

# THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission is to change peoples' lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ

September 2009



## From The Pastor's Heart

Dear Faith Community,

As I sit down to write this letter, I am just feeling so much gratitude for each of you.

This morning I was thinking of what Bible verses could possibly help me explain exactly how I was feeling, and I thought of verses 9 and 10 from Ecclesiastes 4:

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up." (New International Version)*

Many times this summer I was reminded of what a close knit faith community we have here at BVUMC. We have discovered that "Two are better than one," and we have shown over and over again that "if one falls, his friend can help him up."

As you know, this summer we have had a number of persons who have had surgery, who have had medical procedures and begun treatment. Your heartfelt reaching out to these persons has been incredible --- from your constant prayers, your cards and phone calls --- to your wonderful meals! Everyone who has been touched by your generosity and prayers has commented on

how they have felt surrounded by love throughout their surgery, procedures and recovery.

And then of course, we have been blessed as a faith community by the healthy birth of Bethany and Ted's triplets: Brook, Paul and Jacqueline. We are also awaiting the arrival of Tammy and Bob's new 15 month old daughter (and Sarah's new sister) Kalamkas, who is being adopted from Kazakhstan. Once again, your prayers, calls and cards have let these members of our church family know they are indeed loved and cared for.

I truly believe as we have continued our faith journey together that we have discovered what putting faith into action is all about. We have become Jesus' hands and feet in the world. We have come to understand what being the "church" really means.

I look forward to the coming months as we continue to discover where God is leading us and as we seek to be the "church," not just on Sunday, but every day of the week!

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Michele*

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### Special points of interest:

- Finance Ministry Information Sessions
- Dress-Every girl deserves one
- Sunday School Updates

## Dress...every girl deserves one



One Dress at a Time has a new name. Our mission and purpose are still the same. We wished to put BVUMC, Whitinsville, MA on our tags and did not feel it was appropriate to add that information to the Trademark tags we were using. We are simply using the word Dress with the caveat, every girl deserves one, on a plain manila tag. On the reverse side is space for size and care instructions.

We have been sewing this summer and expect there will be a need for dresses as school begins and the holidays arrive. We are always searching for more sewers. Patterns and fabric are provided. We also offer copious assistance in the making of the dress. Bev and Peg are passionate about sewing and are more than happy to help you every step of the way. We have had a couple of sewing machines donated to us that are available for use Saturday mornings at WWW and at other times by arrangement.

## Finance Ministry

The Finance Ministry will be hosting a 5-week seminar series titled "Financial Tips for Today's Economy". The first session will be held on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and will run every Wednesday thereafter through October 14<sup>th</sup>. The first session will be a "Financial Check-Up" covering several topics germane to today's economy and general personal financial management. The subsequent sessions will cover topics such as net worth, cash flow, budgeting, credit issues, estate planning, smart shopping, and ID theft. The plan is to provide babysitting and dinner for each session. Each session will be about an hour and will begin at approximately 6:30 PM. Be on the lookout for more news to come over the next few months. In the meantime, if you have any questions please see one of the Finance Ministry committee members.

## Summer Fellowship

Wow. So now it's September and it doesn't feel like we've had much of a summer. But at least we've had some sun lately and some wonderful fellowship opportunities. Thanks to everyone who made it to our cook-out. We had a great time, wonderful food and lots of laughs. The golf outing was a success once again and we've even had a request to schedule another one this year. We also had a good time at Cruise Night at Bangma's. The Plourde boys and Wheeler boys waved goodbye to all the hot rods as they revved up and sped out of the parking lot.

Thank you to Loral Plourde for organizing our summer fellowship and to all those who participated in the great events she planned for us!

## Women, Work, & Worship

In September our meetings will return to the fourth Saturday of the month.

Our September meeting is on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Looking ahead, October 24 will be our last meeting before the *Holiday Affair* on November 14<sup>th</sup>. It is time to pull all our projects together. If you are working on personal projects, its time to pay attention as the clock is ticking!

A reminder: we meet from 9-12am in Faith Hall; everyone is welcome...even if you have never come before. Bring your personal project or help out with the ones we are in the process of completing. Bring a snack to share...or not! (No snack police invited)



## Thank You from the Codners

My husband and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, their cards, and their phone calls and their visits during my surgery and recovery from knee replacement surgery. We wish to thank Audry Sherry and the Feed Our Flock Team for the delicious food. Steve has learned to do a little cooking, but not enough to sustain us for a month. I must admit that we have never accepted help in previous times of crisis. We have always stoically muddled through. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your help. As health returns we look forward to being able to “feed someone in our flock”. It will be our turn to pass the help along.

From two in the “flock” we want to thank ewe!

