

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAT

Radical Hospitality

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”
— Luke 2:7

Imagine a Hollywood celebrity comes into town and upon arriving at the Westin, discovers to their dismay that the hotel has no record of their reservation and that the hotel is all sold out. Don't you think that their publicist or other representatives would make such a clamor that a room would be found – and an executive suite at that!

Joseph and a very pregnant Mary shuffle into Bethlehem to report for the census; and all the rooms are taken. Even with a wife about to give birth, the best they are offered is a manger where they likely share the night with donkeys, chickens and other animals. Someone at that Bethlehem Inn obviously didn't get the memo. The Son of God, Emmanuel, was coming to be with us. And yet at the crucial moment of birth, the holy family is turned away, rejected. You could call that a preview for how Jesus is going to be ultimately treated by the people, and even his own disciples, as he draws near the cross.

Between his birth and crucifixion, however, Jesus makes a practice of extending hospitality to those who were often excluded in the society of the ancient world. In the gospel of Luke (which we'll continue to focus upon in the lectionary in 2010), we see Jesus fellowshiping with tax collectors, women, sinners, children, the sick.

Ever since I arrived at Blue Ridge, I've been struck by the warm welcome that I and my family have received. When we put together the stewardship video in the fall, one of the most consistent reasons people gave for joining and continuing to belong to this community of faith is the friendliness and caring nature of the congregation.

I give thanks for this legacy and ongoing exercise of hospitality. At the same time, I

want to invite us to embark upon a year of *radical* hospitality. What in the world is *radical* hospitality? I would welcome hearing your thoughts about that phrase. To me, radical hospitality is the *energetic welcoming* of those to our community of faith who are presently on the outside. It could mean the following:

Rather than just welcoming a visitor to church on Sunday morning, asking if you could sit with them during worship. (I have seen that happen at Blue Ridge!)

Actively welcoming people who may be different from ourselves – such as people with disabilities, people of color, people of different sexual orientations.

Asking ourselves if *how* we “are church” (in our fellowship groups, committees, coffee fellowship, etc.) is comfortable for us, but difficult for outsiders to enter.

We have taken some small steps to promote radical hospitality in our midst. We are making the front entrance of the church a working entrance (with necessary security camera and buzzer) so that our physical layout will be more welcoming. Our liturgists give their name during worship so that visitors can know who they are. We are building on the rich tradition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. service and hosting this event again on January 17th at 4:00 p.m. I hope you'll join us for this singularly important way in which we welcome African Americans from Raytown and Kansas City to our place of worship.

What is radical hospitality to you? I would appreciate it greatly if Blue Ridge members would share with me (via email, note card, phone call or hallway conversation) your perspective on the degree to which Blue Ridge exercises radical hospitality – and your ideas for how we can become even more radically hospitable.

Someone comes to our church and knocks on the door. Will we make room and let them in?

Peace and grace,
Pastor Pat





ANGEL FOOD

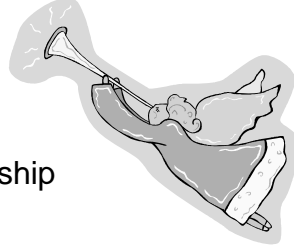
Order dates and times:

Jan. 6: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 9: 9 - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 3: (BRPC congregation orders) following worship

Angel Food Distribution Day is Jan. 23: 9:00 - 10:30



Christian Ed.

7th – 12th grade youth enjoyed a Christmas Party hosted by the CE committee on Dec. 20th at Marcia's house. Their next activity is a lock-in set for Saturday January 9th.

Plans for a Confirmation class for 7th graders through 9th graders are underway. An informational meeting for these youth and their parents will be held on January 24th. The one hour Confirmation class will be held

CE would appreciate hearing from any volunteers willing to make a light lunch for the class and serve and clean up. Please contact Pastor Pat or Karen Clevenger if you would like to sign up to provide food for a Sunday.

Pat and the committee are making plans for an additional adult Sunday morning class to begin later this winter. Some topics will be one

Sunday only and others will be a short series.

Topics being considered are: Our Faith and the World, a Lenten Study Series, and Growing Older and the Beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS to Angela McCorkle on her graduation from Raytown South High School on December 18th.

2010 Church Envelopes

Church Envelopes will be in the North Entrance on Sunday, January 3rd.

Please pick them up.

The finance committee would like to bring to the attention of all members that the PER CAPITA THIS YEAR is \$31.00 per member. You can pay it in installments and the only thing we ask is that be sure and mark your check or envelope for PER CAPITA PAYMENT.

Please contact Jean Martin – Financial Secretary with any questions.

