

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

April 2011

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

Greetings,

We continue our Lenten journey which began on **Ash Wednesday** with a service of dust and ashes, symbolizing our human condition. I asked you to consider committing to a practice such as prayer, Scripture reading, reflection, and fasting - as well as acts of generosity and service. Many have accepted this invitation and have entered this time of reflection and action. This year Lent has seemed longer than in past years, perhaps because Easter comes later this year. I am grateful for time to pause, pay attention and anticipate with each passing day the amazing gift God has given us in the person and work of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! Already it has been a rich season.

If you weren't in worship on Sunday, we missed you. It was a wonderful day all around. On Sunday morning, we shared the sacrament of Baptism with people of all ages, we received new members into this church family, we shot hoops in Collins Gymnasium to raise money to purchase nets that will prevent malaria and then, we offered hospitality to over 150 high school students, parents and youth leaders who watched the movie "To Save a Life." Many stayed to engage in small group discussion. Thanks to the leadership of Eva Durrand, many entered the church – some for the first time. Everyone was welcomed by many friendly faces at each entrance and by a concession counter full of free popcorn, candy and pop. Every action said, "Welcome and we are so glad you are here." This doesn't happen without intentionality, good planning and many people concerned about and willing to invest in the lives of youth! The movie event will be followed with curriculum that will continue to address the issues in our youth lives through Bible study, prayer and group discussions. Thanks to Laura Dickinson and our missions team who lead us to put our faith in action as we serve God and our neighbor locally and globally!

I look forward to the next three weeks leading up to Easter. Our children will learn about the events of the last week of Jesus' life and share those stories with us through Sunday school on Palm Sunday. Once again, this ministry would not happen without the leadership of Shelly Todd and an amazing team of dedicated and creative teachers who love and guide our kids to learn what it means to be a disciple, no matter what age. Thanks also to the folks who share their faith each week in the worship service through the children's sermons and then in children's church. Thanks to Matthew Potterton, Gary Keller, Russ Durrand and all who offer the gift of voice and music! On **Maundy Thursday** our choir will partner with Edgerton United Methodist Church to perform John Rutter's Requiem. It will give us yet another opportunity to offer hospitality and share our blessings with our neighbors. Be sure to invite your friends for the performance and a time of gathering and refreshment immediately following.

Over the years I have made it a tradition to attend a prayer vigil somewhere on **Good Friday** and then have lunch with a group of old friends. It is a time of pondering the work of Jesus on the cross, and of his work in our lives over the last year. I invite you to think about marking this profound day in some way for yourself. As we are busy preparing for Easter celebrations on **Holy Saturday**, pause and remember once again the mystery of this day as many around the globe hold vigil in anticipation of Sunday morning!

If you haven't picked up your copy of the Common English New Testament, please do. Together we are reading the Gospel of John. This is the Lenten reading plan: Week 1, Chapter 1; Week 2, Chapters 2 & 3; Week 3, Chapters 4 & 5; Week 4, Chapters 6 & 7; Week 5, Chapters 7-10; and Easter Week, Chapters 10-21. On Palm Sunday I will be giving you my notes and reflections on how the living Word has spoken to me through the Gospel of John. I hope to hear more about what it means for each of you.

As always, it is a privilege to serve God and all of you here in this place. I thank God for you, each and every day. Let's keep loving and serving God together as we learn more and more what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ! This year, don't let anyone spend Easter alone. Invite your friends and neighbors to come for the children's Easter egg hunt, breakfast and a morning of communal worship. Remember, we see with Resurrection eyes. **We are Easter people!!!**

Grace and peace,
Connie

CHURCH COUNCIL

Bill Clement, Chair

I 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.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

***April 2 - BFUMC is serving the meal at LINK.** If you interested in helping, please contact John Beins, Nancy Arnold, or Debbie Oakleaf.

***April 3 - ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING**

With recent catastrophes, gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are even more important. This special offering on April 3 supports the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian aid organization of The United Methodist Church.

***April 28 - Missions will be serving the BU students** after Thursday chapel (at BFUMC). If you would like to help serve the meal prepared by Missions, come join us on April 28 at 11am in Fellowship Hall.

***April 30 - Food and Fellowship** - 9 am to 11am Missions will be serving breakfast and fellowship to all!

***May 1 - May Day baskets** to the Baldwin Care Center and Vintage.

***May 1 - TACO BAR** - The annual fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip..

ABC AND WINDOW UPDATE ... The ABC and Windows committee would like to thank you for your generous donations to the fund. We have received donations of \$26,297.00 and pledges of \$8,413.00.

The stained glass windows are in Wichita for repairs and should be back in place by Easter. The Bell Tower repairs are completed and we have received preliminary reports from the architect.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the committee. If you have not yet made a donation or pledge, please consider doing so.

Roger and Nancy Arnold
Walt & Barbara Bailey

Carl and Susan Butell
John Beins

John and Becky Thomas
Stan Vickers

UMW ...

Donna Curran, President (594-2381)

UMW Executive Meeting April 2, 9:30 am in the Church Library
Sarah Circle, April 13, 9:30 am at Georgiana Monninger's
Dorcas Circle, April 20, 1:30 pm at Vintage Park, Babs Reed hostess
Eve Circle, April 28, 7 pm at Jean Baldwin's
All women are invited to visit a circle.

SPRING SALAD SUPPER will be April 15 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For any questions please call Donna Curran 594-2381.

FELLOWSHIP AND ACTIVITIES ...

Donna Curran 594-2381

Easter Potluck Breakfast - April 24 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered Dish to share, Drinks and place settings will be provided.

7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 24 at 9:30 am, meet in Chapel... Please bring a basket or sack for each child. If you would like to give a donation for this event please let Donna know.

Old Fashion Church Picnic will be **May 29, right after Church service - on the Lawn.** (In case of rain we will be in the Fellowship Hall) Bring a covered Dish to share, Drinks and place settings will be provided.

Thank you to all of you for the prayers and caring support you gave to me and my family during the last few months. I can never adequately express our appreciation for the kindness and love you have shown. What a privilege it is to be a part of this church family.

Carolyn Groves

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

PandaMania VBS is coming!! The excitement will take place here at BFUMC **July 10-14th from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** Kids ages 3 through 5th grade (last grade completed) are invited to come and experience how God is WILD about us!

Of course, there is a place at PandaMania VBS for adults and youth as well! Adults and youth are needed as ministry partners at Pandamania. Maybe you would like to help lead at Bamboo Blast Games? If you have a knack for theatrics, you would be perfect for Wild Bible Adventures, where kids will experience bible stories in hands-on ways. Craft-loving adults and youth will love serving at Crazy Crafts! And we need LOTS of walking leaders to hang out with kids and join in the fun with them at each station. There is a place for EVERYONE at PandaMania VBS! Don't be shy! Contact Shelly to reserve YOUR spot at PandaMania!!

Sunday School at BFUMC: Hey, kids! Join us at 9:30 every Sunday morning for a time of totally awesome fun learning about God and Jesus! There is a place for EVERYONE at Sunday School! Preschool through 3rd grade kids gather with Miss Shelly in the chapel every Sunday morning at 9:30 for 15 minutes of worship (singing, talking, laughing, and praying) before going to class, while the 4th and 5th graders go right up to their classroom to dig into awesome activities. Even toddlers have Sunday School down in the nursery with Miss Jennifer and friends! Mom and Dad can plan to pick you up at 10:30. We can't wait to see you at Sunday School!

Holy Week Walk/Open House: The children's ministry Sunday school classes will host a Holy Week Walk/Open house on April 17th (Palm Sunday). We invite everyone to come and visit our classrooms and participate in Jesus' walk during his final week's journey to the cross and resurrection on Easter morning! We will begin at 9:45 a.m.! Hope to see you there!!! ☺

EASTER EGG HUNT!! We hope you can join us in celebrating Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning! There will be an Egg Hunt beginning at 9:30 and you won't want to miss the fun!

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

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

The March 27th *To Save A Life* movie event brought in 150 youth and adults! It was a night of radical hospitality as nearly 20 youth leadership team members transformed our church building into a movie theatre, complete with free popcorn and movie candy!

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.

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.

In response to the movie's tough topics (*social division, school violence, cutting, suicide, teen pregnancy, alcohol use, and divorce*), we had a time of small-group discussion directly following the movie for all who wanted to stay and participate. Helping professionals (ministers and counselors) were available for those wanting to process the movie individually.

Beginning on Sunday, April 10, at 6:00pm the CROSS Culture Youth Group (which is open to every teenager in town) will be hosting a weekly *To Save A Life* message series. All high school teens are invited to come be a part of this powerful learning experience.

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.

April 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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Sat., April 2		LINK Served in Lawrence
Sun., April 3	after church	Exploring Advanced Directives for Healthcare ; an informational meeting for those interested in completing healthcare decision documents will be offered by Judy Anderson. Date: 4/3/11 Place: Church Library Time: Immediately following worship
Sat., April 9		Trustee Cleaning Day – please come if you would like to help
Thurs., April 15	6:30 p.m.	UMW Spring Salad Supper – Fellowship Hall
Thurs., April 21	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.
Sun., April 24	9:00 a.m.	Easter Potluck Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt – Chapel
	10:45 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
Sat., April 30	7:00 – noon	Mission Breakfast – Fellowship Hall