Peggy and Steve Codner

## The Hidden Value of Book Studies

By Laural Plourde

I recently participated in the book study for “Serving from the Heart”. First, I want to say “thanks” to Dean Fortin and Reverend Michele for leading this series on Thursday evenings. For many of us, it isn’t easy to dedicate an evening every week for this kind of study. We’re either running in from work, grabbing a quick dinner and rushing back out; or in my case, waiting on someone else to make it home from work, feed them a quick dinner and then rush out for class. And hopefully we’ve had time to do the reading!

I just have to say that each time I do one of the book studies, or participate in some other type of small group activity, I am so glad I made the time for it. “Serving from the Heart” was a particularly moving experience for me. The subtitle of the book is “Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service”. Now, did I discover a hidden gift from God that I can use to transform the church? No. But I did verify that the things I have done for the church fall into my areas of strength. And most importantly, I built some new relationships with people in the church I didn’t know very well and learned some things and strengthened relationships with people I thought I knew well.

I’ve spoken before about how important this church family is to me. I really appreciate the times when those relationships grow. This church is full of wonderful people. I encourage you to make some time for the next book study or one of the many ministries. God will meet you there and bring with Him a great group of people.

God’s love and blessings to all,

Laural Plourde

## Calling all kids...Come Join the Circle

Guess what! Sunday School is coming! Make sure to tell your moms and dads that you can't wait to be a part of the fun! This year we will continue using the curriculum "Come Join the Circle" --- however --- we will be making changes.

At a teachers meeting in July we started to make some plans. What we want you to know is that we have been listening to all the pros and cons of our program, and we are going to try some new things. We are asking teachers to commit to teaching for at least a Quarter at a time. We are hoping to have teams teaching each grade level, so that teachers can cover for each other. This year Rev. Michele will also try to give her message around the themes and scripture that the curriculum will be using. Each Sunday the kids will begin their time together downstairs with music led by Shannon Wheeler. There will be Sunday School on the Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion. We will no longer have a "Family Sunday," but we will make sure that the children are present to receive Communion. This is just some of the "restructuring" that we are planning.

On **August 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 there will be another important teachers meeting for anyone who is interested in getting involved with the children. We need teachers **and** helpers! Youth who have been confirmed are encouraged to be present if they want to help out this year. We will go over changes at this meeting!

***Please, if you can not attend, and are interested in being involved, call or see our Sunday School Superintendent, Tina Beauchaine! (508-234-8131, [eda-lynnne@hotmail.com](mailto:eda-lynnne@hotmail.com) )***

Registration will be held on Sunday, **August 30<sup>th</sup>** and **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. All children need to have a new form filled out.

**Welcome Back Sunday** will be on **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. The children will have activities during worship and the entire Congregation is invited to a Luau following worship. More information will follow.

**Sunday School will begin on September 20<sup>th</sup>!!**

## Stewardship Moment

*(This is part of a stewardship message given by Bob Marseglia in June)*

I would like to share with you parts of a few stewardship messages that we have heard from other members of this church that stick in my mind and that I think are worth repeating:

We heard from Charlie Thompson that when he sits down to do his budget for the month, the first thing he does is to provide for his tithe to the Lord's work in this church --- after that he begins to provide for the payment of the rest of his obligations. Charlie told us that he was motivated by a former pastor to do this.

We heard from Glenn King who told us that he and Debbie decided to take out an equity loan to make their initial donation for our new building.

We have heard our pastor tell us about the widow's mite found in Mark 12: 41-44 and how most of the people gave to the treasury out of their abundance; but that the poor widow gave all that she had (2 small copper coins, which was the equivalent of a cent). The Lord told his disciples that the poor widow had put in more than all of the contributions to the treasury, for they put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on.

Those three messages, in particular, motivated me to realize that I could and should do better in thinking about my donations because I am fortunate enough to have the resources to do so.

Bette and I are attending the "*Serving From The Heart*" study on Friday mornings. In the workbook there is a section dealing with defining our spiritual gifts, one of which is generosity. It goes on to tell us about people that give of their material wealth freely and joyfully ... fully aware that spiritual wealth will abound as God's work is advancing. It tells us that instead of asking "*how much of my money do I give to God?*" we should ask, "*How much of God's money do I keep?*" This made me think even more about my own stewardship.

We have also heard from others that if you're not in the position financially to give, then it's just as important that you give of your time and talents for God's work. There are many ministries that are going on in this congregation that are being worked on by those who donate their time and talent. These are just as important as financial donations. I think the combination of the two is a necessity.

You know, I was thinking that maybe there are some of you who want to give of your talents and be involved in the ministries of this of this church, but feel that you don't have much to offer or maybe feel that you have something to offer but feel a little insecure about doing so.

## Stewardship Moment

(continued)

I want to share a story with you about what happened to me when I first started to get really involved giving of my talents to this church. Maybe it will help you, as it certainly has helped me.

