

Inside this issue:

Music Ministry	2	Women's Book Club	5
Retirement Reception	2	From the Library Table	5
Youth News	2	Facility Use - Volunteers Needed	5
On-line Courses Offered	3	Children & Family Ministry: VBS	5
April Mission Focus	4	Church Camp Scholarships	5
Healthy Church Initiative	4	LOGOS Youth Take Challenge	5
New Superintendent	4	Overdue Library Books	5
Blue Café - Volunteers	5	Keeping Our History	6
Golden Key	5		

Mark your Calendars:

- Tuesday, April 9, 7:00pm, Library, Women's Book Club
- Thursday, April 11, 1:00pm, Golden Key Luncheon, Hometown Buffet
- Thursday, April 11, Registration ends for on-line classes
- Sunday, April 14, 11:35am, VBS Planning Committee, Dining Room
- Sunday, April 14, 3:00pm, The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus, Sanctuary
- Wednesday, April 17, On-line Classes Begin
- Sunday, April 21, 9:00 & 10:30am Services, Youth Sunday, Youth (FAB) Fine Arts Block presentation "Jesus Freaks", Sanctuary
- Saturday, April 27, 9:00-12:00 noon, Volunteers to Hope House Lee's Summit Campus
- Sunday, May 5, 11:30 am, HCI Results of Consultation Submitted to Congregation
- Sunday, May 5, 4:00pm, The Independence Music Arts Institute Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Blue Ridge Boulevard

United Methodist Church

The Home Envoy

April 2, 2013

Volume 58, Issue 4

Easter Power and The Easter Season

Easter reminds us of the power of faith. This past Holy Week at Blue Ridge Church over five-hundred people experienced the power and hope of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter!

Easter has traditionally been the time for people to commit Christ. I was delighted to have a family join our church in addition to a full confirmation class this Easter! Over the centuries making the commitment to Christ that's required to join a church involved a process. In the earliest days of our movement this was a lengthy process spanning many months, sometimes even years. No matter what the length, the importance of this transition into full participation in the church is that it signifies a person's decision to commit to Christ of their own volition.

In our churches this commitment means stepping up to the membership promises:

<u>Prayers</u>	Daily devotions.
<u>Presence</u>	Present in worship when in town, and not prevented by illness or incapacity, and be present for ministry.
<u>Gifts</u>	Know and use your spiritual gifts and Give at least a tithe (10%) of your income to the work of this church, or if you're not tithing commit to a personal plan to grow to this minimum level.
<u>Service</u>	Serve with a servant's heart in at least one ministry in the church.
<u>Witness</u>	Share your story of faith with others, drawing them into faith.

The first four of these promises have been a part of our churches since 1905. The last promise was added just over a decade ago. These expectations apply to all our members.

Easter offers us the forgiveness of sins through Jesus' name and the power to live into God's future for you and for this ministry. I pray that if you're a member of Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church, you will use the power of Easter to live deeper into these promises.

Healthy Church Initiative

The Healthy Church Initiative process continues. Mark your calendars for this date: Sunday, May 5, the results of the consultation will be presented after our second worship service. We'll have Chris Cakes serving pancakes and sausages beginning at 9:30 AM.

Healthy Church Initiative: Prayer

Would you pray for the people in our mission field, and for our church's response to them? There is an active prayer ministry with this focus. If you will you pray for this focus call me at the church office to join this mission-focused group.

Grace and peace,
Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

Music Ministry

Director of Music—

Linda Mann 353-4826

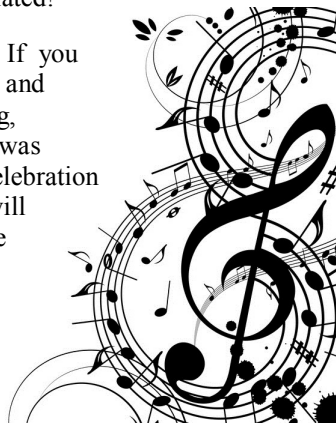
lmann@blueridgechurch.org

Debbie Keeton, our music assistant, has announced her retirement on June 2. Debbie's mother and father, Howard and Martha Keeton, were faithful members of Blue Ridge and highly involved in many areas of the church. Martha was organist and a supportive mentor to me and many others through her involvement in the music department. Debbie began singing in the children's choir in first grade and continued through youth choir, also playing drums, guitar, and piano when needed. After receiving her degree in music from Central Methodist University, she returned to the UMKC Conservatory to earn her Masters Degree in Music Theory and once again began sharing her musical gifts with our congregation. In 1987 she was hired as part of our music team, and since then her primary duties have been guitarist/lead singer for Cornerstone Praise Choir, singing in and directing the Chancel Choir, assisting with the bell choirs, and doing anything else the Music Director asked her to do! I have said many times I could not do my job without her. I thank her most deeply and sincerely and will treasure our time spent together over the years praising God through music. Please let Debbie know how much she has been appreciated!

