

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. Paul Babcock

April 2012

***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 everyone's Lenten journey is continuing in a meaningful and faithful way. It soon will be drawing to its dramatic and momentous close. I have appreciated much that has happened during this season here, and I am looking forward to other things that are on the way:

Sunday, April 1 is Palm/Passion Sunday. On that day we will celebrate and commemorate the triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus into the city of Jerusalem for the final time, participating in it ourselves. We will hear the story, sing the *Hosanna*, and pray that we will follow him.

The Passion part of the service is a reading we will all do together (in parts) of the events of Holy Week according to the gospel of Mark. We will do a ritual of lessons and hymns, having confessed that part of ourselves that made all of it necessary. I always look forward to this meaningful Sunday and this year I especially look forward to sharing it with all of you.

Then, Holy Week. On Thursday, April 5 we will share in the Service of the Last Supper and Tenebrae. The Service of the Last Supper will be readings, prayers, communion, and silence. Tenebrae is a service of darkness, in which the events of that same evening in Jesus' life and the next day are read and candles are extinguished. Please come and share in this most meaningful night for our faith.

Good Friday is April 6. Our choir, the Baker University Community Choir and the choir of Edgerton United Methodist Church will present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*. A requiem is a piece of music composed and associated with mourning. It is an appropriate thing to do on that night. I also invite you to please come and share Good Friday in this way.

But be sure to experience Holy Week. It means more when we get to Easter Sunday when we have been through Holy Week, the Last Supper and Good Friday. There is no resurrection without the crucifixion. The Easter lily looks better after having seen the gnarled dogwood. The Easter candy tastes better after the taste of the bitter gall. Our joy comes in the morning and in the mourning.

April 15 will be "Holy Humor Sunday". I invite all of you to bring your favorite riddle, knock-knock joke, pun, humorous story or amusing anecdote. We will tell them to each other as time permits. Our Easter celebration will continue the Sunday after it with humor, joy, and laughter. We do that to celebrate the great trick joke God pulls to bring us that joy.

April 22 will be New Member Sunday. New members will be received into the life of the church. Have you been coming for a while? Would you like to join us in membership here at First United Methodist Church? Please let me know. I'll make the arrangements!

April 29 is Confirmation Sunday. I have been working with some students since January to prepare for this day. Please come and celebrate with them. The students who have been a part of this class are Sydney Clem, Emily Dixson, MacKenzie Ellis, Maddie Morgan, Alaina Schiffelbein, and Kymbr Simmons. I have come to appreciate them and what they bring to us. They are lively, but curious. I hope you will encourage them in their continued Christian walk.

That sounds like a lot of celebrating doesn't it? That is the way it should be for an Easter people! God bless you all this Holy Week and Eastertide.

**SHALOM,
Paul**

LONG-RANGE PLAN

Included in this month's The Vine is a copy of the Long-range Plan that has been used by the many committees and teams within the organizational structure of FUMC to carry out the mission and ministry of the church. This Plan was formulated during the last half of 2009 and has been implemented during the 2010 and 2011 calendar years. During the first three months of this year, the Church Council, along with the various teams and committees, has evaluated the Plan and has set the priorities that will guide these groups during 2012. In this issue of The Vine you will find the original Plan, with notations in parentheses of what has been accomplished in each area. Also, you will see a list of priorities for the 2012 calendar year. This same information will be posted on the church website and on the bulletin board in the hallway downstairs. A complete version of the Plan, which includes the priorities for 2010 and 2011, can be found in the church office or you can receive a complete copy by contacting Bill Clement at 594-6864.

LONG-RANGE PLAN THREE TO FIVE YEARS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Create a Spiritual Growth Team; implement the following spiritual growth plan and include strategies for youth and children.
 - a. Continue the work of the Alpha program. (Currently no course being offered.)
 - b. Initiate "Following Jesus", a 12 session study of the Bible.
 - c. Introduce a parenting class, "Parenting with Love and Logic" or "Parenting with Peace and Justice." (One course, "Parenting with Love and Logic," offered in 2010)
 - d. Encourage and support individual participation in the program, Walk to Emmaus.
 - e. Initiate a program to support and encourage mentoring/accountability in our spiritual walk.
 - f. Plan and organize an old fashioned tent revival, complete with evangelist, special music, etc.
 - g. Identify and participate in, or develop, a lay speaker program.
 - h. Create a community Prayer Labyrinth.

