



# THE ENVOY

*...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church*

June 6, 2006 Vol. 51, Issue 23

*This issue of The Envoy is sponsored by James L. & Sandy Smith in celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary on June 9 and in celebration of Ken & Linda Lutgen's 40th wedding anniversary*

## Share the memories this Sunday with **Anniversary Sunday** and a reception

I hope you are planning to attend this Sunday, June 11, as we celebrate a special relationship, marriage, which some have enjoyed for more than a few years. In fact, Ken and Linda Lutgen that morning will celebrate their *40th Wedding Anniversary*. At each of the services of worship, the *Order of Christian Marriage* will be observed as the liturgy, which includes an opportunity for couples to renew their vows. As a special treat, a slide presentation of photographs of the weddings of many of our members will be presented.

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

For this Sunday, Pastor Ken has chosen "40 is a Very Special Number" for his sermon title.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

This will be a Sunday when we celebrate the wedding anniversaries of the couples who make up our church. We will follow the order of worship found in our hymnal for a Service of Christian Marriage. There will be a time for couples to renew their marriage vows.

*The scripture reading is:  
John 3:1-17*



*Earl and Carol Pregge would like to invite their Church Family to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a reception in the Beatitudes Lounge as a part of this special Anniversary Sunday Celebration.*

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

This upcoming weekend is a special one for our family. My brother is getting married on Saturday. Ryan is almost 12 years younger than I am, so I can remember his entire life. There are times when I experience my own little 2 year old that I remember Ryan as a two year old. And now, years later, I experience an adult sibling relationship with him. Many of you reading this understand how time can fly by and how fast it seems that little ones grow into adults. It makes me think of the value and the importance of every moment. My favorite encouragement has always been to "make the most" of whatever it is that you are doing. Time waits for none of us and we must truly make the most of every moment. God encourages us to make the most in all moments many places in His word. One way we are encouraged is in Ecclesiastes 11. The writer admonishes people on how to live diligently, making the most of the day and the night. I encourage you to take a few moments this week and read Ecclesiastes 11. May we be encouraged and inspired...and, as always, may we make the most as we live by faith...

...Russell Smith  
Associate Pastor

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### **Women having Potluck Dinner**

The United Methodist Women are having a Potluck Dinner on Wednesday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A program and meeting will follow dinner. All women of the church are invited to come and join in on this event.

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## **Office Position Open**

The church has a need for a 15-hour-a-week person with knowledge of basic accounting principles: automated general ledger, accounts payable, payroll, Microsoft Excel and Word. A full job description is available in the Church Office. If you have interest or know someone who would, please contact Dr. Lutgen through the Church Office, 353-1435.

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## **Let's get ready for this fall's Crop Walk!**

For the past few years Blue Ridge Church has participated in the **Heart of America Crop Walk**. We have been invited to participate again this year. To participate we need a local steering committee. If you would serve on this team, please call the Church Office and let us know of your interest. We will set a time later this summer to meet and plan our church's participation in this event.

### **Last Chance to make reservations for Dr. Dolittle**

Join us in a fun, magical evening on Wednesday, July 12, at the 8:30 performance of Dr. Dolittle at Starlight Theater. Our church van parks free and, as a group, we can have a free backstage tour. Tickets are still available for either \$11 side terrace or \$17 center terrace. Call the Church Office NOW to reserve your tickets. Payment must be made soon!

### ***Everyone enjoys the Shepherd's Center Garden Tour***

The ninth annual Shepherd's Center of Raytown Garden Tour and Brunch will be held Tuesday, June 20. Brunch will be served from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Raytown Christian Church, 6108 Blue Ridge Blvd. Tours are from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the Shepherd's Center or call 356-9000.

