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Mark your Calendars:

- February 8-10, Youth attend *Dare to Share, FOLLOW Tour*, Lincoln, NE
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 pm, Women's Book Club, Library
- Thursday, Feb. 14, 5:00-7:00pm, UMW Evening of Fellowship Dinner
- Thursday, Feb. 14, 12:00 noon, Dining Room, Golden Key,
- Tuesday, Feb. 19. 6:00-8:00pm, Volunteers at Harvesters Warehouse

Be in prayer this week as the Generosity Team, Staff Parish Relations and the Faith in Action Teams work to finalize the 2013 budget. - *Generosity Team*

**Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church**

The Home Envoy

February 5, 2013

Volume 58, Issue 2

Healthy Church Initiative

The Healthy Church Initiative process continues. Mark your calendars for these dates: Saturday, March 16, is the pre-consultation workshop. Sunday, May 5, the results of the consultation will be presented in worship.

Healthy Church Initiative: Prayer

We have two active efforts related to our past, present and future. The first is to pray for the people in our mission field, and for our church's response to them; if you haven't already, [email me to sign up to pray](#) with this mission-focused group.

Healthy Church Initiative: History Report

The second active effort is to report on many facets of our history for our [Healthy Church Initiative](#) (HCI) consultation. HCI is a ministry of our state-wide United Methodist organization, the Missouri Conference. The purpose of HCI is to help churches make new disciples. Preparing a detailed history of this ministry is the homework we'll be doing all of February to tell our story as a part of the HCI process.

This is an important and immediate project. Pastor Charity is coordinating the report. She and I will edit the final report. If you would like to be a part in producing this report which will tell our story, [please email Pastor Charity](#) so she'll be aware of your interest.

[Thank You, Linda Mann!](#)

A Transition Between Eras

Linda Mann has served this ministry, and the people in it, well and long. She is beloved, and for good reason. She is retiring following the first Sunday of June, this year. And so we begin a transition between eras.

The Art of Ending an Era Well

Part of any transition is the art of ending well. If you have something you'd like to do so that Linda feels particularly appreciated over the next four months, call me or email me so we can coordinate all the efforts. I wouldn't be surprised if there are many opportunities.

The Art of Looking to the Future

Part of any transition is the art of looking to the future. If you would like to serve among those who will be looking to the future of worship here, please call me or email me so I'll know of your willingness. Our future is the future of Christ's mission here at Blue Ridge Boulevard and 51st Street, loving one another so that we train new disciples for the transformation of the world.

See you in worship!

Grace and peace,

Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

Music Ministry

Director of Music—

Linda Mann 353-4826

lmann@blueridgechurch.org

This past month I announced my retirement as director of music from Blue Ridge Methodist Church, my last Sunday being June 2. This has been one of the hardest decisions I have had to make in my life, and I have been praying about it since 2005, when my father passed away. Since then, my three “jobs” have gone from part-time to full-time. My family responsibilities include caring for my mother and spending time with my three children and five grandchildren who do not live close by. The hours required for my choir accompanist position at Truman High School tripled when my original conductor, a pianist himself, retired, and our shared tasks all shifted to me. Responsibilities here at Blue Ridge have also increased over the years. I work six days and four evenings during a normal week, plus several hours daily at home spent on preparation and practice. Often times there is more going on than “normal,” and there are few hours left for anything else, personal or otherwise.

As Hoot and I approach our sixtieth birthdays (!) this summer, we have decided to step back and slow down. Many of us as Christians have experienced God placing us somewhere that we never expected to be, doing things for His kingdom on earth we never expected to do! This has certainly been the case for Hoot and I as we began singing in the youth choir here at age 16 and continued to serve our church and its people for the next 44 years. The time spent has been precious, joyful and fulfilling. However, I have chosen to keep my school position for several reasons: holidays and weekends will be free; several more years of employment are required to be vested in the retirement system; I need to give my mind and spirit a rest from being in charge and just sit back and play the piano, my “first, best destiny” as they say. We ask that you understand why we make this choice, and know that it does not diminish the love we have for this congregation.

Change is hard, and hardest for those left behind when others have moved on. One of my favorite stories is about a man of olden times standing on a pier in the Mediterranean. He was watching with his friend, a seafarer, as the man’s ship approaches loaded with all he possessed. Suddenly there is a loud explosion and the ship sinks before their eyes. He turns in horror to comfort his friend, yet finds him laughing. “Why are you laughing?” he asks. “Because now everything is new. Think of the possibilities!”

You have been and will be hearing more about the Healthy Church Initiative program coming to Blue Ridge this spring. Think of the possibilities of new ideas to touch others in our community with Christ’s love and make us stronger in our faith. We do not know what plans God has for us as persons or members of our church, but what we do know is that through prayer, love and faithfulness He will lead us and guide us. He is working now to bring another person or persons to lead music at our church. I know you will support, love and nurture them, as you did me, to help them be the best they can be and use their gifts to the fullest. Hoot and I give our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to you and our God for the wonderful memories and blessings that have taken place here. We will continue to keep you always in our prayers. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart...the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

--1 Cor. 2:9 *Think of the possibilities!!*

Golden Key

Thursday, February 14, 12:00 noon

Noon luncheon followed by meeting

Menu: Pork Tenderloin, Twice Baked Potato, salad and chocolate pie

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Program: “My Easter - Love” video presented by Marilyn Yorke

All guests are asked to call Roy Erwin at 356-3572
no later than Monday, February 11. All senior citizens are invited.
(The next luncheon / meeting will be March 14th).

*“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under
heaven.” –Ecc. 3.1*

Outreach - College Ministry

College Care packages will be packed and delivered the week of Sunday, Feb. 10th to our 12 college students at Blue Ridge Blvd UMC. You may participate by donating homemade/baked goods, pre-packaged food items, small toys, bubbles, school supplies (highlighters, pens, etc), praying for our college students, writing notes of encouragement, or donating money towards shipping costs. Donations need to be delivered to the church by Sunday, Feb 10th at a table in the Beatitudes entry.

If you would like to donate or participate in some way in this ministry, please contact Sherry Ott at 816-356-6428 or email at sjwsmile@aol.com

Women’s Retreat - Date change

The date of the Women’s Retreat has changed to March 15, 16 & 17. It’ll be a great weekend at beautiful Wilderness Retreat outside Lawson, MO. For information contact Deborah DeMoss at 816-358-4321 or kennedydemoss@yahoo.com

Missing Library Books

Several books are missing from the library that either have not been checked out or there is a card in the check-out box, but there is no name indicating the person who took the book. Please check those books that you have at home. Remember to help your children check out books by writing both their first and last names. It is also helpful if you include a phone number. In the past week, I have found several books in the library that have been put on the shelves without the cards and in the wrong category. Be sure you and your child place the books you are bringing back to the church in the book return box. The following books are missing from the library:

Best Little Stories from the Civil War by
Brian Kelly

*Color of Your Skin Ain’t the Color of Your
heart* by Michael Phillips

God’s Politics by Jim Walls

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall

Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Cole

- Charlotte Robinson

Women’s Book Club

Women’s Book Club will be meeting February 12th at 7 pm in the Library and discussing *American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin. This discussion will be led by Charlotte Robinson. All are welcome.

Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity— Raytown Build



Join the fun with your community at 4:00 pm on February 9, 2013 for the benefit concert at the Raytown Christian Church. Tickets are not necessary to attend the concert that will feature local school and church musicians sharing their talents. A free will offering will be

collected during the concert. The audience will hear a first-hand testimonial from one of the Habitat Home Partners and learn more about the ministry of Habitat for Humanity. It is the goal to break ground in the spring on the Raytown house build! If you are unavailable on February 9th, you can still participate in this project by making a tax-deductible donation at www.trumanheritagehabitat.org/donate/raytown.php.

What is Human Trafficking?

It is a form of modern-day slavery, and the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug trade. The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruiting, transporting and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerable persons with false promises or physical abduction, forcing them into contract slavery, forced labor and often sexual trafficking.

According to the *U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 12.3 million. Some organizations estimate that 27 million may be the actual number of modern day slaves, with 5-6 percent trapped by sex trafficking.

The United Methodist Women have been challenging social injustice for more than 140 years. The organization provides resources and opportunities for members to help improve the lives of women, children, and youth nationally and internationally.

There are many web sites to gather information. One recommended site is: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act Click on the link: Human Trafficking

Wanted: Candy & Eggs!

It's time for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We need individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs. Bring them to the church office or place in the box in the beatitude. Deadline is March 3rd. If you have any questions call Pam Clark @ 356-0505 or Phylis Goforth @ 353-1435.



Pictorial Directory Update and \$15.00 Savings!

Appointment times are filling up fast so if you haven't make your reservation yet call the church office or call Dona Meyer at 816-835-9690. Days open for reservations are Feb. 5-9, 22 & 23. There will be no cost to you to have your picture taken. You'll receive a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and a directory. You will have the option to purchase additional photos if you desire. Two discounts are available. You'll receive a \$5.00 discount if you bring a non perishable food item (given to Harvesters as part of our February Mission Focus) the night you have your picture taken and you'll also receive a \$10.00 discount if you furnish your email. Contact Dona Meyer at above number to make sure your email has been recorded with your reservation. - Dona Meyer

Check-in Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to help greet, check-in and assist those who come to have their photos taken for the new Church Directory, we could sure use your help. There are plenty of times available and if you could give a few hours please contact Sandy Gutekunst 816-224-4517. Dates needing helpers are Feb. 5-9, 22 and 23.

Would You Like To Be An Office Angel?

As many of you may know, the outer office is now supported by volunteers who answer the door bell, greet people as they come toward the office, answer the phone and take messages or get you to the right person to answer your questions. This takes a team effort and currently our team is depleted. We need a few folks to help out for anything from 2-4 hours on Wednesday from 8:30-4:30 and Thursday 12:30-4:30.

It's not a hard job, and you'll have time to visit with others as they come and go. If you are willing to be a temporary helper for a time, or a sub that I can call once in a while, let me know. If you're a people person and would enjoy helping staff and those who come through the doors, this might just be right for you!

- Sue Klotz

Hospitality

We want our visitors to feel welcome. One of the ways to do this is a simple thank-you for visiting our church. This is where you come in. We need volunteers who will take a few minutes on an occasional Sunday afternoon to offer a simple thank-you and give them a small gift the church will provide. We won't intrude on them, we will simply let them know we value them. This won't take much of your time, so please consider participating. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Joan Raymond at joan-raymond@att.net or 816-356-4944.

It's Not Too Late To Join a SPIRiT GROUP.

SPIRiT Groups – Spring 2013
(Serve. Pray. Read the Bible. Together)

Make New Friends. Grow Your Faith.
Short-Term Commitment. Pick Any Group.

SG# SU1 Sundays 10:30-11:30 am / Room 201
Experiencing the Heart of Jesus: Knowing His Heart, Feeling His Love by Max Lucado
Facilitators: Nina Hinrichs & Deborah DeMoss

Experiencing the Heart of Jesus does not aim only to increase your knowledge about him, but to facilitate your experience with him. Each week's study is an in-depth lesson about one quality of Jesus' character. As we learn his heart, he transforms ours.

SG# SU2 Sunday Noon/Lunch Bunch / Dining Room
What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty
Facilitator: Missy Marcella

As the body of Christ we are called to share our beliefs with those around us, including those in poverty. Traditionally it has been hard to reach those of different socio-economic groups to churches not of a like socio-economic group. If we as a church are to be successful in spreading the word to all people, we must understand those that are different from ourselves and use that knowledge to reach out in a way that is meaningful. The poor and the middle class have a lot to teach each other. Through this study, we hope to bridge the gap and dispel prejudices and biases that might exist between the two.

SG# MO3 Mondays 4:30 pm / Library
GriefShare
Facilitator: Dr. Barbara Thompson
Participant Guide:\$15

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now if you have lost someone near to you. You may have found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That's the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. GriefShare features biblical teachings on grief and recovery topics. Each of the 13 sessions includes a video seminar and a group discussion.

SG# TU4 Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Unbinding the Gospel
Facilitators: Pastor Jan Bond and Joan Raymond

Uh oh it's the dreaded "E" word – evangelism. Mainline church members have avoided that part of ministry for years. The heart of evangelism is being in love with God, being a part of a church you love, and caring about other people who do not know that faith.

Do you love others enough to tell them why Jesus is the answer?

Can you become excited/passionate enough to tell your story of Christ in your life?

