

Welcome Cassie Rogers!

We welcome Cassie Rogers as our new church secretary! She started work Tuesday, August 27th. Her story in Raytown goes back to her grandfather. As a product of the Raytown Quality Schools, Cassie not only knows our mission field, she's lived our mission field all her life. Through her grandmother, she even knows the challenges of living one's faith in declining first suburb

church. Her credentials include an associate degree in graphics and design; her department chair gave her a glowing recommendation.

Yet it was her resume that made her stand out. You want to see it; when you see it you'll know why this resume caught our eye. A copy will be posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. Check it out when you drop by to say to Cassie, Hello! And welcome!



The Home Envoy

Volume 58, Issue 9 September 3, 2013

THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd. Kansas City, MO 816-353-1435 www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

Note from the pastor:

What A Wonderful Group of Church Folks We Have!!

Our next Sunday morning schedule is underway!

What a wonderful group of church folks we have! I so appreciate all of you who shared your thoughts on this shift. It was very, very helpful to me to experience such a wealth of thought. I'm grateful for each of you who took time to communicate with me on this. Thank you!

Within our wonderful group of church folks, I must recognize those of you for whom Sunday school is an important part of your discipleship. I'm so very thankful for each and every person who has guided the conversation about the timing of Sunday school for children, youth and adults, and children's church activities. A particular "shout out" goes to each of you. Thank you!

Another set of our saints who deserve recognition is all those who make up what amounts to our Sunday Morning Team in and out of the sanctuary: our audio and video staffs, our ushers, our greeters, our worship support team and our communion team. Each of these superb groups is important to the worship experience we offer to the glory of God.

And no conversation about wonderful folks would be complete without mentioning all of those who serve by sharing musical gifts, including our dedicated Cornerstone musicians, choirs, bell ringers and soloists, both instrumental and vocal. I look forward to being blessed by all these groups as we transition from summer into fall.

I heard some critique about the timing of announcing the time only a week ahead of time. Having received that critique, I think it's justified. Thank you to everyone who offered input on this issue.

Last Sunday I wore a construction hat to represent that our worship is currently "under construction." We will continue to work on our worship experience. In the weeks ahead our Worship Evaluation Team will offer a report on suggestions about how we can offer worship that touches the souls of those in our two mission fields, people inside the church and people within a mile radius of the church.

Thank you all, in advance, for your patience as we continue to receive and respond to input. I invite your thoughts. Keep talking to me with your input. Thank you for your prayers, input and patience!!

It's a privilege to serve Jesus Christ here!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Barry Freese

Director of Worship Arts

Kevin Hershberger

KevinHershberger@blueridgechurch.org

Has God Put a Song in Your Heart?



Chancel Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday September 4 at 7:30! Choir will play a vital & exciting part in our new combined worship service. Has God put a song in your heart? Then come sing with us!!

Ring to the Lord!

Handbell rehearsals begin Sept 4 at 6:30!

Golden Key Luncheon

Thursday, September 12, at noon
Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church
Dining Room

Guests are always welcome.

Menu: Pot luck

Brad Teachman will be speaking on activities of the Red Cross during hurricane Sandy. He'll also discuss "Identity Theft"

Program:

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

Condolence Dinners

With the changing of the staff and the structure of our church, the United Methodist Women, as a service to the church, have volunteered to help coordinate the Condolence Dinners. There will be a Funeral Team established (per Pastor Barry). A clip board will be available for the Congregation to sign to volunteer with providing a dish for the Condolence Dinners. If you prefer not to make a dish than a contribution will be accepted and the money will be used to purchase the meat and any other necessities for the Condolence Dinners.

