BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connection

AUGUST 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Report on Annual Conference
- Fall Programming
- Summer Schedule

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A Pastor Ponders

Pastor Andy is not writing an article for this issue because of his commitment of time/responsibility for his schooling but I feel his input as I reflect on the book he's proposed for a mid-lifers study. It's called Saving Jesus from The Church by Robin R. Meyers.

The thesis of this book is centered on a realization that the organized church has robbed us of the true picture of Jesus. The church, over time, has elevated the rebel teacher-man, to a venerated, cosmic-Christ who has lost touch with the ground on which he/we walk. The book does not devalue the church, it's ritual, place or purpose for being but rather it helps to give rise to a reclaiming energy for the missional justice and connectional relationship with God that Jesus preached and taught was available to all people – all the time. This is a timely, and I think, opportunistic book for those of us who are listening deeply to where the Spirit is calling. I'd like to encourage you who relish in a challenging read to give this book your time and attention. I'm going to suggest another stab at getting a group discussion going around this book this Fall – so consider signing up on the book order sheet – out in August on the blue board. I look forward to your impressions and our conversation together!

Pastor Kelly

Report on 2010 Wisconsin Annual Conference

Conveying what went on at this year's Annual Conference is a challenge. In my mind, the good news overpowered the bad news, although the numbers and statistics shared with us were anything but rosy. We learned that membership in Conference congregations declined more than 4% last year, and that only 82.2% of Apportionment funds were received, leaving a $407,657 budget shortfall. (I was very proud that BVUMC was one of the congregations that managed to pay all of its Apportionments in this financially grim recession year.) Five new elders were ordained and three deacons were commissioned, while retiring clergy numbered twenty-two.

On the brighter statistical side, our Conference churches contributed more than $426,000 to Haitian relief and another $13,000 for aiding Chilean earthquake victims. The collection of InGathering Materials was a spectacular success, and we collected 467,139 "Pennies for Angola".

Numbers don't begin to tell the story of what human interaction took place at this four day conference, though. The clergy and lay members waded through a mind-numbing bunch of necessary business items with amazing spirit and stamina. The attending community engaged in a well-conceived series of one-on-one discussions about human sexuality, in which we learned to listen respectfully and share openly.

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A Fond Farewell

It is with sadness that the SPR shares the news that our office administrator, Betsy Popelka, is relocating to Madison in mid August.

Please plan to attend a thank you and farewell time of fellowship for Betsy on Sunday, August 1st at 9:00am in the Gathering Space.

Dear Bay View UMC community,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome and the wonderful support I've received here as Office Administrator. While I am sad to leave such a wonderful community of people, I have a lot to look forward to in Madison with my fiancé. For those of you who haven't heard, I got engaged this summer to my partner in crime of six years! He will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin. Meanwhile, I hope to find meaningful employment in Madison in the non-profit sector and will be busy with wedding planning in the year to come. If you know of any people or organizations I should be in contact with in Madison, please let me know!

With sincere thanks,
Betsy Popelka
betsy.popelka@gmail.com

PLEASE BRING:

August 1:
Paper/Styrofoam products: 6" paper and/or styro plates

August 8:
8oz. cold drink cups and/or 8oz hot drink cups

August 15:
Napkins

August 22:
9-10" divided heavy weight plates

August 29:
Soup bowls
(prefer from Restaurant Depot)

Bread & Jam Free Meal Ministry: Supply Shower

Our food account at Feed America is fine, thanks to your participation in the Hunger Walk last year (by the way that comes around again in September!) but the paper products supply is extremely low.

Bring the listed items (or your financial gift) each Sunday in August to support this important outreach ministry. Let's 'shower' Bread & Jam with our love and support! Drop off items in the Gathering Space collection box.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, *cont. from page 1*

Some truly exceptional leaders provided inspiring information about the ministries in which they are involved. And, as usual, worshipping together, with powerful congregational singing, was a high point.

For me, the reports of the Health and Welfare ministries were eye-opening. These 13 operations (four of which receive Apportionment support) are "doing what needs to be done" in Wisconsin, providing hospital ministry, transitional living arrangements, affordable rental housing, tutoring, food, clothing and counseling for those in need.

