

# BVUMC *Connection*

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™

## ☼ Seeing 20/20 ☼

Many of us have lost our ability to see perfectly. We wear corrective lenses or squint to bring things into focus. Some ignore their changing eyesight – I have a friend who is too vain to wear his glasses and chooses instead to suffer headaches and eye-strain on a daily basis! Some equate failure or a lessening of self when they succumb to wearing their glasses regularly and some have to let go of long held career dreams because perfect eyesight is a prerequisite.

Others, though, handle their vision loss with dignity and grace. They seek advice and regular eye care from specialists and they relish the many options for stylish glasses frames, new developments in contact lens wear and corrective eye surgery. They can laugh at themselves when they can't quite make out the posted menu board or when 'once again'; they can't find their reading glasses.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## ☼ Imagining... ☼

As the time draws closer for me to focus all my attention on our ministry together in Bay View I have been trying to imagine exactly what that might look like. For one thing, Pastor Kelly and I will have to settle into some kind of rhythm regarding Sunday worship leadership and the preaching schedule. Sometimes I may be simply sitting down next to you in the pew!

I do know there are a number of things I want to focus on once I get my office put together and get back in the swing of things here at Bay View. I'm well aware of the fact that I am where I am today because of the strong emphasis Pastor Lowell Bartel put on developing lay leadership. It's my hope to both identify opportunities and then offer encouragement to you the laity of our church to grow in this same manner. This can happen through lay-speaking classes but also in simple small discussion groups a la our recent "Three Simple Rules" class. I believe it is important for us to make time to talk about what it is we believe and to hear what others have to say for that is how we grow.

I also want to help identify and encourage our newer members to step up into leadership roles here at church. When I first returned here two years ago I noted at my first Administrative Council meeting that with the exception of one person, everyone else in leadership had been there when I had left seven years earlier! Some were in different roles but basically it was the same cast of characters. Now having been a pastor in a small church, I realize how easy it is to always fall back on the same people but in a church our size we should hopefully be seeing some new faces in leadership every year. This sort of "changeover" also allows those who have

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## *Seeing 20/20 (cont.) ...Continued from Page 1*

Our ministry together is one that relies on God's vision for our church and our collective ability to "see" what God is calling us to do. I believe that Andy's increased presence on staff is a piece of God's vision for this community of faith and I am grateful to the church membership and leadership for affirming our joint pastorate financially. I am also grateful to Andy for his commitment to discerning this possibility and his willingness to accept it.

I am committed to leading us into seeing 20/20 for our future together. Beginning with prayer on January 1, 2012, I asked God to give me eyes to see and ears to hear and so, each day goes. Soon, Andy and I will set a day apart to clarify our roles and responsibilities. The preaching this summer will focus on examples of Jesus' vision for God's kingdom here on earth (as it is in heaven) and in August, a series on the power and presence and gift of the Holy Spirit in bringing 20/20 sight to the hearts of the faithful. Then, in September comes the inclusion of your vision, hopes and dreams for the ministry of Bay View UMC. "Seeing 20/20: A Visioning Process for BVUMC" will be a day of prayer and discernment, naming and claiming, worship and fellowship for leadership and folks interested in active participation in the work of ministry in this place. This will set the course for our Fall Stewardship Campaign and our Ministry Plan for the next Quadrenium (2012 – 2016).

Friends, I believe that all of us have a vision in our hearts – not seen with our perfect or imperfect eyes, but viewed through the eyes of our hearts. It is time to share what we see and embrace the vision before us.

The song goes, "Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, open the eyes of our hearts". I pray this lyric often as I think of all that God has in store for us because those who desire to see 20/20 will have a "future with hope". Jeremiah 29:11

Peace to each of you,

Pastor Kelly

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## *Imagining (cont.) ...Continued from Page 1*

been around for a while to assume mentoring roles which is another way we learn.

I'm not sure that I want to organize "a men's group" per se but I do want to find some ways to bring our men together in meaningful ways. Several of our members recently helped with some clean-up work at South Shore Park so we might possibly develop some kind of relationship that provides opportunities for all of us, both men and women, to do some service work right here in our neighborhood. Our Wisconsin United Methodist camps are always in need of work crews so don't be surprised if we put together a team this fall!

I also know that much of my time will be spent "making connections." As I mentioned last month, there are people new to our community that I don't really know and I want to make their acquaintance but I also want to provide opportunities for all of us to get to know one another. It's hard on a Sunday morning to go much deeper than "Hi, how are you?" but if we can sit down for a few minutes and learn one another's story I know we will be blessed.

So there, at least, are some of my thoughts but I'd also like to hear from you. What would you like to see happen here at Bay View that you think I might be able to help bring about? As for discussion groups...what sort of subjects would bring you out? What do you want to talk about? What do you want to do? Think about those questions and then give me a call (744-3927)!

Pastor Andy

## *Mosquitoes suck!*

The United Methodist Church is launching a new ministry initiative called Imagine No Malaria, a comprehensive effort to raise \$75 million to fight malaria and eliminate death and suffering from the disease in Africa by 2015 through education, communication, prevention and treatment. The success of “Imagine No Malaria” will depend on the active participation of United Methodists.

