



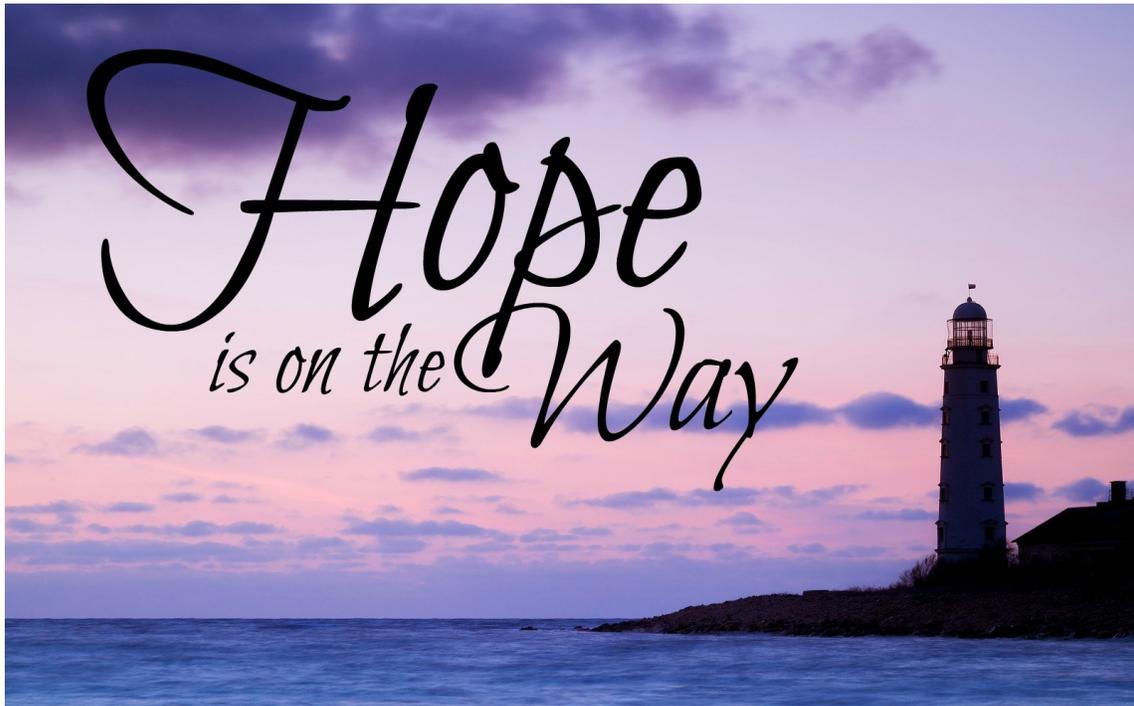
The Home Envoy

Volume 58, Issue 12 December 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](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org)



Our worship series for Advent, *Hope is on the Way*, emphasizes themes of hope, trust, joyful repentance, and watchfulness, looking backwards and forwards in time (at the same time).

Advent is a season of anticipation as we spend a lot of time with prophecy from Christ and John the Baptist. Advent is a season where past and future collide. A time of already here (as in Christ did come and is here) and a time not yet here (Christ will come again).

### Worship Title

### On Sunday

*We Work While We Wait*

December 8

*Hope in the King*

December 15

*A Surprise Adoption*

December 22

*Hope Has Arrived*

**Christmas Eve**

I hope you will be open to hope in your life and faith this Advent. I look forward to worshipping with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry

## The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) process is underway!

Our vision, Creating relationships in the mission field so that all experienced the love of Christ, is our guiding force in ministry. It also provides direction as we move through the HCI process and work to make disciples of Christ.



The Worship Design Team has been meeting on a weekly basis. They are prayerfully working to put the Worship Evaluation Team's recommendations into practice.

The Church Council has started a study on the book *Winning On Purpose: How To Organize Congregations to Succeed in Their Mission* by John Edmund Kaiser. The book is about re-structuring the leadership and organization of the church in order to put our mission, Train new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, into practice. A leadership training retreat has been scheduled for Feb. 21-23, 2014.

The Hospitality and Connection team has started meeting to implement radical hospitality for our guests and members each Sunday morning. We are working to create a Sunday morning experience that fulfills our vision. We will be creating procedures and practices to welcome and connect folks to small groups within our church. If you weren't able to attend the last meeting of The Hospitality and Connection Team on December 3rd, watch for information about their next meeting in the Sunday Bulletin. Please come if you're excited about being part of impacting people in Jesus' name. Everyone with a willing spirit and an open heart is encouraged to join us.

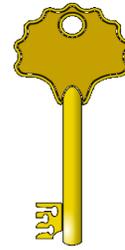
## Need to Plan a Reception?