A special opportunity is coming up for Sunday, June 2. If you enjoy singing we invite you to join our Chancel, Youth and Cornerstone Choirs for a combined anthem that morning, "Song of Exaltation." Composer/pianist Joseph Martin was commissioned by our church to write this anthem in celebration of my 30th anniversary as organist at Blue Ridge. We will rehearse the piece on Wednesdays from 7:30-7:50 in the Choir Room north of the Fellowship Hall. If this time does not work for you, please let us know and we can provide alternative practices.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming musical events at our church:

- Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.
The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus in recital to benefit the Raytown Shepherd's Center
- Sunday, April 21, 9:00 & 10:30 services The Youth Fine Arts Block (F.A.B.) will lead worship today as they show us, through song, drama, bells, & dance just what it means to be a "Jesus Freak!" An offering will be taken for their summer work camps.
- Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m. The Independence Music Arts Institute spring recital featuring vocal and instrumental solos, the Cross Pulse Drum Ensemble, Harp Ensemble, and Young MAIsterSingers Chorus.



Retirement Reception for Linda Mann and Debbie Keeton



Please reserve 2 to 4 in the afternoon of June 2 to attend the retirement reception honoring Linda Mann and Debbie Keeton.

Watch next month's Home Envoy for more details. Also, plan to be in church that morning to show appreciation for all the wonderful music that has inspired us for many years.

Page 2

Comfort and Caring Breaktime Club

The Breaktime club program invites older adults to enjoy a weekly program which engages the body, mind and spirit. The Breaktime Program provides caregiver respite each Monday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Each session, caregivers and their care recipients are greeted by an experienced program coordinator and well-trained volunteers and staff. Caregivers are able to find comfort in the fact that their loved ones are enjoying a day of social interaction and stimulating activities in a safe, respectful and caring environment.

Youth News

Anne Norton - Youth Director
anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Guatemala Mission Trip

Less than 100 days until our group of nine adults and eight youth leave to serve in Guatemala for two weeks! The group has fundraised and paid for over \$12,000 in expenses for the youth but we need your help to get all the way to our goal of \$16,400. The nine adults are paying for themselves but we would like to be able to fully fund each youth account by the end of April. You can support the youth serving on the Guatemala mission trip by your prayers and financial donations. Checks may be made payable to Blue Ridge Blvd UMC with the memo reading Guatemala trip. Please pray for our group as we prepare for this journey. Attendees include youth: Katie, Caitlin, Iwalani, Hunter, Tony, Jake, Josie, and Claire. Adults are Bob, Bonnie, Nina, Ted, Aaron, Anne, Connie, Lisa, and David.

If you would like to learn more about this mission trip and the work we will be doing please call 816-353-1325 or email anorton@blueridgechurch.org. Thank you for your support.

- Anne Norton

Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 21st, is Youth Sunday. The youth of Blue Ridge will be helping



us to worship through songs, drama, skits and music. There will also be a special

offering taken that morning at both services to support youth work camps. This year they will travel to Colorado Springs, CO to help with the restoration from wildfires in that area.

Your presence, prayers and gifts are much appreciated for this annual event!

Confirmation Class of 2013

Easter Sunday, five young ladies were confirmed as new members of Blue Ridge Blvd UMC. Please keep them in your prayers as they grow and mature in their faith. They are Lindsay Cox, Rachel DeMoss, Shelley DeMoss, Katelyn McAlister, Ally Marcella & Sydney Scoggins.

On - Line Courses Offered on United Methodist Web Site

United Methodist Communications offers church training live, online and even provides do-it-yourself opportunities to help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to be an effective church leader. Two classes currently being offered which members of Blue Ridge might find especially interesting are [United Methodist 101](#) and [Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving](#)

To enroll or read more about either one of these classes go to www.umcom.org then open the tab entitled "Training and Services" and follow the link in the center of the page for the class you're interested in.

