



THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

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is sponsored by*

*Ken & Linda Lutgen
in appreciation of
the warm welcome
they have received
at Blue Ridge UMC*

Coming up in worship

Ken's sermon this Sunday will be "Extravagant Generosity". The most common passage read at Christian weddings is the "Love Chapter" of First Corinthians. Love as used here, we are told by the Commentaries, is another word for charity. As we are called to give unconditionally to one another in marriage so are we called to, in our Discipleship, give sacrificially.

You'll want to open your Bible to I Corinthians 13:1-13 and read the verses again before Sunday.

Security has become an issue

- < *What do you do when items keep getting stolen from the church?*
- < *What do you do when strange people are walking around the church when children are in the building?*
- < *What do you do when strange people are walking around the building while committees are meeting in isolated areas?*

You install a security system. And that is exactly what the Trustees have decided must be done.

Wires are being run and the system is now being installed. Cameras are being placed at all doors. Night activities are being locked in. When Parents Day Out starts in September, only one door will be open and the directors will be at that door. The doors will be locked at a certain time.

After the security system is activated, a buzzer will be available from the outside during office hours. The office staff will be able to see who it is wanting into the building and allow or deny entry. Arrangements will have to be made for all activities so that the alarm is not tripped.

It is sad that we have to do this; however, it has become the standard operating procedure for churches all over the Metro area. We must protect our assets — especially our children. You will be informed as procedures change.

***Rally Sunday* this weekend**

There is something fun and exciting about starting a new school year. Sunday School is no exception! *Rally Sunday*, August 28, is the day to meet new teachers, new classrooms and be back in Sunday School with friends. Children and parents should go to the Sanctuary at 9:30 and then after the Children's Sermon they will go to their classrooms.

Making the most.....

Last week Ken and I met many of you at the "Meet the Pastor" event. We will meet more of you at the next event scheduled for September 13. Last Tuesday, you learned some more about us. We learned some more about you. Ken and I listened to your dreams, hopes and ideas about the ministries of Blue Ridge Church. I am looking forward to the next scheduled time for gathering together to stay in touch. It gives me even greater excitement for what God is doing and where God is leading us. Our ministries here are about building relationships, with God and with each other. What and where is God calling you to bring others into our midst? What and where is God calling you to build a greater relationship with our existing ministries? Yes, exciting things are happening at Blue Ridge, and I know that God has great things in store for this ministry. Let us all be in fervent prayer about our own part in the excitement of building relationships here at Blue Ridge Church! And as always, may you make the most as you live by faith.

*...Russell Smith
Associate Pastor*

Submitted your hymn survey yet?

In last week's Envoy there was a survey requesting your favorite hymns or praise songs. If you have favorites that you would like to submit for services on October 16, please fill out a form from either *The Envoy* or the Welcome Center. You can return your surveys to the basket located on the Welcome Center.

Wanted - more Cub Scouts

Cub Pack 269 is looking for boys between 8 - 11 years of age to join their pack. Boys 11 or older are encouraged to join Troop 269 Boy Scouts. If you know any boy who would be interested, please contact Ed McBurney (816-353-5103), Carrol Petre (816-358-8094) or Marq DeMoss (816-358-4321).

At its meeting on August 16, the Education Committee established some policies concerning the Youth Department. The Fifth Grade students will remain in their classrooms through the summer and be promoted to the Sixth Grade on Rally Sunday. At the same time, the Eighth Graders can move into the Senior High Class. Those attending Mid-High Work Camp will have completed grades 6, 7 and 8. The youth attending the Senior High Work Camp will be those who have completed grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Report from Education Committee

Beginning on Rally Sunday, August 28, the Mid-High youth are asked to come into the worship service for the first 10-15 minutes. They will then be dismissed to go to Hobbs Hall to meet with their teachers, Steve Schwieterman and Sherri Kuhn. All the youth have been working on painting and decorating a room upstairs in Hobbs to act as a Coffee House setting for fellowship and discussion. The Mid-High will be able to be a part of that with the Senior High from 10:30-11:00. The Senior High will then meet together until noon.

