

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAT



February 2017

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE IN CHRIST

# STEEPLE TALK

## I was a Stranger and . . .

I've been spending more time recently in Genesis, Leviticus, Ruth and Matthew than in the Kansas City Star, the New York Times and CNN.

It has been a busy week in the news, for sure, with much attention centering on President's Trump's executive order temporarily suspending immigration from seven Muslim – majority nations (while allowing exceptions for Christian immigrants.) As people debate the merits of this policy, I want to invite the congregation to reflect upon it from a specifically Christian perspective. I have reviewed ALL of the references in the Bible to "aliens" and "strangers," which often include mention of other vulnerable groups like widows and orphans. The weight of this biblical testimony is immense. I have categorized the passages below with a highlighted verse. I will post a full printout of all the passages and will have copies available at church. I hope that you will prayerfully study these yourself. I will pick up this topic in my sermon this Sunday.

Peace and grace,  
*Pastor Pat*

**Moses was an alien.** "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land." - Exod 2:21-22 (Also Acts 7:29)

**Treat natives and aliens the same.** There shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you. - Exod. 12:49 (Also Exod. 12:19, 48-49; 20:8-10; 23:12; Lev. 16:29; 24:22; Num 9:14; 15:14-16, 25-26, 29-30; 35:15; Deut 1:16; 5:14; 16:11,14; 24:14; 31:12-13; Joshua 20:9; 2 Chr 30:24-25)

**Do not oppress the alien, widow or orphan.** Thus says the LORD . . . show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor. - Zech 7:9-10 (Also Exod. 22:21-22; 23:9; Lev. 19:33-34; Deut. 23:7; 24:17-18; 27:19; Jer 7:5-7; 22:3)

**Show hospitality for the stranger and alien.** Do not neglect to show hospitality to



strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.—Heb.13:2 (Also Rom 12: 9 – 18)

**Love the stranger and the alien.** You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. -Deut. 10:19 (Also Lev. 19:33-34)

**Leave part of your harvest for the poor and alien.** You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. - Lev. 19:10 (Also Lev. 23:22; Deut. 24:19-22)

**Share your tithe with Levites, aliens, orphans and widows.** <sup>12</sup> When you have finished paying all the tithe . . . giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns.—Deut. 26:12 (Also Deut. 14: 28-29)

**We are aliens.** "Hear my prayer, O LORD . . . For I am your passing guest, an alien, like all my forebears. - Ps 39:12 (Also Lev. 25:23; 1 Chr 29:14-16)

**Ruth – A biblical example of care for the alien.** And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." Ruth 2:2 (Also Ruth chs 1-4; Neh 13: 1-2)

**Scripture cites the plight of the alien.** You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, - Eph 2:19 (Also, Job 19:14-17; Ps 94:3-7; 120:1-7; Eph 2: 11-14)

**God cares for the stranger and the alien.** For the LORD your God . . . executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. - Deut. 10:17-18 (Also 1 Chr 16: 14-22, Ps 146:1-10)

**Aliens will share the Promised Land.** But the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land; and aliens will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. - Isaiah 14:1

(continued on page 11)

# What's Happening

## Session At Work



It may be a bit late, but I wish you all a Happy New Year! We had our first session meeting of the year and we began it by welcoming Jim and Georgia McCauley into the membership of BRPC! We're delighted to have Jim back and to welcome Georgia. They will be received in worship on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The session also voted to do a photo directory this spring. (Our last was in 2012.) We will be using a local Lee's Summit photographer and a Raytown printer for the project. More info on that will be coming.

This was the first meeting for new elders Sandy Moore and Edgar Urriola. A key order of business was the assignment of committees for the elders. The full list of committees is found on the back of the front cover of our directory. If you no-

tice, most committees have few members. Each committee badly needs more members. Of course, the more members, there is less work for each member. Please consider joining a committee. Any member will be delighted to let you know its activities. If you wish, you would be welcome to visit a committee without making a commitment to learn if the committee would be a good fit for you.