Registration open through Thursday, April 11

Start each course when it best fits your schedule and move at your own pace. Each course includes six weeks of instruction. A course facilitator will respond to your work and answer questions via forums.

A limited number of virtual seats are available and are first come, first serve. Seats will no longer be available after the course is full

[United Methodist 101](#)

Cost: \$9.99

Dates: April 17-May 29

The purpose of this course is to take participants on a basic journey through The United Methodist Church. By participating, you have an opportunity to learn more about The United Methodist Church and how it fits into the modern world. There is so much that can be shared and learned about this denomination that we hope you will use the course as a springboard to delve into each of the areas more deeply. Here are some of the questions we heard that prompted this course:

- What kinds of people make up The United Methodist Church?
- Why the name "Methodist?" And are they really "United?"
- Who speaks on behalf of The United Methodist Church?
- Who gets to decide the official beliefs for The United Methodist Church?
- Can I disagree with the church on an issue like war or abortion?
- Why is The United Methodist Church involved in political issues?
- How do United Methodists view things like communion and baptism?

As you explore and interact with this course, bring your questions with you. We'll examine how some of our traditions have brought us where we are today. In these pages, you will find basics about the history, organization, beliefs and current challenges of the church.

The course is organized for busy people like you who want a quick overview. Links to additional resources are provided for further study. Each of the five modules should take 20-30 minutes to complete, and interactive exercises will be presented throughout. The five modules are:

- Introduction and Overview
- History
- Theology and Beliefs
- Organization and Governance
- Present and Future Challenges of the church

[Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving](#)

Cost: FREE

Dates: April 17-May 29

- Become a missional storyteller - describing the differences the church makes in the world and how giving makes that possible.
- Learn what the apportioned and designated funds are - and the difference between them.
- "Make the ask" in your congregation.

This is a four-part online course for The United Methodist Church provided by United Methodist Communications. The course will prepare you to express how the United Methodist Church makes a difference in the world and to engage others in financially supporting our church and its mission.

After completing this online course, individuals will be prepared to:

- Describe biblical and theological foundations for the way we give,
- Describe what a connectional church is and how it makes a difference in lives and transforms the world,
- Identify opportunities for members and others to participate in giving,
- Utilize the tools of a "missional storyteller" to engage individuals in their congregation's and denomination's ministries and missions,
- Facilitate individuals' abilities to fund their congregations' and denomination's ministries and missions using connectional fundraising techniques, and
- Identify resources available for leading congregations into full support of connectional giving.

Two web sites of interest:

Missouri Conference Web Site:

<http://www.moumethodist.org>

United Methodist Church Web Site:

<http://www.umc.org>

April Mission Focus: Hope House

Saturday, April 27

Hope House - Lee Summit Campus

Mark Saturday, April 27th as the date we are going to volunteer at Hope House's Lee Summit Campus. The time is 9:00 - noon.

H O P E



H O U S E

Tentative plans are to work outside - working in flower beds, raking, etc. - in other words, sprucing the place up for spring and summer.

Children are welcome as long as they are supervised by an adult, so bring the family. Please let Connie Turnipseed know by April 18th if you plan to attend and how many are coming. You can email her at ctseed@ymail.com or call 356-1444.

Hope House has provided shelter and comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence in the Kansas City metro area for the past 29 years. Its mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing safe refuge and supportive services that educate and empower women and children. Hope House will advocate social change that protects and engenders a person's right to live a life free of abuse.

The services they offer form a safety net of prevention, education and support for more than 10,000 victims of domestic violence every year. These services include:

- outreach therapy
- court and legal program
- a safe visitation center
- hospital-based advocacy
- on-call women's advocates who work with area police departments
- professional trainings on domestic violence for medical students, newly recruited police officers, corporations, hospital personnel and social workers

Residential and outreach services are provided through two secure locations in Independence and Lee's Summit. These two shelters can house 122 women and their children, and unfortunately, are at capacity every day. In December, 2012 alone, they received 409 hotline calls and they had to turn away 131 people from their shelters.

In addition to the special IMPACT offering that will be taken and split with our global mission program, we are offering this volunteer opportunity on April 27th.

