

THE ENVOY

- - Home Edition

...telling the news of Blue Ridge Church

March 9, 2010, Volume 55, Issue 5

Easter Egg Hunt - April 3

Blue Ridge UMC will be participating with other churches of Raytown in a community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3. The hunt will be held in the green space in downtown Raytown where the old Baptist church used to be. Information regarding time of the event as well as alternate plan for rain will be forthcoming so please read you Envoy's. We will also put this information on our church's website when it comes available. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Each church has agreed to ask for candy donations. Please bring bags of individually wrapped (egg-sized) candies to the church office no later than MARCH 22.



Thank you so much for supporting this effort. We believe this is a great way to reach out into our community and serve our congregation as well.

Palm Sunday Brunch

March 28, Fellowship Hall
10:30am to 11:45am

We're Serving:

Quiche, Ham, Potatoes, Fruit Salad
and More.

\$6 for Adults

\$3 for Children under 12

Sign up on the Blue Cards

This Sunday and Next, March 14 and 21,
or call the Church Office (353-1435)

Easter Lilies



The Church Sanctuary will be decorated with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, April 4. If you wish to sponsor a lily in memory of in honor of a loved one, please call the Church Office, 353-1435. Cost is \$10.00. After the 10:30 church service on Easter, please take your lily home or it can be picked up during the week of April 5 through 9.

The Easter Season In Worship:

On March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Dr. Lutgen's sermon "The Dream" is based on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. The human quest is a dream of fame and fortune. What are we really willing to give up in this life before we come to our senses?

On March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent, Dr. Lutgen's sermon "The Promise" is based on John 12:1-8. Judas while a disciple failed to be convinced by the teaching and example of Jesus. He turned away from the promise Jesus offered for his life.

On March 28, Palm Sunday, the Choir will present the cantata "The Weeping Tree" by Joseph Martin during both services. Each week we have been hearing a different narration, scripture and song regarding a symbol of Lent - the cross, the robe, the crown of thorns, the nails, and the blood of Christ. On Palm Sunday the entire cantata "The Weeping Tree" is given when we will be able to nail our petitions and/or sins to the weeping tree.

Maundy Thursday services are on April 1 at 7:00pm with communion. Rev. Wendling's sermon "Love is What Love Does" is based on John 13:1-17.

Easter Sunday services are at 9:00 and 10:30am. Dr. Lutgen's sermon "The Empty Tomb" is based on Luke 24:1-12. A time of loss is made even more difficult when the body of the deceased is absent. What would the women now do with the discovery of the empty tomb?



The Easter Season

Doing Lent

If you happened to catch last week's sermon you heard me mention—more accurately, confess—that I used to be not very good at Lent. As a matter of fact, there was a time that I thought my life as a Christian would be a whole lot easier without it. Thankfully, I've come to terms with the reality that that is not at all the case. What's more, I've come to realize that my Christian life depends on the spiritual disciplines that the Lenten season demands. And you know what; so does yours.

Face it, we *need* the Lent, we *need* the spiritual disciplines that are associated with the season, and we *need* the individual reflection and the personal inventory that an honest observance of the season entails.

For many of us (and I've always been one of them) exercising our faith entails doing a lot of "stuff." Meaning, as we've grown in our faith we've also grown more and more active in our faith community; A.K.A. our Church. That's a good thing; a natural and outward expression of our inward and personal relationship with God. But, even the most dedicated Christian servants need to break free from all the "outward stuff" and go intentionally to that deep place within...that place on the inside where the very image of God resides.

Believe me; I know that such a journey to your inward depths is not easy. Wading through all your failings, faults, and shortcomings is a humbling experience. It takes a lot of courage to allow yourself to see you as God sees you. And Lord knows that it takes a disciple to intentionally disengage from the outward stuff that you do in order to examine your own failings and weaknesses in light of God's love. But, if you do accept the Lenten invitation and all the challenges that go with it, you won't be disappointed. Why? Because deep within that solemn place awaits your own custom made version of God's healing love, the one-on-one guidance of his wisdom, and the personal assurance of his saving grace. And then, when you emerge from that place deep within yourself and step back into the "stuff" of life, the blessing that you've received on the inside will be evidenced by your God-perfected love and service to others on the outside.

