



And Speaking of Learning . . .

Spring and fall are my favorite times of the year. The changing of seasons always reminds me of the changes that God invites us to experience as we draw closer to Him. This Spring, I am also reminded that time is drawing near, time to pack again, move again, and unpack again. Please pray for Ginny, Samantha and myself as we look for a new place to live. We are becoming moving experts, as we venture into our 21st move. Not an area I was expecting to be an expert on, however, with every move we learn how to be more efficient at the process.

And speaking of learning, do you remember sitting in school, the teacher at the front of the class furiously scribbling on the black board while lecturing, and thinking, “I don’t get it!” Have you ever sat and listened to a pastor and had that very same thought? I have! It’s a frustrating and even lonely feeling.



This Sunday we will begin a new sermon series, Dazed and Confused, as we explore the question, how do I experience God? How do our five senses come into play when experiencing God? Is there a sixth sense? What did the bible mean when they wrote “taste and see that the Lord is good!”? Can I see God? Join us, as we seek to experience God and answer these questions and more.

- *Pastor Anchul*

Worship Series: Dazed and Confused

May 6th: Dazed and Confused (Nothing is Sweeter), Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

May 13: Dazed and Confused (Now I see Clearly), Matthew 7:1-12

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

May 20: Dazed and Confused (The Midas Touch), Mark 5:21-34,

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

May 27: Dazed and Confused: (Ghost Stories – the 6th Sense), John 3:1-8

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

UMW Calendar Updates

The UMW Unit will not meet in May. The Mission Team will meet on Wednesday, May 23 at 9:00.

Priscilla Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 16 at 10:00. Margaret Strader's daughter, Marilyn will give the program on her recent trip of Paul's second journey. The rollcall will be Journey and refreshments will be brought by Margaret.

Golden Key to Host the Raymers

Golden Key will meet at 12:00 on May 10 with a catered meal for \$7.00. Their program will be given by Arrena and Ron Raymer. Arrena plays the base and Ron plays the guitar, and they both sing Ron's original songs. He has a knack for making life funny both from his childhood (and ours) and current events.

Hospitality Impact

What should I do as a Greeter? What do you mean?, you say, I am not a Greeter. But yes you are! Each one of us serves as a greeter to those who enter our church building.

So again, What should I do as a greeter?

First of all and most important, **PRAY** for our church, our pastor, for our visitors that will be coming, for our church family, our Hospitality Committee, and for yourself.

Next, smile and take the initiative to meet someone you don't know.

What to say? "Hi, I am (your name). I haven't met you. Welcome to our church this morning."

(Don't say – "Is this your first time here?")

Put yourself in the visitor's place. How would you like to be approached? What would you like to know coming into a new environment? How can you be welcoming?

Yes, with the attitude of love and care, **we are all** called into the service of hospitality.

Galations 2:20 – "and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." NRSV

Procedure Changes:

- 1 – Missions containers in the coat room.
- 2 – Monthly newsletters on Church Info Table across from drinking fountain.
- 3 – Sunday morning snacks – signs up are at the Welcome Center. ~ *Donna Teachman 358-0752*

Methodist Conference Needs Personal Hygiene Packs For Distribution

The Methodist Conference is asking all churches to bring items to this year's conference that will go to the Festival of Sharing. Each district in the conference is asked to provide a specific group of items or packs. Heartland District churches are asked to provide items for the Personal Hygiene Packs.

A completed pack is valued at \$20.00. If you prefer to donate money to provide the items, you can give a check or cash in a labeled envelope "Personal Hygiene Packs" and your name. Leave it in the office to be used to buy what is needed. There will be a labeled box in the "Mission area" in the coat closet for items to be collected if you prefer to donate that way. If you're unable to buy all requested items, feel free to buy what items you can and place in donation box.

There are many folks that live in areas where it is difficult to find the items readily, and folks that have issues just being able to get to a store to find them. A comment from one agency in the Lake of the Ozark area where they were distributed to the elderly in 2017, shared how helpful the packs were to the those who received them, and how excited they were to get the extra gift along with any other items they received from others.

