

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2012



SERVE 2012, Here we come!

The weekend of September 8 & 9 will see teams of people from UM churches throughout Missouri involved in hands-on mission in their communities. Once again, MUMC will be a part of this conference wide event.

Saturday, Sept. 8 is filled with activity!

- * A small team will be painting at L'Arche from 9 AM – Noon, then come to the church for lunch at noon. The L'Arch community is invited to join us for lunch. *(3-5 people needed here)*
- * The Second Time Around Shoppe will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM *(2-3 people to assist staff needed)*
- * LAWN PARTY from 11 AM – 2 PM, with music (Ray), inflatable *(need people to supervise)* and lunch: hot dogs, chips, lemonade *(need folks for prep, serving, clean-up)*
- * Bag red beans & rice for Kingdom House food pantry *(need folks to supervise packaging and clean up)*



On the Sunday schedule the music ministry team

Dust 'n' Ashes will lead morning worship celebration as well as provide additional music during the Sunday School hour. This husband & wife team (Tom Page & MaryLou Troutman) travel nationwide, full time, singing about Christian faith.

Their music reveals glimpses of God's will for all of God's people; they use a wide range of music (folk, ...*when the music has ended, the country and other popular styles*) as well as write much *most important work begins* of the music they perform, based on scripture and personal experience.

Tom, an ordained UM minister served as an associate editor for the Upper Room in Nashville, TN. He and MaryLou began their music ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. Since that time, they have traveled nationwide in many arenas.

Then, Saturday,

September 29, we will complete our Serve 2012 by helping with the Mosaic Run, 7 AM – 12 noon *(Volunteers are needed for several slots on this day)*



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

September is going to be an exciting month at Maplewood UMC—full of Service and Celebration!

I am going to share the September events from the point of view of our Mission statement.

At Maplewood United Methodist Church our mission is to Gather as God's people; GROW in faith, love, and service; and GO into the world to do God's work. So, in the order of opportunities for us to GATHER, GROW, and GO...this is what is going on during September at Maplewood UMC.

GATHER as God's people!

Sunday, September 2 Worship: Holy Communion will be served. We will finish up the sermon series about the Bible by talking about the New Testament—and the main character, Jesus! This is "Feed and Be Fed" Sunday. If you were not able to share at the concert in August, you are welcome to bring food for the "Weekend on Wheels" program at the MRH Schools.

Sunday, September 9: "Dust and Ashes", a Christian music group will lead worship. They will be playing in the sanctuary prior to the service during Sunday school time as well. Everyone is welcome! Look in the newsletter to learn more about "Dust and Ashes"

Sunday, September 16 "Growing in Grace" Celebration of Faith Formation at MUMC! Giving of Third Grade Bibles! Celebration of Sunday School Teachers! Dedication of the Sunday school rooms and Ministry!

Sunday, September 23—Celebration of Service. Our own "Yellow Box Mission Team" will lead worship and share about their recent mission trip to Northwest Missouri.

Sunday, September 30—"SHHH!" We will begin a sermon series on the things we aren't supposed to speak of in polite company...politics and religion.

GROW in faith, love, and service!

Fall Sunday School for children! September 16 is RALLY SUNDAY! It's the official beginning of Fall Sunday School. There will be special food and fun activities to kick-off fall Sunday school. This is a great opportunity for inviting friends! We will have invitation materials in the office for you to share with friends. (On September 2 and 9 we will be in *soft start* mode for Sunday school. There will be classes for children.

Small Groups for Adults begin. We are trying a pilot run of a six-week small group study which is designed to share the basics of what it means to be Christian, United Methodist, and part of the Maplewood United Methodist Congregation. This small group will be led by Colette Cummings and Pastor Kim. Introductory/Sign up sessions will be held at 9:45 on Sunday, September 9 and Sunday, September 16 in the Chapel Room next to the church office. This course is so new we haven't found a name for it yet. It is open to EVERYONE no matter how long you have been part of this congregation. If you are interested but can't make it to an information session or if you want to sign up or ask questions, contact Pastor Kim. (pastor@maplewoodumc.org; 314-651-9999)

GO into the world to do God's work!

SERVE2012 on Saturday, September 8—Lawn Party at the church! Service at the L'Arche Community in Maplewood! Find more details in this newsletter. Yes, you are needed and we will have a t-shirt for you!

Mosaic Services Walk/Run, Saturday, September 29—Maplewood UMC Folks will serve as the support team for "running the run." You can wear your SERVE2012 t-shirt twice in September!!

September is a month for celebration and service! Be part of it! Invite your friends! Amen and Amen!

Blessings, **Pastor Kim**

And the Painting of the Sunday School Classes continues.....



Tami Collins, Tom Cordeal, Kevin Watkins, Jonathan & Samantha Schaffner part of the crews at the painting parties.

Here are a few timely notes for MUMC ...

* Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, **September 5th**, at 7:30 PM

* Fall Sunday school begins in **September**. Have you contacted Hope Watkins to let her know you want to teach

Liturgist for September

September 2-Shay Blackwell
 September 9-Dust and Ashes
 September 16-Chris Shirar
 September 23-Mark Watkins

New Address:

Jim, Sue, Emily and Norah Baskett:
 3801 NE Oak Trace Ave.
 Bettonville, AR 72712



- 2 Nora Baskett
- 2 Patty Persons
- 11 Lynn Furgerson
- 14 Kim Shirar
- 18 Gabbie Turner
- 20 Melissa McGowan
- 21 Mark Watkins
- 21 Nancy Cunningham
- 23 Monica Phelps
- 23 Matt Cordeal
- 25 Dennis Crone
- 26 Skip Watkins
- 26 Emma Mikunda
- 28 Hope Watkins

Free GED, Literacy, and ESL classes available

Free GED, Literacy, and ESL classes are available in our area through the Parkway Area Adult Education and Literacy organization.

GED and Literacy classes are available in Maplewood on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Christ Church UCC or on Monday-Thursday mornings at the Missouri Career Center. GED and Literacy Classes for 17-24 year olds are available on Monday-Friday mornings at Christ Church UCC. Additional classes are available in the area. More information is available in the church office or call 314-415-4940.

Volunteer Tutors are needed to serve in teaching basic reading and math skills, GED preparation, ESL and citizenship preparation. There is no experience necessary and training is provided through the Parkway Area Adult Education and Literacy organization. For more information call 314-415-4940.

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

About a month ago, as I write this, Maplewood UMC's own Brent and his friend Mike, who also attends MUMC, had an amazing adventure. The two of them went skydiving. What makes this even more remarkable is that Brent and Mike are blind. Personally, I can't imagine blind skydiving. Then again, I can't imagine skydiving at all. I don't get along with heights. The thought of cleaning gutters fills me with dread. I can't imagine jumping out of an airplane under any circumstances, let alone for enjoyment. The threat of death might compel me but that's about all. Instead it would be, for me, a truly terrifying experience. And yet, Brent and Mike plummeted 10,000 feet—nearly two miles—while blind and they enjoyed it.

I shared my trepidation with Brent and he replied, simply, "Be blind." Interesting advice: "Be blind" to the altitude. "Be blind" to how far away the ground is. "Be blind" to how small everything looks.

Faith is, in a sense, about "being blind." Brent and Mike had faith in their instructor, in the people who packed their parachutes and inspected their gear, and in the pilot of the plane. There are many examples in the Bible of when God's people had to ignore what their eyes told them—"be blind"—and trust God. One such example comes from the life of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-23).

Syria was at war with Israel and several times Elisha warned the king of Israel about their tactics. The king of Syria found out what was happening and that Elisha was in the city of Dothan. The king sent an army, which surrounded the city at night. The next morning, Elisha's servant saw the army and he was dismayed. But Elisha told him, "'Don't be afraid, for our side outnumbers them.'" (vs. 16b ESV). Then he prayed, "'O Lord, open his eyes so he can see.'" (vs. 17b ESV). Suddenly, the servant saw horses and chariots of fire on the hill around Elisha. Then Elisha prayed for God to cause the Syrian army to become blind. When they approached, he told them they were in the wrong place and pretended to lead them to the man they were seeking. He led them to Samaria and then asked God to open their eyes. Then they saw that they were surrounded. Elisha told the

king of Israel to give them food and drink and send them back to the king of Syria. After that, Israel had no more trouble from the Syrians.

The men of the Syrian army were blind but so was Elisha's servant. He couldn't see the army of God that surrounded him and Elisha. He had to "be blind" to the physical army of Syria before he could see the spiritual army of God. In much the same way, we often don't see God at work around us. Hundreds of years after the time of Elisha, another man of God would write these words: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2 ESV). In other words, Paul decided to "be blind" to everything except Christ.

And of course we all remember the story of Peter walking on the water (Matt. 14:23b-33). Late one night, Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the Sea of Galilee. Peter saw him and said, "'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'" (vs. 28b ESV). Peter was all right at first but the thought of what he was doing finally overwhelmed him. He was fine as long as he was "blind" to the wind and the waves. But as soon as he took his attention off Jesus and considered his external circumstances, he began sinking.

John wrote ". . . he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4b ESV). In other words, "Don't be afraid, for our side outnumbers them." Just as Elisha and his servant saw an army from God that was greater than the Syrian army, we have a God who is greater than our circumstances, a God who outnumbers anything we might face. That doesn't mean things won't be frightening or disturbing. It doesn't mean there won't be pain or loss. Knowing God is in charge doesn't guarantee there will be a "happy ending." But it does mean we won't be alone. All we have to do is "be blind" and have faith.

"He replied, 'Don't be afraid, for our side outnumbers them.' Then Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he can see.' The Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (2 Kings 6:16-17 ESV.)

Rally Sunday, September 16th



Go into the world to do God's work...

Going... Courtney Stotler, Mary Kunce and Jerry Blackwell will be leading a share our congregation's stories about positive changes and discuss some of our continuing

challenges. Please hold this team and the folks with whom they share in your prayers.

Going.... Michael Chance will be leading a course at the Lay Speaker course on Methodist Heritage in October. We pray that God will bless your speaking and the folks who are listening, Mike!

Gone (and back)... Shay Blackwell was invited to teach a workshop on poverty this summer at the Missouri School of Mission. To prepare for leading the workshop she was required to read 15 books about the subject and then attend leader training workshops in Abilene, Texas. Shay's workshop group included about 30 folks from across our conference. They covered root causes of poverty from the local to global level, the impact of poverty on our general society, and ways in which we as God's people are to work to end poverty. The Gateway Central District UMW had Shay lead a mini-version of this workshop at the end of August. Hopefully, Shay will share what she has learned with our congregation in the near future. *(We are grateful for your servant leadership, Shay! We pray that the seeds that were sown on that weekend continue to grow and produce fruit!)*

Gone (and back) ... We give God thanks for the "Yellow Box (blue t-shirt) Mission Team" who worked long, hard, hot days in Northwest Missouri. We can't wait to hear your story on September 23! In the meantime rejoice and be glad---and rest! We are proud of each and every one of you!

A word of thanks seems appropriate

Concert in the park *(Pickett Lema)*

Thank you! Tonight was an amazing example of what Maplewood does best...unite and help. It would appear that the Weekend on Wheels pantry should be stocked for a while.

Thanks to MRH, specifically, Brian for all of the event promotion the AWESOME design work for the barrels, and too Karen, for being so receptive to a partnership with MCBF. We hope it is the beginning of many!

The Maplewood United Methodist Church has always been a generous sponsor of the MCBF, however, the congregation went above and beyond to surpass our highest expectations last night. There is no doubt that the sno-cone incentive was a determining factor in the success of the event. Additionally, we literally couldn't have done it without their logistical help with packing the food in bins, and securing and loading the box truck. Jason Watkins was, as always a lifesaver.

As always, thanks to my outstanding Board who are always there, without fail. I don't say thank you enough, but I am so grateful to those of you who always show up!

And some "summertime" thanks *(Kim Shirar)*

*** Thank you to Mark Watkins and Jerry Blackwell who took care of Ray Jauregui's role in preparing and projecting the video on Sunday mornings!

*** Thank you to Rev. Wayne Kidwell, Mike Chance, and Dave Phelps for their leadership in worship during Pastor Kim's vacation!

*** Thank you to our painters. Oh WOW!!! The Sunday school rooms look so good! *** Thank you to our trustees—Jason Watkins, Diane Watkins, and Tami Collins—for leading the charge in making our building a welcoming place for Gathering and Growing!

*** Thank you to Madaleaze Cramer for coordinating summer Sunday school teachers—and for teaching some of those Sundays too! Thanks also to each person who taught or assisted on these Sundays! Our children were blessed!

