

Summer Lunch Update

Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC started doing the summer lunch program in 2013. The program started in 2008 and has grown by leaps and bounds since then. In 2013 the total lunches Blue Ridge gave out for the 6 weeks was 443 with a weekly average of 63. The program goal for 2014 was to feed over 700 children and we are now feeding 800

after the first week! At our site we have increased the number of lunches delivered to be served from 15 to 30 in just one week. On the second Tuesday, a woman came up with 3 kiddos, asking if this park was where the lunch program was offered. We said yes, visited with her a little bit and gave her 3 lunches. She said only one was in school, and was very surprised that we gave a lunch to all three of
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Volume 59, Issue 08 August 2014



THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

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For Christ's Sake...

These days focus can be hard to maintain. For example, in my morning devotions I begin with twenty-five minutes of silence. On the best days, I focus on an ancient prayer, the short version of which goes like this: "Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy." That's it, as far as words go. I also breath in rhythm with the prayer. The effect is to focus myself on Christ and Christ's mercy, on the best days. And yet, there are times when I lose focus, which creates the need for a new focus.

I suspect that you know what losing focus feels like. The best of intentions, sincere intentions, somehow get sidetracked. You wake up late, and hurry your prayer time. Or something takes longer than you planned in the kitchen and a meal gets all out of sequence and delayed. Or you have a plan for a trip, and something throws off your itinerary. Or you meant to give that long-time friend a call on their birthday, and you end up calling them days later, instead of brightening their day with birthday wishes *on* "their day." All of which creates the need for a new focus.

When the apostle Paul wrote Philemon saying, "I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ." It was a prelude to a new focus for Philemon, his household and the house church that met in his house. Paul was about to appeal to the understanding Philemon had in Christ as the basis for setting a slave, Onesimus, free from slavery. This new focus would certainly cause a shift of focus in the household because the work would have to be rethought and reorganized for Christ's sake.

In the life of Blue Ridge Church I see the need for a new focus: reconsidering individually and collectively how we will operate for Christ's sake. This means a renewal of our commitment to Christ above all else.

It's time for us to rethink and reorganize, for Christ's sake. Collectively, the Church Council has voted to move toward a single board to better fulfill our mission, to train new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The new board will focus on our vision and strategies for Christ.

Individually, I encourage each member to review and renew their promises to support this ministry with their prayers, presence, gifts and service, and consider how living out those promises, guided by scripture, will help you set your hearts and minds on a new, singular, focus: Christ. Those who joined in recent years also promised to support this ministry with their witness. If you have not yet joined us in membership, I will be delighted to talk with you about living out your faith here.

God *will* use for God's good as we refocus on Christ!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry

Testimonies from Service Blitz

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to share with you some of the things that we have experienced while sharing God's blessing of love with our community. As part of my own experience, I was blessed to be a part of a team who provided lawn service for a local lady who was trying to have a garage sale of her own. It was pouring rain for the first hour, and we used much of that time to visit and bless her with the entertainment provided by our youth and children... For your enjoyment, here are some testimonies from a few of the other participants:

Shirley Strawn: *I was willing to do whatever I was needed to do. However, I was glad I got to go to the Conoco station with Phyllis Renken and Dona Meyer to help pay for drinks that the customers who came in were buying. I enjoyed the experience of offering to give some money toward their purchase... We had people ask why we were doing that and I just told them we were out in the community that day meeting folks in OUR community... My most enjoyable experience was a couple of young men. Looked to me like it was an older brother and his younger brother there buying soft drinks and snacks. They were real pleased to get a couple bucks toward their purchase.*

Dave Strawn: *I went with a group to rake and clean up leaves and tree limbs for a Raytown resident. They had a rain delay but went back out after the rain let up. I felt like they got a lot done in the short period of time we were there. I was real impressed with the two youth who were assigned to go with us....one of the DeMoss girls and her boyfriend.*

Dona Meyer: *On the day of Blitz, I went to the Conoco station with Shirley Strawn and Phyllis Renken. I enjoyed meeting and greeting people from the neighborhood as they came to buy coffee, pop or even a sandwich. I held out my hand to offer each a one dollar bill to help pay for their purchase. The looks on their faces were priceless... Several people would visit and chat with us often saying they recognized the shirt and the Blue Ridge logo. "Oh, that's the big church up on the corner!" one woman said remembering visiting the church once. I encouraged her to come back again!*

Phyllis Renken: *I found it harder to give money away than I expected it to be, but I was glad to have taken part in the experience.*



Brad Teachman: *I was part of the crew cleaning up a yard with lots of fallen limbs & leaves. We had lots of help and the cleanup was proceeding nicely despite the rainy day. I failed to ask what we were doing with all the leaves and limbs and volunteered to haul them to our compost pile in back of our house – at the bottom of a steep hill. Well, to make a long story short, the rainy day foiled my 4-wheel drive truck and I was seriously stuck with 4 wheels*

spinning in the muck. I had plenty of time to think about how my willfulness had put me in this problem. If I would have taken time to ask, I would have found out that arrangements were already planned for picking up the brush and leaves. It was a metaphor for Christian living that I needed to "ask before acting". For a Christian,

going to God in prayer before plunging headlong into a human solution will have the best results.

