



# THE ENVOY

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

June 27, 2006 Vol. 51, Issue 26

*This issue of The Envoy is sponsored by Cornerstone Band, Cornerstone Bells and Chancel Bells with love and appreciation to Linda Mann. Happy Birthday! You are an inspiration to us all!*

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

This Sunday Ken’s message will be “Make A Joyful Noise”. We’ll be recognizing and celebrating 30 years of Linda Mann’s Ministry. “Joy and Fulfillment in Serving the Lord” is our theme for Sunday worship.



**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**C-L-O-S-E-D**  
**Tuesday,**  
**July 4**

Church offices and buildings will be closed Tuesday in observance of Independence Day.

Staff will be back in the office 8:30 Wednesday morning.

### **Psalm 122:1**

**“I was glad when they said unto me,  
‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’”**

### **--Recollections and Thanksgivings**

*from Linda Mann, Director of Music*

My earliest recollections of church are of a large building in downtown Kansas City. We would sit in the balcony, surrounded by dark wood and stained glass windows and hear a glorious choir and organ make music to the Lord. For dinners we would eat in a room with a beautiful grand piano, which greatly intrigued me. My mom reports that at an early age I said I wanted to play the organ for church, although I don’t recall. What I do recall is loving parents who made sure their child was taken to Sunday School and worship...a mother who thought it would be nice to play the piano and procured a teacher...a dad who worked hard and paid for lessons, music, and two pianos (my first one was an old upright with pink spackled paint!!!)...parents who took me to lessons and concerts ...saw that I received a music degree...and then gave countless hours to lovingly tend my three sons as I played for Sunday morning services, weddings, funerals and rehearsals. My utmost thanks for all they did is surely small compared to the task.

Another recollection is of a wonderful husband who supported everything I did. Taking care of an infant for five hours on Sunday mornings was indeed a challenge for a young man, but he bravely forged ahead—three times!! —becoming the most wonderful father. He introduced me to the Methodist faith and brought me to this church. His love and help with whatever I have asked since 1969 and in 33 years of marriage, are a treasure without price.

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## **--Recollections and Thanksgivings**

*from Linda Mann, Director of Music*

To my sons: our times together at the church made this journey so sweet for me, and thank you for the many hours spent here—for singing, ringing, playing, moving all the bells, tables, instruments, sets. I remember Joe falling asleep on the Choir Room couch at 7:00 a.m. one Easter morning, still there at noon, as no one remembered to wake him! Sam, from Reuben, the “Happy Palace Rat” to Jesus in “Celebrate Life” was a mother’s joy to watch and John’s drumming is indeed music to my ears on many levels.

Two other very important people must be mentioned. Noel Fulkerson became my school choir director my seventh grade year. I was indeed privileged to have him for the next five years, and began singing in the choir at Blue Ridge my junior year in high school. Noel’s high standards, expert musicianship, and love of God, music and the church exemplified to an impressionable young mind just what being a church musician, and a Christian, meant. He hired me as organist here, and inspired me throughout my life to serve the Lord through music. Debbie Keeton became music assistant in 1987 and is indeed the rock which keeps my boat anchored securely. The list of Debbie’s “jobs” is endless, and her friendship to me and loyalty to Blue Ridge and God are hidden riches for the kingdom. I thank both these people from the depths of my heart.

God calls us. He calls us to be near to Him. He calls us to serve Him by serving others. He calls us to pray to Him, praise Him, make music unto Him. And most importantly He calls us to love Him by loving others.

(Continued in next column)

As Paul said, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you:”

\*\*\* you who have directed or sung in the choirs, played bells or instruments, acted, danced, written, or drawn—whose art lives in your heart and takes your soul towards God

\*\*\* who have attended here as we worshiped and served together, and gave so that we might have a pipe organ, grand piano, music and equipment

\*\*\* you who have been staff at Blue Ridge as we “fought the good fight” together

\*\*\* you the child, the youth, the young adult, parent, senior citizen, whose lives intertwine in this house of God. As we have supported, worked with and loved each other, we have so done to the Lord. My thanks to God for His love, and for you, is in every note I play to praise Him.

“What the Lord Has Done in Me: Joy and Fulfillment in Serving the Lord” is our theme for Sunday worship. Two timpani are on their way from the factory to make their home at Blue Ridge thanks to your generous contributions. Many musicians have given extra summer time in preparation for a joyful service. Elaine Sidebottom and others have gone way beyond the “line of duty” to honor me, and I humbly receive this thanks. When one is honored, God is honored.

What is the most important lesson learned after 30 years of service? After 30 years of being called to tasks that one thought one couldn’t do, or never imagined one would be doing? Praying to, listening for, and accepting God’s call of guidance, grace and love molds our human lives into strong spirits of joy and love, fulfilled as nothing else can by serving and loving the Lord and others. So “let us be glad, and go into the house of the Lord.”

