

# BVUMC *Connection*

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## ☼ *Some Words from John Wesley* ☼ TO WELCOME US INTO A NEW YEAR

I always enter a new year filled with awe and wonder as I try to imagine what it will hold. As I grow older I wonder if this will be the year I experience my first major health problems. I pray for all my old friends, hoping we'll all still be together when this new year draws to a close but I also look forward to welcoming new friends into my life for they help keep me to grow and to stay young!

But as we stand on the brink of a new year it might be a good time for all of us to reflect on what has come to be known as "John Wesley's Covenant Prayer." Here it is;

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

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It can be pretty humbling to honestly recite this prayer and yet it is a reminder for us that life is fragile and that all good things come from God. It is also a good reminder that no matter what the new year brings, God will be present in the midst of it. So may you all enjoy a blessed new year and may it be one filled with joy and just enough surprises to keep you on your toes!

Blessings,  
Pastor Andy

# Thank You All for a Year of Consistent Giving!

As this year of 2011 draws to a close your Finance Team would simply like to say, "Thank you." Thank you for your consistent weekly offerings, thank you for your special apportionment giving, thank you for supporting the United Methodist Special Giving Sundays, and thank you for supporting our local mission opportunities.

We realize these are difficult times in which we live, so we appreciate your continued financial support for our many ministries here at Bay View United Methodist Church even more. A special word of thanksgiving to all those who have pledged their support for the coming year.

There are many things that motivate us to give...not only to our church but to any one of the myriad of organizations that continually seek our support. We may have had a loved one stricken by a difficult disease so we give our support to researching ways of treating that same disease. But, especially at this time of year, we might make that one extra gift simply because it helps us out on our taxes! With that in mind, Tim Schultz of our Finance Team offers these bits of news that might help with some of your year-end giving decisions.

The provision permitting tax free distributions from an IRA directly to your church, or other charity, expires at the end of this year. Only those donors required to take a distribution (70 1/2 or older) qualify.

Also, there are possible tax law changes effective as early as January 1, 2012, (as Congress can make law retroactive to that date) which can place limits on itemized deductions, including charitable contributions and/or limits on those who can claim itemized deductions. In other words, a gift donated this year may be deductible, but not if it's made next year.

So keep in mind that while lower tax rates sound good, they also mean a deductible gift saves more with the higher tax rates this year than the possible lower rates next. If you have questions about charitable giving see Julie Oren or Tim Schultz.

Merry Christmas! Your Finance Team

| FINANCE REPORT FOR ENVELOPE GIVING<br><i>as of November 30, 2011</i> |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Monthly Pledged  | \$14,191.67          |
| Received October Pledges   | \$9,826.31           |
| Total Pledged (January - October)                                    | \$156,108.37         |
| Total Received (January - October)                                   | \$139,511.30         |
| <b>Year to date Deficit</b>  | <b>\$16,597.07</b>   |
| <i>Please Give Generously.</i>                                       |                      |
| <b>Apportionments</b>  | <b>(\$10,732.00)</b> |

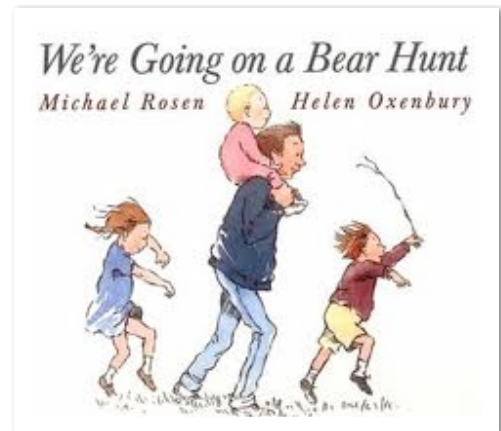
# ✧ Goin' on a Bear Hunt ✧

Do you know this children's song/story about the adventure of walking through an unknown place where sounds and sights can be both frightening and very fun?! The end always reminds us that there IS a safe place to run to and that when you share the adventure with others it's not nearly as scary.