Normally the elder on the committee is the moderator. However, if there is no elder as moderator, there is one who would liaison with the session. If you notice, several elders are doing double duty.

**Christian Education:** moderator **needed**  
Christi Neal

**Fellowship:** Debbie Jones, moderator

**Finance & Stewardship:** Sandy Moore, moderator, Barry Holmes

### Missions & Outreach:

Marsha Elbasani, moderator  
Avis Odenbaugh

**Nominating:** Lynn Forsythe, co-moderator

Avis Odenbaugh, co-moderator

**Personnel:** Barry Holmes, moderator  
Ros Dickison

**Property:** Bobby Neal, moderator

Christi Neal John Starcke Edgar Urriola

**Worship:** Jim Bagby, co-moderator

Debbie Jones, co-moderator

Avis Odenbaugh

As you see, your session members are pulling their weight. Will you help them?

With your help, we can make 2017 a great year!

Blessings, Avis Odenbaugh

# Deacons

Wow... Are you kidding? It's the February newsletter already and it's time for another article.

**I want to make sure you all know about the "Palentine" Pot Luck.** *It's on Feb. 12th right after church and I hope you can all come.* On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the new Board of Deacons met and selected our Flocks. Bring your favorite dish to share and dine with your flock. You see, I want to stress that my flock really isn't MY flock it's our flock. It survives and becomes alive with energy when everyone in "my" flock looks after each other. It's our own small group as it were. We'll also get to learn some new things about one another as we eat and fellowship together. Remember the 12<sup>th</sup> is also the last Sunday before Pastor Pat goes on his sabbatical.

**The other event of interest** might be a bit early since it doesn't really happen until **May 1<sup>st</sup>** but it really isn't too early to get it in your calendars. That is our spring Home

Communion date. Imagine you are home bound or in a care facility and you really can't get out or attend church. Not that you don't want to come to church.... you just plain, can't. **Then on May 1<sup>st</sup>** three or four church members show up and invite you to participate in a portion of that morning's worship service; then they serve you communion. How would you feel? I have participated in this church function for several years now and I can't wait to do it again. To see the glow in their eyes as you come in and talk to them for a short time, it's like watching kids unwrap their Christmas presents and it doesn't cost me a dime. It just takes a little time. Their gratitude is genuine and heart felt. Please plan on helping this year. The more servers we have participating, the more recipients we can visit. Again please notice, this is a church activity that the Deacon will head up but we want the Elders and the congregation to help us reach out and assure these members that they are highly thought of and they are important to us.

Yours in service to BRPC,

*Mike Schumacher, Deacon Moderator*



## Sunday School

breakfast treats are available at 9:15 AM. There are classes for children, youth and adults beginning at 9:30 AM. Come join us as we grow in our faith together.

**K-5<sup>th</sup> grades** – will continue their study of *Esther*.

Workshops this month include Storytelling, Cooking, Art and Movie. Children will learn that God places them in the right place to act and help others around them and right time is NOW. They learn that Esther trusted God and used her "inner beauty," to do God's work and help save His people.

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades** will explore the questions *Is the Devil Real?*, *Why Does Satan Fight Dirty?*, *Who will be the Ultimate Fighting Champion?*, and *When is it Go Time?*

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders** will explore the topics of *The Rich Fool*; *Jesus Turns Water into Wine*; *Jesus Heals a Blind Man*; and *Jesus Heals the Centurion Servant*.

**Adults Class** will continue its biblical study of the Letter of James through February 12<sup>th</sup>. Then the last two (2) weeks of February, Charlie Chick will lead classes on Prayer.

**Adult Bible Study** class led by Dodie Lunceford continues to meet at 9:00 – 9:30 AM each Sunday morning in the Finance Office. They are studying the book of Daniel and you are invited to come and learn and participate.

