

Annual Conference Report 2014

Bishop Schnase opened the 2014 Annual Conference with a year in review report. He lifted up this year's count of 850 congregations, 1,000 active and retired clergy, 170,000 members and 80,000 in attendance on any given Sunday. Since the 2013 annual conference, there has been an emphasis on finding new ways to create and strengthen congregations and clergy. The Missouri Conference has a very distinct focus on a well-defined mission: Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus

Christ. This is the purpose of the annual conference, to lead the congregations. The focus of two fundamentals, Congregations Excellence and Pastoral Excellence, will insure our mission as a Conference to be successful.

Seven strategies essential to a Conference to fulfill its mission include: starting new congregations, clergy peer learning, congregational intervention (HCI is one way of dealing with the 85% of churches growing older and smaller), cultivating clergy excellence, aligning budgets

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Volume 59, Issue 07 July 2014

THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

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Summer Love

It's summer! Things are different in summer. And summer means different things to different people. Likewise, faith means different things to different people as well.

If there are school-age children or grandchildren in your life, the patterns of the household have changed. Even if there are no kids in your house, driving alone is different because the school zone speed reductions don't apply when school's not in session. Unless, of course, it's summer school.

Among the things that are different in summer are the different definitions of summer itself. In the northern half of the Earth, we often define summer as the time after the summer solstice – this year in the U.S.A. it was June 21 at 6:51 AM EDT – when the sun reaches its highest point north of the equator. The days are longest and the nights are shortest on the summer solstice. This is summer, unless you're in the swimming pool, amusement park or other outdoor recreation business. Then summer starts on Memorial Day Weekend, which is anchored by the last Monday in May. Some would say summer really begins when school lets out. Some meteorologists use June, July and August as the definition of summer. Each to their own.

Definitions of faith vary, as well. For some faith is anchored in holding a membership in a synagogue, church or mosque. For some faith means specific actions which are seen as faithful. For example, tithing (giving 10% of your income to the church), or being frequent in worship attendance, or having specific activities where the faithful serve others. For some faith is being intentionally loving in relationships because the faithful are to "love one another" and "love your neighbor." For some faith focuses on being personally active in justice, treasuring mercy and having a relationship with God that reflects your humble appreciation of all God has done.

Even though definitions of summer, and of faith, vary, what doesn't vary is that God is involved in both. The creator of all things designed our seasons and expects our faithfulness. God will continue to share both with us forever. Our joy is to work out how we respond to God's love. My prayer for you is that you will focus on some way to deepen your love this summer. May your summer love of 2014 be a memorable season!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry

DeFeet Hunger: Serve 2014

Registration is now open for the United Methodist's DeFeet Hunger 5K and volunteer event on September 13, 2014.

The 5K run/walk starts at 8:00 am, and like last year, volunteers are also needed, whether you participate in the race or not, to pack sack lunches for Harvesters to give to high school guidance counselor's offices across a 26 county area in Western Missouri/Eastern Kansas. This allows high school students, who want to be discrete, to get something to eat. Last year 8,000 lunches were packed by 300 race participants and volunteers. This year the goal is to have 500 participants and volunteers and pack 10,000 lunches.

Sign up at <http://www.defeethunger.com/raceinfo/> Ages 19+: From now thru 7/31 - \$25. From 8/1 to 8/31 - \$30. From 9/1 to race - \$35. Ages 7 to 18 - from now thru 8-31 - \$5. From 9/1 to race - \$35. Volunteers are free; however, if you want to purchase a t-shirt, it is \$20. I have registered. Will you join me? Send questions to ctseed@ymail.com.



Space Mission Bible Camp (VBS)

Sunday, July 20 -Thursday, July 24, 2014

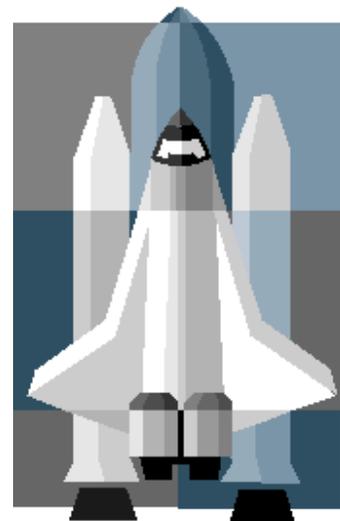
6:30-8:30 pm - Blue Ridge Blvd UMC

Ages 3-11 Welcome

Watch for a board asking for Donations in the Narthex.

We will need people to serve as crew leaders, Sing & Play Blast Off, Space Crafts, Have-a-Blast games, Mission Munchies, Chadder's Space Mission Theater, Bible Exploration, and Mission Send-Off Show Time.