I'm sharing this story with you for two reasons:

First, it's a new year and thus a new opportunity to venture into each day with anticipation and hope (and yes, a healthy dose of fear as well). We will each face both the planned and unexpected personally and professionally and I believe that by faith (as it is written in the children's story and the Bible) we are strengthened by [God], one another and the mutual sharing of our journey through this life. We have quite a bit of fun as we worship, minister and bring God's presence to life in our church, our neighborhood, our work places and living spaces and out into the world in mission and service. That's because God's joy is present as we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and sustain us –

we realize, accept and welcome God-with-us, Emmanuel, and we decide together to eagerly journey to the starlight of Christ Jesus' who teaches us to shine God's love wherever we go. Additionally, we are often complimented by visitors and new friends for the experience of welcome and inclusion that we foster in our community of faith. People are looking for support in times of fear and friends for the celebrations in their lives.



Let us continue to offer openness with sincerity and intention in 2012.

Let us extend the hand of Christian fellowship and the heart of God's justice for all people as the Spirit moves us in 2012.

Let us create and fill new space with new faces who desire a relationship with God and a community that believes that the joy IS in the journey in 2012!

The second reason for sharing the bear hunt story with you is because I'm going on a trip! Initiated by the grace-filled invitation of Leo Cigale over two years ago, I have been selected along with 45 other clergy from across the country to go on a spiritual journey to the Holy Land in February 2012. The Knight's Templar have offered clergy this opportunity for a number of years and it is a very special honor to have been nominated and now selected to participate in this special pilgrimage. I look forward to it with an honest fear and a deep hope for fun (and faith building) as this will be my very first trip abroad. I go, knowing that God's presence, through the Spirit, will continue to sustain and surprise me. And, it won't be as scary as I might think because I am blessed knowing that I will always have with me the love and safety that God and each of YOU offers me! Thanks be to God!

Peace be with each of you,

Pastor Kelly

P.S. I'm going to share my adventure in February on Facebook so sign up and friend the church page!

## *Grateful for the Many Gifts*

I am stealing Pastor Kelly's title from the last issue of the Connection... Our family wants to thank everyone for the gifts that we received at my baby shower on December 11.

Thank you for the generous donations that were made for us to be able to purchase the pocket diapers that we are planning on using. Your contributions will help a tremendous amount.

I also want to take the time to thank those of you who have stepped up and volunteered to come into the office and substitute for me. Thank you all for giving of your free time that I may stay and take care of my new family member.

I feel so much support from the church community here, I may not know your faces, but I know your names and I have developed relationships with many of you. Thank you so much for everything, I'll see you in February!

Erin McReynolds, Office Administrator



### *Prayers*

Please keep our Office Administrator, Erin, and her spouse, Tim, in prayer as they await the birth of their first child (at least they were "awaiting" at the time this was written).

## 2nd Annual Chinese New Year Dinner

CHRIST CHURCH, BAY VIEW



You won't want to miss the delicious cuisine prepared by our very own Chef Peter Kwong and his former students. The dinner will be Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 6pm (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) The church is located at 915 E. Oklahoma Ave. Tickets are \$15 adult, \$5 children 3 to 9, and children under 3 are free.

Proceeds from this event will be used to help subsidize costs for our youth to attend UCC summer camps. Can't make it? Financial donations are still appreciated! If you have questions, contact Sue Patterson at bayviewfamily@yahoo.com or by calling 414.744.2636

### Staffing Update

*Jan Colson- SPR team leader*

Thank you, in advance, to those who have volunteered time to be in the office for Erin's maternity leave in January/February.

Staff-Parish is pleased to announce that the interim Director of Vocal Ministries, Kathleen Matts, has accepted the invitation to join our staff to fill this part-time position.

## Marcus Borg!

### ANYONE UP FOR A ROAD TRIP?

Marcus Borg, featured recently in our adult discussion class will be the guest presenter at a workshop being offered by the United Methodist churches of Circuit #6. The workshop, "Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me This Before: Embracing An Adult Faith," will be held at the New Richmond High School beginning at 6:00p on Friday evening, April 20th and concluding at 2:45p on Saturday, April 21st. The cost is \$55 before April 1st. Since New Richmond is near the Twin Cities we would have to arrange for a Friday night motel stay. I'd be up for driving if anyone wants to make the trip. Let me know!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

