



# THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64133 816-353-1435 www.BlueRidgeChurch.org



## Forgiveness

Marjorie J. Thompson's book *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* is our guide for the remainder of Lent. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus was plain-spoken about forgiving as a part of his expectations. Not that forgiving is easy; yet it's easier with God helping us through the Spirit of Christ. That's God's plan.

When Peter asked Jesus about how many times Peter should forgive, Jesus gave him a number that no doubt surprised him. Some translations put the number at seventy seven. Other translations favor other ancient sources and put the number at seventy *times* seven. Doing that arithmetic leads to forgiving 490 times! (Matthew 18.21-22)

Thanks to Ms. Thompson's book, we can take forgiveness from many different angles. These angles are still ahead of us:

† Mental Reboot, March 30

† Freedom's Embrace, April 6

† Beginning. Again., April 20, Easter

Even if nothing comes to mind for you about forgiveness; Even if no one comes to mind for you about forgiveness, worship with us soon. That way you'll be ready to experience and offer forgiveness when the time comes. I look forward to worshipping with you soon!

## Holy Week

Holy week is called holy because it's the week when we walk with Jesus through his journey to the cross and then we experience the triumph of resurrection on Easter. This year Holy Week begins on April 13 with Palm Sunday. Here's our Holy Week-specific activities

† Palm Sunday worship, 10:00 AM, April 13. As we share in the joy of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem we'll also remember that he came riding a small donkey instead of a grand horse. This is an important clue as to what kind of savior Jesus is. Our message, "Nice donkey!" will move us toward following the humble Christ. Plus, everyone will get a palm frond to wave. It will be fun. (You know you really like waving fronds, don't you!)

† Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00 PM, April 17. What are you doing for dinner on April 17? Be with us for a worship experience which includes a meal, much like the Passover Seder of Jesus' day.

† Good Friday worship, 7:00 PM, April 18. This special time of remembering Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes Easter all the more powerful.

† Easter Sunday worship, 10:00 AM, April 20. Experience the clean slate, fresh start of being absolutely sure that God has triumphed and you can begin again as a forgiven and blessed child of God.

My wife, Sara, and I will again offer the ministry of Soup'n Scripture at noon, Monday through Friday of Holy Week. The simple meals of soup and bread remind us of the simplicity of Jesus' commitment to his Father. Sara's already planning the five soups. While the meal may be simple, the soup's always delicious! I hope you'll be with me at noon each day as we spend an hour together in table fellowship and study of God's word.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Barry

## Mission Statement Art

Have you noticed our mission statement in the Blue Café? It is placed over the video screen and coffee station. Thanks to the hospitality team and trustees for their approval and to David and Sandy Taylor from St. Luke's UMC for their design and implementation showing extreme generosity. Others to whom deserve our thanks: Larry Blair and Brad Teachman for ladders and time and the Builder's Class who paid for the art work.

We Methodists truly are a Connectional Church Family! - *Edna Scahill*

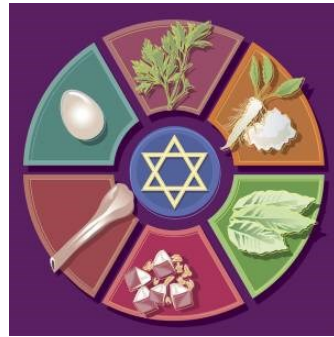


The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm in the Library discussing *Little Women* by Louisa Mae Alcott. This discussion will be led by Charlotte Robinson. All are welcome!

## Passover Feast to be Celebrated April 17th.

"Why is this night different from all other nights?" This question is the heart and soul of the Passover feast. It is asked near the beginning by the youngest child present.

We will be celebrating this Jewish feast on April 17th at 6:30 pm because Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover feast. The feast itself is a celebration of the Hebrew's liberation from slavery in Egypt. Many symbols represent various parts of their exodus in this beautiful feast (10 plagues, the bitterness of slavery, blood on the door posts, and the joy of freedom).



There are striking parallels between the Exodus and Jesus' ministry and sacrifice. It is not for nothing that Jesus is called the "Paschal Lamb." So, the Passover feast has deep meanings for Christians beyond its Jewish foundations.

