



The Home Envoy

Volume 58, Issue 11 November 5, 2013

THE NEWS AT BLUE RIDGE

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

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

From the pastor:

Transforming Generosity

This is about transforming generosity. My hope and prayer is that this will be an encouragement to you as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

There are thousands of folks in our area who could use some encouragement, and you are just the person, and we are just the church, to provide it. If you are encouraged, then it stands to reason that you would be able to share some, knowing that our encouragement comes from a generous God.

The economic trends of the last five years are well known. All you have to do is say "2008-09" and whoever is in the conversation is instantly reminded of the beginning of what we now call the Great Recession. The name alone, Great Recession, rhymes with and recalls the Great Depression which followed the stock market crash on October 29, 1929. Lives changed dramatically following the crash and the recovery took quite a while.

The recovery from the Great Recession is underway, yet it's slow and not yet felt by all. It may never be felt by all. Even before the Great Recession we know that the great American middle class was shrinking, being divided into those who still have and those who are seeing their dreams slip away. Economists call it bifurcation when a single group is divided in two; they say that the American middle class has been under economic attack from bifurcation for over a generation. If this is not (yet?) your experience, then perhaps you know someone who is not as well off today as there were even a decade ago.

Here's where transforming generosity come into play. Transformation is at the heart of our Christian story. Simply put, following Jesus Christ will change lives, transform lives, now and forever.

We know from census data that within a one mile radius of Blue Ridge Blvd and 51st Street there are about 7,000 people. The two largest groups in this area make up over one-third of our neighbors. These groups share a telling common trait: they have significant economic aspirations. Yet they find themselves in an economy that is dealing a severe blow to one of their hopes and dreams.

Our location, where thousands of cars pass each week, and the times, where our neighbors are having their hopes and dreams smashed, have put us in the position of offering help, hope and transformation!

My wife, Sara, and I are committed to offering help, hope and transformation in Jesus' name through Blue Ridge Blvd. UMC. You probably know that at my request my annual rate of compensation is now almost \$10,000 less than when I arrived. Yet, Sara and I have decided to increase the portion of our income that goes to Christ's work here so that people experience help, hope and transformation through this ministry.

We're planning on thanking you for your transforming generosity. The Generosity Brunch on Sunday November 10 starts serving after worship. It's free, though we prefer reservations for planning purposes. Call the office before noon on Thursday to make your reservation, if you haven't already. I look forward to thanking you personally.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Barry Freese

Generosity Report January – September 2013

General Ministry Operations

Giving January - September	\$ 297,488
Proceeds from sale of 12109 E 50 th Ter	\$ 29,848
Kitchen Income	\$ 1,380
Mission Offering/Impact	<u>\$ 1,318</u>
TOTAL General Operations Giving	\$ 330,035

Ministry Expenses all categories	\$ 316,426
----------------------------------	------------

Net Income	\$ 13,427
------------	-----------

Geo-Thermal Capital Campaign

Contributions Received January - September	\$ 29,108
Loan Payments January - September	\$ 18,802
Funds moved to Metcalf for future payments	\$ 11,100
Amount paid on note restructure end of 3 years	\$ 31,084
Proceeds to Metcalf Bank from sale of 12109	\$ 29,848
Outstanding Note Balance	\$ 278,500

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Jarvis at her email: sjarvis@blueridgechurch.org or call the office. Need to know where you stand with your generous giving for the year, please let me know and I would be happy to provide you a statement.

Grief Care - Reaching Out and Touching

Grief Care group started as an outgrowth of our GriefShare program which is designed to help people during the grief process. One of the things we learned was that the healing process of grief is helped by reaching out to others who are in need. Thus the Grief Care program began in July of 2007 and has been ongoing since that time. We have had 3-6 members who meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am to pray for those who have lost a member of their family (or a close friend) and to mail a series of four books entitled *Journeying through Grief* at different times in the year following death. The first book; "A Time to Grieve" is sent during the month following one's loss. Book two "Experiencing Grief" is sent three months after. "Finding Hope and Healing" is sent at six months and "Rebuilding and Remembering" is sent just prior to the one year anniversary of the death. A letter accompanies each mailing. We have mailed just over 1000 books (242 complete packages x 4 plus 29 that are currently in the cycle). We have sold bottles of water throughout the years to help pay for this program. You can find our small refrigerator in the kitchen stocked with bottles of water with our bright pink Grief Care labels. We have always operated on the honor system. If this is a ministry you would like to join, please come to our next group on November 20 and help us continue to reach out and touch those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.



