

# ***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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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Connie Wilson

June 2011

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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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Greetings!

I write this last Vine article to you as I sit looking out my window across the brick, tree-lined street to the Baker campus. It's raining outside – again. There is thunder and there is lightning. The weather has not been kind to the Midwest in the past week. Tragedy has been present this year. What I know is that people in this church will do whatever they can to come to the assistance of those impacted.

Someone has said the best prayers are *help* and *thank you*. Over the last three years I have tried to lead through prayer and discernment. The prayer I found myself saying the most was and is *thank you!* God and all of you have offered help in so many ways. Because of each of you I have seen the love of Christ and have found a stronger attitude of gratitude. Thank you each.

It has been my privilege to love and serve God with all of you in this place. You have allowed me to share in your lives, both the good and the not so great. You have invited me into your homes, to get to know your families. We have made the journey from birth to Baptism to Confirmation to Eagle Scouts to graduation to marriage. We have shared sickness and health, the Table of the Lord, and at times, the experience of death. The good news is, we are Resurrection people and we rest in the promise of shared, eternal life.

As I pray for the future of Baldwin First United Methodist Church I have the assurance that God will provide for her continuing life and vitality. You are all so faithful. As Rev. Paul and his family come to join you on the continuing journey I will be praying for the blessings that come with this kind of change, trusting God in the process to deliver more than any of us could ask or imagine. I believe that the next years will be the best years for this amazing church! You are in good hands – God's hands. I will watch and listen with an attitude of anticipation.

Know that I have loved being your pastor. I love you all and I will miss you profoundly. My prayer this day is **Thank You! Amen.**

Grace and peace,  
Connie

**THREE WEEKS...** That's all that is left as the clock ticks down on the time we still have Connie with us as our pastor. She came at a time when there was a lot of uncertainty as to the direction our congregation was heading. We had lost a number of members and attenders who had been a part of our church family for quite some time. We didn't seem to know who we were or what our mission was. The first year she was here, rather than imposing her will as a way of leading the church, she simply took time to get to know us, assess where we had been and evaluate how she might help us get to where we wanted to go. The second year she helped us establish a vision for the church, emphasizing that it would be up to us to continue to carry out the vision no matter who our pastor might be. This past year she has been working with us to further strengthen the church spiritually, missionally and relationally. We are a much better church for having had Connie with us for the past three years. We wish we could have Connie here for a few more years, but wish her well as she moves on to her next appointment. I encourage you, in these next three weeks, to share with Connie something that has been meaningful to you during the time she has been at Baldwin First.

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

**Food Pantry** - The food pantry is serving new people each week and the overall numbers continue to climb. With school coming to a close for the year, there will be a greater need for those families with children. The particular needs at this time include: peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned meats, canned spaghetti/ravioli, hamburger helper, dried fruit, nuts and paper and personal products. Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry with gifts of food products, donations and prayer.

**Disaster Relief** - Tornado relief to Reading, Kansas and Joplin, Missouri

Disaster Relief teams are forming through the Kansas East Conference to go to the areas devastated by the recent area storms. Another way the United Methodist Church is providing assistance is through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). 100% of the funds you donate to UMCOR go directly to the stated cause. If you interested in donating funds for storm relief, you may make a check to Baldwin First, with the designation of UMCOR or send a check directly to:

Advance GCFA  
P.O. Box 9068, GPO  
New York, NY 10087-9068  
Advance # 3021326

\*\*It is important to include the advance #, as it is specific to funds going to support UMCOR's emergency response to tornado and flood victims of the spring storms of 2011.

**Cleaning Buckets** - The Kansas East Conference (KEC) is asking each church to bring a cleaning bucket to Kansas East Annual Conference. If each church in the KEC brings a flood bucket to conference, it will provide 324 buckets. The buckets are a tangible way to provide assistance after a disaster, enabling people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane. Flood bucket information will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs and in the Narthex. **How many buckets will Baldwin First UMC send to annual conference?**

## **FELLOWSHIP AND ACTIVITIES ...**

Donna Curran 594-2381

Please join the Staff Pastor Parish Relations and Fellowship Committees on June 5<sup>th</sup> after worship service for a church family potluck picnic on the church lawn to honor Pastor Connie. A basket will be on the table for cards to thank Connie for her time with us. Drinks, flatware and paper goods will be provided. In case of inclement weather we will meet in Fellowship Hall.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Shelly Todd, Director (594-2921), [ksl1987@embarqmail.com](mailto:ksl1987@embarqmail.com)

**Vacation Bible School:** Pandamania VBS is coming to Baldwin First! Please mark your calendars for July 10-14th, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Children ages 3 through 5th grade (last grade completed) are invited to come and learn all about how God is WILD about them! Each day borrows a verse from Psalm 139. Pandamania VBS is sure to be an exciting time for everyone!

Last summer, we ministered to approximately 135 children at VBS. Our prayer goal for Pandamania VBS is to minister to 150 children! In order to minister to such a large number of kids, we need lots of loving adult and youth ministry partners to come and be a part of the fun. Currently, I need energetic individuals to be walking leaders. Being a walking leader is the easiest and most fun way to be a part of VBS. There is no advanced preparation required to be a walking leader and walking leaders get to go to every station w/ the kids and participate in the fun activities. And, all VBS volunteers are provided a light snack supper each evening from 5:15-6:00, thanks to the generosity of loving church family members. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful ministry, please contact Shelly and she will gladly sign you on!

Can't physically be a part of VBS? Then maybe you would be interested in helping provide a meal for VBS workers? Or maybe you would like to donate money to help support VBS? And, of course, your prayers are greatly appreciated as well. I am so excited to see what God will do in the hearts of children, youth, and adults alike during the course of Pandamania VBS.

**Summer Substitutes:** The BFUMC Children's Ministry program is looking for summer substitute teachers for both Sunday School and Children's Church. In most cases, substitutes will be acting as assistants for a 'regular' Sunday School or Children's Church leader. Serving as a substitute is a wonderful way for individuals to find out if Children's Ministries is the right fit for their service in ministry! Please contact Shelly if you would like to learn more about being a substitute!

**2nd/3rd grade Sunday School Teacher opening:** Beginning in June, there will be an opening in our 2nd/3rd grade Sunday School staff. Please prayerfully consider if you might be the one that God is calling into this ministry. If you feel a tug at your heart and would like to be a part of the 2nd/3rd grade team, please contact Shelly for more information!

## CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

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

**Sunday, June 5,** 6:00-8:00pm: Combined Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Group

**Sunday, June 12,** 12:00pm: WorkCamper Tool Packing Party

**June 18–June 25:** Youth Mission WorkCamp 2011 trip to Hammond, IN.

**Sunday, July 3,** 12:00pm: WorkCamper Tool UN-Packing Party

**July 10–July 14,** 5:30-9:30pm: Children's Vacation Bible School / Service Opportunity

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

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

**Return Service Requested**



*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.

**June 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

Sun., June 5	after church	Please join the Staff Pastor Parish Relations and Fellowship Committees on June 5 <sup>th</sup> after worship service for a church family potluck picnic on the church lawn to honor Pastor Connie. A basket will be on the table for cards to thank Connie for her time with us. Drinks, flatware and paper goods will be provided. In case of inclement weather we will meet in Fellowship Hall.
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July 10-14	6:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School
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