## Coming Next Week...

### Sunday, June 11

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
- † 50th Wedding Anniversary reception for Earl & Carol Pregar
- † 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel
- † Before Noon, food donated for reStart meal should be put in kitchen

### Monday, June 12

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

### Tuesday, June 13

- † 6:30 p.m., Cornerstone

### Wednesday, June 14

- † 6:30 p.m., UMW Potluck Dinner and Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- † 6:30 p.m., Chancel Bells
- † 7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

### Thursday, June 15

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

### Friday, June 16

- † Family Fun Night Drive-In Movie beginning at dusk in the back parking lot

## Youth Information:



### Sunday, June 11

- † 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
- † 3:00 p.m. **sharp**, leave to help serve at reStart, return at 7:00

## “Wednesday Night Live” adult studies opportunities for this fall’s session

At the final session of *Wednesday Night Live* we gave folks the opportunity to share their interest in adult study opportunities which could be offered this fall. We would like to extend this opportunity to the whole congregation. What would we need to offer for you to attend an adult study this fall? Please detach this survey and leave or mail to the Church Office by the end of June. Please check any and all that would be of interest to you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Companions in Christ*  
a small group experience of spiritual formation for mature Christians. Multiple offerings available.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Disciple Bible Studies Basic Class*  
34 weeks
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Advance Disciple Bible Study*  
three different studies available
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Invitation to Old/New Testament*  
introductory classes
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Basic Faith Study on Methodist Beliefs and Spiritual Disciplines*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Parenting 101*  
based on the book Creative Correction, by Lisa Welchel
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Firm Foundation*  
a small group experience on foundations of marriage
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Death and Dying/Grief*  
led by Barbara Thompson

Course descriptions on the above classes are available at the Welcome Center in the entry area.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

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

The Memorial weekend has come and gone and this past Sunday we received the Confirmation Class. As we have gone through these observances I have become aware once again of some very disturbing numbers. If you were in church Memorial Sunday, you heard the list read of those members who have passed since the previous Memorial Sunday. In all, there were 26 names read of persons that became a part of those who have received their heavenly reward. This past Sunday the largest Confirmation Class in years was received into membership. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who worked to prepare this class. What a joy it was to receive this class of 12 young people into membership.

Yet, when you look at these numbers in a little different way, it is rather disturbing for the future of our church. We have lost 26 members by death and have only received 12 new members by profession of faith which, for the year, results in a net loss of 14 members. Unfortunately this trend has been the recent history of our church, with us losing more members than we have received. Since 1968 when the previous churches became the United Methodist Church, we, as a denomination, have lost members every single year.

It is hard for me to imagine what it would be like to live in a world where there was not a United Methodist Church or in this community with the doors of Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC closed. While our present numbers do not threaten us facing this reality any time soon, it still is alarming to consider that for over several decades we have not in any given year had an increase. Consider for a moment what it would take to reverse this trend. This is the task our Study Committee faces as we meet to vision and plan for the future of our church. What would it take to turn this disturbing trend around to guarantee that this church will continue to keep its doors open serving this community?

*...Ken Lutgen, Jr.*

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

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

- As of June 5, the following members have been reported in area hospitals: Marvin Wink at Overland Park Regional and Shelly Schuyler at Lee's Summit.
- Pastor Ken had the pleasure of baptizing his great nephew a couple weeks ago. Gabriel Scott Flexter is the son of Michael and Brooke Flexter.
- The following were confirmed this past Sunday and we welcome them as members to our Blue Ridge Church family: Shawn Barclay, Ethan Bartley, Emily Carney, Blake DeMoss, Jordan DeMoss, Samantha DeMoss, Lauren Francis, Gerrit Robinson, Jeff Schlotzhauer, Rusty Straw, Erich Thompson and Heather Thompson. Blake DeMoss, Jeff Schlotzhauer and Rusty Straw also received the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Joining our Blue Ridge Church family on Sunday, June 4, were Tim & Lisa Robinson and their children Geritt & Claire. They reside at 4644 Blue Ridge Blvd., KCMO 64133; 816.353.2911.

***Prayer Line: 816.358.8622***

***Church Office: 816.353.1435***

***Fax Number: 816.353.8770 E-Mail: [brumc@blueridgechurch.org](mailto:brumc@blueridgechurch.org)***

***Web Site: [www.blueridgechurch.org](http://www.blueridgechurch.org)***

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