We will be observing first century customs as much as possible – greetings, prayers, food, and actions. If you've ever wondered what "sop" was that Jesus dipped into during that meal, come and discover what it is! The lamb stew was a poor man's main course. Other first century foods will also be served with a couple of 21<sup>st</sup> century surprises.

The feast will be led by the Rev. Jan and Paul Bond, who have celebrated the Passover annually since 1972. You must make a reservation and the first 40 to sign up will get to be a part of this special Holy Week experience. Just call the church to make your reservation before April 13<sup>th</sup>.

*(Note: a free-will offering will be taken to reimburse the Bonds for the food.)*

## Let's Get Out in the Community and Make Some Friends!

The Mission of our United Methodist Church is to "Train new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". The Vision of Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church to achieve that mission goal is "Creating Relationships in the mission field so that all experience the love of Christ." The Core Values of our Church are Family, Fellowship, Tradition, and Community...

So, let's get out in our community and make some friends! The Lenten season is here so Easter is on it's way. During this time of reflection and celebration of Jesus' Sacrifice, it is fitting that we set our hearts on fulfilling his Great Commission, or at least take a step in that direction.

On Saturday April 26th, our Church will be going out into the community. We will be spreading the message of Love through acts of service. We are calling this a Service Blitz. We have some ideas for what we can accomplish, and believe there will be many more ideas as we come together to do this for our people. The amazing message we have been given is that we are ONE body of Christ. Many of us have experienced or witnessed what an individual part of that whole can do in the name of the Father - IMAGINE if we act as an entire Church body!

EVERYONE is invited to participate. I promise, you will be blessed by the experience. We will have a simple T-Shirt that shows our website location and invites people to visit (the shirt will be blue with white screen print and available for 9.95 per participant (\$2 extra for sizes above 2X). Other than that, this will not be a direct event for evangelism or soliciting visitation/membership. They will see who we are by our clothing, but they will know WHO is with us by our actions!!!!

If you are ready to stand up and join this team - even if you don't know the WHAT or the HOW but can at least say YES to this transformative move...Then we are ready to get started! Please stop and speak with any one of the current BRIDGE team members and we can work out the details and get your T-Shirt!

Your BRIDGE team is Larry Blair, Kennedy DeMoss, Sue Klotz, Connie Turnipseed, Dixie Lee, Andrew Wanager.

This idea was born out of our Healthy Church Initiative and helps us to fulfill the prescription to create BRIDGE events as part of our connection to the local community. Throughout the coming year (and beyond) we will continue to create and host BRIDGE events in our community. The first of which, will be here on church grounds in June. We are really excited about this opportunity!!

Thank you for your service and your fellowship,  
Andy Wanager, 816-694-9095  
andy.wanager@blueridgechurch.org

## Blue Ridge Youth News:

### Youth Trip to St. Louis

On the youth trip to St. Louis we went to Dare2Share. Dare2Share is a conference where youth groups come together to learn more about sharing the Word of God with others. Another thing we learned at Dare2Share is that God is chasing us and we need to slow down long enough for him to catch us.

In other words, slow down so you can listen to God calling you. It was a great trip with great friends from our church! - Emma Huber, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth



## Seven Churches Partner for Stone Soup Luncheon

On the 6th of April we are sponsoring our Annual event of Stone Soup for Spofford. As we did last year we are partnering with seven other churches to help raise money for the children at Spofford Home. It is a fun event and there will be plenty of soup, salads and other goodies to eat. It will be at Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church from 11:00am - 2:00pm. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for age 12 and under. Refills of Chili, Chicken and Vegetable soup will be available for \$1.00. Please come and join us for as great time, and even better, great cause to help children in a tough world.