Collecting Used Ink Cartridges & Small Electronics

Another way to help is through their Go Green campaign. They participate in a program where they can turn in used printer ink cartridges, old cellphones, digital cameras, headphones (no earbuds), laptops, iPods, MP3 players and GPSs for cash. I am hoping we can put a container near the other collection containers (by Hobbs Hall walkway door) and help them out with that, as well.

At this writing we are waiting for the collection bin to arrive from the Funding Factory, so start saving those used ink cartridges and small electronics.

- Connie Turnipseed, Service and Mission Team

Healthy Church Initiative

Update

Almost fifty people attended the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) workshop last Saturday. The workshop was given by Kay Kotan, of Independence. Healthy churches make new disciples of Jesus Christ. The purpose of HCI is to help churches make new disciples.

The HCI process goes like this:

- 1) Churches prepare a detailed history of their ministry. This is going well, thanks to many of you who have participated and Pastor Charity's diligence and organizational skills. Thank you, everyone. The primary remaining area where we need people is to survey our neighbors about their needs.
- 2) After studying that history, a team comprised of both lay and clergy members comes to the church for a weekend and talks with participants in the ministry. During her time with us last Saturday, Ms. Kotan announced two more team members, Pastor Bob Farr, Director of Congregational Excellence for our Missouri Conference and Ms. Barbara Webb. Ms. Webb is laity; she works as Assistant to the Superintendent of the Heartland North and Pony Express Districts. Ms. Kotan and Pastor Bill Koch had already been announced as members of our team. Rev. Koch will lead the weekend.
- 3) On Sunday, May 5, Rev. Koch, as the team leader, will preach at both services. We'll have Chris Cakes served beginning about 9:30 that Sunday. After our final worship of the day the team presents a report, usually just a few pages, that outlines five strengths, five concerns and five prescriptions. There is no discussion of the report at that time.
- 4) The church holds three town hall meetings lead by elected church officials over the next month or so.
- 5) The church holds a church conference where the only agenda item is the HCI team report. The church votes to accept or reject the prescriptions in the HCI team report.
- 6) If the prescriptions are voted in, the church then proceeds to work on the prescriptions.

New Superintendent in July

Beginning in July we'll have a new superintendent. Here's the news as reported on MoUMethodist.org:

Rev. Yolanda Villa has accepted the appointment to serve as senior pastor of Grace United Methodist church in St. Louis. Rev. Villa has completed six years as superintendent of the Heartland Central District. "She has brought a pastoral heart, a deep spirituality, and a gift for discernment to her ministry wherever she has served, and she'll be missed from the cabinet," Bishop Schnase said. Rev. Kendall Waller has accepted the appointment to serve as District superintendent for the Heartland Central and the Heartland South Districts. "Kendall, our current Director of Finance and Administrative Ministries, brings excellent experience, insight, and vision to the superintendence," Bishop Schnase said. "He's served effectively and fruitfully as a pastor, a superintendent, and conference treasurer, and has been a valuable part of the conference team of Directors. During his time in the Conference Office, Kendall has completely transformed the work and role of Administrative ministries."

Service Opportunity - The Blue Café

Looking for a way to serve your church once a quarter? Like to cook? Like to be friendly? Wish to grow? We have just the service opportunity for you...The Blue Cafe and Guest Greeters! Please contact Deborah DeMoss for more information at kennedydemoss@yahoo.com or call her at 816-509-9989.

Golden Key

Golden Key members will be dining out on Thursday, April 11th at Hometown Buffet in Noland Fashion Square at 1:00 p.m. instead of our usual noon meeting time to take advantage of their discounted price at that hour. There will be no program. Anyone wishing to carpool should meet in the church parking lot at 12:30 p.m. and depart at 12:40 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will be meeting April 9th at 7:00 pm in the Library and discussing *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. This discussion will be led by Marilyn Yorke. All are welcome.

From the Library Table

As we move past Easter and into Spring (at least we all hope so), we will have some books out about the early church and its leaders. We will also put out some books about Methodism. How much to you know about your own denomination? There are always other miscellaneous books. Stop by and check it out.

Volunteers Needed: Building Use

We need to expand the list of available volunteers who can help with set ups and tear downs of rooms in the church when groups schedule to use them. It's been down to three or four of us old folk that have been carrying this task and we need help. Please call the church office and let Mindy know if you would be willing or know of someone that would be willing to be on call.

