



THE ENVOY

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

July 4, 2006 Vol. 51, Issue 27

*This issue of The Envoy
is sponsored by*

*Sue Klotz
in celebration of July 4th!
May we all remember to be
grateful for our freedom
and to use it well*

Coming up in worship

This Sunday, Pastor Ken's sermon will be "The Carpenter's Son". Many fail to remember that Jesus was a real man, part of a family with brothers and sisters and a place he called home, where he was known as the Carpenter's Son. The controversy surrounding the Da Vinci Code should not cause us to lose site of our belief that Jesus walked on this earth as a real man.

*The scripture reading is
Mark 6:1-13*



Check *The Envoy* next week for more information about the Kitchen Shower!

Annual Conference Report – 2006

This was our third year to attend Annual Conference. The conference was attended by 1500 voting members equally divided between lay and clergy. The following is a brief summary of the conference.

MISSION/VISION/PRIORITIES

The MISSION/VISION/PRIORITIES for the Methodist Church are:

- (1) Five Marks of a healthy congregation are radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission/service, and extravagant generosity.
- (2) The five behavioral expectation we have for each other are: Christ-centered, fruitful, accountability, excellence and collaboration.
- (3) The Mission of the Missouri Conference is: "Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ."
- (4) The vision of the Missouri Conference is: "Growing vibrant, fruitful congregations changing lives through Jesus Christ."

Ministry

Through our Ministry Bishop Schnase challenged the conference to have an increase of 5,000 in average worship attendance within the next six years. Forms were passed out on Monday that encouraged congregations to set their own goals for growth attendance. Conference members heard that MO United Methodist made gifts of cash, time and in-kind articles totaling more than \$4,000,000 to various missions during 2005. The MO Conference received a \$500,000 grant from UMCOR to provide assistance to last year's hurricane victims that are now living in MO.

(Continued on page 2)

Making the most.....

Are you a Judy? No, I am not asking if your name *is* Judy, I am asking if you *are* a Judy? Don't understand? Perhaps I should back up and explain myself. As a child I attended and have many wonderful memories of Vacation Bible School at my home church. I also have many great memories of VBS at other churches. I attended other VBS's because people invited me and invited my parents to send me. I specifically remember Judy. Every summer Judy would make sure that children she knew in the community were invited to Bible School at her church. She made sure our parents were informed and even arranged transportation when it was an issue. Today, I cannot help but wonder how many hearts were led to Christ because of the simple, yet thorough, invitation Judy extended to others and me over the years. I remember feeling so special that she cared so much about me that she made sure I was extended a "special" invitation. That's what Judy did for Christ—she extended special invitations. As our Vacation Bible School quickly approaches, now is the time for you to be a "Judy." Who are the young people in your life whom you can extend that special invitation? Within the account of Mark 10:13-16, we hear the special invitation Christ gives to "Let the children come unto me..." My special invitation to you is to respond to Christ's invitation in a simple, yet thorough, way: invite them and help arrange for them to come to VBS at Blue Ridge. Be some child's Judy. I think it is a great way for you to...make the most as you live by faith!

*...Russell Smith
Associate Pastor*

(Continued from front page)

Annual Conference Report – 2006

Offerings

Offerings for the weekend were valued at more than \$55,000.

Administration

It was reported that the Norris case had been settled for \$1.475 million. The settlement ends all appeals. Insurance covered \$300,000 of the cost, and other annual conference are contributing \$100,000—including \$15,000 offer from hurricane ravaged Louisiana. MO Conference funds will come from 2005 and 2006 contributions to the Legal Contingency Fund by Missouri congregations. The 2007 conference budget will be about \$1.5 million less than the 2006 budget.

Worship

We were blessed with six worship services. They included: An opening celebration in which Bishop Schanse preached; a memorial service, a combined celebration of retirement with the celebration of commissioning for those who enter probationary membership as United Methodist clergy; A celebration of 50 years of full ordination rights for women; ordination for four new clergy and recognition of elders orders; and a service of sending forth and the fixing of appointments.

Learning

There were several workshops and study time together, ranging from the need for the church to adjust to a world that has changed, to a strategy for offering risk-taking service in local congregations, to the viewpoint of younger generations. If you would like other information you may find it at www.momethodist.org

Thank you for letting us be your Lay Delegates –

Charles & Debbie Jacques

Get your tickets to the T-Bones game here

Tickets to the August 13 T-Bones Ball Game are available in the Church Office for only \$9.00. Remember, parking is FREE at this ball park! The kids can run the bases after the game. And, this just happens to be "Elvis Night"!