It was pointed out that two Milwaukee-based ministries, United Methodist Children's Services and Northcott Neighborhood House, need volunteers, as well as continued financial support. Our Apportionment money is the lifeblood providing continuity of staff and infrastructure for these ministries. These same funds are what make it possible for UMCOR to devote 100% of funds collected elsewhere directly to providing emergency relief.

Perhaps the most significant change coming to our Conference is the creation of a Discipleship Leadership Team to provide connection between the visioning and managing functions of the Conference's ministries. We'll be hearing more about this team's impact as the year ahead progresses.

I came away from this year's Conference feeling the power of Connection. Please pray for your bishop, her cabinet and all of the folks providing leadership in our Wisconsin United Methodist churches. We're not alone in our BVUMC ministry. And that's a good thing!

John Liebenstein

BV Volleyball

We have fielded another volleyball team this summer thanks to Shawn and Cheryl Berry's leadership. The team is playing Tuesday nights at the Horny Goat Hideaway and they are welcoming more players/subs and everyone who wants to cheer them on. Details and schedule are on the blue board in the Gathering Space. Go team! BV volleyball team: Shawn and Cheryl Berry, Jon and Kelsey Petrie, Kyle Haile, Jennifer Mueller, Geoff Thieme and Tammy.

Chill on The Hill

Bay View UMC is sponsoring Bay View Neighborhood Association's "Chill on the Hill" on **Tuesday, August 17th**. Come on out and represent BVUMC while enjoying the rockin' cover band, *5 Card Studs*!

Volunteers needed for Chill on the Hill!
BVUMC will have a booth for Kids and Family Night on August 3rd, and then again for the night we sponsor, August 17th. 3-4 people are needed to set up and work the booth each night, giving away trinkets and being an inviting member of BVUMC.

Please contact Patty Thompson at pattypt@gmail.com to volunteer!

Chill on the Hill is every Tuesday Night through August 31st, 6 pm to 8:30 pm, at the Humboldt Park Band Chalet

Fall 2010 Bible Studies:

Plan now to commit and attend!

This is just a start to the line-up of activities, studies and events being planned for Fall 2010. The September issue of Connection will feature our Fall line-up. If you have an idea, can lend a hand to leadership, organization or small group facilitation, please contact Pastor Kelly! Every gift of time and talent is appreciated!

- **Small Group Discussion using *Alive Now* w/ Pastor Kelly**

Join me for a newly forming small experience using a new resource that I've added to our study/devotional materials this year. Sign up in August. *"Alive Now is a devotional magazine that seeks to nourish those who are hungry for a sacred way of living in the world. The themes celebrate the Christian year, reflect on contemporary issues from a faith perspective and nurture an embodied spirituality for individuals and groups."*

Upcoming Themes for 2010/2011:

Sept./Oct.	Seeing Jesus Through Others	Nov./Dec.	The Song of Creation
Jan./Feb.	Living in the Present	Mar./Apr.	The Gift of Sorrow
May./June	The Household of God		

A $5.00 donation is requested to help defray the cost of the subscription.

Meeting time: one hour Meeting day: negotiable based on feedback @ sign-up

- **Short-term Bible Study: New Testament DISCIPLE w/ Pastor Kelly**

This will be an 8 week class utilizing video, discussion and intentional home study preparation.

Meeting time: 90 minutes Meeting day: Sunday evening (tentative)

Loving Start Preschool News

School may be out for the summer but we are still busy. We marched in the 4th of July parade with lots of wagons, bikes and strollers. Fall supplies and some new furniture have arrived and planning will begin soon. We continue to recruit for fall with frequent tours and will be at Chill on the Hill in August. If you know of a family with a preschool-aged child, please have them contact us for information and a tour. Some classes are almost full.
Check our our new website: lovingstartpreschool.org.

Loving Start Preschool

Calling All... Everyone!

This year's Children's Church program (grades k5-5th) is looking for volunteers to help the program grow and thrive. The curriculum is set and the kids are coming, now all we need are volunteers to help guide the program! We are also looking for volunteers to aid in the instruction of children 2-4 years old as well as the Jr and Sr High. We have opportunities for everyone! Below is a list of volunteer positions that we are looking for. Take a look and see how you can be a part of our team!

