

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

June 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:

Some of you have already heard this, but it bears repeating: Happy Anniversary, everyone at Baldwin First United Methodist Church. The first worship service held in the current building was on May 29th, 1932, eighty years ago! The first worship service was the 74th Baker University Baccalaureate service. Dr. Wiley Keve was the pastor and Dr. Wallace B. Fleming, Baker's president, delivered the first sermon: *I Will Build My Church*.

Therefore, the first regular worship service was held in the sanctuary on June 5th, 1932, eighty years ago this month. Congratulations!

Most important for us as we remember this comes from the notes by Dr. Homer Kingsley Ebright, of the building committee:

“This stone church, in which we meet today, rose on the ruins of the brick building. It too meant sacrifice and prayer and hard work as had all the earlier church edifices.”

But just as in ancient days in Egypt, when the people saw an impassible sea ahead of them, the word of the Lord came to Moses, ‘Speak unto the children that they go forward.’ So in the years of the depression in the early thirties, when it seemed impossible to build a church, this people, as in the days of Moses heard the voice GO FORWARD, and the sea of difficulty opened before them, and by faith this edifice arose more beautiful and more adequate than any structure that had preceded it.”

My thanks go to Richard Wellman, our church historian, for this information.

Our session of the Kansas East Annual Conference is this month, the 6th through 9th, at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. There will be the usual administrative things: 1. We will hear reports from laity and clergy about membership, finances, perhaps attendance; 2. We will set salaries and adopt a budget for 2013; 3. We will elect officers; and 4. Ordain clergy.

There will also be something new and different to be decided.

Beginning on September 1, 2012, the Kansas Area and the Nebraska Area will become one Episcopal area, meaning we will all have one bishop, instead of two as in the past. Under discussion since that decision has been the idea of the three annual conferences (Kansas East, Kansas West, and Nebraska) becoming one annual conference. The discussion has centered around how best to be the church here in this part of the world: how do we use our leadership, how do we structure ourselves to be connectional, what is our vision, and how do we leverage our technical assets.

The motion for our consideration looks like this: “The Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska annual conferences will join together to form the Great Plains Annual Conference beginning January 1, 2014.”

If this is approved, then a new thing will come into being, and decisions about how to GO FORWARD will have to be made. If it is not approved, other decisions will also have to be made. Either way, we GO FORWARD to the future.

Kathleen Thomas is our Lay Member of Annual Conference; I am a member of the annual conference.

I invite your prayers for this. And, thank you for all you do and will do for making this church what it is and will be.

SHALOM,
Paul

MISSIONS

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

PEACE WITH JUSTICE (PWJ) Sunday is June 3rd. Missions will be collecting Peanut-butter With Jelly (PWJ) throughout the month of June at Baldwin First as a way to observe PWJ Sunday. The food will go to support the local Food Pantry. Food poverty is pervasive and affects a high percentage of children and elders. Please bring a jar of peanut butter and jelly as a means of lessening food poverty in our community.

Peace with Justice Sunday with special offering supports ministries locally and worldwide to remove unjust systems and equip the victimized to live more fulfilled lives. One-half of the special offering stays in the Kansas West Conference, and the remaining half goes to the General Board of Church and Society.

LINK – Baldwin First will serve at LINK on July 7th. If you would like to assist with this, please visit with Debbie Oakleaf or John Beins.

UMCOR Mission Statement -Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

CONGRATULATIONS ... Blair Thompson, who served as our Youth Director from 2003-2004 and who came out of our church as a candidate for ordination, is graduating from Perkins School of Theology. She has been appointed to serve as pastor of Frontenac UMC in Frontenac, KS. Blair gives thanks for the support of our community and asks for our prayers during this time of transition. She is the niece of Loren and Judy Anderson.

SEWING FOR AFRICA (little dresses and shorts) ... 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 equipment and material to keep everyone busy.

Those interested in the project of "little dresses and shorts for Africa", please meet me June 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Library. Please be there if you plan on helping. I DO NEED a count of participants. Thank you.

- Linda Ballinger

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

***SKY VBS is coming to BFUMC!** Children who have just completed preschool through 5th grade are enthusiastically invited to come soar to new heights with God at SKY VBS. Our summer VBS will take place July 8th-12th (Sunday – Thursday) from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Kids will learn at SKY VBS that no matter who you are, how you feel, where you are, what happens, or what people might do ... you can TRUST GOD! Bible stories and verses come from both the Old and New Testaments and each day the kids will learn a bible point to help them remember that they can TRUST GOD.

This year, there will be some slight changes to the VBS format, but the excitement and fun will be the same! Kids will be excited about the new stations and the soaring fun of SKY VBS! Invite all the kids you know!! Online registration will be available through our church website: www.baldwinfirst.org.

***There's a place for everyone at SKY VBS...it's not JUST for kids!** Last year, we ministered to 143 children at Pandamania VBS. It takes a lot of hands and feet to minister to that many wonderful kids! Adults and JR/SR High youth can serve as Station Leaders, Walking Leaders, Registration Attendants, or serve a light meal to our VBS volunteers. And being a part of VBS is FUN!! We have many return adults and youth to our VBS staff and the more the merrier! If you cannot physically be a part of VBS, then you can always support our wonderful VBS financially by sponsoring a child for VBS and praying for our VBS is always welcomed! If you would like to be a part of our VBS staff, please contact Shelly. ☺ ***Presently, I am looking for 2 adult leaders for the Games station (All-Star Games) and 2 adult leaders for a NEW station called Imagination Station (a science experiment type of station!) We can ALWAYS use walking leaders!**

***VBS sponsorship:** Over the past couple of years, our church family has generously sponsored hundreds of children to attend our FREE VBS. How exciting it is to know that our church can share the great big love of Jesus with kids and their families. The priceless gift of sponsorship will allow a child to SOAR to new heights with God. This year, sponsorship for 1 child is \$20 for 5 days of uplifting joy! If you would like to sponsor a child for VBS, simply leave a check in the offering plate w/ VBS in the memo line or you can leave a check in the church office. By the way...our prayer goal for SKY VBS is to minister to 150 children! Please join us in praying that God blesses us with the opportunity to minister to MANY children!

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

Sunday, June 3	3:30 p.m.: Jr. Hi Youth Group	6:00 p.m.: Sr. Hi Youth Group
Sunday, June 10	3:30 p.m.: Jr. Hi Youth Group	6:00 p.m.: Sr. Hi Youth Group
Sunday, June 17	<u>12:00pm: WorkCamper Tool Packing Party</u>	
June 17–June 23:	Institute Session 1: Intentional Christian community experience, sponsored by KS East Conference Council on Youth Ministry. For students completing 8-12 grades. Held at Baker University.	
June 22–July 1:	Youth Mission WorkCamp 2012 trip to Ocean View, DE.	
Sunday, July 8,	<u>12:00pm: WorkCamper Tool UN-Packing Party</u>	
July 8–July 12,	<u>5:30-9:30pm nightly:</u> Children's Vacation Bible School / Service Opportunity	
July 15–July 21:	Institute Session 2: Intentional Christian community experience, sponsored by KS East Conference Council on Youth Ministry. For students completing 8-12 grades. Held at Baker University.	