A long time ago when I was serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees we were in the middle of doing some major renovations. The pastor asked me to bring the congregation up to date on what we were doing and how we were doing on plans to fund the project. That Sunday morning as I was walking into church, I overheard two long time members severely criticizing the work that was being done. They were unaware that I was there, and one of them actually said that he thought the whole project was a waste of money. Well, I went into church, quite upset and disappointed because I had always thought very highly of the two men. Well I did get up and briefed the congregation, and even though I didn't plan it, my feelings took a hold of me, and I told the congregation that this was not a good day for me because I had been made aware that there was serious dissatisfaction with the project. I don't remember what else I said, but everyone knew I was really down about the situation. The service ended and I went home.

Within 20 minutes the pastor showed up at my house and we had a good conversation about the whole situation. He helped me put it all in perspective and to understand that all God wants is for us to do our very best for him. Four day later I received a postcard in the mail from the pastor that listed three proverbs on it. The first one was 19:11: "*A mans wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offence.*" He ended the note by says, "*The Lord loves you and so do I.*" I saved the card because it meant so much to me and gave me the direction that I needed. The Trustees finished the project and everything worked out better than expected.

I hope this story helps some of you who might be a bit reluctant to share your time and talent. Do what your heart tells you and do it for the Lord. My life has been filled with good times and some not so good times. I want to tell you that it is my faith that gets me through the not so good times. But I know that God has a plan for me and for each of us, and I will abide by that!

I pray to the Lord, thanking him for my life, family, friends, and my church family. I realize now that I am extremely blessed to be a member of this church with its exciting spirit and wonderful Christian people. I tell you these things to let you know why I give both my time and resources to the church and its many ministries. I keep thinking of the poor widow and it is my intent to always keep her in mind when I make decisions about my giving toward the Lord's work here in this church.

Bob Marseglia

## Welcoming Ministry

Did you know that when visitors come to worship at BVUMC, we have a few brief minutes to show them that we not only take visitors seriously, but that we expect them?

In those first minutes, we want to make sure visitors feel welcome and know that they are important to us. To make sure this happens, we are going to be updating the welcoming ministry which includes our ushers and greeters.

To begin with, we are going to redefine the Ushers job description! Ushers are going to be asked to make welcoming visitors not only their *ministry* but their *priority* on Sunday morning.

To begin this process we will be holding a brief special training for those who are willing to be part of this *new ministry* in the Sanctuary on September 20<sup>th</sup> following worship.

At that meeting we will explain what the ushers need to be aware of and what their new job includes. As part of this specialized ministry, the ushers will wear a specially designated name tag indicating they can be of help to visitors and that they can readily answer questions regarding Sunday school, the layout of the church, where the Nursery Room is and where the Children's Worship Bags can be picked up, etc. We hope that the Ushers will continue to make themselves readily available throughout the *whole* worship service. The ministry involves more than collecting the offering and passing the Attendance and Registration Pads.

The ushers are the first impression of the church for visitors --- and we want this impression to be a very positive one!

Carolyn Mitchell and Rev. Michele are hoping that **you** might consider being a part of this very important ministry. If you are interested or have ideas for us that you have experienced in other churches, please contact Rev. Michele 508-234-2275, [pastor.bvumc@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.bvumc@verizon.net) or Carolyn 508-234-3544, [cmswifrd@alo.com](mailto:cmswifrd@alo.com).

## WCC to host Tanglewood in Whitin Park

The Whitin Community Center will be host to a Big Band concert on Saturday, September 12th from 4:30 to 7 pm. Tanglewood in Whitin Park will feature the music of the Point 'n' Swing Band. Bring a blanket or chair, tap your feet, sing along or dance the time away. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The concert will be held at the Gerry Gaudette Pavilion in Whitin Park. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Whitin Community Center gymnasium. Either way, you'll be "in the mood" for a fantastic, fun-filled time while supporting the mission of the Whitin Community Center.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville, MA or call 508.234.8184. Tickets are also available from church members Gary Wood and Charlie Thompson. Ticket prices: \$10/Adult, \$20/Entire Family and \$8/Seniors. This event is handicap and wheelchair accessible. Tickets will be available for sale at the door on the day of the event.

The Whitin Community Center is a private, non-profit, community-based organization serving the Blackstone Valley since 1922. The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with over 4,000 members, two pools, a gym, a fitness center, child care and after school programs and a seven-acre park. Additional information can be found at

[www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com](http://www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com)

# Vacation Bible School Report

2009

The 190 children who attended the ecumenical Vacation Bible School July 27-31 laughed and learned together throughout the week at the Village Congregational Church in Whitinsville. The children sang the VBS songs with joyful enthusiasm, and participated in worship, Bible lessons, music, crafts, recreation, refreshments, chimes, sacred dance and four outreach projects.

Because parents were so generous, we were able to donate \$271.99 to St. Vincent de Paul and \$271.99 to the Northbridge Association of Churches Emergency Fund. In addition, a large number of food items were donated to the NAC Food Pantry and 50 Project Night tote bags filled with stuffed animals, books, and comfort blankets were delivered to Friendly House shelters in Worcester.

The 108 volunteers were generous with their time, energy and dedication. We were grateful to have so many adults and youth willing to help at VBS as well as the Whitin Community Center where 80 of the children went swimming each of the 5 days after the morning program concluded.

The VBS staff would like to thank everyone who donated or participated in any way to make the week a fun and meaningful adventure for the children. We pray that God will continue to bless the children and VBS volunteers. The VBS is sponsored by the Northbridge Association of Churches.

The following members from our church worked diligently and contributed to the success of this annual event:

Abbey Barkley, Danielle Brown, Chloe Mawn, Sarah McKearney, Cassie McKeon, Sarah Menard, Alex Mielnicki, Elizabeth Mielnicki, Emily Mielnicki, Carolyn Mitchell, Bridget Murphy, Ingrid Murphy, Kellen Murphy, Grace Pimentel, Laural Plourde, Vicky Warner and Madison Wollen.



# Celebrations



## September Birthdays



- 2. Chris Thompson
- 4. Tracy DiStefano
- 5. Tanya Ethier  
Henry (Bill) LaBonne
- 9. Sela Rousseau
- 10. Alexander Scott

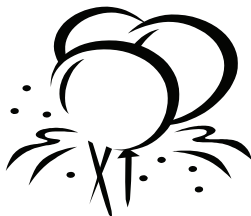
- 12. Paula Wright  
Nathaniel Wilson  
Steven Oosterman  
Karen Albright

- 13. Aidan Cook
- 15. Bridget Murphy  
Jennifer L'Italien

- 16. Ralph Gilmore  
Jill Fairhurst  
Drew Palsha

- 17. Jay Henry
- 18. Leeda Pheonix
- 19. Allison Wollen

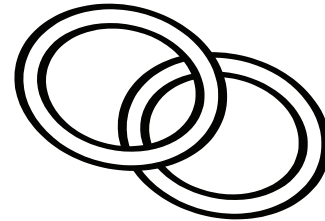
- Colin Squier
- 20. Pam Spencer



- 23. Patrick Mawn
- 24. Brian Murphy
- 25. Tami Harris
- 26. Emily Warner
- 27. Lewis Gilpatrick  
Steve Codner

- 28. Thomas Bagaglio
- 30. Janice Hanny

## September Anniversaries



- 1. Ann & Tom Farely
- 4. Susan & Gary Wood
- 5. Amanda & Andrew Leighton
- 7. Joyce & Albert Bergeron
- 8. Danielle & Daniel Wilson  
Diane & Paul McKeon Jr.
- 11. Gale & Brian Stevens
- 12. Penny & Ken Cates
- 16. Joyce & Jim Gallagher
- 17. Nancy & Bill Dalrymple
- 19. Beth & Bill Coffey
- 26. Tami & David Harris
- 27. Debbie & Glenn King
- 28. Dianne Stevens & John Thibodeau
- 29. Paula & Daniel Wright



Please help the Communications Team keep the Birthday/Anniversary list up-to-date. Should you notice an error or omission, please let us know.



THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <b>7:30AM</b> AA Meeting
6 <b>10AM</b> Sunday Worship <b>Blue Bag Sunday</b>  <b>4:30-6PM</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry	7	8	9 <b>12 Noon</b> Young at Hearts @ Haywagon Restaurant @ Bangma's Farm  <b>7PM</b> Resound Rehearsal	10 <b>7PM</b> Blackstone Valley Gardeners (Faith Hall)  <b>7PM</b> NAC Crop Walk (Activities Room)	11	12 <b>7:30AM</b> AA Meeting
13 <b>10AM</b> Sunday Worship Welcome Back Sunday & Luau	14 <b>7PM</b> Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall) <b>7PM</b> Church Council (Faith Hall)	15	16 <b>6:30PM</b> Financial Tips (Session 1)  <b>7PM</b> Resound Rehearsal	17	18	19 <b>7:30AM</b> AA Meeting
20 <b>10AM</b> Sunday Worship Sunday School Begins	21 <b>7PM</b> Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall)	22	23 <b>6:30PM</b> Financial Tips (Session 2)  <b>7PM</b> Resound Rehearsal	24	25	26 <b>7:30AM</b> AA Meeting  <b>9AM-12PM</b> Women, Work & Worship
27 <b>10AM</b> Sunday Worship	28 <b>7PM</b> Girl Scouts (Old Fellowship Hall) <b>7PM</b> Trustee Meeting (Activities Room)	29	30 <b>6:30PM</b> Financial Tips (Session 3)  <b>7PM</b> Resound Rehearsal			