SG# TU5 Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
See Anne Norton for Location

Open to 9-12th grade girls and their girl friends.

Lies Young Women Believe: And the Truth that Sets Them Free
Facilitator: Anne Norton

You have been lied to! Have you been deceived? Trying to listen to the right voices can be difficult. Maybe your heart is telling you that some things in your life are way off course. Certain habits and relationships have left you confused and lonely. We will expose 25 of the lies most commonly believed by young women. Best of all, we'll learn and practice being set free by the Truth.

SG# WE6 Wednesdays 7:30p -8:30 p.m. / Library
Miracles by C.S. Lewis
Facilitator: Mark Landingham

Where natural and supernatural meet...in this conversation we explore the miracles of Jesus and C.S. Lewis' argument that God intervenes in the world. Lewis, a foremost Christian writer is read by all, Christians, agnostics, and non-believers. We all struggle at times with what we believe, join Lewis on this journey of discovery.

SG# TH7 Thursdays 6:30 pm / Beatitudes
When Work and Family Collide by Andy Stanley
Facilitator: Brad Teachman

Is Your Occupation Also Your Preoccupation?

Your job. Your kids. Church. Socializing. With only 24 hours in the day, you can't fit everything in. Stanley offers a strategic plan for dealing with the busyness that sabotages your most important relationships; restoring your vision of what really matters; and making courageous decisions about your time.

SG# TH8 Thursdays 6:30 pm / Church Office
Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado
Facilitator: Sue Klotz

We can make a big difference in our ever-changing world. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope? Infiltrated all corners with God's love and life? We are created by a great God to do great works. He invites us to outlive our lives, not just in heaven, but here on earth. Let's live our lives in such a way that the world will be glad we did.

SG# TH9 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month / Library
from 10am-12pm (women's group)
Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado
Facilitator: Sue Klotz

See SG#8 for description

**If you have questions about SPIRiT
Groups contact Pastor Charity,
816.695.2644 or
pastorcharity@blueridgechurch.org.**

**Sign up today on the Community Card, on-line
at BlueRidgeChurch.org or at the SPIRiT Group
table in the hallway across from the restrooms.**

Evening of Fellowship with Friends

The United Methodist Women will be hosting a meal on February 14, 2013 for anyone who wants to enjoy some home-made Chili or a Baked Potato Bar, with Drinks and Dessert provided from 5-7. This is one of the UMW events done yearly as a unit effort to raise money for missions. In case the date didn't click for you, it is Valentines Day! It would be a good evening to come and join us for a meal your spouse doesn't have to cook and you don't have to clean up. Cost will be \$6.00 for either the Chili or the Baked Potato Bar and all the fixings available for each. An extra potato or bowl of Chili will be \$2.00 each and if we have Chili left over you can take a serving home for \$5.00. Even if it is cold outside, it will be warm in here and a good time to catch up with good friends over good food. We hope to see you there. - Sue Klotz

From the Library Table

During the month of February we will be honoring Black History Month by featuring books about Martin Luther King as well as other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. Read about their lives and the struggles they faced during a very difficult time in our history. There will also be some Valentine books for the kids.

- Charlotte Robinson

Youth News

Anne Norton- Youth Director
anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Save the Date! Youth Sunday April 21st

This Sunday is an annual event each year that showcases skits, songs, dramas, music praising and worshipping God. There is also a special offering taken During both services to raise funds for the youth summer mission trip. This year they will be going to Colorado Springs, Co and working with CUSP (Coalition for the Upper South Platte) doing wildfire restoration from the wildfires this past summer.

Mission Trip is July 21-27. If interested in attending there will be a mission trip meeting Sunday, Feb 17th, 11:45am at the youth house. - Anne Norton

February Mission Focus: Harvesters

Our local mission focus for January and February is the Harvesters Community Food Network. As this area's only food bank, Harvesters is a clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of food and related household products. Most people think of Harvesters simply as collecting and distributing food items donated from the



community and industry sources. However, they also provide nutrition services and offer leadership and education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and generate solutions to alleviate hunger. Harvesters' mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow.

The Harvesters network includes more than 620 nonprofit agencies in a 26-county service area, including emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes, homes for the mentally disabled and shelters for battered persons. Harvester provides food assistance to as many of 66,000 different people each week!

