

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

February 2013

**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 and trust that all of you have had a good and meaningful Christmas and beginning of the year 2013! I know not all have, but the meaning of the incarnation, the meaning of *Emmanuel, God with us*, remains through everything, both good and bad. The Song of Mary continues to be sung in my memory and I hope it does for you, too.

I continue to smile when I think of the memories of our recent Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany celebrations. The music was wonderful: thank you Matthew, Gary, Nanette, and Worship Band! The Children's Christmas program was delightful: thank you children, Sunday School teachers, and Shelly! The decorations, as always, were winners: thanks to all who decorated and all who undecorated. Thanks to all those who lit candles during our Advent candle lighting ceremonies: the Choir, the Youth Groups, the Sunday School teachers, and our United Methodist Men's group. And, last but not least, thanks to Tom Kleist for preaching for me while I took off the Sunday after Christmas.

Though, as noted, we only recently completed the Advent and Christmas seasons, the season of *Lent* begins this month, on February 13, Ash Wednesday.

"Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. (from THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP)."

And, *"Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. . . . The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes for this service. (also from THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP)."*

We will begin this penitential season with such a worship service at 7 o'clock that night. The Baker University Minister, Rev. Dr. Ira DeSpain and I will lead this service. We will have music from the Baker Concert Choir, the Baker University Chamber Choir, singing of traditional hymns appropriate for the day, singing of some new hymns appropriate for the day, and the imposition of ashes.

I hope you will plan to be present for this worship service.

I also invite you to a Lenten weekday Bible study during the season. I will be teaching this class on Thursdays. We will be looking at Bible passages used on the Sunday mornings of Lent. Two sessions will be offered: in the afternoons at 1:30 and in the evenings at 7:00 in the Library.

I pray for you a blessed and meaningful season of Lent.

**SHALOM,
Paul**

2012 FINANCES

Thanks to increased giving in the month of December, we were able to finish the year in the black as far as our 2012 budget was concerned. Thank you to the congregation for your faithful commitment toward that end. For the year, the amount contributed was below the amount budgeted. Only because our expenses were under budget also were we able to end up on the positive side. The Finance Committee will have complete figures after their meeting in February.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT – The final figures for our Stewardship Campaign are as follows:

Number of pledges – 59
Amount from pledges – \$181,964
2013 budget – \$283,012
Percentage of budget pledged – 64.3%

Thank you for being good stewards. Continue to keep in mind our definition of stewardship for this year: “The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” In our case, this applies to both the spiritual and physical aspects of First United Methodist Church.

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

February is a great time to show love to one another. Give a gift of love for others - give a donation to the Baldwin Community Emergency Fund (CEF) as an alternative valentine!

Imagine No Malaria - This is an extraordinary effort by the people of the United Methodist Church, putting our faith into action to end preventable deaths by malaria in Africa. This year the Missions team will be "swishin for a mission" during the month of March to support the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Watch for details and ways you can support the effort.

Welcoming strangers - Hebrews 13:2 - “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Have you entertained any angels of late?

UMCOR and Hurricane Sandy - Since Sandy roared up from the Caribbean in late October, United Methodists have given more than \$6.7 million to support UMCOR’s long-term recovery work in hard-hit New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maryland, as well as in the Caribbean. This financial support allows UMCOR to focus particularly on the most vulnerable populations impacted by the storm, including low-income families, minority groups, the elderly and home-bound, and undocumented individuals.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank

NEW BIBLE STUDY ... We are using the book *It’s Not About Me* by Max Lucado. Interested? Contact Marvé Ralston at 785-760-3254 or e-mail mrjalston59@gmail.com so we can locate/order books. We will begin on Tuesday, February 5th. We plan to keep the study to an hour beginning at 7 p.m. at Baldwin 1st in the Library .

