



# The BLUE Review

February 2015

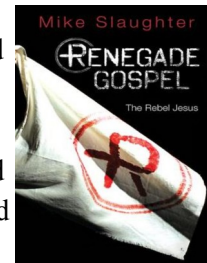


## LENT begins with Ash Wednesday Worship on Feb. 18, 7:00 PM.

Lent is a special time in the Christian year that comes before Easter. Easter is the most important day for Christians, so what makes Lent special is that it is our time of learning and preparation for Easter. We will begin Lent with Ash Wednesday Worship on February 18 at 7:00 PM. Two themes have emerged for Lent. One is a time of acknowledging our mistakes, sins, and working on leaving these behind us. This is called repentance. It's key part of following Jesus. The other theme is a time of learning about the Christian faith. This is probably the older of the two themes; it was in Lent that the ancient church taught people who were new to the faith prior to their baptism on Easter. This year we will focus on Lent as a time of learning about Jesus and what is expected when we follow Jesus as Christ. Our guide for learning about Jesus' example and expectations will be *Renegade Gospel* by Mike Slaughter. We'll use this book in our worship and in groups.

### RECOMMENDED READING: *Renegade Gospel* by Mike Slaughter

Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our pre-conceived notions about what God should look like. Joining his movement will mean coming to terms with the real Jesus, the rebel Jesus. Jesus didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. In *Renegade Gospel*, pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year. Read the red letters and discover Jesus all over again. Available at cokesbury.com; amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.



### PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP

#### BRAD TEACHMAN- COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Brad is honored to be serving this year as the Council Chairperson. He and his wonderful wife, Donna, have been active members in the church since 1996. Brad grew up in the Methodist Church in Omaha, NE, in the 60's and also participated in the United Church of Christ when he and Donna moved to KC in the 70's. He worked as an Industrial Engineer for Armco Steel in the 70's and 80's and Sprint as a computer programmer for 17 years. His retirement in 2008

left him with time to explore God's creation and the world of volunteer opportunities including REAP and Red Cross. His frequent canine companion, Calli, a Border Collie Lab mix, enjoys meeting people and serving God as much as he does. Together they visit Hidden Lake Care Center and the church office on a regular basis. He feels blessed to be able to serve, utilizing the Lord's preparation and many gifts (including generous amounts of patience). He looks forward to Blue Ridge becoming a place where people say they first came to know Jesus.

### Join Us Sunday!

- 8:00 and 9:00 AM Encouragement Bible Study (Adult)
- 8:45 AM Good Samaritan Class (Adult)
- 9:00 AM Covenant Class (Adult) Builder's Class (Adult)
- Youth Sunday School Grades 6-12, Youth House
- Children's Sunday School 4 yrs.-5th Grade, Beatitudes
- 10:00 AM Worship



I see God working here at Blue Ridge Church!

Early this coming spring on Wednesday nights **Kids On A Mission** will continue, building on the spiritual activity and growth of our elementary age young saints. Instead of "programming" Kids On A Mission trains disciples of Jesus Christ by taking them out into our mission field.

Kids On A Mission work includes activities like:

- † Handing out "doggie bags" (plastic bags with dog treats) at our local Petco on Noland Road
- † Washing windshields at area gas stations
- † Distributing flyers to promote other mission field activities, such as the Trunk or Treat event where we saw 201 children
- † Taking "Bread of Life" loaves of bread to immediate neighbors (Bread of Life was created by Edna Scahill.)

The spiritual topper with Kids On A Mission is that one of our saints donated notebooks for the kids. After their mission field activity the kids come back to the church and write in their notebooks about their experience, including where they encountered God! Journaling is a powerful and ancient spiritual practice, and our kids are learning it weekly when Kids On A Mission is in session.

Another important point about Kids On A Mission is that this ministry bubbled up from our laity! (This is true for the Bread of Life, too!) The Spirit of the Lord worked on hearts and our saints acted. Kids On A Mission is the kind of mission field activity that matches up with our mission: Training new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

To share in this wonderful work, contact Missy Marcella through the church office or send her an email to: [Mmaamarcella@yahoo.com](mailto:Mmaamarcella@yahoo.com). It will be a rewarding experience! I promise.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Barry



January 2015

Twelve of us gathered for the first council meeting of 2015. The following is a summary of

our discussion. We spent most of our time getting to know one another and learning about our spiritual journeys. The spiritual development of this group is very important, as we discuss the issues facing the church and our responses to them. We learned more about the "One Board" church model which consolidates Resource Groups (old model) into one group allowing all council members to be involved in decision making, with specific members designated for specific roles. For example, 3 members of the board are designated as trustees and will be the point people for any trustee's needs. The Board will be responsible for setting policy, goals and budget for the church's needs. The One Board system has been shown to be more effective in training new disciples.

