

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

December 2014 - January 2015

**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:

An Update:

Oh, you came so close to the goal in November, First United Methodist Church!

I told you on the first Sunday of October that if you did as well in giving during the last three months of this year as you did in the summer months of June, July and August, that I would take a bucket of ice water poured on my head on Sunday January 4, 2015. That challenge is still before you! You have one month to go.

I also told you in this column last month that to achieve that goal, the average needed to be received in November and December was slightly less than \$28,000. The giving report for November is now before us: received was exactly \$26,197!! So close! Celebrate! Be glad! And get ready to meet the challenge in the month of December!

The goal now is just under \$29,600. Can this be done? YES! It can be done because the goal is within our reach. It can be done because we are a good people, disciples of the Christ. It can be done because disciples give. Again, "**We give to show that God is the LORD of our lives. We give because God has given and for us to give is to say thanks to God for God's gifts. We give because we are blessed when we give. We give because when we give, we receive again from God** (adapted from *Christianity Today*).

So, will you help meet this challenge? With God's help and our willingness, it CAN be done!"

"In the
beginning
was the Word, and
the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He
was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him;
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life, and the life
was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and
the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."
(John 1:1-5, 14)

I invite you to our **Christmas Eve** services, at 7 and 11 p.m. The 7 o'clock service will be contemporary in nature. The 11 o'clock service will be traditional. Both will have the reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, communion, and candlelight.

And yet another invitation! On the first Sunday of the New Year, we will be celebrating **Epiphany**, the day tradition tells us the Magi arrived in Bethlehem. The date is actually January 6, but we will celebrate it on the Sunday before that. We will hear that story from Matthew 2, celebrate their travel and their arrival and their giving. Also on that first Sunday of the New Year, **I EXPECT TO GET WET!!**

Until then, it is my hope that your time of Advent preparation is an adventurous one, full of the work of preparation, but also full of time to reflect on how God is working in your life. I wish for you an adventurous Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year of 2015!

**SHALOM,
Paul**

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

LINK - BFUMC will be serving at LINK on December 6th.

FOOD PANTRY - The Food Pantry served 64 families representing over 200 individuals during a Saturday in November. Volunteers from the area churches and the community assist each week with the operation of the pantry. Thank you to all who sustain this ministry in our community!

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING - Consider giving an alternative gift this year! Ideas will be on the table in the Narthex!



Saturday, December 6, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. – UMW SOUP DINNER – Fellowship Hall
\$7.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 12 and under
(Cost includes Soup or Mac & Cheese, Drink and Dessert)

Friday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA @ VINTAGE PARK
(All ladies of the church are welcome!)

FELLOWSHIP ... Caroling and game night are scheduled for December 21st from 5:30-8:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share – Drinks provided. (We will go caroling then back to the church for snacks & games.)

2015 BUDGET ... Your Finance Committee and Church Council have established the operating budget for 2015. It will be \$261,088. Related to that, we want to share with you the budget history for the last three years.

| Year | Budget | Income | Expenses |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2012 | \$277,632 | \$257,341 | \$255,740 |
| 2013 | \$283,012 | \$237,279 | \$254,316 |
| 2014 | \$277,435 | \$248,370 (Projected) | \$269,621 (Projected) |

Our income has averaged \$31,697 less than the budgeted amount over the last three years. Our expenses have averaged \$19,464 less than the budgeted amount over that same period. We need to raise an additional 5% (\$12,419) over this year's projected giving to fund a \$261,088 budget. We are asking you to consider increasing your giving by 5% to help us meet that goal. If you have not already made use of the pledge form provided in the church bulletin or the one you may have received in the mail, one is included below.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration as to how you can support the mission and ministries of your church.

2015 Stewardship Pledge

I/We pledge the following financial support for the mission and ministries of our church during 2015.

- \$_____ per week
- \$_____ per month
- \$_____ per year

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please put your pledge card in the collection plate, bring it by the church office or mail it to the church office, (PO Box 25, Baldwin City, KS 66006)

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY ... We will begin the next series in our Disciple Bible Study on January 22. We will meet each Thursday evening at 6:30. Each session lasts 1 1/2 – 2 hours. We will be studying and discussing the book of John. This will be an eleven week study. The cost of the participant book will be \$14.00. Each day we will read selected verses from the Bible along with some accompanying commentary related to the Scripture. Each Thursday, in addition to discussing the Scripture and the commentary, we will also watch two DVD's that will add to our understanding of the Scripture we have read. If you are interested in participating in this series of Disciple Bible Study, you can contact me by email at bjclementine@centurylink.net or call me at 594-6864.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

***KidMinistry Sunday School:** Hey, kids! Want to hang out with other awesome kids and learn more about our even MORE AWESOME God?? Well, Sunday School is the place to be! Sunday School begins at 9:30 and ends at 10:30. Preschool through 3rd grade gather together in the chapel to spend 15 minutes worshipping and praising God together. Afterward, they go to Sunday School class with their teachers. 4th and 5th grades go straight to Sunday School for fun and learning.

Here is our 2014-2015 Sunday School staff:

Preschool = Donna Curran, Samantha Cheek, Sherry Broers

KDG-1st Grade = Kevin Kropf, Beth O'Neil, Brian and Courtney Williams

2nd-3rd Grade = Brad Peterson, Marvé Ralston, Vonna Torneden

4th-5th Grade = Angela Murray, Becky Thomas, Gayla Waymire

See you soon in Sunday School!!