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ADULT EDUCATION TEAM ...Recently you were asked to participate in a survey regarding spiritual education needs in our congregation. **“Thank you”** to those who participated; 36 surveys were returned. The results are as follows:

Currently Attending:

| | |
|---|----|
| A Sunday school class | 16 |
| A Bible Study | 10 |
| Men’s Study Group | 5 |
| UMW circle | 5 |
| Seasonal studies | 5 |
| Teaching a children’s Sunday school class | 5 |

Would be interested in:

| | |
|--|----|
| Alpha | 1 |
| Disciple Class | 10 |
| Young families Bible study/fellowship | 2 |
| Parenting class | 6 |
| Daytime Bible study | 4 |
| Evening Bible study | 8 |
| Singles Group (Bible study/fellowship) | 2 |

Other:

“Read across the congregation”
Parents of teens
Couples – (not young families)

At this time our plan is to pursue implementation of the top three topics of interest:

1. Disciple Class
2. Evening Bible study
3. Parenting Class

Expect to see sign-up sheets soon.

SEWING FOR HAITI ... February 2 from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall ... Bring a sewing machine (if possible), colored t-shirts (2T – 12/14 – bright colors & some pastels), 1 yard of coordinating fabric for each t-shirt. Bring your sack lunch with drink, fabric scissors, hand sewing needles and your thimble (if needed). Call Linda Ballinger (913-980-3831 © or 594-3194) to let her know you will be participating. We will be making t-shirt dresses and Shirley Edgerton will be joining us for lunch. The dresses will be sent to Haiti the first of March.

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

Did you know? KidMinistry Sunday School at BFUMC begins at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning! ☺ Preschool through 3rd graders gather together in the Chapel for 15 minutes of singing, visiting, and prayer before heading to their Sunday School classes. 4th and 5th graders report directly to their Sunday School classroom on the 2nd floor of the church. Our Sunday School classes dismiss at 10:30.

Locations of Sunday School classes:

Preschool – Basement level. Right by the elevator!

KDG-1st Grade, 2nd-3rd Grade, 4th-5th grade: These classes are on the 2nd

floor of the church...right next to the balcony!

Moms and Dads: There are even Sunday School classes for YOU, too! We hope that your family will join us for wonderful fun, fellowship, and faith-building during the Sunday School hour at BFUMC!

Ministry Opportunities in KidMinistry at BFUMC: Have you been feeling a nudge from God to serve the kids in our church? We currently have a Sunday School teacher position open for our 2nd-3rd grade class! We are also looking for a couple more leaders for our Children's Church program. Please contact Shelly to learn more about these amazing opportunities! On the job training guaranteed! ☺

Mark your calendars: Kingdom Rock VBS is coming to BFUMC!! July 7-12, 2013 6:30-9:00 p.m. At Kingdom Rock, kids (and youth/adults, too!) will learn that we all can stand strong for God! This 5 day VBS is open to kiddoes who are in preschool through 5th grade (last grade completed in 2013).

By the way: VBS is not JUST for kids! There are opportunities for adults and youth to be a part of our exciting Kingdom Rock VBS! Do you love to decorate spaces? We can use you to help decorate the church for Kingdom Rock! Do you love to make meals for people? You could provide a meal one evening for our VBS staff! Do you love to welcome people and organize lists? You could be a part of our registration team! Have a gift of taking pictures? We need a resident photographer! How about teaching? We need energetic, enthusiastic Station Leaders! Or maybe you are a big kid at heart! You would be the PERFECT Walking Leader (you get to go to all the stations and participate WITH the kids!). It's not too early to be thinking about how YOU can be a part of Kingdom Rock! Please contact Shelly if you are interested in learning MORE! Oh...and if you feel you can't physically serve, you can ALWAYS sponsor children for VBS (it is generally around \$15 to sponsor a child for VBS) and we can always use PRAYER!

