



# The BLUE Review

March 2015

## **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

Worship and Palms, 10:00 am

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” *Matthew 21: 9b*



## **Holy Week**

## **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

Worship 7:00 pm

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *John 19:30*

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2**

Holy Communion, 7:00 pm

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.” Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” *John 13:34*

## **EASTER SUNDAY, April 5**

Worship 10:00 am



## **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb. . . He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. *Matthew 27: 59-60*



## **PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP MISSY MARCELLA, LAY LEADER**

*The role of the lay leader is to model a partnership with the pastor, relate effectively with the congregation, and encourage teamwork between the pastor and lay leadership.*

Serving as the lay leader of the congregation this year is a rewarding experience for Missy. One of her primary roles is sharing the love of Jesus Christ inside and outside the church building, and that role comes to her quite naturally. Missy grew up in the Methodist Church in Hutchinson, MN, and has always been an active disciple of Christ. After moving to Kansas City to attend college, she established roots in the area and started attending Blue Ridge in 1996 with her family. She is married to her supportive husband, Mike, and has three children who all began their faith journeys at Blue Ridge. While at Blue Ridge, Missy has served others and shared her God given gifts in many ways. She has been actively involved in the music/worship ministry and has consistently led the children/youth in the church. In addition, she has taught Bible study classes and served on the church council. Missy has worked in the Raytown School District for that past 20, currently as a curriculum coordinator. She feels blessed to be a part of a community of believers and hopes that Blue Ridge will always be a place where all people can experience the wondrous love of Jesus Christ.



Our book study, *Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus* continues through Easter.

## **Join Us Sunday!**

8:00 and 9:00 AM

Encouragement

Bible Study (Adult)

8:45 AM

Good Samaritan Class (Adult)

Covenant Class (Adult)

9:00 AM

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for all the caring acts and words following the death of my wife, Sara, on February 2.

Often in these situations people will say, "Just let me know what you need. Anything you need." Because of all the support I've received has been such a powerful and uplifting experience, my request for what I need is this: Simply stick with me. I believe that with your support, I'll move through this...eventually. Without your support there's no telling how long this could take.

As you might imagine, my world feels different now, very different. Because of Sara's death, whatever I thought my future looked like is gone. It has changed forever. Yet not everything has changed. More than once in recent days I've heard my own words echoing in my memory, "As Christians, we believe that our future will be better than our past, or our present." I know you will believe me when I say that these words have a certain haunting quality. In the early days of my grief I'm wrestling with this promise.

Down in me in the deepest part of spirit, I know this is true. Death cannot destroy love.

As we approach Holy Week, remember our story: Love triumphs over death. Again, and again, and again.

Perhaps you, too, are grieving a loss? Join me, please, this Sunday and this coming Holy Week as we remember the promise, death and resurrection of Jesus.

I plan on offering my pain to God's care and promise, and emerging stronger in the Easter season. I pray that you will too!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry



Thirteen of us gathered for the second council meeting of 2015. We were still stunned by the recent passing of pastor Barry's wife, Sara. Our gathering focused on

God's plan for Blue Ridge for the next few weeks and our scripture for the evening was 1 Cor. 9:19-27 the theme of which is "Run in such a way as to get the prize." It helped us focus on putting one foot in front of the other and depending on God for guidance. As I write this early in March, I see God's blessing to His church in the care and efforts of staff, volunteers and friends who comfort and assist Pastor Barry and pick up the necessary tasks of "running the church". There certainly have been bumps in this journey, but there has also been grace experienced as well. To God be the glory for it all. Here are some highlights of the business of the Council:

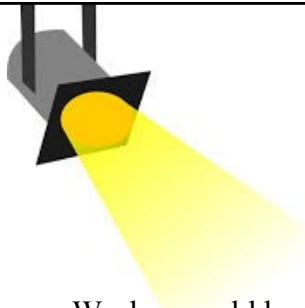
**Policies:** The office staff have organized our current policies in a sustainable order. It is a daunting task to be able to address such topics as building use, building access, responsibilities of church-sponsored groups and financial procedures.

**Trustees** reported continued work on roof repair/replacement (it's complicated), geothermal system maintenance (it's complicated), van key access (it's simple), Youth House sale(it's complicated) and phone system replacement (surprise!!). We answered the question "Who has the authority to sign contracts for the church?" but couldn't answer the question "Who changes furnace filters in the building?". (This sounds like the start of "How many people does it take to change a light bulb?" story.) We're workin' on it.

**Pastor/Parish**, in consultation with Pastor Barry, agreed to extend the contract of our church secretary, Peggy Simpson. We are blessed to have her wealth of office experience and her experience as a pastor's wife during this season.

**Generosity** reviewed the proposed Spending Plan (aka Budget). Sarah Jarvis graciously joined us to answer questions. Kennedy (aka Deb) DeMoss did not receive a single question from the congregation on the proposed plan. Our Apportioned giving was increased and the entire plan was approved as written.

