

Mark your Calendars:

- Sunday, Sept 9, 12:00pm Hospitality Training
- Tuesday, Sept 11, 7:00pm Women's Book Club, Library discussing Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote
- Wednesday, Sept 12, 5:30pm All-Church fried chicken dinner and LOGOS volunteer night.
- Saturday's, Sept 15 & 22, 12:30pm Service Evangelism
- Wednesday, Sept 19, 5:00pm LOGOS begins
- Sunday, Sept 23, 11:30am Generosity meeting-- All church

Inside this issue:

Children & Family Ministry News	2	Local Mission Focus	3
Music Ministry	2	Youth News	3
Generosity Committee	2	Annual Conference Report	4
Golden Key News	3	SPIRIT Groups	5

Blue Ridge Blvd

United Methodist Church

The Home Envoy

Sept 4, 2012

Volume 57, Issue 9

Letter from the Pastor- Barry Freese

Prayer Ministry Appreciation

I'm thankful for God working in the lives and spirits of over fifty people who have signed up during worship for our church-wide prayer ministry. Prayer is so very important to the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. These disciples have offered to pray for our mission, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

My prayer guide these days is *My Utmost for His Highest*. Here are some selections from a recent day's devotion on prayer. The scriptural text is "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11.1

"Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished. Our ordinary views of prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer as a means of getting things for ourselves; the Bible idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.

It is not so true that "prayer changes things" as that prayer changes *me* and I change things. God has so constituted things that prayer on the basis of Redemption alters the way in which [someone] looks at things. Prayer is not a question of altering things externally, but of working wonders in a [person's] disposition.

The Big Day is Sunday, September 23

As long as you're praying, remember to prayer for The Big Day. Plan to be here. It's going to be fun!

...Barry Freese, Lead Pastor

PS Remember, schools are in session. Be extra careful, particularly in areas where students will be waiting for and being dropped off by school buses. And, pay attention to the school zones and the speed limits in those

All Things BIG Day!



The countdown continues. As I write this we have 24 days left. It will be less by the time you get this. You've done a great job. Many people have stepped up, helped up out, said prayers, bought items, and have been trained. Thank you!

Your effort is not overlooked and God will honor the work we have done.

Creating a Culture of Hospitality

Congregation-wide hospitality training will take place Sunday, Sept. 9 from 12:00-1:00p.

This is a great way to learn our plan for hospitality and follow up with guests. The purpose of hospitality is to welcome others as Christ welcomes us and to move first-time guests to new disciples.

God is calling us to have a lifestyle of hospitality. Let's prepare the house and our hearts for the guests coming to worship.

Big Day Hospitality Tips:

- Wear your name tag
- Sit in the middle of the pew, leave room for guests on the outsides
- Circle of 10; greet people with a 10-foot radius of you
- Rule of 3; speak to only guests for first 3 minutes after worship
- Park on grassy field or other designated places, leave prime parking lot for guests.

Wear your smile!

Details....the love is in the details.

You are invited to help with BIG DAY preparations from stuffing guest packets to burning CD's. Show up any of the following Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on September 13th and September 20th. All Big Day team members are encouraged to be present and anyone with a willing heart to serve, we'd love to have you.

From Pastor Charity and Dave & Paula Arn

Children & Family Ministry

LOGOS will begin the fall semester Wednesday, Sept 19th 5:00-8:00pm. This program is open to children and youth 3 yrs-12th grade and is based on 4 components of Worship, Recreation, Bible Study and Family Time. Registration forms are at the Welcome Center and when completed, may be turned into the church office. LOGOS Volunteer Night (for anyone who is volunteering in the program) will be Wednesday, Sept 12th 5:30-7:30 in

the Dining Room. If you have been feeling a little nudge from the Holy Spirit to be more involved, we are still in need of a couple of kitchen helpers (prep, cooking, clean-up), Bible Study leaders for elementary, table parents, as well as a couple of "floaters" to help when needed.

Contact Anne Norton for more info. anorton@blueridgechurch.org or 816-213-0501

Cross-Training has started a new rotation on Sunday mornings called "Man Through the Roof". Cross-Training begins in the sanctuary at 9:00 with worship and the children's moment and then all children ages 4 years old thru 5th Grade, will go to the Fellowship Hall to break out into their rotations.

Parents please pick up your children in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 or as soon as the 9:00 service ends.

Children's Church is at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Chapel for children in grades 1st-5th.

