

THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

May 23 , 2006 Vol. 51, Issue 21

*This issue of The Envoy
is sponsored by*

*Russell & Carla Smith
in celebration of
their daughter's
2nd birthday*

Coming up in worship

For the Memorial Sunday services Dr. Jim Smith has chosen "Memories: Loved Ones, Bible and DaVinci Code", for his sermon title.

We will taking a moment to remember the following, whose deaths have occurred between June 1, 2005, and May 23, 2006:

Irene Gantz	Evelyn Spradling
Connie Gregg	Marie Stice
June Bullock	Joan Chappelow
Vada Gladney	Merle Mann
Nancy Shattuck	James Barnes
Josephine Brightwell	Verna Johnson
Paul Matthews	Louise Boltz
Harry Andrew	William Caby
Larry Brueggemann	Beulah Eaton
Bell Brown	Verna Johnson
Mary Stewart	Bill Wellington
Bill Chappelow	Robert Schooley
	John Burcham

May 24 will be last "Wednesday Night Live"

This Wednesday, May 24, will be the last session of "Wednesday Night Live" for this spring. Several things will be happening of which you will want to participate. The Work Team Video of the Mississippi trip will be shown at 5:30 and 6:00. There will be an opportunity to have questions answered and to sign up if you are interested in participating in a similar trip scheduled for July 29-August 9.

Also that evening Dr. Lutgen will provide information concerning offerings for next fall's Wednesday Night Live sessions. We encourage you to come; we are interested in your input for the fall sessions.

Join us on Confirmation Sunday, June 4

Please remember to mark your calendars, noting that we will receive this year's Confirmation Class between the 9:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday, June 4. We are asking 9:30 folks to stay until 11:00 and 11:00 folks to come to

Confirmation Class



worship at 10:30. This way the entire class of 12 youth can be received at one time. As their church family, we want to show our support and how proud we are of them and the important step they are taking.

*Communion will be served
in the Sanctuary, only during
this 10:30 time.*

Making the most.....

We are preparing for the first anniversary of living in our home. We have experienced all four seasons and have learned what plants pop up and bloom, when and where. Since one of the previous owners of our home was quite a gardener, our yard is blessed with nice flowers, shrubs and trees. One area is a rose garden. The roses are now in bloom and are beautiful. I have discovered the need to learn how to care for the roses. The roses we are experiencing are beautiful and we have hardly done anything to them. It is amazing to think of what the garden would have looked like had we done all of the proper fertilizing, pruning and care.

If you are like me, you might experience that in your own faith life. We can get by and often still show great beauty without spiritual care, but can you imagine the result of applying some of the spiritual disciplines God has meant for us? We are all gifted with amazing gifts. How great it is when we sharpen them and apply them. Then, like the potential of the roses, we can bloom in a brighter, heartier place that God has us planted. Have a blessed week and as always, may you make the most as you live by faith.

... Russell Smith
Associate Pastor



CLOSED
Monday, May 29

**The church offices
and buildings will be
closed in observance**

More about Equipping the Caregiver and Breaktime Club

Many people providing care for older adults do not identify themselves as caregivers. You are a caregiver if you assist an older adult by:

- ◆ visiting
- ◆ helping with daily living activities
- ◆ providing transportation
- ◆ shopping for groceries
- ◆ assisting in or managing financial responsibilities
- ◆ helping with health care needs
- ◆ coordinating in or out of home care
- ◆ making monetary contributions
- ◆ monitoring medication intake
- ◆ cooking and cleaning
- ◆ performing home maintenance

Caregivers perform these functions personally or oversee them done by others – in some cases from a distance. 44.4 million Americans are currently involved in providing care to an older adult family member or friend.

Caregivers have many unmet needs. Some most frequently mentioned are:

- time for self
- managing stress
- balancing work and family responsibilities
- identifying resources
- long distance caregiving
- affordable respite

Our two programs, Equipping the Caregiver and **Break Time Club**, offer help in several ways. **Break Time Club** provides a safe, enriching, stimulation environment for care receivers while giving respite for the caregiver one day per week. Break Time meets Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Equipping the Caregiver meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is for any family caregiver. We have expert speakers on a variety of subjects affecting caregivers.

