

celebrating  
**60**  
years

# The Connection

Ridge United Methodist Church

Volume 7, Issue 9

September 2015

## September = Special!

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What do an anniversary, a bishop's visit, season of prayer, and the dedication of our columbarium have in common? Besides the fact that each of these will take place during the busy month of September, these special moments in our life together say something unique about who Ridge UMC is and how God touches us with grace, hope and healing peace!

I am thrilled to welcome our Bishop Michael J. Coyner to worship with us on September 13th for one combined worship service. Not since 1984 has



an Indiana Conference United Methodist bishop graced Ridge with his presence! You will be blessed by Bishop Mike's warm, engaging preaching, and delightful sense of humor. He, of course, is one of my favorite bishops because we're both Dukies! I have great confidence Bishop Mike will launch Ridge UMC into her next amazing 60 years with gusto! Read more about him on page 2.

Beginning on Sunday, September 20th, you will learn more about the Season of Prayer that I am calling the entire Ridge UMC family to participate. As I have listened in cottage meetings and met many of you one on one, my heart has

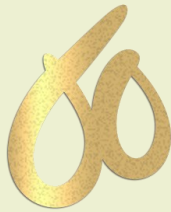
heard that our Ridge family needs to spend time on our knees: praying for one another, our staff and lay leadership, as well as our community and world. I will preach a five-part sermon series on prayer while you and your small group will be asked to sign up to pray during one of our 40 days of Prayer (September 22nd through November 1st).

Finally, what a joyful celebration for our church family to dedicate our new columbarium on Sunday, September 27th at noon! Please join us because our columbarium serves as a reminder of the old church cemetery—a final resting place for the remains of loved ones on the grounds of their cherished church. Christians have a long history of burying their dead close to their places of worship. It is a way to remember that we are part of the communion of the saints—that we are always in community with those around us and with those who have gone before us. By his death and resurrection Jesus overcame death, thus, death is not the end of love or the end of community.

Indeed, there is nothing dead, ending, or dying here at Ridge as we celebrate our future years together, pray with and for one another, and honor the gift of Jesus' Resurrection for all who believe!

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Michelle

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sunday, September 13th



Following our 10 a.m. worship service on September 13th, join Bishop Mike in the fellowship hall as we continue celebrating our 60th Anniversary.



Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Chicken, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. You are also encouraged to browse rooms 104-106 for a display of historical photos that tell Ridge Church's story. You will be able to leave your memories of special times, which we will compile and share with you on another special Sunday, November 22nd, as we celebrate the laying of the cornerstone back in 1960 (*read more on page 7*).

## Bishop Michael J. Coyner

"Bishop Mike," as most people call him, is originally from Anderson, Indiana. He served churches of various sizes, served as a District Superintendent, and was also the Executive Assistant to Bishop Woodie W. White. He was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church in 1996 and was assigned to the Dakotas Area where he served two terms as resident bishop. In 2004 he was assigned to serve the Indiana Area, and in 2012 he was assigned to a third term.

Bishop Mike and his wife, Marsha, live in the Indianapolis area. He oversees the life and ministry of more than 1,100 United Methodist congregations, including more than 200,000 members organized into 10 districts.

Marsha Coyner is a special education teacher by training, and she loves music and gardening. She has often played and directed handbell choirs at various churches where Mike has served, and she has volunteered many hours of her time with UMCOR and related activities. Bishop Mike and Marsha have two adult children and five grandchildren.

More about Bishop Mike ... he received his B.A. degree from Purdue, his M. Div. degree from Duke Divinity School, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew Theological School. Bishop Mike also received honorary doctorates from Dakota Wesleyan University, the University of Evansville and the University of Indianapolis. He is the author of several articles and five books: *Making a Good Move* (Abingdon Press, 1999), *Prairie Wisdom* (Abingdon Press, 2000), *The Race to Reach Out* (Abingdon Press, 2004), *A Year With John Wesley*, *Our Methodist Values* (Discipleship Resources, 2008) and *The Andrew Paradigm: How to Be a Lead Follower of Jesus* (2012 Abingdon Press).

Bishop Coyner may be reached by e-mail at: [Bishop@InUMC.org](mailto:Bishop@InUMC.org). He also sends out a weekly devotional entitled "An E-pistle from Bishop Mike" which can be received by subscribing (free) at [www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org).