- **Sunday School Superintendent** (Coordinates Programs with Director of Children and Youth Ministries)
- **Children's Church Teachers** (Instructs students using pre-planned lessons)
- **Jr. and Sr. High Teachers** (Guides students in their learning and understanding of the bible, leads discussions about how to apply lessons to their lives)
- **Pre-school [ages 2-4] Teachers** (Helps students to begin their walk with Christ through games, crafts, and snacks)
- **Substitute Teachers** (for all grades, steps in when a teacher is unable to teach on their Sunday)
- **Children's Church Teacher's Aids** (Assists CC Teachers with instruction)
- **Room Coordinators** (set up rooms for use on Sundays and replace items after lessons)
- **Supply Coordinators** (collect and order supplies needed for lessons and put supplies away after lessons)
- **Volunteer Coordinator** (Recruits any volunteers needed for Sunday School related activities)

If you are interested in becoming part of the Sunday School Team, please contact Diane Balfanz, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at (414)231-0303 or youthministries@bayviewumc.org

Preschool

Sunday School for pre-schoolers will be offered again this year for children ages 2-4! Our caring teachers incorporate snacks, craft projects, games, and stories with Bible lessons for a unique and enriching experience.

K5-5th Grade—NEW!

New this year, Sunday School for grades K5-5 is now Children's Church! What makes for great Bible learning for kids in large groups? Exciting Bible stories, great games, yummy snacks, and challenging outreach projects that help students apply lessons to their own lives! This year's Children's Church does exactly that. On Music and Movie Sunday children sing and see the unit lesson together. Dive In Sunday allows the children to hear the story and pray about its application in their lives. Adventure Sunday brings exciting games, snacks, and outreach projects together with God. On Community Sunday the students will learn about different issues in their community and what they can do to help. Another exciting addition this year is Mission Sunday. On that Sunday the children work together with older youth and other congregation members on mission projects.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you are interested in registering your child or children for Sunday School, please contact Diane Balfanz at (414)744-4036 ext 23 or youthministries@bayviewumc.org.

Registration forms will also be available in the Bay View UMC gathering space. Please turn in completed forms to the Bay View UMC office or mail to Diane Balfanz at 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

We can't wait to see you in Sunday School!

Jr. and Sr. High School

Youth in grades 6 through 8 have the opportunity to meet together and discuss different lessons in the Bible and how to apply them to their lives. Through this thought provoking class they will build bonds with each other and God. In grades 9 through 12, youth have the opportunity to delve deeper into the Bible and map out their Christian lives. They look back and draw upon their past experiences, the experiences of their peers, and the experiences of their elders to help them build the road to their lives as Christian adults.

Support

Our wonderful Sunday School programs are not possible without the support of parents and the congregation. Join us as a teacher, volunteer, or team member on the Youth and Children's Ministry Team as we plan Sunday School and other programs together to guide and raise our children in Christian faith. There are varied opportunities to partake in fellowship, learning, and leading, many with small time commitments and the benefit of pre-planned resources available as well as training for all volunteers. Find your "just right" fit to share our congregational baptismal and confirmation support for the children and youth of BVUMC. To discuss your interests and availability please contact Diane Balfanz at (414)744-4036 ext 23, or youthministries@bayviewumc.org

August Birthdays

1—Adam Grzesiak & Hollie Smith

4—Susan Rice

7—Andrew Oren

8—Daniel Gehrke

12—John Ott

16—Christiana Prowd

18—Eryn Jackson & Alexander Kowalsky

19—Margaret Morgan & Brittany Thomas

20—Peter Krempel & Janet Kumbier

21—Ronald Jackson & Amber Peck

22—Melva Mayo

23—Steve Markwardt & Gordon Steckler

24—Deborrah Baldwin

26—Anne Markwardt

27—Trey McKinney & Noah Moebius

Celebrate our members going to college!

- Ross & Hannah Jackson
- Diane Balfanz
- Katrina Schultz
- Judie Liebenstein
- Jennifer & Alex Kowalsky

Stewardship Report

Offerings for June: $12, 077.72

Offerings needed each month: $18, 146.58

Total received (January—June): $ 81, 153.31

Total Needed (January—June): $108, 879.48

Year to date deficit: - $ 27, 726.17

Please give generously.

Membership Sunday

If you are interested in joining the BVUMC faith community as a member, please talk to Pastor Kelly. Membership Sunday is coming up on August 15th!

