



# THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

December 20, 2005 Vol. 50, Issue 51

*This issue of The Envoy  
is sponsored by*

*Georgia, Jeff,  
Josh & Carrie Marker  
in celebration of  
Betty Franklin's 74th birthday  
on December 20*

## **Coming up in worship .....**

This is Christmas Sunday. Services will be at 9:30 and 11:00 Christmas Sunday only. The sermon title is *The Fourth Wiseman*, an old legend of Christmas which sheds new light on the meaning of this Day.

Scripture reading is:  
Matthew 2:1-12

## **Last issue of *The Envoy* for 2005**

This is the last issue of *The Envoy* for this year. The next newsletter will be dated January 3, 2006.

## **Three Christmas Eve Services Two Christmas Day Services**

We would like for you to join us this weekend for one of our Christmas Eve services and either the 9:30 or 11:00 Christmas morning service.

### ***Christmas Eve Services*** ***Saturday, December 24***



4:00 p.m., Interactive *March to the Manger* Family Service. Each person coming is encouraged to bring a canned goods item as their gift.

... 7:00 p.m., Carols, Candles and Communion Service. Child care available.

... 11:00 p.m., Carols, Candles and Communion Service.

### ***Christmas Day Services*** ***Sunday, December 25,***

... 9:30 & 11:00 worship services. There will be no Children's or Youth Sunday School.

## ***SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF***

Ken Lutgen Russ Smith Linda Mann Dona Meyer Tammy Bartley Marge Fredrickson  
Jim Smith Marilyn Yorke Carol Pregge Larry Madden Ginny Williams John Mann  
Jason Davis Debbie Keeton Amy Parent Shirley Strawn

## *Making the most.....*

Ready or not, here it comes! Many of you reading this have said the words, "where did this year go?" We consistently find ourselves amazed at how fast time flies. I think this is a good reminder of the value of the moments we have. Maybe this is a good moment to think of the words you have thought about sharing with a loved one but have never shared. Maybe this is a good moment to forgive the person who wronged you and kept your heart closed. Maybe this is a good time to invite someone to Christmas worship, or youth group or Sunday School. Let's all pray about that and as always...let's all make the most as we live by faith.

... Russell Smith

## **More Church Family News**

This is the last issue of *The Envoy* for 2005 so we want to be sure and get all of the church family news to you.

- We received this thank-you note:  
"Many thanks to my church and Golden Key Club friends for remembering my birthday. I enjoy all of the cards. God is good and I wish blessings to all of you."  
Myrnth Warren
- Congratulations to Sarah Richardson. She is graduating from CMSU with a B.S. in Criminal Justice Psychology.
- At the last United Methodist Women's meeting, Phyllis Renken was presented with a "Special Membership" pin.

## **Care giver support group meets...**

Because of the big snow storm and 3<sup>0</sup> temperatures, Equipping the Care Giver Support Group was cancelled in December. That group will meet on January 4, 2006, the first Wednesday of the month, in Room 222 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

## **Katrina Act and your charitable contributions**

The Katrina Act passed by congress allows gifts given to any qualified 5013C organization be a part of the special tax deduction passed for 2005. Blue Ridge is a qualified 5013C non-profit organization as are many of the agencies we support.

Donations made in September thru December of 2005 to a 5013C organization may be taken as a charitable contribution up to 100% of adjusted gross income. Normally contribution deductions can be taken up to a maximum of 50% with any gifts above that prorated over the coming years.

- Donations to charitable organizations in honor of someone make excellent Christmas gifts.
- For consideration in making your Christmas gift to Blue Ridge.
- Would this help your tax situation if you paid your 2006 pledge in December, 2005.
- Gifts of appreciated stock help your tax situation and the recipient even more.

If you have questions concerning the Katrina Act or donations, contact Marge Fredrickson at the church office, 353-1435.

## **These people deserve a BIG "Thank You"**

"Thank You" to Bernie Bixler, Karen Johnson, Eva Ponessa and the parents of the K-1st grade Sunday School class for planning the Children's Christmas Party on December 11. The children had a wonderful time making crafts, decorating cookies, singing carols and listening to a Christmas story. A special thanks to Santa, too!

"Thank You" to all who participated in the Advent worship services for sharing your time and talents to help make this season so meaningful.

## Coming Next Week...

### Sunday, December 25

**Worship Times: 9:30, 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School Classes: 9:30 or 10:45**

- Amish Friendship Bread Table in entry area at south end
- NO Communion in Chapel today
- NO Youth or Children's Sunday School Classes today

### Monday, December 26

- Church offices & building CLOSED



### Sunday, January 1, 2006

**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

### Monday, January 2

- Church offices & building CLOSED

### Tuesday, January 3

- 6:00 p.m., Fellowship & Nurture Committee Meeting, Conference Rm
- 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone

### Wednesday, January 4

- 10:00 a.m., Sisters in Spirit, Room 222
- 6:30 p.m., Chancel Bells
- 7:00 p.m., Men's Ensemble
- 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

### Thursday, January 5

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

## 2005 Contribution Credit

Contributions must be received in the church office by 4:30 p.m. on December 30 or postmarked December 31 or earlier to be posted on 2005 giving.

## End-of-the-year report regarding Break Time Club

Break Time Club is winding down for 2005. We have had wonderful programs because of the work of outstanding volunteers and excellent support from the congregation.

A recent theme was "The Circus" with clowns and a fine unicycle rider – thanks to Jeanne Armstrong, Phylis Goforth and Brian DeMoss.

We look forward to a wonderful Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary with Linda Mann, who is so generous with her time and talent.

The care givers enjoyed our party when the Break Time singers, with musical accompaniment by Helen Anderson, sang. Dancing with Ginger Arn and Warren Haycock was a program highlight.

We are grateful for two recent gifts. Beautiful Christmas candles for each Break Time volunteer were given by Barbara Thompson. The Covenant Sunday School Class gave \$700.00 for our General Funds.

Break Time will take a break after the December 19 meeting until January 30, 2006.

... Judy Eubank, Break Time Coordinator

## Youth Information:

### Sunday, December 25

- Worship Services at 9:30 & 11:00 only today
- NO Sunday School/NO Youth this evening.

Merry Christmas!

### Sunday, January 1, 2006

- 9:30 a.m., Mid High Sunday School, meet in Sanctuary, then go to class
- 10:30 a.m., The Last Cup Coffee House
- 11:00 a.m., Senior High Sunday School
- NO Youth this evening

Happy New Year!



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

It is hard for me to believe how quickly this year has passed and that I am now writing the last article for this 2005 Envoy. I have enjoyed these six months of serving here as one of your pastors. For me it has been exciting to come to this church and experience the traditions you have around these different times of the year. Christmas is my favorite Season and I have thoroughly enjoyed the different programs and services which make up your observance. The music drama program was so special in that, not only did we enjoy the talent shared, but knew that it was a service written and produced by Blue Ridge folks. I really look forward to Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and all that lies ahead. I hope all of you are enjoying this Christmas and are spending time with family and friends.

This has been a good year for our church, especially with all the changes which have taken place in personnel. I want to compliment you on the spirit in which you have with me closed the "Complaint Department". Not every thing is perfect in our church and we have needed to address some challenges. The way we have done this without complaining has allowed us to keep a positive attitude. In that spirit we have made changes and have created an atmosphere for positive change.

As we come to the end of the year, I want to thank you for your presence. Over 600 of you attended our Celebration Sunday in September and since that time we have had strong attendance to all our services. My advice for the New Year is for you to find a parking space, you might consider coming earlier. Everyone did their part in our recent Stewardship Campaign and it will help us end this year and enter the next in a better position financially. Finally, you have been a generous church with your offerings for the victims of the hurricanes through the offering now being taken for Christmas. As a Church People we are called to build stronger relationships and what better way to enter any relationship than in a spirit of giving. Thank you, Blue Ridge Church, for all you have done in providing for such a wonderful beginning to our ministry. Merry Christmas!

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

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

### **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

- As of December 19, the following members have been reported in area hospitals: Bill Green at Research, Ray Marlatt at KU Medical Center, Joan Chappelow and Pearl Hogan at Independence Regional Health Center.
- Noah Michael Davis, son of Jason & Sara, received the sacrament of baptism on December 18. Noah's grandmother is Diane Davis and great-grandmother is Regina Beare.
- The following became members of our Blue Ridge Church family on Sunday, December 18:  
Alan Carney, 4900 Norwood Ct, KCMO 64133; 737-5792.  
Charlie & Leslie Loftus, 6110 W 157th Terr, Overland Park KS 66223; 913-681-5837.  
Howard Scott, 11301 Hidden Lake Dr Apt#607, Raytown MO 64133-7411; 353-8288.  
Denise Talley, 11300 E 56 Terr, Raytown MO 64133; 737-1056.

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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