## *The Power of Music ...* By Joe Felice

Music has been called the timeless and universal language—a language of peace, of love, of hope. No matter where we live, regardless of our age and stage of life, music can lift and inspire us, it can soften and console us, it can instruct and entertain us. Such music becomes like a lifelong friend—we can recall lyrics and tunes we haven't heard for decades, because they seem almost to be burned into our soul.

While music affects us very personally, it is also communal; it unites people in a way few things can. As we sing or play together and listen together, we somehow connect on a deeper level.

Of course, there's a wide range of musical tastes and preferences. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then good music is found in the ear of the listener. But in every style and genre, there is music that uplifts—music that brings cheerfulness and a smile, a fresh insight or perspective, a poignant remembrance or emotion, an inspiring feeling of rejoicing, gratitude, or worship.

**If you would like to share in a ministry of inspiration, joy, and community, then please consider joining the Music Ministries of Ridge Church. The Ridge Ringers handbell choir meets each Monday at 7:30 p.m. to rehearse. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7 p.m., beginning September 3rd. And the Solid Ground Praise Band rehearses at 7 p.m. each Wednesday.**

Music that edifies will stand the test of time. It endures across the centuries and crosses every imaginable boundary because it touches something eternal deep within us. That's what makes it universal and timeless, and it's what inspired the 19th-century English poet Walter Savage Landor to declare: *Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to Heaven.*"

## Women's Bible Study

Begins Tuesday, September 8th  
Meets 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Please join us in the parlor each Tuesday for fellowship, prayer time, Bible study, and of course coffee! Leadership is provided by Beth Kitchell, and you can call her with any questions at 923-5513. Hope to see you there!

## Sandwich Sunday September 6th

### Attention kids!



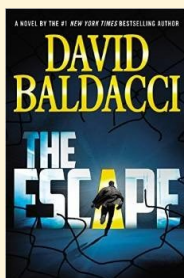
**Children and youth are invited to meet in Room 200 at 9:45 a.m. on September 6th to help Kathy Giannini make sandwiches and desserts for the Monday, September 7th Soup Kitchen. This fun activity gives our Soup Kitchen ladies a day off from cooking on Labor Day!**



## Ridge Book Group: **THE ESCAPE** Monday, September 21st @ 7 p.m.

The Escape is the third in the John Puller series. His masterful skills as an investigator are put to the test to save his brother, convicted of treason and national security crimes, after he escapes from prison. During a nationwide manhunt, Fuller realizes that his brother's conviction may be a cover-up for the actions of others in the government.

**You can pick up your copy of this action-packed novel at the Munster Public Library, and join the discussion.**



## Education News

The school year is back in session, which means that Sunday School will soon be too! **September 20th marks the Sunday School Kick-off during the 9:45 service.** After the Second Graders are presented with their very own Bible and we commission teachers (and students!), Sunday School classes will officially begin.

Sunday School is for all ages... from Preschool classes with **Mr. Bob & Ms. Kim Miskimins** to Adult classes with **Wes Lukoshus**. Kindergarten-Fifth Grade students will learn about God, the Bible, and love (God's love for them and their love for each other) through exciting materials and activities. And, **Lauren Holloway** has an extra-special project planned for our Middle School students! (see last month's newsletter)

Preschool through Adult classes will be held each Sunday beginning September 20th at 9:45a.m. Note Exceptions: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade will NOT meet on Communion Sundays.

Ridge Church's Education Committee is always looking for people who love teaching or want to be involved by assisting a teacher... If you feel gifted to teach or to assist—especially with our youngest disciples in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades—**we need you!** Let's talk so our children will fully benefit from Sunday School and learning about God's love ... and yours!

**For Summer Sunday School's Grand Finale on August 30th,** the SSS students opened and closed the 9:45 service with the Praise Band singing "*Here I Am To Worship*" and "*Every Move I Make*." A huge and grateful "Thank You!" to our 2015 SSS teachers: **Shelley Cohs, Sue Gray, Cindy Leber, Steve Minton, Sarah Schroeder, and Jennifer Zaronias.**

**September 6th** is our annual Labor Day weekend event organized by **Kathy Giannini** to feed the homeless... Kathy has been running **Sandwich Sunday** since 2003, where all kids who are attending church that day gather in Room 200 during the 9:45 service to make sandwiches, frost cupcakes, and create "Sunshine" cards. Last year there were just under 20 kids who made 70 sandwiches, 70 cupcakes, and two dozen cards for the homeless of City Rescue Mission.

