



JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Memorial Day weekend is now behind us, warmer weather has set in, and the Missouri Annual Conference is just around the corner. For the first time I won't be able to attend the entire conference this year. I am looking forward to officiating the wedding of a young couple that weekend, as they begin a new and wonderful chapter in their lives. The wedding will be the evening of the 9th and upon its conclusion I will be heading to Springfield.

Much of Sunday will be dedicated to conversation around the LGBTQ issue and the proposals from the Bishop's Counsel on The Way Forward. Bishop Farr will be discussing the proposals that will be brought to the General Conference in 2019. This is an important time in the history of our denomination.

Although three plans will be considered the Council of Bishops will be recommending what is called the "One Church Plan." This plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book Of Discipline. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscious cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain "self avowed practicing" gay clergy, that they don't have to do so. Within this plan, Central Conferences which are church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe could maintain current restrictions.

The two other plans on the table are the Traditionalists Plan and the Connectional-Conference plan. The traditionalist plan would affirm the current language in the denominations Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen said language.

The Connectional Conference plan would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on the theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry, be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's Constitution.

If all this sounds confusing to you, you're not alone. So, allow me to summarize a few thoughts...

We are United Methodists. This means that we put great value on the amazing love that God has for each one of us as well as the love that we should have for one another. Let us not set her eyes upon the theological or social differences that divide us, but may we see clearly all that which unites us. Let us be a people of prayer as the Annual conference quickly approaches as well as the General conference in the winter of 2018. Let us practice love and grace for one another. Let us lay down our lives, pick up our cross and follow after Jesus. And in so doing as we enter the arena of discussion may it be just that, a discussion and not a debate. May all that we are reflect all that he is. May our faith and unity be strong.

The United Methodist denomination will receive much publicity over the next 6 to 12 months. News media will be talking and social media will be ablaze. But at the end of the day here's what I know... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! Join me as we continue to live out our faith by connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another. The journey is long, but God's grace is sufficient as we strive to connect people along the way. - *Pastor Anchul*

Discipleship Begins with Relationship

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A NOMAD?

The UMW Unit meeting in June will be Monday evening, June 4 at 6:30 with the meal provided by the Evening Circle. I think you will find our program on NOMADS quite interesting. Come and find out what this organization is and whom in our church is a NOMAD.

PRISCILLAS REMEMBER THEIR FATHERS

Our annual salad luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 20 at 10:00. After a brief business meeting, we will share memories about our fathers. Come join us and bring your favorite salad to share.

MT. WASHINGTON TO GOLDEN KEY

June golden Key Club will meet on Thursday, June 14 at 12:00 with a catered luncheon (\$7.00) of lasagna, green beans, tossed salad, fruit salad and chocolate cake. Our program at 1:00 will be given by Marilyn West (and others) from Mt. Washington UMC. Come join us for Fun, Fellowship and Food. Call Marilyn Yorke for reservations at 356-6694.

TWICE A WEEK FACEBOOK CHALLENGE



Everyone is challenged to log into our church facebook page twice a week and share the most recent posts. Evangelism at it's easiest! A great way to spread the word! First you have to go to the Blue Ridge Church page and "like" it. Then every Tuesday and Thursday evening go to our page and **like** and **share** the most recent posts. There will be at least **two** new posts each week. If you don't have a facebook account we encourage you to create one. Stop by the church office on any Tuesday and we'll help you set one up.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated to the Festival of Sharing items for 2018 Methodist Conference this year. It is nice to know that we can care about others and help them out, even if we may never meet them. We are a giving church and I am proud to be a part of all that we are able to do.

- Sue Klotz

FOOD COLLECTION A HUGE REAP BENEFIT



REAP was very happy to report that they received approximately 3300 individual cans and boxed food items from the Scout food drive in April. Thank you all for your contributions.