RELATIONSHIP/INTENTIONAL FELLOWSHIP

1. Create fellowship through participation in small groups. (Done/ongoing)
2. Initiate special activities through continued work of the fellowship committee and special activities targeted for special groups. (Ongoing through Fellowship Team activities)
3. Sunday fellowship, through continued quarterly Sunday morning special focus discussions as initiated by the Talk Team. (Done/Ongoing)
4. Purchase a church van to use for special activities, youth groups, special needs transportation, etc.
5. Establish avenues of communication with Baker students to develop ongoing relationships and to provide service to students. (Done/Ongoing)

FINANCE

1. Develop a complete and balanced budget.
 - a. Create an accounting system that records true amount of income and expenses. (Done)
 - b. List special accounts in operating budget as restricted income/expense. (Done)
 - c. Create a "reserve" line item in the budget.
 - d. Integrate an administrator/assistant bookkeeper position. (Done in 2012)
2. Increase giving to the operating budget.
 - a. Create a Stewardship Team. (Done)
 - b. Increase the pool of givers.
 - c. Reach out to existing members.
 - d. Consider assessment of a user fee for special/restricted projects.
3. Educate the congregation and membership about the financial condition of the church.
 - a. Use data to post financial updates such as weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter and electronically. (Done/Ongoing)
 - b. Verbal updates at Sunday worship service.
 - c. Include an overview of 'total offerings' with quarterly individual contribution statements. (Done)

MEMBERSHIP

1. Support current members of BFUMC.
 - a. Create a Membership Team to assist with maintenance of the membership list and other membership responsibilities. (Done)
 - b. Continue to encourage, maintain and develop a strong Sunday School and youth program. (Ongoing)
 - c. Create a Worship Team. (Done)
 - d. Initiate a Sunday School class on "Methodism."
 - e. Prepare the sanctuary for worship by 10:30. (Done)
2. Develop and support new members of BFUMC.
 - a. Establish a "membership class."

- b. Continue the regular Methodist confirmation class as appropriate. (Done/Ongoing)
 - c. Schedule luncheon/potluck events for new members. (Done/Ongoing)
 - d. Create a newcomer Hospitality Team. (Done; called the Welcome Team)
3. Welcome and encourage visitors to BFUMC.
- a. Designate mentors to sit near visitors in various sections of the church.
 - b. Maintain a current, accurate and useful website. (Done)
 - c. Revamp attendance sheets to include email addresses. (Done)
 - d. Include greeters at the lower level.
 - e. Establish "Invite-a-Friend" Sundays.

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

1. Establish a Communication/Technology Team. (Done)
 - a. Review current technology on a regular basis - every 18 months. (Ongoing)
 - b. High priority on acquiring services of a person to serve as a webmaster. (Done)
 - c. Person to deal with sound issues.
 - d. Sound operator for special events and Sundays.
 - e. Scheduling coordinator.
2. Consider electronic communication.
 - a. List-serve.
 - b. The Vine online. (Done)
 - c. Digital directory.
 - d. Church software, i.e., database.
3. Other communications.
 - a. Create pamphlets, such as for weddings, visitors, services.
 - b. Install road signs. (One sign three miles east of town)
 - c. Submit newspaper articles /events/etc.
 - d. Address the needs of hearing impaired if support is needed.
 - e. Purchase equipment as needed, such as digital video camera, computers and other audio-visual equipment.

FACILITIES

1. Complete a full building engineering assessment including foundations, meeting all electrical and other mechanical codes, etc. (Done)
2. Complete a space analysis of current structure to assess best use of space to ensure adequate restrooms Sunday School spaces, etc.(Done)
3. Renovate Fellowship Hall.
 - a. Improve banquet space.
 - b. Meet standards for restroom spaces including for special needs.
 - c. Add small restroom to nursery space.
 - d. Make the renovation of the Fellowship Hall an immediate target project assuming studies in # 1 and #2 justify the expenditure.

PRIORITIES FOR 2012

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Evaluate combining the priorities for Spiritual Growth with those of the proposed Adult Education and Ministries Council and begin implementing those priorities.

RELATIONSHIP/INTENTIONAL FELLOWSHIP

1. Include "Create fellowship through participation in small groups" as part of the Spiritual Growth/ Adult Education and Ministries Council evaluation.
2. Include "Initiate special activities through continued work of the Fellowship Committee and special activities targeted for special groups" as part of the activities of the Fellowship Team.
3. Continue Sunday fellowship through periodic Sunday morning focus discussions.