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

Eva Durand, Sr. High Youth (594-0345) 785.766.5803

or eva3d@embarqmail.comHannah Schaake, Jr. High Youth - HannahMSchaake@stu.bakeru.edu

Sunday, February 3:

5:00pm**Super Bowl Party at Russ & Eva's**

Jr. High and Sr. High students: Bring a snack and come join the football fun! Our address is 910 Monroe St.

PAYMENT:**Mission Trippers: WorkCamp payment due today! Make check to "FUMC/Youth Missions" for \$50.**

Friday, February 8, 1:15pm – Sunday, February 10, 2:00am:

1:15pm Fri**Follow Tour 2013 dare2share Event;** Lincoln, NE**-bus leaves @ 1:30 sharp-**

Pour into Matthew 4:19 and come away motivated not only to follow Jesus, but to passionately pursue, boldly proclaim and recklessly abandon yourself to Him! Be inspired, get equipped, and discover the unstoppable power of the gospel through high-impact multimedia, live drama, live music, and teaching.

Total Cost = \$160+ food (\$55 ticket + \$105 hotel/transportation). dare2share.org.*RSVP with ticket money of \$55 due 1/27. Hotel/transportation money (of \$105) due 2/8.*

Sunday, February 17:

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

Sunday, February 24:

12:00pm**Beach Party Cook Out Youth Mission Fundraiser** (a youth ministries/fellowship activities event)

All Youth will assist to provide set-up, serving, and clean-up for this all-community fundraising lunch.

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

Sunday, March 3:

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 Mission Trips" for \$175.**

Sunday, March 17:

3:30-5:00pm**Jr. High Youth Group****6:00-8:00pm****Sr. High Youth Group****RSVP/PAYMENT:****Young Christians' Weekend at Silver Dollar City (4/5-7) RSVP/\$45 ticket deposit money due today.**

Tuesday, March 19:

6:30-8:30pm**Mescalero, New Mexico Youth Missions Trip Meeting for PARENTS & WORKCAMPERS**To discuss details of the 2013 Youth Mission Trip to Mescalero, NM. **Campers & parents must attend.**

Sunday, March 24:

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

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

www.baldwinfirst.org

| |
|--|
| <p>Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Baldwin City, KS 66006 PERMIT NO. 10</p> |
|--|

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.

February 2013

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday Services | 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. | Sunday School/Bible Study Worship – Sanctuary |
| 1st Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Missions – Fellowship Hall |
| 2 nd Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees – Library |
| 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | SPPRC – Library Finance – Chapel |
| 4th Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Church Council – Chapel |
| Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study - Library (begins Feb. 5 – March 26) |
| Thursday | 1:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study – (February 14 – March 21) |
| 1st & 3rd Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. | United Methodist Men – Vintage Park |
| 1 st Saturday | 9:30 a.m. | United Methodist Women Executive Board – Library |

.....

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sat., Feb. 2 | 10 am – 2 pm | Sewing for Haiti – Fellowship Hall |
| Tues., Feb. 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study - Library |
| Sun., Feb. 3 | 2:30 p.m. | Confirmation |
| Thurs., Feb 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Care Givers Team - Library |
| Tues., Feb. 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study - Library |
| Wed., Feb. 13 | 9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. | Sarah Circle – Barbara Henre’s Ash Wednesday Service |
| Thurs., Feb. 14 | 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study - Library Lenten Bible Study - Library |
| Sun., Feb. 17 | 2:30 p.m. | Confirmation |
| Tues., Feb. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study - Library |
| Wed., Feb. 20 | 1:30 p.m. | Dorcas Circle – Sue Ann Kleist’s |
| Thurs., Feb. 21 | 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study - Library Lenten Bible Study - Library |
| Sun., Feb. 24 | after church 2:30 p.m. | Beach Party Cook-out/ Youth Fundraiser Confirmation |
| Tues., Feb. 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study - Library |
| Thurs., Feb. 28 | 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Lenten Bible Study - Library Lenten Bible Study - Library Eve Circle – at church |