We took some time to describe "Mission-focused activities" and used examples from Kids on a Mission (KOM) to illustrate this (see Pastor's Message).

Activities focused outside our walls are opportunities to create new disciples for Christ which supports our mission. In addition, each of the different groups had an opportunity to share what items were at the top of their "to-do" lists:

#### Trustees:

**Roof Repair:** Estimates and financing will be reviewed in the coming months

**Van:** After weighing the options, the van will be kept. More keys will be made available for easier use of the van for church activities. Communication/calendar will need to be established to reserve the van.

**Youth House:** As voted on in 2014, the house will be sold which will affect the Youth and Scouts.

#### Generosity (Finance):

**Bills** are being paid and summary reports are being generated for review by the congregation. These reports are available at the Information Desk.

**Budget:** A draft of the 2015 budget is available at the Information Desk. Please contact Kennedy DeMoss with questions. The council will discuss and approve the budget at the February meeting.

Please feel free to contact me or any council member (listed on the insert) with questions or comments.

Brad Teachman, Council Chairperson

# February Focus



## SPOTLIGHT ON: Black History Month

**THE REV. DR. CHARLES ALBERT TINDLEY** (1851-1933) was one of the eminent preachers of Methodism at the turn of the 20th century. Emory University hymnologist James Abbotton has called Tindley a “pastor, orator, poet, writer, theologian, social activist, ‘father of African American Hymnody,’ ‘progenitor of African American gospel music’ and ‘prince of preachers.’”

The son of slaves, he taught himself to read and write at age 17. He was a driven young man, working as a janitor while attending night school, and earning his divinity degree through a correspondence course. He learned Greek and Hebrew and was awarded two honorary doctorates of divinity from colleges in North Carolina and Maryland.

He was granted a license to preach from Bainbridge Street Methodist Church in Philadelphia, where he was employed as a janitor. In 1902 he was assigned to Bainbridge Street Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as Tindley Temple UMC, this time as its pastor. Tindley inherited a church that grew from 130 to 12,500 members during his ministry.

Tindley also wrote the words and music to dozens of gospel hymns, including five published in the current *United Methodist Hymnal*: *Beams of Heaven as I Go*, *We'll Understand it Better By and By*, *Nothing Between*, *Stand By Me*, *Leave It There*, and the response to the *Psalter to Psalm 124*, as well as others found in the *Songs of Zion* songbook. The hymn, *I'll Overcome Some Day*, may have inspired the most famous song of the civil rights movement, *We Shall Overcome*, also in the UMC Hymnal. A collection of his hymns can be found on the CD, *Beams of Heaven*, available at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).

## METHODIST MISSIONS



The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Blue Ridge Blvd. UMC began in January 2008. After seeing prayer shawls displayed at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission in 2006, then attending a prayer shawl workshop at the United Methodist Women Annual Meeting in Blue Springs in 2007, and finally when my daughter became the recipient of a prayer shawl from a friend at First UMC of Blue Springs, I realized messages were being sent to me to begin a prayer shawl ministry at Blue Ridge.

In order to recruit people to make shawls, an ad was placed in the newsletter offering to teach individuals to knit or crochet so they could participate in the ministry. A day and time was chosen for the knitters and crocheters to meet to work on shawls. This group continues to meet weekly. Prayers are woven into the shawls as they are made and the workers are blessed as well as the recipients.

The ministry was expanded to include making baptism blankets for babies, blankets for children needing comfort, wedding prayer shawls and scarves for high school graduates. The scarves were made of blue yarn to remind the graduates of their Blue Ridge family as they headed off to school or to begin employment. We also make pocket prayers and gave them to individuals during a communion service and the children in children's church. The children really got the message and asked to take pocket prayers to parents that weren't in church and friends that needed prayers.

To date, 368 prayer shawls have been given out. We still need others to help with the making of the prayer shawls. Won't you join us? Call me if you have questions.

Sandy McConnell,  
Coordinator  
816-224-4603



### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 2

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. Jesus was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple.

As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by two elderly people, Simeon, a holy man that was noted as a very intelligent scholar and Anna, a prophetess. Both affirmed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org))

### RANDOM ACTS OF KINDESS WEEK FEBRUARY 9-15

Take this week to step out of your normal routine or comfort zone and attempt a new random act of kindness each day of the celebratory week. For ideas, go to [www.randactsofkindness.org](http://www.randactsofkindness.org)

### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14

The modern Valentine's Day has its history in a Christian legend, and legend only. Most scholars believe that St. Valentine was a priest who lived around 270 AD in Rome and attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II who ruled during this time. Claudius banned marriage of young men who could be soldiers, as it made them lonely and weak. St. Valentine defied him and secretly married young couples. Claudius tried to force St. Valentine to worship his gods but he refused and St. Valentine even tried to convert Claudius to Christianity. This infuriated Claudius. St. Valentine was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion and is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD. ([www.theholidayspot.com](http://www.theholidayspot.com))

### TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 15

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up on a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus.

As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org))

### ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday has been honored by Christians for well over ten centuries. It marks the first day of Lent, a six-week season of preparation for Easter. In the earliest centuries, Christians who had been stuck in persistent sin had ashes sprinkled on their bodies as a sign of repentance, even as Job repented “in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6). Around the tenth century, all believers began to signify their need for repentance by having ashes placed on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus Christ spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: March 1st**



Evening Circle Feb. 2, 6:30 pm  
 Unit Meeting Feb. 11, 10:00 am  
 Priscilla Circle Feb. 18, 10:00 am  
 Ruth Circle Feb. 19, 1:30 pm  
 Mission Team Feb. 25, 10:00 am  
 Connecting Hands Feb. 25, 12:30 pm

For more information, please contact:  
 Sandy McConnell at 816.224.4603 or  
 sandysown@hotmail.com

## February EVENTS

- 1 REAP Pantry Sunday
- 3 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am  
Hospitality Committee, 6 pm
- 5 Women's Bible Study, 10 am
- 7 Men's Breakfast, 7 am
- 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am  
Council, 6:30 pm  
Book Club, 7 pm
- 12 Golden Key, Noon
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 16 **President's Day**
- 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am
- 18 Grief Care, 10 am  
**Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm**
- 19 Women's Bible Study, 10 am
- 24 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am



Blue Ridge Boulevard  
 United Methodist Church  
 5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard  
 Kansas City, MO 64133

**Ash  
 WEDNESDAY  
 SERVICE**  
**FEBRUARY 18**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Holy Communion**



### MEN OF BLUE RIDGE

On the first Saturday of each month, the Men of Blue Ridge Church meet at Ginger's Restaurant, 11555 E. 63rd

St., Raytown, MO, at 7 am. All men are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

### 2015 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Callie Ballinger, UMW Representative
- Jan Bond, Retired Clergy
- Kennedy DeMoss, Treasurer
- Joyce Downing, Pastor-Parish Chair
- Bonnie Downs, Endowment
- Marge Fredrickson, Trustee, Endowment
- Barry Freese, Appointed Clergy
- Charlie Harrel, Pastor-Parish
- Terry Landers, Endowment Chair
- Mark Landingham, Pastor-Parish
- Missy Marcella, Lay Leader
- Sandy McConnell, UMW Chair  
Lay Member to Conference
- Jim McCready, Trustee
- Carrol Petre, Trustee
- Brad Teachman, Council Chair



### GOLDEN KEY

Golden Key will meet in the dining room at noon on February 12th for pot luck and a program by Rick Hill. He will sing and play the piano—a program of the “oldies.” Please join us (with your favorite dish) for fun, fellowship and good food.

*Thank you so very much for helping out with the condolence luncheon for Fern Lewis. The family and I very much appreciate your loving service. This is a very important activity of service to the grieving family. If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Marifyn Yorke at 816.356.6694.*



Was Jesus a REBEL?

Did Jesus start a REVOLUTION?

Do you know the real JESUS?

Join us during Lent to find out.

Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church  
 5055 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64133  
 www.BlueRidgeChurch.org  
 Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Pastor Barry Freese,**  
 barry@blueridgechurch.org  
 Direct: 816-835-2545

**Pastor Jan Bond,** j007@comcast.net,  
 Direct: 417-229-1930

**Kevin Hershberger,** Director of Worship Arts  
 KevinHershberger@blueridgechurch.org

**Sarah Jarvis,** Financial Secretary  
 sjarvis@blueridgechurch.org

**Peggy Simpson,** Church Secretary  
 Church Office, 816-353-1435  
 Church Fax, 816-353-8770  
 churchadmin@blueridgechurch.org



### **CHANCEL EASTER FLOWERS**

Easter comes early this year and Farrand Farms needs lily and pansy orders by March 1st. Order forms will be available Feb. 8 at the Welcome Center, in the bulletins and in the office. Please fill out forms completely and attach payment. You may include form and payment with your regular offering, but please remember to indicate that on your envelope. Flowers may be taken home after worship on Easter Sunday, April 5th. As always, I look forward to celebrating the risen Christ with you on Easter Sunday. Sue Klotz, 816.373.2237, grmasue@yahoo.com.

