

# ***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.***

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## **PAUL'S PAGE:**

An adventurous Advent to you all!

We are now into that season of the church year, the four Sundays prior to Christmas, when we decorate, anticipate, expect, seek, wish, want, bake, shop, wrap, pray, sing, prepare, and most of all, hope. What a wonderful season!

The word **advent** comes from the Latin word *advenire*, from which we also receive the word **adventure**. **Advent** is "a coming or arrival, as of any important event or person (*Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary*). To go on an adventure or to be adventurous is to take a risk, to take a chance, to risk loss, to venture, to go. Isn't that what we celebrate that God does in sending Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, the incarnate One, to us? He comes to us to arrive in our world, our lives, and our hearts, to take a great chance on making a difference.

Has such a difference been made for you? Has it begun for you, yet?

Jeffrey Kanode's creative writing appears in the November-December, 2011, issue of *Alive Now*:

### **"Now It Begins**

Do angels still sing?  
Do shepherds still journey?  
Do wise men still have gifts to give?

After all this time  
Could there still be  
Songs yet unsung  
Strength left unspent  
Gifts still to give

Every year, every day  
The mystery still unfolds anew.  
Still in the Word  
Still in the Church  
Still in this tired world  
God whispers  
"See what my love can do?"  
See what my love can do.  
Lepers embraced:  
Untouchables touched.  
Fishermen and tax collectors  
Became apostles, saints."

Let it begin this Advent, and always. Let the difference be made this Advent, and always. Let the love be shared this Advent, and always.

In this Advent, may we prepare to open our hearts to hope, to be the hope, to live the hope that is Christ in His Church. Let it begin.

An adventurous Advent! And Merry Christmas.

**SHALOM,**  
Paul

**MISSIONS**

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

**LINK** - BFUMC will be serving the LINK meal on December 3rd at 12:30. If you are interested in helping with serving or providing desserts, please contact Debbie Oakleaf at 785-766-9394.

**BISHOPS ROUNDUP** - Adult and children's clothing weighing in at almost 500 pounds, accompanied by food products, birthing kits, school kits and health kits arrived at Douglas County Fairgrounds on November 19th, representing Baldwin First UMC. Thank you BFUMC for your generosity and support in this very important Kansas East Conference event. A special thanks to the youth and adults who assisted in packing and transporting!!!!

**TOPS TO TOES** - The tree in the Narthex is covered with hats, gloves, socks and underwear which will provide warmth for children in need in our community. Please fill the tree and gift boxes beneath the tree with gifts of warmth!!

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS** - A table in the Narthex is full of gift ideas which reflect a different kind of Christmas. For example, buy a goat, a flock of geese, a llama through Heifer International. A charitable gift through Heifer International, a United Methodist partner, provides animals and training to help families around the world build a better future for themselves and their communities. Traditionally, recipient families give the first offspring of the animal they receive to another family in need, and the gift, quite literally, keeps on giving.

**FOOD PANTRY** - In January of 2008, the food pantry served 15 families. In November of 2011, the food pantry served 179 families. Individuals facing food insecurity increases daily, with higher concentrations in children, women and elders. Thank you BFUMC for your steady support of this important community outreach!!!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Work Day** - Please mark your calendars and join us on January 16, 2012. Missions will be sponsoring a work day with opportunities to put your faith into action. *"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace...a soul generated by love."* —Martin Luther King, Jr.

2011 has been a productive missional year at BFUMC. As we experience the world around us, the call is even more pressing to follow John Wesley's mandate, "do all the good you can in all the places you can with all the people you can." Let us keep our hearts and minds open as we walk in our faith, seeking all the possibilities yet unseen.

**TURKEY DINNER THANK YOU ...** Eve Circle of the UMW would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Turkey Dinner a HUGE success. People from so many groups throughout the church stepped up and volunteered. We could not have done it without all of your help. Thanks so much to the United Methodist Men for setting up the tables and chairs. Our fantastic youth group, leaders AND parents manned the dining room and phones. Our men who volunteered to carve turkeys and deliver meals. Women from all over the church donated pies, baked turkeys and cornbread, made salads, and chopped everything in sight. We had one very special kindergartner who was a great helper. Our tables were beautifully decorated. Thanks to the Pie Room volunteers – Great Job! And the women who manned the serving line and worked as cashiers – Thank you! There were so many of you who just came in and helped with the clean-up without even being asked. We were done by 8:00 p.m. and on our way home. The fellowship was truly amazing, too.

Thanks to everyone,  
Eve Circle

### Great Soup Cook Off – Fellowship Hall

December 11, 2011, After Children's Christmas Program  
*Come and vote on your favorite! Prizes given to top 3*

*If you would like to bring a soup, please sign up in the Narthex*



### UMW CHRISTMAS TEA

At Vintage Park

December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

*All Women are Invited!*



***You're invited to ...***  
**Joe Simunac's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**  
***In Fellowship Hall***  
***On Sunday, December 18 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.***  
***No gifts please***

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES** ... We wish to thank all those who have given of their time and talent to make our worship together a vital experience. Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists, Choir, Children's Time leaders – thank you one and all.