Summer Lunch Report 2013

There were 33 churches and organizations that took part this year, 480 volunteers, more than 1600 hours of service, and 16,067 lunches distributed. Our church served over 450 lunches at Kenagy Park over the six weeks. We had volunteers packing, delivering and handing out lunches at the park. We met some of the families, lots of kids and they learned a little more about us also. One young man brought his cat with him one day, just to share him with us. Lots of smiles and happy faces were seen every day. Thanks to all who helped in any way; packing, delivering and handing out lunches, donating to the Impact offering and those who gave money to Raytown Christian Church directly, to offset the costs. The daily average of lunches grew far more than expected, but they came through with flying colors as did our congregation. Thank you for making our first year such a wonderful success!

September 7th - Defeat Hunger!

All Proceeds Go to Harvesters.

This 5K Fun Walk/Run will benefit the Harvesters Community Food Network. Volunteers can help with set up, participate in the walk/run, or help pack lunches. All ages welcomed!

- September 7, 55th Paseo
- Sunrises Services - 7:30 am
- 5K Run/Walk - 8:00am (Cost \$25.00/adult, \$5/kids ages 7-18)
- Harvesters Truck arrives and we start packing lunches - 9:00am to approx. noon.

All proceeds from this event will go to Harvesters. Visit

www.hcdistrictumc.org for more information or to register for the Fun Walk/Run.



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 right away if you're going to participate or are willing to help.

Women's Book Club

The Blue Ridge Women's Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00 pm in the Library. The book they will be discussing is entitled "22 Britannin Road" by Amanda Hodgkinson. The discussion will be led by Dianne Decker. All are welcome!

Funeral Team to Be Formed

We are starting a funeral team to help care for the families when their loved one's funeral is here, and we could use your help. We are looking for greeters at the door to help those coming in and give them directions as needed; someone to help the funeral home people with things they may need or ask about, such as a podium for the sign-in book, memorial envelopes for those who want to give something, stands for flowers if they need more; assist in checking the sanctuary for the white colors and anything the family needs or asks questions about. The United Methodist Women has offered to host the condolence meals. They will be in charge of the food and drinks, and that is another place for you to help. Other things will be with the preparing of, or donating of the food, setting up, serving or helping with clean up. We will be sending around clipboards for you to sign in the near future, if you are interested in any of the areas we have mentioned and perhaps some we haven't thought of. We hope to be able to rotate through a list so no one feels that they need to do it all the time.

As we have done in the past, we will ask for anyone that can, to help with the expense of buying the meat for the dinners, so the church does not have to spend money to do that. Any amount will be welcomed, and it will only be used for that purpose and will be accounted for it as it is given and when used.





WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

**Join the party as we
celebrate that Jesus LIVES
every Wednesday night**

Fall semester begins Wednesday,
September 25th at 6:00pm.

LIVE Celebration begins in the Sanctuary with music and worshipful celebration and continues after worship in age group specific competitive recreation between our WNL families.

Following recreation is a family snack (picnic style). The evening wraps up with age specific bible study. Event ends at 7:30pm.

Any questions or concerns contact coordinator Andy Wanager at wanagers@yahoo.com

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or contact Deborah Demoss at her email: kennedydemoss@yahoo.com

Volunteers are needed: opportunities for family leaders, bible study leaders and worship teams.

Church History Books Available

In 2001 Blue Ridge celebrated its 150th birthday. For an entire week-end the church was filled with people coming together to sing, share a meal, talk about the past, greet old friends, and to worship. At that time a history book was written tracing the long journey from the beginning to the date of our celebration. A number of those books are left. If you are new to the church since then or if you have misplaced your book, please call me and I will arrange for you to get a book. There is no charge, but a donation would be appreciated.

You may reach me at Charlotte Robinson 816-353-4946.

Shepherd's Center of Raytown Annual Used Book Sale

New Days and New Times

- Thursday, September 26 3 PM to 8 PM
- Friday, September 27 9 AM to 5 PM
- Saturday, September 28 9 AM to 1 PM (sack sale)

Sale will take place at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church 6429 Blue Ridge Blvd. (across from Blue Ridge Elementary School). There are hundreds of books available.