Children's Church Resumed!! Our Children's Church program is back in session after taking a summer break. Children's Church takes place during the 10:45 church service and is open to kids ages 3 through 3rd grade. Kids begin in sanctuary and remain with their parents until after the children's sermon. After the children's sermon, the kids go to Fellowship Hall (located in the church basement) with the Children's Church leaders and take part in activities that teach them about God and HIS great big love for us all. We do not have Children's Church on Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month) in order that children can experience communion with their families.

Our 2014-2015 Children's Church leaders are:

Meredith Kropf, Sherry Broers, Tricia Enright, Michelle Patterson, Teri Ediger, and Cynthia Perez

3rd Grader Bible Presentation: On Sunday, November 23rd, 7 BFUMC 3rd graders received Bibles. These Bibles were sponsored by members of our church family. Students receiving Bibles were: Addison Ediger, Ethan Enright, Luke Hayes, Maggie Kropf, Dylan Patterson, Bailey Smith, and Dylan Williams. What a special and exciting time in the life of these kids and our church family! Thank you to our wonderful sponsors!

KidMinistry Christmas Program: The BFUMC KidMinistry will present a Christmas Program on December 14th during the 10:45 worship service. This program will feature our Preschool through 5th grade kiddoes. Rehearsals are already under way, but there is still time for interested kids to come be a part of the fun. We will rehearse on Sunday, November 30th and Sunday, December 7th from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dress Rehearsal will be at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 14th. Please email Shelly at ksl1987@embarqmail.com if your children will be participating in our annual Christmas Program.

Did you know? All individuals who work with children and youth at Baldwin FUMC complete a biblically-based boundary awareness and abuse prevention program titled Safe Gathering. Through this training, a back ground check is completed for each adult and teen over the age of 16 who works directly with children and youth. Our church tries its best to have 2 workers in a classroom/nursery and when that is not possible, we have a policy of keeping the door to the room open at all times. It is our prayerful intent at BFUMC to create a safe environment where our children and youth can grow in their knowledge of God and Jesus.

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

Eva Durand, Sr. High Youth (594-0345) 785.766.5803 or eva3d@embarqmail.com

Sunday, December 7:

3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group

6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group

Sunday, December 14: Youth Christmas Parties! -- ANDREW NIGHT

3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Party

6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Party

Youth (Jr. High from 3:30-5; Sr. High *and YG Alums* from 6-8) gather for a Celebration & a twist on the white elephant gift exchange! Don't forget a wrapped white elephant gift!

Spring/Summer Event Dates:

January 11, 2015: Youth Group begins again after Christmas Break.

March 20 – March 21, 2015: "FEARLESS" Dare2Share Event in Kansas City, MO

March 27 – March 29, 2015: Young Christians' Weekend at Silver Dollar City

July 12-16, 2015: VBS – Vacation Bible School

Summer, 2015: Youth Mission WorkCamp 2015

Summer, 2015: Institute at Baker University

INSTITUTE is for all students going into the 9th – 12th 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 around \$350.

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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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.

December 2014 - January 2015

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|
| Sunday Services | 8:30 a.m. | Traditional Worship - Sanctuary |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Contemporary Worship – Sanctuary |
| Last Sunday of the Month | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Combined/Blended Worship - Sanctuary |
| 1 st Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Missions – Fellowship Hall |
| 2 nd Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees – Library |
| 3 rd Monday | 7:00 p.m. | SPPRC – Library |
| | | Finance – Chapel |
| 4 th Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council – Library |
| Each Wednesday | 6:30 -7:00 p.m. | Cantata Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| 1 st Saturday | 9:00 a.m. | UMW Executive Meeting - Library |
| 1st & 3rd Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. | United Methodist Men – Vintage Park |
| | | |
| Mon., Dec. 1 | 7:00 p.m. | Mission – Fellowship Hall |
| Wed., Dec. 3 | 6:30 p.m. | Cantata Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Sat., Dec. 6 | 7:30 a.m. | United Methodist Men – Vintage Park |
| | 9:00 a.m. | UMW Executive Meeting – Library |
| | | LINK Served in Lawrence |
| | 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. | UMW Soup Dinner – Fellowship Hall |
| Mon., Dec. 8 | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees – Library |
| Wed., Dec. 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Cantata Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri., Dec. 12 | 6:30 p.m. | UMW Christmas Tea – at Vintage Park |
| Mon., Dec. 15 | 7:00 p.m. | SPPRC – Library |
| | | Finance – Chapel |
| Wed., Dec. 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Cantata Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Sat., Dec. 20 | 7:30 a.m. | United Methodist Men – Vintage Park |
| Sun., Dec. 21 | 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Christmas Caroling & Game Night – Fellowship Hall |
| Mon., Dec. 22 | | NO Church Council |
| Wed., Dec. 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Christmas Eve Service |
| | 11:00 p.m. | Traditional Christmas Eve Service |
| Mon., Jan. 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Mission – Fellowship Hall |
| Mon., Jan. 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees – Library |
| | | Care & Concern – Chapel |
| Mon., Jan. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | SPPRC – Library |
| | | Finance – Chapel |
| Wed., Jan. 21 | 2:00 p.m. | Parkinson’s Support Group - Library |
| Thurs., Jan. 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Disciple Bible Study |
| Mon., Jan. 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council |

