

# THE ENVOY

*...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church*

February 1, 2005 Vol. 50, Issue 5

*This issue of The Envoy  
is sponsored by*

*the Builders Class  
in honor of  
Tom Scahill  
for his 65 years  
church school teaching*

## **Lenten study series begins February 20**

Join us for a Lenten study series beginning Sunday, February, 20, at 4:00 p.m. The first three Sundays will be a repeat of our study of archeology, which has been requested by those who could not attend our last series that was held on week nights.

The pastor will again present slides of his recent expedition and consider the lessons of the Holy Land for our Christian faith and scripture.

On the last two Sundays, we will focus on that Christian faith against the backdrop of world religions.

Mark your calendars now for this series to be held in the Chapel and in Room 222.

## ***Lent begins with Ash Wednesday***

Wednesday, February 9, is *Ash Wednesday*, start of the church season of Lent. A special service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. It will include the Sacrament of Holy

Communion and the imposition (or placing) of an ash cross on the forehead or hand of those who wish to receive this traditional symbol.



Lent is a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer and spiritual self-examination in which Christians reflect on their own faith life and on the life, suffering, rejection and death of Jesus. The season is one of preparation for Easter and its Resurrection celebration.



## **Bring Pantry Sunday items this weekend**

This Sunday, February 6, is our monthly *Pantry Sunday*. It's always so warming to see the wooden, collection boxes FULL of items to give to those in-need. Donations of non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products and paper and cleaning products are always needed. When you are doing your personal grocery shopping this week, why not pick up an item or two for the Pantry Sunday collection boxes? This is a win-win deal — those receiving the items and YOU for the wonderful feeling you get for being in a position to help others.

## ***“Walking Jesus’ Path”***

Leadership is so important!! Please consider attending the following event if you are one of the elected leaders in the church or if you’re just interested. You can contact me for more information.



### **EXTRAVAGANZA - 2005**

**Leadership Training for Pastors  
& Laity**

For all interested persons and  
churches

Sponsored by the Heartland  
South District

Saturday, February 12

Pleasant Hill UMC  
1300 Lexington  
Pleasant Hill, MO  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

... Cheryl

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*God is like TIDE.....*

*He gets the stains out that others  
leave behind.*

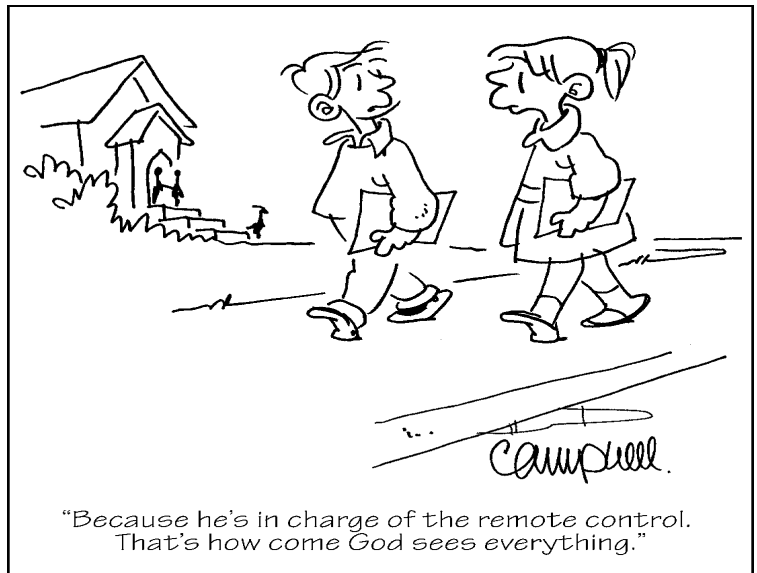
## **Part-time volunteers are OK**

Our Outreach Committee wants you to know that there is a really B-I-G need for volunteers to help at Shepherd’s Center of Raytown. Your volunteering at Shepherd’s Center does not have to be a long-time commitment. If you can help out once a week, or maybe a couple times a month, that would be so appreciated. Why don’t you call the Shepherd’s Center office at 356-9000 to check out what is of interest to you? There are lots of opportunities waiting for you.

