

Mid High Returns from Work Camp

Caitlin Gritz, Charleen Sims, Elizabeth Brock, Iwalani Rafaele, Laura Braga, Megan MacDonald, Corbin DeMoss, Jake Friehohle, Kevin Deaton, Tony Marcella, Rusty & Jessica Husted, and Carla & Russell Smith journeyed to Sedalia to work at Epworth United Methodist Church and New Bethel United Methodist Church.

We cleaned Epworth's sanctuary and fellowship hall in preparation for a fundraiser they are having the first weekend in June. We also pulled weeds at their empty parsonage in preparation for their new pastoral family moving in July.

At New Bethel we polished the pews and the floors in their sanctuary, painted some fence posts and flower pots. We enjoyed worship on Sunday morning with Pastor Mary and the New Bethel Church family.

First United Methodist Church - Celebration Center kept true to their "Say Yes Today!" slogan and hosted us with great joy. We worshiped at the Celebration Center Saturday night (Sue Klotz joined us for this). For our fun: we dined at a great Mexican Restaurant El Tapitio and we were entertained with festive Mexican Music. We also dined at Kehde's barbeque in the train car. We spent Sunday with a Funday at the Celebration Center. We played "Capture The Flag," board games, we watched "A Night at the Museum" and worshiped in the eYEs Theater at the Celebration Center. We worshiped together daily by studying our scripture Colossians 4:1-6 (Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds)

A very special thanks to Ron & Jeanne Armstrong for shopping for us and preparing our menu---ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!

And a special thanks to Hoot & Linda Mann for leading us in worship for "Keep the Candle Burning!"

And thanks to the adult leadership for your support of us on that day and before: Mark & Deb Culley and Brad Teachman--Technical support; Debbie Keeton-- Guitar; John Mann--percussion; Jennifer Mitchell--String Ensemble Director; Nancy Nail--Drama Coach; Dave Tope and Pastor Ken & Pastor Russ for calling us to worship.

Here's what the mid high work campers said about this weekend to those of you who supported us with your prayers and your financial gifts through our "Keep The Candle Burning" fundraiser: "Thank you for the help to get us to our first work camp! We had a good time. Without your efforts and support, we would not have had an opportunity to go work and share our Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds...."

This was Fun! Exciting! Schweeeeet! (also known as sweet:) Fetti (which apparently means "cool!") awesome, fantastic, fabulous! Super! Terrific! Singing! Friendly and Kind! We are all excited for our next Work Camp and again, we know you made it possible for us to share this experience...

Carla Smith

GriefCare

Our GriefCare group has been meeting for the past nine months. We have each grown during this experience and have learned that God uses our suffering to help us grow. We have also learned that one of the best ways we can heal is to serve others. Because of this, we want to reach out to others in our church as they experience the loss of a loved one.

To this end, our mission is two fold. (1) To educate and (2) to minister to others. The first way is a short term book study for our monthly meetings entitled “*Journeying through Grief*”. We will meet at 10:00 am on June 12, July 11, August 8 and September 12. We will have a short book to study for each session: “*A Time to Grieve*”, “*Experiencing Grief*”, “*Finding Hope and Healing*”, and “*Rebuilding and Remembering*”. These were all written by Dr. Kenneth C, Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, who is the founder and executive director of Stephen Ministries.

Our second mission will be long-term and to reach out to those who are grieving by sending the same material we will be studying to them at different times during the first year following their loss. We will begin selling bottled water (Healing Water Ministry) to help support this ministry.

There are four ways you can participate: (1) By joining our monthly study group, (2) by purchasing water, (3) by donating money to GriefCare and (4) by praying for us.

For more information, please contact the church office or talk to Barbara Thompson.

Thank You

Thanks to all for the phone calls and cards during my recent illness and hospital stay.

Frank Hansen

Thank you for the calls, cards and continued prayers as I begin chemo in a couple of weeks.

Sharon Ensminger

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement before and after my surgery. I feel truly blessed.

Bernadine Bixler

Recipes Needed

Blue Ridge Boulevard UMC will have a cookbook for sale this fall. Our committee is Margaret Strader, Jeanne Armstrong, Iris Miller, Dixie Lee, Donnie Blair and Judy Stanley. Recipes can be given to anyone on the committee or left in the recipe box at the Information Desk on Sunday.

We will be collecting recipes June and July. We will keep you updated on recipes needed.

Ken Medema Concert Is August 26

The United Methodist Churches of Raytown and Independence are sponsoring a Ken Medema Concert on August 26th at 6:00pm at the Community of Christ Auditorium. The Blue Ridge Church has been asked to seek 25 sponsorships at \$100 for the purpose helping to defray the costs. The event is free but sponsors will be acknowledged at the event and will receive ten tickets on the main floor. If you would like to help by being one of the 25 sponsors, please contact Dr. Lutgen.

Pastor's Corner:

At this session of the Missouri Annual Conference I will receive my appointment for the 39th time. Over the course of the years I have received appointments to serve six congregations, well actually eight, but three were at the same time. I was also appointed to serve as a District Superintendent and to the General Board of Global Ministries as the Director of UMCOR. This appointment will be to return for a third year as the senior pastor of Blue Ridge Boulevard.

I can share with you how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to return here and continue to serve as one of your pastors. Each new appointment year brings with it a set of new challenges and opportunities. This year we will experience again new additions to our staff team and the excitement that will bring, along with the many new faces among the laity who have come to recently be a part of this congregation and its ministries. What an exciting time to be a part of God's ministry here and to serve in this special community of believers know as Blue Ridge.

This Sunday will be a very busy day as we say our good byes to a very special family, the Smiths, wishing them well as they receive their new appointment. Also as a part of the morning activities will be the opportunity to welcome Delfina Monteiro from Mozambique. Delfina is a part of a team that visited our session of annual conference and is itinerating around the state following conference.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

Garden Brunch and Tour

The Shepherd's Center of Raytown's Tenth Annual Garden Tour and Brunch will be held on Tuesday, June 19. Brunch will be held at Raytown Christian Church from 9am - 11am. The Garden Tour is 10am to 2pm and 5:30pm-8pm. Five Raytown homes will be featured for their variety of plants and flowers. Garden tour tickets are \$10 and brunch tickets are \$5. Call the Shepherd's Center at 356-9000 for tickets.

Person to Person:

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- As of June 5, the known following are in area hospitals: Rev. Steve Shearer at St. Joseph's and Helen Gardner at St. Luke's (Wornall Road).
- Best wishes to Heidi Tilly and Brandon Peoples, who were married by Dr. Smith on May 26. Heidi is the daughter of Ron and Margaret Tilly.
- Our prayers are with Bob and Judy Harris. Bob's brother-in-law, Dwayne Logan Eldridge, passed away in Springfield, MO on June 2.
- Our sympathy is with Merry Sims and family; her mother, Margaret Sims, died on June 5. The Sims are former Blue Ridge members.
- LaVaughn Durham requests prayers for his wife, Darlene, who is at Hidden Lake Care Center.

Prayer Line: (816) 358-8622 Church Office: (816) 353-1435
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Web Site: www.blueridgechurch.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

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

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