Three ways you can help:

Donate your Time

Volunteer at the warehouse, located at 3801 Topping, KCMO, on **Tuesday, February 19th, from 6-8pm** and/or **Thursday, February 28th, from 6-8 pm**. This is great opportunity for families to serve together, ages 6 to 100! Since we will be working in the warehouse, please wear closed toed shoes. To schedule volunteer activities, Harvesters needs an estimated number of volunteers. If you are serving on either date, please call the church office or email me at sjwsmile@aol.com.

Donate Food

Bring a non-perishable food donation for Harvester when you get your picture made for the Church Directory. As I thank you, will receive a \$5.00 off coupon.

Donate Money

The local portion of our mission offering for January/February will go to Harvesters.

- Thanks, Sherry Ott, Service & Mission Team

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

Youth Ministry Event-

If we're honest, many of our teens have some level of dissatisfaction with their faith. They want more, but the world, the culture, life – it all has a way of distracting them without their even knowing it. But that's not how it's supposed to be. Jesus was all about giving people more. More life, more adventure, more passion.

That's why I'm so excited that we are planning on attending this year's Dare 2 Share (D2S) training event – FOLLOW, Feb 8-10 in Lincoln, NE. At the event, teenagers will encounter the radical call of Christ to follow Him and learn just what it looks like to be "fishers of men" in our modern context.

This year's FOLLOW Tour is built around Matthew 4:19-20, Jesus' call to His early disciples to leave their nets and follow Him. Through dynamic training, worship, drama, and outreach opportunities teenagers will come away motivated and mobilized to go all in and be ready to:

Passionately Pursue Christ for who He is.

Boldly Proclaim His message to their friends.

Recklessly Abandon the things that are holding them back

Cost for each youth is \$50. Would anyone in our congregation be willing to sponsor a youth to go to this event? We have 12 signed up so far and others would like to go but can't due to financial reasons.

Please contact me if your youth is interested or if you would like to sponsor a youth for this life changing conference.

- Anne Norton- Youth Director, 816-213-0501, anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Blue Ridge Blvd Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd Office Hours
Kansas City, MO 64133 Mon-Thurs 8:30a-4:30p
Phone: 816-353-1435 Office closed on Fridays
Fax: 816-353-8770

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

Check out our website for more info
www.blueridgechurch.org



Service Times:

Sunday mornings 9:00 and 10:30

Pastors:

Barry Freese, lead pastor

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 February 28.

Spring Flowers and Lilies for Easter



Although it is still winter and seems like Easter is a long way off, the season is just around the corner. So, this is to let you know that we are starting to take orders for the Lilies and Spring Flowers that will grace our Altar table on Easter morning.

There will be a sign-up chart on the bulletin board across from the office, or you can call the church office at 353-1435, or Sue Klotz at 373-2237 to place your order.

The Palms will be there for Palm Sunday on March 24 and we will have the Palm Fronds

for at each service that day. The Lilies and Spring Flowers will be up on the Altar on the 31, and you may take yours home after the second service. The cost is still \$15.00 and it is nice to see the Altar full with the symbols of new life, in the growing of flowers. - Sue Klotz

Visit www.blueridgechurch.org
where you can listen to Sunday's sermon
and see your Home Envoy and Youth
Newsletter online under "Messages".

Church Family News

Thank you church for your prayers and encouragement. I have been affirmed as Elder in Full Connection and will be ordained Saturday, June 8th at the Juanita K. Hammons Hall of the Performing Arts in Springfield, Mo. at 7 p.m. Thanks and blessings to each you!
- Pastor Charity

A special thank you to all the members of the church for their prayers and cards regarding the passing of my brother Dave in Seattle. Dave had been fighting cancer for the last 3 years and it finally got the best of him. He was a fighter but at 85, he finally was overcome. Thank you.
- Wes and Bonnie Hougland

Thanks for the cards and prayers of support following the death of Dudley's mother, Alberta Leonard.
- Jane and Dudley Leonard.

Prayers

For the family of Norma Harrison who died February 2.
For Jane and Dudley Leonard for the death of his mother.
For the family of Floyd Anderson in the death of his brother Wayne.
For the family of Wes Hougland in the death of his brother Dave.