### 1st

Angeline Nah  
Jacqueline Nah  
Bill Payne  
Becky Thomas



### 24th

Glen Haggith

### 27th

Francine Knepper

### 28th

Sue Neiderheiser

### 4th

Paul Gibson  
Phyllis Neumann

### 12th

MacKenzie Daub

### 15th

Phyllis Ditch  
David Rice

### 30th

Doris Chavez  
Matthew Daub  
Gary Haase

### 6th

Gwen Schultz

### 18th

Gwen Erdman

### 10th

Elsa Eggert  
Don Evans  
Shirley Lone

### 20th

Cheryl Berry

### 22nd

James Felber

## *Loving Start Preschool News*

In December, we collected enough money in our Giving Jars to provide two children with toys, clothes and grocery store gift cards for their families.

After the Church Cookie Walk, did you smell our yummy gingerbread babies baking? They were made with butterscotch pudding.

This month it's snow, snowflakes, hibernation (a big word for preschoolers). If you get confused putting on your mittens, remember, "Thumb in the thumb hole, bing, fingers all together. This is the song we sing in mitten weather."

Miss Martha, Miss Francine, Miss Joan, Miss Dawn



# January 2012 Calendar

## KEY:

CW: Cookie Walk  
 LSP: Loving Start Preschool  
 Outpost: Alternative High School  
 SECA: South East Clergy Association  
 SPR: Staff Parish Relations  
 WF AA: Women's Freedom AA  
 YAH: Young At Hearts

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY         |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|------------------|
| 1<br>10:45am Worship<br>3pm Bread & Jam<br>7pm AA<br>Alkathon ends at<br>Midnight        | 2<br><b>Office Closed</b><br>8:45am LSP<br>6pm Music Meeting | 3<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>10am AA<br>5:30pm AA<br>6:30 Grief Share                                       | 4<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>3pm SECA<br>6pm Praise Band                                 | 5<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6:30pm Faith Slingers<br>7pm Keystone AA<br>7:30pm Wesleyan  | 6<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP                                 | 7<br>10am WF AA  |
| 8<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Education<br>10:45am Worship<br>7pm AA                     | 9<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP                            | 10<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>10am AA<br>5:30pm AA<br>6pm Trustees<br>6:30 Grief Share<br>7pm Yarn Ministry | 11<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>12pm Card Ministry<br>6pm Praise Band                      | 12<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6:30pm Faith Slingers<br>7pm Keystone AA<br>7:30pm Wesleyan | 13<br><b>Connection Items Due</b><br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP | 14<br>10am WF AA |
| 15<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Education<br>10:45am Worship<br>7pm AA                    | 16<br>6:30pm Finance Mtg<br>7pm District 28AA                | 17<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>10am AA<br>5:30pm AA<br>6:30pm Grief Share                                    | 18<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6pm Praise Band  | 19<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6:30pm Faith Slingers<br>7pm Keystone AA<br>7:30pm Wesleyan | 20<br>8:45am LSP  | 21<br>10am WF AA |
| 22<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Education<br>10:45am Worship<br>7pm AA                    | 23<br>8:45am LSP<br>6pm Block Watch                          | 24<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>10am AA<br>5:30pm AA<br>6:30 Grief Share<br>7pm Yarn Ministry                 | 25<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>9:30am Connection<br>12pm Card Ministry<br>6pm Praise Band | 26<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6:30pm Faith Slingers<br>7pm Keystone AA<br>7:30pm Wesleyan | 27<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP                                | 28<br>10am WF AA |
| 29<br>8:15am Worship<br>9:15am Education<br>10:45am Worship<br>3pm Bread & Jam<br>7pm AA | 30<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP                           | 31<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>10am AA<br>5:30pm AA<br>6:30 Grief Share<br>7:15pm SPR Meeting                | 1<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>3pm SECA<br>6pm Praise Band                                 | 2<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP<br>6:30pm Faith Slingers<br>7pm Keystone AA<br>7:30pm Wesleyan  | 3<br>8:30am Outpost<br>8:45am LSP                                 | 4<br>10am WF AA  |

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# January

2012

We're on the web:  
[www.bayviewumc.org](http://www.bayviewumc.org)



## WINTER HOURS

8:15am Worship  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:45am Worship



*Please Recycle*

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday- Thursday  
9:00am - 2:30pm

Friday  
9:00am - 2:00pm