

St. John's
United
Church
Of Christ, Bem

The Scoop!

July, 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...

"General Synod"

As I sit here preparing this newsletter, I am anticipating my trip this weekend to General Synod. This biennial event is an exciting time in the life of the church; and to be able to participate in its workings is a rare treat indeed.

I have downloaded materials and looked over documents, preparing myself for the ministry that is to take place this weekend in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There are over 30 different resolutions that will be presented and discussed at this gathering; most of them will go unnoticed by the majority of our Congregations, but all of them speak volumes about the values, principles, and polity of our United Church of Christ; for behind all of these is passion, purpose and love; for God, and God's call to be in ministry with all of creation.

These materials are daunting to say the least; and as I peruse them, I realize that there are several resolutions up for discussion that I personally do not support; there are actions and reactions that I do not personally hold dear; and there are structural questions that in my mind are cut and dried; but others see differently. That is what I love so much about the UCC.

The dynamic of being an autonomous Christian while still being a covenant partner is what is so unique and caring about our church. In the United Church of Christ we are challenged to expand our ideas, to reinforce our theologies, and to examine our beliefs. We are encouraged to act prayerfully and seek God's guidance in all ways; but it is hard to hear God Still Speaking when your mind is already made up as to what you are going to hear.

God is Still Speaking; and challenging us; and opening us up to our inherent potential within. May the actions and discussions of General Synod always challenge us to action; to an ever more fully defined faith; and an even richer relationship with God.

-Pastor Rick

St. John's United Church of Christ, Bem

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Secretary: Carole Dotson email: carole@bemchurch.com

Organist: Jamie Schultz Custodian: Nancy Kohrmann

Cemetery Sexton: Lee Kreter Sunday School Coordinator: Suzan Wilson

Visual Arts Coordinators: The Aytes Family

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH-JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

What does church mean to you? Mission? Compassion? Community? Praise? Prayer? Peace? We could sit in a circle asking that question and come up with as many different answers as there are people! But the value at the heart of every answer would likely be the same: Love. Our church is love.

Thinking about how the church's love- God's love- has transformed and nourished each one of us, we want to share it. We want others to feel the blessings of grace and acceptance, to know the thrill of service and the freedom to live fully in God's moment- whether it brings joy or sorrow, struggle or laughter.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called **Strengthen the Church**, this offering helps to fund new congregations and renew existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders.

This year's theme for **Strengthen the Church** is "**Spread the Love**". Each Sunday in July, we will be hearing how we spread God's love throughout the world through our support of **Strengthen the Church**.

We will hear about **Beecher Memorial United Church of Christ** in New Orleans, ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, and how their renewal was supported by funds from **Strengthen the Church**. We will hear about **Journey United Church of Christ** in upstate New York, and how this new church start was supported by funds from **Strengthen the Church**. We will hear about 18-year old **Katie Vivona**, and how her leadership skills were developed by attending the **National Youth Event**- an event made possible by funds from **Strengthen the Church**.

In all these stories, we will hear about love; and how we can **Spread the Love** from our community here in Bem, all across the **United Church of Christ**. Our goal for this Mission of the Month is to collect \$400. Together we can **Spread the Love!**

SCRIPTURES FOR JULY- Focus on "The Miracles of Jesus' Ministry"

The entire month of July, we will have a special scriptural focus: We will be discussing the miracles that are attributed to Jesus in his ministry. Why did Jesus "perform" miracles? Why offer these wondrous actions? Why create spectacle and awe if he was trying to get a message of love and peace across? What is the point of all these miracle stories in the Gospels, anyway?

We will be doing something a bit different this month as we veer a bit from the lectionary, and focus on this sermon series. Come join us each Sunday as we examine "The Miracles of Jesus"

July 5th-

"Miracles on the Fritz"

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 48

Gospel Lesson: Mark 6:1-13

July 12th-

"Faith Healing"

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:12b-19

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 24

Gospel Lesson: Mark 5:21-43

July 19th-

"Water into Wine"

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 89:20-37

Gospel Lesson: John 2:1-11

July 26th-

"Loaves and Fishes"

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 14

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel Lesson: John 6:1-21

VISIT THE NEW MISSION & SOCIAL CONCERNS SHARING TABLE

In an effort to try to meet the needs of our community, the Mission and Social Concerns Committee has set up a *Sharing Table* in the Sofa Room. Helping and sharing with each other in the good times and the difficult times makes us even more the body of Christ. At this table you will find the cart for collecting Best Choice & Campbell's Soup labels, Box Tops for Education coupons, eyeglasses, empty prescription bottles, and cancelled stamps. The Pairs & Spares Penny Jar for the Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance is also on the table, and you can leave your pull tabs there as well.

New to the table is the Coupon Corner. Please feel free to take as many coupons as you or your family will be able to use. Some stores double coupons that are under 50¢!! There are even some coupons for \$1, \$2, or \$3 off, and some are one item free with the purchase of another item. Just remember others may use the same product so don't take more than you can actually use. We will do our best to keep outdated coupons pulled weekly, however if you find one that we missed, please pull it for us. New coupons will be added weekly.

We ask that you help us keep this area neat and tidy. Coupon categories are in clearly marked envelopes in their proper drawer. When you are done choosing coupons from an envelope, please return the rest of the coupons to that envelope, then to the proper drawer so others can easily find what they need. If you have coupons you would like to share you can trim them down and put them in the proper envelope & drawer yourself, or give them to Nancy Carl and she will do it for you.

You might be surprised at how much you can save on items you buy regularly with a visit to the Coupon Corner! Even a little saved is a step forward. Working together, we can make a difference. Questions? Talk to Nancy Carl.

BEM CHURCH IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UCC NATIONAL OFFICES!

Bem Church has received three certificates of recognition from the National Offices of the United Church of Christ. The first certificate was in recognition of our 2008 contributions to **Our Church's Wider Mission** totaling \$6292. The second was a certificate thanking us for being a "5 for 5 Congregation"; that is, participating in the four special offerings of the United Church of Christ, as well as basic support of **Our Church's Wider Mission**. The third certificate recognized us as being a "Red Covenant Keeper Congregation." *These three certifications are all great honors for a United Church of Christ congregation!* Check them out- they are on display in the narthex of the church! *Congratulations to us all!*

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.

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.

PAIRS AND SPARES NEWS

No July meeting for Pairs and Spares! We met briefly on June 21st after church to make plans for the next few months. We will be hosting one of the Vacation Bible School meals, and we have our menu all planned out for that! We also voted to donate \$200 to Shannondale Community Center. Our trip there in June was fantastic; we really enjoyed the tour!

We discussed how much to donate to the church to help with our Camp Mo-Val Campership fees. We voted to donate \$500 to the church for this purpose. We also agreed to pay half the fee for the track sign and t-shirt listing for Relay for Life. This came to \$87.50.

Thank you to all who donated items for the Yard Sale! We were amazed at the great response! Profits were \$720.65. There were a lot of items left over, and they will be donated to area shelters. Thank you to all who helped us throughout the week!

(Editor's note: Thank you also, to all Pairs and Spares members for their faithful mission with this church! All funds raised by Pairs and Spares go towards supporting our mission in so many ways! This is a great group, working hard to undergird and support our ministry together. Come check them out sometime! Meetings are usually the first Sunday of each month, with a carry in meal right after church!)

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 in the Mission Corner of the Sofa Room, 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN 2009

The Christian Education scene today invokes many different types of learning styles and formats to engage and excite our children and youth; and uses hands on learning techniques to help them more fully absorb the stories of our traditions as well.

At Bem Church, we have been using a rotation model program for our preschool- fifth grade classes for two years now. In this program, the students hear the same Biblical story four weeks in a row; and each week they experience that story through a different learning style. Workshops include Theatre, cooking, science experiments, art, recreation and investigation. The Biblical stories are reinforced through repetition and varied hands-on learning styles, so that by the end of the unit, the knowledge is integrated into their lives, not just heard and dismissed.

Our kids need YOU! The unique aspect of this program is that when you shepherd a class or lead a workshop, you only commit to a four week rotation. Every four weeks, a new slate of teachers takes over. The challenge is that every four weeks we need to find new teachers!

To address this need, the Christian Education Committee has put together a schedule for next year for all of Bem Church to participate in this Christian Education Program. Just like the greeters and nursery schedule, this Shepherd/Workshop schedule covers the entire academic year, 2009-2010. Watch your mailboxes for more details on your opportunity to serve. Educating our youth is an important task; it takes the whole church to do it! For more details, talk to Suzan Wilson or a member of the Christian Education Committee.

JULY SERVICE SCHEDULE *Flowers: Sadie Kohrmann*

Nursery Workers: 7/5: Kim Oberle & Jodi Layman	Greeters: Clay Chapman/ Ray Oldfather Families	Lay Reader: Sable Huebner	Acolytes: Andrew Carey & Tanner Goodman
7/12: Nancy Kohrmann & Tammy Branson	Richard Koepke Family	Tanner Goodman	Andrew Carey & Kelsey Baxter
7/19: Brooke Johnson & Leann Smith	Charles Czeschin/ Keith Glaser Families	Andrew Carey	Sable Huebner & Tanner Goodman
7/26: Erin West & Judene Huellinghoff	John Tayloe/Esther Tayloe/ Annette Burton/Tracy Behrens Families	Kelsey Baxter	Sable Huebner & Kelsey Baxter

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

7/2- Kolby Baker; 7/3- Jackie Adkison; 7/6- Carl Landwehr, Sonnie Dotson, Emma Jenkins;
7/7- Hayley Lenauer; 7/9- Troy Kreter, Jeff Koepke; 7/12- Parker Johnson; 7/13- Jim Schafer;
7/14- Hugh Steinman; 7/17- Jan McQueen; 7/21- Darin Layman, Aimee Hansel;
7/22- Linda Blankenship, Matt Ruegge; 7/25- Steve Hullinghoff, Kristen Smith;
7/27- Don Enke; 7/31- George Wnuk ...Happy Birthday!

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

7/2- Connie & Jeff Koepke; 7/8- Connie & Jim Lickliger; 7/13- Laura & Charlie Shore
7/14- Pamela & Richard Koepke; 7/19- April & Brian Jardes; ...Happy Anniversary!

ATTENDANCE

Date:	Worship/Sun. School:	Date:	Worship:
Sunday, May 3	111/33	Sunday, May 31	115
Sunday, May 10	109/23	Sunday, June 7	103
Sunday, May 17	123/31	Sunday, June 14	96
Sunday, May 24	130/16	Sunday, June 21	133
Total:	473/103	Total:	447
Average:	118/26	Average:	112

NEW BROCHURE

Keep your eyes out for the new Bem Church brochure, which was designed by Trisha Mistler! You will see copies of it in church; feel free to take some and distribute them to advertise Bem Church! You will also see copies of it around the community, as we make it available around town to spread the word about our church. Thank you, Trisha, for making this great evangelism tool possible!

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 or call 573.437.3698!

What's going on at General Synod and in the UCC? Check it out at: www.ucc.org!

BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

General Fund		Etta Licklider VBS Fund Savings	
Balance as of 5-15-09	\$3418.	Balance as of 5-15-09:	\$1504
Income:		Transfer to CD:	(\$700)
Offering	\$9036	Balance as of 6-15-09:	\$804
Interest	\$52		
Tower	\$550	Etta Licklier VBS Fund CD	
Christian Ed Brunch	\$1033	Balance as of 5-15-09:	\$9891.
Etta Licklider VBS Interest	\$198	Income:	
Picnic	\$7520	Transfer from Savings	\$700
Other	<u>\$661</u>	Interest	<u>\$198</u>
Total Income	\$19,050.	Total Income:	\$898
Expense: Budgeted Items	(\$17,509)	Expense: VBS	(\$198)
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$4959	Balance as of 6-15-09:	\$10,591
Building Fund		Quilters	
Balance as of 5-15-09	\$2449.	Balance as of 5-15-09	\$332
Income:	\$111	Income:	\$2820
Expense:		Expense:	\$25
Clean up days/Maintenance	(\$498)	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$3127
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2062.		
Cemetery Fund		Pairs and Spares	
Balance as of 5-15-09	\$2799	Balance as of 5-15-09	\$1285
Income:		Income:	
Envelopes	\$90	Picnic	\$702
Interest	<u>\$134.</u>	Rummage Sale	<u>\$893</u>
Total Income	\$224.	Total Income	\$1595
Expense: Mowing	\$645.	Expenses:	
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2378	Emmaus Homes	(\$150)
		Picnic Change	(\$130)
		Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2600
Special Offering Fund		Mission & Social Concerns	
Balance as of 5-15-09	\$2139.	Balance as of 5-15-09	\$450
Income:		Income: Picnic	\$568
Mission Fund	\$675.	Expense: Picnic Change:	(\$125)
Helping Hands Food Pantry	\$55.	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$893
Shannondale	\$244		
CWS Blankets Plus Mission	<u>\$275</u>	Youth Fellowship Account	
Total Income	\$1249.	Balance as of 5-15-09	\$930.
Disbursements:	(\$2387)	Income: Picnic	\$91
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$1001.	Expense: Picnic	(\$72)
		Balance as of 6-15-09	\$949.
Memorial/Gift Fund			
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$9604		

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: HOW ARE WE DOING IN 2009?

Year to Date income as of June 21, 2009 is \$68,395; Year to Date goal is \$68,750. We are right on target to meet our budgeted income goal for 2009! Our Mission of the Month responses have been stellar, also; each month this year our Missions of the Month have brought in more donations than they did last year. However, our Mission Fund is down for the year. As of June 21, we have received \$2985, while we should have received \$3875 at this point. We are down \$890 from where we should be at this point on our Mission Fund giving. Let's keep that in mind as we head into the last half of 2009!

THANK YOU!

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

Dear Bem Church Family,

I wish to thank everybody for their cards and well wishes, prayers and visits while I was in the Nursing Home. They were a source of great comfort to me!

Love, Hero Schmidt

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$670 through our Blankets Plus program. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Services can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. With your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. John L. McCullough, Executive Director, Church World Services

Dear Friends at St. Johns,

Greetings from Eden Seminary! Thank you for your recent gift. With your contribution you join us as partners in our educational ministry; for we cannot do this important work alone; we need you. Your gift helps us meet the commitment we have made to students on behalf of the church.

With joyful Thanksgiving,

Doni Dreimeier-Showers, Director of Development, Eden Seminary

Dear Pastor Oberle,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Helping Hands Outreach Center I wish to thank the church members of St. John's, Bem for their continued very generous support of our food pantry operation. The 18 bags of food items donated on April 22nd, and the 21 bags of food donated on May 20th, as well as the \$45 donated on May 7th have helped us meet some of the food needs of the residents of our area. The need is great; this year we have served an average of 269 households each month.

We are grateful for your members' 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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Congratulations to **Jenna Halmick**, who has been recruited by and selected to participate in the Missouri Lion's Club All State Band! They will be marching in the big St. Louis parade July 4th, then at the Lion's Club International Convention in Minneapolis July 5-9. **Congrats, Jenna!**

Congratulations to **Alyssa LaValle**, who represented Union High School at Missouri Girl's State last month! (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!**

Our kids need you! Watch your mailboxes next week for a letter requesting your help with our exciting Sunday School opportunities!

GRAPE COUNTRY CLUSTER- CHURCHES IN MISSION TOGETHER

The Grape Country Cluster of United Church of Christ Congregations hosted their first Missions Festival at Bethany United Church of Christ in Berger, MO on June 19th, 2009. The crowd was light, but those who gathered were renewed both by the sense of ministry of which we are all a part, and the homemade ice cream provided by our hosts! What a great day of mission and ministry in Berger!

