

THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

April 19, 2005 Vol. 50, Issue 16

*This issue of The Envoy
is sponsored by*

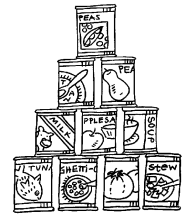
*Al & Velda Gantner
who are blessed
to have reached their
50th wedding anniversary*

John Mann presents . . .

John Mann's percussion recital will take place this Sunday evening, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. Featured will be two marimba ensembles. One will have four players on one Mexican marimba and the other with each player on their own instrument. This piece was written to emulate the sounds of bird flight; the flutter of wings is produced by putting mallets and brushes together creating a stick called a "brallet." Another piece for soprano, cello and vibes was written this year by a UMKC graduate student using the poetry of American poet Amy Lowell. John will also do a dramatic monologue. The Mann Band Trio and featuring Carl Carney on saxophone will close the evening with spirituals arranged by Joseph Martin and Mark Hayes.

Community Food Drive benefits Raytown Emergency Assistance Program

Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (R.E.A.P.) is sponsoring a community-wide Food Drive on Saturday, April 23, to help fill their food pantry. They go through an average of 15-18,000 non-perishable items a month. Their supplies are running low. They are asking the community to come together in order to help those less fortunate. You can make a donation from 9:00-5:00 on April 23 at any of the following grocery stores:



FOOD DRIVE

- Coddington's Thriftway - 62nd & Raytown Trafficway
- Consentino's Apple Market - 63rd Street & Woodson
- Consentino's Price Chopper - Blue Ridge Cut-Off & 63rd Street
- Hy-Vee - 350 Highway & Blue Ridge Blvd
- Consentino's Apple Market - 75th Street & Raytown Road

The items needed the most are:

- Canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits
- paper goods (toilet paper, Kleenex, etc.)
- dry goods
- cleaning supplies (bar soap, laundry soap, etc.)
- and other non-perishable items.

If you would be interested in volunteering for a two-hour period to help collect donations at local grocery stores on Saturday, please contact the R.E.A.P. office at 356-0054. Also, if you belong to a group who would like to do a community service project, call the above number.

Sunday, April 24, Communion served during all three morning services.

“Walking Jesus’ Path”

On the wall ledge above my fireplace mantle at my home is a very large lithograph of Jesus calling the children to Him, with the Disciples mistakenly trying to turn them away. It is quite a picture – it requires you to look up when you walk through the front door.

Who would have ever thought you’d have to look up to see children with Jesus?

On a recent Sunday, April 10, at all three worship services, we all looked up to the children when they led us in worship. They led us to Jesus, they led us in prayer, they led us through the Bible. They led us.

The next time you see Tammy Bartley, thank her for helping our children lead us in worship. The next time you see one of our children’s Sunday School teachers or parents, please thank them for their encouragement and leadership in the worship of God. They have worked hard. The next time you see one of our children, thank them personally for helping you to see Jesus a little clearer — His Joy, His Faith, His Heart.

Sunday, April 10 — an amazing, awesome, powerful message of God’s love for you, me, the world — through the eyes of the child.

... Cheryl

Do you know someone who’s graduating this year?

If you do, please don’t keep it a secret! The church office would like for you to call with the graduate’s name so he/she can be recognized in a May issue of *The Envoy*.

First quarter giving statements going out

First quarter giving statements will be mailed this week. Please check to make sure you are up to date in your giving. Also please check that we have recorded your giving correctly.

Remember:

- < If you gave for the Tsunami in January, you could take the tax deduction in 2004 or 2005. It will continue to appear on your 2005 statements. Adjust your total giving for 2005 if you took it in 2004.
- < Only one quarter’s detail of giving is printed on each statement sent out. If any individual item of giving is \$250 or greater, you must keep the detail. It is best to keep each quarter’s statement and not just rely on December’s.

UMW starts new evening circle

The Blue Ridge United Methodist Women (UMW) have formed a new circle which meets in the evening. They are looking for women interested in learning more about the organization and desiring to take part in the philanthropic work of the UMW. Women of the church are invited to come to the May 2 meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions or seek more information, call Sandy McConnell (224-4603) or Marilyn Yorke (356-6694).



United
Methodist
Women

Men of Blue Ridge Fellowship Golf Outing approaching

The *Men of Blue Ridge Fellowship Golf Outing* will be held on Saturday, May 14, at Teetering Rocks Golf Course in Raytown. The \$50.00 fee per golfer includes green fee, cart, lunch, drinks and prizes. For non-golfers who would like to come to support those participating and for lunch and drinks, the cost is \$10.00.

If anyone would like to sponsor a hole for \$25.00 or for more information, call Al Maddox at 356-2794.