Grateful thanks to all our teachers and education leaders who share their gifts and talents to give us opportunities to grow in our faith and closer to God. **Do you have a passion for teaching?** Are you interested in being on the Education Committee to help shape our church's Christian education? Feeling a gentle nudge on your spirit? Answer God's call! **You are invited to share your gifts and talents!** If you would like to be involved in Ridge Church's Education Ministry, contact me at: [sheri.locascio@inumc.org](mailto:sheri.locascio@inumc.org), by phone 838-4770, or cell 718-4039.

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# MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH



## COLUMBARIUM DEDICATION Sunday, September 27th at noon

Please join us after the 11:00 worship service as we dedicate our new Columbarium.

If you would like for your church home to be your eternal home, there are many niches still available. Each niche holds two urns, and costs \$1,800. Call the church office for more information.



### Stephen Ministry Information Meeting Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

Ridge Church is starting a Stephen Ministry program that will equip lay members to provide Christian care to those experiencing difficulties in life. Grounded in Jesus' command to love one another, this program is based on the belief that caring is an intended way of life for His followers.

Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists, but do provide one-to-one support for others in times of need. They receive 50 hours of intensive coursework to do this.

A new training program at Ridge Church will begin later this year. You can learn more about Stephen Ministry training by attending an information meeting on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. in room 106. For more information, contact Kathy O'Brien (219-644-6535) or Lisa Percak (219-933-6539).

## It's Time For Dartball! Season starts Monday, September 28th @ 7 p.m.



Come throw some darts with (not at!) your Ridge Church friends! We'd love to have you check us out and give Dartball a shot!

Dartball teams will be practicing at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome—any teens through adults—to come out and try it before you make up your mind to play on September 28<sup>th</sup>.



## Join us for our Autumn New Member Class!

Are you ready to learn more about our Christian faith, United Methodist heritage, and the gifts of the Ridge United Methodist Church family?

If so, then, come for conversation, discussion and learning Sundays at 3 p.m. on **October 4th, 11th and 18th!**

**Pastor Michelle  
will teach!**

**Joining Sunday will be  
November 22, during  
Solid Ground at  
10:10 a.m.**

## NORTH DISTRICT LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Classes meet each Saturday from September 12th to October 10th from 8 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. (Central time) at Walnut Creek UMC in Warsaw

This academy focuses on discovering and employing personal spiritual gifts, preaching (beginning, advanced, and Capstone), "Living Our United Methodist Beliefs," connecting with God through prayer and journaling, and "Liberating Ministry."

For registration information and a list of required books, contact Denise Parker at 574-361-7243, or [dparker3434@gmail.com](mailto:dparker3434@gmail.com).

## Primetime trip to the Lincoln Funeral Train Thursday, October 8th



Join the Primetime group for breakfast at Cracker Barrel in Hammond, followed by a visit to the Lake County Welcome Center to view the Lincoln Funeral Train, a replica of the train that carried President Abraham Lincoln's body across the United States more than 150 years ago.

The train was created to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination and funeral. It is a near-exact replica.

We'll meet at Cracker Barrel, 7750 Corinne Drive (Kennedy Avenue) at 9 a.m. Sign up on the Primetime bulletin board in the main hallway.



## Family Hayride & Bonfire

Oak Ridge Prairie County Park

Sunday, October 18th

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun! We'll take a tractor-driven hayride through one of our beautiful county parks. Then we'll roast hot dogs and marshmallows over a bonfire.

**The cost is \$5 per person for the hayride. We will collect money at the event.**

You can sign up on the bulletin boards located inside each church entrance, or call the church office to reserve your spot! Each family should also sign up to bring one of the following: hot dogs, buns, graham crackers, marshmallows, Hershey bars. Hot chocolate and water will be provided.

