

Mark your Calendars:

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- Tuesday, August 14, 7:00pm Women's Book Club, Library discussing Year of Wonder by Geraldine Brooks
- Thursday, August 16, 12:00pm Stephen Ministers Informational Meeting "Legal Stuff"
- Sunday, August 19, starting at 10:30 Children & Youth team meetings
- Sunday, August 26, 11:45a International Trip meeting
- Sunday, August 26, 3:00p Violin Concert featuring Elizabeth Brock

Blue Ridge Blvd

United Methodist Church

The Home Envoy

July 31, 2012

Volume 57, Issue 8

Letter from the Pastor- Barry Freese

Healthy Church Initiative

Earlier this year our Faith in Action Team (FiAT), which does the work of a Church Council, voted unanimously to apply to the Missouri Conference for a Health Church Initiative (HCI) consultation here at Blue Ridge Church.

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) was formed to help revitalize churches and aid them in fulfilling the mission of the United Methodist Church, **to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** Our Missouri Annual Conference put together a team of experienced pastors, coaches and consultants backed by a solid, proven process to help churches. Over eighty churches in Missouri are a part of the Healthy Church Initiative, including our Christ Church in Independence and our St. Luke's Church in Kansas City.

I'm pleased to say that we've been accepted for 2013 and we've been assigned our dates:

March 16, 2013

Pre-consultation workshop. On this Saturday there will be a workshop to go into detail about the Healthy Church Initiative process which will explain what we'll need to prepare for the consultation weekend.

May 3-5, 2013

Consultation weekend. The Healthy Church Initiative Consultation weekend covers much of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It includes many conversations with people in our ministry. After these conversations our HCI team will write a report which will be presented on Sunday.

Please save these dates on your calendar for this important step in this ministry. I look forward to sharing with you in the learning and actions of this process.

...Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

BIG Day News

Let's start spreading the word with those closest to us. Big Day/Life's a Circus invites are here. Pick them up at the east entry on the turntables.

Use the business card invite to share the Big Day with your Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors (FRAN list).

You can personalize the invite by writing a note on the back. That makes it special!

What will happen at the BIG DAY? There will be clowns, balloons, games and best of all a message that speaks of an all-inclusive God who says: **COME ONE, COME ALL!** No matter who we are, what we've done, what we've left undone, God in Christ is calling to us, inviting us to come...come to the heart of God, come and fellowship with the people of God, come and become who God is calling us to be!

Do you know someone who needs to hear that message? Invite them this week.



Children & Family Ministry

Director— Tammy Bartley tbartley@blueridgechurch.org

Cross-Training Sunday School begins new Fall rotations September 2, 2012!

Our first rotation is about the Man who was lowered through the roof to Jesus by his friends. The Widow's Mite will be the second rotation beginning in October.

Our first full year of Cross-Training went very well and both students and leaders enjoyed the different ways of learning that was explored in each rotation.

We look forward to seeing ALL children ages 4 years old thru 5th Grade at Cross-Training this fall!

We begin Cross-Training in the sanctuary at 9:00 with worship and the children's moment and then all students will go to the Fellowship Hall to break out into their rotations.

Parents please pick up your children in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 or as soon as the 9:00 service ends.

Children's Church will begin again September 2, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Chapel!

REMINDER... AUGUST 19th (Sunday) multiple meetings for those involved in Children & Youth Team, Cross-Training Sunday School, LOGOS Team. Please contact Tammy with any questions.

Music Ministry

Director of Music—
Linda Mann 353-4826
lmann@blueridgechurch.org

Lots of thanks...to Ian Coy, who for many years has served in the Sunday morning video operator rotation. Ian is off to Rolla to study engineering, and we will greatly miss him. Please accept our thanks for your many hours of dedicated work. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Thoughts on Worship....

Worship-- the coming together of people to present their praise and thanks to God --has been compared to a play: the congregation is the actors; the clergy, musicians and ushers the prompters and stage crew; God is the audience. Writer John Updike penned these words on worship, "Church services have this wonderful element: people with other things to do get up on Sunday morning and assemble out of nothing but faith—some vague yen toward something larger. I find it moving, reassuring and inspiring. A church is like a novel: both are saying there's something very important about being human." Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three people meet together in my name, I am there with them."

Take some time to worship in church this summer.

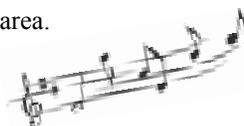
Upcoming Informational Programs

Our Stephen Ministers are presenting some informative programs this summer. We wanted to open these meetings to anyone in the congregation who would be interested.

We meet at noon for each meeting and usually meet for 60-90 minutes. August 16, Attorney Dudley Leonard will be talking about "Legal Stuff" such as living wills, health care directives, guardianships and conservatorships. Please call Dr. Barbara Thompson (356-7412) if you would like to come for any or all of these presentations. We usually meet in the Conference Room downstairs, but we can meet in a larger area if needed. Hope to see you.

Performance

High school senior Elizabeth Brock's will present a violin concert on Sunday, August 26, at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. She will play works by European composers of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods, and will be assisted by Matt Magerkurth, cello, Jennifer Mitchell, violin, and Robert Pherigo, piano. A reception will follow in the Beatitudes entry area.



Coming this Fall: SPiRiT Groups

What is a SPiRiT GROUP?

A safe, comfortable, stress-free place where individuals have the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, learn something new, and grow spiritually.

What does a SPiRiT group do?

Serve. Pray. Read the Bible. Together.

Top 10 Reasons to Sign Up for a SPiRiT Group this fall:

10. One less night of the week that you do not have anything planned.
9. Prevents couch potato status.
8. Another good reason to buy a new book or crack open the Bible.
7. Add some variety to your life.
6. Change of scenery—visit someone's home, hang at the coffee shop, or cook up something good in a kitchen.
5. Get to know someone else's name in the church
4. They are free---and we have a money back guarantee.
3. Surely snacks will be served from time to time.
2. You get to add new Facebook friends.
1. Grace for your faith journey.

International Mission Trip June 2013

Blue Ridge Blvd UMC Youth will be taking a group to Guatemala June 2013.

We will be working with Kids Alive International. The trip will be open to youth who have completed 9th grade by 2013 through college graduates. Adults are welcome to come as sponsors also.

The next meeting will be Sunday, August 26th 11:45am at the Youth House.

We will be making commitments for participation in the trip and to go over schedule of payments (i.e. airline tickets, deposits, etc.)

If you have missed the previous two meetings and would like more information, you may email Anne (anorton@blueridgechurch.org).

New Financial Secretary

It was a pleasure to be introduced as the new Financial Secretary and meet several of you at the church conference on Sunday. I am generally in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. My door is always open, please feel free to stop by or call so I'll have an opportunity to get to know you. I'm looking forward to being in ministry with you.

- Sarah Jarvis

Local Mission Focus

R.E.A.P. (Raytown Emergency Assistance Program)

Local mission focus for August

Blue Ridge has been one of the major supporters of REAP for many years. Starting July 15th and through August you will have the opportunity to donate to their "Back to School Supplies" barrels. Al Brown, the director at REAP, said recently that last years donations came in short and while he is thankful for what came in, it's a reminder of the economic times we are in. Some of the shortages were regular school materials such as paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, as well as donated cash to buy the shoes that each child is to get with their filled backpacks to start school

The School supply list will be available on the barrels and at the information table by the welcome center when the barrels arrive at the church, but start watching for ads soon on bargains for back to school supplies. When you are at a store that carries school supplies, pick one or two items that are on sale and save them in a special place until the barrels are here to be filled.

If you would prefer to "adopt a child" for the beginning the school year, it only takes \$45.00 to sponsor one child's first day at school with **all** they need in a new backpack, and wearing a new pair of shoes so they can "fit in like all the other kids". If you choose to do that, mark your check in the memo line for REAP, drop it off at the office or in the plate any Sunday in August, and we see that REAP gets that money designated for them.

We will also take an **extra offering** on the fourth Sunday, August 26th, so come prepared to give during the *special offering* that will be shared with REAP and our Global Mission through the church. Be sure to mark your envelope or check for "IMPACT" on the memo line. I am starting my project of filling a box or paper sack with "goodies for the kids" today, and will work on it with each shopping ad that comes out. Will you please join me in shopping? I know you will feel blessed when you do.

Sue Klotz

Youth News & Move Up

We will be moving everyone up to their new classes starting Sunday, August 19th.

If you have an incoming 6th grader that would like to be a part of the group, please contact Anne Norton, as we have a special day coming up to welcome them!
anorton@blueridgechurch.org or 816.353.1325

Golden Key News

The Golden Key Club's third annual luncheon at Elliott Place will be held on Thursday, August 9th, at 12:00 noon.

Baked chicken and all the trimmings for \$6.50 per person is on the menu. Come hungry, you'll enjoy the delicious cuisine.

Please bring unwrapped white elephant gifts for bingo prizes. Any questions, call Edna Scahill 356-4546

BIG DAY BOARD

Stop by the Welcome Desk and you'll see the BIG DAY BOARD.

Grab a sticky note & purchase items for our BIG DAY!

Items range from advertising space to board games to food

Together, we will reach 500 people for Christ with our Life is a Circus BIG DAY!

The board will be on display until August. 12th.

Let's Go BIG for CHRIST!



Blue Ridge Blvd Methodist Church

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Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30a-4:30p
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to: THE ENVOY
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64133-2547

Check out our website for more info

www.blueridgechurch.org



Mission: As a United Methodist Church our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Strategy: Our strategy is to become a biblically-based community focused on *training new disciples for Jesus Christ* so that lives, churches, and the world are transformed.

The article deadline for the next issue is August 30th.

Church Family News

Welcome to Mark Landingham as he pledged membership on Sunday, July 29th.

Congratulations to Tammy Robinson and David Travis who were married June 13.

Prayers go out to the following families:

LaVaughn Durham passed away on July 3.

Noah Davis, son of Jason & Sara, passed away July 5.

Ray Pricer, husband of Alice, passed away July 10.

Virginia "Ginny" Poynter, mother of Karen Fahrmeier, passed away July 20.

Ann Marie Davidson passed away July 25.

Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be August 14. The book we are reading is *Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks. It will be led by Margaret Strader.

If you would like to join us, please call Charlotte Robinson or the church office for the door code. The meeting is at 7 P.M. in the Church Library.

Produce Table

Produce Table is open at Hobb's door entrance. Those who garden and have plenty, bring in the extra for us to enjoy. Money put in the basket will go to the church.

~ Home Envoy is sponsored by ~

Mary Lewis in honor of her grandson, Alex McCarty's 18th birthday on August 2nd, and her daughter, Debbie's birthday on August 8th.

Sons of Dee & Jim Robinson, in honor of their parents.

Thank You

A BIG thank you to Jim and Leah Shelton for hosting the youth group at their house! The pool was great and the food too!

You made everyone feel welcome.