So, go ahead. Do Lent. You won't be disappointed.

Rev. Bryan Wendling

This Issue of *The Envoy*
is sponsored by
Victor and Pat Legendre.

MOBR on the job

Continuing a relationship started several years ago, seven members of MOBR spent February 26th and 27th at Camp Wilderness in Lawson, Missouri. Several times the men of Blue Ridge have gone to Wilderness to help with construction and maintenance projects to enrich the camping and worship experience that can be undertaken at this beautiful facility operated by the Methodist Church of Missouri.

Larry Blair, Berk Stanley and Dave Strawn worked on installing wiring and junction boxes for a new chair lift in Spirit Lodge that was installed on Saturday and was to be dedicated on Monday, March 1st. Wes Hougland, Wally Fredrickson, Al Maddox and Gary Sidebottom stained and assembled frames for 4 bunk beds that are to be used in one of the new cabins in the Tree House Village. Wes had cut and sanded the wood pieces on one of our previous trips to Wilderness.

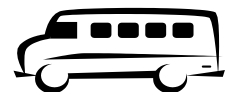
We also scraped the popcorn finish off of part of the ceiling in the dining room in Spirit Lodge. During this process we decided that the best solution to their problems was to install a new dropped ceiling. The men voted to donate \$500 of the profits from the last Spaghetti Dinner to Camp Wilderness to cover about half of the material costs for this project. This work will be done on a weekend in the very near future. All is not work at one of these retreats. We enjoyed a crock pot full of chili furnished by Donnie Blair on Friday night, scrambled eggs, bacon, toast and fruit Saturday morning and chili dogs for lunch on Saturday. We also managed to stretch a box of homemade cookies from Shirley Strawn throughout the two days but there weren't any left to bring home.

Men of the church, this is your invitation to join us for our next work weekend at Wilderness. Aren't interested in construction and maintenance work, then join us for our Bible study sessions once a month or our morning breakfast at Ginger's the first Saturday of the month. You will feel good about helping someone, learning something or just getting together with the guys for breakfast. Come join us!!! We would love the company.

Need more information? Contact Al Maddox (356-2794) or Gary Sidebottom (761-3738)

Urgent! Van Drivers Needed

Would you like to help with the Sunday morning Van Ministry by volunteering to drive the van once every couple of months? Contact Hoot Mann, 353-4826 or hootmann@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Blue Ridge UMC's Spring 2010 Adult Christian Education

Beginning this month our Lay Academy is offering four exciting opportunities to grow in faith through Adult Christian Education. As you can see below, there are opportunities offered at varying times covering a broad range of topics. There's a couple of ways to get registered for a class: 1) via the sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center desk in the narthex, or 2) simply call the church office at 353-1435. Additionally, if you have questions regarding a class or need additional information, don't hesitate to give Rev. Wendling a call.

Our spring 10 Adult Christian Education Offerings include:

“GriefShare” — The death of a spouse, child, family member or friend can be devastating. GriefShare offers a biblical, Christ-center perspective on death, dying, our own mortality, and the promise of eternal life. With its grief recovery support group orientation, GriefShare will provide you with a strategy and the tools necessary to move toward Christ as the source of healing.

Facilitators: Margaret Strader and Barbara Thompson

Begins/ends: 3/4 thru 5/27 (13 weeks) - - It's not too late to sign-up.

Meets: Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:00 in room 204 (library)

“The Last Week” — A four-week Lenten study focusing on the last week of Jesus' earthly life. The Gospel of Mark gives a day-by-day (sometimes hour-by-hour) account of the events of Holy Week; the most sacred time of the Christian year. Based Mark's Gospel and Marcus J. Borg's & John Dominic Crossan's book entitled *The Last Week*, this four-week study will focus on Jesus' collision course with the powers of His day and provide participants with a fresh perspective on the most significant event in human history. While purchasing Borg and Crossan's book is recommended, it is not necessary for the study.