On Wednesday, June 7, our speaker will be **Dr. Elbert Cole**, long-time minister and founder of the Shepherd's Center. His subject is "Care, Not Cure". All who are interested are welcome. We meet in Room 221.

For more information, please call Judy Eubank (353.1435, ext 21) or Shepherd's Center of Raytown (356.9000).

* statistics Caregiving in the U.S., April 2004.

Coming Next Week...

Sunday, May 28

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
- † 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel

Monday, May 29

- † Church offices and building CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

- † 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone

Wednesday, May 31

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

Saturday, June 3

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

Youth Information:

Sunday, May 28

- ▶ 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 activities this evening

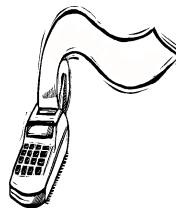


Men of Blue Ridge meet for breakfast

Saturday morning, June 3, all men of the church are invited to come to Ginger's for breakfast and fellowship. Ginger's is located in Woodson Village Shopping Center,

A night at Starlight for Blue Ridge

Everyone interested in going to Starlight Theater to see *Dr. Doolittle* on Wednesday, July 12, should call the Church Office before June 1 to make reservations. There are two prices for the seating: (1) \$11 for the side terrace or (2) \$17 for the terrace seating in the center. There is a free backstage tour for groups - either 6:45, 7:00 or 7:15. Pre-show performances are at 6:30 and 7:30. The show begins at 8:30. Anita Campbell will be making arrangements for the tickets for our group.



January-April, 2006 Facts and Figures

Income.....	\$56,825	Year to date . . .	\$200,749
Expenses.....	\$51,713	Year to date . . .	\$207,650

District Apportionments –

paid \$930 of \$9,620 apportionment

Conference Apportionments –

paid \$20,000 of \$108,321 apportionment

Principle remaining on Building Debt \$306,700
 (More than \$11,000 is paid on the principle each month.)

The Easter Offering totaled \$5,462 and was divided equally between R.E.A.P. and the World Service Apportionment.

Pastor's Corner:

I can remember as an older child traveling with my parents to their childhood homes in Sedalia to observe Memorial Day. My grandparents made a great effort in recognizing their loved ones by decorating their graves. Grandmother would grow peonies which, amazingly, in those days always bloomed just before Memorial Day. During the year she would save coffee cans and other suitable containers to hold the flowers. We would wrap each container in some kind of green clothe/tape so that our offering would be most presentable. Then on Memorial Day, we would make the pilgrimage to the cemeteries in which family members had been buried. At the graves my grand-parents would share remembrances of these, now deceased, loved ones and in this sharing for a moment bring them back to life for this young child.

As my grandparents grew older, then joined their loved ones, the practice of visiting the graves on Memorial Day has faded to a distant memory. We no longer raise flowers, save containers nor share memories of loved ones who have passed to the other side. Fortunately for me, it has been many years since a loved one has passed from our family. Memories today are shared occasionally in family gatherings, but for all practical purposes, this once very present generation of loved ones has passed to be only a distant memory.

In remembering this old practice I now see the merit of it, in that it kept us tied to those who had prepared the way for us. We learned of how they lived and the sacrifices they were called on to make. This remembering keeps a part of a larger community and extends our family beyond our years. Whatever is your practice in observing Memorial Day, take some time to remember those who have gone on before us.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of May 22, the church office has not been advised of any member being admitted to an area hospital. However, we want to keep Les Galbraith, Vince Grounds, Mary Ann Ecker and Beth McGee in our prayers.
- Our sympathy to Roy & Marilyn Erwin for the May 18 death of his brother and to Juneitta Stuart and family for the May 18 death of Rev. Roy Stuart.

Prayer Line: 816.358.8622

Church Office: 816.353.1435

Fax Number: 816.353.8770

E-Mail: brumc@blueridgechurch.org

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