Sunday, May 1, at 4:00 p.m., the Young MAIsterSingers will present a concert in our Sanctuary. More information in next week’s newsletter.

Coming Next Week...

Sunday, April 24

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
- 10:30-10:50 a.m., Angel Choir, Room 110
- 7:00 p.m., John Mann, percussion recital

Monday, April 25

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

Tuesday, April 26

- 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone
- 7:00 p.m., Cub Scouts, Hobbs Hall

Wednesday, April 27

- 12:30 p.m., Connecting Hands, Room 221
- 5:30 p.m., *Kids-on-a-Mission*
- 6:30 p.m., Chancel Bells
- 7:00 p.m., Men's Ensemble
- 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 28

- 6:30 p.m., Alpha



Youth Information:

Sunday, April 24

- Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 p.m., Senior High Work Camp Meeting
- 5:00 p.m., Youth (NO music tonight)
- 6:00-6:45 p.m., Outside game led by Jason
- 7:00 p.m., John Mann's recital; reception following

Thanks to everyone for help and support

A big thank you to all who helped with the Children's Service on April 10. The children did an outstanding job and I am sure our Heavenly Father was quite pleased!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Thanks to the parents who kept the children entertained between services, as well as those who helped direct the children during all of the worship times. A special thanks to the ushers who were so incredibly flexible and did such a great job showing the kids how to greet and take the offering! The children were beaming from ear-to-ear as so many of you gave them positive comments about the services. As a church, we truly showed our children that they are valued members of our congregation.

Blessings~

Tammy Bartley

There's still a need to boost the utility account

Can you help? With utility costs of \$14,203 for the first three months of this year, we need help. We need to get past these costs and be ready for air conditioning for the summer months.

Fifth Sunday offerings for April will be used to replenish this account. Use your Fifth Sunday envelope in your packet or mark you second-mile gift for *utilities*.

Thank you to those who have already supported the church with an extra gift.

AARP Driver Safety Program will be May 9&10

If you are a senior driver, you still have time to call Wendell or Betty Benton (353-4715) to make your reservation for this year's course. The class is limited to 35 but there are still a few openings.

The class will be at Blue Ridge on May 9 and 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days. You will have an hour lunch break. Some insurance companies will give a discount if a senior citizen has taken this course. By the way, it costs only \$10.00.



Pastor's Corner:

As I was watching the kids last week doing their amazing job of leading us in worship, my eye was caught by the awesome cross that dominated their visual context and serves as the backdrop for all of our worship. It made me wonder if they — or any of us — are aware of our worship as the first step in being obedient to God's claim on our thought and action in daily life.

Especially in this Eastertide season, it's important to keep our eyes fixed for a while on the cross and its centrality in the Christian faith. It is especially important in understanding our need for meekness or a single-minded obedience to God's leading in our lives (which is a better translation of meekness).

Charles Rann Kennedy in that old play, *The Terrible Meek*, describes the centurion as saying to Mary as she stands near the cross: "I tell you, woman, that this dead Son of yours, disfigured, shamed, spat upon, has built this day a kingdom that can never die. The living glory of him rules it. The earth is his and he made it. He and his brothers have been molding and making it through the long ages. They are the only ones who ever did possess it; not the proud, not the idle, not the vaunting empires of the world. Something has happened on this hill today to shake all the kingdoms of blood and fear to dust. The earth is his, the earth is theirs and they made it. The meek, the terrible meek, the fierce agonizing meek are about to enter into their inheritance."

"The earth" which God's obedient followers inherit is only a symbol of His created order. And it responds everywhere and always to those who act in accordance with God's ways, spiritual and physical, in worship and daily action. My prayer is that those kids, and each of us, will continue to prepare ourselves to receive that beautiful inheritance we have been given in Easter

Grace & Peace,

...Jim

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of April 18, the following member has been reported in an area hospital: Samantha DeMoss at Children's Mercy.
- Our sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth Daniels for her April 12 death.
- *The family of Joe Patti would like to thank everyone for the meaningful expressions of love and concern shown to us. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family to help us in times of trouble and loss.*
- Brooke Madison Hirsch, daughter of Robert & Wanda Hirsch, received the sacrament of baptism on April 17.

Prayer Line: 816.358.8622

Church Office: 816.353.1435

Fax Number: 816.353.8770

E-Mail: BlueRgUMC@aol.com

Web Site: www.blueridgechurch.org

Publication deadline: Thursday at noon

THE ENVOY (USPS 592-420)
is published weekly except for
the week of Dec 25 by the
Blue Ridge Boulevard
United Methodist Church
5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Kansas City MO 64133-2599

Periodicals
Postage Paid
at Kansas City MO

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to THE ENVOY
5055 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Kansas City MO 64133-2599