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group is happy to have had enough quilts to distribute to the following shelters:

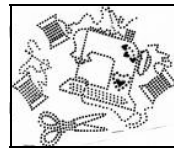
Hope House

New House

Salvation Army

City Union Mission (2)

Linc Families (2)



Notes & Events

- * Cheryl Grosser, a former member of BRPC will be spending the winter months in Corpus Christie, Texas with her daughter Dawn and her family. (Dawn is expecting a baby in April.) Cheryl will be returning to her home in the spring.
- * Reminder to prayer chain callers: If you do not get an answer when calling your contact person, please leave a message and go to the next person on your list. It seems that the message is not always getting through.
- * Presbyterian Women's Circle meets Wed., Jan. 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- * **Older, Wiser, Livlier Seniors** - mark your 2010 calendars now! Reserve the third Thursday of every month from 11:30-2:00 to join your friends at church for a delicious meal and delightful fun. We'll play BINGO on January 20th. Please bring a prize for the game.

Outreach Committee

LINK FAMILIES UPDATE

Some of you may not know that LINC is an organization that provides transitional housing, services, and classes for homeless families. Right now they have 25 families. Because of your generosity of money and gifts, we were able to buy extra gifts and a gift card of \$177 to each family. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness.

MLK CELEBRATION

Put this on your calendar:
Martin Luther King Jr.
Celebration January 17, 2010.
We are involving the Raytown
School District children this year

REAP

Don't forget REAP with the winter months still ahead.

Donation Suggestions:

- * Canned goods such as soup, chili, and stew.
- * Personal items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and soap.
- * Cash donations also are always welcomed.

BRPC Family Members:



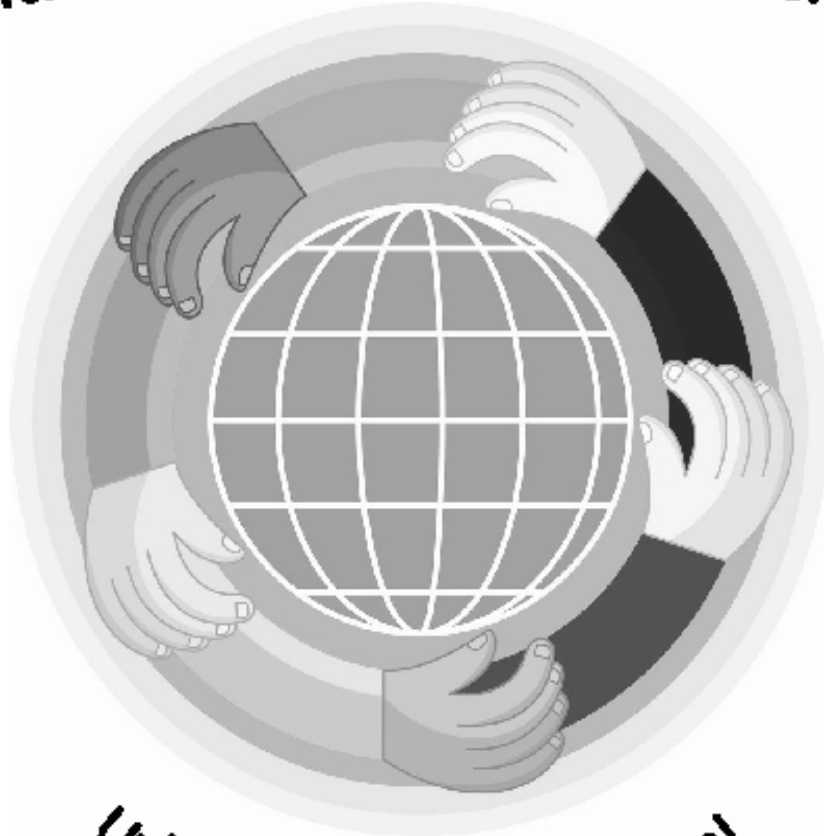
Marcia & Mike Taylor have been members since 2004. They are residents of Raytown and enjoy reading, golf, jogging, and healing. Family members consist of Marcia's parents, her sister and brother, two nieces and one great niece who just arrived in early October. Mike's family consists of his father, a brother and a sister plus a niece, four nephews and one great niece.

Marcia & Mike also have a dog, Shadow, a Springer Spaniel who thinks he can watch TV, or at least that's what he says.

What Marcia & Mike like best about BRPC is their ever growing circle of friends at Blue Ridge. They also like working with the youth in Sunday School and having the chance to serve the members and the community in some of BRPC's projects.

Join the Inter-Faith Alliance and the Raytown Human Relations Commission for

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Multi-Cultural Celebration Service**



Unity and Love – Pass it on!

Sunday, January 17, 2010

4:00 PM

Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church

6429 Blue Ridge Boulevard

Raytown, Missouri

January Volunteers

Guest Book

Paul & Donna Vance
Ann Wiltfang
Arlene Angle
Linda Lockwood
Milly Cox

Liturgist

Gary Oberlander
Jann Flebbe
Paul Luce
Jean Martin
Connie Oliver

Nursery Attendants

Amy Banks & Renee Ingram
Amy & Joe Banks
Amy & Joe Banks
Amy & Joe Banks
Amy & Joe Banks