Music Ministry

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

"The right thing to do with godly habits is to immerse them in the life of the Lord until they become ...a spontaneous expression of our lives." This quote from Oswald Chambers reminds us that Christ asks us to live Christian lives 24/7!

As our fall programming at Blue Ridge begins, there are many godly habits available for strengthening our faith. One of these areas is worship. We have many small groups that serve in many different ways. Vocal choirs and hand bell choirs for all ages, present music in worship on a regular basis. Instrumental groups, drama and dance are offerings that meet on a short term basis throughout the year. Help is needed (and training available!) for running the video and audio devices that enhance worship. We also appreciate solo presentations, vocal or instrumental, if you feel called to help in that way.

Whatever your gift, we would be glad to help you share it for the praise and glory of God!

Becoming a member of a small group also helps build relationships with others as we are integrated into the family of God so that together we may go into the world to reach others for Christ.

If you are already involved in the fine arts here, please take a moment to pray for our ministry and for those who may be led to help us.

If you have questions about any group or area, please contact Linda Mann for more information and rehearsal times--you are always welcome to visit a rehearsal.

Generosity Committee Begins New Approaches

"For God so loved the world that he gave..."

We now have a Generosity Committee. This committee was formed when we had a church conference to elect church officials in July. The other members of the new Generosity Committee and I will serve through June 2013, as will other church officials elected this summer.

The Generosity Committee replaces the former Finance Committee, which was responsible for stewardship and finances. Our hope in renaming this ministry is to lead the church in growing spiritually by growing in being generous. In addition to this new hope, the Generosity Committee will continue the responsibilities of the former Finance Committee.

We're also in the process of welcoming new staff and new approaches in software. We're pleased to welcome Sarah Jarvis as our new Financial Secretary. Sarah holds a B.A. in accounting from the University of Northern Iowa and serves on the Missouri Annual Conference Finance Team.

Thanks to the work of Brad Teachman and Sarah we're in a software transition from our fourteen-year experience with Shelby to using ServantKeeper as the church database and QuickBooks as our accounting package. The ServantKeeper offers a big improvement in usability by paid and unpaid staff alike and QuickBooks gives us a tool that is well known by many accountants and bookkeepers.

The Generosity Committee is also moving to have all church finances be publicly available. As a first step Sarah and Pastor Barry Freese will be holding town hall meetings on Wednesday, September 5, at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM, and Sunday, September 23 following worship. Everyone is invited to attend.

Thank you for your generous response to God's gift of Jesus Christ through this church.

Carrol Petre,
Generosity Committee Chair

All-Church Fried Chicken Dinner

There will be an all-church fried chicken dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 5:30p. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Ellen Marquardt, a retired pastor who is a part of our prayer shawl ministry. RSVP to the church office 816-353-1435.

Blue Ridge Mission, Strategy & Focus

Mission: As a United Methodist Church our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Strategy: Our strategy is to become a biblically-based community focused on *training new disciples for Jesus Christ* so that lives, churches, and the world are transformed.

We will fulfill our mission by being a biblically-based community that focuses on training new disciples for Jesus Christ so that lives, churches, and the world are transformed.

We focus on four biblical foundations:

- + **Training Disciples.** Great commission says to "Go out and train everyone" (Matthew 28:19)
- + **Community.** A spirit-led community that remembers Jesus in everything we do. (Luke 22:19-20)
- + **Leadership.** We teach people in the work of the ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12)
- + **Love God and Neighbor.** Both together demonstrate the fullness of faith in action. (Matthew 10:27)

September Mission Focus: Service Evangelism

Our local mission focus for September will be Service Evangelism. Pastor Charity included an article in the July Envoy that said "A small act of kindness...builds the bridge for the person to receive a touch of love from God. It's simple, practical, effective, inexpensive and fun!" The Service and Mission Team would like the routinely plan Service Evangelism opportunities for Blue Ridge Church to reach out to the community. Making this our September Mission focus will hopefully provide the excitement, awareness and funds for future projects.

However, you don't have to wait for future projects. Our first planned Service Evangelism activity will be September 15th and 22nd. We will be passing out bottled water, along with a drink mix on-the-go packet and an invite to the Big Day, at various locations in the community. Volunteers will meet at the church at 12:30, and pass out water from 1-3 pm.

The local portion of our monthly mission offering will support future Service Evangelism opportunities. For more information about servant evangelism visit www.servantevangelism.com.

