

St. John's  
United  
Church  
Of Christ, Bem

# The Scoop!

May, 2009

"...no matter who you  
are or where you are  
on life's journey, you  
are welcome here in  
the United Church  
of Christ..."

## *From the Pastor's Keyboard...*

*"Every Morning is Easter Morning"*

*Is Easter over? For those of you who have been in worship regularly, you have heard me wish you a "Happy Easter" the past few Sundays, even though our secular calendars say that Easter is over. So what is up with my greeting this season? Have I contracted "Bunny Flu"?*

*Here are two ways of celebrating Easter. One way is to come to church that one day each year and sit through worship; then go back to work Monday morning putting Easter behind you and forgetting about God for another year. Another way is to choose to lead an Easter life; a Resurrection life; taking the miracles and promises of Easter morning into your soul and living Easter all year long, 24/7. Can you guess which choice I am going to advocate?*

*The Christian Calendar tells us that Easter is far from over. Easter continues for a full fifty days until Pentecost (which is May 31 this year). So we are still celebrating Easter well into May! In actuality though, even 50 days of Easter is too few. We have witnessed the Resurrection through the stories and songs of our faith; we have taken the promises of New Life and Resurrection into our very hearts and souls; we have developed a relationship with the Resurrected Christ and continue to develop that relationship through prayer and service every day. We have chosen to be people of the Resurrection; and as Easter People, we are called to live lives that continue to proclaim that miracle in our world all year long. Christ is Risen, Alleluia! This is a reality that we will continue to celebrate every day of the year!*

*Our focus scriptures for May are all from the book of Acts; check them out on page two. These scriptures really speak to us; for thorough them we see how the Holy Spirit fired up those first century disciples as they chose to live as Easter people despite the persecution, distractions and economic crises of their day. Through Acts, we see how we can choose to be Easter People too; all year long! "Every morning is Easter Morning!"*

*-Pastor Rick*

## **St. John's United Church of Christ, Bem**

1944 Bem Church Road; Owensville, MO 65066

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Website: [www.bemchurch.com](http://www.bemchurch.com)

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle

email: [rick@bemchurch.com](mailto:rick@bemchurch.com)

Secretary: Carole Dotson

email: [carole@bemchurch.com](mailto:carole@bemchurch.com)

Organist: Jamie Schultz

Custodian: Nancy Kohrmann

Cemetery Sexton: Lee Kreter

Sunday School Coordinator: Suzan Wilson

Visual Arts Coordinators: Curtis, Christina, and Bryan Aytes

## **CWS BLANKETS PLUS-MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The tsunami of December 26, 2004- one of the most devastating disasters of the last 50 years- claimed more than 250,000 lives. Millions were displaced, homes and livelihoods shattered, in an area stretching from Indonesia to East Africa.

**Church World Services**, with long standing programs in the region, quickly responded; blankets, tents, mosquito nets, water, medical supplies, and Health Kits were directed to the most affected areas. And now, thanks to funds from the **Blankets Plus Program, Church World Services** continues to meet emergency needs as well as the long term demands of rebuilding shattered lives and communities.

Through the **Church World Services Blankets Plus Program**, congregations around the country reach out in compassion to people in need in more than 80 countries. Simply said, the right tool or a needed blanket can make a world of difference in the lives of a family or community.

**Church World Services Blankets Plus Program** is our Bem Church Mission of the Month for May; and our support of this program can go a long way. We can be a part of God's work in the world in so many ways; here is what a portion of our blessings can do around the world:

- \$25 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a hurricane in Florida;
- \$100 can enable three women to receive a microcredit loan to start their own business;
- \$200 can provide a struggling farm family with an animal to increase their food production;
- \$250 can provide a sewing machine to a widow learning to support her family in Afghanistan;

We are so blessed by God's abundant grace; we now have the opportunity to pour out that grace on others. Watch for opportunities in church all throughout the month of May to support Church World Services' Tools and Blankets Program in different and unique ways!

## **SCRIPTURES FOR MAY, 2009**

These are the scripture readings and topics we will be exploring in worship during the month of May. Read ahead! It is always beneficial if you read these before Sunday morning; you will get much more out of worship that way!