Deacons

Team 2

Coffee Fellowship

- January 3: Corbin, Countryman, Cox, Crews, Dorian, Connie Oliver, Amy Banks
Contact: Karen Dorian 737-1553
- January 10: Fitzgerald, Flebbe, Forbach, Foster, Fray, Frost, Glass
Contact: Jann Flebbe 358-5500
- January 17: Gregory, Guinn, Ham, Henderson, Hill, Holmes, Hollingsworth, Hooper
Contact: Jana Henderson 246-0809
- January 24: Huntsman, Ingram, Johnson, Jones, Joy, Julien
Contact: Sally Ingram 358-734
- January 31: Krantz, Lange, Latare, Lentz, Liberty, Lockwood, Luce
Contact: Shirley Latare 353-9869

Worship Attendance



- December 6: 110
- December 13: 136
- December 20: 152
- December 27: 96

Sunday Schedule

9:30 *Adult Sunday School*

10:45 *Worship*

*Youth Sunday School
(grades 1 - 12) following the
Children's Message*

*Communion: 1st Sunday
No Youth Sunday School*

*Coffee Fellowship following
worship Please join us.*

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!! Office closed	2
3 9:00 a.m. Bells 9:30 a.m. Adult Sun. School 10:45a.m. Worship Communion 11:00a.m. Youth Sun. School Angel Food orders	4	5	6 1:00p.m. Pres. Women's Circle 3:30-5:00 p.m. Angel Food orders 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00p.m. Choir	7 6:00 p.m. Evangelism Commi. 7:00 p.m. Committees	8	9 Angel Food orders 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Youth Lock-in 4:00 p.m.
10 9:00 a.m. Bells 9:30a.m. Adult Sun. School 10:45a.m. Worship 11:00a.m. Youth Sun. School	11	12 RCIFA	13 11:00 a.m. Sunshine Visitors mtg. 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00p.m. Praise/teatans 7:30p.m. Choir	14 12:00 noon Committee minutes due to office 7:00 p.m. Pres. Women's Night Circle	15 Session Packets Assembled	16
17 9:00 Bells 9:30a.m. Adult Sun. School 10:45 a.m. Worship, Congregational mtg. 11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School, 4:00 MLK Celebration	18	19	20 11:30am OWLS 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	21 7:00 p.m. Session	22 9:00 a.m. "Adventures in Learning" Raytown Christian Church	23 9-10:0 a.m. Angel Food Distribution
24 9:00 Bells 9:30 Adult Sun. School 10:45 Worship /Installation Elders & Deacons 11:00 Youth Sun. School 12:15 Confirmation mtg. 12:30 Deacon's mtg.	25	26	27 9:30 a.m. Sewing Circle 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir	28	29	30
31 9:00 Bells, 9:30 Adult Sun. School, 10:45 Worship, REAP Sun. 11:00 Youth Sun. School						

Your Session At Work

The Session enjoyed a Christmas dinner celebration during their meeting this month, but some business was conducted. It was recommended by the Property Committee and approved by the session that an additional camera for the front door with an intercom to the office be purchased. As new members, and especially visitors may not be aware of the bell at the back door, we have seemed to be inaccessible except on Sundays. Visitors and members alike will soon be able to enter the church during office hours through the front as well as the back door.

The Finance Committee worked extremely hard, and despite of higher costs of supplies and services, managed to propose a balanced budget which the session readily approved.

As each committee reports to the session, it is obvious they are keeping active. They will be reporting their activities throughout the year in Steeple Talk.

Blessings for this most joyous Christmas season.

Avis Odenbaugh,
Clerk of Session

WELCOME

11/2 Kristin Brand, Kay & Nick Brand, Chris Kindle, Bill Melewski

11/29 Bill Melewski, Holly & Stina Cauton, Capra McCallon

12/6 Bill Melewski, Holly & Stina Cauton

12/13 Taylor Hammond, Steve & Leslie Soulis, Holly & Stina Cauton, Justine & Robin Jones, Bill Melewski, Roger, Kay & Nick Brand

12/20 Elise Pointer, Caryl Staples, Capra McCallon, Chris Kindle, Bobby Neal, Sean Holland, Bill Melewski, Barbara Bederman, Roger, Kay & Nick Brand, Michael Hohnholt



Thank You

Thank you to all of the church members who have been so kind to my mom, Helen Nance over the years, especially since she has been ill the last few years. Thank you to Rev. Jackson for his help to her and to us and the lovely memorial service. Thank you to all the ladies for the luncheon for our family, it was greatly appreciated.

Pam and Mike Cleveland
& Family

To our BRPC Family:
The Oberlanders & Fenskes thank you all for your prayers, caring and concerns for Laura's recent surgery and recovery in the hospital and home. She is doing quite well, even being able to travel and have spent Thanksgiving in Michigan for a family reunion. Laura continues to have some discomfort and pain but considering her condition prior to and during surgery, she is doing remarkably well. We thank you again. Prayers do heal.



Joys and Concerns

Arlene Angle recovering from eye surgery.

Connor Banks with health concerns

Edgar Moore at home from hospital.

David Schesser with health concerns.

Andy McCoy at home from hospital.



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We welcome contributing newsletter articles from our members. Articles may be edited for length/precision. Newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month.

Our Mission is to glorify God, nurture wholeness, and enfold all people in a spirit of Christ's love.

BRPC Ministry Team

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