

THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

February 14, Vol. 51, Issue 7

*This issue of The Envoy
is sponsored by*

*Sue Klotz
in celebration of
Alpha graduates and anticipation
of the new course beginning
March 1*

Coming up in worship

For this Sunday's message, Pastor Ken has chosen "*On Top of the World*". The Transfiguration is one of those biblical encounters that remain in the mystery of God. Jesus, in his instructions to his disciples, asks they tell no one what they have just experienced because he knew it was beyond description. When one has been to the "Top of the World", so to speak, we come close to what they experienced in his Transfiguration.

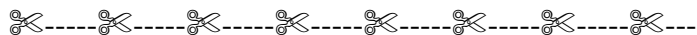
Scripture reading:
Mark 9:2-9

Coming up in worship — January 26

"Testify to Love" will be presented by the youth at all three worship services.

"Wednesday Night Live" begins soon

The following information about "Wednesday Night Live" has been included with the Sunday morning worship bulletins the past several weeks. Please read, complete and return to the church office by Tuesday, February 21, if you have not already done so.



BASIC FAITH STUDY

The Basic Faith Study is for persons just getting started in their faith journey and for Christians who want to renew or strengthen the foundation of their faith. The first month of the study surveys the Bible as the primary source of our information about Jesus Christ and the living Word of God. The second month outlines the essential beliefs of a United Methodist Christian. The third month introduces spiritual practices to help a disciple live faithfully as a Christian.

Format: This Basic Faith Study will begin Wednesday, March 1, and run for 13 consecutive weeks. The format will be a "Wednesday Night Live" evening with dinner served between 5:30 and 6:30. Small groups of 10-12 persons will be formed and can meet about 75 minutes, at times convenient to their schedule. For example the group could meet from 4:00 to 5:15, 6:30 to 7:45, 7:45 to 9:00 on the Wednesday evening or at another arranged day and time. A study guide will be provided for all participants.

- _____ Yes I (We) want to participate in a Basic Faith Study
- _____ Most convenient time for me (us).
- _____ Yes I (we) want to meet but Wednesday is not a good day.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Making the most.....

This past Sunday our Christian Education teachers were treated to a Luncheon of Appreciation. Tammy Bartley, our Children's Coordinator, shared encouraging thoughts for all of us in ministry. The meal and fellowship provided a nice time to acknowledge the many who give of their time on Sunday morning (and many hours of preparation throughout the week). The occasion reminded me of how blessed our ministry is to have these wonderful servants to shape the spiritual lives of our children and youth. It reminded me of the difference my childhood Sunday School teachers made in my life. I will forever be grateful. I know that the lives of our children and youth here are being transformed as well. Please join me in praying for the teachers and the students:

Loving and gracious God, thank you so much for our teachers and our students in our Christian Education Department. May their time together be great investments in your Kingdom. May the lives of the teachers and the students be blessed, transformed and empowered. May you always speak to them of your love. In Jesus name. Amen.

Thank you for supporting our children and youth. May we make the most of this ministry as we live by faith.

...Russell Smith
Associate Pastor

SCARRITT BENNETT/AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Lutgen was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Scarritt Bennett and will serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and Board Treasurer. Scarritt Bennett is a ministry of the Women's Division of the UMC and was formerly located in Kansas City at what is now the campus of Saint Paul School of Theology.

In addition, he has recently been appointed to the Advisory Board of Africa University, a ministry of our church in which he has had ties since its inception. These new responsibilities will cause him to occasionally travel to Nashville.

“Equipping the Caregiver” meets monthly

Our Caregiver Support Group meets on the first



Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This group is intended as a guide for the many challenging issues that face caregivers. We call on various experts in many fields to speak at the meetings. We also provide emotional support and community for caregivers who are often involved in family situations

that are complicated, confusing and time consuming. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Our speaker for the March 1 meeting is Karen Weber, J.D., an attorney with a practice specializing in Elder Law. If you have legal decisions to make, either for yourself or your family, you will enjoy this speaker. All who are interested are welcome. There will be time for questions and answers. Karen offers a wealth of information and practical advice. For more information, call Judy Eubank at 353-1435, ext. 21.

...Judy Eubank

Closed on Monday, February 20

In observance of Presidents' Day, the church offices and building will be closed. Staff will be back in their offices at 8:30 Tuesday morning. Have a safe, holiday weekend!

Coming Next Week...

Sunday, February 19

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 a.m., Angel Choir, Room 112
- † 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel

Monday, February 20

- † Church offices & building CLOSED

Tuesday, February 21

- † 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone
- † 7:00 p.m., Trustees Committee Meeting, Conference Room

Wednesday, February 22

- † 10:00 a.m., Sisters in Spirit, Room 222
- † 12:30 p.m., Connecting Hands Meeting, Room 221
- † 6:00 p.m., Harmonica Workshop
- † 6:30 p.m., Chancel Bells
- † 7:00 p.m., Men's Ensemble
- † 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 23

- † 6:30 p.m., Congregational Life Committee Meeting, Fellowship Hall



Youth Information:

Sunday, February 19

- † 9:30 a.m., Mid High Sunday School, meet in Sanctuary, then go to class
- † 10:30 a.m., *The Last Cup* Coffee House
- † 10:30 a.m., String Rehearsal
- † 11:00 a.m., Senior High Sunday School
- † 4:00 p.m., Youth Sunday sound rehearsal

Friday, Feb.24/Saturday, Feb. 25

- † TBA – Youth Sunday Dress Rehearsal

Confirmation Class for youth begins March 1



On Wednesday, March 1, Confirmation Class will begin for students 6th grade and older. The class will eat dinner together at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and begin their session at 6:00. Please call the church office to let us know you will be attending.

Golden Key Luncheon will be February 17

Golden Key will meet at noon on Friday, February 17, for a potluck lunch and program, presented by Mr. "O". All senior citizens are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship and program.

United Methodist Women meetings

- Feb. 15 Priscillas Circle, Room 223
- Feb. 16 Ruth Circle, home of Alberta McKemy
- Feb. 22 Connecting Hands, Room 221
- Feb. 24-25 Conference Retreat at 1st UMC, Sedalia, MO

Shepherd Center has many activities planned

The Shepherd's Center of Raytown is selling Sonic Community First Value Cards for only \$5.00 each. Tickets are available in the church office during regular office hours.

A Ham'n Bean Dinner will be served at Ivanhoe United Church of Christ on Saturday, March 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 per person and available by contacting the Shepherd Center office at 356-9000 or by dropping in by your church office.

Pastor's Corner:

I am a person who believes it is helpful to, on occasion, take a break from the normal routine of life. Some would call this a vacation; although my experience has proved that at times I work harder on vacation to relax than I do at home observing my normal routine. If relaxation is our goal, then most vacations fall short of this expectation. If on the other hand a vacation is for the breaking of the normal routine and to give us an opportunity to renew ourselves, then most accomplish this purpose. That certainly was the case for me on my recent vacation. I had opportunity to experience renewal and to actually do some relaxing.

In a few short weeks, beginning Wednesday, March 1, we will offer the opportunity for us as a Church Family to gather for food, fellowship and the opportunity to learn more about our faith. While it is not original, this format is one I like to call "Wednesday Night Live". It will provide an excellent opportunity for us as a Church Family to build our relationship to God, neighbor and one another, renew old friendships and make new friendships around the table. For those of you not in one of the special groups, you will be invited to participate in a Basic Faith Study. The study is designed to run 13 consecutive weeks but is broken down into three parts. One can take all three studies as a whole or any combination of 4, 8 or the full 13 weeks. If you have not participated in this kind of format before it will provide for you an excellent opportunity to look at the Bible, Beliefs of a United Methodist Christian and foundations of Discipleship. I also will be doing some preaching over the course of this study on these themes. One can take this as a Lenten Study using the resource daily. There are many options but hopefully you will not take the option to pass on this opportunity. A change in routine can be helpful in bringing renewal.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of February 13, the following member has been reported in an area hospital: Wendell Anderson at Research.
- We welcomed Derek, Jennifer, Tyler & Luke Brown to our church family on February 12. They reside at 5939 N Liston Ct, KCMO 64151; 816.746.5171.
- A memorial service for John (J.D.) Blair will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, February 18, at 10:00.
- Congratulations to Sam & Cyndy Fisher on the birth of their granddaughter Emily Michelle Clarkson. Emily is the daughter of Wes & Amy.
- The James Barnes family wants to thank the church and Priscillas Circle for all the cards and prayers.
- Karl Welch would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards he received during his hospitalization.

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

To reach our pastors after regular office hours --

Dr. Ken Lutgen, Jr. at 816.746.1174 or klutgen@blueridgechurch.org

Rev. Russ Smith at 816.353.2484 or russell.smith@blueridgechurch.org

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