Sue Klotz: *Jan Bond, Marilyn Yorke and I were at the laundry mat at 47th and Blue Ridge Blvd. We enjoyed meeting some of our neighbors but due to the rain we only had the opportunity to visit with four customers. Even though they really didn't want to accept the money we offered, they were very grateful for the assistance.*

The Service Blitz itself was the first of many events coordinated by your Bridge Team here at BRBUMC and we are looking forward to our next event in the community. We are currently working on options for a Trunk or Treat off site. Currently, our coordinators are Andy Wanager, Dona Meyer, Connie Turnipseed, and Sue Klotz. We welcome any visitors to our meetings and recognize that these events are a service of our whole church family. Please contact any of us if you would like more information or would like to assist in planning and coordinating events.

Thank you for all you have done in his service to this day, and thank you for your prayers and support as we move forward and grow our foundation within our local community!

- Andy Wanager, 816-694-9095, wanagers@yahoo.com



The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 pm in the Library

discussing *The House At Riverton* by Kate Morton. This discussion will be led by Sue Klotz. All are welcome!

Volunteer Project at DeFeet Hunger

Although we advertise DeFeet Hunger as a 5K walk/run, which is, that aspect is only a means to raise money for Harvesters (each registration feeds 10+ people). The day is also an important day to volunteer for Harvesters. They need help preparing for the coming school year. They provide sack lunches to high school counselors in 18 surrounding counties, so no high school student who is too embarrassed to admit to his/her friends they aren't getting enough food at home or doesn't have the money to buy lunch, goes hungry. The various non-perishable food items - pudding cups, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, peanut butter crackers, juice boxes, etc. - are placed in a discreet paper bag, and we need your help packing these bags.

The volunteer event starts at 9:00 am, after the walk/run, on Saturday, September 13th at St James United Methodist Church at 55th and The Paseo. You can sign up online at defeethunger.com, or there are forms at the Welcome Center. All it costs to volunteer is your time (it's \$20 if you want one of the t-shirts).

Just a reminder, if you do want to walk or run, registration goes up by \$5 on August 1st!



Golden Key

Our monthly meeting is on the 2nd Thursday (Aug 14, 2014) at noon.

ATTENTION: Meeting is being held at Elliott Place, 9540 E 75th St, Raytown, MO 64133 BLDG 1

This month: Dinner served by Elliott Place staff: \$7.00 per person. Pay GKC Treasurer at the dining room on arrival.

NOTE: Advance reservation is required at time of CALLER contact. Luncheon reservation commits you to pay the fee even if you cannot attend for any reason!

Entertainment: BINGO!!! Bring one "White Elephant" gift item per person --- unwrapped! Guests Welcome! Come join us for fun and fellowship. Fee for lunch and gift item required for this meeting. Bring friends ... they will enjoy the great food and really good fun playing BINGO!

You will receive a call for reservations on Saturday or Sunday prior to the meeting... an attendance number must be submitted Monday morning to Elliott Place.



School starts in about 4 weeks and REAP brought two barrels for the school supplies last Thursday. They will be here three more Sundays, so watch the store ads in the paper, and pick up what you can for the students in the Raytown School District. The tax free weekend will be coming up soon, so your money can go a further if you buy your things the weekend of August 1-3.

We are looking for the basic school supplies. There are lists on the barrels so you have an idea of what to look for when shopping. Please pick one up and take with you.

The Barrels will be picked up early Monday morning on August 11th so they can get things sorted, fill the backpacks that every student will receive so they are prepared for school starting. They have also received a new pair of shoes in the past, so if shopping is not something you do, REAP will accept financial donations as well for school supplies or other things they need. Make your check out to REAP and mark the memo line as "school supplies" and they will get the most they can get with your donation.