Facilitator: Linda Casebolt

Begins/ends: 3/11 thru 4/1 (4 weeks)

Meets: Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30 in room 203

“Invitation to the New Testament” — Using the story of Jesus as the starting point, this course will survey the writings of the New Testament; how the early Church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned to develop disciples and create communities of faith. In the weekly video segments, listen as scholars fascinate you with facts and information that promises to open new avenues of understanding and enlightenment.

Facilitators: Charlotte Robinson and Margaret Strader

Begins/ends: 3/11 thru 4/29 (8 weeks)

Meets: Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 in room 204 (library)

“Study of Joshua and Judges” — This Old Testament Bible study will explore how God directed and led Israel to settle in Canaan; the Promised Land. In this will specifically learn about the special leaders that God used to defeat Israel's enemies and shepherd his people.

Facilitator: Donna Teachman

Begins/ends: 3/21 thru 5/9 (8 weeks)

Meets: Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 in room 203 (library)

My hope is that, in the spirit of the Lenten Season, you will prayerfully consider committing your time and energy to one or more of these faith studies. For our faith to grow it must be fed. These short-term studies are meant to do just that.

See you in class!
Rev. Bryan Wendling

Church Calendar

Sunday, March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship: 9:00am, 10:30am

Children's Church: Ignite, 10:30am, Chapel

Chapel Communion: 8:45 - 9am

& 10:15 - 10:30am, Room 202

† 10:15am, Angel Choir, Preschool S.S. Room

† 3:00pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room

† 4:00-5:00pm, Elementary FAB, Music Room



Spring Forward -
Daylight Saving
Time begins

Monday, March 15

† 9:30am-2:00pm, Break Time, Dining Room & Kitchen

† 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

† 7:00pm, Cub Scouts, Dining Room, Downstairs Blue & Yellow Rooms

Tuesday, March 16

† 10:00am, Prayer Shawl Stitch & Pray Group, Beatitudes Area

Wednesday, March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

† 10:00am, Grief Care, Conference Room

† 12:30pm, Shepherd's Center Card Group, Fellowship Hall

† 5:00-8:00pm, LOGOS (theme: St. Patrick's Night)

† 6:30pm, Chancel Bells, Bell Room

† 6:45-7:30pm, Easter Orchestra

† 7:15pm, Men's Ensemble

† 7:30pm, Chancel Choir, Music Room

Thursday, March 18

† Deadline for *Home Envoy* by the end of the day

† 10:00am, Women's Bible Study, Library

† 3:00pm, Older Adult Enhancement Group, Room 201

† 4:30pm-6:00pm, GriefShare, Room 204 (Library)

† 6:00-7:30pm, The Last Week, Room 203

† 6:00-8:00pm, Homework Central

† 6:30-8:00pm, Invitation to the New Testament, Room 204 (Library)

† 7:00pm, Board of Trustees, Room 201

Friday, March 19

† 12:00 noon, Golden Key Club, Dining Room

Saturday, March 20

† 7:30am - 12:00 noon, Delta Kappa Gamma, Dining Room and Kitchen

Sunday, March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Worship: 9:00am, 10:30am

Children's Church: Ignite, 10:30am, Chapel

Chapel Communion: 8:45 - 9am

& 10:15 - 10:30am, Room 202

† 10:15am, Angel Choir, Preschool S.S. Room

† 10:30-11:30am, Study of Joshua and Judges begins, Room 204 (Library)

† 3:00-5:30pm, Stephen Ministry, Conference Room

† 4:00pm, Elementary FAB

† 6:45-7:30pm, Easter Orchestra

Monday, March 22

† 9:30am-2:00pm, Break Time, Dining Room & Kitchen

† 7:00pm, Men of Blue Ridge Study Group, Library

† 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

† 7:00pm, Cub Scouts, Dining Room, Downstairs Blue & Yellow Rooms

Tuesday, March 23

† 10:00am, Prayer Shawl Stitch & Pray Group, Beatitudes Area

† 6:00pm, Harmonica Group, Music Room

† 6:00pm, Staff-Parish Relations, Library

† 6:15pm, Girl Scout Troop 305, Dining Room

† 6:30pm, Girl Scout Troop 1532, Covenant S.S. Room

† 6:30pm, Cornerstone

† 7:30pm, Cornerstone Bells, Bell Room

Wednesday, March 24

† 10:00am, UMW Mission Team, Room 201

† 12:30pm, Connecting Hands, Room 203

† 5:00-8:00pm, LOGOS (theme: Puppet Night)