## Halloween fun on Sunday, October 25th!

**Halloween Carnival from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Kids through 5th grade can put on their Halloween costumes and get ready for a great time at the Carnival! There will be plenty of games and prizes. After the Carnival, kids will be invited to head outside to **TRUNK or TREAT!**

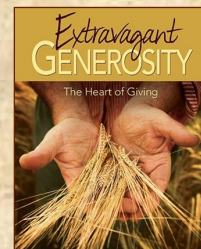


This is where the adults get a turn to dress up, decorate their cars and join the fun by handing out goodies. Beginning at 5 p.m., children can "trunk or treat" from car to car.

Plan now to join us and spread the word by sharing this information with neighbors and friends.

## Coming Soon: Celebrating Our Past and Recognizing Our Commitment on Sunday, November 22nd

We will remember the past and the laying of our cornerstone as we look toward the future on this special Sunday. During our combined service at



10 a.m., we will express our generosity through our 2016 financial commitments to Ridge Church. Then we will join together for a pre-Thanksgiving Dinner in the fellowship hall.



Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, and beverages will be provided. Please bring your family's favorite side dish, salad or dessert, and a copy of the recipe that we can share with others.



Nine members of RUMC traveled by van to Slidell, Louisiana during the last full week of July to participate in Project Epworth, an effort to help rebuild the homes that still have not been repaired from the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, or repair those homes whose maintenance has been deferred. Our team was assigned to help Mr. Ron, whose trailer had suffered from deferred maintenance and had required a full replacement of the sub floors and walls. Our tasks included hanging the wall panels, installing concrete board and tile on the floors, and painting. While most of the week consisted of this work, we also took some recreational time to visit New Orleans and enjoy some sightseeing. Evening fellowship activities included game night, a scavenger hunt, and worship services. The food prepared by the kitchen team at Project Epworth was amazing and kept our team's energy level high. The experiences we shared and the relationships we've developed have all brought us closer to each other and closer to Christ.





# Clothes and Accessory Bonanza!

Saturday, September 26th

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Clean out your closets!



Gently-used or new items, please!

Gently-used men, women, children, and infant clothes  
Shoes, boots, scarves, hats, gloves, jewelry

Bring items to the fellowship hall on  
Thursday, September 24th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
or Friday, September 25th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Volunteers needed! Watch for sign-up sheets!**

Proceeds will benefit the Ridge UMC General Fund

## Ridge Church Sends Three to Colorado

Aly Banasiak, Paul Haynes and Jon Lair joined other work teams in Loveland, Colorado to help homeowners affected by the 2013 floods. From August 1st to August 8th, they constructed two garages, moved five tons of rock, and sided a barn.



**THANK YOU** for generously supporting the Ridge Missions Team Linens Collection for Haven House:



73 bath towels  
22 hand towels  
56 wash cloths  
11 twin sheet sets  
2 queen sheet sets



11 pillowcases  
4 blankets  
2 quilts  
1 bedspread

## HELP WANTED

Would the children of Ridge benefit from your gift for teaching? Do you enjoy spending time with kids, spiritually influencing them and sharing love?

**If so, we are looking for YOU!**

We need teachers, substitute teachers, and assistants for this year's Kindergarten through 5th-grade Sunday School classes. Please see Pastor Sheri or any member on the Education Committee.

Thank you for giving your time to teach and nurture our youngest disciples of Christ.

### **Operations Team (Finance & Trustees)** from the August 11th meeting:

- Treasurer Linda Boender provided financial reports for January through July 2015:

2015 Operating Income:  
**\$255,057**

2015 Operating Expenses:  
**\$249,320**

2015 Net Income:  
**\$5,737**

July Building Fund (mortgage) income:  
**\$2,599**

Building Fund Expense:  
**\$5,673** (monthly mortgage payment)

- A Parsonage Fund was created for future pastoral housing needs, as per Conference requirements, with \$86,100 moved out of the Building Fund for this restricted purpose. The balance in the Building Fund to pay the monthly mortgage is \$8,787.
- Pastor Michelle is putting together a team to help run this year's pledge campaign, *Extravagant Generosity*, which will be presented differently than in the past.
- A decision was made to pay for a concrete walkway from the parking lot to the new columbarium, and patio in front of the columbarium, using money from the Emergency Fund. Two bids were received, with the lower bid of \$3,475 accepted. The work is expected to be completed by the September 27th Columbarium Dedication.
- Based on a lack of controls and processes for purchasing, the Team discussed creating a *Purchasing Policy/Procedure* for all church purchases, including reimbursements for purchases. A purchase request form is being developed, as well as guidelines for purchase approvals. This will be shared at the September 15th meeting.
- Issues with the sound in the sanctuary are being addressed, with a free consultation and evaluation done by an outside vendor. Remedies and costs will be presented in September.