Imagine a world without malaria—a preventable disease that kills one child in Africa every 30 seconds, more than 1 million children every year. Imagine the lives changed, the futures created. Transmitted through a mosquito bite, the plasmodium parasite can cause fever, chills, vomiting, headaches that lead to convulsions, organ failure and death—if left untreated. Each year, malaria affects 500 million people and kills more than 1 million, 90 percent of whom live in Africa..

We are not alone. Imagine No Malaria has some pretty awesome partners to help make beating malaria a reality. We work with global heavy hitters like the United Nations Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These organizations are global leaders in the fight against malaria and other diseases of poverty. That’s because they require the best from their people and their partners.

So, why do they need us? Well, The United Methodist Church brings some very unique resources to the table. Obviously, the financial support of 11 million United Methodists worldwide is a significant part of it. But there’s much more. The UMC has worked in Africa for more than 160 years. We operate churches, school, hospitals and clinics across the continent in places where no one else will go. Wherever the road runs out, you’ll find us bringing hope to the hopeless and empowering the powerless. These partners know we are a key to healthcare delivery in Africa, and as a result that means your donation is multiplied many times by the support they provide.

Your dollars are already at work because the World Service Fund receives dollars from your apportionment. If you want to give specifically to this cause, put Imagine No Malaria on the ‘other’ line of your envelope.

Thanks, Julie Oren

## *Some Thoughts To Share As We Move Through Summer*

Giving to God is not a transaction. Anytime you give someone a gift it is a reflection of your relationship. Your commitment to the church should be a reflection of your relationship with God in Christ and the Church.

What is God calling you to give this summer - of your time, your talents and your treasures? Do you have time to help clean and paint in the Sunday School area? Do you have a talent to offer in leading a class or teaching Sunday School - even if your own children are grown?

Perhaps you can try giving your regular tithes and offerings electronically through your bank over the next three months, especially if you have lots of weekends when you're out of town.

Giving means thinking positively.

"Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times." (Ephesians 5:16 The Message)

Judy Banta, Stewardship Leader



## Common Ground Keeps on Building

A Delegates Assembly for Common Ground was held on Sunday, April 29th at the Italian Community Center. This event celebrated the 4th anniversary of the launching of Common Ground and updated members on initiatives and successes. There were 1250 people in attendance.

Initiatives are:

### **Milwaukee Rising**--purchasing, rehabbing and reselling foreclosed homes.

- \$33.5 million has been given by 5 banks which were involved in foreclosures.
- Six homes have been completed and sold.
- 14 more homes are nearing completion.

### **Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative**

A \$54 million loan has been obtained from the Federal Government and a CEO has been hired. Negotiations with healthcare providers are in process. The program is aimed at small business owners and single individuals in business to enable affordable insurance. (When the program is ready, perhaps our church can made use of it for employees' insurance.)

### **It's About Our Children** --Education, tutoring for our children

Investigation has revealed poor results and great spending waste in the tutoring program of MPS which is contracted out to private businesses. Common Ground has enlisted the agreement and cooperation of Wisconsin Superintendent of Schools, Tony Evers, and Superintendent Gregory Thornton in redesigning the Tutoring program to be more effective and more accountable.

For more information on any of these initiatives, contact Ann Pier or Judy Banta.

It is notable that there are 36 Faith Organizations in the membership of Common Ground and NOT ONE UNITED METHODIST! In my mind something is wrong with this picture.

Common Ground works for the Common Good.



## EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE CIVILITY LAUNCHED BY INTERFAITH CONFERENCE AND WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*Tom Heinen, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Executive Director*

The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Council of Churches announced today that they are partnering in a “Season of Civility” project to foster civil discourse and more effective democracy amid Wisconsin’s extreme political polarization. At this point, 35 religious leaders of many denominations and faiths have signed a supportive statement. Pastors and other faith leaders will be added in the near future. The news release is below.  
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FOR RELEASE May 21, 2012

*Rev. Scott D. Anderson, Executive Director, Wisconsin Council of Churches*

Today 35 religious leaders from throughout Wisconsin call upon the citizens of our state to enter a “Season of Civility” amidst the partisan rancor of the current recall campaigns and the anticipated divisiveness of the fall election cycle.

“As a result of extreme political polarization in Wisconsin, many in our congregations and communities feel marginalized or demonized by their neighbors on account of their economic status, occupation, or political beliefs,” the statement says.

Rev. Scott Anderson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, which represents 14 Christian denominations, commented that “politics is not a zero sum game or a winner-take-all contest. Rather it is a joint effort to reach a workable consensus on how to advance the common good. From the perspective of Wisconsin’s religious community, the current political environment is unacceptable in our public life.”

The “Call for a Season of Civility” statement declares that the “ability to cooperate to solve common problems and achieve shared goals is now undermined by rampant disrespect, disinformation, distrust, and disregard for the interests and ideas of others.” Calling for change, it draws a parallel between the religious values embodied in “the Golden Rule,” to treat others as we would like to be treated, with the idea of democracy, which is based on regard for the value of each and every individual.