Blue Ridge has always been a strong supporter of this school supply program and we hope to help each child start with all the supplies they need. It is a great morale booster for all ages. I will do some shopping this weekend, hope you will join me. *- Thank you, Sue Klotz*

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Summer Lunch Update



the children. Talking with her, we realized she was embarrassed to be in that kind of need and explained

more about the program. She was very appreciative for the help, as are all the families that come to us.

But that is the case of far too many families and children in the Raytown school district. One news source noted that the percent of the children in schools today, and not just in our area, that qualifies for the lower lunch fees or even no fees, is 50% or more. What we do for the 6 weeks in the summer here in Raytown lets them have a well balanced lunch with some variety that they may not have otherwise. It's beyond doing good, it's doing God's work. All who are helping are really "Doing Something"! If you want to help, they need financial assistance to buy food needed for the rapid increase in numbers we are feeding each day. Anything you can offer, can be sent directly to Raytown Christian Church, or to me, but made out to them, with Summer Lunch noted in the memo line and I will give it directly to them. This is another way to "Do Something" to help others. Thank you for participating, and if you want to see what else we can do to continue helping, call Sue Klotz at 373-2237.

WANTED

The church has received a letter from a professor at Middle Tennessee State University looking for a UMW cookbook published in 1949. He is writing a book on Harry and Bess Truman. Apparently, the UMW had requested a recipe from Mrs. Truman and she sent a couple to be included in the book. He would like to have a copy of those recipes if we could locate them. I am hoping that the cookbook might be sitting on the shelf of a son or daughter of one of those early UMW women. If you have old cookbooks, please check and see if this 1949 UMW might be among them. We know it is a long shot, but worth the effort to try and find. If you know anyone related to someone from those early days, please check with them. Email me at crobin1935@aol.com or I can be reached at 353-4946.

- Charlotte Robinson

Missing From the Library: *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

This book has been missing for some time. If you see a book in the book return box in the library or in the hall, please look for the card for that book in the check-out box and put your name on the card. The card should be behind the author's last name. It seems that often books are taken from the return box without checking them out. I am sure everyone intends to return them, but if it is not returned I have no way of knowing where it is. It appears that the first person checking it out has the book and that would not be the case if it had been taken from the return box. Books are expensive and I hate to lose any book.

- Charlotte Robinson

Sandy McConnell to Mission U

As a member of United Methodist Women, I am preparing for the annual Mission U (formerly the Cooperative School of Christian Mission) which is held on the Central Methodist University campus in Fayette. I'm looking forward to this year's study which includes the following topics: (1) How Is It With Your Soul?, (2) The Church and People With Disabilities, Awareness, Accessibility and Advocacy, and (3) The Roma of Europe. Studies for the youth and children will focus on the Disabilities subject. The world has changed and we, the Church, must learn to adapt to those changes and seek new ways to communicate with those with disabilities. I will report on my experience in the September newsletter.

- Sandy McConnell, President
Blue Ridge Unit of United Methodist Women

**Do you have books
from the library
that are overdue?**

**Please return books as
soon as possible.**

**Please check to see if your
children have books for
the church library.**

**Hopefully everyone will treat
the church library as they
do the public library and
return books when due.**

Help Needed

If you'd like to help Dona Meyer publish the newsletter, prepare slides for the Jumbotron, or help maintain the website, please call her at 816-835-9690.

Mark Your Calendars:

Men of Blue Ridge	7:00am, Ginger's	Sat., Aug. 2
Pantry Sunday		Sunday, Aug. 3
UMW: Evening Circle	6:30pm, Dining Room	Mon., Aug. 4
Breaktime	9:30am, Dining Room	Mon., Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25
Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts	7:00pm	Mon., Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25
Church Council	6:00pm	Tues., Aug. 5
Prayer Shawl	10:00am, Narthex	Tues., Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26
HOPE Group	3:00pm, Room 201	Thurs., Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28
Women's Bible Study	10:00am, Library	Thurs., Aug. 7, 21
Girl Scout Troop 305	6:30pm, Dining Room	Mon., Aug. 11, 25
Girl Scout Troop 4027	6:30pm, Dining Room	Mon., Aug. 11, 18, 25
Women's Book Club	7:00pm, Library	Tues., Aug. 12
Golden Key	12:00noon, Elliot Place	Thurs., Aug. 14
Summer Lunch Program	Continues Each Week Day through Aug. 15	
Grief Care	10:00am, Conf. Room	Wed., Aug. 20
UMW: Connecting Hands	12:30pm, Room 203	Wed., Aug. 27

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 or his direct number 816-835-2545. Contact the Church Office at ChurchAdmin@BlueRidgeChurch.org Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 am. More information on www.BlueRidgeChurch.org