† 6:30pm, Chancel Bells, Bell Room

† 7:15pm, Men's Ensemble

† 7:30pm, Chancel Choir, Music Room

† 8:30-9:00pm, Easter Orchestra

Thursday, March 25

† 3:00pm, Older Adult Enhancement Group, Room 201

† 4:30pm-6:00pm, GriefShare, Room 204 (Library)

† 5:30-8:30pm, Faith In Action, Dining Room

† 5:30-6:30pm, Children Youth Team

† 5:30-6:30pm, Worship and Arts Team, Dining Room

† 6:00pm-7:30pm, "The Last Week", Room 203

† 6:30pm-8:00pm, "Invitation to the New Testament, Room 204 (Library)

Friday, March 26

Saturday, March 27

Deadline for the next *Home Envoy* is at the end of the business day on Thursday, March 18; it will be mailed on Tuesday, March 22.

Aluminum Can

The Youth continue to recycle aluminum cans. You may drop them off on the back patio of the Youth House and we will take care of the rest!



Please NO tin cans. Aluminum cans only; other aluminum is not accepted by the recycle company.

Music News:

Linda Mann, Director of Music,
lmann@blueridgechurch.org

816-353-4826

Thank to Jean Scoggins and Brad Teachman's camera for recording our youth musical "Flashback" If you would like DVD copies you may pick them up in the church office for \$5.00.
Don't forget you can make a contribution to our youth summer mission work camps at any time.

It's not too late to join the Elementary FAB (Fine Arts Block) for first through fifth graders. We meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 in the music room. We will be working on a musical to be presented on Sunday, May 2.

A Maundy Thursday service of communion will take place on Thursday, April 1, at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. Pastor Bryan Wendling will present the message with special music by the Chancel Bells, Men's Ensemble, Jennifer Mitchell, violin, and Barbara McCready, clarinet.

The Church Orchestra will have practices on the following dates:
Sundays, March 21 & March 28, from 6:45-7:30
Wednesdays, March 24 from 8:30-9:00 and March 31 from 8:15-9:00. The orchestra is open to anyone in middle school or older. We will play on Easter Sunday, April 4.

College Ministry Care Packages



Thank you to all who donated for the college care packages. What a great response! We packed 4 at-home care bags and 17 away boxes. Students should be receiving them Monday. If you didn't get a chance to donate an item and would like to support this ministry you can donate money to the College Outreach Ministry at Blue Ridge UMC and this helps offset shipping costs. Thank you again for your support and prayers for these students.

This Issue of *The Envoy*
is sponsored by
the Gutekunst Family
in honor of
Larry and Sandy Gutekunst's
45th anniversary on March 13 and
Sandy's birthday on March 11.

Preparing For Easter

As we observe the season of Lent, it is often difficult to know how to experience this journey to Easter with our children. I hope the information below will give you some good ideas on how to approach the sadness and sometimes scary story of Jesus' death as well as celebrate the glory of Easter. This is an excerpt from "Pockets", the children's magazine from "The Upper Room". If you would like to read more you can go to www.pockets.upperroom.org

Blessings for a meaningful Lenten season and Joyous Easter!

Tammy Bartley

Easter is key experience of the Christian faith. After all, we are Easter people. Yet we often find it difficult to observe Lent, the season of preparation for Easter, with children. And when Easter comes, we may still find it hard to talk with children about this most important observance. Oh, not the part about new clothes, changes in the seasons, and the joy of Easter day. What makes it hard to talk with our children about Lent and Easter is that we cannot come to Easter without death. And talking with a child about death is no easy task.

Look at how differently we approach Christmas. Talking about a new baby, the joy of Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men is fun. There is a hint of danger as the Herod plots to kill all the boys in Bethlehem two years old or younger. But we also know that Jesus escapes.

