

Summer Lunch Program

We are half way through our six weeks of serving lunches to Raytown school children this summer, and it seems we are doing well. 1st week we have served 27 lunches (only 3 days), the 2nd week we served 61, the 3rd week we served 75 lunches, and so far for the 4th week we have served 62, for a total of 225 lunches. Since Kenagy Park is a new area of serving lunches this year, and with us being new to serving, I think we are doing great! The smiles on their faces as they get their milk and lunches and the "thank you" as they leave, make this a true labor of love. Thank you to each one of you who are helping with packing, picking up and delivering the lunches.

Terry Landers Honored as Citizen of the Year

Terry Landers, long time member of Blue Ridge has been selected by Mayor David Bower as Raytown's *Citizen of the Year*. He will be honored by the Truman Heartland Community Foundation on Saturday, September 7. Terry spent 32 years as an educator in Raytown and currently serves on the Board of Education. He also serves on the Supervisory Committee for the Raytown-Lee's Summit Credit Union and is a member of the Raytown Parks and Recreation. He volunteers for REAP, Meals on Wheels and the Shepherd's Center and more. Read about this in the July 31st issue of the Raytown Times available at local merchants. *Congratulations Terry!*

Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church

The Home Envoy

August 6, 2013

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Visioning Update

I'm very grateful for the attendance and participation of almost forty people at our Day of Visioning workshop on Saturday, July 20. The purpose of the Day of Visioning workshop was threefold: 1) Time to hear from God in a fresh, new way about our future, 2) Time to dream together about ways God wants us to use us in our community, and 3) Time to develop the seeds of the Vision of our church for the future.

Those in attendance were divided into six teams. Kay Kotan lead us through a time learning, then sent people out to the mission field on prayer walks (or prayer drives, when walking was a challenge). Upon returning from the prayer walks, the six teams each developed sample vision statements for Blue Ridge Church.

Beginning with those six statements, my assignment is to cast the vision and have it blessed by leadership on or before October 1, 2013. With all the good work done in the groups, and with your prayers, I'm confident that we'll have our vision before the deadline. Here are the six draft vision statements:

- 1) Blue Ridge Church's vision is to be dedicated to welcome all people to experience God's Holy Spirit through developing relationship and learning with others in prayer and service.
- 2) BRBUMC is a Christian community demonstrating (?living) God's grace and love, and providing resources and support to help individuals and families be transformed by the Gory of God.
- 3) Blue Ridge UMC will be a church where people form relationships within our community through fellowship, prayer, worship and service to make new disciples for Christ.
- 4) Blue Ridge United Methodist Church is alive with the spirit and light of Christ to provide service and sanctuary in the local community and beyond.
- 5) Bringing people within one mile of BRUMC to know the love of Jesus Christ and to express this love in mission and service.
- 6) Reaching out...Inviting... A family of caring believers welcoming anyone wanting to know Christ and supporting them through their journey, creating disciples to carry on the word of God.

Sunday Morning Experience

The first piece of our Sunday Morning Experience prescription is to develop a Worship Evaluation Team which visits other churches. This team's evaluation will be based on training from our church coach, Kay Kotan, combined with the experience of the worship in the churches we visit. Our team visiting an evening service on Saturday, August 3, and will visit two Sunday morning services on August 25. There's still time to be on the team.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Barry Freese

Youth News

Anne Norton - Youth Director
816-353-1325
anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Mission Trips

Guatemala

Last month 8 youth and 9 adults traveled to San Lucas, Sacatepequez Guatemala and served at a Kids Alive International site for two weeks.

We served at two different sites, the Oasis and Casa Ester.

The Oasis provides residential care, schooling, counseling and justice for 50 girls ages 4-18. At the Oasis our group poured the floor and put the roof on the new guard house, dug trenches for plumbing and water lines, and painted one of the Casas and the mission guest house where our team stayed.

Casa Ester is the site a few miles from the Oasis and it provides a dorm like setting for the girls when the turn 18. It houses 9 girls. At this site they are building apartments to accommodate more girls. Our group poured the floors for apartments 1-3, poured the ceiling of apartment 1, dug trenches for water and septic lines, and fabricated formwork.

Not all our time was spent doing manual labor. The second Saturday we were there, our group did a retreat for the girls at the Oasis. We rotated 3 groups through different stations; Bible study, games and crafts. After those stations we all gathered and our group and helped lead worship.

In two weeks we did a lot of work but I think, more importantly, God did a lot of work in us. We were all changed in some way. And we thank you for supporting our group with your donations, thoughts and prayers.

Colorado

Last week 22 youth and 6 adults traveled to Colorado Springs, CO as part of the Missouri Conference. We worked for 2 days laying log erosion barriers to prevent water erosion on the slopes of Waldo Canyon. This area was affected by massive wildfires last summer. One day we worked in the area affected by the Hayman fire of 2003 and we decommissioned a rode laying logs and planting seed.

What a blessed week we had as we served alongside 200 other youth and adults from churches across Missouri!

Save the Date for SERVE2013

Save the morning of Saturday, September 7th, if you want to participate in, or volunteer for, this year's Serve2013, Defeat Hunger, a 5k walk/run. The event will benefit Harvesters. The walk/run starts at 8 AM and at 9AM, volunteers are needed to pack lunches for area kids in need. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for more information.

Both participant (walk/run) and volunteer applications are available at the Information Desk (if someone doesn't want to sign up online). Please let Sherry Ott or Connie Turnipseed know if you are going to participate in either or both activities, since some of the organizers are asking for number of participants per church.



Thankful for Christ's Generosity

No matter where we are in our Christian journey, our relationship with Christ starts with and continues with His love for us. He loves us and is generous with us no matter where we are. My challenge is always to be thankful first and respond generously for the love and grace Christ has shown me. I am thankful for all those that responded to letter that was sent out in May either by gifts or through your prayers. I am also thankful to those that continue their regular biblical giving in response to Christ's love so that Blue Ridge Church may share that with others.

Mid-Year update:

Contributions Received for	\$ 216,481.95
General Ministry (January – June)	
Ministry and Mortar General	\$ 219,788.14
Expenses	

If you would like to know where you stand on your pledge and giving through the first half of the year, please contact Sarah at 816 353-1435 or email sjarvis@blueridgechurch.org

Women's Book Club

The Blue Ridge Women's Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, August 13, at 7:00 pm in the Library. The book they will be discussing is entitled "Before I Go To Sleep" by Steve Watson. The discussion will be led by Sheri Kuhn. All are welcome!

Golden Key Luncheon

Thursday, August 8, at noon
At Elliott Place
9540 E 75th St. Building 2

Guests are always welcome.

Menu: Pot-roast and fixin's and dessert

Cost: \$6.50 per person

Entertainment BINGO (Each attendee bring an UNWRAPPED "white elephant")

Reservations required!

(Payment required if you make reservation and don't attend)

Come join us, you'll be glad you did!

Volunteers Bag "Blair's Socks"

Dixie Lee organized a wonderful group of 22 volunteers that sorted and bagged socks here at Blue Ridge on Wednesday, July 3 for Spofford. Since 1916, Spofford has been a leading provider of prevention and therapeutic treatment services with children ages 4-12 suffering the effects of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and mental health disorders in Kansas City, Missouri. We are excited to share that the group was able to get more than 100 bags filled and tagged with a specific child's name. The grand total of SOCKS that were delivered August 1 was 1160. We are so thankful for each and everyone that came and for all of the donations.



Children and Family Ministry

Children's Discipleship Coordinator

Samantha Woodward -
swoodward@blueridgechurch.org

Please keep all our children in your prayers as the start of school gets closer and they prepare for their first day of class. Some may be anxious about riding the bus for the first time; meeting fellow students as well as teachers in a new environment and experiencing many new activities.

Information will be coming soon about the Wednesday Night Children's Program. Keep watching the Sunday Newsletter and on-screen for updates as they are available.

Sound Board Operators Needed

Join the team. Experience serving as a part of the worship environment. We will train and you can pick the service you want to serve. If you are interested, call Marge Fredrickson at 816-373-7124.



REAP: School Supply Program

It will soon be time to get the area school children ready with the supplies they need to start the next year. REAP barrels are here at Blue Ridge now waiting to gather paper, pencils, pens, protractors, rulers, calculators and all the other things requested by the schools. There is a list on the barrels and at the welcome center for you to use as a shopping guide.

The barrels will be here until August 11th to fill, so every child will get the materials they need. There is also an opportunity to help each child receive a new pair of shoes to start school by donating cash to REAP to purchase them. The amount needed is usually around \$40.00 and the new backpacks will be filled with shoes and school supplies in August.

Pick up a little extra when you are shopping this week and add your purchases to our barrels. All children feel better about having new things to start school, and it helps them fit in with all the others as well.

- Thank you, Sue Klotz

Staffing Announcement

Earlier in the summer the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Generosity Committee (Finance, Stewardship) and the Board of Trustees met together to review the giving and spending of Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church with our Healthy Church Coach, Kay Kotan. After reviewing the financials, it was clear that expenses had to be reduced to be faithful stewards of the gifts provided for our mission to make new disciples for the transformation of the world.