Hardbacks: \$1.00 Paperbacks: .50 cents

Help out by donating your used books. There is a box in the Beatitudes Room for your donations.

Shepherd's Center to Be Focus of Service and Mission for Blue Ridge September and October.

Shepherd's Center will be the focus of our Service and Mission effort for September and October. They are holding their annual book sale Thursday through Saturday, September 26-28th at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, 6429 Blue Ridge Blvd. This is always a big event, and one of their primary fund-raisers.

They need volunteers in several areas – sorting books Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, selling during the sale, and cleaning up at the end of the sale. Hours are very flexible.

If you can help in any of these areas, or have books to donate, please call Shepherd's Center at 356-9000.

Our Impact offering will be taken on October 6 and will go to support Shepherd's Center's programs.

Did You Know?

That the United Methodist Women has for years collected old cell phones for Hope House, UP Labels from Campbell and Best Choice products, and Box Tops for Education.

The Campbell labels and Box Tops for Education are used for Spofford - a facility for disturbed and abused children and the Best Choice labels go to financially help Della Lamb Community Center. The old Cell Phones are given to Hope House to be refurbished so they can be given to the Ladies in the facility, if they are in a crisis situation to call for help. Last year in 2012 we took 73 cell phones that the congregation donated. Thank you, the Congregation for the donations you have given for these agencies. These were given in the name of Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church.

Service and Mission Team

The Blue Ridge *Service and Mission Team* is looking for new members to help plan and grow our mission work in our community. Call the church office at 816-353-1435 or Connie Turnipseed at 816-356-1444 for more information.

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Check out our website for more information:
www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

Service Time:
Sunday mornings 10:00 AM

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

Article deadline for next issue is September 26.

Church Office Hours Reminder

The church office is now open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday. The church will still be open on Mondays; all regularly scheduled Monday activities continue. The Friday building Sabbath which began some years back, where nothing is scheduled except weddings and funerals, will continue unchanged.

The Home Envoy Has New Look

Because our newsletter is more and more reaching out into the community to share our news, it was appropriate to change the mast head. We want to grab their attention at first glance and let them know right away this is the newsletter from Blue Ridge United Methodist Church. I think we've accomplished that with this new look. Let me know what you think. - *Dona Meyer*

Mark your Calendars:

- Thursday, Sept. 5, 10:00am, Library, Women's Bible Study and Issues Group
- Saturday, Sept. 7, "Defeat Hunger", 5K Walk/Run
- Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7:00pm, Library, Women's Book Club
- Thursday, Sept. 12, noon, Dining Room, Golden Key Luncheon
- Sunday, Sept. 15, *National Back to Church Sunday*
- Thursday, Sept. 19, 10:00am, Library, Women's Bible Study and Issues Group
- Wednesday, Sept. 25, Wednesday Night LIVE. 6:00pm, Sanctuary
- Thursday, Sept. 26, Shepherd's Center Book Sale 3:00-8:00
- Friday, Sept. 27, Shepherd's Center Book Sale 9:00-5:00
- Saturday, Sept. 27, Shepherd's Center Book Sale 9:00-1:00
- Wednesday, Oct. 2, Wednesday Night LIVE. 6:00pm, Sanctuary
- Sunday, Oct. 6, Pantry Sunday

August Impact Offering

The August Impact Offering went to *Serve 2013 "Defeat Hunger"* If you have not yet made your contribution, you can send a check anytime or use the collection plate on any Sunday. Make sure your check is clearly marked **Impact Offering**.

Use of Blue Ridge Coffee Mugs

If you're part of a group that uses the Blue Ridge mugs please take any used cups downstairs and leave them on the counter to the left of the dishwasher. They will be washed on Monday. If your group uses them, please be responsible and take them along with any silverware or glasses to the kitchen.

To keep things simple, some folks are choosing to bring their own mug with them and then take it home.

This September issue of The News at Blue Ridge has been sponsored by Jim Robinson in remembrance of Milton Gerald Hehr and his March 26 death.