The items needed for each pack are: 1 Fluoride toothpaste (6 oz or more), 1 toothbrush (in original pkg), 1 bath size bar of soap in wrapper, 1 bottle of skin lotion (11-14oz), 1 bottle of shampoo (11-14 oz), 1 washcloth, 1 deodorant, 1 hand towel, 1 comb or brush, 2 razors (disposable). Each pack collected is to be put in a 2 or 2.5 gallon Ziploc bag. When we gather enough items or bagged items, they will be boxed up and taken when I go down for conference. Then they will be taken to Sedalia for the Festival of Sharing and distributed where the need is greatest. It is hard sometimes to know how to help others, but this seems to be a rather simple way to help those in need. All items need to be collected by June 3rd so there is time to sort and pack as needed to deliver at the conference. Thank you for your help to represent our church in this endeavor to help others that need a helping hand. ~ *Sue Klotz*

Did You Know.....

Ten Years of Red, White, and Blue Quilts Donated to Support College/University Scholarships

Margaret Muñoz made this 2018 Star Parade Quilt to support The American GI Forum (AGIF) scholarship program. In the last 10 years more than \$50,000 has been awarded scholarships to students.



The AGIF is a national family veterans' organization that began in 1948 in Texas under the leadership of Dr. Hector Garcia, a former Army doctor and practicing physician in Corpus Christi. Dr. Garcia saw the Latino veterans returning from WWII and their families did not have opportunities for health care, education, jobs, etc. Today the emphasis continues on education and veteran affairs. This valued organization is not limited to anyone, has an office in Washington, D.C, and several active state chapters.

At the drawing on June 9, 2018 at the AGIF Kansas State Conference, the Star Parade Quilt will find a home and 100% of the proceeds will support this year's 11 scholarship recipients. Phyllis Renken says it's her turn to have the quilt!

Here's your opportunity to possibly have this quilt for your own: \$1 = 1 opportunity/ticket; \$5 = 6 opportunities/tickets; \$10 = 15 opportunities/tickets. Just see Margaret!

Join our Book Club! We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the church Library. Join us!

| Date | Book Title | Discussion Leader |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| May 17 | <i>The Secrets of Roscarburg Hall</i> by Ann O'Loughlin | Jane Wilkes |
| 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

An Opportunity to GROW: Calling all Gardeners

Spring is here and it looks like maybe the temperature has finally caught up! Wow I wasn't sure it would ever happen, but the flowers are blooming, trees are blossoming, and you know what that means?! Time to plant your garden!

The St Paul Community Garden has both, 10x20 and 10x10 plots available, they are super affordable!



Do you know a reluctant gardener? Sarah Scheil is the Garden Coordinator, Sarah has a lifetime of knowledge, and her passion is contagious! She is always excited to share what she knows! If you are interested in planting your own garden you can reach Sarah at: Phone (816) 356-6986 stpaulcommunitygarden@yahoo.com



SOFT HEARTS AND HARD FEET

by Missy Marcella

As I have been reading “The Bible in a Year”, the following story touched my heart and inspired me to think a little differently.

A twenty-one-year-old music college student took the cheapest ship she could find, calling at the greatest number of countries, and prayed to know where to disembark. She arrived in Hong Kong in 1966 when the cultural revolution was beginning in China and a flood of refugees were about to burst across the border into Hong Kong. More and more people crammed into a place called the Walled City. It was a small, densely populated, lawless area controlled neither by China nor Hong Kong. It was a high-rise slum for drug addicts, gangs and prostitutes. She wrote:

‘I loved this dark place. I hated what was happening in it but I wanted to be nowhere else. It was almost as if I could already see another city in its place and that city was ablaze with light. It was my dream. There was no more crying, no more death or pain. The sick were healed; addicts set free; the hungry filled. There were families for orphans, homes for the homeless and new dignity for those who had lived in shame. I had no idea of how to bring this about but with “visionary zeal” imagined introducing the Walled City people to the one who could change it all: Jesus.