We hope you will continue to offer your services. Also thanks to all who serve as unofficial greeters making folks feel welcome at First UMC. May this season of anticipation bring a closer relationship to God as we serve Him.  
 - Ruth Dickinson & Kathleen Thomas

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Shelly Todd, Director of Children's Ministries  
 (594-2921), [ksl1987@embarqmail.com](mailto:ksl1987@embarqmail.com)

**\*Children's Christmas Program:** The Children's Christmas Program will take place on December 11<sup>th</sup> during the 10:45 church service. Join the kids as they share the story of Jesus' birth through the program "Operation Baby King". In addition to Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Angel, Shepherds, and Wise Men, you will meet a group of spies who are also looking for the newborn king in order to claim the Christ Child for their own country. These spies learn in the end that Jesus came for ALL PEOPLE! We hope that you can join us on December 11<sup>th</sup>!

**\*Sunday School:** Due to Christmas being on a Sunday, we will not have Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup>. We WILL have Sunday School on New Years Day and look forward to welcoming the new year with the kids!

**\*Children's Church:** Please take note that there will not be Children's Church on December 11<sup>th</sup> (due to the Children's Christmas program) and on December 25<sup>th</sup> (due to it being Christmas Day).

**\*Christmas Eve Service:** The nursery will be open as a "cry room" during both Christmas Eve services. Parents are invited to use the room if little ones are restless during services.

**\*Nursery on December 25<sup>th</sup>:** Due to it being Christmas Day, our nursery attendants will be celebrating the day with their families. There will not be supervision in the nursery on Christmas Day, but we will have the nursery open and available to parents who need to have a quiet place for their little ones.

**\*Teaching opportunity:** The Children's Sunday School program is in need of a teacher for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School class. This teacher will join a team of 2 other teachers and will share teaching responsibilities. The only requirements are a love for God and a love for kids! On the job training and user friendly teaching materials. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Shelly.

**CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY**

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

**Sunday, December 4:** Baker University Vespers *(not a Youth Ministry sponsored activity)*

**Sunday, December 11:**  
 3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group

**Sunday, December 18:** Youth Christmas Parties!  
 3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Party 6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Party  
 Youth (Jr. High from 3:30-5 and Sr. High \*and YG Alums\* from 6-8) gather for a Celebration & a new twist on the white elephant gift exchange! Don't forget a wrapped white elephant gift!

**Spring/Summer Event Dates:**

**January 8, 2012: Youth Group activities begin again after Christmas Break.**  
**January 28 – January 29, 2012: CCYM (Conference) Spiritual Life Retreat for Sr. High Youth Group**  
**February 17 – February 18, 2012: "Game Day" Dare2Share Event in Lincoln, NE**  
**March 30 – April 1, 2012: Young Christians' Weekend at Silver Dollar City**  
**June 22 – July 1, 2012: Youth Mission WorkCamp 2012 to Ocean View, Delaware**  
**July 15 – July 19, 2012: VBS – Vacation Bible School**

June 17 - 23, 2012 Session 1: Institute 2012 at Baker University

July 15 – 21, 2012 Session 2: Institute 2012 at Baker University

**INSTITUTE is for all students going into the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, plus graduating seniors. The week is filled with silliness, friendship and opportunities to build a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Cost is expected to be \$350 with a \$25 reduction for early-bird registration by May 1, 2012. You may register on-line after February 1 at [kansaseast.org](http://kansaseast.org)**

**Questions, please contact:**

Eva Durand, director of youth ministries, at 594.0345, 785.766.5803, or [eva3d@embarqmail.com](mailto:eva3d@embarqmail.com).

Kim Farmer, for Sr. High Youth information, at 785.393.2586.

David Cook, for Jr. High Youth information, at 785.393.1496.

*The First United Methodist Church*  
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 (Phone: 785-594-6612)

[www.baldwinfirst.org](http://www.baldwinfirst.org)

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

*"Thanks" to all of you for the hugs, good wishes and cards. You made my birthday a day to remember!*

*Ruth Ann Nult*

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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.  
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**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.**

**December 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
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Sat., Dec. 3	12:30 p.m.	LINK – BFUMC will be serving the meal in Lawrence
Sun., Dec. 4	4:00 & 7:30 p.m.	Baker University's Vespers - Sanctuary
Mon., Dec. 5	7:00 p.m.	Missions – Fellowship Hall
Sun., Dec. 11		No Children's Sunday School
	during worship	Children's Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
	after church	The Great Soup Cook Off – Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Dec. 15	6:30 p.m.	UMW Christmas Tea at Vintage Park ( <i>every woman is welcome</i> )
Sun., Dec. 18	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Joe Simunac's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – Fellowship Hall
Sat., Dec. 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service – family oriented service
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion – traditional service
Sun., Dec. 25		No Children's Sunday School