

Individually Wrapped Candy Needed!

Individually wrapped candies, that will fit into plastic eggs, are needed for the upcoming EGG EXTRAVAGANZA (see article

on back page) to be held Saturday, April 19th. Please bring your donations *as soon as possible* and place into the decorated box in the Beatitude Entry Hallway. Plastic eggs are also needed but there is a greater need for the candies!



The Home Envoy

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THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd. Kansas City, MO 816-353-1435 www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

Lent, 2014

Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday up to **Easter**, which is on April 20 this year. During Lent and on Easter we'll be focusing on the blessing of **forgiveness**. The worship series is **Forgiveness, Six Ways From Sunday**. We'll be following Marjorie J. Thompson's *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*. I'll be offering a small group experience on Sunday mornings at 8:56 AM, beginning March 9, using this guide. Could you use some forgiveness? Or would your soul be more peaceful if you forgave someone? Join in!

Here are the topics for worship and the small group experience:

- † One Family Story, March 9
- † The Face In The Mirror, March 16
- † Really? Honestly!, March 23
- † Mental Reboot, March 30
- † Freedom's Embrace, April 6
- † Beginning. Again., April 20 Easter

Leadership Weekend Update

Over the last full weekend in February dozens of church officials and other leaders shared in a retreat and training at Wilderness Retreat and Development Center near Lawson, Mo. The retreat was attended by members of the Church Council, Generosity Team, Board of Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, as well as leaders who are not church officials. The purpose of the retreat was set in our Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) prescriptions: to identify the core values of Blue Ridge Blvd. United Methodist Church, to establish the goals and strategies going forward, and to align the paid and unpaid staff with the mission, vision, core values, goals and objectives of the church. The retreat was lead by our HCI church coach, Kay Kotan, and by Rev. Lucinda Holmes. I'm grateful for the resources made available to us from the Missouri Conference beyond the usual HCI coaching.

Values: A key part of the retreat was identifying core values. We agreed that *family, fellowship* and *tradition* were existing core values here. We also agreed that *community*, defined as "caring about and addressing the needs of others" is a value we aspire to developing. This aspirational value is consistent with our vision: *to develop relationships in the mission field so all experience the love of Christ*.

Alignments: Because the Church Council has recommended that we switch to a single board model which focuses on our mission, to train new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we also received training on how the one board model works, based on the book, *Winning on Purpose: How to Organize Congregations to Succeed in Their Mission*. In the single board model, the functions of our many governance committees and boards (except the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development) are blended into one board, which will focus on accomplishing our mission.

Generosity Information

Remember, there's always generosity information available at the information desk in the Blue Café / Beatitudes.

Grace and Peace,
Barry Freese, Pastor

Hi Everyone-

I don't know about you, but I have been praying about a lot of things lately-people in my life, for Blue Ridge UMC, what God's will is for me-to name a few. I feel like I am pretty good at talking to God in regular prayer time, but I struggle with hearing him speak to me. More specifically, I'm not very good at listening.

A few weeks ago, I came across the book Listen: Praying in a Noisy World by Rueben P. Job. I decided it would be a great Lenten study. I'm going to read it and I invite you to join me. I'm admittedly not an expert so I would welcome some company on my journey through this book. I wouldn't think of it as a class so much as a study group helping each other discern God's voice in our busy lives.

I will be at Edible Creations in the Blue Ridge Plaza (that is the little strip mall behind McDonalds on Blue Ridge Blvd) at 10 am each Saturday during Lent-starting March 8th. Please consider joining me.

Feel free to pass this invite along to anyone that you think would be interested.

Terri Friebohle

stjffriebohle@yahoo.com
816-589-5752

Missing Books

The following books are missing from the Church Library. If you happen to have them, please call Charlotte Robinson or return to the library. If anyone else has overdue books it would be appreciated if the books were returned. Once a book is out for several months it is very easy to misplace.

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Forgotten Girls by Kay Marshall



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 March 13. The menu for the March luncheon is potluck! The entertainment will be Harold Dinsmore (Johnny Cash) playing guitar 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.

Children's Rotational Sunday School at Blue Ridge

The Children's ministries at Blue Ridge are bustling with activity! The spring semester of Wednesday Night Live began February 12. The kids and leaders are excited to be worshipping together, enjoying recreation, and bible study. The first evening we enjoyed working to open Hershey's kisses without using our hands! I thought this would be an impossible task but the kids rose to the challenge and were successful in making this task possible. If you see a child ask them to demonstrate these incredible skills for you. We are also learning some new songs that we hope to share with the congregation on a Sunday morning towards the end of the semester.



In rotational Sunday School we are learning about Zacchaeus. The children will be interviewing Zacchaeus, making clothes pin Zacchaeus, making a finger painting of Zacchaeus in the tree, playing Cheater! Cheater!, puppet play, and watching a movie about Zacchaeus. The next rotation will start March 23 and will focus on Holy Week and the resurrection.

The children have a lot of energy and an excitement and passion for learning about Jesus that is infectious. We are always looking for volunteers for both Wednesday Night Live and Sunday School. If you would like to help out feel free to contact me at 816-752-6662 or by e mail at: stiles_callie@yahoo.com.

