

**St. John's
United
Church
Of Christ, Bem**

The Scoop!

August, 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"

June 26-30 was the 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and I had the pleasure of attending. It was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the DeVos Convention Center. Grand Rapids did a fantastic job of hosting us; they were a very welcoming city.

There were almost 900 delegates to General Synod; 700 or so from the Conferences of the United Church of Christ, and the rest from the Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council, and other settings of the Church. There were another 3000 visitors like myself, making for a Convention total of almost 4000 people. What a crowd for Grand Rapids! As we came together, God's Holy Spirit was very evident with us. I presented a report on General Synod to the Grape Country Cluster; what follows was my summary statement from that report:

"What struck me most about General Synod were the numerous opportunities for Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service. It seems to me that most of what we hear about in our local church settings are the Resolutions; business that comes before Synod. Yet these Resolutions are such a small part of what really transpires at General Synod that it is a disservice to focus so much of our picture on Resolutions alone. There were literally hundreds of educational opportunities that took place that weekend; dozens of dinners for networking and picking up new ideas; many, many celebrations of what is going great in the United Church of Christ; and many examples of where we fall short. From the time I arrived in Grand Rapids until Synod adjourned Tuesday night, there were hundreds upon hundreds of opportunities for making greater connections with God's goodness, grace, and presence in the world. Every day was a non-stop roller coaster of the Holy Spirit smacking you with new and exciting evidence that God is; and that God is Still Speaking in our ministry together as the United Church of Christ." (If you want a copy of the rest of my General Synod report, send me an email, or call the church office!)

-Pastor Rick

St. John's United Church of Christ, Bem

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Website: www.bemchurch.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle email: rick@bemchurch.com

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

READING & WRITING PACKS (FESTIVAL OF SHARING)-
AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the start of another school year, it is also time to prepare for the **Festival of Sharing**. This year's ingathering will be held on October 17th at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. The Mission Committee has decided to continue St. John's mission of providing Readin' & Writin' packs for Missouri children in need of the basics to start the school year. During the month of August, as you pass those school supply displays, please consider putting together a packet containing the items listed below. These packets will only cost about \$12 to put together, but to some folks in these difficult economic times, that \$12 might just as well be \$100. We will be collecting these packets all month. If you do not choose to do a complete pack, feel free to bring any amount of the items listed and we will put the packs together. There will be a box in the Narthex for you to drop off your items. ***The packs have changed***, and the items needed now are:

For each Reading and Writing Pack:

6 new pencils with erasers
1- 2" eraser
2 ink pens (medium point)
1 box of 24 crayons
1 pair of child-sized metal scissors
1 pencil holder
1- 12" ruler
6 folders with pockets - plain
2 spiral or tape bound notebooks (total 140 pages)

- Place the smaller items inside the pencil holder. Place all items in the zip lock bag provided.
- Bring the Reading and Writing packs you are donating to church and leave them in front of the altar
- As always, if you prefer to give a cash donation, we will purchase the items for you.

Last year we collected a record 75 packs! Let's see if we can set a new record of packs collected this year, and help even more children get a good start on their education. All packs collected will be brought to Festival of Sharing in October to be distributed to children here in Missouri; some even in Gasconade County; who need these supplies to meet their educational needs.

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!

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.

SCRIPTURES FOR AUGUST

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

August 2nd- Baptism of Wyatt Shaw “Miracle Bread”

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 51:1-12
Gospel Lesson: John 6:24-35

August 9th- “Living in Love- Imitators of God”

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 130
Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Gospel Lesson: John 6:35,41-51

August 16th- “True Wisdom”

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Kings 3:3-14
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 111
Gospel Lesson: John 5:1-9

August 23rd- Baptism of Myla Lauth “Home is where the Heart is”

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Kings 8:6-30
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 84
Gospel Lesson: John 6:58-66

August 30th- “Loving and Beloved”

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Epistle Lesson: James 1:17-27
Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

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. Questions? Ask Nancy Carl.

What’s going on in the UCC? Check it out at: www.ucc.org!

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 our request, and 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.

EXCITING NEW FALL ACTIVITIES FOR BEM CHURCH YOUTH

Bem Church Middle School and Senior High Youth- there is a buzz of excitement building at Bem Church and it is all about you! We are putting together some great fall plans and charting a whole new direction for our Middle and Senior High Sunday School classes- and our Youth Group as well! Come check things out and be a part of the buzz!

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL- Our Senior High Sunday School class is going to be led by Sara Whelan, Erin West, and Tina Wnuk- and they have exciting plans that you have to check out. They will be using a curriculum centered on a coffee shop theme; and they have all kinds of surprises in store for you! They will be meeting upstairs at 8:45 each Sunday; you will want to get there on time to check out what they have “cooking”...

MIDDLE HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL- Hester Tayloe, Keith Glaser, and Andrea Goodman will be leading our Middle High class; and they are excited, too! They will be working together to make your Sunday School class an adventure to remember. Be here at 8:45 Sunday Mornings; you won't want to miss the fun!

BEM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP- Even more exciting opportunities are awaiting the Bem Church Middle and Senior High Youth in our Youth Fellowship Group! Sara Whelan, Erin West, Tina Wnuk, Keith Glaser and Andrea Goodman are all going to be joining Darin and Jodi Layman as youth advisors; giving us the opportunity to make exciting plans and participate in great ministry together! Mark your calendars for the Second Sunday of each month; we will be gathering up at Bem Church from 5:00-7:00pm each Second Sunday for fun, games, food, worship and service as we celebrate the bonds of friendship and community that join us all together as Christians! ***Sunday, September 13th 5:00-7:00pm*** will be the Big Kick-off Youth Rally; come be a part of it! More info to come! Watch for details!

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.

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 Kohrmann!

THANK YOU!

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

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 June 23, and the 287 bottles of shampoo donated for July personal care bags 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 **Gracie Schultz**, whose gymnastics trio won the Gold Medal at the National Competitions in Minnesota last month! What a superstar! ***Congratulations, Gracie!***

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 bars by August 30th, to meet the needs of the 300 clients they serve monthly. Bring your bars to church next Sunday!

GRAPE COUNTRY CLUSTER- CHURCHES IN MISSION TOGETHER

The next meeting of the Grape Country Cluster will be on Thursday, August 27th at 7:00pm at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, in Owensville. Come gather with the cluster and hear discussion surrounding the Habakkuk Project and General Synod; plus meet St. Peter's newly called Pastor, Rev. Christopher Ross!

CROP WALK CHALLENGE

The CROP walk for 2009 will be Sunday, October 4th from 1:00-3:00pm at Memorial Park in Owensville. The community goal for this walk will be \$11,000 and 130 walkers. Bem Church will be setting a goal of \$5000 again this year! Make plans now to set your goal and begin collecting for CROP! More information will be available in September. CROP is a fundraiser for Church World Services, one of the most effective and lowest overhead mission agencies around. The next community meeting for the CROP walk will be Monday, August 10th; 6:30pm at St. Peter's, Owensville.

BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

General Fund		Memorial/Gift Fund	
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$4959.	Balance as of 7-15-09	\$9604
Income:		Etta Licklider VBS Fund Savings	
Offering	\$6667	Balance as of 7-15-09:	\$804
Interest	\$48	Etta Licklier VBS Fund CD	
Tower	\$550	Balance as of 7-15-09:	\$10,591
Pairs & Spares- Camp Fees	\$500	Quilters	
VBS Income	\$180	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$3127
Other	<u>\$841</u>	Income:	\$25
Total Income	\$8786	Expense:	\$455
Expense: Budgeted Items	(\$9722)	Balance as of 7-15-09	\$2697
Balance as of 7-15-09	\$4023	Pairs and Spares	
Building Fund		Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2600
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2062.	Income:	\$46
Expense: Bug Spraying	(\$280)	Expenses:	
Balance as of 7-15-09	\$1782.	Donations to Church, Missions	(\$788)
Cemetery Fund		Rummage Sale Change	<u>(\$228)</u>
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$2378	Total Expenses:	(\$1016)
Income:		Balance as of 7-15-09	\$1630
Lot Sales	\$1000	Mission & Social Concerns	
CD Maturity	\$500	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$893
Envelopes	\$296	Income:	\$88
Interest	<u>\$94.</u>	Expense:	(\$175)
Total Income	\$1890	Balance as of 7-15-09	\$806
Expense:		Youth Fellowship Account	
Mowing	(\$600.)	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$949.
CD Purchase	<u>(\$1500)</u>	Income: Soda Machine	\$50
Total Expense	(((\$2100))	Expense: CYE, Soda	(\$740)
Balance as of 7-15-09	\$2168	Balance as of 7-15-09	\$259.
Special Offering Fund		Hospitality Committee	
Balance as of 6-15-09	\$1001.	Balance as of 6-15-09	\$1005
Income:		Income:	
Mission Fund	\$480.	Expenses:	(\$139)
Helping Hands Food Pantry	\$30.	Balance as of 7-15-09	\$866
Neighborhood Houses	\$506		
Shannondale	\$528		
Strengthen the Church	<u>\$58</u>		
Total Income	\$1602.		
Disbursements:	(\$1885)		
Balance as of 7-15-09	\$718.		

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: HOW ARE WE DOING IN 2009?

Year to Date income as of June 30, 2009 was **\$71,752**; Year to Date goal for the first half of 2009 was **\$71,500**. *We made our first half of the year income goal by \$252 dollars!* While \$252 in the black is much better than \$252 in the red, there is not a lot of wiggle room there. Our offering incomes for Feb, March, April and May were significantly higher than those same months in 2008; but June 2009 dropped below what was received in June, 2008; July is not setting any records, either. As we head into the last six months of 2009, we still have steep bills to pay; *including our Campership Fees!* Your faithful stewardship makes ministry happen!

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

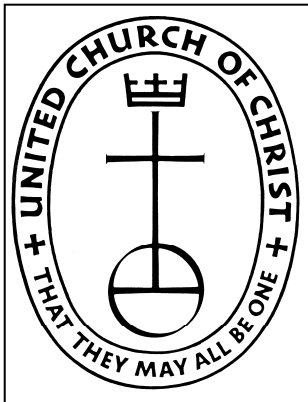
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am

July 31 st -	Youth Work Ice Cream Booth at Fair	2:00-6:00pm
August 2 nd -	Wyatt Shaw Baptism	10:00am
	Pairs and Spares Meeting/Carry in Meal	11:15am
	Youth Group Pool Party in Cuba	6:00-9:00pm
August 4 th -	Membership Care Committee Meeting	2:00pm
August 10 th -	Council Meeting	6:30pm
	CROP meeting at St. Peter's UCC, Owensville	6:30pm
August 14 th -	Bethany UCC Picnic	
August 20 th -	Pastor Rick at Helping Hands Food Pantry	11:00am
August 22 nd -	Confirmation	9:00am
August 23 rd -	Myla Lauth Baptism	10:00am
	Rev. Michael Bone's Installation at Zion UCC, Union	3:00pm
August 24 th -	Mission Committee Meeting	7:00pm
August 27 th -	Grape Country Cluster Meeting at St. Peter's UCC	7:00pm
August 29 th -	Bem Church Picnic!	3:00-???
August 30 th -	Rev. Leah (Atkinson) Bilinski's Installation at St. Peter's UCC, Washington	4:00pm
September 3 rd -	Pastor/Parish Relations Committee Meeting	6:30pm
September 13 th -	Rally Day! First Day of Sunday School Classes	8:45am
	Rally Day Brunch	11:15am
	Middle High/Senior High Youth Rally at Church	5:00-7:00pm

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: