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Mark your Calendars:

- Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:00 pm, Women's Book Club, Library
- Wednesday, Jan. 9, 10:00 am, UMW Unit Mtg, Dining Room
- Thursday, Jan. 10, 12:00 noon, Golden Key, Dining Room
- Thursday, Jan. 10, 3:00 pm, HOPE Group, room 201
- Thursday, Jan. 10, 5:30 pm, Service and Mission, Library
- Sunday, Jan. 13 & 20, Reserve photo time for new church directory
- Monday, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 29, 6:30 pm, "PANIC to Peace of Mind"
- Sunday, Feb. 3, SPIRIT GROUPS BEGIN
- February 22, 23, 24, Women's Retreat

**Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church**

The Home Envoy

January 8, 2013

Volume 58, Issue 1

Letter from the Pastor- Barry Freese

Happy New Year!

I look forward to serving as a pastor here at Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church in 2013. Our tradition is deeply needed in our area and in the world. We offer the world a powerful balance of personal holiness and social impact, loving God and loving neighbor.

Thank You For Your Generosity Estimates!

I'm so thankful to the households – over 130 of them – who gave us estimates of their giving during the Enough! generosity campaign at the end of last year. They estimate that they will contribute over \$300,000 to Blue Ridge Church this year. Both numbers are improvements over our last campaign! Thank you very much.

Of course we're also grateful for households who chose not to turn in estimates, yet continue to be generous with God through their giving to Blue Ridge Church.

Thank You For Your Prayers! Here's Two Prayer Focus Areas.

Last year when I asked people to pray for this church fifty people turned in their name, promising to do just that. I'm grateful for each of you and for your prayers. The next step in our corporate prayer life is to develop groups of people who focus their prayers more specifically.

The two foci are 1) intercessory prayers for requests for and from individuals and 2) prayers for our church specifically focused on the Healthy Church Initiative process. Please call the church office to let us know that you'd like to participate in one of these areas.

Healthy Church Initiative

The Healthy Church Initiative process is underway. 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.

Last month we had a Saturday morning visit from Kay Kotan, of Independence, who will be our coach, and Rev. J. Rod Kelley, CDR, USN (ret) who is leading the Peer Mentoring group for the pastors whose churches are participating in this round of the Healthy Church Initiative. Ms. Kotan is the co-author of *Renovate or Die: Ten Ways To Focus Your Church On Mission*, along with Rev. Bob Farr. Rev. Kelley is a former Navy Chaplain and a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church.

See you in worship!

Grace and peace,

Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

blueridgechurch.org

Church Library and Book Update

A number of people have books overdue from the church library. I have learned that once a book is kept too long past its due date, then it is often misplaced or lost. There is no charge for overdue books, but I hope everyone will treat the Church Library books the same way they do the ones from the public library. Occasionally books are not returned for over a year. If you are not sure you have a book out, please call me and I will find out for you. PARENTS-- Please be aware of the books your children check out. I have a few cards which contain only the child's first name that they have signed. In many cases I have no idea how to follow up on this if the book is overdue. Every year several books are lost from our library. Books are expensive and with no budget to buy new ones it means a valuable resource is gone. If you have questions, please call Charlotte Robinson 353-4946

Men of Blue Ridge

Hockey Night: Mavericks vs Allen Americans

The Men of Blue Ridge annual night at the Mavericks will be Saturday, February 16, 2013, 7:00 pm. Ticket price is eighteen dollars each. If twenty or more tickets are purchased there will be a one dollar discount on all tickets. For reservations contact Ron Jensen 816-358-3122 or REJensen24@yahoo.com by Jan. 16.

Music Ministry

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

A heartfelt thank you to staff, musicians, carolers, and video and audio teams for sharing their extra gifts and time during the advent season to help us celebrate the birth of our Lord! You are appreciated!

Box Tops For Education

The Box Tops for Education will be mailed in to the company in February. If you have been collecting them please bring them to church sometime in January. The box tops have been appearing on some new items such as various Green Giant frozen foods. Keep an eye out because you are never sure where they might appear. This is a very easy way to raise funds for the children's division of the church. Please save all you can and bring them to the church and put in the basket at the end of the Narthex.

Inclement weather policy

The church building is closed for all activities when the Raytown School District is closed because of weather.

Women's Retreat Is Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 22, 23 and 24, 2013. \$85.00 is a great price for a weekend away with women friends, bible study, worship and food! All in the beautiful location of Wilderness Retreat and Conference Center outside Lawson, MO. If you did not receive an email letter or do not have an email please contact Deborah DeMoss at 816-358-4321 or email her at kennedydemoss@yahoo.com

Tightening Belts, Pinching Pennies and Electronic Delivery

You may wonder what in the world do these things have in common. First of all if you're not receiving your Envoy Newsletter via email you should be! Not only are you guaranteed quick delivery (you don't have to wait for the unreliable bulk mail delivery system which can often take days) you can access church news within twenty four hours of printing. If that's not incentive enough, you can help to save the church some money. Because we're mailing lots of newsletters to folks that could be receiving them electronically we have extra costs for postage, paper and printing. Call the church office today, talk to Mindy and she'll get you on the list. You can log into the web site, access the newsletter anytime you want. (Did you know you can also access previous newsletters?) If you're one of those people that just likes to hold the paper in your hand, well you can print it right from the computer. And now to the *Tightening of the Belt*. We're all doing it. The economy is such that we're forced to often rethink some of our expenses. We're all cutting back. Help us at the church in our effort to watch our pennies (which are YOUR pennies) and tighten our belts. Sign up now for electronic delivery of your church newsletter. You'll be glad you did!

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 jraymond@att.net or 816-356-4944.

"Panic" to "Peace of Mind" (A Simple Plan to Get Your Finances in Order)

Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to have a personal balanced budget? If so, you will want to sign up for this class. Using this plan you will gain control of your budget and keep it "in the black". The class will be offered on January 28 & 29th as a two-session class beginning at 6:30 p.m. You may sign up for the class by calling the office or registering at the information booth.

While we were in our stewardship campaign this fall, Roy Erwin was inspired to put together how he and Marilyn moved from "panic" to "peace of mind" with their finances. In response to the call upon him during the stewardship campaign, Roy has agreed to share a simple plan that he developed. The class is open to those in our congregation and any neighbors you bring with you. There is no charge for the class.

Night On the Town Mark Your Calendars FEBRUARY 14th

Enjoy a night out enjoying a bowl of home made chili or a Potato Bar plus a drink and a desert.

Watch the [next home Envoy](#) or the [up coming Sunday Envoys](#) for more information. The event will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the UMW.

Plan to attend and the proceeds will go to Missions in the Community.

Children and Family Ministry

Children's Discipleship Coordinator
Samantha Woodward
swoodward@blueridgechurch.org



Get excited for a fun filled semester of LOGOS starting on January 16th! All infants through twelfth grade are welcome. If you would like to register for the Spring semester and did not attend the Fall semester please contact swoodward@blueridgechurch.org. All current participants please lookout for a LOGOS email coming your way. We hope to see you all on January 16th in you winter wear!

Weekly LOGOS Themes For Spring 2013

January 16- Winter Wonderland

January 23- Out of This World

January 30- Pet Night

February 6- Camp Fire Night

February 13- Be My Valentine (Ash Wednesday Services that night)

February 20- The American Dream

February 27- The Wild West

March 6- Backwards Night/Pajama Party

March 13- Blast from the Past (Decades Night)

March 20- Under the Sun

March 27- Superhero Night

April 3- Family Reunion

Golden Key News

The Golden Key Club will meet in the dining room at noon on Thursday, January 10th. We are discontinuing potluck lunches and will have the pleasure of enjoying meals prepared and catered by Phylis Goforth. On the menu for January will be two soups with accompaniments. The cost is \$6.00 per person. As a reminder, if you have not yet paid your dues for 2013 please be prepared to pay \$12.00 for your membership.

Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will be meeting January 8th at 7 pm in the Library and discussing *Heaven is For Real* by Todd Burpo. This discussion will be led by Sue Klotz. Looking forward to February the discussion led by Charlotte Robinson will be on the book entitled *American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin, on February 12th at 7:00 in the Library. All are welcome.

Newsletter Update

Beginning with this months ENVOY, I'll be replacing Anne Norton as editor. Anne has done a superb job with the newsletter and has faithfully brought our church news to us in style and professionally. She's done an outstanding job and I encourage you all to thank her next time you see her and let her know how much we have appreciated her over the years. ~ Dona Meyer

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Check out our website for more info

www.blueridgechurch.org



Service Times:

Sunday mornings 9:00 and 10:30

Pastors:

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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 January 24.

Pictorial Directory!

Reserve your photo time for the new church directory by signing up next Sunday, January 13 or the following Sunday, January 20 at the table in the Narthex just outside the Sanctuary doors. Or log on to www.blueridgechurch.org to reserve your photo time. If you need help with the log in contact Mindy in the church office or Dona Meyer for assistance.

The dates photos will be taken are: February 5-9, 11 & 12 and 22 & 23, 2013. Bring your cat, your dog, your favorite sports item etc. to be included in you photo. Help us make this the best directory ever!

Remember, there is NO cost for this directory, either to you or to the church. You'll receive a free 8 x 10 (which will be the photo you select to include in the directory). You'll also have the option to purchase additional photos if you like, but it's not necessary to purchase any.

If you're a snow bird, you can still be part of the directory. Sign up and find the location in the area where you'll be and you can have you photo taken at that location and they'll automatically send it to us so you can be included in the directory.

Church Family News

The staff of Blue Ridge Church would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, sweets and expressions of appreciation received through the Christmas season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Prayers

For Phylis and Sam Goforth and family in the death of Phylis's step father Luke Barbarick.

For Wendall and Betty Anderson for the death of their daughter Cynthia Bensech of St. Louis on December 17.

For Jay L. for the loss of his father on December 6.

For Charles and Deborah Boyd for the loss of Deborah's father Bob Taylor.

**The January Home Envoy is sponsored by
Larry and Donnie Blair in honor of their
five grandchildren.**