Hopefully each group can handle their own set ups and tear downs, but if they need help, they should clear it with the church administrator. - *Wes Hougland*

Children and Family Ministry

Children's Discipleship Coordinator

Samantha Woodward - swoodward@blueridgechurch.org

Summer Plans? Include Vacation Bible School! June 9-13 at 5:30 pm.

The first VBS planning meeting will be on April 14th at 11:35 am, in the LOGOS Dining Room. Please plan on attending if you are interested in helping out with VBS.



There are VBS Volunteer sheets located at the information table. Please take the time to fill one out and return it to myself or the church office as soon as possible so that I can start placing people in their requested positions. Please keep a look out for our donation board coming soon! Purchasing a few materials needed is a great way for our church family to help us fund VBS each year. In addition if you know of any children whom you would like

me to send a personal invitation to, please send me their name and address directly.

Thank you for all your help and support for this program. Promotion materials will be available for hand out in the next few weeks. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help with Vacation Bible School!

Church Camp Scholarship Support Appreciated

Each summer we have multiple children and youth who attend United Methodist Church camps. We would like to be able to support these children by giving them partial scholarships for camp. If you feel called to make a donation to this program please indicate as such on your check or money envelope with the specific amount. Thank you for continuing to support the children and youth of Blue Ridge and their faith development. - *Samantha Woodward*, swoodward@blueridgechurch.org

LOGOS - Blue Ridge Youth take Challenge

The high school youth at Logos have taken on the challenge to take \$100 and support a service organization in the Kansas City area. They have to stretch their \$100 as far as possible. The two organizations that they are focusing on are Hope Faith Ministries and Operation Breakthrough.

Hope Faith Ministries mission is to equip and empower the homeless and less fortunate to be self-sustained and independent. Hope Faith Ministries is an equipping day center providing, through multiple in-house collaborating agencies, a centralized location for the homeless and less fortunate of Kansas City to receive targeted services to meet their emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual needs.

Operation Breakthrough is the largest single-site early education child care and social services facility in the state of Missouri serving over 400 children daily from the urban core. The mission of Operation Breakthrough is to help children who are living in poverty develop to their fullest potential by providing them a safe, loving and educational environment. Operation Breakthrough also strives to support and empower the children's families through advocacy, referral services and emergency aid.

You will be hearing more from our youth about ways the church and community will be able to be involved.

Overdue Library Books

There are still a number of library books that are overdue. Please return as soon as possible. I would urge parents to encourage their children to keep library books (church, school, and public) in a special place in the house and not on their bookshelf. That is a good idea for adults as well. If you have questions about a book, please call me. - *Charlotte Robinson*

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Check out our website for more info

www.blueridgechurch.org



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barry@blueridgechurch.org
direct: 816-835-2545
Charity Goodwin-Rosario, pastor
pastorcharity@blueridgechurch.org
direct: 816-695-2644

The article deadline for the next issue is April 25.

Old Bulletins, Programs, Publications & Pictures Keeping Our History

If you are packing boxes to move or cleaning out your basement or attic, keep an eye out for old church bulletins and Envoys. It may be a program your kids were in or a special event in your life that is in one of the publications. Any pictures of church events are also needed. I can always copy anything and return to you. It may be something I already have, but I would love to check it out. Keeping the history of our church is very important. I am especially on the look-out for a January 24, 1999 program of the Youth Musical--Celebrate Life. Some of these things you might find in scrapbooks that your kids kept. Just call me at 353-4946. - *Charlotte Robinson*

Newsletter Volunteers Needed

If you could spare a little time one day a month, we could sure use your help folding, stuffing, 'stickering' and labeling the newsletter. With new US Postal Regulations each newsletter needs two stickers - and this has really increased our production time. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in Room 201. Call Dona Meyer if you have any questions or are interested in helping. Thank you!

Church Family News

Thanks to each of you for love, support, and gifts for Levi Nicolas. We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

- *Pastor Charity and family.*

Many Opportunities to Sponsor Home Envoy

You can sponsor the Home Envoy for just \$30. Three spots are available each month for your choosing. Sign up or call the church office if you would like to sponsor an Envoy in honor of, in memoriam or in celebration of an event. By sponsoring the publication, you can help to offset printing and mailing costs.

blueridgechurch.org