COLLECT FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Our UMW once again are collecting Missouri Student Dental Packs for the Festival of Sharing. These include: four child-sized soft toothbrushes (in original package), two adult soft toothbrushes (in original package), one fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more) and one dental floss (any size). Put these items in a 1-gallon zip lock bag and place them in the box labeled MSDP in the coat area off the Beatitudes room by September 1.

STEPPING STONE HAS ONGOING NEED FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.

The Mission Team has cleaned out the Stepping Stone boxes in the coat room of the many coats, hats and gloves that were donated over the winter. And now they want to remind us there is a continual need for any gently used household items for Stepping Stone. Bring any items you're no longer using and the Mission Team will be happy to deliver them to Stepping Stone.

BEATITUDE ENTRY AREA: NEW VISION COMES THROUGH WITH UPGRADED DISPLAYS

Most of us have been aware of the updates in the Beatitude Entry Area over the past few weeks and we're now noticing the final touches taking place. Donna Teachman has worked diligently and thoughtfully making color choices and selections that are appealing and coordinate beautifully with the existing décor. She's introduced some different textures as well as the many photos and artworks that are intended to reflect who we are as a church. The fresh new appeal is an update that will show all those who enter our doors who we are and it will also remind us every time we enter that we're headed in a new direction.

None of us are the same and we certainly don't all look alike or live the same kinds of lives and the photos she's chosen represent that very well. Stop and enjoy them all, one at a time - and think about the faces, the smiles and the excitement you see. The smiling Jesus, the Amazing Grace, the textures, the graphics, even the materials used - it's all so different, just like us, our visitors - *and our new members that are coming*. Thank you Donna Teachman for your dedication and many hours you spent pulling all this together. Indeed as we continue to Connect with People Along The Way these new images we're displaying will all play an important part. Thank you, Donna!

FISHING FOR CHANGE

“Faithfully Inspiring Skills, Hope, Involvement, Nourishment, Growth, For Opportunity & Resourcefulness by Caring, Helping, Advancing, Nurturing, Guiding and Empowering.”

Through a joint venture between Blue Ridge and St. Paul, we are aiming to change lives instead of just supplying substance. We are in the process of exploring a community outreach program to teach life skills such as Resume Building, Computer Literacy, Interview Techniques, Parenting Solutions, GED Help, and Dressing for Success, just to name a few. The goal is to change lives by teaching participants the skills they need to be successful, instead of just providing the materials needed. To benefit from this program, participants must actively participate, be willing to better themselves, and give back to the program in some way upon completion.

Possible ways to help include donating a couple hours to lead workshops, offering resume advice, practicing job interviewing, or even providing interview appropriate clothing and accessories. The sky is the limit on the many ways to become involved. Currently, we are building a network of people and their unique skills. Once we have a network in place, we will know how to best reach those in our community. Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism, said “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

We are asking if you are interested in participating in any way in the “teaching of others to FISH”, please contact Mistie Reed at mreed@blueridgechurch.org or [816-787-7089](tel:816-787-7089). You may also contact Blue Ridge Church at [816-353-1435](tel:816-353-1435) or churchadmin@blueridgechurch.org.

BELIEVERS IN MOTION: CAN YOU SIT IN FELLOWSHIP?

Please call the church office if you're interested in being available during the Gymnastics and Self-Defense classes to help with attendance or maybe just sit in fellowship with visiting parents as they wait for their children. *Believers in Motion* is an outreach program of St. Paul and Blue Ridge Church offering free self-defense and gymnastics classes to families in the community. Registration is this Tuesday, June 5th between 6:00 and 8:00 pm. The self-defense class will start on June 7th and the gymnastics class will start June 19th. All classes are FREE and are from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.



Join Our Book Club! 3rd Thursday of the month in the church Library. Join us!