The next meeting of the Grape Country Cluster will be on Thursday, July 16th at 7:00pm at St. John's United Church of Christ, Mantels; 442 Mantels Church Road just outside of Washington. We will evaluate our Mission Festival, and hear reports about General Synod from all who attended. It is sure to be a great time; see Pastor Rick if you are interested in carpooling!

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee of Bem Church is working to respond to the needs of our community through Helping Hands Food Pantry! We are currently collecting bars of soap for distribution at Helping Hands. Our goal is to collect 300 bottles by August 30th, to meet the needs of the 300 clients they serve monthly.

Thank you for shampoo! As of press time for The Scoop, we collected 252 bottles of shampoo with one Sunday left to reach 300! Thank you so much for making this drive a huge success!

TIME PASSAGES...

Births...

Myla Nicoal Lauth was born on May 26, 2009 to proud parents Brandi & Chris Lauth and big brother Will. Myla weighed 7lbs, 15oz. (*Myla's name was misspelled last month! Sorry!*)

Jordyn Lynn Mittelhauser was born on June 22, 2009 to proud parents Jessica & Chad Mittelhauser! Jordyn weighed 7lb, 12oz; 21 inches long! Proud grandparents are Mary and Bruce Chapman! Congratulations!

Carly Jo Copeland was born on June 24, 2009 to proud parents Paula and Rick Copeland and siblings Jay and Drew! Carly weighed 7lb, 14oz; 20½ inches long! Proud grandparents are Fran and Mal Huebner! Congratulations!

Baptisms...

Kyrsten Rylee McBrayer and Andrea Marie Hinson were baptized into the Christian Faith on Sunday, June 21, 2009 in the Sanctuary of St. John's, Bem United Church of Christ. Kyrsten is Andrea's daughter. Sponsors are Doris and Don Brand, Cathy and Mike Hinson.

Weddings...

Doris Barnhouse and Don Koepke were married on June 13, 2009 in the Sanctuary of St. John's, Bem United Church of Christ with Pastor Rick Oberle officiating. Doris and Don reside in Owensville. Congratulations to this couple and best wishes as they begin their new life together!

MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Membership Care Committee is assembling a list of people who would be willing to bring a meal to members once in a while after they come home from the hospital, or when illness precludes their preparing their own meals. If you are willing to help, contact Sadie Kohrman!

ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- JULY 2009 CALENDAR

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am

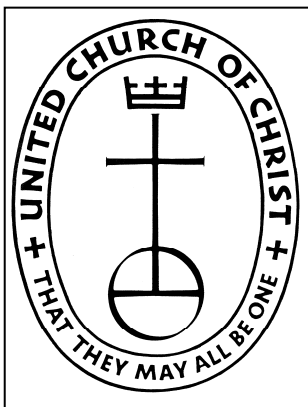
June 25-June 30	United Church of Christ General Synod	
July 6-10	Vacation Bible School	6:00-8:00pm
July 7 th -	Membership Care Committee Meeting	2:00pm
July 8 th -	Ministerial Alliance Meeting at First Baptist Church	10:30am
July 10 th -	Vacation Bible School Picnic/Closing Program	5:30/7:00pm
July 13 th -	Council Meeting	6:30pm
July 15-18	Crawford County Fair	
July 16 th -	Pastor Rick at Helping Hands Food Pantry	11:00am
	Grape Country Cluster Meeting at Mantels	7:00pm
July 27 th -	Mission Committee Meeting	7:00pm
July 29-August 1	Gasconade County Fair	
July 30 th -	Gasconade County Fair Parade	
July 31 st -	Youth Work Ice Cream Booth at Fair	
August 2 nd -	Wyatt Shaw Baptism	10:00am
	Pairs and Spares Meeting/Carry in Meal	11:15am

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

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

St. John's United Church of Christ
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