FINANCE

1. Use data to post financial updates such as weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, electronically and on the bulletin board.
2. Educate the congregation on the importance of meeting the church's obligation on apportionments.
3. Conduct an annual audit of the financial records for the previous year.

MEMBERSHIP/WELCOME

1. Change the name of the team to Membership/Welcome Team.
2. Support and encourage current members of BFUMC.
 - a. Ask each member of small groups in our church to make every effort to reach out and connect with those individuals who are not attending that group regularly or who have been absent for several weeks. It is so important for us to cause these people to know that we miss them and that we care for them.

- b. Reach out and recognize long-time members. It's important to keep our congregation informed of those important members and their contribution to BFUMC.
- 3. Develop and support new members of BFUMC.
 - a. Have Pastor Paul offer to lead a class on Methodism 101 and/or other classes if they are requested.
- 4. Welcome and encourage visitors to BFUMC.
 - a. Send cards and/or emails to first-time visitors on a weekly basis.
 - b. Schedule Membership Inquiry Meals during the year and invite families who are attending church regularly and might be interested in joining as members.

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

1. Continue maintenance of the website by the communications team.
 - a. News wheel - Debbie
 - b. Calendar - Becky
 - c. The Vine and Church Council minutes - Dan
2. Continue to make additions and improvements to the website.
 - a. Historical information - Richard Wellman
 - b. Mission page expansion - Debbie Oakleaf
3. Train new team members to download information on the website.
 - a. Photo gallery - Nat
 - b. The Vine - Samantha
4. Promote the website to the congregation and encourage more use of it.
 - a. Encourage more people read The Vine online.
5. Video interviews of congregation members and post them on the website.

FACILITIES

1. Evaluate the following three projects and determine which one/ones would be the focus for the next major improvement/s to the church facility.
 - a. Renovation and expansion of the downstairs restrooms and youth room.
 - b. Installation of a new HVAC system for the entire church.
 - c. Installation of fire safety equipment, including sprinklers and alarms.

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

Food Pantry - On April 14th, the Boy Scouts will be gathering donations in the annual food drive they sponsor to support the Food Pantry. You are invited to join the Missions team in sorting and stocking the incoming food items on the morning of April 14th from 10am to noon in Fellowship Hall.

Nothing But Nets - Thank you for your financial support to provide mosquito nets in the prevention of malaria.

UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief

Be There. Be Hope.

UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering-whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster-with open minds and hearts to all people. And, please pray for those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

Disillusionment with the world knows nothing of the sacrament of co-existence. It can find no place for the sacramental act. It can conjure out of itself no philosophy of action, for its ultimate implication is inaction." - Henry Bugbee

UMW

Donna Curran, UMW President (594-2381)

Easter Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – Easter Potluck Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt in the Chapel

If anyone would like to donate items (candy, stickers, etc.) for the Egg hunt please let Donna know.

Sarah Circle, April 11th, Judith Tanner 9:30 a.m.

Dorcas Circle, April 18th, Vintage Park, 1:30 a.m.

Eve Circle, April 19th, Delma Hitchcock 7:00 p.m.

Five River District Spring meeting, April 21, Lawrence West Campus, 8 - 11 am

LITTLE DRESS FOR AFRICA ... mark your calendar for June 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall... Please contact Linda Ballinger (913-980-3831), if you would like to work on this project. The UMW is sponsoring this event and we would like a count of people interested, so we have enough materials to keep everyone busy. There will be fabrics, elastic, bias tape, sewing machines and sergers to complete these "little dresses" project. We will also be making "t-shirt" knit shirts for little boys. Come have a great time serving others!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRYShelly Todd, Director (594-2921), ksl1987@embarqmail.com

*Save the date: **SKY VBS is coming to Baldwin First United Methodist Church! Please mark your calendars for July 8th-12th. Our VBS begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.** Children in preschool through 5th grade (last grade completed) are invited to come "Soar to New Heights with God"! The creators of SKY VBS have made some exciting changes to the vacation bible school format and everyone is sure to be floating on clouds of fun!

Don't forget that adults and youth can be a part of the fun! We will need enthusiastic station leaders, energetic walking leaders, and lots of Jr/Sr high assistants. And if you can't physically assist at VBS, you can be a part of the adventure by sponsoring a child for VBS (more information on our exciting sponsorship program will be coming SOON) and, of course, you can be praying for an amazing week of ministry at SKY VBS. Last summer, we ministered to 145 kids and their families! We hope to see that number SOAR this July!! ☺

***Palm Sunday:** Parents...just a heads up for Palm Sunday. It is a tradition in the church to have the children lead a parade of palms on Palm Sunday. At the end of the Sunday School hour, our teachers will bring their students to the Fellowship Hall to hand out palms and line up the kids for our 'parade'. Please feel free to join us for this energetic parade! Weather permitting, we will parade outside from the back of the church (East side) and come around to the front of the church and then enter the Sanctuary. We will parade through the Sanctuary a couple of times and then end up in the Narthex (front lobby) where you can then retrieve your child to go sit with you. Children ages 3 through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Children's Church right before the Passion Reading on this Sunday.

***Easter Sunday:** Easter Sunday is just around the corner on April 8th! How fun it will be to celebrate our RISEN Savior that morning. Sunday School will begin at 9:30, as usual and the kids will gather as we always do in the chapel for a time of praise and worship. 4th and 5th grade students, please plan to join us, as well! At 9:45, we will dismiss from the chapel and HUNT EASTER EGGS!! After the FUN hunt, we will all gather back in the chapel, dump/collect plastic eggs and then our wonderful Sunday School teachers will take classes back to the classrooms for more fun. We will dismiss as usual at 10:30. We hope to see you all on that GLORIOUS Easter morning!! **An additional note: There will be NO Children's Church on Easter Sunday so that families can worship together and take communion together.**

***Holy Humor Sunday:** Pastor Paul has declared Sunday, April 15th, as Holy Humor Sunday. The children of our church are invited...along w/ youth and adults, too.....to be a part of this humorous worship service. If your child has a cute joke or riddle that he/she would like to share w/ the congregation, please let either Pastor Paul or Shelly know. ☺

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRYEva Durand, Director of Youth Ministry
(594-0345) 785.766.5803 or eva3d@embarqmail.com

Sunday, April 15:

12:00-4:00pm Car Detail Fundraiser for Ocean View, Delaware Youth Mission TripYouth work in 2-hour shifts to detail *interior* of cars to raise funds.

By appointment – contact Joanne Morgan 785-760-1301

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

Sunday, April 22:

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

Sunday, April 29:

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

Sunday, May 6:

12:00pm**Missions Committee Taco Bar Fundraiser**

All Youth will assist Missions Committee to provide set-up, serving, and clean-up for this all-community fundraising lunch. Funds raised will go towards Youth Mission WorkCamp to Ocean View, Delaware.

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 \$172.**

Sunday, May 20:

3:30-5:00pm**Jr. High Youth Group****6:00-8:00pm****Sr. High YG/Senior Celebration Night!**

Praise God for a Very Successful Beach Party Cook Out – Fundraiser for Youth ... Sunday, February 26 over 100 people from our congregation and community came and enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hotdogs and homemade desserts in Fellowship Hall that was transformed into a beach setting. Over \$1,800 was raised due to GENEROUS donations to the good will offering and bidding during the silent auction for pies. 100% of the money raised was given to our wonderful Director of Youth Ministries, Eva Durand, and will go toward the Youth Mission trip to Delaware. Thank you to all who donated to make the event such a fun success: Mike and Donna Curran and the Fellowship Committee for the beach setting decorations, games and prizes, several men who helped grill all the yummy hamburgers and hotdogs, several women for the delicious desserts and pies and the awesome youth who helped set-up, serve and clean-up. Thank you,

-John & Becky Thomas, Fred & Kelly Heinecke & Bruce & Sharilyn Cromer

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

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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.

April 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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Each Sunday - April 22	2–3:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Thurs., April 5	7:00 p.m.	Service of the Last Supper and Tenebrae
Fri., April 6	7:00 p.m.	Our choir, the Baker Community Choir, and the choir of the Edgerton United Methodist Church, will present Gabriel Fauré's <i>Requiem</i>
Sun., April 8	9:00 a.m.	Easter Potluck Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt - Chapel
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
Sun., April 15:	10:45 a.m.	Holy Humor Sunday
	12:00-4:00 p.m.	Car Detail Fundraiser for Ocean View, Delaware Youth Mission Trip
		By appointment – contact Joanne Morgan 785-760-1301
Sun., April 22	10:45 a.m.	New Member Sunday
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