

Editor's Choice -

Words for Consideration

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers -- so many caring people in this world. - *Fred Rogers*

Shoeboxes Needed

At Crittenton, shoeboxes are turned into "Therapy Toolboxes" for the children. They decorate the boxes and put in play dough, crayons, a stress ball, breathing stars, bubbles and more. If you have any shoeboxes you don't need please save them and they'll get recycled for a very good cause. At Crittenton they use more than twenty a week so there is an ongoing need. Please Contact Sherry Ott or bring your old shoeboxes to the church office and let her know.

To Help Tornado Victims

To make a donation to help tornado victims go to umcor.org and click on Give Now to tornado response or donate by writing a check to the church mark it for tornado relief.

Women's Book Club

The Blue Ridge Women's Book Club will be meeting June 11, at 7:00 pm in the Library and discussing "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The discussion on this great classic book will be led by Sue Klotz. All are welcome!

Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church

The Home Envoy

June 4, 2013

Volume 58, Issue 6

Letter from our Pastor - Barry Freese

Response - able

I write being late for the Home Envoy deadline (thank you for some slack, Dona Meyer; I so appreciate your service to Christ through this, and other, media!). I also write without knowing how the church will vote on the prescriptions from our Healthy Church Initiative weekend.

The deaths earlier this year of two previous pastors, Dr. Lytle and Dr. Atkins, and the retirement of Linda Mann and Debbie Keeton, mean that links to the past are now memories instead of realities. The worship and reception for Linda and Debbie were wonderful. And yet, there's an air of uncertainty that happens when links become memories, even when those memories are so rightly treasured and fresh.

In uncertain times, like so many believers before us, we turn to God for clarity and strength. Our great strength as Christians comes from the unconditional love of God through Jesus Christ. It's this loving grace that enables us to face any challenge full-on. God is graceful! God is able! So, we are able, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, to face any challenge. "**And God is able** to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9.8)

Grace takes us from any concern or uncertainty to being enabled to respond – to being response-able – to share in every good work of God! Thanks and praise be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace,

Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND TEARS

June 2nd was a musical celebration at Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church. It was the end of an era of beautiful music as our Director of Music and Organist, Linda Mann, and our Music Assistant, Debbie Keeton, retired. Several former choir members and friends returned to join the combined choir of the Chancel Choir, Cornerstone Choir, and Youth Choir to sing Psalm of Exaltation. This piece was first presented in 2008 after our church commissioned it from Christian composer, Joseph Martin, in honor of Linda Mann and her more than 30 years of excellent leadership in the music program. Beautiful music, drama, and dance were also shared by the Chancel Bells, Cornerstone Praise Band and Choir, Chet Roberts, Debbie Keeton, Jennifer Mitchell, The Mann Band (Hoot, Linda and John Mann), congregational hymns, Linda and John Mann, Anne Norton and Mary Ann Van Dine. Many tears were shed as the service ended with the glorious sounds of the postlude with organ and timpani. In the afternoon, church members and friends came to the reception in the Fellowship Hall to honor Linda and Debbie and to let them know how much they are appreciated and will be missed.

There are many people to thank for the events of Sunday afternoon. The reception was planned by Elaine Sidebottom, Charlotte Robinson, and Phylis Goforth. Dona Meyer had the very difficult task of working with the various newspapers in order to let people in the surrounding area know about Linda and Debbie and their special day. The hostesses for the afternoon were members of the United Methodist Women. The cost of the reception was covered by generous donations from the Chancel Choir, the Covenant Class, the Builders Class, and members of the Chancel Bells and the Cornerstone Praise Band and Choir. A special thanks to everyone who helped in any way on this very special day in the life of our church. Please keep Linda and Debbie in your prayers as they start a new adventure in their lives.

Children and Family Ministry

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



**Its time for SonRock Kids Camp:
Vacation Bible School!
And its not too late to register!
June 9th-13th at 5:30pm**

Students ages 3 years through fifth grade will participate in a rotation schedule with five fun filled classes; crafts, games, bible stories, snacks, and the new theme center. Our theme this year is camping so there will be lots of interactive nature activities for the children to take part in.