We feel at ease with Christmas. We give gifts, remembering the gifts of the wise men. We sing songs, recalling the familiar words of the scripture. We look forward to Christmas with joy. And we impart that same joy and excitement to our children. Part of our task as adult Christians is to share the Easter story with same ease.

"Why was Jesus Killed?"

Often we have done a good job helping our children see Jesus as a man worthy of love. They learn that Jesus loved people. Jesus taught people about God's love, and he cared for people whom others ignored or ridiculed.

It's really hard to understand how a man we see as good could then be mocked, tortured, and put to death. It is always a shock to be confronted with the events of Holy Week.

Children will have questions about Jesus' death. Particularly older boys and girls will be struck by the injustice. They see Jesus as good, and it won't seem fair for such a man to be beaten and killed. It is important to struggle with our children around this question. We can help children understand that it was not God who put Jesus to death but other people.

Pastor's Corner

Despite the weather we held services both Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent to usher in this year's observance of Easter. This still remains one of my favorite times of the Christian Year. The themes, music and special services frame an age old message of hope. This year I am following the lectionary passages taken primarily from the Gospel of Luke. As I have planned these messages I have tried to center in on their relevance for our day. My messages are titled: The Test, The Legacy, The Dream, The Promise and The Hope. As you think of these titles and of our lives as Disciples of Jesus Christ, what message do these titles bring to you? As we speak of "The Test" I wonder what tests you have faced in your life and how your faith has brought you through? What legacy will you leave behind as a follower of Jesus Christ? What hope does this Christian faith bring to your life? Luke the author of the Gospel which bears his name was in many ways like us. He heard the good news of Jesus Christ from others as he never had opportunity to meet Jesus. So the words of his Gospel come from the heart and address our basic human needs. I hope you have the opportunity to reflect and take into your life the hope, Luke's Gospel shares with us.

I have shared the past two Sundays video footage of the Haiti earthquake and the damage it caused for our United Methodist related Grace Children's Hospital. The main building was completely destroyed and will be torn down. Over 50 of the hospitals staff are unaccounted for and a number of the children in the wards have lost their parents and have been abandoned. It is a tragic situation for this poor island nation. There are so many needs and one could quickly become overwhelmed by the scope of this tragedy. We have chosen here at Blue Ridge to center our response on the reconstruction of Grace Children's Hospital and the children served there. Our offering taken for Haiti will be directed through UMCOR to go to Grace in the meeting of the needs of the children served. If you would like to continue this support make your financial gifts to Blue Ridge and in the memo note for UMCOR/Grace. I will keep you updated as events unfold of the progress being made there.

...Ken Lutgen, Jr.

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Thurs: 1:00pm - 4:30pm

To reach our pastors after regular office hours --

Dr. Ken Lutgen, Jr. (816)746-1174 or klutgen@blueridgechurch.org

Rev. Bryan Wendling (816)746-7997 or bwendling@blueridgechurch.org

Church Family News

- As of March 8, those known to be hospitalized:
Dorothy Galbraith, Research Hospital
Betty Belk, Centerpoint, surgery on 3/9
Marlon Steinert, rehab at Kindred Hospital
Norma Harrison, rehab at Research Hospital
- Art Long passed away on February 28; he was 94.
Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Smith on March 4. His daughter is Phyllis Harrel, grandson is Shawn Harrel, Art's niece is Jane Leonard. Please hold Phyllis and Charlie Harrel and their family in your prayers.

AFRICA 2011

Every since our return from the 2007 trip to Africa I have been asked when I will be taking the next tour? The World Methodist Council meets in Durbin, South Africa the first week of August in 2011. This meeting would afford a wonderful opportunity to experience the world wide impact of the people called Methodist and to experience the beauty of the land, animal and people of Southern Africa. If you have interest in planning and making such a trip let me know. The best way for me is by email and then I can put you on a group, so you can receive information and make suggestions for this tour. My email address is klutgen@blueridgechurch.org. As of this announcement all I know about this trip is it will occur sometime in July/August of 2011.

Ken Lutgen, Jr.