

BVUMC Connection

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

✘ So... Why Are You Here? ✘

I believe all of us come to church seeking something. That need for “something” is different for each of us and that need even differs within each of us from time to time. Sometimes we come to be comforted. We all have experienced times when life just seems to be too much and we simply need to be reassured of God's love...so we come to church.

Many of us come to church to be with our friends; our extended church family. The church offers a sense of community that no other place can provide. This is the place where we should feel welcome and safe. The trick is in remembering to offer this same sense of

community to the new faces in our midst.

Now there is another reason to come to church but I'm not sure we're always thinking about it. That reason is to be challenged...to be challenged to consider again just what it is we believe and how that belief affects our day-to-day living. Another way of saying this is that we come to church to grow...to grow in our faith and in our understanding of what it means to be people of faith.

But we tend to shy away from growth because we know that growth can mean change and change can sometimes be painful. And yet, we are always in the

process of changing, aren't we? Just look in the mirror! I believe the idea of growing in faith is exactly what Jesus was asking of his followers way back when and is still asking of us today. I have been so encouraged by the number of people who have taken up the challenge of “Embracing an Adult Faith” with me and I am looking for more study opportunities to help us continue to go (grow?) a little deeper. I hope you will consider taking up the challenge to grow together...both in class with me and in worship on Sunday mornings!

Blessings,
Pastor Andy

☼ Thanksgiving ☼

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. – 1 John 1:1-4

Thanksgiving is a time for family, friends and food – and football, since the Packers play on Thanksgiving this year. When we sit down to eat with those we love, we remember the blessings we have experienced throughout the year. The meal and the people proclaim God’s abundance in our lives.

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✧ A Note from Pastor Kelly ✧

We celebrate and lament this time of year as the Season of Summer gives way to the cooler Fall temps and shorter daylight hours. Boats come out of the water, storm windows go up, sweaters come out of storage and we go from drinking iced tea to hot cider. Many lament and dread these changes as a sure sign of the approaching cold and snow of Winter. I have been drawn to recall a children's story about a mouse community in this very same situation. Most were doing exactly what we are doing right now, scurrying to finish preparations for making through the long, cold winter. But one little mouse, Frederick, took a different approach. He lingered each day to enjoy the beauty of the changing leaf colors, the smell of burn piles and the crisp chill in the air. He took in the lovely colors of the Fall flowers and he put in his memory the last look of the green grass. Frederick didn't scurry about collecting food stores and securing his lodging against winter winds. Rather, he savored his present surroundings and was grateful for the opportunity to bear witness to such beauty around him. He appreciated his community and the work they were doing. The community, on the other hand, scolded Frederick for not being more helpful in this busy, frantic race to be ready enough to survive. Winter did come in the story, as it surely will for us, and dark days were long and boring. The community shared all they had with ease and there was enough but their true hunger was to "get out", to be freed from the blandness, to be warm again and busy. And then Frederick shared what he had gathered for the Winter – he told stories and shared his memories of all that he had witnessed back on those beautiful Fall days. His community was truly fed by his gift, they were renewed and hopeful. They also had a new appreciation for the variety of gifts in their midst – some gather, some mend, some feed the body and some feed the soul. All have a place and a purpose and for that lesson, every-one was grateful and glad.

Friends, let this be us as we enter this changing time of year. Let us truly appreciate and utilize one another's gifts and let us be sure that God's timing and God's blessing guides and sustains our life in community here in this place.

I am so grateful to serve in your midst, growing leaders, shaping ministry and appreciating the beauty that each of you brings to our worship, mission and service near and far. Thanks be to God for the community of Bay View United Methodist Church!

I want to believe that our community values openness in its action and conversation. I asked to be a member here as many others have because of the open welcome and willingness to have open dialogue/discernment. As your pastor, I will continue to lead in ways that foster trust in conversation on the hard topics with the invitation and mutual freedom to be wherever you need to be on the spectrum of the discussion.

It is my hope that no mind, no heart or any door would be locked in any direction. That through the Holy Spirit, we will all agree to grow together, however God leads us for the betterment of God's kingdom, here on earth, as it is in heaven. I continue to give thanks for the privilege of serving in your midst, recognizing that I am a work in progress along with each of you. I trust that there is grace for all of my steps and missteps as they humanly happen with the best of intention for the ministry in this place.

Peace to each of you,

Pastor Kelly

P.S. Lay Leadership will be activating the Church and Society Team this fall, inviting those who feel an interest or call to peace and justice issues to meet, offer educational and programming opportunities and guidance for our community. Pray about this new area of ministry focus and speak to the Lay Leadership team if you are interested. (Muriel Blackwood, Judie Liebenstein, Sara Lewin and Pastor Kelly)

Thanksgiving... *Continued from Page 1*

Not unlike those who shared the first Thanksgiving meal, we celebrate life and fellowship.