The projected annual giving, based on the 2013 giving thus far, is estimated at \$390,000. In order to align the salary expense with the recommended 50% of giving, salary expenses had to be shaved approximately \$76,000 (\$271,000 to \$195,000). The fixed expenses of the four properties owned by the church (church, two houses, one vacant lot) plus very basic ministry expenses comes to about \$195,000 annually. Based on giving projected at about \$390,000 this means that just to cover payroll, fixed expenses and basic ministry costs, payroll would need to be reduced to about an annual figure of \$190,000. (No giving to the apportioned regional or global ministries of the United Methodist Church is included in these numbers or the calculations which lead to these decisions.)

In light of the current situation, Pastor Barry volunteered nearly a \$10,000 cut in his pay, housing and retirement savings plus the required items related to having a full-time pastor, such as health care and denominational pension and disability payments.

In order to align the future payroll with our projected income, the combined Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Generosity Committee (Finance, Stewardship) and the Board of Trustees voted to reduce payroll expenses and thus staff. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee met Wednesday night to implement the decisions made by the combined committees. The effected staff were told personally of these decisions Thursday afternoon.

Here are those decisions:

The financial secretary will add payroll to her duties with no increase in pay. Dropping the current outsourced payroll service will complete a transition, already in progress, which will yield a \$12,000 savings.

The following four positions will be eliminated effective August 15, 2013:

- Church Administrator,
- Children's Coordinator
- Youth Director
- Events (Kitchen) Coordinator

Two new positions will be added to the staff at significantly lower pay compared to the previous positions:

- A combined children & youth coordinator (est. 25-28 hours / week)
- A part-time church secretary (Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM).
- Applications for these two positions are welcome from inside and outside the church, including staff whose positioned are ending.
- The existing worship arts & custodial positions will not be affected.

While staff cuts are never the first choice and are always difficult, these decisions were deemed necessary to be faithful stewards of the gifts given for our mission. On behalf of the entire congregation, we extend our deep appreciation and gratitude for the ministries of Anne, Samantha, Mindy and Phyllis.

We also continue to be very grateful for the on-going faithfulness and generosity of those who are committed to the work of Christ through these ministries. Finally, we encourage everyone involved to pray for our mission of making new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and for those who have been and will be a part this work.

Yours in Christ,

*Dudley Leonard, Chair
Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

*Barry Freese
Pastor*

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www.blueridgechurch.org

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Sunday mornings 9:00 and 10:30

Pastor:

Barry Freese, lead pastor
barry@blueridgechurch.org
direct: 816-835-2545

The article deadline for the next issue is August 29.

Church Directories have been delivered and are Ready for Pick-Up on August 11

The new church directories are here and they look great! They will be available for pick-up Sunday, August 11 in the Beatitudes. There will be a table where volunteers will assist you before, between and after services. If your picture is in the directory you will receive a copy. If you have any questions, please call Dona Meyer at 816-835-9690.

Mark your Calendars:

- August 1 thru the 14, Kenagy Park, 12:00 noon, Summer Lunch Delivery
- Thursday, August 8, Golden Key Luncheon, Elliot Place
- Sunday, August 11, last day for REAP Barrels
- Sunday, August 11, Pick up new Church Directory before, between and after services.
- Tuesday, August 13, 7:00pm, Library, Women's Book Club
- Thursday, August 15, 10:00am, Library, Women's Bible Study and Issues Group.
- Sunday, September 1, Pantry Sunday
- Saturday, September 7, DeFeet Hunger 5k Walk/Run: SERVE2013

Church Family News

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:

- Richard and Janice Knoll for the loss of their son, Michael on July 4th.
- family and friends of Warren Haycock who died July 16.
- family and friends of Harvey Wadleigh who died on July 30th.
- family and friends of Don Truningor, brother of Donna Morris who died August 2.
- family and friends of Melba Akers who died August 5.

Thanks so much . . .

to Dave and Shirley Strawn for trimming the front bushes. They look so much better! If you would like to help in the beautification process of your church, please call the office at 816-353-1435.

Thanks for the Memories!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church for the opportunity to serve you as your Church Administrator for this short time. I am so grateful for the acquaintances I have made and the friendships I have been blessed with. I hope in some way I have touched your life and shown you the presence and power of God. I will continue to pray for you as I hope you will for me.

- Yours in Christ, Mindy

This August issue of the Home Envoy has been sponsored by Jim Robinson in honor of Delores Robinson and her August 3 birthday.