### **May 3<sup>rd</sup>-**

#### **Rev. Jeff Whitman is our guest**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 23  
Easter Lesson: Acts 4:5-12  
Gospel Lesson: John 10:11-18

### **May 10<sup>th</sup>- Mother's Day**

#### **"Chariots and Fire"**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 22:25-31  
Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8  
Easter Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

### **May 17<sup>th</sup>- Police Recognition Day**

#### **"No Greater Love Than This"**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 98  
Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17  
Easter Lesson: Acts 10:44-48

### **May 24<sup>th</sup>- Memorial Day Sunday**

#### **Memorial Service in the Cemetery**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 47  
Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53  
Easter Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

#### **Special Worship Opportunity!**

On May 24<sup>th</sup> we will observe Memorial Day by worshipping in the Bem Church Cemetery. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like- 10:00am!

### **May 31<sup>st</sup>- Pentecost**

#### **"Seeing Red"**

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 104:24-31  
Gospel Lesson: John 16:5-15  
Pentecost Lesson: Acts 2:1-2

### **SAVE YOUR ENVELOPES**

When you receive your offering envelopes in the mail each month, there is a white envelope included that is addressed to Bem Church. Don't throw this envelope away! If you are just throwing it away each month, bring it to church and leave it on Carole's desk, or in the pew pocket in front of you. If you use it to send your offering in, then please continue to do so.

### **CHOIR NOTES**

Come to Choir Practice! The Bem Church Choir will be rehearsing during the week- one Monday night a month! They will meet at 6:30 on May 4. At this time, they will choose and practice the anthems for the upcoming month, and rehearse any special music that is coming up in worship. Come praise the Lord in song!

### **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN- A HOME FOR LOOSE CHANGE**

The Penny Jar is back! Pairs and Spares has revived the Penny Jar and is putting it to good use in ministry in our community. The Penny Jar will be at back of the Sanctuary each week, awaiting your contributions of loose change. The funds raised in the penny jar will be forwarded to the Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance, for much needed services in our community.

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The Scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for Scholarships to be awarded for the fall semester of 2009. Anyone planning to attend college or graduate school next year is invited to apply. Applications are located in the church narthex (the back of the church where you come in) or you can get one from the church office; contact Carole Dotson. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting again May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Acts, the "hinge" of the New Testament, is a particularly fascinating book. It focuses on a dynamic church guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Acts begins with Jesus instructing his followers to go back to Jerusalem and wait for "the gift from on high"; that is, the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Then the Spirit comes, empowers the new church, and the whole world is changed. Come spend time with us as we investigate the ways the Book of Acts speaks to us today.

We will gather for six Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm; we started on April 22 and will conclude on May 27<sup>th</sup>. During this time we will continue our sojourn into what is perhaps the most influential book of the New Testament. Come see why it is a "hinge;" come and see how the Holy Spirit empowers us all; come and see why the Book of Acts is Still Speaking to us today. There is no charge for this class; we will be using materials provided free to us by the **United Church of Christ Church House** in Cleveland; materials that are made possible by our contributions to **Our Church's Wider Mission. Come join us!**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2009**

Vicky Huebner, President; Doug Shockley, Vice President;  
Jackie Mitchell, Treasurer; Dee Ruegge, Secretary;  
Curtis Aytes and Keith Glaser, Trustees;  
and Diana Halmick, Pastor Parish Relations Committee Representative.

**THANK YOU!**

*(Some thank you notes may be edited due to space limitations)*

**Thank you for a great Easter Morning!**

Thank you to all who helped to make our Easter Morning Breakfast such a delight. To the person who donated the sausage, a special word of thanks. We also had generous members donate eggs, breakfast casseroles, pastries, and deviled eggs. Thank you to all, as well as those who prepared the meal so lovingly.

Have you noticed that the kitchen has a new commercial grade countertop can opener and two updated microwaves? Thank you to Lois Ruffner, John Kehoe and Karen Pfitzinger, and Larry and Vicky Branson who donated these items. They make our kitchen run even more smoothly!

Thank you to all for your generosity!

**-Hester Tayloe and the Bem Church Hospitality Committee**

*(A big thank you also from the members of Bem Church to Hester Tayloe  
And the Hospitality Committee who organized the Easter Breakfast,  
And who work so hard all year to put together these events.  
Your ministry is very much appreciated by this whole congregation!)*

**Dear Pastor Oberle,**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Helping Hands Outreach Center I wish to thank the members of your congregation for their continuing generous support of our food pantry operation. Their donations of \$45.00 for the month of March and \$129.87 from the Souper Bowl Collection (by the youth) will help us to serve the truly needy of our area.

The need continues to be great. So far this year we are averaging 259 households served each month. We are grateful for your congregation's recognition of the needs that people have and their willingness to help us meet those needs.