### **Missions Team**, from the August 8th meeting:

- The Team noted the generosity of the congregation during the Linens Collection for Haven House (see page 9). Sue Cook delivered the linens, plus \$175 in cash donations from members. Three \$100 gift cards for Wal-Mart were also ordered through the SCRIP program, and will be given.
- Upcoming projects include Christmas Shoeboxes in October, Angel Tree in November, and Bell Ringing for The Salvation Army in December.
- Two UMCOR projects were discussed, with the following funding approved: the AIDS Orphans Project at Maua Hospital in Kenya, \$2,000; and the Tansen United Mission Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, \$1,500.



# Happy Birthday!

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 James Margraff   | 16 Diane Sopetti       |
| Virginia Schreuder | 18 Ginger Moell        |
| 2 Janet Cable      | 21 Dean Hunter         |
| Madeline Matthews  | 22 Ray Howe            |
| 3 Emily Anderson   | Don O'Brien            |
| 5 Marleen Hunter   | 23 Dennis Gray         |
| Megan Shideler     | 24 Charlotte Loos      |
| 6 Susan Capps      | 25 Everleigh Burmester |
| Cheryl Wagner      | Melissa Cappel         |
| 7 Dorothy Dee      | 26 Kathy Giannini      |
| Tessa Holloway     | Kellyn Kostelich       |
| 8 Diana Knight     | 27 Ellen Byrne         |
| Mackenzie Wilson   | Matthew Cappel         |
| 9 Katelyn Hay      | Lew Grasty             |
| 10 David Walters   | Cole Messmer           |
| 11 Larry Hill      | 30 Susan Bryce         |
| Chuck Horton       | Nicholas Burmester     |
| A. Edwin Wickland  | Bev Fleming            |
| 13 Champ Merrick   | Ferman Geyer           |
| 14 Richard Horgan  | Carol Lair             |
| Mildred Pritchett  | Phil Loos              |

## Ushers

**8:30**

Dick Jones  
Tanya Jones  
Bev Shideler  
Megan Shideler

**11:00**

Tom Regnier  
Tom Schreuder  
Scott Sutter  
John Wagner

## Greeters

**8:30**

9/6

Gale & Carol Osgerby

9/13

One service @ 10 a.m.

9/20

Ken & Betty Angotti

9/27

Ken & Betty Angotti

**11:00**

9/6

Larry & Phyllis Washington

9/13

Dennis & Sue Gray

9/20

Emily Jacobi & Dorothy Seefurth

9/27

Dennis & Sue Gray

## Liturgists

**8:30**

9/6

Kimberly Giannini

9/13

One service @ 10 a.m.

9/20

Sue Molenaar

9/27

Scott Iverson

**9:45**

9/6

Diane Comandella

9/13

One service @ 10 a.m.

9/20

Linda Ehelbracht

9/27

Carrie Messmer

**11:00**

9/6

One service at 10 a.m.

9/13

Dennis Gray

9/20

9/27

## Hospitality

**8:30 & 11:00**

Rachel Circle

**9:45**

9/6

Dayanna Frey & Lorena Alvarado

9/13

One service @ 10 a.m.

9/20

Charlene & Tracey Wilson

9/27

Danny & Lisa Percak

## September Anniversaries

Dave & Joan Miller  
James & Melinda Margraff  
Tom & Denise Labus  
Ken & Betty Angotti

September 6  
September 17  
September 20  
September 22

## Passing

Gloria Banjura, July 31st





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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Worship with us**

**Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:45,**

**or 11:00**

Do you have news to  
share? The deadline  
for **The Connection**  
is September 15th.

## UPCOMING sermons

**September 6th**

**"The Lost"**

**Psalm 14, Luke 15:1-10**

**September 13th**

**"Remember, Rejoice, Renew"**

**Revelation 21:1-5**

**Bishop Coyner, 10 a.m. service**

**September 20th**

**"Praying Up"**

**Psalm 85, Luke 11:5-13**

**September 27th**

**"Praying In"**

**Psalm 150, Acts 3:1-16**