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## **Blue Ridge Olympics hope for huge turnout!!!**

It’s adults vs. youth on “Game Night”— Sunday, July 2, from 6-8 p.m. in the back parking lot. ALL ages — youth, adults, children, parents, or grandparents — come for a night of extreme fun! You may participate or be a part of the cheering section! Let the games begin!!

## Coming Next Week...

### Sunday, July 2

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
- † Celebrate Linda Mann's 30-year anniversary with the church
- † 6:00-8:00 p.m., Adult vs Youth Game Night, back parking lot

### Monday, July 3

- † 7:00 p.m., Boy & Cub Scouts, Hobbs Hall

### Tuesday, July 4

- † Church Offices and Buildings Closed in observance of Independence Day

### Wednesday, July 5

- † 7:00 p.m., Caregiver Support Group, Room 221



## Youth Information:

### Sunday, July 2

- † 9:30 a.m., sing "Go Now in Peace" at worship service
- † 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
- † 6:00-8:00 p.m., Outdoor Game Night – adults vs youth - back parking lot

## Getting ready for Raytown Roundup Days

A "Wagon Master" is needed to head up the float committee for the Raytown Roundup Days Parade on September 23. If you're interested, please call the church office. A great time was had by all last year, and our church was given great exposure. Yee-ha!!!

## United Methodist Women share with us:

- ▶ Tickets for the UMW Mother & Daughter Hi-Fashion Tea will be on sale Sunday, July 9, and July 15. Adults are \$5.00 and children under 12 are \$3.00. Come join us on July 23 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. for this fun event. There will be a punch bowl at 1:30, followed by a light luncheon and then an unusual Style Show. Get your tickets early as there will be a limited number sold.
- ▶ The Priscilla Circle met last Wednesday for their Annual Auction and Salad Luncheon. At the conclusion of a lot of fun, they had made \$421.75 to be divided among the following: Della Lamb and Spofford campships and our own adult workcamp. They adjourned to a delicious luncheon enjoyed by all.
- ▶ An immense thank you to all those who helped serve our last condolence dinner. Everyone is so wonderful to accept the opportunity of either preparing a dish or helping in the kitchen. I am so grateful. If you have not been called upon to do either of these things and would care to do so, please call me at 356-6694. Thanks — Marilyn Yorke

*Music director Linda Mann would appreciate receiving bulletins from churches you may visit on your vacations. Please leave them in the church office with her name on them.*

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

Another Annual Conference has come and gone and the business of the church conducted for the year. With the ending of Conference comes the reading of the Appointments and Russ Smith and I find ourselves returning for another year as your pastors. It is very much our honor to have this opportunity to serve Blue Ridge Church and the wonderful people that make up its congregation. I look forward to continuing this coming year the plans which are being developed and to serve as one of the pastors of your church.

What a *Day of Celebration* we are anticipating as we celebrate in honor of Linda Mann, her 30 years of service and ministry. As only Linda can do, we will celebrate, but she will provide the "Joyful Noise unto the Lord". We are all indebted to her and her whole family as they so willingly share their gifts of music. As a way of honoring her we hope to enhance the musical offerings she directs. The Special Offering being received will be used to purchase timpani and hand bells. In fact, the Timpani have already been purchased and will be a part of Sunday's Service. These instruments will continue through the years the "Joyful Noise" made each Sunday here at Blue Ridge.

A special announcement was made two weeks ago in the 9:30 service of which Dr. Russell Lytle attends. He served for many years here as Senior Pastor and honoring an old tradition, not to put his membership at the last church he served, upon his retirement put his membership in another church. However, in conversations over these past months I have encouraged him to return to Blue Ridge. So at this Annual Conference he made Blue Ridge his Charge Conference. I know you all would join me in welcoming home Dr. Lytle!!!!

Life at Blue Ridge Church is GOOD. I feel so blessed to serve among such gifted and dedicated persons as Linda Mann, Russ Smith, Russell Lytle and Jim Smith who so willingly share themselves in this, God's Ministry.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

## ***Person to person:*** **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

- As of June 26, the following member has been reported in an area hospital: Sherri Williamson at KU Medical Center.
- Congratulations to David & Barbara Robinson on the June 23 birth of their daughter Lauren Elizabeth. Also be sure to congratulate grandparents Keith & Carolyn Craig and Dwight & Charlotte Robinson and aunt Sarah and cousin Shawn Barclay.
- Congratulations to Dave & Shirley Strawn on the June 23 birth of their grandson Jackson Thomas, son of Eric & Nichole Holmes.
- A huge THANK YOU to Leah and Jim Shelton for hosting a pool party and FABULOUS cookout for 20 of our youth. You are *greatly appreciated!!!*

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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](mailto:klutgen@blueridgechurch.org)

Rev. Russ Smith at 816.353.2484 or [russell.smith@blueridgechurch.org](mailto: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