## The Story of Stone Soup

Many ears ago, three soldiers, hungry and weary of battle, came upon a small village. The villagers, suffering a meager harvest and the many years of war, quickly hid what little they had to eat and met the three at the village square, wringing their hands and bemoaning the lack of anything to eat. The soldiers spoke quietly among themselves and the first soldier then turned to the village elders. "Your tired fields have left you nothing to share, so we will share what little we have: the secret of how to make soup from stones." Naturally the villagers were intrigued and soon a fire was put to the town's greatest kettle as the soldiers dropped in three smooth stones. "Now this will be a fine soup", said the second soldier; "but a pinch of salt and some parsley would make it wonderful!" Up jumped a villager, crying "What luck! I've just remembered where some had been left!" And off she ran, returning with an apron full of parsley and a turnip. As the kettle boiled on, the memory of the village improved: soon barley, carrots, beef and

cream had found their way into the great pot, and a cask of wine was rolled into the square as all sat down to feast. They ate and danced and sang well into the night, refreshed by the feast and their new-found friends. In the morning the three soldiers awoke to find the entire village standing before them. At their feet lay a satchel of the village's best breads and cheese. "You have given us the greatest of gifts: the secret of how to make soup from stones", said an elder, "and we shall never forget." the third soldier turned to the crowd, and said: "There is no secret, but this is certain: it is only by sharing that we may make a feast". And then the soldiers continued on their journey down the road. *(The moral of the story is that by working together and everyone contributing just a little, a greater good is achieved.)*

# STONE SOUP



## Egg Extravaganza

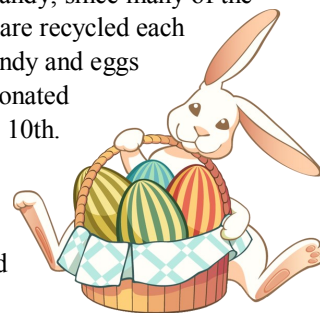
Blue Ridge UMC will again be helping out Main Street Raytown as one of several sponsors of Raytown's Egg Extravaganza on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Barry will be offering the opening prayer.

Besides needing volunteers that morning, we have been asked to donate individually wrapped candies (small enough to fit in a plastic egg), and plastic eggs. The greater need is for candy, since many of the plastic eggs are recycled each year. All candy and eggs need to be donated before April 10th.

Place your donations in the large gift-wrapped box in the

Beatitudes hallway.

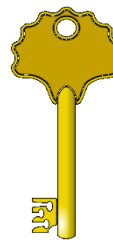
Please contact Connie Turnipseed and let her know as soon as possible if your interested in helping.



## Brunch & Auction, May 2

The next meeting of Church Women United will be on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 (May Fellowship Day). We will have a delicious brunch, entertaining program followed by an auction; the proceeds remaining in our Raytown treasury. All women of the community are invited and encouraged to attend this gathering of women of diverse races, cultures & traditions. Reservations are not necessary. Will be held at our Blue Ridge Blvd UMC from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please contact Marilyn Yorke with any questions 816-356-6694.

## Golden Key



The Golden Key Club meets on the second Thursday of every month. Our monthly meeting is on the 2nd Thursday, April 10, 2014. This month we'll be Dining out at **Hometown Buffet**, at

1:00pm (after the lunch rush). Great fellowship and wonderful food choices! There will be no entertainment this meeting. Pay at the cashier when you enter. Guests Welcome! Come join us. (Should you need information, contact Roy Erwin at 816-356-3572)



## Church Family News

*Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:*

- Gene Brown and family for the death of his brother-in-law on March 1.
- The family and friends of Ed Robertson, retired Methodist Minister, who died March 19.

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### Looking Ahead . . .

## Upcoming Service Opportunity Dates

**April 12** - R.E.A.P. Boy Scout Food Drive  
9:00am - ?

**April 26** - Shepherd's Center Spring  
Cleanup 8:30am - 1:00pm.

**May 17 - 18** - Change the World Weekend (UMC initiative) - watch the News at Blue Ridge and the Sunday Bulletins for more information.

**September 13** - DeFeet Hunger 5K  
8:00am. (Benefits Harvesters)

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*You are invited to the following event:*



## VIM Team Leadership Training

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location: Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

**Country Club UMC**, 400 W 57th St, Kansas City, MO 64113

The Team Leadership Training (TLT) course covers spiritual leadership, effective and healthy short-term mission practices, and mission experience planning.