**Forms are available on the website
blueridgechurch.org
and throughout the church.**

Please return your completed forms to the box located at the Visitor Center or myself the first night of VBS. But RSVPs to swoodward@blueridgechurch.org are greatly appreciated!

Thanks again for all the donations and support!

- Samantha

Office Angels Needed



Need a summer break from sitting at home! Join the fun as an Office Angel in the church office a few days a month! Take one, two, three or how ever many days you would like a month for four hours a day. Especially needed on Tuesday's from 12:30 to 4:30 pm and Thursday mornings 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. For more detailed information, contact Sue Klotz 816.373.2237.

From the Library Table

Whether you are reading on the back porch or at the beach, the summer is a good time to just relax and read for fun. During the next three months there will be books or fiction for you to check out as well as other light hearted books dealing with the problems that we all face.

Missing Library Book

The book *Angels Watching Over Me* by Michael Phillips is missing from the church library. It is not checked out. This is the first book in a series of four. I just replaced one of the series that had not been returned after several months and another that "came apart at the seams". If you have borrowed this book, I would appreciate it being returned as soon as possible.

Child-Like Thankfulness

When I started at Blue Ridge last summer, my favorite "giving envelope" was filled out by a child. I could tell by the learning to write block letters, first name only and the dollar amount written in a big bold number. Someone had taught her that giving was important. You give back because God has blessed you with resources to do so. 10 months later, I saw her envelope again -- improved handwriting after a year of school, but still boldly giving what God has blessed her with. When you give with that type of faithfulness, you help with resourcing the ministries of Blue Ridge. April's giving to the ministries of the church \$33,009.93. April expenses for ministries and maintenance were \$37,018.72. I encourage you to give boldly with child-like faithfulness and thankfulness because God has blessed you.

Youth News

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

Guatemala Mission Trip

A group of 9 adults and 8 youth will depart early on June 22 to embark on a 2 week mission trip to Guatemala. They will be working in an orphanage for abused and orphaned girls ages 3-18 yrs old. While the group is there, they will be helping to construct a new building for the girls older than 18 years old, called Casa Ester.

Please be in prayer for Bob & Bonnie D., Ted & Nina H., David J., Aaron & Anne N., Lisa S., Connie T., Jake & Josie F., Caitlin G., Tony M., Hunter P., Iwalani R., Claire R., and Katie R. And thank you to all who have supported this group in prayer and donations!

Graduating Class of 2013

Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

- Laura Braga, daughter of Dan & Sandy, graduate of Raymore-Peculiar High School. Will be attending Missouri State University.
- Elizabeth Brock, daughter of Duane & Christi and granddaughter of Gary & Elaine Sidebottom, graduate of Lee's Summit North High School. Will be attending William Jewell College.
- Jake Friebohle, son of Terri, graduate of Raytown High School. Will be attending Truman State University.
- Caitlin Gritz, daughter of Michelle, graduate of Raytown High School. Will be attending Metropolitan Community College.
- Tony Marcella, son of Mike & Missy, graduate of Blue Springs High School. Will be attending Vanderbilt University.
- Joseph McCutcheon, son of Christian & Leticia, graduate of Raytown High School. Will be attending University of Missouri.
- Brett Miller, son of Jim & Iris, graduate of Raytown South High School. Will be attending Missouri S & T in Rolla, MO.
- Hunter Pescetto, son of Greg & Leigh, graduate of Raytown High School. Will be attending Central Missouri State University.
- Iwalani Rafeale, daughter of Erin & Alonso, graduate of Raytown High School. Will be attending William Jewell College.

Golden Key Luncheon

Thursday, June 13, at noon in the Dining Room

Guests are always welcome.

Menu: Taco Salad Bar and
Sopapilla Cheese Cake Dessert

Cost: \$6.00 per person

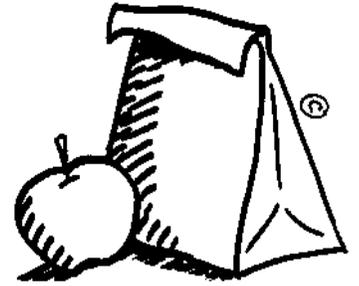
Program: "Johnny Cash" by Harold Dinsmore

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

Helping to Feed the Children of Raytown June - Service and Mission Opportunity

Several of the Raytown area churches have taken on Feeding the Children of the Raytown School Area during the 6 weeks of summer, when there is no lunch program available to them. Some of these families struggle to feed their kids during that time frame so the Raytown Community Interfaith alliance started a ministry a few years ago. They found children are in apartment complexes, in parks playing, and at some of the school yards who were not able to

have a lunch for that day or for any of the days of summer break. The information is supplied through the schools and some of the teachers are helping out by picking up lunches at the delivery spots to help feed the children that they know of, that can't get there to a delivery place



themselves for a sack lunch provided during the summer. The program offers opportunity for donating supplies for the lunches, helping put them together for the deliveries, and for driving to drop off sites to deliver them. Their greatest need for help at this time is to make the deliveries to Kenegy Park, which is a new site this year.

We are offering to pick up the lunches at Raytown Christian Church at 11:30 Monday through Friday, and take them to the delivery point in Kenegy Park. We will have signs and the children will come to us to get their lunches. There is no list of names or check off list we need to do. If we run out of lunches we call the church and more will be made up and be delivered to us at the site. This is done for 6 weeks and we only need 3, possibly 4 people to help each day one of which of course needs to be a qualified driver. Our hope is to get enough people to do the driving and help with the lunches so no one has to do it everyday of the 6 weeks, but perhaps rotate through one day a week or every other week or however we can work it out. I have been excited about this program for a few years, but the timing wasn't right. I think now is the time to show our community that Blue Ridge Blvd United Methodist Church can help those who need. This could be a step toward getting our church on the right track, and this may be just the right opportunity for us. We are asking for those interested with helping to contact the church office at 353-1435, or call Sue Klotz at 373-2237 for more information. We have all of June to get our team(s) together and make a difference in our community and our mission field.

Our Impact offering at the end of June or the first of July will go to this program to help them purchase food to make lunches and to keep this growing program a positive impact in our community. Our service opportunity will be after summer school is out, and there will be more information as the time gets closer. We do need to get our volunteers set up so the program doesn't get stalled by us not doing our part, so please call by June 17th to be part of this program and opportunity of service. You could even try to make it a family event so everyone can learn how easy it can be to help.

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Check out our website for more information -
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 June 27.

Postal Workers Food Drive for REAP

For those who helped sort and store, and who donated through the postal service food drive that benefited REAP - they received 22,360 pounds of food to fill their shelves for those in need. Their shelves were filled, but remember their need never ends, so please consider dropping something off in the Pantry boxes anytime you come to church to continue to feed the hungry thru REAP.

Linda Mann Online Guestbook

Be sure to log into the Kansas City Star and sign the Guestbook for Linda Mann.

Go to: <http://www.legacy.com/celebration/kansascity> and then scroll down to Celebrations. It's a great way to send her your best wishes and thanks!

Church Family News

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:

- friends and family of Nellie May Scheil who died April 26.
- friends and family of Georgene Stinnett who died May 11.
- Barbara Thompson and family for the death of her sister, Jean Ann Dunham who died May 16
- Sandy McConnell and family for the death of her sister Sherry Truman Van Dorn who died on May 21.
- friends and family of Dorothy Ellis who died May 26.

Mark your Calendars:

- June 9-13, 5:30 pm, Vacation Bible School
- June 11, 7:00 pm, Women's Book Club, Library
- June 13, 12:00 noon, Golden Key, Dining Room
- June 22, nine adults and eight youth leave for Guatemala for two weeks.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Pastor Charity Goodwin-Rosario on her ordination at the United Methodist Missouri Annual Conference on Saturday, June 8th! We love you Charity and are so proud of you!