

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

September 2011

***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:

Ahh . . . September! Such a lovely, transitional month! But, doesn't it seem to come to us faster than it once did?

Thank you to so many who were able to stay for the covered dish dinner on Sunday, August 28th for the "Welcome" dinner for Debbie and me. The food was delicious, the fellowship was wonderful, the time together was precious. We were glad that so many were able to stay and be a part of it. We are also glad, very glad, to be here and be among you. This is a good community and a good church.

"Thank you" is not enough to say to all of our church school teachers, helpers, adult youth workers, and all of those who do so much to make Sunday School happen, youth fellowship continue, and Christian Education occur for all. There is much work and effort that goes into preparing a lesson, teaching the lesson, listening to students and participants, offering the knowledge and the relationship and passing on the faith. But, we do say thank you to all of those who do so much to help foster an educational, learning environment in this church. Our recognition of you on "Rally" Day was a token of our deep appreciation for you and what you do. Thank you so much!

Thank you also to our choir! We welcome your return. Thank you to our worship band that provides us with the experience of new, contemporary music. There are many ways to glorify God, music is a primary way, whether involving classical, traditional, organ, guitar, drums, piano, old or new. There are many talented people here who give their time and talent to give glory to God and uplift us all. Thanks to our choir and worship band!

As you read this, the committee on nominations will have begun its work for this year. If you are on a committee, board, or task group for the church, you will soon be receiving a letter that will be an opportunity to respond to an invitation to continue on that group. I hope that when you receive it, you will respond quickly by saying "yes". You have been carefully selected to be on that committee, board or group and we need you; the church needs you.

Also, a member of the committee on nominations may come calling you with a request, or an invitation, to be a member of a committee, board or some group for the church in the coming year. You will not only be asked to be a member, but to be a participating member. I hope you will say yes to such a request. Or, better yet, please call us at the church and offer your services wherever you see yourself fitting. We need you!

September will also bring us some opportunities in worship and mission for our discipleship. September 4 will be the usual first Sunday of the month communion, but with a special "Great Thanksgiving" prayer designed for Labor Day. September 11 will be a worship of remembrance for the events of ten years ago on that date. On September 18, I will begin preaching for a few weeks out of Philippians, Paul's wonderful letter of joy and encouragement in Christ. That Sunday's lesson will be 1:21-30 and the 25th will be 2:1-13. The 25th will be the CROP Walk in the afternoon. I have walked in many CROP walks that raise funds to fight hunger and hunger related causes in the world and our community. I do not know much about this one, but I urge your support for anyone who is walking.

And, as always, thank you each and everyone for what you have done, what you are doing, and what you will be doing to make this the wonderful church it is and that God is calling it to be.

SHALOM,

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Dickinson, Chair. (594-2658)

CROP WALK - The annual CROP Walk for Hunger is coming September 25. John Lawrenz has been an integral piece of assuring for a successful CROP Walk in our area for many years. With his passing, many hands will have to work to fill the void. Let us make this year a tribute to his years of service with CROP and missional outreach at home and abroad, by having a "bumper CROP".

SCHOOL KITS FOR ROUNDUP - As we gear up for the return to school, it is a good time to purchase items for school kits for the November Bishop's Roundup. If you would like to purchase items and leave them on the stage with the Food Pantry items, they will be stored until the Roundup. Lists of kit items will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs.

WHY SOMALIA MATTERS excerpt- Rev. Larry Hollon, UMC General Secretary of Communications

Twenty years ago, I sat at a wooden table under a plastic tarp eating cereal in powdered milk made of charcoal-filtered water at a refugee camp near Luuq, Somalia. It was the sparest of conditions. In the corner of my eye, I saw a young man and woman with an older woman sit down near a thorn fence a few hundred feet away. The young woman held a baby. Meanwhile, my colleagues and I joked and teased each other as the sun rose. After we finished breakfast, a Somali-speaking staff interpreter came to the doctor who sat across from me and took him to the young couple. The young mother handed her baby to the doctor. I was startled when I heard him shouting curse words. As we had eaten breakfast, they had waited politely and the malnourished child had died. That was Somalia 20 years ago, in a massive famine in which millions of Somalis were displaced from their desiccated rangelands. Herds on which they depended for survival were dead and dying. Wells they used across the entire territory were dry. Food could not be found. Famine stalked the vast Ogaden rangelands across the breadth of Somalia and into Ethiopia. Today, the news from Somalia is as grim.

Somalia is not a distant place on the Horn of Africa, nor is the suffering of the Somali people of no consequence to us. As a person of faith who follows Jesus, I am called by his teachings about human worth and my responsibility to my neighbor to be concerned and to act.

UMCOR is present in Somalia- donation checks payable to your local church with "Disaster Response International Advance # 982450 go directly to providing relief in Somalia.