The **Church Rummage Sale** dates have been set for June 21<sup>st</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup>. It's not too early to plan so as you pack up the Christmas decorations and replace your older items with the new ones remember to save your give away items for the rummage sale. The rummage sale is the largest fundraiser for Christian Education activities.

Jana Henderson,  
CE Committee Moderator



The nursery is open  
9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Nursery ages:

Infants up to 5 years of age (not attending Kindergarten)



WELCOME to  
Nursery!



Lynn Forsythe, Nursery Supervisor



**Praise  
GOD!**



**Upcoming  
Events**

**SUB SANDWICH MEALS**

- \* Please consider ordering **extra meals to be delivered to the homeless** in our KC metro
- \* Deadline: **Saturday, February 4** - Noon
- \* **Meal includes** bag of chips, pickle, and fresh-baked cookie
- \* **Pick up** orders after worship on **February 5**
- \* Variety of delicious sandwiches from **Planet Sub**
- \* **Seven** sandwich meals to choose from:

**Planet Sub** – Ham, Roast Beef, Turkey, Swiss, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Brown Mustard, Mayo

**Super Hero** – Salami, Pepperoni, Spicy Capicola, Provolone, Red Onions, Lettuce, Banana Peppers, Oregano, Oil & Vinegar

**Turkey Club** – Turkey, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Mayo

**Creamy Club** – Turkey, Cream Cheese, Bacon, Sprouts, Tomatoes, Mayo

**Smoky Southwest Chicken** – Signature Chicken, Cheddar, Smoky Chipotle Sauce, Tomatoes, Lettuce

**Planet BBQ** – Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, BBQ Sauce

**Meatless Masterpiece** – Cream Cheese, Swiss, Spicy Pepperjack, Onions, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Black Olives

\* **Cost: Just \$8.00 each**

**Thank you for supporting our youth mission trip!**

**WINTER JAM 2017**

Five people traveled to Sprint Center on January 29th to enjoy hearing multiple Christian bands and testimonies. This is the largest Christian concert in America.

**NEW PRAISE EXPERIENCE**

We are preparing to start a new opportunity for you and your friends to connect, share, praise, and pray together each month. Ideas were discussed at our January 8 meeting. Watch for more details!

**NEWSBOYS IN CONCERT**

On Thursday, March 16, the Newsboys will be in concert at First Baptist Church Raytown at 7 PM. We can get tickets as cheap as \$18 if we have 10 or more people. General admission will be \$25. Please let Christi know if you are interested.

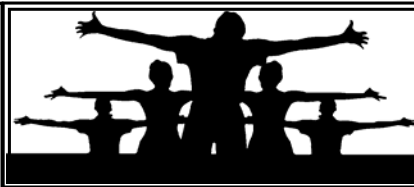
***Youth Group helped Grace Cox-Johnson create banners for the MLK Celebration.***



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Sat., Feb. 4</b>    | <b>Sub Meal sales end</b>                          |
| <b>Sun., Feb. 5</b>    | <b>Sub Meal pick up, youth deliver to homeless</b> |
| <b>Sun., Feb. 26</b>   | <b>Youth Group - 6 PM</b>                          |
| <b>Sun., Mar. 5</b>    | <b>Youth Group - 6 PM</b>                          |
| <b>Thurs., Mar. 16</b> | <b>Newsboys' Love Riot Tour</b>                    |
| <b>Sun., Mar. 19</b>   | <b>Youth Group Meets - 6 PM</b>                    |
| <b>Sun., Mar. 26</b>   | <b>Youth Sunday - practice 9:30</b>                |
| <b>April 14-15</b>     | <b>Grade 7-12 Retreat/Lock In</b>                  |

# Worship



## Worship Committee Cheered by Pulpit Replacements

Gandi said "What you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it." That could sum up much of the job of the Worship Committee: lots of details month to month, most of them behind the scenes. But virtually all are directed toward our primary goal, which is to see that BRPC members, guests and shut-ins find meaning and purpose in worship. We do that through cooperation with the pastor, music director and staff.

On the other side of the coin, sometimes the committee is presented with major projects and/or challenges. A perfect example is Pastor Pat's upcoming sabbatical. The boss, of course, has provided lots of help and guidance, and we can say that from a committee standpoint we're now looking at a great lineup of pulpit replacements during the six Sundays that Pat will be away. And we need to reiterate that he WILL be out of pocket, not checking email or available for contact by the congregation -- short of BRPC being struck by a tsunami.

Pastoral care throughout will be provided by our own Rev. Donna Chavez. She also will preside at the Ash Wednesday service (on 3/1) and preach on March 19th. Anyone who has a pastoral concern should call the church office during office hours or contact either Elder Avis Odenbaugh or Deacon Moderator Mike Schumacher. Members of the Session also will be on standby to help with any issues that arise.

We're delighted that the top two officers of Heartland Presbytery will preach in Pat's absence. Presbytery Executive Rev. Charles Spencer will preach Feb. 26th which will also be Scout Sunday. Assoc. Presbytery Executive Rev. Sally Wright, will take the pulpit on March 5th.

Four members of our congregation will share their faith walk on two Sundays and talk informally about what led them to BRPC. Hoot Mann and Edgar Urriola team up in the pulpit on Feb. 19 and the women have the last word (of course) on March 12 when Marsha Elbasani and Sandy Moore take over. For the last Sunday of Pat's sabbatical, we will look forward to our BRPC youth leading worship with a Youth Sunday on March 26th.

Finally, a word about a somewhat new look of the 2017 Worship Committee. We lost a veteran member at the end of last year when Bill Melewski decided that seven years on the panel was long enough. In his resignation speech, Bill said, "That's long enough." (Say, our meetings would be a lot shorter if everyone talked that way).

Joining us as new committee members are Karen Clevenger and Carol Schumacher. Awwwright! We're on the lookout for one or two more equally enthused newbies. And more good news: Debbie Jones is returning as Co-Moderator, so you will be seeing her name frequently in this space, even as she continues to keep track of the Fellowship Committee.

*Jim Bagby,  
Worship Committee Co-Moderator*

## Praying for You

John Martin            Jean Barton            Elena Schesser  
Ros Dickison    Bruce Forsythe    Lynn Forsythe    Joyce Chick  
Lynn Mendenhall            Peggy Neal            Judy Johannesen  
Prayers of joy for the birth of Jonah Craig Edinger, son of Trish & Paul Edinger, grandparents Mary & Craig Ziegenhorn  
The Wiltfang family upon the recent passing of Ann  
The Kerchevall family upon the recent passing of Marjorie  
The Scarborough family, following the passing of their son Eric (friends of Janet and Pastor Pat)  
Verne Winner, friend of Joann & Jim Bagby  
Bill Holt, Jerry Remick, Liz Grey, friends of Sandy Moore  
John Heim, father of Cub Scout Brett at BRPC

## BRPC Sunday Schedule

**9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study (finance office)  
**9:15 AM - 12:00 PM** - Nursery available  
**9:30 AM** Adult & Youth Sunday School Classes  
**10:45 AM** Worship  
*Coffee Fellowship in the parlor following  
Worship, everyone is welcome!*

**Communion 1st Sunday**



## Finance Committee



### Budget thru Dec.

### Actual thru Dec.

Income	\$219,033	\$183,798
Expenses	\$219,033	\$190,759

When we closed the books on 2016 we did very well. Income was down but so were the expenses. We did not have to tap into our savings to meet the budget.

2017 will be another challenging year as we had to promise \$23,000 from our savings to meet the budget. For the last several years we have had to do this with various amounts of money, but by year's end we didn't need to borrow from savings. Let's hope and pray for that again this year.

Our church per capita for 2017 is \$41.96 per member. Let's do our share to help support Heartland Presbytery and the broader church. You can pay your per capita at one time or spread it across a few payments. (Please indicate that it is per capita on the check.)

The deadline for applications for the Joy Scholarship is June 1, 2017. If you know someone who could use some help in their continuing education, please get an application into the office before June 1.

*Ed Ingram, Finance Committee Moderator*



\* Bob and Linda Lockwood so appreciated the Christmas carolers. It was very special. *Thanks again.*

## Property Committee



### Trophies/Cases

Anyone interested in the trophies on display in Fellowship Hall is encouraged to take them home. First come, first serve. One or more of these may be special to you or a member of your family. Families of former members whose names are on the trophies have already been notified. These trophies will only be available for a few weeks. Thank you for your assistance.

### Security Reminders

If you come to the church **after 10:30 PM** or **prior to 6:15 AM**, you will need to disarm the alarm. Please **DO NOT reset the alarm if leaving AFTER 6:15 AM**. The system disarms per timer at 6:15 AM each day and resets at 10:30 PM each night. If you reset the system during the time it is thought to be off, the alarm will activate when our staff arrives for the morning.

Please know that you are **not able to prevent** the system from engaging at 10:30 PM, as it automatically arms at that time. At approximately 10:20 each evening, the system emits a warning signal that it will be arming at 10:30. If you are in the building close to 10:30 PM, we advise you to wait close by the coat room and deactivate the alarm once it engages at 10:30 PM. You will have the standard **90 seconds** to disarm the system before the alarm monitoring company is contacted.

**If you have any questions** on these directions, please contact Christi or Bobby Neal. Thank you.

Please ensure that **doors are secured** and **lights off** when you exit the building. If the building is locked, please check that doors have secured properly by trying to open after exiting. Please leave the **hallway light ON in the narthex**. Please **do NOT prop** the outside doors in any way while unattended. We truly appreciate everyone's help in keeping BRPC secure and safe. **Thank you!**

### Returning Property

**Thank you for returning ladders, extension cords, etc. to their original location so that others can use them.**

*Bobby Neal,*

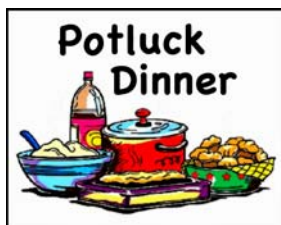
*Property Committee Moderator*



There are many definitions of fellowship...Google it and you find out just how well these definitions relate to Blue Ridge. Friendship, common interests, companionship are some of our favorite things and we do them so well! We come to fill our spiritual needs in Worship and then right after that, we head to meet our fellowship needs with coffee fellowship.

**February 12th will be our annual Palentine potluck dinner immediately following worship.** This year we're combining the Deacons flock dinner with our celebration. Please mark your calendars, get out your cookbooks, and plan to gather for fellowship in wonderful Blue Ridge style.

Thank you all for everything, the Fellowship committee appreciates all you do. We are church family and we need one another as we head into 2017.



Peace,  
Debbie Jones, Fellowship Committee Moderator

It won't be long till those pancakes and sausages will be sizzling, so save the date: **March 18th, from 9am till noon.** This is our fundraiser for REAP and **will also include a bake sale**



### **Micah Ministry Reminder:**

Remember, we meet on the 4th Monday at 4:30 in the parking lot to car pool and we so need volunteers in the winter months. Needs:: warm socks, blankets, towels, hygiene products and baby disposable diapers size newborn. You can leave items in the coat closet with Marsha Elbasani's name or " Micah".

**The Book Club meets the 4th Wednesday of the month** at 1:00 pm. We would love new "readers". Come for the fellowship. Hope to see you!

Linda Lockwood and  
Marsha Elbasani,  
Missions & Outreach Committee Moderator



## From the Office



\* **Please remember to have vouchers (completed and signed - this includes the account number) to the office** no later than 9:00 AM Tuesday mornings. Vouchers submitted after the deadline will be paid the following week.

\* **Linda Schumacher produces the weekly Sunday bulletin and weekly email.** Please send information to her by Tuesday morning 9:00 AM. Thanks.

\* **Kay Countryman has a new phone number.** It is: 491-2828. **Please make changes** to your paper directory.



## Property Update

### Motion Sensor Lighting

Special thanks to Ben Stallings who has donated **motion sensor lighting** in the **Fellowship Hall and kitchen** downstairs. Anyone using the rooms can simply walk in and the lights will come on. They are set to **turn off automatically** within 10-15 minutes after the room is no longer being used. The outside light by the kitchen stairway, the range light, and one center light in the kitchen are still on manual switches as well as the downstairs restrooms. Basically, unless you need to turn on a light downstairs, you do not need to turn it off. If you have any questions, please ask a Property member.

### Restroom Heaters

We have new heaters in each restroom on the main floor. They will be turned on for your comfort and set to turn off automatically each Sunday morning.

### Scouting at BRPC

#### Some Upcoming Events

February 25 - Blue & Gold Dinner  
March 25 - Pinewood Derby  
April 15 - Car Show  
June - Cub Scout Day Camp  
July - Boy Scout Camp at Bartle Scout Reservation  
August - Scouting 500



This month the cubs have been hard at work designing and creating their pinewood derby cars. Our new track will make it easier than ever to determine den winners and the overall champion of the day!



Last weekend the boy scouts competed in the Klondike Derby, showing off their knowledge of scoutcraft and practicing leadership and cooperation.

#### Ways to Support Our Scouts

\*Attend the Pinewood Derby and Car Show

\*Purchase a HyVee coupon book for \$5. Each book contains \$50 worth of store coupons

\*Purchase a Fastlane Fundraiser card for \$20. Your card gives you access to discounts on dining, sporting goods, apparel, hotels, florists, beauty supplies and much more.

*All money collected will be used to pay for scouting activities, awards, and camp registrations.*

For more information, contact

BOY SCOUTS: Ben Stallings

918-2684 ben@fatboyelectric.com

CUB SCOUTS: Pasha Lambert

305-9087 plambert94@gmail.com




# February Worship Volunteers

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Pastor &amp; Liturgists</u>	<u>Youth Message</u>	<u>Nursery</u> <u>9:30 am</u> <u>10:30 am</u>	<u>Tech Ministry</u> <u>Slides</u> <u>Audio</u>	<u>Guest Book</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>P:</b> Pastor Pat Jackson <b>L:</b> Janet T. Jackson	Janet T. Jackson	9:30 Edgar Urriola 10:30 John Foster	<b>S</b> Jana Henderson <b>A</b> Bryland Flowers <b>C</b> Don Young	Kellie Wentz
<b>12</b>	<b>P:</b> Pastor Pat Jackson <b>L:</b> Bobby Neal	Pastor Pat Jackson	9:30 Sandy Moore 10:30 Joann Bagby	<b>S</b> Mary Ziegenhorn <b>A</b> Craig Ziegenhorn <b>C</b> John Starcke	Woody Webb
<b>19</b>	<b>P:</b> Hoot Mann & Edgar Urriola <b>L:</b> Christi Neal	Christi Neal	9:30 open 10:30 Linda Musgrave	<b>S</b> Jo Riggs <b>A</b> Bryland Flowers <b>C</b> Bobby Neal	Ken Clevenger
<b>26</b>	<b>P:</b> Rev. Charles Spencer <b>L:</b> Gary Oberlander	Ben Stallings (Scout Sunday)	9:30 Donna Vance 10:30 Linda Lockwood	<b>S</b> Linda Schumacher <b>A</b> Mary Ziegenhorn <b>C</b> Bill Melewski	Donna Vance



## February Coffee Fellowship

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Helpers</u> 
<b>5</b>	Debbie Reames 356-8679	Reames, Riggs, Scarlett, Schroer
<b>12</b>	Palentine Pot Luck	Everyone is invited!
<b>19</b>	Misty Urriola 716-2014	All Schumachers, Sinden, Starcke, Urriola
<b>26</b>	Sharon Wentz 356-4494	Vance, Wasco, Webb, Welch, Wentzs