**-Sincerely, Andrew J. Michel, President; Helping Hands Outreach Center**

**Dear Friends at St. John's,**

Easter Greetings! Thank you for your recent gifts of \$465 to Eden Seminary. We are thankful you have joined us in our educational ministry, preparing women and men for leadership in the church and society.

At Eden spring is in full swing. Spring Convocation was a great success. Students are immersed into the semester's classes and classroom discussion often continues long after class is over. Prospective students can be seen around campus this spring- visiting in chapel, sitting in on a class or two, contemplating their call to ministry and to Eden Theological Seminary.

In all these ways we are God's church in this sacred place at Eden Theological Seminary. Thorough your gift to the Annual Fund, you join us in making this educational ministry possible. Thank you! **-Doni Driemeier-Showers, Director of Development, Eden Seminary**

**SOUPERBOWL OF CARING THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who participated in the Souperbowl of Caring on February 1, 2009. Our Bem Church Youth collected \$129.87, adding to the nation-wide collection of \$10,204,116! This \$10 million is generated by churches all over the country, and given directly to food pantries and other services to feed the hungry. What a great outreach program! Thank you for your support!

### ECUCATION EXCELLENCE AMONG BEM CHURCH MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Peggy Schafer**, who was the recipient of the **Dr. Doris Ridder award for Educational Excellence** presented March 31<sup>st</sup> at the “Distinction in Performance” banquet hosted by the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Peggy has been an educator in the Gasconade County R-2 district for a number of years; this award is a great honor, highlighting her career achievements. **The Dr. Doris Ridder Award** was established to honor the late Dr. Doris Ridder, a long time educator with the University of Missouri System, and a member of Zion/St. Paul United Church of Christ in Bay. The award was presented to Peggy by Dr. Dale Ridder, on behalf of his late wife. ***Congratulations to Peggy on this high honor!***

Congratulations also to **Dennis and Roberta Licklider**, Bem Church members who are retiring this year from Jefferson City High School. They have both shaped the lives of many youth at Jefferson City High School since the 1970s. Their accomplishments are many, most in the fields of physical education, leading many of the High School’s teams to state championships. In their honor, the new track at Jefferson City High School has been designated by the Jefferson City Board of Education as “**The Licklider Track at Adkins Stadium.**” ***Congratulations to Dennis and Roberta on this great honor!***

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Congratulations to **Zach Morris** for wining the Overall Grand Champion award for his steer at the Crawford County Preview Show! ***Congratulations, Zach!***

Congratulations to **Alyssa LaValle** for being chosen to represent Union High School at Missouri Girls’ State this June! MGS is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary. 750 High School Girls from across Missouri are selected each summer to gather at The University of Central Missouri to learn about government through participatory modeling. ***Congratulations, Alyssa!***

Congratulations to **Kolby Baker**, who has been selected to travel to ***Paris, France*** to play football this summer!

### PAIRS AND SPARES NEWS

We are planning a trip to Shannondale June 7<sup>th</sup> right after church. Come join us! We have also set the dates for our summer ***Rummage Sale- June 11, 12, & 13.*** We will also be open June 14<sup>th</sup> after church. Start saving up your goodies! You can start bringing items to church beginning June 7. ***The Church Picnic*** is right around the corner, too- ***May 23. Remember the Pairs & Spares country store!*** Our sympathy to the family of Don Blackwell, who died recently. Don’s wife Tamlyn was a member here before moving to Union, MO.

***Check the church kitchen for bakeware and pans you may have left behind!  
Any “Leftovers” in the church kitchen will be sold in the June Rummage Sale!***

### DON'T MISS THESE SPECIAL SUNDAYS COMING UP IN MAY

- May 3-** Missouri Mid South Conference Minister Rev. Jeff Whitman will be worshipping with us, offering the sermon and celebrating communion with Pastor Rick
- May 10-** Mother’s Day; special recognition and blessing for all the women who support our community
- May 17-** Police Officers Recognition Sunday; Blessing our Law Enforcement personnel in worship.
- May 24-** Memorial Day Sunday; Outdoor Memorial Worship in the Cemetery.
- May 31-** Pentecost Party! Wear Red to church! Special brunch after church to offset church camp fees!

**MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE** *Flowers: Lois Ruffner*

<b>Nursery Workers:</b> 5/3: Paula Copeland & Andrea Glaser	<b>Greeters:</b> Bryon Baker Family	<b>Lay Reader:</b> Nancy Jenkins	<b>Acolytes:</b> Andrew Carey & Kelsey Baxter
5/10: Vicky Huebner & Dana Goodman	Lois Ruffner/ Russ Bacon Families	Beth Sieckmann	Andrew Carey & Tanner Goodman
5/17: Stephanie Kramme & Laurie McFalls	Don Brand/ Cathy Hinson Families	Shelby Oberle	Sable Huebner & Kelsey Baxter
5/24: Tina Wnuk & Jan McQueen	Brenda Sieckmann Family	Hester Tayloe	Sable Huebner & Tanner Goodman
5/31: Tammy Baxter & Dawn Kreter	Mc Falls/Oberle Families	Mary Ota	Kelsey Baxter & Andrew Carey

**BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH**

5/1- Nancy Jenkins, Leslie Copeland; 5/4- Doreen Will; 5/5- Parker Johnson; 5/9- Richard Boyd;  
5/10- Lane Adkison, Asa Baker; 5/11- Jamie Schultz; 5/12- Stephanie Kramme; 5/13- Sal Parker;  
5/15- Jodie Wilson; 5/17- Collin Frahm; 5/18- Charles Czeschin, Courtni Crosby;  
5/20- Jessica Parker; 5/22- Rick Copeland; 5/23- Crystal Blankenship; 5/24- Brooke Johnson;  
5/26- Lindsey Mercer, Marissa Copeland, Cody Echols; 5/27- Taylor Wildebrandt;  
5/28- Dana Chapman; 5/29- Debbie Adams, KC Frahm; 5/30- Connie Koepke

...Happy Birthday!

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

5/1- Nancy & Tom Kohrmann; 5/3- Sharon & Allan Kohrmann, Chirley & Duke Enke;  
5/4- Lisa & Mark Thornton; 5/12- Barb & Sal Parker; 5/15- Jan & Jim Crook;  
5/17- Doris & Don Brand, Kristen & Cody Echols; 5/21- Beulah & Armin Rutz;  
5/22- Shirley & Richard Boyd; 5/25- Jodi & Darin Layman; 5/27- Mary & Nobby Ota;  
5/30- Brenda & Chris Lewis

... Happy Anniversary!

**ATTENDANCE**

Date:	Worship/Sun. School:	Date:	Worship:	Date:	Worship/Sun School:
Sun, March 1	122/34	Wed, February 25	47	Sun, April 5	149/49
Sun, March 8	125/50	Wed, March 4	45	Sun, April 12	263/80
Sun, March 15	146/49	Wed, March 11	46	Sun, April 19	86/17
Sun, March 22	125/30	Wed, March 18	45	Sun, April 26	120/17
Sun, March 29	165/30	Wed, March 25	53		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>683/193</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>618/163</b>
Average:	137/39	Average:	47	Average:	155/41

**GRAPE COUNTRY CLUSTER- CHURCHES IN MISSION TOGETHER**

The Grape Country Cluster is putting together a *Mission Fair to be held at Bethany United Church of Christ in Berger, MO the evening of Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>*. Laura Shore will be the featured speaker, talking about her trip to Kenya. The Emmaus Home Bell Choir will be there, too along with the Ida Gerleman singers (and homemade ice cream!). A great event! Plan now to attend!

**BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

<b>General Fund</b>		<b>Special Offering Fund</b>	
<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$6320.</b>	<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$1073.</b>
Income:		Income:	
Offering	\$10,288	Mission Fund	\$570.
Interest	\$66	Helping Hands Food Pantry	\$45.
Tower	\$550	Emmaus Homes	\$107
Dinners	<u>\$1714.*</u>	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$47
Total Income	\$12,619.	Relay For Life	\$1109
Expense: Budgeted Items	(\$15,106)	Flowers	<u>\$110</u>
<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$3833</b>	Total Income	\$1988.
		Disbursements:	(\$1080)
<b>Building Fund</b>		<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$1981.</b>
<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$2419.</b>	<b>Memorial/Gift Fund</b>	
Income:	\$30	<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$9604</b>
<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$2449.</b>	<b>Youth Fellowship Account</b>	
<b>Cemetery Fund</b>		<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$1027.</b>
<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$3408</b>	Expense:	
Income:		Helping Hands Food Pantry	\$130
Envelopes	\$79	<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$897.</b>
Interest	<u>\$76.</u>	<b>Etta Licklider VBS Fund</b>	
Total Income	\$155.	<b>Balance as of 3-15-09:</b>	<b>\$1503</b>
<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$3563</b>	<b>CD Balance:</b>	<b>\$9891.</b>
<b>Quilters</b>			
<b>Balance as of 3-15-09</b>	<b>\$584</b>		
Expense:	\$282		
<b>Balance as of 4-15-09</b>	<b>\$302</b>		