If you have a teenager in your family, we hope you will encourage them to be part of the Sunday School experience. As parents, if you can perhaps visit a while after church and give your son and daughter some extra time to experience the fellowship of their friends in Hobbs Hall, it will enrich their lives. This age is when churches often begin to lose their connection with the young people. Great things are happening at Blue Ridge and the youth need to be a part of that!

Coming Next Week...

Sunday, August 28

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

Sunday School Classes: 9:30 or 10:45

- 8:30 a.m., Information Session for helpers with youth events, Beatitudes Entry Area
- Amish Friendship Bread Table in entry area at south end
- *Rally Sunday* for Children's Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 a.m., Liturgical Dance Practice with Mary Ann & Anne, Fellowship Hall
- 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel
- Garden Produce Table set up in entry area
- Fellowship Coffee, Beatitudes Entry Area

Monday, August 29

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

Tuesday, August 30

- 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone

Wednesday, August 31

- 6:30 p.m., Chancel Bells
- 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 1

- 10:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study & Issues Group, Room 223

Youth Information:



Sunday, August 28

- 10:30 a.m., Dance practice, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00-12:00, Sunday School
- Noon, Youth Council Meeting

Evening Activities - Mid & Senior High
"Visit" night — visit...

4:00, a handbell practice

4:30, a choir rehearsal

5:00, snack supper & worship

6:00-7:00, youth meeting

Many came to "Meet the Pastors"

Last Tuesday afternoon and evening several members of Blue Ridge took the opportunity to come and visit with Ken and Russ. They will be hosting another "Meet the Pastors" on Tuesday, September 13, at 3:00 in the afternoon and 6:30 in the evening. If your last name begins with G-N, try to come by and spend some time with our pastors.

It's not too late to:

- *** join the liturgical dance troupe
 - *children through adults
 - *practices from 10:30-11:00 Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall
 - *presentation on Sunday, September 25
- *** sign up to walk with our float
 - *Raytown Round-Up Days Parade
 - *Saturday morning, September 24

"Pancake King" returns to Blue Ridge

Are you ready for another fun morning? Well, get ready because Chris Cakes is coming back to Blue Ridge on Saturday, September 17. Not only will you enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and a drink, you will also have a fun time and be entertained by the "Pancake King". Be sure to mark your calendar.

Entertainment Books will be sold here

Again this year we will have Entertainment Books for sale in the church office. Entertainment Book 2005 does not expire until the end of October, but the 2006 edition can be used from the day you buy it until the end of October, 2006. If you usually purchase an Entertainment Book, be sure you get one from our church. We give our profits to Spofford Home for Children.

Pastor's Corner:

I have been very appreciative of your attendance over the course of this past month. While expecting us to hit the summer attendance lows, we have instead kept a very steady pace averaging above 380 in Worship each Sunday. I know that there are all kinds of excuses one can find not to attend. So please note that I am appreciative of the effort you are making to be present.

This Sunday we celebrated Communion and continued our series of sermons on the five signs of a vital congregation. I moved the sign "Intentional Faith Development" to this Sunday, because I wanted to use the Road to Emmaus passage, Luke 24:13-33, to illustrate how we need to give priority to faith development. It is through the breaking of the bread that the two disciples on the road become aware that they are in the presence of Jesus. My experience is that people attend and belong to the church for all kinds of different reasons. Some join the church to hold membership here as they would in any other service type organization. To most the vision held of the church is it is like all those other organizations to which one must meet certain requirements to become a member. The importance of this fourth sign is that it moves beyond the membership question to the discipleship one. What does it mean to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? We need to be concerned with not only what it means but also in how are we preparing others as the church, to be Disciples?

I hope by now that you have in mind someone that you can invite to attend services here on September 25. The Fellowship and Nurture Committee will be holding a Tailgate that Sunday, in the church parking lot, to provide food for all in attendance. What a great addition they have added to this Sunday, the opportunity to feed those you invite. This should make the inviting a little easier for you, as I hear we have some great cooks in the church. Remember it is going to take each of us inviting someone to make the 25th "A Great Day of Celebration" for the church.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of August 23, the following members have been reported in area hospitals: Hilda Koelling at St. Luke's South and Mary Stewart at Research.
- Our sympathy to the family and friends of Vada Gladney for her August 17 death.

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