In the passage from 1 John, we are reminded that we haven't just heard about God but that our eyes have seen and our hands have touched the truth of Jesus. The Word of life is not just stories we have read, but have been made real to us through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If John was going to send us an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner, I think this would be it!

As you plan your Thanksgiving celebration this year, I encourage you to take time to remember how you have heard, seen and been touched by the love of Jesus over the last year. Whether you are eating alone or in a large group, may you know the fellowship of sharing not only this meal, but also the Supper we share together on the first Sunday of each month. May your Thanksgiving celebrations be a celebration of life and fellowship made complete by the joy we have in Jesus.

Pastor Michelle

Young At Heart:

CHILI DUMP

The annual chili dump meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th. Bring your serving of chili at 5pm so we can eat at 5:30pm. See the sign up sheet for extras. After dinner, we will bag the bean soup ingredients and have fellowship.

Grief Share

“SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS”

We will be having several seminars in November and December during the day and in the early evening.

This seminar features practical suggestions and reassurances through video interviews with counselors, grief experts and ordinary people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Why the holidays are difficult
- What to expect
- How to prepare
- How to manage relationships and holiday social events
- Using the holidays to help you heal.

There is a charge of \$5 for the ***Surviving the Holidays*** guide book, which includes a 30-day devotional that will provide additional insights and ideas on holiday survival.

To register:

Call Allan Eckoldt at 414-483-1347 or 414-628-4671

Come See Bishop Lee

- On November 20 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm
- Bishop Lee will be speaking at United
- Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay,
- 819 E. Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee,
- WI 53217. The theme for the day is
- Building Beloved Community, but the
- day will be interactive.

Advent is Coming!

Advent begins on November 27. Are you ready? Many of our Christmas preparations focus on boxes: gifts to be bought, wrapped, mailed...and returned. We say that Jesus is a gift, but what does that mean in our Christmas celebrations? This year, we will think “outside the box” as we change our focus from opening up presents on Christmas morning and opening ourselves to remembering the birth of Christ and the promise of Christ’s return in new ways.



Week 1	November 27	Open up...expectation
Week 2	December 4	Open up...acceptance
Week 3	December 11	Open up...family
Week 4	December 18	Open up...yourself

Additional Advent Opportunities

FOR WORSHIP AND REFLECTION TOGETHER:

Advent Devotions

“The journey from Advent to Bethlehem is never easy. It is filled with lots of noise and many distractions, and some whom you will meet along the way aren’t really going to Bethlehem.” This year’s Advent devotion, *The True Gifts of Christmas* will be available beginning in mid-November.



Wednesday nights

(NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 21)

Watch the green sheet and CUBE for details!

Sunday mornings at 9:15

(NOVEMBER 20)

As families, we have many traditions that help us to celebrate Christmas. On November 20, there will be a time of sharing and learning new ways we can prepare for the Jesus with our families. All adults are encouraged to come. While we will focus on children ages 3-13, adaptations and options for older youth and adults will be provided.

(NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 18)

We have heard the Christmas story so many times; we may forget they are stories of real people. Join Michelle as we “open up” the stories of the people who were a part of the Christmas story.

Everyday Saints STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Campaign is the process by which we ask what your monetary commitment will be to the church in the next year. This way, we can use your pledge to prepare our annual budget. But it is so much more!

United Methodists are expected to live according to John Wesley's "General Rules," which Bishop Rueben Job summarized in his *Three Simple Rules* (Abingdon Press, 2007):

1. Do no harm.
2. Do good.
3. ***Stay in love with God.***

Giving to God is a way to build a closer relationship with God. We give because it is one way to ***stay in love with God.*** Giving of our substance is a spiritual discipline in which we trust God will provide us with enough. As we give, we ***stay in love with God.***

Thank you to all the saints in our church that have completed the pledge cards for our Stewardship Campaign. You have demonstrated how to ***stay in love with God.***

Thank You,

Julie Oren: Finance Chair

FINANCE REPORT FOR ENVELOPE GIVING *as of September 30, 2011*

Monthly Pledged	\$14,191.67
Received August Pledges	\$10,481.33
Total Pledged (January - August)	\$127,725.03
Total Received (January - August)	\$116,502.23
Year to date Deficit	\$11,222.99
<i>Please Give Generously.</i>	
Apportionments	(\$7,992.00)

Common Ground is at Work FYI

Two BVUMC members, Judy Banta and Ann Pier, have joined the marketing committee in the Common Ground organization. The process of buying, rehabbing and selling foreclosed homes in the Sherman Park neighborhood is moving ahead. The homes are purchased through the City of Milwaukee with Neighborhood Stabilization funds. They are then resold to one of three certified rehab entities.