Prayer Wall Ministry

The next 'layer' of praying has begun! Thanks to the Trustees (Muriel and Jan) for your work. Anyone can offer their prayer joys and concerns to the wall adjacent to the sanctuary. These reflect the hearts of Sunday worshippers, folks off the street who stop by and those attending weekly meetings in the building. Our e-pray and phone tree prayer groups pray over the new concerns added to the wall each week.

AUGUST 2010

Key:

SPR = Staff Parish Relations
SECA = South East Clergy Association
Oasis = Mid-week meal & fellowship
Outpost = Outpost Alternative High School
Open Door = Open Door Free Clinic @ Unity Lutheran
Key. AA = Keystone AA Group

The BVUMC Calendar is available ONLINE! **www.bayviewumc.org/BVUMC/Calendar.html**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *Celebrate Holy Communion* 8:00 am Outdoor Worship at Church 9:00 am Fellowship Time 9:45 am Indoor worship 3:00 pm Bread & Jam 7:00 pm Sun Night AA	**2**	**3** 6:00 pm Chill on the Hill Family Nite	**4** 3:00 pm SECA 5:00 pm Oasis 5:00 pm Open Door 6:00 pm Praise Band	**5** 7:00 pm Key. AA	**6**	**7** 10:30 Women's Freedom AA
8 *Youth Mission Trip Report* 8:00 am Outdoor Worship at Church 9:45 am Indoor worship 11:00 am Youth Group 7:00 pm Sun Night AA	**9**	**10**	**11** 12:30 pm Card Min 5:00 pm Oasis 5:00 pm Open Door 6:00 pm Praise Band	**12** 7:00 pm Key. AA	**13**	**14** 10:30 Women's Freedom AA
15 *Welcome New Members* 8:00 am Outdoor Worship at Church 9:45 am Indoor worship 7:00 pm Sun Night AA	**16**	**17** 6:00pm BVUMC Sponsors **Chill on the Hill!**	**18** 5:00 pm Oasis 5:00 pm Open Door 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Finance Mtg	**19** 7:00 pm Key. AA	**20** *Pastor Kelly on Vacation through 8/27*	**21** 10:30 Women's Freedom AA
22 *Guest Preacher* 8:00 am Outdoor Worship at church 9:45 am Indoor worship 11:00 am Youth Group 7:00 pm Sun Night AA	**23**	**24**	**25** 9:00 am Connection Assembly 12:30 pm Card Min 5:00 pm Oasis 5:00 pm Open Door 6:00 pm Praise Band	**26** 7:00 pm Key. AA	**27**	**28** 10:30 Women's Freedom
29 *Music Open House* 8:00 am Outdoor Worship at Church 9:45 am Indoor worship 3:00 pm Bread & Jam 7:00 pm Sun Night AA	**30**	**31**	**Sept 1** 3:00 pm SECA 5:00 pm Oasis 5:00 pm Open Door 6:00 pm Praise Band	**2** 7:00 pm Key. AA	**3**	**4** 10:30 Women's Freedom

Bay View United Methodist Church

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors. ™

We're on the web: www.bayviewumc.org

God in the Midst

Friends, I am enjoying summer, are you? It sure is a busy one and has been filled not only with fun but with some difficult loss to bear as well. We've attended our annual all state gathering, had folks undergoing surgeries, members relocating parents, children enjoying camp and adults and teens off to the mission field. We've worshipped in our backyard and several others and we've remembered that the good gift of Christmas can come in the summer too!

As you reflect on all of your summer busyness – is God in the midst of your work and play? Are you keeping your daily study habits and monthly meeting commitments? Have you honored your financial pledged giving to the church even if you've missed Sunday worship?

Well, take heart! If you've been remiss August is the time to get back on track! There are 5 Sundays in August – grace to reconnect and recommit yourself to God and your community of faith. The life and work of the church doesn't take vacation in the summer and often hurts a bit as folks turn their attention to relaxation and "a break" from all things organized.

Invite God to join you in your summer fun and receive the blessing of community as often as you are able in the days and weeks ahead.

Peace to each of you.
Pastor Kelly

Summer Schedule

August 1st-29th:

8:00 am
Outdoor Worship in church "backyard"

9:45 am
Indoor Worship in church sanctuary

Office Hours

7:30 am— 12:00 pm
Monday—Friday

Thanks for recycling!