IGNITE (Children's Church)

Meets: During 10am service every Sunday

Volunteer staff: need 2 every Sunday

Upcoming Event: Bowling Party! (AMF Strike and Spare Lanes)

Meet at church at 2pm on Sunday 3/9/14



Everyone is welcome, we have 6 children who have earned their bowling and shoe rental at NO COST because they have already paid for admission with the Bible Bucks they collected and saved for achievements and behavior during services.

If you haven't already paid in Bible Bucks, then please feel free to join us on your own! Any fees unpaid by Bible Bucks just need to be covered by good old US Legal Tender :)

The Bible Bucks program is an incentive for the kids based on participation and behavioral achievements every time we meet. We focus on the way we communicate with each other and prepare ourselves for worship. Each day the kids are offered the opportunity to "cash in" for some cool faith based prizes and toys - or SAVE their money for a quarterly event like the bowling party.

If you are interested in more information, or in volunteering to serve - please contact Andy Wanager, or Callie Stiles Ballinger for more information!

Service Hours - Revised Way of Reporting

After listening to your comments and discussion at the Leadership Retreat, we are refining the way you will report your service hours. We first asked you to include the hours you helped at the church and then we asked you not to include those hours. You will now be able to report any type of service activity you do that helps the community or the church. We do not want you to include in these hours the time you spend helping out your family.

What is different is that we are going to ask you to report these numbers separately. There will be a blank in which you report the number of hours you individually have served the community and one blank in which you report the time you have served at Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC. We do ask that the hours that are volunteered at a Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC-sponsored group event be reported by the group leader only. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for serving.

Blue Ridge Youth News:

In March the youth will be attending the Dare2Share conference in St. Louis. The conference is all about learning how to share your faith with others, to "become doers of the Word and not hearers only" and to impact souls for Jesus. These goals are taught through a drama with group discussions afterward, music, speakers and an outreach experience to practice their new sharing skills. - *Blessings, Deborah DeMoss, Volunteer Youth Coordinator*



Service and Mission

Opportunities Abound - Our goal is to make you aware of events that provide those opportunities to "create relationships in the mission field so that all experience the love of Christ". Many of these activities will give you service hours which you can report.

We are currently collecting dates for events that individuals or small groups can do on their own, and also plan to offer some church sponsored activities throughout the year. If you know of a volunteer event or charitable activity coming up, please let the church office or me (ctseed@ymail.com) know, so it can be added to the 'calendar'. Please see the article about Egg Extravaganza on page 4, for our first opportunity and stay tuned for more.

Also, did you notice that the Donation Center has been moved to a more visible location in the Beatitudes hallway? That is not only to remind us to donate, and of the types of donations we can make, but also to remind the individuals or groups who are collecting various items to occasionally check and empty their boxes.

Thank you for your service.
Connie Turnipseed

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm in the Library discussing *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This discussion will be led by Barbara Thompson. All are welcome!

show to collect socks for Blair's Foster Socks. Blair was a member of Girl Scout Troop 305. We have also served at R.E.A.P, served a meal at ReStart plus they have helped the ladies of UMW when they have held their annual fundraisers, and adopted a family at Christmas. As you can tell the girls of 4027 love to give back to the community.

The biggest fundraiser that Girl Scouts participate in is their Annual Cookie Sale, currently going on.

On behalf of Girl Scout Troop 305, Troop 4027 and Troop 23 - thank you to the members of Blue Ridge for opening up your doors and supporting Girl Scouts. We look forward to many more years of service with Blue Ridge.

*Sincerely, Delberta and Emma Huber
from Troop 4027*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL)

Meets: Every Wednesday during semester from 6pm to 7:30pm (next meeting 3/5 - ends on 4/9 this Spring). Registration/ Sign-In begins at 5:50 every evening. **SAFE SANCTUARY** requires that parent/guardian sign in each child in person, and that each child be checked out by their parent/guardian in person.

Upcoming Event:

Modified Ash Wednesday meeting - WNL will begin as usual, but the service itself will be modified to EXPLORATION and SNACK only. We will have volunteers covering the nursery during this time and throughout the service.

On any other Wednesday, after registration - we begin WORSHIP where kids have prayer and a focused message based on Pastor Barry's sermon the following Sunday. We also have some ROCKIN children's songs played LIVE by Music Director KEVIN H. The kids are invited to participate during service, and even volunteer to be the youth worship helper. The worship service is followed by EXPLORATION. This is a time for games, crafts, and activities based on the theme that are designed to get the kids up and moving!! Followed by the exploration event is always SNACK TIME! Kids gotta eat, right? The evening ends with BIBLE STUDY divided by age groups.

This year, the age groups for WNL are 1st through 5th grade. There is separate programming on the same night for 3 year olds through Kindergarten, and 6th grade through 12th grade. During WNL and PRE-1ST programming, there are also nursery services available.

If you are interested in more information, or volunteer opportunities to serve - please contact Andy Wanager or Callie Stiles Ballinger for more information.

Girl Scouts & Blue Ridge United Methodist Church.

