



REFLECTIONS AND ANTICIPATION . . .

Ginny and I would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our church family! Your acknowledgment of our one year anniversary, the flowers, the card, and the cookbook were all wonderful. We have both been so very touched by our reception during our first year here at Blue Ridge. As I mentioned in a previous sermon, one family we are born into but there is another family that we choose. We are so thankful that we chose Blue Ridge. I serve the best church in the conference.

It is my hope and prayer that everyone's summer is going well. Summer vacations have been in full swing as we enjoy time with our families and friends, even in the midst of the very hot weather.

Last week we concluded our worship series "better together". I hope you all take some time to reflect on the various messages of the last six weeks. As a church family, we are truly better together. As we show the love of Christ to those in our church, as we encourage one another, and as we care for one another we are practicing and demonstrating the same love of Christ for each other that we need to be demonstrating for those outside of our walls. Those who are not yet a part of our church family.

During the last two weeks, I'm prayerful you've taken the time to show someone else a little extra kindness. Perhaps you have continued to invest in someone's life. Someone who needs a loving friend. I know I talk about this often, but it is truly in my heart. Taking the time out of our busy schedules to share our lives with others is the foundation for so much of our Christian faith. Life is messy. Relationships are messy. But we are called to get messy. We are called to be in the trenches with one another. We are called to be different, to be peculiar. So, take a chance, step out of your comfort zone, and show someone some kindness. Show them the love of Christ.

Starting next week, we begin a new worship series: "Junk in the Trunk – We All Got Baggage". Have you ever opened your trunk and been surprised at all the stuff that accumulates? Or have you ever opened up your garage door or your attic door and seen all the junk? In the last 30 years. Ginny and I have moved 20 times. As I look at our two-car garage, that is strictly being used as storage, as well as our basement, I start wondering how much junk we've moved and never unpacked.

This is easily related to our spiritual lives as well. As the years roll by, we gather emotional and spiritual junk that we carry around with us day in and day out. Over the next couple weeks, we are going to take a closer look at how we organize, filter through, and discard some of our unnecessary junk that we carry around in our lives. My prayer is that as we walk through this worship series together, we will all discard some of our junk and live a less cluttered life. So, join us as we look at the junk in our trunk. - *Pastor Anchul*

CHURCH BOARD NEWS – JULY, 2017

The Church Board met July 11. Sandy McConnell shared a devotion from the UMW Response magazine relating how God is with us through everything (“When the earth melts, God is with us”) Copies of the magazine are in the Blue Ridge Library. The Board members shared their faith experiences and support from the past couple of months.

Pastoral Topics

Pastor Anchul shared and thanked the church for the “surprise” gift presented in worship. He also emphasized and encouraged the value of the Church Board in their leadership role(s) in the church. He had three special items for the Board to consider:

1. Lobby furniture-Woods Chapel UMC was offering a Welcome Desk /Coffee Bar to the church. Bob Downs moved to “Get that thing.” And the Board approved it. Anchul will organize a crew to disassemble, move and modify the structure for the Blue Café area.
2. Safety Expert Advice/Training: Marge Fredrickson’s son, Van, had offered to work with the church to plan for events that impact the safety of attendees. The Board felt it was worthwhile to continue the discussion and move forward on a plan for Blue Ridge. Marge will coordinate with Van on a proposed training.
3. Pastor’s Discretionary Fund: Anchul has encountered folks needing assistance with living expenses and asked what the church provision was for such a fund. The Board discussed the history of various incarnations of the fund. Bob Downs moved that we create or activate an existing fund available for the Pastor to assist needs at his discretion. The Board approved it. Marge will work with the Financial Secretary on implementation.

Generosity and Budget Topics

Misty Fuimaono, our Financial Secretary, provided statements for review. Brad presented her reports and notes along with the following observations:

Contributions for June were about \$2,000 less than expected/budgeted. Year-to-date (YTD) we are about \$4,000 behind expectations for contributions. June costs for Building and Utilities settled down after large April/May expenses. Year-to-date we are still about \$4,000 over budget – mostly due to the needed maintenance. The savings from using volunteers in the office instead of paid staff has kept our YTD Administration expenses down by \$8,000.

So far, income exceeds expenses and we continue to pay down our geothermal loan and pay toward apportionments.

Financial summaries for the church are available in the Beatitudes Entry/Blue Cafe area.

	YTD June 2017	2017 Budget
Total Income	\$126,010	\$130,021
Total Expenses	\$119,165	\$148,727
Net Ordinary Income	\$6,845	-\$18,706

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

Joyce Downing shared that it is Pastoral Evaluation time. She shared that Dona Meyer was entering Vital Signs metrics for the church and the church was in the process of setting/evaluating goals for the annual report. Joyce plans to circulate the evaluation form to the Board and will summarize the responses into the church’s report.