If you're interested in helping with Vacation Bible School please let Callie Ballenger know as soon as you can.



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and resources, creating technically elegant governance systems (reducing the number of committees and members to be more streamlined; doing actual ministry and not just going to meetings), and reconfiguring annual conference sessions.

Practicing Passionate Worship is our focus of this year's annual Conference. "To worship speaks of devotion to God and passionate speaks of an emotional connection beyond the intellect, to offer the best and be a part of the service." Worship should be a part of every activity. People should be changed by worship and there should be evidence of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. The challenge of strengthening worship should be an ongoing effort in every congregation.

Saturday's meeting included the honoring of retirees and the commissioning of new leaders. The Bishop's learning time topic was "Why We Build an Altar of Worship and Witness" by the Rev. Cathy Townley of the Minnesota Annual Conference. The business session on Saturday included the recommendation by the Cabinet and Mission Council to merge districts as follows: Heartland Central and Heartland South; Pony Express and Heartland North; and Ozarks North and Ozarks South. The combination of districts as proposed is currently served by one District Superintendent in each case. On Monday morning the vote passed to merge the districts as recommended. Names of

the combined districts will be determined later.

Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, spoke on four occasions. Topics were: Effective Church Leadership, Ideas for Preaching and Worship, Strategies for Reaching the Un-Churched, and the Future and Promise of Methodism. Rev. Hamilton also spoke at the ordination on Saturday evening. Among those being ordained was Rev. Bryan Wendling.

Rev. Hamilton was ordained 27 years ago at Central Methodist University in Fayette, at Linn Memorial UMC. He said he wanted to save the world but didn't know how. He is now the senior pastor of a 20,000 member church, the largest church in the Kansas City area, and the largest United Methodist Church in the world. His message to the ordinands was "Listen to the Holy Spirit."

After Rev. Hamilton's session on Ideas for Preaching and Worship, I was talking with a pastor who asked me what I got out of that session and I said it was obvious that he was talking directly to the pastors. That pastor then said they felt so overwhelmed with ideas that they would try to focus on a few of the ideas for their ministry.

Bishop Schnase's final learning time was Monday morning titled "Demystifying the Appointment Process." I'm still struggling with that one and continue to be mystified with the process.

- Sandy McConnell, Lay Member to Conference 2014



Were you here for the terrific fun weekend at The Ridge?

Hobbs Less Crowded & Earns \$\$\$

June 21, 2014 the First day of Summer, the longest day of the year has come and gone! AND Hobbs Hall is now a little less crowded, now that the "Sale of the Century" is over.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that helped out in various ways, to make the sale a tremendous success!!

Would also like to thank all the members of BRBUMC who stopped by with their encouraging words and helpful purchases. So far, we have made over \$930.00. This will help defray the costs of cleaning out the rest of the items over the next month or so. We will be contacting several different groups to see if they have any interest in what is left. We are anxious to find out the cost of remediation so that we can go forward with the idea of creating a Community Center to serve the members of the local community.

Again thanks to everyone for their help in making this event a great success!! - *Wes Hougland*

Thank You for Your Support!

Boy Scout Troop 269 thanks the members of Blue Ridge UMC for another, very successful, pancake breakfast. Holding the breakfast in conjunction with the Hobs Hall sale worked well for both Hobbs and the scouts! We hope to plan next years pancake breakfast at the time of another church event if possible. Again, thank you for all your support.

Chance to Feed Children of Raytown

Raytown Summer Lunch Program begins July 7th this year and ends on August 15th. We are covered for each day, but often we need someone to help if more lunches are needed to be picked up, or if someone is on vacation or ill when they are scheduled. Please call Sue Klotz at 373-2237, if you are someone who would be interested in being a sub or extra helper when we need one. Thank you for helping feed the children this summer.

Movie Night - a Big Success!

A great big THANK YOU goes out to the Bridge Team for the very successful Movie Night on Friday 6/20. We had a super turnout with an estimated 74 attending which included a mix of ages from 18 months to 81 years.

Fifteen families were guests from our community. As advertised, we had our guests fill out tickets prize drawings and we're pleased to announce a family with seven children won the grand prize of a Gold Membership to the KC Zoo. Two other families won passes to Cool Crest and Super Splash.

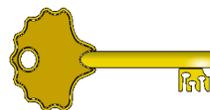
Some people brought lawn chairs and some brought blankets but all brought a sense of fun and anticipation as the movie "Frozen" was shown. Hot fresh popcorn! Ice Cold Drinks! Nice cool breeze! Another movie night is coming - don't miss out - watch for information here.

The Bridge Team extends its thanks to all who donated soda and water for this special event. We could not have done it without you. And to Wes and Steve Hougland for helping Larry Blair hang the screen on a very windy day. And to Brad Teachman for the last minute technical assistance. - *Deborah DeMoss*



The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00 pm in the Library discussing

Angel Sister by Ann H. Gabbart. This discussion will be led by Marilyn Yorke. All are welcome!



Golden Key

The Golden Key Club meets on the second Thursday of every month at Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church in the Dining Room on the lower level at 12:00 noon. This month we meet on July 10th. This month's menu is potluck! (Bring your favorite dish). The entertainment will be a musical program by 'Noel and Friends'. Come join us for fun and fellowship! Enjoy great friends and make new friends. The food is great... and the entertainment is fantastic.

Church Family News

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:

- Clarice Titus and family for the loss of her nephew Steve Wardian, who died June 6.

Bread of Life

Jesus said “I am the bread.” A simple gesture can lead to extreme generosity! Pick up an invite label from the Welcome Center, read the instructions provided and purchase a loaf of bread. Go into our mission field and then pray. If you have any further questions please contact the church office.



Bridge Team Invitation

We will meet on July 7th, at 6:15 PM for about one hour to discuss and plan our next event. Anyone and everyone are welcome to join our group, we meet at the youth house. Call Deborah DeMoss or Andy Wanager if you have any questions.

Coming in August

Calling all who like to have brunch or lunch after church on Sundays. Our next pot luck is August 10 in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish or two to share and join us. Service and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions call Debbie Jacques, 816-356-5710.

Help Needed

If you'd like to help Dona Meyer publish the newsletter, prepare slides for the Jumbotron, or help maintain the website, please call her at 816-835-9690.

Participating as an Usher

Ushers help with our services in many ways, from greeting the new guests, and members, collecting the offering, count attendance, and making sure that those who can not go up for communion are served in their seats, and cleaning up the sanctuary after the service every Sunday. They help with those who need care during the service, by assisting those who are responding to the situation. They provide the equipment we have here in the building and help direct the EMS team if they are called. If you are called to help with something in our church, this might be just the thing you can do as a sub or a regular member of one of our teams. There are currently 3 teams, and each team serves every 3 months of the year. Our subs are only contacted if someone is not available for their scheduled week. We welcome anyone who may be interested, and you can call Sue Klotz for information needed.

Kudos for Kevin Hershberger!

Kudos for Kevin, who is the Music Director of The Leawood Stage Company's production of “Hello, Dolly” at the Amphitheater in Ironwoods Park this summer. Every song in *Hello, Dolly* is a showstopper including *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, *Ribbons Down My Back* and of course, *Hello, Dolly*.

There is no charge for the Amphitheater at 14707 Mission Road, Leawood Kansas. It's recommended you bring your blanket or lawn chair and even a picnic dinner. Dates are July 17 - 20 and July 24 - 26 at 8:00pm.

Mark Your Calendars:

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| Church Council | 6:00pm | Tues., July 1 |
| Prayer Shawl | 10:00am, Narthex | Tues., July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 |
| HOPE Group | 3:00pm, Room 201 | Thurs., July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 |
| Men of Blue Ridge | 7:00am, Ginger's | Sat., July 5 |
| Pantry Sunday | | Sunday, July 6 |
| Summer Lunch Program Begins Each Week Day | | July 7 - Aug. 15 |
| Breaktime | 9:30am, Dining Room | Mon., July 7, 14, 21, 28 |
| UMW: EVening Circle | 6:30pm, Dining Room | Mon., June 7 |
| Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 7:00pm | Mon., July 7, 14, 21, 28 |
| Women's Book Club | 7:00pm, Library | Tues., July 8 |
| Golden Key | 12:00noon, Dining Room | Thurs., July 10 |
| Girl Scout Troop 305 | 6:30pm, Dining Room | Mon., June 14, 28 |
| Girl Scout Troop 4027 | 6:30pm, Dining Room | Mon., July 14, 21, 28 |
| Grief Care | 10:00am, Conf. Room | Wed., July 16 |
| Women's Bible Study | 10:00am, Library | Thurs., July 17 |
| Vacation Bible School | | Sun.- Thur., July 20 - 24 |
| UMW: Connecting Hands | 12:30pm, Room 203 | Wednesday, July 23 |

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 or his direct number 816-835-2545. Contact the Church Office at ChurchAdmin@BlueRidgeChurch.org Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 am. More information on www.BlueRidgeChurch.org