CHAPEL CHOICES - By the time you are reading this, most students will be back in school, from kindergarten through college seniors. That includes students at Baker University. For the past three years, individuals and groups within our church have made it possible for a meal to be provided after Baker Chapel services which begin at 11:00 each Thursday. Anyone attending the services is invited to partake. You can help with this ministry in a couple of ways. You can donate money that is used to purchase food items for the meals. A number of the meals are prepared in the Baker cafeteria. Other times we purchase pizza or sub sandwiches from local restaurants. A second way is by preparing the meal, either by yourself or going together with someone else. An example of a menu would be a soup and a salad. Drinks, tableware and dessert are provided through Chapel resources. We normally serve between 50 - 60 students, faculty and community members each Thursday. If you would like to help either way in providing one of the meals this year, please talk to me some Sunday or call me at 594-6864.

Another way you could be of service is by helping maintain the grounds around the Chapel. Due to limited funds, Baker is not able to keep up with the maintenance required to keep everything looking manicured. For those who have been in the garden area on the east side of the Chapel, you know how attractive an area this can be. It's also not hard to realize how much work it takes to keep it looking that way. If we had several people willing to take a section of the garden area and maintain just that part, we could keep it looking good without requiring a lot of time on anyone's part. On Thursday, August 11, five members of our church participated in Baker Cleanup Day. We worked at the Chapel and were able to make a pretty good dent in getting the grounds looking like they should. Again, if this is something you would be interested in helping with, talk to me any Sunday or call me at 594-6864.

- Bill Clement

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Preschool and Elementary Sunday School ... Our brand new school year will officially begin on Sunday, September 4 at 9:30 a.m. Preschool through 3rd grade students will join Miss Shelly in the chapel for an opening time of singing and prayer. 4th and 5th grade students will go directly to their Sunday School classroom on the 2nd floor of the church.

Our Sunday School staff is excited about meeting new students and continuing on with other students from last year. Here is our official staff for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

Preschool: Jean Baldwin, Linda Bolz, Donna Curran (classroom is in the basement by the elevator)

K-1st Grade: Rose O'Dea, Marve' Ralston, Vonna Torneden (2nd floor)

2nd-3rd Grade: David Bolz, Samantha Cheek, Cora Martin (2nd floor)

4th-5th Grade: Angela Murray, Becky Thomas, Gayla Waymire (2nd floor)

Sunday School registration forms are located in the Narthex. We encourage you to complete a form for your child. Forms may be given directly to Shelly Todd, or a Sunday School teacher, or left in the church office. We are looking forward to a FUN year in Sunday School!

Safe and Sacred Space Training ... The Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church requires that any person working with children, youth, or adults with developmental disabilities complete a sexual abuse prevention program titled Safe and Sacred Spaces. Once training is complete, individuals are certified to work with this population for a 5 year period. There will be a training at BFUMC on September 17 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Cost of the training is \$30 which will help off-set the expense of a criminal background check. If you need training and would like to attend, please call or email Shelly Todd, Director of Children's Ministries (also a trainer).

CROSS CULTURE YOUTH MINISTRY

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

CROSS Culture Youth Group SCHEDULE:

Saturday, August 27: **Serve at LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutritional Kitchen)**
12:30-2:30 Registered youth will bring a dessert and meet at LINK to serve those in need.

Sunday, August 28:
3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group
6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group
Please bring a 24-pack of soda, juice, or sports drink to help stock the Youth Room!

RSVP due or 9/10-11 "Project Revolution IV" District Youth Overnight Concert Event.

Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11:
5pm Sat **"Project Revolution IV: Awakening!" District Youth Rally for grades 7-12**
to 10am Sun Bring a friend and meet at Lawrence 1st UMC (West Campus/867 Highway 40) with youth from the entire UMC 5-Rivers District for an all-night party! Live band, games, food, youth-led praise and worship, and friends galore! Get a cool "Project Revolution" t-shirt with your registration! *Registration for t-shirt due by email by 8/26. Bring Registration Form & \$15 to event.*
Adult Sponsors (for overnight) will be needed.

Sunday, September 18:
3:30-5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group
6:00-8:00pm Sr. High Youth Group

Sunday, September 25: **"CROP Hunger Walk" Community Service Project**
1:00pm Meet at Vinland Elementary School to walk CROP Walk. Be sure to collect donations before walk!

7:00pm **Soul Surfer FREE Community Movie EVENT**
Bring friends and family and come to the FREE movie! Complete with FREE popcorn and snacks!

RSVP/\$50 deposit due today for 6/22-7/1 Ocean View, DE WorkCamp Youth Mission Trip.

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

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www.baldwinfirst.org

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.

September 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
1st Saturday	9:30 a.m.	UMW Executive Board – Library
1st & 3rd Saturdays	7:30 a.m.	United Methodist Men – Vintage Park

Mon., Sept. 5	7:00 p.m.	Mission – Fellowship Hall
Mon., Sept. 12	7:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Tues., Sept. 13	7:00 p.m.	Trustees – Fellowship Hall
Mon., Sept. 19	7:00 p.m.	Finance – Chapel
		SPPRC – Library
Tues., Sept. 20	7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee - Library
Sun., Sept. 25		CROP Walk – Vinland
Mon., Sept. 26	7:00 p.m.	Church Council - Chapel