Trustees

- Elevator Maintenance Contract-Marge shared details of a comparison of contract charges for our current supplier (Otis Elevator) and St. Luke’s supplier (Eagle Elevator Corp). The comparison was at the request of Pastor Anchul due to the large difference in annual amounts paid to the two companies (Otis: \$2211, Eagle: \$540) The Board compared the contracts in detail for Maintenance, Part & Labor, Annual Inspection and Call Outs. The Board decided they needed more info to compare annual costs. Marge will get more details and work with Dwight on the issue.
- Geothermal maintenance-Brad shared the “show-and-tell” of the geothermal system maintenance the Board approved. He passed around a storage container of plastic shavings from the system strainers (strainers keep foreign material from expensive heat pump parts) and a sample of a fan belt with serious cracks from use (broken fan belts stop air flow in the systems).

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- Real Estate listing-Brad shared the real estate listing results from the realtor for activity regarding the 51st Street property. No offers have been tendered as of June. The current asking price is \$80,000.

Other Business for the Board

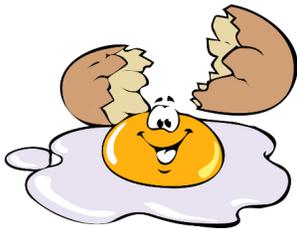
Shepherd Center – Joyce Downing discussed the need to use Blue Ridge facilities for “Adventures in Learning” on Friday, July 28. She also shared the interest of the National Shepherd Center organization in sponsoring and re-establishing a Break Time program at Blue Ridge. Discussions are to continue with church staff, volunteers and Shepherd Center Board members.

Signage for Connection Breakfast-Marge proposed temporary signage for the Connection Breakfast Saturdays. The Board discussed the possibilities, including Facebook postings.

The August Board meeting is planned for Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.

-Brad Teachman, Board Chairperson

JOIN US AND INVITE A FRIEND FOR OUR
BLUE RIDGE CHURCH
CONNECTION BREAKFAST
THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
SERVING FROM 8:30 till 10:00 AM



Bacon and Scrambled Eggs,
Biscuits and Gravy, Fresh Fruit
COFFEE!!

Tea and Orange Juice.

Spend time with your church family/friends
Before your start your Saturday errands.

BINGO AND LUNCH

Golden Key will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 10. We will be having pot luck and playing BINGO. Bring a dish of food and one or two (gently used) BINGO items unwrapped.

CLEANING & ORGANIZING GOES ON

1. Question for the Congregation---- We have somewhere in the church building, approximately 35 new or slightly used Bibles. they are not in any classroom and they are in plain sight!!! Question, Why are they there and how is that spreading the Word of God?? Express any ideas for use of said Bibles should be directed to the Mission Outreach person on the Board.
2. Update on the Catacombs!! Part of the Catacombs is Room 107. Trying to make it the supply room for the entire church. If you or your class or group are doing a project and need some supplies, check 107, it may have what you need. Any leftovers could then be brought back to 107 for the next group. Keep reading for future updates about the Catacombs!! - Wes Hougland

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB meets on the 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm in the Blue Ridge Church Library. Everyone is welcome!

Join Our Book Club!

Date	Book Title	Discussion Leader
August 17	<i>Miller's Valley</i> by Anna Quindlen	Dianne Decker
Sept. 21	<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio	Charlotte Robinson
Oct. 19	<i>Girl On The Train</i> by Paula Hawind	Margaret Strader
Nov. 16	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> by L.M. Montgomery	Jane Wilkes

TIDBITS OF FAITH . . .

All too often we ask, "Why do bad things happen to God's people?" I know that I have asked that many times. People get sick, loved ones get sick or die, and life all around is hard. In fact Rabbi Harold S. Kushner even wrote a book titled "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" because he was getting asked that question so often. In times of hardship, I find myself turning to the Bible for answers. It was during one of those hardships that I found myself in the book of 1 Peter 3:18-22 and I had an AHA moment. Christ also suffered hardships and really rotten days. He was spit on, beaten, mocked, and even crucified for the "crime" of being the Messiah, all while innocent. Am I, who is sinful in nature, better than He so that Christ should suffer and not me? Talk about a humbling experience! About the same time, I was reading a book in which one of the main characters was struggling with her faith and asked her minister the same question. The reply from her minister was "Why not you? Should God place this

burden on someone else so that you may be spared?" When you look at things in hindsight, we can often see God's hand and direction in things. That time you were late because of an unexpected phone call prevented you from being in that life-taking crash along your normal route, that alarm clock you didn't hear allowed you to hear the inspirational message on the radio that your soul needed. Maybe the extra long wait at the doctor allowed you to be a comfort to someone in pain. So, the next time you are having a hardship, I challenge you to stop, take a deep breath, and remember that all things happen according to God's plans. We may be in a storm, but it is God that is directing where the wind blows us and in time, may we be able to recognize God's hands in it. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20.