Anyone for a Game of Dominoes?

Would you like to participate in a monthly game of Dominoes? We're thinking about starting a group for fun and fellowship to meet the 4th Wednesday of the month in room 203 at 12:30 pm, please contact Marilyn Yorke if your interested in this fun time playing Dominoes.



Golden Key

The Golden Key Club Meeting is the second Thursday, November 14 at Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC. We meet in the Dining Room, lower floor at noon. The luncheon is "potluck", so bring a covered dish and join us for fun and fellowship. The program by BJ Taylor is a "Patriotic Salute To America's Veterans". Guests are welcome!

Christmas Flowers Need to Order NOW!

The church is trying very hard to be good stewards of all monies given to them for church business. As a part of that plan, *all flowers for Sundays and for our holiday displays will require payment when you sign-up*, so we no longer have to use money designated for the operations of the church to pay for flowers ordered.

So, starting November 3rd, you can order a Poinsettia to honor or in memory of your family, friends, or just because you want one to share with someone. A payment designated for the Poinsettia is required when you place your order. Please be sure your check or envelope notes that on the memo line so there is no confusion. **The flowers need to be ordered on November 11th** from Farrand Farms to be sure we can get what we need. If orders come in later than that, with payment, I will do my best to get what you request, but I might not be able to get them from Farrand Farms. Sorry about the short time frame, but after checking with them, that is the time they need to guarantee them for us. - Sue Klotz



Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will be meeting

November 12 at 7:00 pm in the Library and discussing *Saving Cee Cee Honeycut* by Beth Hoffmann. This discussion will be led by Lisa Schwartzkopf. All are welcome!

Worship Design Team

Blue Ridge has a new Worship Design Team. Their work is to design worship that supports our mission to train new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The members of the Worship Design Team are Pastor Jan Bond, Joyce Downing, Sue Klotz, Missy Marcella, Steve Schwieterman, Brad Teachman, Kevin Hershberger and Pastor Barry Freese. As Worship Arts Director, Kevin will lead the team in conjunction with Barry.

Our Vision:

Creating relationships in the mission field so that all experience the love of Christ.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Stop by the Prayer room at your convenience and add prayers to the shawls on display. They will remain in the Chapel for several weeks so you can visit at a time good for you to add your prayers. If you have questions please contact Sandy McConnell through the church office or ask the pastors. There are several women who gather weekly to knit and pray and can always use more help. They meet every Tuesday in the Beatitude Entry Area at 10:00 am - noon and would welcome interested newcomers.

Opportunity to Serve

The Endowment Committee meets a minimum of two times a year or on an as needed basis when there is a request for funds. The Committee is looking for a member to serve a one year term and someone to serve a two year term. If you are interested please contact Pastor Barry.

Blue Ridge Youth News

Blue Ridge Youth is alive and well! While we had a very large number of youth graduate last spring we still have many active members in this group and we have great plans for the coming year. In the works are plans to do community service opportunities 1 to 2 Saturdays a month so if you know of someone who needs assistance with cleaning, yard work, etc. please let us know. We are willing and able to send just a few or many to help.

We also hope to attend the youth event "Acquire the Fire" in February. This is a huge event that was attended by only a few last year because of the cost and it being out of town. This year it is in Kansas City which means no hotels and we can eat together at the youth house in the evening. Plus, I am working on getting us the lowest cost tickets available by attending the leader's workshop in November. Those of the youth who attended last year thought it was a very spiritual, (or as they put it "the greatest") event.

In the spring we will be going up to Wilderness Retreat and Conference Center to assist with cleanup for the summer camps and traveling again to Colorado in July for the UMC conference-sponsored work camp. And, as always, we will be here to work with our Vacation Bible School group.



We are also discussing ideas regarding bringing the Word to the teens who regularly visit our basketball court at the youth house. Got a great idea? Let us know!

Please keep the youth in mind when considering how much God is asking you to give this year. At this point there are no plans for our usual youth musical to generate funds so we hope to have most of our activities covered by the church budget, except the specific amount each youth is asked to contribute.

