



THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

April 26, 2005 Vol. 50, Issue 17

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Special concert Sunday afternoon

Sunday, May 1, at 4:00 p.m., the Young MAIsterSingers will present a concert in our Sanctuary. The choir, part of the Independence Music/Arts Institute, is made up of students in third through eighth grade. The group is directed by our own Chancel Choir director, Amy Parent, and includes Blue Ridge member Tony Marcella. Also featured from MAI will be vocal students and the Cross Pulse Percussion Ensemble.

Come and enjoy the talents of these young people.



National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 5. See article on page 3 for more information.

Associate Pastor appointment announced

On Sunday, April 24, our Administrative Council chairman, Dr. Sam Holder, announced that Reverend Russell "Russ" Smith will become the new Associate Pastor at Blue Ridge United Methodist Church. Rev. Russ Smith comes to us from the LaMonte/Dresden Methodist Church. He and his wife, Carla, will move to our area sometime this summer. Rev. Russ Smith will officially begin his service at Blue Ridge on Sunday, June 26, 2005. He has been the pastor of the Millville/New Hope Methodist Church, as well as the church at LaMonte. He received his B.S./B.A. degree from Central Missouri State University and attended Saint Paul School of Theology. He has served as Campus Minister at Maple Woods Community College. Be sure to ask Russ or Carla how they met. It is a wonderful story.



Staff Parish Committee has been advised that Rev. Cheryl Schmeling will be seeking "Honorable Location" and will not be appointed to a church this July.

AARP Driver Safety Program will be in May

We will be sponsoring another AARP Driver Safety Program on May 9 and 10 for motorists age 50 and older. If you would like to sign up for this session, please call Wendell or Betty Benton at 353-4715. The class is limited to 35 participants, but is not limited to our congregation only. The cost is only \$10.00 for the refresher course.

Some insurance companies will give a discount if the senior citizen has taken this course. You might want to check with your insurance representative.

“Walking Jesus’ Path”

It is almost May! Where did April go? As you walk or drive down the street and you notice the budding, blooming pastel pink, white and rose blossom trees, take time to notice the dogwood trees. They are unique in that their faces “rest” looking upward and there are “notches” in each of their petals. The dogwood blossoms have a legend associated with them, helping to tell the story of the crucifixion of Christ. If you like to look things up on the internet, go to “The Legend of the Dogwood”. It will tell you a special story. You will see dogwood trees in a new way.

The spring reminds us of another beautiful event in our lives as well. Just as God has promised new life and delivered it with the season, God has promised new life and delivered it with His Son. Spring brings hope. So does the Son of God, risen to new life to provide it for you and me as well. And if all of this is true, then inevitably your life will produce growth, beauty, newness, promise and bring beauty that the world can truly enjoy.

... Cheryl

Special Women’s Choir begins practice in May

A Women’s Choir is once again being formed to sing on UMW Sunday, June 5. We will practice on Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 7:30-7:45 in the Choir Room. Middle School Youth and older are welcome to join us!



TAKE ONE - and take heart
GIVE ONE - and give hope

In every CareNote you will find:

- Holistic help and understand - for some of life’s toughest issues.
- The collected wisdom of pastoral ministers, chaplains, psychologist, medical professions - and real people who have “been there.”
- A variety of helpful and inspiring quotations for every reader.
- Practical, uplifting sections on “Working Your Way Through” the various themes.

Take a look at the variety of “life issues” available in CareNotes on the table in the front entry area. If you don’t see one for you or a friend’s need, call the office. We will see if there is one available for you.

Get ready for the talent show!!

We need **YOU** to share your talents with us! Sign up now for our Blue Ridge Talent Show on Sunday evening, June 12. Call the church office at 353-1435. Your “talent” will be kept a secret until that night. This promises to be a fun evening with food, fellowship and special guest celebrity hosts! (Hint: I got you, babe!) So, don’t be shy – give it a try!

Men of Blue Ridge golf tournament in May

On Saturday, May 14, the *Men of Blue Ridge* are sponsoring their Fellowship Golf Outing at Teetering Rocks Golf Course. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. For more information you can call Al Maddox at 356-2794.

Pantry Sunday is this weekend

Sunday, May 1, is our monthly Pantry Sunday. Please place your items in the wooden boxes in the entry area.



Coming Next Week...