Prayers to you, Mistie Reed

We're blessed that Mistie, a new member here at Blue Ridge loves to write and share her faith.

UPDATE ON GUSTAVO MORALES

Gustavo Morales is the husband of Diana Rachad who has been heading up our custodial services here at Blue Ridge for over twelve Years. On April 21, Gustavo's kidneys and lungs went into septic shock as he battled pneumonia. He was in the hospital for over three months. A **Go Fund Me** page was set up by his family to receive donations to help with medical expenses. At this time \$8,391 has been donated. If you'd like information on how to contribute or more information about the fund, contact the church office and we'll be glad to help you. Diana and Gustavo's daughter, Diana Navarette posted an update on the **Go Fund Me** page on July 28: "As a lot of you know, dad is finally home. He has been home for about a month now. He feels a lot better being at home in his own bed and eating home made food. It has been a big adjustment because he needs a lot of help still and



we have turned into 24/7 nurses. Even through all of that we are very blessed to have dad home. A lot has been going on. He still has a lot of appointments and needs to see a lot of specialists. He has to constantly be getting blood work done to make sure his kidneys are still functioning properly. He still has a colostomy bag and he is on 2L of oxygen as needed with activity. He still can't walk on his own and he has a wound that is still healing. Thanks to all the donations, we are able to provide home health services, physical therapy \$170 per session, oxygen \$150 per month, colostomy bag supplies, wound care supplies, wheelchair \$100, and medications \$150 per month. He is still recovering slowly but surly. We are very thankful to have people like all of you who have called/ texted, and donated. We still have a long way to go but with God nothing is impossible."

MOVIE NIGHT - AUGUST 11

FREE Outdoor Summer Movie Series. Back Parking Lot - bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and invite your friends to come join the fun!



Movie will start around 8:45 or as soon as it's dark enough.
BEETHOVEN, Rated PG, 87 min. A slobbering St. Bernard becomes the center of attention for a loving family, but must contend with a dog-napping veterinarian and his henchmen. Next movie night is August 25: *Spy Kids*.

Movies will continue outdoors for duration of the summer, then will move indoors. Updated information is also on our website. Dates may be subject to change depending on unforeseen circumstances.

August 25, "*Spy Kids*", Rated PG, 88 Min., Beginning at 8:30 (or as soon as dark enough)

September 8, "Shark Boy/Lava Girl", Rated PG, 90 Min., Beginning at 8:15 (or as soon as dark enough)

Movies Move Indoors! Bring your blankets and pillows and invite your friends!

September 22, "*Star Wars 1*", Rated PG, 133 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

October 13, "*The Goonies*", Rated PG, 114 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

October 27, "*Monster House*", Rated PG, 103 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

November 10, "*Cheaper by the Dozen*", Rated PG 96 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

November 24, "*Raiders of the Lost Ark*", Rated PG 115 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

December 8, "*Noah*" (w/Russell Crowe), Rated **PG13**, **Not** for elementary children - Beginning at 7:15 Inside

December 15, "*The Santa Clause*", Rated PG, 97 Min., Beginning at 7:15 Inside

BEWARE OF TELEPHONE SCAM THAT THREATENS TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED

WARNING People are receiving calls saying that they are from the IRS concerning your tax filing. The caller says that you will be arrested the next day if you do not respond to the call. That is a lie and this is a way to get information from you about your finances or social security number. If you have caller ID watch for the number 646-809-9629. You could be called by other numbers. The best thing is not to answer the phone if it is a strange number. If you answer and the caller says they are from the IRS, hang up. **The IRS does not call you on the phone and neither does the FBI.** Another scam going around is a government agency calling and offering money to widows and children.

These have happened to two of our church members more than once and they wanted to share this very important information. So be vigilante, don't respond too quickly to something that doesn't sound quite right and know you can always call the IRS directly to ask them a question. Call 800-829-1040 to speak with customer service representatives who are available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time.

People most often taken advantage of are the elderly and the sick. It is so sad that there are folks out there scamming others.

This is the church, This is the steeple,
Open the doors, See all the people!

Discipleship Begins with Relationship



#SEE^{ALL}THEPEOPLE

Let's stop fixing churches and start seeing the people God calls us to reach.

Blue Ridge Church
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.
KCMO 64133

BLUE RIDGE CHURCH

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.,
Kansas City, MO 64133

Tuesday -Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Website:

www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

Facebook:

Blue Ridge Church

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**All Church
Pot Luck Luncheon.
September 10th.
Bring a dish of your choice
and we'll have lunch
immediately following service.**