- Blessings, Deborah DeMoss, Volunteer Youth Coordinator

Service and Mission

Our November-December focus is on REAP. We are especially asking for food pantry items during these two months to help with the holiday meals of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will have the Christmas Barrels early in November to fill up with gifts for the families, decorations, wrapping paper, and Christmas cards for the families, if you have some to spare, as REAP reaches out to the families that they know need a little extra help over the holidays. IF you can't go out to buy gifts, you may send them a check to help them buy the things they need for the families, or you can bring it to the church and we will make sure they get it in time to do what they need to do. Our Impact offering will be taken up on the first Sunday in December and half of that will go to REAP and the other half goes to Global Missions. Be sure your envelope and checks are noted to IMPACT, so we know where it is to go.

The Christmas offering will also go to REAP.

Watch the Sunday Envoy for our next meeting date. We apologize that we had to postpone the last meeting, and will put a note in as soon as we know our date and time. Meetings are generally done 6 times a year and it is an update and finalizing our plans for the next 2-3 months of plans. Anyone is invited to join us as we strive to reach out of our comfort zone, and into the mission field around us to do God's work, as we try to demonstrate God's love for those around us.

THE ENVOY (USPS 592-420) is published monthly by

Blue Ridge Boulevard United Methodist Church

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64133
Phone: 816-353-1435

Office Hours
Tues-Thurs 8:30am-4:30pm
Office closed on Mondays and Fridays

Periodicals
Postage Paid
At Kansas City, MO

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to: THE ENVOY
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64133-2547



Check out our website for more information:

www.BlueRidgeChurch.org

Service Time:

Sunday mornings 10:00 am

Pastor:

Barry Freese

barry@blueridgechurch.org

Direct: 816-835-2545

Article deadline for next
issue is November 28.

Mark your Calendars:

- Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall, Delta Kappa Gamma
- Monday, Nov. 11, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Monday, Nov. 11, 5:30 pm, MoBR Dinner at V's
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10:00am, Beatitude Entry Area, Prayer Shawl
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:00pm, Library, Women's Book Club
- Wednesday, Nov. 13, Dining Room, UMW Unit Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov. 13, Wednesday Night Live
- Thursday, Nov. 14, 12:00noon, Dining Room, Golden Key
- Thursday, Nov. 14, Room 203, H.O.P.E.
- Monday, Nov. 18, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Tuesday, Nov. 19 10:00am, Beatitude Entry Area, Prayer Shawl
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 10:00am, Conference Room, Grief Care
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 10:00am, Room 201, Priscilla
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, Wednesday Night Live
- Thursday, Nov. 21, 10:00am, Library, Women's Bible Study
- Thursday, Nov. 21, 1:00pm, Library, Ruth Circle
- Thursday, Nov. 14, Room 203, H.O.P.E.
- Monday, Nov. 25, 9:30 am, Dining Room, Breaktime
- Tuesday, Nov. 26, 10:00am, Beatitude Entry, Prayer Shawl
- Thursday, Nov. 28, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- Sunday, Dec. 1, Pantry Sunday

Around the Mission Field

Nov 12th (7:00 pm), "Understanding New Health Care Law"
Mid Continent Public Library - Raytown, 6131 Raytown Road.

Church Family News

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to:

- The Scalett family for the death of Richard Scalett
- Karen Johnson and family for the loss of her father-in-law.

Thank You . . .

I would like to thank Sandy McConnell and the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their dedication. I gave a Prayer Shawl to my friend Anita (not a member of our church) after she suffered a heart attack. She was very touched and stated she felt peace, comfort and warmth from the shawl. Ladies you are truly "Disciples for Christ".
- Eva Ponessa

Years of Service

Many thanks go out to Bill and Laveta Stiles as they retire from their decades of service volunteering to help with the church newsletter. Once a month, for so many years, they set aside an entire morning to fold, label and help sort and count. We couldn't have done it so efficiently without them. Thank you Bill and Laveta for your dedication and wiliness to serve as you made our job much easier. Bless you both for all you've done.
- Dona Meyer

This November issue of The News at Blue Ridge has been sponsored by Hilda Koelling as she wishes all her friends and church family at Blue Ridge have a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season.