

St. John's, Bem
United Church
Of Christ

The Scoop!

May, 2010

*"...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...

"Church: Next"

One of the benefits of being in relationship with an accredited Seminary such as Eden is that we are able to avail ourselves of Theological Education opportunities frequently as they present themselves. I had the opportunity to do just that, as I attended the Annual Spring Convocation & Brueggemann/Kulenkamp Lectures for Continuing Education right after Easter. The theme for the Lectures this year was "Church: Next" and featured three world-renown theologians as well as Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. They all addressed the issue of how the church is changing in the context of the world in which we currently live; and more importantly, discussed where we are going from here. What is the church of tomorrow going to look like? What is next for church?

A hypothesis discussed by several of the presenters was that the church is currently going through a period of "emergence". The theory is that every 500 years or so, the church goes through something of a metamorphosis. A new church emerges with new ways of relating to God. This theory has some basis for substantiation. Every 500 years since 2000BC there has been a similar metamorphosis; the last one was the Protestant Reformation, which really kicked off in 1517 when Martin Luther protested apostasy in the Church by nailing 95 theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg.

This great emergence encompasses everything; not just Christianity, but the whole way we live. As a new way of being church emerges in this cycle, the presenters offer, there are several questions we need to examine about our beliefs and theology. More on these next month...

This theory of "Church: Next" is a bit scary, if the hypothesis holds true, but it is comforting as well; for each time the church went through one of these 500-year cycles, it emerged more faithful to God and more expressive of God's image for the world than it was before. Quite a bit to think about! It was a very interesting event.

-Pastor Rick

St. John's, Bem United Church of Christ

1944 Bem Church Road; Owensville, MO 65066

Phone: 573.437.3698 Parsonage: 573.437.4776

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

CWS BLANKETS PLUS-MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010; Millions were displaced, homes and livelihoods shattered, and over 200,000 lost their lives. Many tried to help; many looked for ways to most effectively respond to this tragedy.

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 this totally shattered community. The United Church of Christ is a partner with **Church World Services**.

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 truly change lives. 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 or earthquake;
- \$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;

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, 2010

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 2nd - Communion Sunday

"Imagine...All Things New!"

- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 148
- Easter Lesson: Acts 11:1-18
- Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

May 16th- Ascension Sunday

"Continually Blessing God"

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

May 9th- Mother's Day

"Revelation...Hope for the Family"

- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 67
- Easter Lesson: Acts 16:9-15
- Epistle: Revelation 21:1-10; 21:22-22:5

May 23th- Pentecost

"Seeing Red"

- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 104:24-31
- Gospel Lesson: John 14:8-17, 25-27
- Pentecost Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

May 30st- Memorial Day Sunday

Memorial Service in the Cemetery

- Psalter Lesson: Psalm 8
- Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:1-5
- Gospel Lesson: John 16:12-15

Special Worship Opportunity!

On May 30th we will observe Memorial Day by worshipping in the Bem Church Cemetery. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like- 10:00am!

SAVE YOUR LABELS

One of the many missions of the Pairs and Spares organization is to undergird the mission of Bem Church. They work towards this goal by accomplishing tasks around the church, lifting folks up spiritually, and aiding our financial goals. One way they aid us financially is through redemption of ***Best Choice Labels***. Please continue to save the UPC Bar Codes from your ***Best Choice Labels*** and drop them off in the Mission Corner of the Sofa Room. Thank you!

THE PANTRY IS GETTING BARE!

Canned Meats and Canned fruits are the items we are looking for at Helping Hands Outreach Center! Canned meats include Ravioli; Canned Spaghetti; Tuna; Chicken & Dumplings; things that can be opened and served easily. These items are always in demand at Helping Hands; and ***they are in short supply right now!*** Bring your cans to church Sunday!

SAVE YOUR INKJET CARTRIDGES!

What are you doing with your inkjet cartridges when they are empty? Are you just throwing them away? If so, please put them in a plastic bag and bring them to church! We are able to get discounts on our office supply purchases based on inkjet cartridges returned for recycling; a win-win situation! We help the environment with less plastic in landfills, and we help our church budget as well. We are currently getting \$3 for every ink jet cartridge returned! If we get enough cartridges donated, we could cover the cost of our paper, ink and offices supplies this way; but we need your help. There is a box in the sofa room for collecting these. Thank you!

(Our fourth quarter 2009 income from this program was \$228.02!)

ACTS BIBLE STUDY

For Six Wednesday evenings, from April 21-May 26 at 6:30-8:00 each evening, we will continue our Bible Study of the Book of Acts. We began this Bible Study last spring, looking at Acts Chapters 1-6; now time for Chapters 7-15

In Acts 7-15 the outward expansion of the church beyond Jerusalem begins, partly in response to repression in Jerusalem. Even in the face of persecution and violence, the Spirit cannot be stopped and the apostles begin to preach “boldly,” (a favorite word in Acts). Peter challenges Simon, Phillip engages an Ethiopian eunuch, and God strikes down Saul, transforming him into something completely different. Conflict ensues, and a Council is called in Jerusalem. Acts is a crucial “hinge” for the New Testament.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2010

Vicky Huebner, President; Keith Glaser, Vice President; Pat Branson, Treasurer; Dee Ruegge, Secretary; Debbie Adams and Willis Howard, Trustees; and Diana Halmick, Pastor Parish Relations Committee Representative.

What is going on in the United Church of Christ? Check it out at www.ucc.org!

ELECTRONIC GIVING IS ALL SET UP!

St. John's, Bem United Church of Christ is on-line with e-Give! To set up your weekly gift (or monthly, or whatever you choose) go to www.egive-usa.com and follow the prompts on screen. On the "givers" side of the page, click on the link that says, "Sign Up Today" and follow the prompts. The whole process takes about 15 minutes or so to navigate; be sure to read the directions! If you have any problems setting this up, you can contact the church office for assistance. (You can always change or cancel your giving amount if you find that this service does not suit your individual stewardship practices.)

This tool is optional; for folks who do not want to participate in electronic giving, that is just fine, too! We felt it beneficial to provide this option for folks who are interested, so they can avail themselves of the opportunity.

Is this as faithful as putting money in the plate when it is passed at church? Certainly. Whether you choose to put your money in the plate when it is passed, or choose to set up a continuous gift with e-give, **-or choose to do both-** you are making a promise of faith and acting upon it. Faithful stewardship takes on many forms and is enacted in many ways; electronic giving is just one of them.

For those who would like to participate in electronic giving but would also like to put something in the plate on Sunday, how about taking your offering envelope and writing, "I gave online" on it; then place it in the plate as a symbol of the faithful stewardship you are practicing! This may sound redundant to some; but putting our offering in the plate is an important part of who we are as Christians; living that action while giving on line is important as well.

Questions? Contact Pastor Rick or Carole and we will do our best to help you answer them, or navigate the website. Whatever form your stewardship takes, the mission and ministries of Bem Church will benefit from your faithful dedication.

MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

The Annual Gathering of the Missouri Mid-South Conference will be held June 11-13, 2010 at Drury University in Springfield, Mo. Plans are underway for an exciting and inspiring time together. Our keynote speaker on Friday evening will be Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary. Our partners from Jamaica will offer a second keynote address during the luncheon on Saturday; and Saturday afternoon Rev. Kris Tenney-Brittain will address the theme of church renewal. There will also be several important business issues decided on, including the election of our newly established Conference Council, adopting amendments to our Conference Constitution and By-Laws, and ratifying changes to National UCC By-Laws. Many important issues will arise at this meeting!

Registration for this event must be turned in by May 15; if you would like to go, contact Pastor Rick or Vicky Huebner, Council President.

Don't forget your food pantry items this week! Bring a meal for Helping Hands!

CAMP MO-VAL

REGISTRATIONS DUE 5/15

Going to camp this year? You bet! Mo-Val Registration forms, along with your check, are due May 15th! Forms are available on the table in the narthex; or call/email Pastor Rick!

THANK YOU! (Some thank you notes may be edited)

Dear Friends at Bem

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter after all the cold weather. It is so nice to see spring! I am thinking of you all. God be with you!

-Bernice Stockglauser

Dear Friends at St. John's UCC (Bem)

It is with deep gratitude I thank you for the kindness and support that your congregation has provided to Heifer International. By choosing an alternative gift through Heifer International, coupled with our special Pass the Gift cornerstone, your generosity will transform countless lives and communities.

With your gift, we will be able to continue to provide hope and a new way of life for more struggling families. Passing on the Gift creates a living cycle of sustainability that develops community and enhances self esteem by allowing project participants to become donors. It all starts with your congregation's selfless giving! Your continued prayers and support of our mission means so much!

Sincerely, Jo Luck, President; Heifer Project International

HYGIENE ITEM COLLECTION-DEODORANT AND SOAP!

Our current Hygiene items for Helping Hands are bar *SOAP* and stick *DEODORANT*.

We are trying to collect 300 of each!

Exciting outreach is happening at Helping Hands; but they need your help to continue! Bring some bar soap and/or stick deodorant to worship with you next Sunday!

PAIRS AND SPARES NEWS

Pairs and Spares will have their regular meeting and noon meal on May 2nd at 11:30 as usual. Guests are always welcome! Remember the Bake and Craft sale at the picnic! All items donated are appreciated!

PENTECOST PARTY!- HELP SEND OUR YOUTH TO CAMP!

Come join us for a Pentecost Party, May 23! Everyone will be seeing red as we celebrate the birthday of the church! We will celebrate in worship that morning, then again after worship as we join together for a Pentecost Brunch! ***All of the profits from our brunch will go to help fund our campership fees as we send a record number of youth to camp this year!*** Join us for our Pentecost Party and brunch! ***Wear RED to church on Pentecost!***

WORSHIP IN THE CEMETERY- MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 30

We will worship together in the Bem Church Cemetery on Sunday, May 30 as we celebrate Memorial Day together and remember all who have laid the foundation for the lifestyle and opportunities we enjoy. Celebrate with us as we gather that day as we remember the real reason we celebrate Memorial Day weekend!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's VBS is June 6-10; registration forms are due May 30. Have you registered yet? The theme is "Galactic Blast;" and it promises to be quite a blast indeed. Sign your children up today! Questions? Contact Paula Copeland, Alyssa LaValle, or Kelsey Baxter, coordinators.

Check out Eden Seminary's website at www.eden.edu !

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE *Flowers: Lois Ruffner*

Nursery Workers: 5/2: Andrea Goodman & Paula Copeland	Greeters: Bryon Baker Family	Lay Reader: Devin Baxter	Acolytes: Devin Baxter & Nathan Lewis
5/9: Vicky Huebner & Dana Goodman	Lois Ruffner & Russ Bacon Families	Joey Oberle	Andrew Huellinghoff & Bryan Aytes
5/16: Stephanie Kramme & Laurie McFalls	Don Brand & Cathy Hinson Families	Katie Havelka	Nathan Lewis & Katie Havelka
5/23: Tina Wnuk & Jan McQueen	Brenda Sieckmann Family	Bryan Aytes	Andrew Huellinghoff & Joey Oberle
5/30: Tammy Baxter & Dawn Kreter	The Oberle Family	Nathan Lewis	Devin Baxter & Katie Havelka

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

5/1- Nancy Jenkins, Leslie Copeland; 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; 5/22- Shirley & Richard Boyd;
5/25- Jodi & Darin Layman; 5/27- Mary & Nobby Ota; 5/30- Brenda & Chris Lewis

... Happy Anniversary!

ATTENDANCE

Date:	Worship:	Date:	Worship:	Date:	Worship:
Sunday, March 7	128	Thursday, April 1	47	Sunday, April 4	258
Sunday, March 14	109	Friday, April 2	37	Sunday, April 11	60
Sunday, March 21	128			Sunday, April 18	103
Sunday, March 28	115			Sunday, April 25	103
Total:	480			Total:	524
Sunday Average:	120			Sunday Average:	131
Last Year's Average:	130			Last Year's Avg:	155

*Attendance for the first 4 months of 2010 is 17% lower than the first 4 months of 2009.
(141 average in 2009 vs.117 average in 2010)*

For a copy of the St. John's, Bem prayer list email Pastor Rick or call the church office!

BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

General Fund

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$2610.
Income:	
Offering	\$11,290
Tower	\$550
Reimbursements	\$333
Dinners	\$180
Interest	\$70
Other (Donation)	<u>\$2500</u>
Total Income	\$14,923
Expense: Budgeted Items	(\$15,983)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1550

Building Fund

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$1588.
Income:	\$50
Expense:	
Repair, Maintenance	(\$18)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1620.

Cemetery Fund

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$2218
Income: Envelopes	\$50
Interest	<u>\$81</u>
Total Income	\$131
Expense: Mowing	(\$200)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$2149

Cemetery Fund CDs

Balance as of 4/15/10	\$65,239
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Memorial/Gift Fund

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$12,579
Income:	\$270
Disbursements:	
Mission tithe	(\$650)
Gift Disbursement	(\$2500)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$9,699

Memorial Fund CD

Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1461
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Etta & Gary Licklider VBS Account

Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1405
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Etta & Gary Licklider VBS Fund CD

Balance as of 4-15-10	\$10,591
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Pastor's Housing Equity Fund

Balance as of 4-15-10	\$2774
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Quilters

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$374
Expenses: Supplies	(\$58)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$316

Special Offering Fund

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$1035.
Income: Mission Fund	\$375.
Relay for Life	\$1139
Easter Lilies	\$110
Other Mission	<u>\$1043</u>
Total Income:	\$2667
Disbursements:	(\$1325)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$2377.

Pairs and Spares

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$1988
Expenses: Mission Work	(\$353)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1635

Mission & Social Concerns

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$1328
Expenses: Eden Seminary	(\$100)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1228

Youth Fellowship Account

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$567
Income: Meal 3/28	\$464
Expenses: Supplies	(\$169)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$862.

Hospitality Committee

Balance as of 3-15-10	\$1161
Income: E. Rutz donation	\$250
Expenses:	(\$264)
Balance as of 4-15-10	\$1147

Hospitality Committee Savings Account

Balance as of 4-15-10	\$585
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Scholarship Funds

Checking	\$550
Ed. Jones Investments	\$4435
United Church Funds	<u>\$158,171</u>
Total Balance as of 3-31-10	\$163,156
(Total Balance 12-31-09 was \$160,009)	

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT:

HOW ARE WE DOING IN 2010?

As of April 18, 2010 our Year to Date General Fund offering is **behind** our Year to Date goal by **\$1708 or 4%**. Mission Fund giving is behind Year to Date goal by \$275 or 12%

ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- MAY 2010 CALENDAR

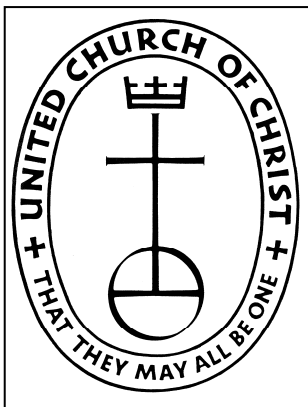
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am; SUNDAY SCHOOL- 8:45am

May 1-	Bem Church Appreciation Day (Clean up day)	9:00am
May 2-	Schwann's order pick-up at Rosebud General Store	11:00am-4:00pm
May 3-	Picnic Committee Meeting	7:00pm
May 5-	Confirmation/Acts Bible Study	5:00/6:30pm
May 8-	Bem Church Appreciation Day (Clean up day)	9:00am
May 9-	Mother's Day! Celebrate it with your church family!	10:00am
May 10-	Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance at FBC	10:30am
May 12-	Confirmation/Acts Bible Study	5:00/6:30pm
May 16-	Church Council Meeting	5:00pm
May 19-	Confirmation/Acts Bible Study	5:00/6:30pm
May 21-22	Confirmation Field Trip	
May 23-	Pentecost! Pentecost Party/Brunch after church	11:15am
May 24-	Cemetery Committee Meeting	10:00am
	Mission Committee Meeting	6:30pm
May 26-	Acts Bible Study	6:30pm
May 29-	Bem Church Picnic	3:00-9:00pm
May 30-	Memorial Day worship in the Bem Church Cemetery	10:00am
June 2-	Confirmation	5:00pm
June 6-10	Vacation Bible School	6:00-8:00pm

**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: