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Mark your Calendars:

- Monday, March 4, 6:15pm, Evening Circle, Dining Room
- Wednesday, March 6, 5:00pm, LOGOS,
- Thursday, March 7, 10:00am, Women's Bible Study, Library
- Thursday, March 7, 12:30pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room
- Wednesday, March 13, 5:00pm, LOGOS
- Thursday, March 14, 12:00noon, Golden Key Luncheon, Dining Room
- Saturday, March 16, Healthy Church Initiative, All-Church Workshop
- Sunday, March 17, 12:30pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room
- Monday, March 25, 7:00pm, Men's Study Group, Room 201
- Wednesday, March 27, 5:00pm, LOGOS
- Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm, Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, March 29, 7:00pm, Good Friday Service
- Saturday, March 30, Easter Egg Hunt

**Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church**

The Home Envoy

March 5, 2013

Volume 58, Issue 3

Holy Week Soup and Scripture Bible Study

Again this year my wife, Sara, and I will share with you in a Holy Week Soup and Scripture Bible study. Be our guest each week day of Holy Week at noon for a hearty bowl of soup and the daily journey with Jesus as he moves toward his Easter triumph. Sara designs the soups, I cook and teach. I hope to journey through Holy Week with you!

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, call me at the church office to join 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.

Most of the report is progressing nicely. We do need assistance with a door-to-door survey of our closest neighbors.

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 call Pastor Charity so she'll be aware of your interest.

2013 Budget

The 2013 budget is available via email. It's also been put out on the information desk in the narthex.

Financial Review

We're grateful to Vaughn Cornish, CPA, and to Sarah Jarvis, Financial Secretary/Generosity Coordinator for their work reviewing our 2011 books to satisfy our *Book of Discipline's* requirements. Their work is almost finished. As with all our financials, Mr. Cornish's review letter will be made available to anyone who is interested.

Grace and peace,

Barry Freese, Lead Pastor



Sermon series on *Emotional Disciples* continues thru Lent.

Join us for worship during Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, March 24. Special observances on Maundy Thursday, March 28 and Good Friday, March 29.

Music Ministry

Director of Music—

Linda Mann 353-4826

lmann@blueridgechurch.org

The Church Orchestra will be playing for Easter Services this year. It is an early Easter—March 31—and just around the corner! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays (March 20 and 27) from 8:15-9:00, and one Sunday, March 24, from 7:00-7:45. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.



Sound Team Coordinator: Thank You Mark Culley

Many times we don't notice the people who work "behind the scenes" for our church. One of these people is Mark Culley, who for many years has voluntarily played drum set for the 9:00 service, youth musicals, and special music, and been in charge of the Sound Team. Responsibilities included not only coordinating the Sunday morning volunteers, but purchasing or repairing equipment, learning about it, training those who used it, and also seeing for the sound needs for events in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall outside of Sunday morning. Mark has done a wonderful job not only in administrative duties but in making sure he kept us up-to-date in technology and found the best price for purchases and repairs; he often took equipment home and figured out how to repair it himself! He spent lots of hours after work, and even adjusted his daytime work schedule, to make sure things were running smoothly. Mark will soon be retired from his "regular" job and will be stepping down from his current volunteer work here so that he and his wife, Deb, can enjoy their retirement and camping/conservation passions. We cannot say enough thanks for all he has done in such a responsible and agreeable manner, and to Deb for her additional support and help. We wish you blessings in your new phase of life! Please don't hesitate to drop Mark a note thanking him for all his service.

From the 2001

Blue Ridge Methodist History Book

Written by Charlotte Robinson

For many in the congregation who have made the church the center of their life, their deepest memories will be the fellowship with the friends they love. Whether it was squaring dancing, sharing in the Wednesday night dinners, going on a trip with the Blue Ridge Travelers, going to Family Camp, eating together at a barefoot breakfast or the dinner theatre, sharing a laugh while working in the kitchen, striving together at the youth or adult work camps, having a cup of coffee in the Beatitude Room, going on a church picnic, or catching up on the news in Sunday School or the entry way, the memories will remain with them forever. When you get together with old friends from the church, those are the stories they want to tell. The shouts of joy when the news is good and the hugs of sympathy when it is a time of sadness, sustain us all.

What of the future? If we can keep the faith as those before us did, if we can stay faithful to the vision as we do now, and if we share our faith with those out in the world, then the future is secure for Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church. We are the future and it is important that we reach out to others and share the faith and the memories with them. What we do day to day doesn't always seem important, but in 50 or 100 years from now those things will be our history. Let those who come after us look back with pride and thanksgiving for all we have left them.

**Save your Saturday morning, March 16,
For the Healthy Church Initiative
All-Church Workshop.**

Watch for details!

Generosity Team Budget Report

The 2013 budget has been finalized and approved by the (Faith in Action Team) FiAT / Church Council. Copies of the budget are available on the desk at the Welcome Center. The Weekly Financial Information Report is available for viewing in the office anytime. Your FiAT / Church Council thanks you for your continued support.. - *Carrol Petre*

Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will be meeting March 12th at 7 pm in the Library and discussing *Red Tent* by Anita Diemont. This discussion will be led by Margaret Tilly. All are welcome.

From the Library Table

Easter is right around the corner and in March you will find a number of books on the library table and on the carts that will help you in your devotions and study as we move through this Lenten Season. Again I urge parents to help their children check out books and leave a phone number in case I need to contact you. - *Charlotte Robinson*

Missing Animals: Children's Library

Three stuffed animals are missing from the Children's Library at church. They are A Cat In The Hat, A Velveteen Rabbit (with a red bow), and The Mouse (from the book If You Give A Mouse A Cookie). If you have borrowed them or see them around the church, please return them to the library or call Charlotte Robinson at 353-4946.

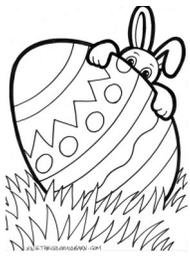
Thanks from UMW!

On Valentine's Day, February 14th, the United Methodist Women sponsored a Chili and Baked Potato Bar evening meal, as a means of raising money for our donation to Mission work. We participate in the global ministries of the church, giving special attention to women, children and youth; and help foster growth in Christian faith, mission education and Christian social involvement.. We want thank all who joined us at the dinner and celebrated the special day in a fun way, and supported us as well. We hope to you and your friends will join us again for another special meal in the fall.

Youth News

Anne Norton– Youth Director
anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Save the Date! Sunday, April 21st, will be Youth Sunday. During both services, the youth will be leading worship with songs, music, skits and drama. There will be a special offering taken during the services with the proceeds to benefit Youth Mission Trips. This summer, the youth (ages 6th-12th grade) will be traveling to Colorado Springs, CO July 21-27 and working to help restore the forest after the wildfires of 2003 and 2012. They will be working hard at high altitudes. We hope you can make this special Sunday and help support the youth at Blue Ridge!



**Mark Your
Calendar:
Easter Egg
Hunt
Saturday,
March 30**

Lots of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy are still needed. Please bring them to the church office as soon as possible so eggs can be stuffed.

Volunteers are also needed the day of the Easter Egg Hunt. Contact Phylis Goforth for more information.

Metro Men's Chorus at Blue Ridge Church

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 14 at 3:00pm when the Metro Men's Chorus will be singing here at Blue Ridge. There will be a special collection taken for Shepherd's Center. Set aside some time on that Sunday afternoon to hear some wonderful local voices as they share their love of music.

Update on New Church Directory

Church directory photo opportunities are coming to an end. If you failed to have your picture taken during the scheduled times, and would like to be included in the new directory, call the church office 353-1435 or Dona Meyer 835-9690 as soon as possible. There are a few options left to get you in the directory but time is running out.

March-April Mission Focus: Hope House

Hope House has provided shelter and comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence in the Kansas City metro area for the past 29 years. Its mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing safe refuge and supportive services that educate and empower women and children. Hope House will advocate social change that protects and engenders a person's right to live a life free of abuse.

The services they offer form a safety net of prevention, education and support for more than 10,000 victims of domestic violence every year. These services include:

- outreach therapy
- court and legal program
- a safe visitation center
- hospital-based advocacy
- on-call women's advocates who work with area police departments
- professional trainings on domestic violence for medical students, newly recruited police officers, corporations, hospital personnel and social workers

Residential and outreach services are provided through two secure locations in Independence and Lee's Summit. These two shelters can house 122 women and their children, and unfortunately, are at capacity every day. In December, 2012 alone, they received 409 hotline calls and they had to turn away 131 people from their shelters.

In addition to the special IMPACT offering that will be taken and split with our global mission program, we will offer a volunteer opportunity one of the last two Saturdays in the month of April. I am still trying to get that scheduled, so watch the Sunday Envoy and the big screen in the sanctuary for further information about that.

Another way to help is through their Go Green campaign. They participate in a program where they can turn in used printer ink cartridges, old cellphones, digital cameras, headphones (no earbuds), laptops, iPods, MP3 players and GPSs for cash. I am hoping we can put a container near the other collection containers (by Hobbs Hall walkway door) and help them out with that, as well. Please stay tuned!

Connie Turnipseed, Service and Mission Team

Golden Key Luncheon

Thursday, March 14, at noon in the Dining Room

Guests are always welcome.

Menu: Fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad, dinner rolls & apple pie

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Program: Easter video by Roy Erwin

Roy will call you for your reservation.

Facility Use: Volunteers Needed

As we are having a problem at times with the coordinating of the use of the various rooms in the church and setting them up and tearing them down, we need to seriously reconsider what we as volunteers can or should do to make the use of our facilities available to all groups.

One step that Church Administrator, Mindy will be taking is to request all groups including the various Sunday School Classes to complete an updated needs form which will include what room, what equipment and what arrangements are needed for their particular group. Also the current contact person so if any additional needs arise they can be handled efficiently. There will be times when needs conflict and the conflicting parties need to work with the church administrator to see that everyone gets taken care of. As to who does the set ups and tear downs, hopefully each group can handle their own, but if they need help, they should clear with the church administrator.

Also we need to expand the list of volunteers that can help with the set ups when the group in charge needs extra help. It has been down to three or four of us old folk that have been carrying this task and we need help. Please call the church office and let Mindy know if you would be willing or know of someone that would be willing to be on call. - *Wes Hougland*

THE ENVOY (USPS 592-420) is published monthly
by Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

Periodicals
Postage Paid
At Kansas City, MO

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

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www.blueridgechurch.org



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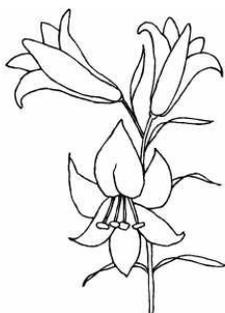
direct: 816-695-2644

The article deadline for the next issue is March 28.

Memorial Service for Dr. Russell Lytle

Dr. Russell Lytle passed away on Tuesday evening, February 19. Rev. Lytle served as the Senior Minister of Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church from 1968 to 1981. Russell and his wife, Marge, made a terrific difference in the life of the church. He led the church in worship, study, and discipleship while Marge was instrumental in recruiting and training teachers needed for the growing number of young people.

in the Sunday School classes. Hobbs Hall was built during those years in order to meet those needs. He returned to the church many times to preach and attend services and was loved by all who knew him. He was cremated and taken to Seymour, MO to be with Marge. A memorial service will be held on March 9 at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary here at Blue Ridge United Methodist Church.



Spring Flowers and Lilies for Easter

A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the church office. At this writing there are only six left. If you're unable to get to the church to sign up, call the church office to reserve yours. This year we will purchase a limited amount of Easter Lilies and spring flowers. Cost is \$15.

Church Family News

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters, thoughts and prayers during my illness. I appreciate all the support from my church family. They are a very special group of friends. - Carol Pregge

Heartfelt Sympathy & Prayers

Are extended to Tom and Sherry Ott in the death of his mother Esther, who passed away on February 11.

Are extended to Bill Lotridge and family in the death of Shirley Lotridge on February 18 at John Knox Hospice.

Are extended to Richard and Elaine Coy and family in the death of her mother.

Please Notify the Church

Hospitals no longer notify churches of members hospitalizations. If you would like your pastors or your church family to know of your surgery or hospitalization, please have someone call the church office.