Do you have a significant birthday, anniversary or wedding that you would like to celebrate with your family and friends? The United Methodist Women of Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC can assist you in planning your reception. We have glass plates, metal silverware, beautiful punch bowls and fabric tablecloths that will help set the scene for your special occasion. We will provide attendants to cut the cake, pour the punch and coffee or serve additional finger foods so that your family and friends are free to enjoy the party. We are there to set up and clean up. Our modest fees for these services are used toward various mission projects. You may contact the UMW reception coordinator, Karen Fahrmeier, at 816-456-5349 for additional information.

## Come Celebrate with Us

Wilderness Retreat and Development Center is celebrating 50 years of changing lives! The event will be on December 7, 2013 at the camp in Lawson, Mo. The ceremony begins at 11:00 AM with a meal after that. There will be time to mingle, chat, take a tour or go around the camp on your own. They do need reservations for the meal, so be sure to call them at 816-296-7484, or email @ [wildernessretreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessretreatcenter@gmail.com) to let them know you will be coming. Many of us have spent time there for fun, to serve and also to work. There have been many changes over the years, so join us to see all the new things, as well as the history they have made with 50 years of service and love.

## Golden Key



The Golden Key Club meets on the second Thursday of every month at Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church. This month we meet on December 12 in the Dining Room, on the

lower floor at 12:00 noon. The menu for the December luncheon is Brisket, cheesy potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls and dessert. The cost for the catered meal is \$5.00 / person. **Registration is required - guests: Call Roy Erwin at 816-356-3572** (payment at door). The entertainment will be the **Raytown High School Choral Group**.

Come join us for fun and fellowship! Enjoy great friends and make new friends. The food is great...entertainment is fantastic.

## R.E.A.P.

REAP Christmas store will be open on December 11th & 12th. Please bring your donations to the church by December 9th. See barrels for specific lists of items recommended.

## O Christmas Tree!

For many years the Covenant Class has put up the large Christmas tree in the Narthex. Because of smaller numbers in class and because of age, they are unable to do that this year. The Methodist Men have volunteered to put up the tree after their Saturday breakfast on December 7. They will be at the church between 8:30 and 9 that morning. At 2 on that Saturday afternoon anyone interested is invited to come to the church to help finish the decorating by hanging the Chrismons on the tree. It will be a great time for fellowship and the opportunity to see this beautiful tree made ready for Sunday morning.



## December Service and Mission

Our December focus is on REAP. We are especially asking for food pantry items during this time to help with the Christmas holiday meal. The barrels will remain at the church through December 9. If you weren't able to pick something up in time to put in one of the barrels, you may send them a check to help buy the things they need for the families, or you can bring it to the church and we will make sure they get it in time to do what they need to do. Our Impact offering was taken on the first Sunday in December and half of that went to REAP and the other half went to Global Missions. If you missed your opportunity to give some money to the Impact Offering on December 1, you can still make a contribution. Be sure your envelope and checks are noted to IMPACT, so we know where it is to go.

**The Christmas offering  
will also go to REAP.**



## Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club  
will be meeting

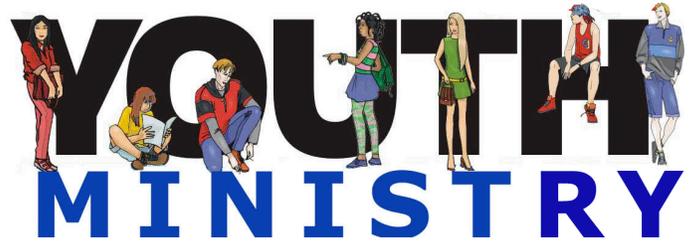
December 10 at 7:00 pm in the Library and discussing *Seasons of Angels* by Debbie Macomber. This discussion will be led by Margaret Tilly. All are welcome!

## Service and Mission Team Meeting

Watch the Sunday Bulletin for the next meeting of the Service and Mission Team. We'll put a note in as soon as we know our date and time. Meetings are generally done 6 times a year. Anyone is invited to join us as we strive to reach out of our comfort zone, and into the mission field around us to do God's work, as we try to demonstrate God's love for those around us.

## Blue Ridge Youth News

A great big thank you to all who bring their cans to the youth house! We were able to turn in six 55 gallon size bags for \$20.00. This money helps the youth have funds for activities and food! (trust me, as a parent with 7 youth involved, boy do they eat the food) If you do not currently recycle your cans or recycle through the city or a recycling station, please consider bringing the cans to church and leaving them on the patio at the youth house. That \$20 was used for a biscuits and gravy breakfast for the youth and several parents/adults on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> after the girl's sleepover/movie night at the youth house. It was great to see everyone here early and ready to eat and learn. Thank You to Marq DeMoss for cooking for all of us.