The rehabilitation is thorough and of good quality. Included in this is completely new baths and kitchen, as well as restoring the house to its original shape. If woodwork was painted, it is stripped, and if there was leaded glass, that is restored. Purchasers are guaranteed 15 years with no major maintenance needed.

Persons eligible to buy these homes must plan to live in the dwelling and have an income no more than 120% of

the median income of the US. Common Ground has sold its first home.

You may remember Common Ground worked very hard to research the foreclosure problem and determine what entities were involved. As a result demands were made of four banks who were "trustees for the majority of foreclosed homes". As a result of Common Grounds persistent efforts, the following banks: Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo, and Deutsche Bank, have committed \$33.8 million over a period of three years to go toward purchase, rehab and mortgage aid for these homes.

If you have questions or want to know more, ask Judy or Ann. We will try to keep you updated.

Ann Pier

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th

Katrina Schultz

6th

Gary Aubry

10th

Jean Krieder
Marie Kumbier

11th

Ken Becker
John Marki

13th

Kelly Fowler
Mark Humphrey

14th

Stephanie Collins

16th

Lisa Case
Doug Romfoe

19th

Gladys Mattson



22nd

Sharon Hanstad
Sebastian Marki

25th

Patty Thompson

26th

Mary Lou Rice

28th

Madelyn Collins

29th

Kelsie Petrie

30th

Roberta Haase

Thanks

Thanks to those who helped make the October Packer Party so much fun! I am grateful for the planning help, the set-up help, the tech help and the great food. I'm also grateful to all who attended to bring the event to life! (I am also grateful to the Packers for winning the game!)

Pastor Kelly

CONNECTION ARTICLE DUE DATES

Due to Thanksgiving and the upcoming Charge Conference, December Connection items will be due on **November 9th.**

Similarly, December holds Christmas and Erin's due date. In anticipation of both of these events, January Connection items will be due on **December 9th.**

These are firm dates, please be timely with your submissions.

Articles may be submitted in paper form to Erin's mailbox, the basket outside of the office, or they can be emailed to officeadmin@bayviewumc.org.

Loving Start Preschool News

In October we went to Outpost, bought some apples and used them to make our own applesauce.

Did you see some princesses, Spidermen, kittens, and puppies at the end of October? We had our Halloween parties.

You may smell some yummy things around Thanksgiving when we have our Thanksgiving feasts. We also have some budding engineers. Stop by and see our ramps, towers and the children have even figured out how to make corners.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Miss Martha, Miss Francine, Miss Joan, Miss Dawn



November 2011 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
30 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 2pm Sacred Music 3pm Bread & Jam 4pm Fall Festival 7pm AA	31 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	1 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share 7:15pm SPR Meeting	2 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 3pm SECA 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 7pm Faith Singers	3 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:45pm Wesleyan 7pm Keystone AA	4 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	5 10am WF AA
6 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	7 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6pm Music Meeting 6:30pm Finance 7pm "...Adult Faith"	8 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6pm Trustees 6:30pm Grief Share 7pm Yarn Ministry	9 Connection Items Due 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 12:30pm Card Min. 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 7pm Faith Singers	10 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:45pm Wesleyan 7pm Keystone AA	11 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	12 10am WF AA
13 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 5pm YAH Chili Dump 7pm AA	14 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	15 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share	16 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 5pm Oasis 6pm Praise Band 7pm Faith Singers	17 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:45pm Wesleyan 7pm Keystone AA	18 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	19 10am WF AA
20 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 7pm AA	21 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 7pm Ad Council 7pm District 28AA	22 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA 7pm Yarn Ministry	23 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 12:30pm Card Min. 6pm Praise Band 7pm Faith Singers	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed 6:45pm Wesleyan 7pm Keystone AA	25 Office Closed	26 10am WF AA
27 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 12pm Charge Conference 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	28 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	29 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 10am AA 5:30pm AA	30 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 9:30am Connection 6pm Praise Band 7pm Faith Singers	1 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP 6:45pm Wesleyan 7pm Keystone AA	2 8:30am Outpost 8:45am LSP	3 8:15 CW Set Up 10am WF AA

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November

2011

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

5th Annual Cookie Walk

DECEMBER 4!

The fifth annual Cookie Walk will be Sunday, December 4th from 9am until 4pm. A sign-up sheet is now posted in the Gathering Space for those of you who are waiting to make this year's cookie walk another huge success.

Please sign up to bake. It will take a lot of bakers who are willing to contribute a double batch (9-10 dozen) of Christmassy Cookies (less than a double batch would be appreciated), in order to fill the tables with delectable treats! We are also looking for items such as candy, nuts, Christmas breads, ethnic cookies, and other items for the specialty table. Please name the kinds of cookies and/or specialty items that you will be contributing, this will help a great deal!

Sign up Today!

Thank you, Cookie Committee & Eleanor Rice

FALL 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