Blue Ridge has been supporting Girl Scouts since 2006, when Girl Scout Troop 305 started having their meetings at the church. Later, Troop 4027 and Troop 23 began to hold their meetings at Blue Ridge.



Girl Scouts was founded by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia on March 12, 1912 with only 18 members. Today there are more than 2.3 million girl members from kindergarten thru the 12th grade. Girl Scout week is celebrated in March,

starting with Girl Scout Sunday (March 9th) and finishing on Girl Scout Sabbath. This year Girl Scout Week was March 9th thru 15th. Girl Scout week always includes the Girl Scout Birthday on March 12th. The Girl Scouts live by the Girl Scout Promise and law.

Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try: To Serve God and my country. To help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law: I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do.

Girl Scout Troop 4027 have held both a taco and a spaghetti fundraiser, that were opened up to the church as well as the community. They also hosted a talent

Church Family News

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:

- Ron and Margaret Tilly and family for the death of their son-in-law, John Robertson on February 11.
- the Robertson family and friends for the death of their son, John.
- Wilma Eubanks and family for the death of her daughter, Donna Johnson on February 5.
- Emily Trapp and family for the death of her grandmother.
- Gerry Tetlow and family for the death of her sister-in-law, Twila on February 22.
- Sandy White and family for the death of her son, Jason on February 23 in Maryville.

Bottled Water Supports

Grief Care

Bottled water available in the small refrigerator in the kitchen for \$1.00 Place your dollar in the cup provided. Proceeds support the Grief Care committee by purchasing booklets and postage mailed to those grieving the loss of a loved one.



You are invited to the following event:

VIM Team Leadership Training

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location: Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Country Club UMC, 400 W 57th St, Kansas City, MO 64113

The Team Leadership Training (TLT) course covers spiritual leadership, effective and healthy short-term mission practices, and mission experience planning.

There will be two breakout sessions in the afternoon: Mozambique Initiative with the Missouri Conference Coordinator, Sarah Bollinger, and Other Mission Plans with Audrey Phelps.

Course Pre-Requisite

When Helping Hurts by Stephen Corbett and Brian Fikkert. This book should be read before your training date. "When Helping Hurts" can be purchased from the following sites: Amazon, Cokesbury and Barnes and Nobel.

We hope you can make it!
Cheers, Audrey Phelps

Mark Your Calendars:

Breaktime	9:30am, Dining Room	Monday, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
EVening Circle	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Mar. 3
Church Council	6:30pm, Fellowship Hall	Monday, Mar. 3
Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts	7:00pm	Monday, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Prayer Shawl	10:00am, Beatitude	Tuesday, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesday Night Live	6:00pm	Wednesday, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26
Women's Bible Study	10:00am, Library	Thursday, Mar. 6, 20
HOPE Group	3:00pm, Room 201	Thursday, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27
Girl Scout Troop 23	5:00pm, Dining Room	Thursday, Mar. 6, 20
Girl Scout Troop 305	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Mar. 10, 24
Girl Scout Troop 4027	6:30pm, Dining Room	Monday, Mar. 10, 17, 24
Women's Book Club	7:00pm, Library	Tuesday, Mar. 11
UMW: Unit Meeting	10:00am, Dining Room	Wednesday, Mar. 12
Golden Key	12:00noon, Dining Room	Thursday, Mar. 13
Grief Care	10:00am, Conf. Room	Wednesday, Mar. 19
UMW: Priscilla	10:00am, Room 201	Wednesday, Mar. 19
UMW: Ruth Circle	1:00pm, Library	Thursday, Mar. 20
UMW: Connecting Hands	12:30pm, Room 203	Wednesday, Mar. 26
Men of Blue Ridge	7:00am, Ginger's	Saturday, Apr. 5
Pantry Sunday		Sunday, Apr. 6

EGG EXTRAVAGANZA

Blue Ridge UMC will again be helping out Main Street Raytown as one of several sponsors of Raytown's Egg Extravaganza on Saturday, April 19th. Barry will be offering the opening prayer.

Besides needing volunteers that morning, we have been asked to donate individually wrapped candies (small enough to fit in a plastic egg), and plastic eggs. The greater need is for candy, since many of the plastic eggs are recycled each year. Watch for the large gift-wrapped box to appear near the new donation center in the Beatitudes hallway, in which to place your donations. The first pick-up will be on March 10th. The disabled/challenged students at Northwood School will be putting the candy in the eggs, so we want to give them something to start working on. The second pick-up will be on April 10th.

Easter Flower Orders

Easter flowers must be ordered by March 9th this year! Farrand Farms needs our order by then, so we will have the plants we want for Easter. There are order forms at the *welcome center* and in the *office*, and all information needs to be filled out. You may choose a Lily or Pansy by *circling the picture on the form* and put it in the offering plates, go to or call the office 353-1435 to give them the information, or call Sue at 375-2237. *Plants not prepaid will not be ordered*, so drop your payment in the office or in the offering plates. If you want to honor or remember someone this year, your order must be in and paid for by March 9th. This is a beautiful way to honor and/or remember family, friends or simply to give thanks for our risen Christ, who died for us, so we may live eternally! - Sue Klotz

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 at 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