December is chock full of activities for the youth. Between swim and dive teams, jazz band and orchestra, yearbook and National Honor society our youth are involved in their schools. They are also involved with their church. Scheduled in December is attending a Christian Rock Concert to benefit "Imagine No Malaria", attending the always poignant Christmas Pageant at First Baptist Raytown and gathering for the annual progressive dinner. Please keep the youth in your prayers this holiday season. Deborah DeMoss Volunteer Youth Coordinator [kennedydemoss@yahoo.com](mailto:kennedydemoss@yahoo.com) 816-509-9989

- Blessings, Deborah DeMoss, Volunteer Youth Coordinator

## Rotational Sunday School News

The Rotational Sunday School program for our children age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade is an exciting and fun way for the kids to learn about God. The Program consists of 6 week long "rotations" with each Sunday bringing a different way to learn the same information. They may participate in a puppet show, make an art project or watch a movie. They may also put on a short play, hear a story or play games. Each of the rotations is designed to increase a child's knowledge and understanding of one particular lesson. The children really enjoy learning the Word this way. It is exciting to change classes and leaders each week – with the help of our very faithful "shepherds" Ms. Bernie and Ms. Connie, who are with them each and every week to guide and assist.



Please take a few minutes to search your heart – is God calling you to be in ministry to the children of this congregation just a few weeks a year? Ms. Missy is the faithful servant who has been getting all our information ready for each rotation and she has the material ready for the remainder of this school year. There is not a lot of preparation involved but there is a lot of love around! - Deborah DeMoss Volunteer Children's Coordinator [kennedydemoss@yahoo.com](mailto:kennedydemoss@yahoo.com) 816-509-9989

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**Check out our website for more information:**

[www.BlueRidgeChurch.org](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org)

**Service Time:**

Sunday mornings 10:00 am

**Pastor:**

Barry Freese  
[barry@BlueRidgeChurch.org](mailto:barry@BlueRidgeChurch.org)  
Direct: 816-835-2545

Article deadline for next issue is January 2, 2014.

## Mark your Calendars:

- Monday, Dec. 2, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10:00am, Beatitude Entry Area, Prayer Shawl
- Wednesday, Dec. 4, Last Night for Wednesday Night Live
- Thursday, Dec. 5, 11:00am, Hereford House, Women's Bible Study Christmas Luncheon
- Thursday, Dec. 5, 3:00pm, Room 201, H.O.P.E. Group
- Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:30pm, Library, Service and Mission Team
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:00am, Ginger's, MoBR Breakfast
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 8:30am, Narthex, Putting up Christmas Tree
- Saturday, Dec. 7, Lawson, MO, Wilderness Retreat & Development Center Celebrate 50 Years!, 11:00am
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 8:10 am, UMW Cookie Exchange and Unit Mtg.
- Monday, Dec. 9, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:00am, Beatitude Entry Area, Prayer Shawl
- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:00pm, Library, Women's Book Club
- Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:00am, Dining Room, UMW Unit Mtg.
- Thursday, Dec. 12, 12:00noon, Dining Room, Golden Key
- Thursday, Dec. 12, Room 203, H.O.P.E. Group
- Monday, Dec. 16, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Tuesday, Dec. 17, 10:00am, Beatitude Entry Area, Prayer Shawl
- Wednesday, Dec. 18, 10:00am, Conference Room, Grief Care
- Wednesday, Dec. 18, 10:00am, Room 201, Priscilla
- Thursday, Dec. 19, 1:00pm, Library, Ruth Circle
- Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:00pm, room 203, H.O.P.E Group
- Sunday, Jan. 5, Pantry Sunday

## Church Family News

*Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:*

- Dave and Paula Arn and family for the loss of Dave's mother, Virginia Arn, on November 27.

## Around the Mission Field

### Saturday December 14th, 2013

The Raytown Community Choir will be having a concert to benefit R.E.A.P at 4:00 pm at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, 6429 Blue Ridge Blvd.

### Friday December 6th, 2013

Girls Night Out—Holiday Open House at 6:00 pm located at Renick's Flowers on Raytown Road; Cheese/Crackers & Wine/Hot Chocolate. Also you will be able to decorate a tree or an ornament.

### Tuesday, December 10: Silver Bells

A community Christmas party for adults 55 and older will be Dec.10th from 11am - 1pm at Raytown Christian Church. Cost is \$5 & includes lunch, entertainment, pictures with Santa. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Shepherd's Center of Raytown office; 816-356-9000.