Coming Next Week...

Sunday, July 9

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
- † Tickets for Mother-Daughter Tea go on sale in Entry Area
- † 10:40-11:00 a.m., Communion in Chapel
- † 12:00 p.m., VBS volunteer luncheon

Monday, July 10

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

Tuesday, July 11

- † 6:00 p.m., Mississippi Work Team Meeting, Beatitudes Entry Area

Wednesday, July 12

- † Dr. Dolittle at Starlight

Thursday, July 13

- † 7:00 p.m., Scout Mic-O-Say Meeting, Hobbs Hall

Friday, July 14

- † Family Fun Night Drive-In Movie beginning at dusk in the back parking lot — Showing will be:
Little Manhattan

Youth Information:

Sunday, July 9

- † 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 because Senior High Work Campers left this morning



Work Team to Mississippi plans meeting

The time has come for you to decide if you have been considering going on the July 29- August 5 and for some extended to August 9 Work Team to Mississippi. Persons who plan to be a part of this team will meet Tuesday, July 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Beatitudes Area. Final arrangements for the trip will be made at this meeting. If you are going, but cannot make the meeting, please let us know in the Church Office so you can be included in the planning.

It's looking like it's time for Vacation Bible School

We are looking forward to another very successful Vacation Bible School this summer! We want to reach the children of our church as well as reach out to the children in our community. PLEASE stop by the Welcome Center and pick up a postcard and/or door hanger with our VBS information and give it to a neighbor family!

We will be having an organizational meeting Sunday, July 9, at noon in the Fellowship Hall for all VBS volunteers! If you have already spoken with Tammy or if you are just considering volunteering, please plan on attending this very important meeting. A "FIESTA" lunch will be provided.

So food arrangement can be made, please RSVP by calling the church and leaving a message in my voice mail if I am not in the office. Also, if you need child care I will need to know.

Bendiciones ~ Tammy Bartley

Mark your calendar for an African trip in 2007

The trip to Southern Africa, which will be led by Dr. Lutgen in September/October of 2007, has generated considerable interest. Put on your calendars Tuesday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. for the first gathering of those interested in traveling to Africa. At this meeting questions will be answered and the group will begin the planning of this trip. Dr. Lutgen has extensive experience in leading group travel to Africa. He has agreed for this trip, to work with those interested in planning the itinerary. If you cannot make this meeting but have interest in being a part of the trip, call the office and make sure your name is put on the list of persons interested in traveling to Africa.

Pastor's Corner:

After eleven faithful years of service as the Church Office Manager, Shirley Strawn has notified the Staff Parish Committee that she will be seeking the retired status, effective August 15, to serve a higher calling. I would remind you that on June 23 Shirley became a grandmother for the first time with the entry of Jackson Thomas into her life. And so with Nichole going back to the classroom in the fall, Grandmother Shirley feels called to care for Grandson Jackson. Even all of us who depend on her for so much cannot argue with this higher calling, but only send her on with our sincerest appreciation for her years of service. On Sunday morning, August 13, there will be a reception in the Beatitudes Area for Shirley, giving us the opportunity to show her our appreciation.

With Shirley's announced retirement, the Staff Parish Committee has been busy putting together a new position which would incorporate her responsibilities and combine them with some of the responsibilities of the former Business Manager. This new position will move to full time and Mary Alice McBain, who was most recently the Heartland Districts Office Manager, will fill this position effective July 24. I worked with Mary Alice for five years in the District Office, know her as a person with many gifts and look forward to her becoming our new Office Manager.

In addition, the Staff Parish Committee has moved quickly to fill the Youth Director position opened with the ending of our interim position. Carla Smith, who has a strong background in working with youth including over 10 years in a church position, has accepted our offer to become the new Youth Director. With the church expanding our ministries for youth to Wednesday nights, the filling of this position became even more critical. Carla will begin her new duties effective July 1. For those of you who do not know Carla, in addition to being our new Youth Director, she is married to our Associate Minister Russ Smith.

I feel very confident that these changes will serve well the ministry of our church.

Person to person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

With the July 4 holiday, The Envoy was printed on Friday. For updated hospital information, please call the church office.

We want to keep Ruth Seymour and Jean Russell in our prayers. Both ladies have recently been hospitalized.

- ◆ Congratulations to Dean & Janet Campbell on the June 18 birth of their grandson James Campbell Prather, son of Brian & Kristin.

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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@blueridgechurch.org

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