

THE ENVOY

- - Home Edition

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

February 9, 2010, Volume 55, Issue 3

LOGOS Begins Its Spring Semester

LOGOS is gearing up for the spring beginning February 10th. We invite all children ages 3 years thru high school to join us! Last fall was our biggest and best semester yet and we look forward to the same for the spring. It is a real joy for those of us who volunteer with LOGOS to hear the kids ask when will LOGOS start again and be truly excited about seeing one another upon it's return. It is a true testament to the power of the LOGOS philosophy and theology of how to nurture strong, healthy, Christian relationships. And besides that....it's FUN!

I have worked with the LOGOS Ministry going on five years now and the one thing that truly amazes me about this organization is it's absolute focus on helping families grow in faith together. LOGOS is a family ministry not just a child and/or youth ministry. Children and youth will experience the maximum benefit from LOGOS when parents are involved and re-enforce the Wednesday night teachings during the rest of the week. One excellent way the LOGOS Ministry helps parents be involved in their child's faith journey is through a free monthly e-mail newsletter entitled "Heartfelt". This newsletter is full of relevant topics parents deal with regularly with their children.

This month the topic is "Helping Children Deal With Loss". The following is a short excerpt from one of the articles dealing with the death of the family pet. I encourage all parents and even grandparents whether your family is involved in LOGOS or not, to go to the LOGOS website at www.thelogosministry.org and sign up for Heartfelt.

Q: Our older dog is not expected to live much longer. And our son wants to know if animals go to heaven when they die. How can I help our preschooler transition through the loss of our beloved pet?

A: The reality of death is difficult to deal with for grownups and kids alike. Though it's a sad time, you can help your preschooler with his pet's death and also prepare him to deal later on with human losses, such as the death of a grandparent and others in his life. In fact, the questions he asks about his pet are often about him at a deeper level: Will God take care of me when I die? This is a vital opportunity for you. Preschoolers have an unformed and almost magical idea of death. They're not sure what dying is all about. Your basic task is to help your child see that the death of a pet is real. And yet it's a reality that's bearable because he has a mom who will help him understand and deal with it. Here are some steps to follow:

- **Death is a normal reality.** Your preschooler needs to know that pets and people get old or sick and die; this is a normal part of life. Your child needs to know he's with a safe parent who can handle this sort of reality. Then he'll feel prepared to deal with it.
- **God loves pets (and people).** Reassure your child of God's love and care for your pet. Read to him David's words from the Psalms: You care for people and animals alike, O Lord. Psalm 36:6 (NLT) God is involved and protective. Personally, we believe there's a case for the Bible to teach that animals are in heaven!

Blessings~
Tammy Bartley



Lent

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 17th, marks the beginning of Lent. As is our tradition we will observe the beginning of Lent with a service of communion and the imposition of ashes. Identical services will be held at 4:00 and 7:30 in the Church's Sanctuary. Dr. James Smith will bring the message and participants will receive communion and the imposition of ashes.

You're invited to the
First Annual Blue Ridge
Shrimp Boil
Friday, February 26
5:30-7:00pm

We're serving
Shrimp & Fixin's
Cole Slaw
Garlic Bread
Dessert

\$10 per person
Tickets on sale in the
Beatitudes Area
on Sundays
Please have a ticket.



Playing God...

Do you know what we humans aren't very good at? Cutting each other slack. In fact, whenever we get a little full of ourselves and start to think we're somehow qualified to audition for God's job, the only part of the divine gig we ever audition for is the judgment part. Why is that? What is it about sitting atop that high-horse all decked out in our self-righteousness that compels us to be so generous with judgment and so stingy with grace?

Struggling this very question, Max Lucado (one of my all-time favorite authors) once wrote "I've never been surprised by God's judgment, but I'm still stunned by his grace." What a great quote and ain't it the truth?

To get the full effect of Max's truism, join me in a brief experiment. Of the two, which one is the easiest for you to get your head around and which one is...well...amazing?

Here goes: 1) God's judgment causing the Egyptians to be swallowed up in the Red Sea; or 2) David the psalmist becoming David the adulterer, but by God's grace becoming David the psalmist again? (If you ask me, the Egyptians had it coming to them; but David...beats me.)

How 'bout these two: 1) God's judgment bringing about the demise of Sodom and Gomorrah with lightning and fire, or 2) the thief on the cross; the guy that was destined for hell one minute and strolling through the gates of paradise the next? (Again, the way I see it Sodom and Gomorrah had it coming to them, but the thief on the cross...amazing beyond words.)

Isn't it true that we humans have no trouble comprehending the logic and appropriateness of judgment, but find ourselves dazed and confused by grace? Why is it that Peter, the guy that denied Christ, ended up becoming Christ's #1 advocate and the head of his Church? Can you explain that? I can't.

What I do know is this: each and every time someone appealed to God for a second chance, they received it. Check it out for yourself. Search the scriptures. If you do you'll find not a single instance of God denying grace to a repentant, wayward soul.

You see, God's all about cutting his children slack. So, the next time any one of us gets all full of ourselves and starts thinking we have a shot at God's job perhaps we should do the same. Rather than slinging judgment in all directions, why not come down from on high and offer a little grace. If we do, we might just be amazed by the results.

One last experiment: Next time you're in the sanctuary, grab a hymnal and look up the hymn entitled *Amazing Judgment*. Chances are you won't find it. But, if you turn to page 378 you will find an oldie but goodie entitled *Amazing Grace*.

Rev. Bryan Wendling

Service On Saturday (S.O.S.) - Feb. 27

Packing Meals for Haiti Earthquake Relief

On Saturday, February 27th, we will be helping the Salvation Army pack meals kits for Haiti. Please meet at the church at 8:30am to carpool. We will be working at the location (lower level of the American Royal - next to Kemper) from 9am to 12 noon. Lots of hands are needed for this project, so if possible please try to join us. Children, ages 4 and older, are welcome to help as well. If you have questions or know for sure you will be volunteering, please let me know at sjwsmile@aol.com or 356-6428.

Sherri Woodward
Service And Mission Team

GriefShare Group to Begin

The death of a spouse, child, family member or friend can be devastating. GriefShare, with its biblical, Christ-centered perspective, helps us find or deepen our faith in Christ as we examine soul-level questions about death, dying, our own mortality and eternal life. Grief and the deep hurts that accompany it are among the most significant spiritual turning points in a person's life. Hopefully, this grief recovery support group will provide you with tools and a strategy to move toward Christ as the source of your healing. We will meet for thirteen sessions beginning Thursday, March 4, from 4:30-6:00pm. Margaret Strader and Barbara Thompson will be the facilitators. Call the Church Office (353-1435) to register.

Year End Financial Report

Here is the first report of 2009 year end statement. As you can see from this report, we were able, with all the cuts last year, to end the year without having to borrow.

2009 Year End Financial Summary		
thru December 31, 2009	Budget	Actual
Operating Receipts	\$616,500	\$598,260
Operating Expenses	\$611,145	\$586,885
Over Expenses	\$5,355	\$11,375

Last year we ended the year with \$8,460 net receipts over expenses.

Music News:

Linda Mann, Director of Music,
lmann@blueridgechurch.org

816-353-4826

FLASHBACK!!!!!! That's what you'll get when you come to our youth musical this Sunday, February 14, at both services. Our youth will take you down memory lane at an area high school for some fun and high drama as students try to make sense of their lives during the crazy sixties. An offering will be taken to fund our youth summer mission work camps. Please plan to attend and bring friends, relatives, and young people you know who might be touched by the message.

The "Arts in Prison, Inc." ministry is sponsoring a concert with optional sing-along workshop in Saturday, January 30, at the Johnson Country Community College. This wonderful ministry was started 11 years ago in our area by a colleague of Robert Shaw 11 and continues to reach out to inmates with their participation in choral singing. Ticket prices and other information may be obtained by visiting info@artsinprison.org.

Elementary FAB (Fine Arts Block) for first through fifth graders and led by Missy Marcella and Linda Mann will begin on Sunday afternoon, February 21, from 4:00-5:00 in the music room. We will be working on a mini-musical to be presented on Sunday, May 2. Please let Linda know if your child would like to attend. Friends who do not attend Blue Ridge may attend as long as they are able to be at church on May 2.

Reminder: our regular music groups have started up and you are always welcome to participate or just come visit to enjoy weekly fellowship and praising the Lord with our church family. We have two adult bell groups, Angel choir on Sunday mornings at 10:15 for 2 year-olds through 1st grade, and two adult singing choirs. Chancel Choir (which meets on Wednesday evenings) is preparing the cantata "The Weeping Tree" by composer/pianist Joseph Martin to be presented during Lent. You may join us for just this special presentation if you would like a short-term commitment. Youth music and bells will begin February 28 after the musical is finished if anyone in middle or high school would like to join us. We will also have a church orchestra for Easter Sunday if you would like to dig your instrument out of the closet and start practicing! (-: "He who sings (or rings, or plays) prays twice!"

Van Drivers Needed

Would you like to help with the Sunday morning Van Ministry by volunteering to drive the van once every couple of months? Contact Hoot Mann, hootmann@sbcglobal.net or 353-4826 for more information.



We Honor the Sunday School Teachers and Host a Nursery Shower -



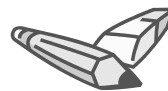
The teachers and their families who teach our children and youth will be our guests at the Valentine's Day lunch on February 14th. Please consider a contribution to our children's wing in honor of our wonderful teachers!! Suggestions for giving: A monetary gift to go towards furniture, Wal-Mart or Target gift cards to purchase toys and supplies. Or next time you are shopping purchase one of the following: baby wipes, hand sanitizer, large boxes of goldfish, juice boxes, paper towels, Clorox, small paper plates, napkins, Kleenex. Feel free to bring gift cards or actual items on **February 14th** and put on the stage in the Fellowship Hall to present to our teachers at lunch! Thank you in advance.

Tammy Bartley,
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Homework Central Needs Volunteers

Homework Central has begun its second semester; it meets on Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We have had a wonderful response to this new ministry and are helping students in elementary, middle and high school. We have some very dedicated volunteers but are looking for more adults who can mentor these students, especially at the middle and high school level! Calling all mathematic gurus!!! Oh yes...speak French??? we need you!!

Although we can use some specific help, we also still need folks willing to help elementary students with flashcards, spelling words, reading and basic homework. This has been a very rewarding experience for all who have been a part of Homework Central thus far... won't you join us?



Blessings~
Tammy Bartley
tbartley@blueridgechurch.org

Wanted: New Students for Homework Central!

We are accepting new students, elementary thru high school, at Homework Central. We would love to have your child join us. Please contact Tammy Bartley for registration and program information!
tbartley@blueridgechurch.org or 353-1435



Church Calendar

Sunday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

Worship: 9:00am, 10:30am

Children's Church: Ignite, 10:30am, Chapel

Chapel Communion: 8:45 - 9am

& 10:15 - 10:30am, Room 202

- † Youth present "Flashback" Musical, both services
- † 10:15am, Angel Choir, Preschool S.S. Room
- † 11:30am, 3rd Annual Valentine's Lunch, Fellowship Hall
- † 3:00pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room

Monday, February 15

- † 9:30am-2:00pm, Break Time, Dining Room & Kitchen
- † 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
- † 7:00pm, Cub Scouts, Downstairs Blue & Yellow Rooms

Tuesday, February 16

- † 10:00am, Prayer Shawl Stitch & Pray Group, Beatitudes Area
- † 6:30pm, Finance Team, Library
- † 6:30pm, Cornerstone
- † 7:30pm, Cornerstone Bells, Bell Room

Wednesday, February 17

- † 9:30am, Priscilla Circle, Room 201
- † 10:00am, Grief Care, Conference Room
- † 12:30pm, Shepherd's Center Card Group, Fellowship Hall
- † 4:00 & 7:30pm, Ash Wednesday Services, Sanctuary
- † 5:00-8:00pm, LOGOS
- † 6:30pm, Chancel Bells, Bell Room
- † 7:15pm, Men's Ensemble
- † 7:30pm, Chancel Choir, Music Room

Thursday, February 18

- † Deadline for *Home Envoy* by the end of the day
- † 10:00am, Women's Bible Study, Library
- † 3:00pm, Older Adult Enhancement Group, Room 201
- † 6:00-8:00pm, Homework Central

Friday, February 19

- † 12:00 noon, Golden Key Club, Dining Room
- † 6:30pm, G.I.F.T. Sunday School Class Dinner and a Movie, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 20

Golden Key Club News

February's Golden Key Club meeting is Friday, February 19, at 12:00 noon in the Church's Dining Room.

Deadline for the next *Home Envoy* is at the end of the business day on Thursday, February 18; it will be mailed on Tuesday, February 23.

Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday of Lent

Worship: 9:00am, 10:30am

Children's Church: Ignite, 10:30am, Chapel

Chapel Communion: 8:45 - 9am

& 10:15 - 10:30am, Room 202

- † 10:15am, Angel Choir, Preschool S.S. Room
- † 11:30am-3:00pm, Faith In Action, Dining Room
- † 3:00pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room
- † 3:00pm, Group leaves for reStart (youth are serving)

Monday, February 22

- † 9:30am-2:00pm, Break Time, Dining Room & Kitchen
- † 7:00pm, Men of Blue Ridge Study Group, Library
- † 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
- † 7:00pm, Cub Scouts, Dining Room, Downstairs Blue & Yellow Rooms

Tuesday, February 23

- † 10:00am, Prayer Shawl Stitch & Pray Group, Beatitudes Area
- † 6:00pm, Harmonica Group, Music Room
- † 6:15pm, Girl Scout Troop 305, Dining Room
- † 6:30pm, Cornerstone
- † 6:30pm, Girl Scout Troop 1532, Covenant Room
- † 7:30pm, Cornerstone Bells, Bell Room

Wednesday, February 24

- † 12:30pm, Connecting Hands, Builders Class Room
- † 5:00-8:00pm, LOGOS (theme: Fashion Night)
- † 6:30pm, Chancel Bells, Bell Room
- † 7:15pm, Men's Ensemble
- † 7:30pm, Chancel Choir, Music Room

Thursday, February 25

- † 3:00pm, Older Adult Enhancement Group, Room 201
- † 6:00-8:00pm, Homework Central

Friday, February 26

- † 5:30-7:00pm, Shrimp Boil, Fellowship Hall
- † Men of Blue Ridge's Retreat begins at Camp Wilderness

Saturday, February 27

- † 8:30am, Service On Saturday (S.O.S.) leaves church parking lot to pack meal kits for Haiti

Aluminum Can Recycling

The Youth continue to recycle aluminum cans. You may drop them off on the back patio of the Youth House and we will take care of the rest!



Please NO tin cans. Aluminum cans only; other aluminum is not accepted by the recycle company.

It's time again to show them we care!

The College Ministry Outreach team is sending the 2nd round of care packages out to 21 college students at the end of February. How can you help? You can donate items to include in the boxes. These items might include; individually wrapped candy, cookies or granola bars, inspirational notes or book marks, homemade goods, cute/funny pens, stickers, bubbles, palm size toys or anything else you can think of. We ask that if you donate an item, please try and donate enough for each student. If you would like to make a homemade good, we can package them for each box if you would like to bring it in one bag or plate. You may also make a donation to the College Ministry Outreach fund to help cover the shipping expenses. Make your check payable to Blue Ridge Blvd UMC with College Ministry in the memo.

Please bring your items to the church by Sunday, February 28th, and leave them in the kitchen. Mark the packages "College".

We heard from so many students who received the last care packages and they were overjoyed to know that we were praying for them and thinking of them during their time at college. Please contact Sherri Woodward 356-6428 or Anne Norton 737-0064 if you have any questions or would like to be a part of this ministry. Thank you!



Men of Blue Ridge Plan Retreat

The Men of Blue Ridge are planning a Men's Retreat at Camp Wilderness in Lawson, Missouri, beginning February 26. This will be a work weekend and a fellowship and discussion time for our group. We will overnight (cost is \$20.00) and if you can not go on Friday, please come up on Saturday; we will work and eat. The Men of Blue Ridge will take care of the food; we might have an additional cost of \$5. This two-fun weekend will cost \$25. Rides can be arranged if anyone needs to carpool. Please bring bedding and towels and clothing for work. This weekend is open to any men of the Blue Ridge Church. Reservations need to be to Al Maddox by February 23 (a.maddox@sbcglobal.net).

Haiti Relief

The Blue Ridge Church gathered 140 Health Kits for the victims of the Haiti Earthquakes. With each kit valued at \$14 each, we have collected \$1,960 in Health Kits.

We are continuing to collect money for Haiti. This past Sunday, January 31, we collected \$3,480, and this does not include the money for shipping the Haiti care packages. We have now raised \$5,415 for Haiti. A check will go in the mail next Monday for this additional giving. It's not too late to give. We will continue to send UMCOR money for Haiti relief weekly as long as you would like to give.

There's no need to write a check specifically for Haiti. You can include your Haiti giving along with your other church giving. Please make your check payable to *Blue Ridge UMC* and designate "Haiti" and the amount on your envelope.

B1 – APRIL 10TH -11TH

B1 is coming to Blue Ridge! Keep your eyes open for more details to come soon!

B1 is a 24-hour fasting event for youth which raises money to empower the poor and disempowering unjust systems sustaining poverty in our world.

B1 is about making connections.

- Connections between our actions and their effects.
 - Connections between scripture and our lives.
- Connections between our gifts and the communities we support.

We are more similar than our minds might allow us to understand. The differences between us are the systems that affect the resources available to each of us and our families.

B1 equips us to see the connections between ourselves and our sisters in Ghana, between our Ghanaian sisters and our brothers in Virginia, between our Virginian brothers and our siblings in Chile, and on and on around the world.

One being, being one is not about thinking we can save someone's life through giving money or going without food for 24 hours; rather, B1 means our lives are connected to our poor sisters and brothers. We make a difference in their lives when we make a difference in our own lives, and by how we choose to make use of our resources and privileges.

We Honor Marlon Steinert and Dick Schroeder

On Sunday, February 7, Steve Schwieterman, chair of Faith In Action, and Dr. Lutgen presented Marlon Steinert and Dick Schroeder with Certificates of Appreciation.

The certificates read:

The Faith In Action Team, by unanimous vote, at their meeting on November 19, 2009, passed a resolution recognizing Blue Ridge Chancel Choir members, Dr. Marlon Steinert and Mr. Dick Schroeder, co-founders of the Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus, for outstanding achievement. Since the first concert in February, 2002, the Chorus has raised over \$125,000 for local charities and non-profit organizations. We thank Dr. Steinert and Mr. Schroeder for their vision and determination in founding and nurturing this wonderful and essential ministry.

Pastor's Corner

It really is good to be home and I enjoyed being back in worship on Sunday. Given the circumstances under which we were traveling on several Sundays we missed the opportunity to worship in a church. I have very seldom in my life not been in Church on Sunday. It has always felt strange for me to begin my week without worship. I know in these cold winter days that there are many reasons which keep us from Church. I hope you agree with me that the best way to start our week is in giving praise to God and you will make the effort this week to join us in worship.

I learned this week that Janjay Innis would not be returning to St Paul this next semester. She and Michael Park have provided leadership for our Children's Church ministry this fall. We appreciate Janjay and the gifts she shared and wish her the best. Michael as you all experienced in January has taken on additional responsibilities. Several of you have asked me about Michael and what brings him here. He comes to us as a local pastor in the Korean Methodist Church. He has all the training and credentials to pastor in Korea. Unfortunately this does not transfer for him to the United Methodist Church. He has come here to pursue his master of divinity degree and to fulfill the requirements of the UMC for ordination. The first requirement is that he be a member of a United Methodist Church for one year. Michael joined the Church in August and while he is fulfilling this requirement has volunteered to help where needed. I appreciate his willingness and have given him opportunity to serve on our pastoral care team making hospital and other calls, to assist in worship, lead the children's church ministry, and teach and other areas for which he has time. I have found some money to provide him a small stipend to help with his expenses. While it saddens me to lose Janjay, I thank God that God also sent us Michael.

In fact I think there was an angel named Michael in a recent movie played by John Travolta?

It's GOOD to be home.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

... More Church Family News

- Bryan Rabe, nephew of Melba Akers, died suddenly in El Dorado Springs, MO on January 31. Please keep melba and her family in your prayers.

THE ENVOY (USPS 592-420)
is published twice monthly
(monthly Dec, Jun, Jul, Aug)
By Blue Ridge Blvd United Methodist Church
5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Kansas City MO 64133-2547

Periodicals
Postage Paid
at Kansas City MO

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to: THE ENVOY
5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Kansas City MO 64133-2547

Church Office: (816) 353-1435 **Fax: (816) 353-8770**

Web Site: www.blueridgechurch.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Thurs: 1:00pm - 4:30pm

To reach our pastors after regular office hours --

Dr. Ken Lutgen, Jr. (816)746-1174 or klutgen@blueridgechurch.org

Rev. Bryan Wendling (816)746-7997 or bwendling@blueridgechurch.org

Church Family News

- As of February 8, those known to be hospitalized:
Sue Klotz, rehab at The Groves
Blanche Patti, rehab at Hidden Lake Care Center
- Shirley Wadleigh passed away on February 8. Funeral arrangements are pending at this writing. Please hold Harvey Wadleigh and his family in your prayers.
- Marcia Falling died on February 4. Funeral services are Saturday, February 13, at Vineyard UMC in Hutchinson, MN, with visitation on Friday evening at the vineyard Church. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to UMCOR (United Methodist committee on Relief). If you wish to do so, please send your donation to the blue Ridge Church and designate for Falling-UMCOR (checks made payable to Blue Ridge UMC). The funds will be forwards on at the family's direction. Please keep Larry Falling and their daughters, Missy Marcella and Terri Friehohle, and their families in your prayers.
- Jane Titus, sister-in-law of Clarice Titus, passed away on January 29 in Tampa, Florida. Please hold Clarice and her family in your prayers.