(continued from page 1)

**Job on how to treat the alien and stranger.** I was a father to the needy, and I championed the cause of the stranger. - Job 29:14-16 (Also Job 31:29-32)

**The alien shall be like citizens.** The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. Lev. 19:34 (Also Ezek. 47:21-23)

**Jesus was a refugee.** Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." - Matt 2:13

**Jesus used despised and (alien) Samaritans as role models.** "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers . . . , But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. - Luke 10: 30, 33 (Also Luke 17:12-19)

**Jesus personally reached out to Samaritans** A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." . . . The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" John 4:7, 9

**God will judge those who mistreat the alien.** <sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness . . . against those who oppress . . . the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. - Mal. 3:5 (Also Ezek. 22: 3-8; 22:29; Matt. 25:31-46)

**When we turn away the alien, we turn away Christ.** <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me . . . 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' -Matt. 25:43, 46

## Grace Notes

In the coming weeks and months those of us in the Chancel Choir and Chancel Chimes as well as Five by Five Bells will be turning our focus towards Lent and Easter. Along with our usual offerings of special services during Lent, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, we will also have another service of prayer and contemplation through song March 19th. This will be similar to the Advent Taize service we had at the end of November. There will be many more candles, lots of singing, time for silence, prayers and scripture readings.

Please watch the church bulletins in the next few weeks as we make plans to create new Lenten banners for the sanctuary.

Lastly, at BRPC everyone is welcome to sing in the choir. It doesn't matter your skill level or experience, we practice at 7 PM, Wednesdays. There is always a place for anyone to join us in lifting our lives in song to give praise to the God.

*Grace Cox-Johnson, Director of Music*



# OWLS

The OWLS began our new year on January 18th. **B4** we departed, **I** ate **2,2** much lasagna and **N**joyed calling BINGO for about an hour which took some **40**tude. **G**, maybe even **41** a game. We had a such a good time it is hard to believe most of us are **Over 61!**

**Although we are called Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors, all are welcome.** Folks gather from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm, we eat at noon, and then have an activity beginning about 1:00 pm and ending no later than 2:00 pm. Lunch is \$5.00 per person....a bargain for a home cooked meal. We already have some terrific activities planned for this year. Mark your calendars now for every third Wednesday of the month and sign up in the narthex.

**February 15th** - Come enjoy a Valentines' themed afternoon with a variety of goodies to dip in **chocolate fondue** before, during and after lunch. Our activity that day will be **"Things We Love"**. We're asking all attendees to bring a sampling of something they collect to tell the group about. If you don't have a "collection", bring something - maybe even a picture of something you love to share with the group.

**March 15th** - We will have a St. Patrick's themed birthday party to celebrate **OWLS 9th birthday**. Then plan to bring as many quarters as you would like to play the game **"Left, Right, Center"**. You'll need 3 quarters to begin each game. One-half of the "pot" for each game will go to the Summer Lunch Program and one-half will go to the winner of that round. If you can roll dice, you can play this fun game!

**April 19th** - The **New Harmony Handful** under the direction of our own, Jim Bagby will entertain us. This mini-chorus of men who sing barbershop harmony is a highlight every year.

**May 17th** - Ed and Sally Ingram & Bill and Shelley Melewski are going to give a **travelogue** about their Mediterranean Cruise last summer.

*Linda Schumacher*



## Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church

6429 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Raytown, MO 64133

[www.brpcraytown.org](http://www.brpcraytown.org)

*Building Relationships with People in Christ*

**February**

**2017**

In God We Trust

### The Mission of BRPC is to

- ❖ **Proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- ❖ **Worship God** with reverence, warmth and joy;
- ❖ **Nourish faith and discipleship** through prayer, fellowship, giving, study and service;
- ❖ **Work** for justice and peace;
- ❖ **Share the love of Christ** with the community and the world.

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## BRPC Staff

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