Date	Book Title	Discussion Leader
June 21	<i>Looking For Me</i> by Beth Hoffman	Margaret Tilly
July 19	<i>Glory Over Everything - Beyond the Kitchen House</i> by Kathleen Grisson	Darcy Munzer
August 16	<i>Magpie Murders</i> by Anthon Horowitz	Diane Decker
September 20	<i>The Mocking Bird Next Door</i> by Marja Mills	Charlotte Robinson
October 18	<i>Age of Innocence</i> by Edith Wharton	TBD
November 15	<i>OK For Now</i> by Gary D. Schmidt	Margaret Strader

NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOMS NEED PART-TIME ASSISTANTS ON SUNDAYS



Love children? Don't have much time to spend with them? We would like to add your name to our list of God's Servants willing to assist in the nursery/toddler room on an "as needed" basis. Please contact Deborah DeMoss at 816-509-9989, kennedydemoss@yahoo.com, or stop me at church! We have a few names on the list already so this is truly not a large commitment; nor are we asking you to sign up for specific dates in advance. I will put out a text request each Thursday for the upcoming Sunday and if you are available just let me know.

- Deborah DeMoss, 816-509-9989

Things are changing. Our kids are growing up, and with that our relationships are different. As our oldest moves out on his own, I can't help but think about our last 23 years of parenting. I know there are many ways to describe a parent's role, and the role changes in different seasons for different children. Most days in those seasons, I like to think I've been a shepherd, a caretaker, a teacher, a limit setter, all with a foundation of love and grace. I hope my kids are able to see a reflection of my faith and beliefs in the way I parent and live my life, and ultimately, I hope they will bring that truth with them out into the world.

GOD, MY FATHER

By Missy Marcella

Being a parent has taught me so much about God, my Father. Our God is filled with love, patience, kindness, gentleness, joy, peace, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control, and if we emulate those fruits in our lives, it changes how we show ourselves to the world and to our own children. We often parent our children the way that we believe God parents us. How do you believe God is parenting you?

I love the days that we get to sit at the dinner table and eat together as a family. I truly enjoy time with our kids, listening to their conversations, laughing with each other, getting a glimpse into their minds and hearts. That time is precious and rewarding. We get to really know and love each other in the simple moments. Spending time together is everything. God wants the same from his children. He reaches out for a relationship with us. He wants our time. He wants our conversations. He wants us to know Him better and to hear His still, small voice. If you are like me, the worship experience on Sundays is a time to "check in" with God. I'm really good about being there and connecting in the special occasions, but I'm not as consistent with the daily interactions, the "dinner table conversations." My relationship with my children wouldn't be as rich and connected if I only checked in with them once a week. It's the daily moments and times to share that make all the difference with my children and with my Father, God.

We want to spend time with our children because we love them. We love them unconditionally. The love I have for my children has given me just a small peek into God's heart for us, his children. It is a mere whisper of the love God has for me and for you. God's love renews, redeems, and restores everything, and He reaches out to us with that love everyday. I almost hate to admit that my eyes still well up with tears as I watch my almost grown children sleep or I witness their genuine interactions in the world. My hope and prayer for my children is that they are so loved that they go out into the world and love. I want them to see the world through God's glasses, seeing children of God in his Kingdom and loving those who are like them and those who are different from them. Planting God's love in our hearts and His vision in our minds suddenly changes the world from the inside out.

Don't get me wrong, I am the parent of three very typical kids. In my humble opinion, they are amazing and wonderful, and talented, and they are frustrating and stubborn and selfish. Their actions, at times, have broken my heart. Don't they know all I've done for them? How could they just forget my birthday? How could their words be so hurtful and rebellious? Yet, how many times have I hurt my perfect, holy, loving, sacrificial Father without a second thought? How many respectable sins have just become a part of my daily living? Gossip, little white lies, worry, judgement: All tend to creep into my thoughts and actions, and all drive the cross nails a little deeper. Knowing how my children's sins hurt me, I am more acutely aware of the piercing power of my own. I'm so thankful for the grace and mercy God grants a forgiving heart everyday. I know I need it, and I know, as a parent, my children need it too.

Parenting has given me a new perspective of God, my Father. My Father is my home. He is my safe place. He is my refuge. He loves me more than I will ever comprehend, and His grace and forgiveness are overwhelming. I hope that as my own children start moving out into the world on their own, that they know the same. While parenting doesn't end, and I know they will visit at times, I hope my children know that the love of God, our Father has been given to them as an undeserved gift, and they can take home with them wherever they go.

REMEMBERING OUR FATHERS ON FATHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Looking for words to honor the fathers and father figures whose love and example have made a difference in our Lives?
This short prayer is an excerpt from a Litany of Peace for Father's Day by the Rev Jane Sommers, retired Minister.

Loving God, We give thanks for the men of virtue who have touched our lives.

Those who have shown us kindness, courage, generosity, truth, compassion, faith, and love.

Bless all sons and brothers and fathers and grandfathers who reveal a glimpse of your loving presence on earth. Amen

WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

Karen Schamel is our new Finance Secretary. Right now it looks like she'll be here on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you're in the church, stop by and say hello and give her that warm Blue Ridge welcome!

CHURCH BOARD NEWS – MAY 2018

The Church board met on May 8th, 2018. Marge Fredrickson led the board in a devotional to begin the meeting. The devotional urges us to look to the Lord for guidance in our lives instead of trying to take everything into our own hands. We should be able to let some things go and trust that the Lord will be able to take care of them without us worrying about it. This level of trust in God speaks to our level of faith in him as well.

Spiritual Development

The board took some time to share some of their faith experiences and challenges from the past month.

Pastoral Topics

Pastor Anchul brought up some reports to the board on the progress being made for the outreach programs that are currently in the works. Specifically, progress on the planning of the self-defense and gymnastics classes is proceeding smoothly. Equipment has been acquired and a tentative start date of June 19th has been set. The classes are scheduled to take place on Tuesday and Thursday nights. With everything else set, what is most needed for the classes to get started now is volunteers from the church to help out while the classes are going on. Volunteering will not be physically intensive. Volunteers will just need to help out with checking students and parents in at the door and visit with the parents while their children are taking the classes.

A discussion was had about the prayer rails that are present for people to kneel at during communion. The board came to a decision that in order to reduce the amount of labor put in by the volunteers who have been installing and taking out the rails every month, the rails will remain uninstalled for the time being, even on communion Sundays.

Generosity and Budget Topics

The church's new financial secretary, Karen Schamel, attended this month's board meeting to introduce herself to everyone as she is transitioning into this new position. She has experience working with finances for a church of around Blue Ridge's size, so she will be a great fit for this position and the board wishes her all the best and welcomes her to the Blue Ridge family.

Marge Fredrickson presented the financial report for April of 2018. April saw a surge for the church's finances. A combination of higher income and low expenses led to the church taking in over \$5000 for the month in total, which puts the church back in the black for the year moving forward.

	YTD April 2018	2018 Budget
Total Income	\$78,834	\$83,433
Total Expenses	\$78,322	\$86,214
Net Ordinary Income	\$512	-\$2,781

Trustees

- The trustees brought up that the person that has been mowing the church's lawn has quit. A new lawn mower (service) is currently being sought after by the board.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- The board took some time to fill out the pastor evaluation forms for the year. (Pastor Anchul left the room at this time for the sake of anonymity).

Other Business

- The next board meeting will take place on June 12th, 2018 at 6:30 PM. - Board Secretary, Tony Marcella

Blue Ridge Church
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.
KCMO 64133

BLUE RIDGE CHURCH

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.,
Kansas City, MO 64133

Tuesday -Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday Worship 9:30am

Website:

www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

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Raytown Live!

Free Summer Family Concert Series!

Visit their website for more info: www.raytown.live

On the second Saturdays from May through September, the



City of Raytown and friends are putting on an evening of music and fun on the Greenspace in Town Center, downtown Raytown (10009 62nd Street, Raytown, MO 64133).

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!

Dates:

June 9, July 14,
August 11, September 8

Time: 6–8 p.m.

Coming June 9, *Marty & Gary*

Coming July 14, *The Jerry Hooper Band*

Coming September 8, *Nick Schnebelen*