

## Church Newsletter to Make Mailing Changes in February

Because of the increased costs of postage and the increased numbers of members accessing their newsletter on line, we will no longer be mailing the newsletter after this issue. You may pick up the most current newsletter at the church any time after the first Tuesday of each month at the Welcome Center in the Beatitude Entry Area and of course each Sunday.

If you live outside of the attendance area for Blue Ridge, and you do not have internet access, please let

us know if you'd like to continue receiving the monthly newsletter by calling the church office at 816-353-1435 and let us know.

If you regularly visit a friend, whether a church member or not, that is either home bound or in a senior care center, feel free to pick up a few extra copies of the newsletters from the Welcome Center and take them with you when you go to visit. If you have any questions, please call Dona Meyer at 816-835-9690 or email her at [dgmeyer2@comcast.net](mailto:dgmeyer2@comcast.net)

*Just go to [www,BlueRidgeChurch.org](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org) and click on newsletter (Quick Links) to see current and past issues.*



The Home Envoy

Volume 59, Issue 01 January 7, 2014

# 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)

## The Mystery and the Joy of Miracles

Our next worship series beginning January 19, 2014 is "It's A Miracle!" We've been collecting opinions on favorite miracles beginning Christmas Eve and continuing during worship for the two Sundays following. Did you share your opinion with us? I hope you did.

Here's some thoughts from Frederick Buechner on miracles:

A cancer inexplicably cured. A voice in a dream. A statue that weeps. A miracle is an event that strengthens faith. It is possible to look at most miracles and find a rational explanation in terms of natural cause and effect. It is possible to look at Rembrandt's Supper at Emmaeus and find a rational explanation in terms of paint and canvas. Faith in God is less apt to proceed from miracles than miracles from faith in God.

After lecturing learnedly on miracles, a great theologian was asked to give a specific example of one. "There is only one miracle," he answered. "It is life." Have you wept at anything during the past year? Has your heart beat faster at the sight of young beauty? Have you thought seriously about the fact that someday you are going to die? More often than not do you really listen when people are speaking to you instead of just waiting for your turn to speak? Is there anybody you know in whose place, if one of you had to suffer great pain, you would volunteer yourself?

A miracle is when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. A miracle is when one plus one equals a thousand.

I do hope you'll be with us for the mystery and the joy of miracles, beginning Sunday, January 19.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry

## The Healthy Church Initiative Update (HCI)



It has been about six months since we voted to support the Healthy Church Initiative. In that time period, we are making good progress on the five HCI prescriptions.

Several teams have been created and work has begun.

**Prescription 1- Vision, Mission, Planning:** A new vision has been created. A leadership and planning retreat is scheduled for Feb. 21-23.

**Prescription 2-Sunday Morning Experience:** The Worship Evaluation Team made its report and recommendations to the Church Council. The Worship Design Team meets weekly to implement the Worship Evaluation Team's recommendations, evaluate and design the weekly worship service. The Hospitality and Connection Team are meeting regularly to implement a process to welcome and connect folks to small groups within our church.

**Prescription 3-Outwardly Focused:** A team has been established to plan and implement one service blitz and three bridge events in our mission field.

**Prescription 4-Leadership Development:** As mentioned above, a leadership and planning retreat is scheduled. The Church Council is studying options to simplify the leadership structure.

**Prescription 5-Intentional Faith Development:** Work will begin soon in this area.

When you joined this church, you made a commitment of your prayers, presence, gifts and service. I invite you all to be in prayer for the HCI process to be successful, to be here to worship with your church family, provide gifts to implement the prescriptions, and use your talents to serve in one way or another in the HCI process.

HCI information is being updated regularly on the church website. If you have any questions or want to be part of the process, please contact Pastor Barry.

## Decoration Appreciation

Several people need to be thanked for our lovely Christmas decorations at church.

Many thanks to the Methodist Men--Larry Blair, Burk, Stanley, Dave Strawn, Dwight Robinson, Wes Hougland, Carrol Petre, Wendall Burton, and Tom Bullock for putting up the tall Christmas tree in the Narthex as well as the large wreaths. It was not an easy job as the tree was up once, many of the lights did not work, the tree was taken apart, some of the lights were fixed, the tree was put up again, and then some lights were added to the "lighted tree." It took longer than expected, but the beauty of the tree make it worth while.

Thanks to those who decorated the tree later in the day--Dwight and Charlotte Robinson, Gary Hanson, and Terri Friebohle. A special thanks to Dwight and Gary who climbed the 10 foot ladders to hang the star and add the ornaments to the top of the tree.

Thank you to Terri Friebohle who decorated the lovely small tree in the entry way off the back parking lot. This is an added decoration this year--a new tradition is born!!

A very special thanks to Sue Klotz for putting out the large nativity scene as well as decorating the sanctuary. Any time you see new banners or arrangements on the large round table, that is Sue's touch.

This years banners and poinsettias are especially beautiful. When you see Sue, thank her for her dedication to this important job in the church.

On Monday, January 6, many of the same folks mentioned above returned to the church to take down, carefully pack and remove the decorations we so enjoyed the past few weeks. Thanks to everyone for their efforts and time in making our church such a beautifully decorated and joyfully lit celebration of Christmas.

## Dinner and Games!

Did you "Save the Date" of January 17<sup>th</sup>? Sure hope so. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is hosting a church wide Family Pot Luck Dinner and Game Night on the 17<sup>th</sup> and your presence is requested. Bring a dish to share for dinner and bring a game you like to play. (Drinks will be furnished). We can play card games, board games, dice games (FARKLE) or others. We will start gathering about 6:00 p.m. and eat about 6:30 p.m. Will you be there?



## Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm in the Library discussing *Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. This discussion will be led by Sue Klotz. All are welcome!

**United Methodist Women  
to sponsored Potato Bar  
February 21.  
Mark your calendars!**

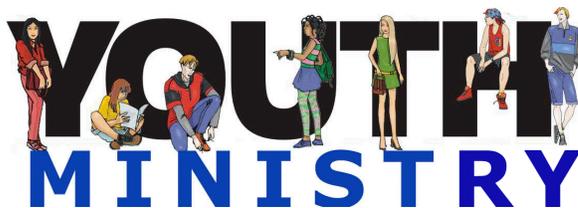
## Blue Ridge Youth News

The youth had a busy Christmas season and are gearing up for the new year.

We will begin 2014 Sunday School discussing "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick

Warren and watching and discussing lessons from "The Skit Guys" videos. Our January youth activity is a lock-in on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> (after the game night!) followed by serving at Harvester's from 1 - 4 pm on Saturday. All are invited to Harvesters with us - we just need a head count to give them by 1/11 so give me a call. You can reach me at 816-509-9989.

- Blessings, Deborah DeMoss, Volunteer Youth Coordinator



## Children's Rotational Sunday School at Blue Ridge United Methodist



At Blue Ridge UMC we do a rotational Sunday School with the children with each rotation lasting 6 weeks. The current rotation runs from December 29- February 2 in which the children are learning about the Good Samaritan. The

bible verse for this rotation is Luke 16:27-28: "Love your enemies and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you." They do a different station each week from Hollywood (movie), Acts of Faith (acting out story), Graceful Games, puppets, storytelling, and Creation Station (art and/or cooking). We are looking for volunteers to lead the stations. The lesson plans are very straight forward, thanks to Missy Marcella who designs our curriculum and easy to follow. If you are interested in teaching a session please let me know by phone at 816-752-6662 or e mail at stiles\_Callie@yahoo.com

- Thank you, Callie Ballenger

## Local Church Reaches Out for Volunteers

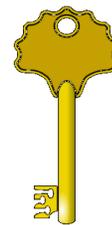
Many of you are aware that I have been volunteering with neighbor2neighbor,inc (<http://www.n2ninc.org/>) for several years. n2n,inc is located in Revolution UMC (formerly Westport UMC) at 40th and Washington in the Westport area. We are in desperate need of volunteers for a couple of weeks. It is unfortunate that our Director is very ill (hospitalized) and the operation of our agency has fallen to our cook and Student Social Worker. We are wanting to continue providing services (open 8:30 - 12:30, serving breakfast and lunch) as we work on staffing. If you personally can spare some volunteer time or you are with an organization looking to provide some volunteer services during the holiday season, we will be so grateful.

Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch (10:15 - Noon) or provide a catered meal (we serve 75 to 100 neighbors daily) to relieve our cook from meal preparation (he is working six days a week). Please call me if you have questions and/or wish to volunteer. Lynda Moore Walker, 816-358-5060

- Thank you, Connie Turnipseed

## 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 January 9 in the Dining Room, on the lower floor at 12:00 noon. The menu for the January luncheon is potluck! The entertainment will be Rosemary Hoover, playing guitar, piano and singing a variety of favorite songs. Come join us for fun and fellowship! Enjoy great friends and make new friends. The food is great...and the entertainment is fantastic.

**Please Think  
Twice Before  
You Toss  
That Label,  
Can or Newspaper!**



### **United Methodist Women**

Continue to collect:

- Old Cell Phones for Hope House
- Best Choice UPC Labels for Della Lamb Community Center
- Campbell's UPC Labels for Spofford.

There are collection boxes in the south end of the Narthex.

### **The Youth**

- Continue to collect and recycle aluminum cans. Just place you bag on the patio/deck behind the Youth House. All monies go to support our Youth.

### **Boy Scouts**

- Continue to collect and recycle newspapers. Bring your papers to the big green and yellow recycling bins on the east side of the parking lot. All the money earned goes to help pay activity and camping expenses for the boys of the pack and troop.

THE ENVOY (USPS 592-420) is published monthly by

## Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Kansas City, MO 64133  
Phone: 816-353-1435

Office Hours  
Tues-Thurs 8:30am-4:30pm  
Office closed on Mondays and Fridays

Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
At Kansas City, MO

POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
to: THE ENVOY  
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd  
Kansas City, MO 64133-2547



**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 30, 2014.

## Mark Your Calendars:

Breaktime	9:30am, Dining Room	Monday, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27
UMW: Unit Meeting	10:00am, Dining Room	Wednesday, Jan. 8, Feb. 12
Golden Key	12:00noon, Dining Room	Thursday, Jan. 9, Feb 13
H.O.P.E. Group	3:00pm, Room 201	Thursday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30
Prayer Shawl	10:00am, Beatitude	Tuesday, Jan. 14, 21, 28
Women's Book Club	7:00pm, Library	Tuesday, Jan. 14, Feb. 11
Grief Care	10:00am, Conf. Room	Wednesday, Jan. 15
UMW: Priscilla	10:00am, Room 201	Wednesday, Jan. 15
Women's Bible Study	10:00am, Library	Thursday, Jan. 16, Feb. 6
UMW: Ruth Circle	1:00pm, Library	Thursday, Jan. 16
Game Night & Pot Luck	6:00pm	Friday, Jan. 17
Youth Lock In		Friday, Jan. 17
Youth Serve at Harvester's	1:00 - 4:00pm	Saturday, Jan. 18
UMW: Connecting Hands	12:30pm, Room 203	Wednesday, Jan. 22
Men of Blue Ridge	7:00am, Ginger's	Saturday, Feb. 1
Pantry Sunday		Sunday, Feb. 5
UMW: EVening Circle	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Feb. 3

## Church Weather Policy:

The Blue Ridge Church building is closed for all activities when the Raytown C-2 School District is closed because of inclement weather.

## Thank You . . .

The Condolence Committee wishes to thank all who gave time, money or food for the Virginia Arn condolence meal following her funeral.

This is a much needed and appreciated service, that we can all be involved with. Please let me know if you would like to participate in the future. You can call me at 816-356-6694.

*- Thank you, Marilyn Yorke*

## We're working hard to keep our website calendar current.

In addition to contacting Cassie to update the office calendar when you have a schedule change, please contact Dona Meyer either by phone at 816-835-9690 or email: [dgmeyer2@comcast.net](mailto:dgmeyer2@comcast.net) so she can make the same updates on the web calendar. To visit the calendar on line go to: [www.BlueRidgeChurch.org](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org) and click on Calendar under the "Quick Links" on the right.