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

## Say Yes! to Grace and Comfort and Rejoicing and God's Possibilities this Advent

Imagine a world known for grace. Imagine a place of comfort and rejoicing. Imagine a time when all the glorious possibilities of God's creation spring forth. Advent is the beginning of all this and more!

We anticipate all that is God's best in Advent as we approach the Christmas miracle. This Advent we'll be encouraging you to Say Yes! to grace and comfort and rejoicing and God's possibilities. I hope and pray that you'll accept our invitation each and every Sunday at 10:00 AM. Here's the schedule:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| November 30 | Say Yes! to Grace   |
| December 7  | Say Yes! to Comfort   |
| December 14 | Say Yes! to Rejoicing, and enjoy special gifts from our Worship Arts Ministry |
| December 21 | Say Yes! to The Possible  |

And on **Christmas Eve** at 7:00 PM our Candlelight Communion service will focus on Say Yes! to Jesus.

## Encouragement Continues

With Jesus walking with you, you have the Spirit encouraging you to encourage others. Choosing to encourage others as God encourages us with Jesus will still have challenges. After all, our culture isn't that encouraging sometimes. It doesn't have to be that way.

I invite you to follow Jesus by practicing encouragement. As we obey Jesus we will be guided by the Holy Spirit, who will teach us what we need to know about encouragement. (John 14.26) We can do this! Here are some tips:

1. Work at not voicing negatives. We all make mistakes. Lord knows I have. Why bring up the bad stuff? John Wesley's General Rules for the Methodists had three key points. The first point was "Do no harm." Don't do harm by giving the negatives your voice.
2. Work recognizing good and giving it voice. Good is all around! Remember, the author of creation is the author of all good. God's good is everywhere. As you practice seeing God's good in people, simply name it. Name what's true and good. The second point of John Wesley's General Rules for the Methodists is "Do good." Do good by giving your voice to what's true and good.
3. God has arranged (ordained) ways to experience God's good. God's good is called grace. The best example of God's grace is Jesus. God's plan for you to experience Jesus includes these means:
  - a. Worship, with all your heart,
  - b. Pray, like your life and someone else's depends on it,
  - c. Remember Jesus; he asked to be remembered when he created what we now call the Lord's Supper... Communion, and
  - d. Serve someone, such as someone who is hungry, or struggling, or in jail, or hospitalized.Experiencing good through God's grace is the third and final point of John Wesley's General Rules for the Methodists: "Follow God's orders." In the 1700s this was called "follow the ordinances of God."

I look forward to encouraging you by naming the good I see in you. And I encourage you to try naming the good in someone else. You'll like it. They'll like it. And God's grace will flow.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Barry



# YOUTH NEWS

## Reap Christmas Barrels Are Here!

I love all the seasons, and the changes that happen from one to another. This is the beginning of one of the best Times of the year for me. A dusting of snow to remind us winter is coming, and so is Christmas. For many, the holidays are difficult and not very happy times. We can do our part to help as many families as possible to have a good and possibly great time this year. The REAP barrels are here in the Beatitudes and the Narthex. They will be here through Sunday December the 7<sup>th</sup>, and they can be filled to the top and more if needed.



I hope everyone can help with one thing for less fortunate families, and maybe a few things if you are so inclined. There are lists on the barrels of things needed for children, teens, adults and families. I have taken one and keep it in my purse, so when I am at a store, I can pull it out and decide what I can do for those families there. It is usually nearly worn out, where it has been creased and opened so many times when I shop. I find it surprising sometimes, when I see something that is just perfect, for someone on



that list. Sometimes I want to wrap it all up, but then I remember that wrapping the gifts is part of the joy of giving things, and I don't want to lessen that for anyone. What I do instead is bring some wrapping paper and sometimes ribbons, so

they can have the fun that I do when I wrap my gifts for family and friends.

To me, giving is the fun and the best part, is seeing the surprise, joy and excitement on the faces when the gift is wrapped and under a tree. Or perhaps spread out on the floor, or on the table, then opened with the excitement of the unknown. Quickly followed by happiness and fun of using, showing off a new thing to the others and smiles all around.

Please join me as you can, to help fulfill the needs and dreams of children and families, that live where we live, and want to do what we often take for granted. In the famous words of Tiny Tim, "and God bless us, everyone!"

- Sue Klotz

What a beautiful autumn we have had this year! Terrific weather when the youth served at REAP in late October as it was in the low 60s. They helped sort the food the scouts delivered. We had a couple of youth who had never been to REAP before so it was quite the fun time and great for them to see how much food is required to feed the needy in our area for just a few short weeks.

In November the weather shifted and it was bitterly cold out the day they served at the Ronald McDonald House Charity downtown. Have you ever seen these houses? One looks like just a large old home while the other, where we served, looks more like a European hostel. We did chores like cleaning out the refrigerator, vacuuming and mopping floors, washing dishes, dusting common areas and reorganizing the art area. This is a large building which can house 40 families while they are here in KC with a child in the hospital. They have 4 kitchen areas where guests can make their own food or eat the food brought in by volunteers. They have a nice "family" area where those with other children with them can hang out, watch TV, play games or do crafts. And they offer a small library for everyone as well. Serving here was a first for everyone and we look forward to doing it again - possibly even being the group to make dinner.

On December 14th we will be attending the annual Christmas Pageant at First Baptist Raytown, then having a meal together. Thank you for your continued support of the youth program at Blue Ridge.

- Kennedy DeMoss, 816-509-9989



## Golden Key

The Golden Key Club meets on the second Thursday of every month at Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church in the Dining Room on the lower level at 12:00 noon.

This month we meet on December 11. The menu for the December luncheon is potluck and the entertainment will once again be the Raytown High School Choir. Join us for fun and fellowship! The food is great...and the entertainment is fantastic.

# Kids on a Mission



Wednesday, Nov 19th marked the end of the Fall Semester of Kids On A Mission. We had a fabulous turn out of excited kids to work in the mission field. Each night began with a devotion and time of prayer, a project in the mission field, and then concluded with the children journaling about their experiences of the evening and how they were touched by the mission project. Mission projects included sharing the Bread of Life with our neighbors, washing windows at a local gas station, free car washes, handing out pet treats at Petco, and distributing Christmas ornaments and playing bingo at the Guardian Angels Residential Care Home. We also took one week to celebrate the talents God gave our Kansas City Royals and watched history take place as we meet at the Youth House and watched Game 7 of the World Series. What a great time we had and shared our talents and gifts with the mission community. If you need your mission hearts recharged I encourage you to join us. The children's enthusiasm and love for Christ and want to share their love with others is infectious. We will be meeting Wednesday, Dec 3 at 6:00 PM in the Blue Cafe to plan for next semester. We would encourage anyone interested to join us. If you have service projects we could do please let Andy Wanager, Missy Marcella, or Callie Ballenger know.



## Church Christmas Tree

For many years the Christmas tree in the Narthex has been a tradition at Blue Ridge Methodist Church. The past few years because of busy schedules and us all getting a bit older, it has been more difficult to find people to assemble and decorate the tree. Dwight and I are willing to work on this, but we cannot do it alone.

We would like to put up the tree on Saturday, December 6. If a few people could help put the tree together at 9 AM, we could hopefully start decorating between 10 and 10:30 AM. We need at least a couple of people willing to climb a high ladder to reach the top of the tree. Even though it is a lighted tree it is older and last year we had to string some lights on the tree. This and the decorating at the top, requires a person on each side of the tree. Putting the tree up is never an easy job, but hopefully we can do it in an hour or so. Then the fun part of decorating begins.

If you could help with this project, please email me at [crobin1935@aol.com](mailto:crobin1935@aol.com) or call us at 353-4946. There are also two large wreaths to put up as well as the Nativity scene to assemble.

We do not want to let this tradition die so please consider helping.  
*- Charlotte Robinson*



## Potato Chips With God

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so beautiful that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him.

The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally! Have lunch with God.....bring chips. *(Source unknown)*

## This December issue

of THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE will be the last production for me.

I will recommend the church use the Sunday bulletin more specifically as a weekly newsletter and consider mailing multiple weeks copies once a month to those of you that have been receiving the newsletter in the mail because of being either out of town or unable to attend.

Those of you who regularly submit articles for the newsletter, please make sure you get your information to the office to get it published in the bulletin until there is word about continuing the newsletter. Just let the office know the date or dates you'll want your article(s) published.

I ask you to join me in remaining hopeful that in the near future the newsletter will be able to continue.

Often, the best solutions lie just around the corner!

- Peace Out, Dona Meyer



## Poinsettia Display

Thank you to all who bought Poinsettias for our Holiday display. They will be on display December 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>. You may take your plants home after service on the 7<sup>th</sup> or after the Christmas Eve service if you chose to leave them until then. It is always nice to see the beautiful color in the church, and remembering those who are honored or remembered with each flower. May your holidays be bright, filled with dreams and memories that bring joy and happiness to all this year.



## Church Family News

Cassie Rogers, who served Christ here as our Church Secretary, decided to pursue work in art. Her last day was November 19. We wish her well as she pursues her heart-felt desire to use her talent and associate degree in graphics.

## To My Friends at BRBUMC;

I can not thank you all enough for everything you have done for me personally! My daughters and I look up to all of you as you were such a great support system for my family! I will miss you all terribly, but hope to see you real soon. I will visit as often as possible and can't wait to share my continued journey with many of you!

- Blessings & Beyond, Cassie Lynn

## Mark Your Calendars:

UMW: Evening Circle	6:30pm, Dining Room	Mon., Dec. 1
Breaktime	9:30am, Dining Room	Mon., Dec. 1, 8, 15
Girl Scout Troop 305	6:30pm,	Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts	7:00pm	Mon., Dec. 1. 8. 15
Church Council	6:00pm	Tues., Dec. 2
Prayer Shawl	10:00am, Narthex	Tues., Dec. 2, 9, 16
Kids On a Mission	6:00pm Blue Café -Planning Mtg.	Wed., Dec. 3
Golden Key Breakfast	8:00am Ginger's Restaurant	Thurs., Dec. 4
Women's Bible Study Luncheon	-11:30 Hereford House	Thurs., Dec. 4
Girl Scout Troop 23	5:30-6:45pm	Thurs., Dec. 4, 18
Men of Blue Ridge	7:00am Ginger's Restaurant	Sat., Dec. 6
Church Decorating	9:00am	Sat., Dec. 6
REAP - Last Day for Christmas Barrels		Sun., Dec. 7
Pantry Sunday		Sun., Dec. 7
UMW: Unit Meeting - Cookie Exchange	- 12:00noon	Sun., Dec 7
Girl Scout Troop 4027	6:30pm	Mon., Dec. 8, 15
Golden Key	12:00noon, Dining Room	Thurs., Dec. 11
Youth Attend Christmas Pageant / Meal		Sun., Dec 14
UMW: Priscilla Circle	11:30am, Hometown Buffet	Wed., Dec. 17
Grief Care	10:00am Conference Room	Wed., Dec. 17
UMW: Ruth Circle	1:00pm V's Restaurant	Thurs., Dec. 18

**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)