You can be a part of this important ministry in several ways:

- Donate bottled water
- Donate drink mix on- the-go packets
- Pass out water on Saturday, September 15th
- Pass out water on Saturday, September 22nd
- Participant in the monthly mission offering

If you can help pass out water on either date, please call the church office (816-353-1435), email Terri Frieböhle (stjffrieböhle@yahoo.com), or indicate your interest on the blue community cards during Sunday services.

Your help is needed. The more donations and volunteers, the more people in the community we can touch.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Sherry Ott

Service & Mission Team

Golden Key News

Golden Key Club members and friends will meet for a covered dish luncheon at noon on Thursday, September 13th in the dining room.

Come prepared to share information about any discounts for seniors which you know about.

Don't miss this meeting; it could save you significant money! Guests are always welcome.

Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11th and the book is "Breakfast at Tiffany's" by Truman Capote with discussion led by Charlotte Robinson.

If you would like to join us, please call Charlotte Robinson or the church office for the door code. The meeting is at 7 P.M. in the Church Library.

Youth News

Anne Norton— Youth Director
anorton@blueridgechurch.org

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Sept 9th: YUCK Night 1p-4p
Saturday, Sept 15th: "One Day" service event 9a-4p hosted by YouTheology
Sunday's—Youth Nights 4-5:30p at the youth house and Fine Arts Block 5:30-6:45p in the bell/choir room.

2012 Annual Conference Report

I really appreciate the honor of being able to attend conference and to represent our congregation. I also want to thank Sandy McConnell for stepping in at the last minute to be our other member there for Blue Ridge. I have many things to share, so let's get started.

Let me start by saying-Annual conference was really great this year! Our theme was "*Louder Than Before, Hearing a New Voice*", and there many new voices present. The focus this year was on youth, and there were more there this year than in the past. They led the music for our sessions in the Expo Center, getting nearly everyone on their feet; had a choir of 152 young people, all in their red shirts, singing prior to the Ordination service on Saturday evening. One of the youngest members was an 11 year old girl, who had a voice that rivaled some we've heard on American Idol or other shows. If you want to hear a snippet of that, go to Missioncast.com and look for # 274 and turn up the volume for just a second or so. 17 Elders were ordained during that service. Saturday morning we had 31 elders were honored at the retirement service this year, and 10 newly commissioned probationary elders were also celebrated. During different activities and events we were able to participate in special offerings that were well supported: [Haiti Water Project](#)-\$13,501.40; [Mozambique Bridge](#) (connecting congregations here and there)-\$12,886.56; [Ludhiana Christian Medical College & Hospital](#)-\$12,488.03; [Imagine No Malaria](#)-\$14,359.48.

The speakers at our meetings were excellent and brought us needed messages of how to connect with our young people, high school and college age, so we don't lose them as they move on and grow into new things. Bishop Schanse shared with us that "the median age of United Methodists is approaching 60, while the median age of the general population is approaching 35." His question to us was "how do we reach the next generation when most of our leaders are one or two generations away from the ones we are trying to reach?" One suggestion was to care enough to keep an open mind and learn who they are, but probably the best advice we heard many times, was to *ask, talk, listen, and notice them*, when and where they are, where they are going and find out why. What I heard, was that we must focus more on them and try harder to understand and work *with* them, *where they are* and *where they are headed*. Our communities are in an ever changing world that too often we let just keep going around us and never getting an understanding of why things change. We tend to "remember the good old days" and not let the new stuff get anywhere near us, then wonder what happened and when? So, hopefully we can and will, learn to hear our youth and really listen to what they have in their hearts and on their minds- they are *our future* and we need to find a way to *fill them and ourselves as well*, in this new world we share.

I had the honor of being able to meet with our Mozambique Initiative Coordinator, Carol Kreamer at a breakfast meeting, and then met our new coordinator, Sarah Bollinger. Coral has been in her position for many years, and has devoted her self to helping us understand and continue our connection with our sister church in Mozambique. She has worked with Sarah for several months preparing for this transition, and was honored with at the conference with a plaque for her service. Sarah has energy, youth and personality that will continue to carry on the work that Carol started. Sarah is also a *really* good singer and piano player as she led her group during the Sunday worship service.

The "last word at the conference" was a panel of youth who were sharing the stage with Bishop Schanse. They asked him questions, and he returned with some for them to comment about. They helped plan the conference for this year and they did an outstanding job. Some of the youth comments were;

(Abby) "with 152 youth in the choir for the ordination service, we were heard *louder than before*."

(Tanner) "This was the best of my four years yet."

(Brody) "I will one day need to reach out to youth. This conference is helping me to learn how to reach out to others."