Jackie Pullinger has spent nearly half a century working with prostitutes, heroin addicts and gang members. I remember so well a talk she gave some years ago. She began by saying, ‘God wants us to have soft hearts and hard feet. The trouble with so many of us is that we have hard hearts and soft feet.’

God wants us to have soft hearts – hearts of love and compassion. But if we are to make any difference to the world, this will lead to hard feet as we travel along tough paths and face challenges. Jackie is a glowing example of this in her willingness to go without sleep, food and comfort in order to serve others. This comes from a soft heart: a heart filled with compassion. The toughness is in her feet, not her heart.

In our church, I see so much evidence of soft hearts. We are a welcoming, caring church family. We are compassionate for the poor and generous to the needy. We have soft hearts, and those soft hearts must lead to hard feet. God’s people must be prepared to act on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, to fight against injustice and stand up for the oppressed.

Sometimes service to the poor and service in our communities is more easily said than done. It requires sacrifice. It requires courage. It requires commitment. It requires change. But, the more we act, the more we try, the harder our feet will become. Our soft hearts inspire us to demonstrate God’s love in our world, but our hard feet represent our foundation in Christ Jesus and our unrelenting mission to share and connect with people along the Way. The softness of our hearts gets us started but the hardness of our feet show that we are making a difference for Christ. As Pastor Anchul always says, “Love God and love each other (soft hearts), and go make disciples (hard feet).”

Lord, give us soft hearts of compassion and love for the issues of extreme poverty and injustice in our world – and hard feet and courage to go out and do something about it. AMEN

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.



Discipleship Begins with Relationship

This is the church, This is the steeple,
Open the doors, See all the people!

#SEEALLTHEPEOPLE

Let’s stop fixing churches and start seeing the people God calls us to reach.

Church Board News – April 2018

The Church board met on April 10th, 2018. The regular meeting devotional was cancelled due to the member that was scheduled to lead the devotional being absent from the meeting.

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 general topics to report to the board as well as some ideas for community outreach moving forward. The church has hired a new bookkeeper to replace Misty Fuimaono, who will be leaving the position soon.

Anchul proposed holding children's self-defense and gymnastics classes once per week at the church. The instructor has agreed to work for free, as he is already teaching these classes at St. Paul's. These classes would be held in the downstairs dining room, which currently sees little to no use. Anchul makes a motion for the board to allocate \$1000 to help procure the equipment necessary for the classes as well as other expenditures associated with the classes, which the board passed unanimously. Volunteers from the church will be needed to help oversee the classes, and options for these volunteers will be explored once the starting date draws closer.

Additionally, the security conference that is taking place at Blue Ridge may have its date changed to a later one. The conference will be an all-day event, so ample time will have to be given for any potential attendees to work their schedules around this day. Anyone who is interested from Blue Ridge is welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.*

Generosity and Budget Topics

Marge Fredrickson presented the financial report for March of 2018. March was a rough month for the church financially. While the overall income remains on-target, some unexpected, heavy expenses popped up, resulting in a \$3000 loss for the month.

| | YTD March 2018 | 2018 Budget |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total Income | \$55,930 | \$62,574 |
| Total Expenses | \$59,213 | \$64,661 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -\$3,283 | -\$2,086 |

Trustees

- Dwight Robinson brought to the board's attention a furnace in the nursery that hasn't been functioning properly. The cause has yet to be determined, but it is under investigation.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

- Deborah DeMoss distributed the yearly pastor evaluation forms to the board. These forms will be discussed and filled out by the board members at the next meeting while Pastor Anchul is not in the room in the interest of anonymity.

Other Business

- Regular nursery workers are still being sought to take care of any babies or young children that are brought to church on Sunday mornings.
- The next board meeting will take place on May 8th, 2018 at 6:30 PM. - *Tony Marcella, Board Secretary*

*The date for the security conference is Saturday, May 19, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. You must call the church office to make a reservation.

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

Facebook:

Blue Ridge Church

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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!

Coming on May 12:

AnnaLee and the

Lucky So & So's

Read about them on their facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AnnaLee-and-the-Lucky-So-and-Sos-114877131869645/>