In the statement, religious leaders commit to model and support respectful and honest conversations on public issues within their congregations, assemblies and forums.

They also call upon candidates to adhere to high standards of civility, integrity and truthfulness in their ads, including those of “third parties,” and invite all citizens to be critical consumers of media and advertising.

The initial list of 35 signatories to the Call for a Season of Civility is expected to grow over the next several weeks as more religious leaders are invited to support it.

The public release of this statement marks the launch of a year-long “Season of Civility” project by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and other local partners to provide resources and training opportunities for clergy and other congregational leaders from many denominations and faiths to practice respectful conversations among people of differing political persuasions. The Council of Churches is also encouraging pastors to preach on the topic of civility during the fall election cycle. Sermons will be posted on its website at [www.wichurches.org](http://www.wichurches.org).

In supporting the Season of Civility effort, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Executive Director Tom Heinen concluded, “If we embrace our faith traditions’ highest values of compassion and mutual respect, we will rediscover ways to distill wisdom from our differences and a healthier, more functional democracy from our discourse.”

See the Cube to read a copy of the religious leaders’ statement.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS



**1st**

Judy Banta

**3rd**

Julie Oren  
Arthur Oseland

**4th**

Pauline Bruss  
Doralin Fortner

**6th**

Stacey Thieme

**7th**

Charlotte Bethke-Sprong

**9th**

Kenneth Prott

**13th**

Todd Oseland  
Renee Romfoe

**14th**

Richard Boedecker

**17th**

Ron Schultz

**20th**

Layla Brezinski

**22nd**

Zach Garside

**23rd**

Jennifer Balfanz  
Mary Guardalabene

**24th**

Mary Kitzman

**26th**

Max Greenberg

**29th**

Erin McReynolds

### *Loving Start Preschool News*

We celebrated the retirement of Miss Francine this year after 16 years of teaching a total of approximately 625 students.

Loving Start Preschool has a break for June, but will return with a summer program in July and August.

Have a safe, healthy, happy, sunny and warm summer!

Miss Martha, Miss Francine,  
Miss Joan, Miss Dawn



#### FINANCE REPORT FOR ENVELOPE GIVING *as of April 30, 2012*

Monthly Pledged	\$11,360.80
Received April Pledges	\$13,505.30
Difference	\$2,144.50
Total Pledged (January - April)	\$45,443.20
Total Received (January - April)	\$58,672.86
Difference	\$13,505.30
<i>Please Give Generously</i>	
<b>April Apportionments</b>	<b>(\$1,272.00)</b>

# June 2012 Calendar

## KEY:

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 8:15am Worship 9:15am Education 10:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	28 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i> 7pm AA	29 8:30am Outpost 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share	30 8:30am Outpost 10am Bible Study	31 8:30am Outpost 6pm Praise Band 6:30pm Faith Singers 7pm Keystone AA Annual Conference	1 8:30am Outpost 4pm 30 Hour Famine Annual Conference	2 10am WF AA 10am Grief Share 6pm End 30-hr Famine Annual Conference
3 9:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA Annual Conference	4 8:30am Outpost 7pm AA	5 8:30am Outpost 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share	6 8:30am Outpost 10am Bible Study	7 8:30am Outpost 6pm Praise Band 7pm Keystone AA	8 8:30am Outpost	9 10am WF AA 10am Grief Share
10 8:00am Worship 9:45am Worship 7pm AA	11 8:30am Outpost 7pm AA	12 8:30am Outpost 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6pm Trustees 6:30pm Grief Share 7pm Yarn Ministry	13 10am Bible Study 12pm Card Ministry	14 6pm Praise Band 7pm Keystone AA	15 8:30am Outpost	16 10am WF AA 10am Grief Share
17 8:00am Worship 9:45am Worship 7pm AA	18 6:30pm Finance 7pm AA 7pm District 28 AA	19 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share	20 10am Bible Study	21 6pm Praise Band 7pm Keystone AA	22	23 10am WF AA 10am Grief Share
24 8:15am Worship 9:45am Worship 3pm Bread & Jam 7pm AA	25 7pm AA	26 10am Connection 10am AA 5:30pm AA 6:30pm Grief Share 7pm Yarn Ministry	27 10am Bible Study 12pm Card Ministry	28 6pm Praise Band 7pm Keystone AA	29	30 10am WF AA 10am Grief Share

# BAY VIEW UMC

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### Pastor Andy Oren

Phone: 414-744-3927  
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June

2012

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

# Summer Worship Schedule

Annual Conference  
Sunday, June 3

9:45am

One Service Only

Worship Led by Lay Speaker Mark Humphrey

Summer Schedule Begins  
Sunday, June 10

8:00am

Outdoor Worship (Weather Permitting)

9:45am

Worship in the Sanctuary

## SUMMER HOURS

8:00am Outdoor Worship

9:45am Indoor Worship



*Please Recycle*

## OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday

9:00am - 2:00pm