memorials Team

Michelle Swain - Wedding Coordinator

Becky Thomas - Chairperson Technology/Communication Team

There are many other individuals that serve as members of the various committees and teams that have been listed. All of them contribute in a significant way in carrying out the mission and ministry of the church. Please give them your support during the year and, if you are not a member of one of the committees or teams, consider volunteering to help in some capacity next year.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY ... On Sunday, February 5th, all women are invited to sing together in celebration of United Methodist Women Sunday. Wear something red, if possible, to honor Women's Heart Awareness month. We will practice Wednesday, February 1st, at 7:00 p.m. for 15 minutes, and again on Sunday, February 5th at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All women are invited to join in singing a special arrangement of "Steal Away". Please come!

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY MEAL ... On Sunday, February 19th, right after Church, the Welcome Team will be hosting a Membership Inquiry Meal for families who have been attending our Church on a regular basis and would like to have some information about becoming members. If you would like to attend, please call Connie Neuenswander, 594-4254 or 785-766-0538.

END OF 2001 FINANCE REPORT

Mike Curran, Finance Chairman

I am happy to report that Baldwin First United Methodist Church finished the year \$322 in the black. Thank you to all those people who contributed to help us make our budget last year. This is the third year in a row that we have finished the year with a positive balance.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we increased our 2012 budget by \$17,000. This is a huge leap of faith since our pledges from the stewardship campaign were only for about 55% of the new budget. You can keep track of where we stand financially on a monthly basis on the bulletin board in the basement beside the east door. Three charts are displayed there showing our financial situation in giving, expenses and how we compare to our yearly budget. Stop by and take a look. The next financial report will be in the VINE at the end of the first quarter in April.

Thank you for supporting the church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service.

FIRST UMC PRAYER CHAIN ... It's time to get our prayer chain updated. The prayer chain keeps us connected throughout the week. It helps us to focus on others instead of ourselves. We have a committed group of people currently on the prayer chain and would like to add those who are interested. We ask that you pray immediately after you get your email or call, then contact the next person on your list. If at all possible, try to keep a list and pray for those in need of prayer daily. Call Linda Ballinger if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

Call or email Linda Ballinger (594-3194), lindababe43@yahoo.com if you have a prayer request. Linda will then contact Prayer Chain members.

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

MLK Work Day - Almost 50 folks joined in a variety of service projects on Martin Luther King Day, giving to the Baldwin community and the world community. The Food Pantry has a fresh coat of paint, the carpet was cleaned and all the shelving cleaned before restocking. Toys from the church nursery were steam cleaned and children created works of art with well wishes for local nursing home residents. 13 hand sewn book bags, 22 sewing kits, 44 birthing kits and 25 school kits were assembled and readied for delivery to UMCOR. It was a great day and great way to give hands to service.

Global Missions Experience: Connecting with the Haiti Covenant

The conference Board of Global Ministries and the Haiti Task Force are excited to sponsor, "Connecting with the Haiti Covenant" February 25th at Grace UMC in Olathe from 9am to 3pm. Speakers and workshop leaders will bring inspiration, ways to respond to the needs, information about ongoing trips and projects, and active workshops for children and youth. This quadrennial event helps us explore and understand the United Methodist international missions outreach. The focus for 2012 is the covenant between the Kansas East Conference and the Haitian Methodist Church. The speakers and workshops will include Melissa Crutchfield of UMCOR, President Gesner Paul of the Haiti Methodist Church, Rev. Jim Guley of UMCOR and Vince Gallagher, author of "The True Cost of Low Prices." The registration deadline is Feb. 10, and the cost is \$15 for adults. The Missions team will provide for the cost of registration for those interested in participating. If you are interested, please contact Laura Dickinson.

LINK - March 3

BFUMC will serve at LINK on March 3rd. Chili and grilled cheese sandwiches are on the menu, a favorite at LINK. If you are interested in helping serve the meal, or provide desserts, please visit with John Beins or Debbie Oakleaf.

CEF - February is a good time to show your heart by supporting the Community Emergency Fund. To learn more about the needs CEF meets and how you can help, please visit with Donna Reed.

March Madness - The Nothing but Nets event is right around the corner. Stay tuned for more details!

Food Pantry - Countless thanks are in order to all the folks who assisted with the Food Pantry during the holiday season. It was a holiday season for many, because of you and your generosity. The food pantry is well stocked and funded presently. We recently began working with the Just Food program, a food distribution center in Lawrence. Frozen meats and other miscellaneous items available through the program have enhanced what the Food Pantry is providing. Just Food is a great partner in addressing food poverty issues in Baldwin. In 2011, the Food Pantry served 5768 individuals.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be from July 8 – July 12. More in next month's Vine.

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Sunday, February 5:

5:00pm

Super Bowl Party at Russ & Eva's

Jr. High and Sr. High students: Bring a snack and come join the football fun! Our address is 910 Monroe St.

Sunday, February 12:

3:30-5:00pm

Jr. High Youth Group

6:00-8:00pm

Sr. High Youth Group

RSVP:

WinterJam 2012 (2/17). No money due today, just RSVP for ride. \$10 ticket money due at the door.

Friday, February 17, 1:15pm - Sunday, February 19, 2:00am:

1:15pm Fri

GameDay 2012 dare2share Event; Lincoln, NE

-bus leaves @ 1:30 sharp-

Pour into 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and come away motivated to follow the charge to **Go** (preach the Word), **Fight** (for your friends), and **Win** (the reward)! Be inspired, get equipped, and discover the unstoppable power of the gospel through high-impact multimedia, live drama, live music, and teaching.

Total Cost = \$135+ food (\$55 ticket + \$80 hotel/transportation). dare2share.org/gameday

RSVP with ticket money of \$55 due 1/22. Hotel/transportation money (of \$80) due 2/17.

3:00pm

WinterJam 2012; Sprint Center, Kansas City, MO

(If you're not attending GameDay 2012)

Leave Baldwin @3pm. Doors open @5pm. Show ends @10:30pm. Tickets are \$10 @door. LINE UP: Skillet, Sanctus Real, NewSong, Peter Furler, Building429, Kari Jobe, & Guest Speaker Nick Hall. RSVP for ride by 2/12.

Sunday, February 26:

12:00pm

Beach Party Cook Out Youth Mission Fundraiser *(a youth ministries/fellowship activities event)*

All Youth will assist to provide set-up, serving, and clean-up for this all-community fundraising lunch.

3:30-5:00pm

Jr. High Youth Group

6:00-8:00pm

Sr. High Youth Group

The First United Methodist Church
 704 Eighth Street, PO Box 25
 Baldwin City, KS 66006
 (Phone: 785-594-6612)
www.baldwinfirst.org

<p>Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Baldwin City, KS 66006 PERMIT NO. 10</p>
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Return Service Requested

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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.

February 2012

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
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Sun., Feb. 5	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Sun., Feb. 12	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Sun., Feb. 19	after church	Membership Inquiry Meal
	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Sun., Feb. 26	after church	Beach Party Cook-Out Youth Mission Fundraiser – Fellowship Hall
	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class