\*German Dinner Income was \$1451; Lenten Soup Suppers Income was \$263

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: HOW ARE WE DOING IN 2009?**

Year to Date income as of April 19, 2009 is \$40,352; Year to Date goal is \$44,000. *As of April 19, income is behind by \$3648, or 8%.* We have made an incredible progression this quarter. Go back and look at February's issue of The Scoop; at that point we were down by **28%!** This congregation has done a fantastic job of remaining faithful to God's call to mission and ministry even when the economic reports are all gloomy and pessimistic. God is challenging us to do great things, and we are going to town! Let's keep up the great stewardship, and ***pull ahead*** as we move on into the second quarter of 2009!

**RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee of Bem Church is starting a new initiative to respond to the needy in our community; we are working with ***Helping Hands Food Pantry*** to collect healthcare items in addition to our regular food collection. We will have a rotating list of healthcare items to collect for ***Helping Hands Food Pantry***; our goal is to collect 300 of each item. The current item is: **Shampoo!** Bring a few bottles of shampoo with you to church when you can; our goal is to collect 300 bottles. When we do, we will deliver them to ***Helping Hands***, then begin another collection. ***Helping Hands*** helps almost 300 families every month.

**PRAYER LIST**

For a copy of the St. John's, Bem prayer list email Pastor Rick or call the church office! Email Pastor Rick at: [rick@bemchurch.com](mailto:rick@bemchurch.com) or call 573.437.3698!

**ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- MAY 2009 CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am      SUNDAY SCHOOL- 8:45am**

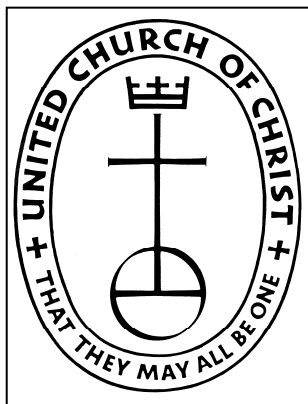
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	All Church Clean Up Day	9:00am
	Confirmation	9:00am
	Scholarship Committee Meeting	11:00am
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	<b>Conference Minister Rev. Jeff Whitman our Guest</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	Youth Meeting after worship	11:15am
May 4 <sup>th</sup> -	Choir Practice/Christian Ed Meeting	6:30/7:00pm
May 6 <sup>th</sup> -	Bible Study with Pastor Rick- Acts, Chapter 3	6:30pm
May 9 <sup>th</sup> -	Eastern Association Quilt Show at St. Peter's UCC in New Haven	
May 11 <sup>th</sup> -	Council Meeting	6:30pm
May 13 <sup>th</sup> -	O/RMA Meeting at First Baptist Church	10:30am
	Bible Study with Pastor Rick- Acts, Chapter 4	6:30pm
May 14 <sup>th</sup> -	CUE Committee Meeting in St. Louis-Pastor Rick	10:00am
May 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Confirmation	9:00am
May 17 <sup>th</sup> -	<b>Police Officer's Recognition Day in Worship</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	Pastor Rick leading Worship at Frene Valley	2:00pm
May 20 <sup>th</sup> -	Bible Study with Pastor Rick- Acts, Chapter 5	6:30pm
May 21 <sup>st</sup> -	Pastor Rick at Helping Hands Food Pantry	11:00am
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup>-</b>	<b>Church Picnic</b>	<b>3:00pm-???</b>
<b>May 24<sup>th</sup> -</b>	<b>Memorial Day Worship in the Cemetery</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
	Ebenezer Stone Church Picnic	Noon-???
May 27 <sup>th</sup> -	Bible Study with Pastor Rick- Acts, Chapter 6	6:30pm
May 28 <sup>th</sup> -	Grape Country Cluster at Bethany UCC, Berger	7:00pm
May 31 <sup>st</sup> -	<b>Pentecost! Wear Red! CE Brunch after church; Camp Mo-Val fundraiser!</b>	

**QUILTING EVERY TUESDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM: BRING SACK LUNCH**

**YOGA EVERY MONDAY: 6:00-7:30pm**

St. John's United Church of Christ  
1944 Bem Church Road  
Owensville, MO 65066

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To everyone in the home of: