

St. John's, Bem
United Church
Of Christ

The Scoop!

August, 2011

"...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...

"Ingathering"

This October, the Office of Creative Ministries of the United Methodist Church will once again host the "Festival of Sharing" in Sedalia, MO. This one-day event is a huge mission moment for many churches in Missouri, as they participate in a special "ingathering" of mission expression in our world. It is a very spiritually fulfilling experience.

At Bem Church, we participate in this particular mission by filling "Reading and Writing Packs" each August and placing them on our chancel, dedicating them to God's Mission Field. This year, the Mission Committee is providing other options- you will be invited to give "Women's Prison Packs," (kits filled with items for women incarcerated and in need of our ministry with them); or "Clean Up Buckets," which are used for disaster relief all over the world. The choice is yours- which kit to fill; and the Mission Committee members will have more information about them in church on Sunday mornings.

The neat thing about the Festival of Sharing is the "ingathering". At this festival, thousands of kits in dozens of categories are brought to Sedalia from various churches across Missouri. The kits are sorted and inventoried; then immediately, distribution agencies show up to distribute them all across our state (and the world!) through their particular ministry context. It is quite moving to see these trucks lined up from food pantries, mission agencies, children's homes and the like; all being filled with expressions of love given by folks just like us, the local churches of many denominations, all across Missouri.

This is the basis of our call as Christians, to help others in need; and it would be hard to find a better expression of that call than the Festival of Sharing in Sedalia. This is faith fully expressed; this is stewardship at its clearest essence. Our Confirmation Class and our Youth Group will be taking a trip to Sedalia that weekend (October 14-15) to work at the Festival of Sharing, to see what happens to our mission endeavors after they leave our chancel steps, and to feel God's call to servant leadership fully expressed in this awesome way. If you are interested in attending the Festival of Sharing, (you need not stay overnight; you can come down Saturday, October 15) please talk to me or a Mission Committee member. It is truly an awesome experience!

-Pastor Rick

St. John's, Bem United Church of Christ

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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 Church Council President: Keith Glaser

Visual Arts Coordinator: Paula Shockley

SCRIPTURES FOR AUGUST

These are the scripture readings and topics we will be exploring in worship during the month of August. Read ahead! You will get much more out of the worship experience if you prepare ahead before Sunday morning.

August 7 – Communion Sunday “Family Feud”

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-24
Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4, 17-28

August 14- Birthday Sunday “Jesus Accepts Us All”

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 133
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15:21-28

August 21- Rally Day! “Delivered”

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 124
Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

August 28 “YHWH”

Psalter Lesson: Ps.105:1-5,26-27,43-45
Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY CELEBRATION!

Birthday Sunday is a time to recognize everyone who has a birthday that particular month. On the month of your birthday, you will be recognized in worship along with everyone else who has a birthday that month. **BEFORE** worship (starting at 9:00), everyone is invited into the sofa room for a special birthday treat hosted by The Membership Care Committee.

Birthday Sundays will generally be the Second Sunday of each month; birthday Sunday this month will be August 14. Plan now to celebrate your birthday with your Bem Church Family!

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL OPEN HOUSE TOUR

All are invited to participate in an exciting mission study tour with Heifer International. The tour is being sponsored by the United Methodist Office of Creative Ministries and is open to all. The hope is for this to be an ecumenical event.

Heifer International is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance and sustainability. Heifer International offers a powerful global education experience at its Learning Center at Heifer Ranch, located in Perryville, Arkansas (45 minutes northwest of Little Rock). Each program introduces participants to the idea that one person can make a difference in ending hunger and poverty. Heifer Ranch is Heifer's oldest and largest learning center. The campus features two Heifer Global Villages, a challenge course, conference center, gardens, and animals including water buffalo, camels, goats, pigs and more.

The tour will be September 7-9, 2011. Transportation will be provided **FROM** and **BACK TO** Cape Girardeau, MO. The primary purpose of this tour is to learn about Heifer's mission and work. Speaking time with Heifer staff and volunteers will help participants learn so much about how this organization is helping struggling families in the US and around the world lift themselves from lives of poverty into lives of self-sufficiency.

The cost of the tour is \$175/person; some meals are provided, a few lunches are not. The deadline for registration is August 22. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor Rick or a member of the Mission Committee!

COMING SOON: 11-1-11 11-11-11 MISSION: 1

BEM CHURCH YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE 2011-2012

Bem Church Youth- an exciting year is in the works; lots of fun activities have been scheduled, along with mission work and fundraisers to help make it all possible. Below is our schedule for 2011-2012; keep in mind that dates may change as the year goes on. ***WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION IN ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES!*** Plan ahead- building an active group takes your ***consistent*** support! See you at all of these activities in 2011-2012!

July 29- 2:00-6:00pm	Ice Cream Booth at GC Fair
August 28 2:00-5:00pm	BBQ/Boating at Jost's- Peaceful Valley Lake
August 28-September 25	Sell Butter Braids for Activities Funding
September 25- after church	Lunch and games at church
10/14 5:00pm- 10/15 6:00pm	Festival of Sharing Trip to Sedalia
October 28- after school	Trip to Six Flags- Fright Fest
November 13- after church	Host/Serve the Deer Hunter's Chili Meal
November 26- 10:00am-6:00pm	Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Wal-Mart
December 11- after church	Trip to West County Mall- Scavenger Hunt
Christmas Break	Paint the Youth Room upstairs
January 13 6:00pm-midnight	Midnight Madness Activity at Church
February 12- after church	Assemble & Deliver Love Boxes
March 9- after school	Bowling and Dinner in Owensville
March 18- after church	Service Activity
March 9-April 8	Take orders for Bem Church T-Shirt sales
April 8- morning	Easter Egg Hunt at Church
April 22- after church	Go to lunch and a movie
May 5- 9:00am-noon	Participate in church work day
June 20-24 (Wed-Sun) –	Mission Trip to Chicago, Kansas City or Joplin

MISSION OF THE MONTH- CWS FESTIVAL OF SHARING PACKS!

Church World Services, one of our Ecumenical Mission Partners, is once again participating in the annual Festival of Sharing mission ingathering in Sedalia, MO; and as part of that Festival, Bem Church will be collecting packs of love for those in need all over the state of Missouri.

In the past, Bem Church has collected "Reading and Writing Packs" to be distributed to students by outreach agencies all over the state of Missouri. While many Bem Church members enjoy assembling these packs, the Mission Committee wanted to introduce another option for those who want to try something different- Women's Prison Packs. These packs, containing certain brands of Shampoo, Deodorant and Toothpaste, are very welcome gifts to women incarcerated across our state; and a great ministry to women in difficult situations.

Members of the Mission Committee will be distributing zip-lock bags with lists of items needed for each of these packs after church during the month of August. Pick up a baggie or two, and fill them with items needed for this particular ministry! And- plan on going to the Festival of Sharing in Sedalia, October 15! It is an incredible trip; witnessing mission and ministry in action!

JARS NEEDED!

Apple Butter time is fast approaching- donations of jars are appreciated (especially pints!)

We will be cooking up Apple Butter on September 12-14; and it sells out quickly! If you can help by donating jars, stirring Apple Butter as it cooks, or canning it as it comes out of the kettle, see Carole Dotson! This is a fun time of fellowship for the whole Bem Church Family! Come on up!

(This Apple Butter event Is a Cemetery Committee Fundraiser)

STEWARDSHIP ON-LINE!

Tend to forget your checkbook or envelopes on Sunday mornings? Hate worrying about writing a check during the sermon or anthem? Tired of worrying about “making up” your financial stewardship when you are not in attendance? Look into e-giving! E-giving is now possible at St. John’s, Bem.

For more information, visit: www.egive-usa.com; or check with Pastor Rick or the church office.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Helping Hands Outreach Center will be expanding its backpack program to Owensville Middle School this year; and they are asking for donations of single-serving foods to accommodate that expansion. During the summer months they are asking us to donate:

- Juice boxes***
- Small cereal boxes***
- Oatmeal packages***
- Pop-tarts***
- Cereal bars***
- Fruit cups***
- Pudding cups***
- Cracker packs***
- Individual raisin packages***
- Jars of peanut butter and/or jelly***
- Microwaveable pasta bowls and/or mac & cheese.***

Please bring these items to church in August– for the kids!

CLEAN UP BUCKETS

One of the most effective ways to help the folks in need in Joplin is through Church World Services. CWS is active in Joplin and other areas long-term. They are in need of clean-up buckets; their supply is depleted.

What is in a CWS Clean up bucket?

- 1- Dry Laundry Detergent 50-78ozs
- 24- Heavy Duty Trash Bags (33-45gal)
- 1-12oz bottle liquid cleaner (like Lysol)
- 7- Sponges 50- clothespins
- 18- cleaning towels (like easy wipes)
- 1- Bottle insect repellent (not aerosol)
- 1- 25 oz. bottle antibacterial dish soap
- 1- clothesline, 100 ft
- 1- pair of work gloves
- 2- pairs latex gloves
- 1- scrub brush; 5- scouring pads;
- 5- dust masks;

Place all items in a 5-gallon bucket with a re-sealable lid, and bring up to church. Make sure lids on bottles are tightly closed. (New items only, please!)

BEM CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Bem Church Office is closed on Fridays. Carole will be available (usually) Monday through Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm. ***Please leave a message if the machine picks up- often we are here, just away from the phone! Summer Schedule note- due to vacations and duties in the building that pull us away from the nearest telephone, it is especially important that you do leave a message if you get the answering machine!***

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS!

Congratulations to Alyssa LaValle- who was accepted into the BJC nursing school program, starting this January! ***Congratulations, Alyssa!***

Congratulations to Sable, Morgan, Tucker and Sahara Huebner, all of whom won awards at the Crawford County Fair- reserve champion awards for their steer and lamb entrees and senior showmanship for Sahara's sheep entry! ***Congratulations to all!***

Congratulations to Brooke Wildebrandt, whose team won 1st Place in a 3 on 3 tournament in New Haven on July 16! ***Great job, Brooke!***

THANK YOU

(some thank-you notes may be edited)

Dear Friends at St. John's,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$491 to the Blankets Plus program. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Services can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by natural disasters, as we are doing in Pakistan now. 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!

Yours in Service, Rev. John McCullough, Executive Director Church World Services

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift of \$535 to help support the many men and women of Emmaus Homes. Your gift is very important to us and we are grateful to have caring friends like you to help us provide the opportunities that are available to our clients. Your support makes it possible for Emmaus to continue to enhance the quality of life and expand the experiences for the 242 men and women whom we serve. We are truly grateful for all that you do!

Sincerely, Lisa A. Drier, Executive Director; Emmaus Resident Trust Foundation

Dear Friends in Christ-

Thank you for your gift of \$972.65 for disaster relief in the United Church of Christ. This will be administered through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering as per your request. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing make it possible for the United Church of Christ to immediately provide clean water, food and medicines to our partners in disaster relief. A portion of the offering is always set aside for immediate disaster response. Each day, all around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are at work changing lives. Thank you!

Peace! Susan M. Sanders, One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator

Thank you to Virginia Buschmeyer who spent many months painstakingly transcribing the scribbling of our former pastors in our old record books into digital documents, easily accessible and legible to all. These documents are now in several easy-to-read binders in the church office; and are digitally preserved on the church computer (and backed-up as well). Come and check out these documents sometime! ***Thank you, Virginia!***

Thank you to Hester Tayloe, and this year's confirmation class, for weeding and cleaning out the cross flower bed in front of the church. Hester has taken on this project over the past few years, just because she saw a need and addressed it. This year the confirmands stuck around after class on July 13 to help her clean it up. 'Thank you' to Hester; ***and to all of the "unsung heroes" who make ministry happen at Bem Church!***

BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

General Fund

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$16,497 **

Income:

Offering \$7049
 VBS \$353
 Tower \$550
 Picnic \$15
 other \$617

Total Income \$8584

Expense: Budgeted Items (\$16,811)

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$8522**

***General Fund Balance Includes \$20,000 from Rippeto Funds- Cushion for expenses*

General Fund Certificates of Deposit

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$40,010

Building Fund

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$1379.

Income: \$80

Expense: (\$62)

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$1379.

Cemetery Fund

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$1264

Income:

Envelopes \$60
 Interest \$60
 Total Income \$120

Expenses: Mowing (\$200)

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$1185

Cemetery Fund Investments

CDs Balance \$67,286
 Money Market \$15,033
 Rippeto Funds \$36,401

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$118,720

Special Offering Fund

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$822

Income: Mission Fund \$635

CWS Blankets + \$10
 Helping Hands \$10
 Shannondale \$478
 Strengthen the Church \$56

Total Income: \$1189

Disbursements: (\$1584)

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$427

Pastor's Housing Equity Account

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$3920

Income \$588

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$4508

Quilters

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$3161

Expenses: Quilt tops \$390

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$2771

Pairs and Spares

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$1277

Expenses: Shannondale (\$200)

These Days (\$74)

Misc (\$37)

Total: (\$311)

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$966

Mission & Social Concerns

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$1648

Income: Rada Sales \$105

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$1753

Youth Fellowship Account

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$366

Hospitality Committee

Balance as of 6-15-11 \$1564

Expenses: \$41

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$1523

Hospitality Committee Savings Account

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$586

Scholarship Funds

Balance as of 1-1-11 \$171,838

Checking Account \$150

Edward Jones \$4588

United Church Funds \$172,849

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$177,587

Rippeto Estate Mission Work Fund

United Church Funds

Balance as of 1-1-11 \$85,000

Balance as of 7-15-11 \$87,071

(For information/balances/questions on other Rippeto Estate Funds, The Cemetery Funds, or any other financial questions, ask Carole; Or a Church Council member!)

2011 financial picture so far...

As of 7/17/11, our expenses (\$82,490) have **exceeded** our income (\$77,688) by \$4802.

Year to date income (\$77,688) is \$5687 (7%) **Behind** our Year to date income goal of \$83,375

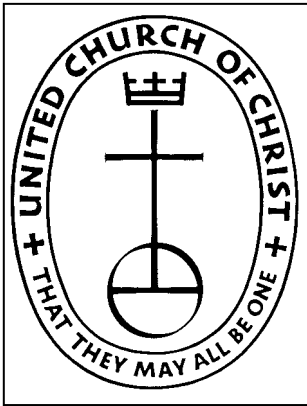
ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am; SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9:30am

August 1	Council Meeting	6:30pm
August 4	Ministerial Alliance Back to School Fair at VFW Hall	2:00-5:00pm
August 7	Communion Sunday- Bring a Meal for Helping Hands!	
August 12	Helping Hands Outreach Center Mobile Market	10:00am
August 14	Birthday Sunday! Refreshments BEFORE Church	9:00am
August 17	Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance at FBC	10:30am
August 18	Christian Education Committee Meeting	6:30pm
August 21	Rally Day- Sunday School Begins in Sanctuary	8:45am
August 22	Cemetery Committee Meeting	10:00am
	Mission Committee Meeting	6:30pm
August 23	Membership Care Committee Meeting	2:00pm
August 24	Confirmation	5:00pm
August 25	Grape Country Cluster Meeting at Charlotte (Come and meet their new pastor- Rev. Yurs!)	7:00pm
August 27	FALL PICNIC	4:00-9:00pm
August 31	Confirmation	5:00pm
September 11	9/11 plus 10: Between Memory and Hope...	7:00pm worship

***Quilting Every Tuesday 9:00am-2:00pm; Bring Sack Lunch!
Quilting also Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm!***

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



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