- Brad Teachman, Council Chairperson



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

Susanna Wesley

### Heroine for Women's History Month

Susanna Wesley would have been noteworthy simply for giving birth to John Wesley and thus being the mother of Methodism. In this Women's History Month, she is unique, according to Edith Deen, in her 1977 classic, *Great Women of the Christian Faith*, because "few mothers in history have possessed the spiritual sensitivity, the stamina and the wisdom of Susanna Wesley." Numerous biographers and historians have praised Susanna Wesley's intellect, her extraordinary personal discipline, wisdom and clear judgment. In any historical era, she would have been an outstanding woman of accomplishment; for her time and under her unusual circumstances, she is extraordinary.

Born to a strong-willed father, Susanna was equally opinionated and strong-willed. She was striking in her "independence of mind," according to Beverly Whitaker, a biographer who also noted her scholarship and force of character. She chose to join the Church of England, even though her father was a leader of the Dissenters. Interestingly, about the same time that Susanna made that decision, Samuel Wesley, her future husband, made the same decision, their paths crossed and they married.

Even though her husband, Samuel, by all accounts, was a diligent, highly productive scholar, both brilliant and erudite, and he received numerous honors from the Church and from Royalty, he spent most of his life in debt. Therefore, Susanna, after having grown up in a financially stable home with a comfortable lifestyle, lived in poverty – even in destitute conditions for extended periods of time. Of their nineteen children in nineteen years, only ten survived to adulthood.

Susanna's independent mind and strong personality were encouraged, valued, and appreciated in her

parents' home, but her husband would not allow her to think or hold an opinion -- much less act or ask for anything -- without his permission. After one especially strong theological and Church disagreement, Samuel left his family without making plans for their livelihood and stayed gone for a year. He returned when a fire destroyed their home, leaving his family homeless, as well as destitute. Thereafter he and Susanna were somewhat estranged, however both John and Charles Wesley were born after that incident.

Susanna's children were taught obedience and how to control their emotions. The molding of their character and concern for their souls were Susanna's priorities. Susanna excelled in both goals. Everything she and Samuel did for their children was designed to further their education or edify their souls. In a day when not even wealthy women were educated, the Wesley daughters were as well-read as their brothers. Whatever the reason for her unique dedication to educating her children, she "prepared her daughters to marry Anglican clergymen and her sons to become Anglican bishops." This did not happen. Samuel gave his sons the best education money could provide at the expense of abject poverty for Susanna and her daughters.

Historians note that Samuel would have been merely another obscure, though brilliant, scholar except for his noteworthy sons. John Wesley is considered to be the "father of Methodism" and his brother, Charles, is author of more than 6,500 hymns. John and Charles' broad intellectual attainments, organizational skills, discipline, spiritual depth, and accomplishments in poetry and hymnody clearly were enhanced through the nurturing and training of their mother, Susanna Wesley.

*By Janice Shaw Crouse*

# HOLY WEEK

## **PALM SUNDAY**

**MARCH 29, WORSHIP 10 AM**

In his last week, Jesus rode into Jerusalem from the east amid waving palms while Caesar's army approached from the other direction. From the west, amid rising dust and the thunder of cavalry hoofs, soldiers march in, visible and audible even from a distance. This "shock and awe" battalion is led by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, who is rolling into town to assert the authority of the Roman Empire. He will answer any insurrection with an iron fist. Pilate, and by extension Caesar, is greeted by the upper crust of Jerusalem.

The palm parade is the counterpoint, a non-violent mockery of the Roman military parade on the other side of the city. From the east, amid whispers of revolt, Jesus rides in on a donkey, proclaiming the empire of God. He called it the "kingdom of God." Hearts pounding with fear, his companions follow in disorderly formation. The disciples must have been filled with a gut-churning mixture of fear and anticipation following Jesus into the city. Hopeful peasants cheer them on with "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" In five days, Jesus would be dead.

*(By Rt. Rev. David Giuliano)*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**APRIL 2, WORSHIP 7 PM**

On this day around the world Christians remember that tense, sensitive time Jesus spent with his disciples in the upper room and the last supper he shared with them. Many refer to this day as "Maundy Thursday." The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for commandment (*mandatum*), which Jesus talked about when he told his disciples that he was leaving them "a new commandment," that they "love one another." There were probably so many things going on in the disciples' minds in that upper room where they had their last supper together, including fear and bewilderment from Jesus telling them that someone in that very room would betray him. Jesus told them to repeat this unique meal in the future, and then it was time to go out into the chilly night. In a quiet garden among olive trees, Jesus prayed. In agony he prayed. And in the end it was sheer obedience to the divine plan that carried Jesus into the hands of the conspirators waiting for him. *Then all the disciples left Jesus and fled. (Matt.26:56b)* By Andy Rau

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**APRIL 3, WORSHIP 7 PM**

The celebration of Good Friday is ancient, dating at least to the 4th century. But why is it called a "good" day? The exact details of what happened on that original Friday are somewhat different in the four Gospels. How is it possible to characterize the horrific events of that day as "good"? How is it that the cross of that Friday has become the universal symbol of Christendom? This would have gone down in history as just another death of a renegade who tried to overthrow Jewish and Roman officials had it not been for what followed. That terrible Friday has been called Good Friday because it led to the Resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death and sin and the celebration of Easter, the very pinnacle of Christian celebrations. Although Christians, from the very fundamental to the very liberal, vary in their interpretations of exactly how the death of Jesus on the cross frees man from his sins and gives him everlasting life, and exactly what *everlasting life* means, they all agree that it took the death and burial of Jesus on that Friday to make the victory of the Resurrection possible. John simply says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (*John 3:16*) (By William B. Bradshaw)

## **RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 5, WORSHIP 10 AM**

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in history, providing irrefutable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The resurrection was not only the supreme validation of His deity; it also validated the Scriptures, which foretold His coming and resurrection. His resurrection, as the Bible makes clear, paves the way for all believers to rise again, when the last trumpet sounds.

The name "Easter" has its roots in ancient polytheistic religions (paganism). On this, all scholars agree. This name is never used in the original Scriptures, nor is it ever associated biblically with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Most reference books say that the name "Easter" derived from the Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of Spring.



United  
Methodist  
Women

Evening Circle	First Monday
Unit Meeting	Second Wednesday
Priscilla Circle	Third Wednesday
Ruth Circle	Third Thursday
Mission Team	Fourth Wednesday
Connecting Hands	Fourth Wednesday

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



**DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY 1ST**

## ONGOING EVENTS

REAP Pantry 1st Sunday  
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Every Tuesday, 10 am  
Women's Bible Study, 1st & 3rd Thursday, 10 am  
MOBR Breakfast, 1st Saturday at Ginger's, 7 am  
Hartman Breakfast, 1st Thursday at Ginger's, 8 am  
Council, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm  
Book Club, 2nd Tuesday, 7 pm  
Golden Key, 2nd Thursday at Noon  
Grief Care, 3rd Wednesday at 10 am

## LENT & EASTER QUIZ

1. Communion is based on the Last Supper of Christ. Can anyone take Communion at a UMC?
2. Whom do the Gospels say Jesus first spoke to after he arose?
3. When do congregations 'strip' the Lord's Table?
4. What does a Tenebrae service consist of?
5. Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?
6. What in nature is used as a symbol of Easter?
7. Why do people give things up for Lent?
8. To whom does Jesus say, "Get behind me, Satan?"
9. Why do some UMC not sing during Lent?
10. True or False? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.
11. When did the UMC officially start the "Imposition of Ashes?"
12. How did the early church observe Lent?  
(answers at [umc.org](http://umc.org), or Palm Sunday bulletin)

## Special Days and Holidays

March 20: First Day of Spring  
March 29: Palm Sunday, Worship 10:00 am  
April 2: Maundy Thursday, Worship 7 pm  
April 3: Good Friday, Worship 7 pm  
April 5: Easter Sunday, Worship 7 pm  
April 19: Earth Day  
April 24: Arbor Day  
April 25: World Malaria Day  
May 7: National Day of Prayer  
May 10: Mother's Day  
May 14: Ascension of the Lord  
May 24: Pentecost Sunday  
May 25: Memorial Day  
May 31: Trinity Sunday



### BRC BOOK CLUB

#### 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

The books for April and May are listed below along with the person leading the discussion. Everyone is welcome. For more info, contact Charlotte Robinson at [crobin1935@aol.com](mailto:crobin1935@aol.com) or 816.353.4946.

April 14: *The Dove Keeper* by Alice Hoffman  
Led by Margaret Tilly

May 12: *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idilby,  
Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner  
Led by Darcy Munzer



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



## RAYTOWN EGG-EXTRAVAGANZA

On Saturday, April 4, 2015, the Raytown Main Street Association will present the Annual Egg-

Extravaganza in Downtown Raytown. **You can help support this event again this year by contributing candy and plastic eggs.**

The last day of collection is Sunday, March 22nd. For more info on the event, go to <http://www.raytownmainstreet.org>



## Holy Week



### PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Worship, 10:00 am



### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Holy Communion Worship, 7:00 pm



### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Worship, 7:00 pm



### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Worship, 10:00 am

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

**Pastor Barry Freese,**  
[barry@blueridgechurch.org](mailto:barry@blueridgechurch.org)  
 Direct: 816-835-2545

**Pastor Jan Bond,** [j007@comcast.net](mailto:j007@comcast.net),  
 Direct: 417-229-1930

**Kevin Hershberger,** Director of Worship Arts  
[KevinHershberger@blueridgechurch.org](mailto:KevinHershberger@blueridgechurch.org)

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