Sunday, May 1

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

Sunday School Classes: 9:30 or 10:45

- Pantry Sunday
- Amish Friendship Bread Table in entry area at south end
- 10:30-10:50 a.m., Angel Choir, Room 110
- 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel
- 4:00 p.m., Music/Arts Institute Choir Concert, Sanctuary

Monday, May 2

- 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Break Time Club, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m., EVENing Circle Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. *Men of Blue Ridge* Meeting, Room 222
- 7:00 p.m., Boy Scouts, Hobbs Hall

Tuesday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 4

- 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., Women's Ensemble
- 7:45 p.m., Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 5

- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., National Day of Prayer, Sanctuary open
- 10:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study & Issues Group, Room 223
- 6:30 p.m., Alpha

Saturday, May 7

- 9:00 a.m., Mission Team Meeting, Room 221

Youth Information:



Sunday, May 1

- Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 p.m., Music/Arts Institute Choir Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m., Youth
- 6:00 p.m., Combined Bells

Guidelines for National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, is National Day of Prayer. Our Sanctuary will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for you to come and pray for our nation, church and world. We



assume that such prayers are being offered regularly, but on this special day make a special effort to spend some extra time with God's instrument of grace and power — prayer.

One of my favorite theologians from the 19th century is Walter Rauschenbusch, and I thought you might benefit from some of his guidelines for prayer:

‘Be simple and direct in your secret prayer. The grace of simplicity is not to be despised in public prayer; but when we call on God in secret, any formality or elaborateness in our petitions is an offense.

Pray audibly. You need not lift your voice to be heard in the street, but it is vastly better to pray not merely in your thoughts but also with words. The utterance of our wants helps to define them.

Be honest in your secret prayer. Do not express any want that you do not feel. Do not confess any fault that you do not mean to forsake. Do not keep anything back. Remember that it is He that searcheth the heart to whom you are speaking.

Pray earnestly. The words need not be loud, but the desire should be intense. ‘The fervent, energetic prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’ ‘The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.’ No listless, drowsy petitioning will serve.

Do not mock God in your prayers. Do not beg him to come to you. You know that he is never far from any soul that seeks him. That prayer is answered before you utter it. Do not ask God to do for you that which he has expressly bidden you to do.

Pray always with special reference to the needs of the day and the hour – the warfare to be waged, the temptations to be resisted, the work to be done, the sorrow to be borne; put your life into your prayer; and let it be the most real and the most immediate business of your life.”Jim

Men of Blue Ridge

Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. in Room 222

Duane Lewis, Director of Stepping Stones, will be the guest speaker. Stepping Stones, located at 51st & Noland Road, is a transitional living facility for youth and teens.

Pastor's Corner:

Let's get a running start on our Pentecost celebration as Eastertide draws to a close and our Nurture/ Fellowship Committee plans a great celebration on May 15.

As you may remember, Pentecost was the 50th day from the first day of the Passover. It was also called "The Feast of Weeks" because it occurred a week of weeks (seven) after the Passover. This was the day that God chose to send His Spirit to earth. This was the day that the Risen Lord fulfilled His promise to send another Comforter. Among the last words of Jesus at the Last Supper, He said that the Holy Spirit would come to dwell with them and within them forever. The Spirit was to be their advocate with the Father. He, Himself, would return with the Spirit to dwell in their heart. The Spirit was to comfort, convict, cleanse and empower. These lessons on the Holy Spirit were difficult for them to understand. When the day of Pentecost was come they were in one place in one accord in preparation for that which happened. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a spiritual invasion but there were certain outward physical manifestations. There came a sound from Heaven like a mighty, rushing wind and filled the house. To the witnesses it was like the onslaught of a tornado. This was the sound which their ears heard. Then there was a manifestation for their eyes, too. There appeared cloven tongues like as of fire, they divided, one flame of tongue settling upon the head of each disciple. The wind symbolized the power and energy of the Spirit and the tongues of fire the fervor with which the disciples were empowered to proclaim the gospel.

Grace & Peace,

...Jim

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of April 25, the church office has not been notified of any local hospitalizations.
- Florence Hartman celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on Saturday, April 23. Congratulations, Florence, you're looking good!
- Congratulations to Al & Velda Gantner, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 23.
- John Mann shared some of his talents with those in attendance Sunday evening. Thanks, John, for your very enjoyable percussion recital. Seems like everyone left the Sanctuary with a big smile on their face.

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