There will be two breakout sessions in the afternoon: Mozambique Initiative with the Missouri Conference Coordinator, Sarah Bollinger, and Other Mission Plans with Audrey Phelps.

### Course Pre-Requisite

*When Helping Hurts* by Stephen Corbett and Brian Fikkert. This book should be read before your training date. "When Helping Hurts" can be purchased from the following sites: Amazon, Cokesbury and Barnes and Nobel.

We hope you can make it!  
Cheers, Audrey Phelps

## Thank You . . .

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to all my church family, friends and Covenant Class, in particular for the outpouring gestures of sympathy, love and generosity you all have extended to us during this major tragedy in our lives in losing my son, Dr. Jason T. White, who grew up in our church, was an Eagle Scout in Troop #269 and who went on to become an associate professor at NWMSU in Maryville. The Maryville Public Library has set up a Special Memorial Fund for Jason, because he was so well-loved and active, not only at NWMSU, but in the community as well. If anyone would care to contribute, they may do so to Maryville Public Library, 509 N. Main, Maryville, MO 64468. Designate check to Memorial Fund for Jason White. Any questions you may call Stephanie Patterson, Library Director, (660-582-5281) or me. Donors will be updated on what their gifts are used for. Funds may be used to purchase non-fiction books in the business or economic fields, as these were the areas of Jason's teaching expertise and designated as memorial books purchased in memory of his name or some other fitting way to honor him through the Fund. - *Thank you. Sandra White*

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## Mark Your Calendars:

Prayer Shawl	10:00am, Beatitude	Tuesday, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Wednesday Night Live	6:00pm	Wednesday, Apr. 2, 9
Women's Bible Study	10:00am, Library	Thursday, Apr. 3, 17
HOPE Group	3:00pm, Room 201	Thursday, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24
Girl Scout Troop 23	5:00pm, Dining Room	Thursday, Apr. 3, 17
Men of Blue Ridge	7:00am, Ginger's	Saturday, Apr. 5
Stone Soup Luncheon	11:00-2:00pm, Fellowship Hall	Sunday, Apr. 6
Breaktime	9:30am, Dining Room	Monday, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28
Evening Circle	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Apr. 7
Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts	7:00pm	Monday, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28
Women's Book Club	7:00pm, Library	Tuesday, Apr. 8
UMW: Unit Meeting	10:00am, Dining Room	Wednesday, Apr. 9
Golden Key	1:00pm, Hometown Buffett	Thursday, Apr. 10
Soup'n Scripture	12:00noon, Dining Room	Mon.-Fri. Apr. 14 - 18
Girl Scout Troop 305	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Apr. 14, 28
Girl Scout Troop 4027	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Apr. 14, 21, 28
Grief Care	10:00am, Conf. Room	Wednesday, Apr. 16
UMW: Priscilla	10:00am, Room 201	Wednesday, Apr. 16
UMW: Ruth Circle	1:00pm, Library	Thursday, Apr. 17
Maundy Thursday Service	7:00pm, Sanctuary	Thursday, Apr. 17
Good Friday Service	7:00pm, Sanctuary	Friday, Apr. 18
Egg Extravaganza		Saturday, Apr. 19
Easter Worship Service	10:00am, Sanctuar	Sunday, Apr. 20
UMW: Connecting Hands	12:30pm, Room 203	Wednesday, Apr. 23
Pantry Sunday		Sunday, May. 4

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**THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE** is published monthly by Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church, 5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri, 64133. Phone: 816-353-1435. Office Hours are Tuesday thru Thursday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm. Office is closed on Mondays and Fridays. Senior Pastor Barry Freese may be reached by email: [barry@BlueRidgeChurch.org](mailto:barry@BlueRidgeChurch.org) or his direct number 816-835-2545. Contact the Church Office at [ChurchAdmin@BlueRidgeChurch.org](mailto:ChurchAdmin@BlueRidgeChurch.org) Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 am. More information on [www.BlueRidgeChurch.org](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org)