"The movement we're looking toward in the church is not just generational, but there are all kinds of boundaries we have been unable to cross before and we need to learn how."

When asked "What is your hope for the future of UMC";

(Abby) "I hope we can look back at this conference and see this moment as a turning point and that we grow so large we need a new place to meet. I hope we can grow in our faith and as a conference."

(Joe) "I hope we become even more mission focused. The challenge of nurturing someone else can bring people together."

(Brody) "I hope we support people becoming more awkward, stepping out of their comfort zone, to preach and share the word of God and carry it to the next generation."

The most critical question by the youth was directed at the conference as a whole: "What are you going to do when you go back to reach your youth/college age folks?" It is a *very* good question, I wonder how well we will answer that?

Sue Klotz

SPiRiT Groups – Fall 2012

Serve. Pray. Read the Bible. Together.

Short term – 6 weeks

SIGN UP. ..

It's easy! Indicate which group by its number 1-4 you would like to sign up for on the community card or stop by the Welcome Desk to learn more and/or sign up OR go online to sign up... it's easy! All groups will meet at the church.

1. Spiritual Parenting: An Awakening for Today's Families

by Michelle Anthony

Parenting is a joy and a privilege, but it can also be a scary, overwhelming endeavor. When trying to figure out how to raise kids, parents can get caught up in rules and behaviors. However, as we read and explore Spiritual Parenting together, we will realize that Jesus doesn't call for well-behaved kids. He wants to know our kids' hearts and be in relationship with them. In her book, Anthony shares how to structure your home using different environments to nurture the growth of your child's faith.

Facilitator: Terri Friebohle (open to everyone)

When: Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm beginning October 11

2. Experiencing the Heart of Jesus: Knowing His Heart, Feeling His Love by Max Lucado

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.

Facilitator: Donna Teachman (open to everyone)

When: Sundays 10:30-11:30am beginning October 7

3. Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado

This study is based on the book of Acts. With provoking thoughts, questions and prayer at the end of each chapter, we will be comforted and challenged. How we live today is harder compared to a generation ago. So, what does that mean for us? Let's explore together.

Facilitator: Sue Klotz (women's group)

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 10am-12pm starting October 11

4. Questioning Your Faith? It's OK!

Bring your questions and we will pray, ponder, and peruse the scriptures for answers and insights.

Facilitator: Pastor Barry (open to everyone)

When: Wednesday from 7 – 8 p.m. beginning October 10 (concurrent with Logos)

Blue Ridge Blvd Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64133
Phone: 816-353-1435
Fax: 816-353-8770

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30a-4:30p
Office closed on Fridays

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 September 27th.

Church Family News

Prayers go out to the following families:

Thelma Jones, mother of Diane Seif,
passed away August 6,

Jim Norton, father of Aaron, passed
away August 9.

Fall Charge Conference

Our superintendent, Rev. Villa, has set
our fall Charge/Church Conference date
and location as Saturday, November 10,
2012, from 9:00 -10:30 AM at our St.
Luke's Church, James A. Reed and
Bannister. Please mark your calendars
and make plans to attend. Thank you.

Barry Freese
Lead Pastor

Thank You's

* *Many thanks* to all who have sent
cards, prayed, given me rides, etc.
since June 10 when I fell and broke my
arm. I am so thankful that all my
fingers are working properly and I am
out of my sling and begin physical
therapy to get my arm back in shape. I
would particularly like to thank:
*the church staff for all their extra
support, *music assistant Debbie
Keeton for her extra work, and *a
HUGE THANKS to Donna Maddox
for volunteering her beautiful piano
skills to play at the 10:30 service all
summer long. She really went above
and beyond the call of duty! What a
wonderful person and blessing she has
been to me and Blue Ridge. Thanks,
Donna!!! —Linda Mann

* Thank you to my church family for
the many meals provided during my
daughter's illness, the support after her
passing, and most recently with the
estate sale of her personal
property. You are all appreciated more
than you know. I give thanks to God
for giving me so many, many angels.
—Sandy McConnell

Other Dates to Note

Thursday, Sept. 13th, 6:15pm UMW Unit
meeting and potluck.

Monday, Sept. 24th, 7:00pm Men of
Blue Ridge Men's Study Group

Wednesday, Sept. 26th, 10:00am UMW
Mission Team meeting

~ Home Envoy is sponsored by ~

Rob and Jackie Lasswell in celebration
of family birthdays. Jackie on 9/29,
grandson Josh Hightower on 9/25, and
grandson Andrew Abraham on 9/17.