## **The G.I.F.T. class invites you . . .**

. . . to join us in an eight-week study of Genesis. What an awesome book! A book about beginnings — a story of God’s purpose and a plan for his creation. It sets the stage for the entire Bible!

Come join us on Sunday mornings, beginning this Sunday, February 6, at 11:00 in Room 221. If you have any questions or are in need of more information, please call Donna Teachman at 358-0752.



## Coming Next Week...

### Sunday, February 6

Worship Times: 8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes: 9:30 or 10:45

- Amish Friendship Bread Table in entry area at south end
- Blue Ridge shirt orders being taken
- 10:30-10:50 a.m., Angel Choir, Room 110
- 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel

### Monday, February 7

- 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Break Time Club, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m., Vision Committee Meeting, Room 222
- 7:00 p.m., Boy Scouts, Hobbs Hall

### Tuesday, February 8

- 6:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m., Nurture/Fellowship Committee Meeting, Library
- 7:00 p.m., Cub Scouts, Hobbs Hall

### Wednesday, February 9

- 10:00 a.m., UMW Unit Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m., Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday, February 10

- 6:30 p.m., Alpha

### Saturday, February 12

- Alpha Saturday

## Youth Information:



### Friday, February 4

- THE CRAZE

### Sunday, February 6

- Sunday School Classes

Eat B4 you come!

- 1:30-2:00 p.m., Drama for freshmen & sophomores
- 2:00-4:00 p.m., Musical Practice for everyone
- 4:00-5:00 p.m., Drama for juniors & seniors

## UMW invites Blue Ridge women to join in some February events

Our UMW invite all women of the church to join them this month. On Monday, February 7, some United Methodist Women are gathering at Home Town Buffet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. This dinner will be to organize an evening circle for those not able to make it to a daytime meeting or for anyone interested in attending in the evening. Home Town Buffet is located at Noland Road and 40 Highway. Please call Marilyn Yorke (356-6694) or Sandy McConnell (224-4603) to make reservations. If you decide at the last minute you would like to attend but have not make reservations, come anyway and join others for an evening of fellowship.



United  
Methodist  
Women

At the next Unit Meeting, the UMW will celebrate "Call to Pray and Self Denial." Their next meeting will be Wednesday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All Blue Ridge women are invited to come.

## Join choir for "special" music

The Chancel Choir is preparing "Colors of Grace," a cantata by Joseph Martin, to be presented on Maundy Thursday, March 24. You are welcome to join us and sing for this special service. We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:30 in the Music Room.

... Linda Mann

## Men of Blue Ridge

*Men of Blue Ridge* are meeting this Saturday, February 5, at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at Monica's on 40 Highway. All men are invited to come.

## ***Pastor's Corner:***

As we near the Lenten time of preparation, here are seven WARNING SIGNALS THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE. They are taken from my old mentor Dr. Arnold Prater:

I saw this headline in an American Cancer Society brochure recently. It started my glory wheels a-goin' . . . . . Here are seven WARNING SIGNALS that could indicate one may be in danger of backsliding . . . . . They may save one's spiritual life if heeded. ARE YOU IN DANGER?

- If you have stopped praying regularly.
- If you only read your Bible occasionally (or never).
- If you spend most of your social time with lukewarm or non-Christians, rather than those who are committed to the Pilgrimage with Christ.
- If you regularly use words you wouldn't use in front of your preacher, your mother or church school class.
- If you have gotten into the habit of relying mainly on your feelings instead of God's Word.
- If you find yourself criticizing others more than you're praising God.
- If, in your testimony, you have to continually go back to ancient history. "Some cancers work slowly and others come on fast . . . . . but they almost all give 'warning signs'".

**IS IT TIME FOR YOUR CHECKUP?**

Let's all take time for the above checkup and be in study and worship next Sunday.

Grace & Peace,

*...Jim*

## ***Person to person:***

### **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

- As of January 31, the following member has been reported in an area hospital: Howard Scott at St. Luke's.
- Our sympathy to Verna Johnson and family for the death of her husband Andrew.
- "Once again, Sandy and I thank you for your many expressions of support and caring – this time, at the passing of my mother. We all expect these times in our lives, but they are made so much easier by caring friends and the promises of a faithful God."

*... Jim Smith*

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