District Conference scheduled for September 16th

The District Conference is Sunday, September 16 at Green Trails UMC located at 14237 Ladue Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017. Maplewood UMC has been invited to assist with leadership for one of the workshops! Anyone from any congregation is welcome to attend. So, please take a look at the workshops. If there is an area that interests you, feel free to sign up!

The agenda for the day is below:

2:30 — Refreshments and Fellowship

3:00 — Workshops: See below

4:00 — District Conference: Approval of district Budget and Nominations and Guest Speaker: Ron Watts, “Reinventing Your Church”

These are the workshops which will be available; you can see the details about each one on the board in the Narthex.

2G2BT: Celebrating Twenty-Somethings

Extravagant Generosity – Exploring a more excellent way

Swap Meet of Ideas for Church Growth and Mission

S/PPRC - Most Difficult Moments

Inviting People to Church

Pastoral Care – Supporting the Children and Families in Your Church

You can register on the district website, (www.gatewaydistricts.org) registration is required so that enough handouts will be available.

Fall 2012 Lay Speaking classes set for October

The Fall 2012 offering of Lay Speaking Classes will be held on October 6 & 13 at Kingdom House, 1321 South 11th Street in St. Louis. Times: TBA

This session's offerings include:

Basic Lay Speaking—This course is for those interested in exploring Lay Speaking, featuring studies in Wesleyan tradition, exploring spiritual gifts, learning servant leadership and remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices. This course allows the participant to apply as a Local Church Lay Speaker. The course will be facilitated by B. Spaulding.

United Methodist Heritage—Offered by Michael Chance, this course allows participants to explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of The United Methodist Church as defined in The Book of Discipline. This advanced class meets the requirements for Certified Lay Speaker new application or renewal.

Storytelling—Participants will learn what makes a good story, discuss storytelling styles and practice creating personal stories. This advanced course will be facilitated by Jeff Fothergill, and meets the requirements for Certified Lay Speaker new application or renewal.

Things you need to know: Registration for all courses is required, and can be done online at our website, www.gatewaydistricts.org. Look for “Gateway Central Lay Speaking” on the left side of the home page. Upon registration, you'll receive an e-mail confirmation within 72 hours. The course materials will be sent to you by October 1, along with instructions for any pre-coursework needed. The course fee is \$20.00, payable by check or cash upon arrival to the course. Scholarships are available—please make your request in the comment section when registering.

The course will cover two consecutive Saturdays, October 6 & 13. Participants must attend both Saturdays to receive course credit. Cancellations are accepted at any time prior to October 6. The courses will be held at Kingdom House, located at 1321 S. 11th Street, St. Louis, 63104. Directions to the site can be found here: <http://mapq.st/NBqv6x>

Lunch will be served both days, with a voluntary offering accepted to offset the lunch cost.

The Yellow Box Mission Trip

A big black truck, a mysterious large yellow box and seven strangers (really strange strangers) arrive in Lewis & Clark Village in mid-August – prepared, ready, eager – to start rehab on a house “drowned” during the 2011 floods. Prepared, ready, eager to ..., to do ..., to undertake whatever ..., actually, to turn around and go home.

We weren't prepared for the condition of the house which we, the first VIM team sent to the area, had been assigned. The work we had been instructed would be needed included a “little wiring, perhaps a little plumbing, some drywall work, painting, maybe some carpet ...” A shell of a house with a really bad roof was in front of us – and it was ours on which to work some magic.

Thank God for a team which was strongly supported by prayers, our own and from all of MUMC; praise God for folks on the team who had the experience to look at the myriad of possible work and determine absolute priorities, best for the project and for the family who lived in this house. And man oh man, honor God that M.L. had packed his new yellow tool box (his B I G yellow tool box) with tools for just about any work that might be needed.

Priority one was given to replacing the roof so that any work done inside would be protected from the weather. Six layers of shingles removed, one large section of wood replaced, an ongoing battle with wasps; by the end of our last day, the roof was totally prepared for shingles, and we were not going to be able to complete that work! (Word was received on the Monday after we arrive home that one “shingler” had arrived on Sunday and the roof was complete!) Priority two was inside where floors were reinforced, sills were replaced, and a basement entrance was moved about three feet, making it possible to enlarge the bathroom.

The Judd Family, Fred, Wendy, Scruffy and Gomer, have a long way to go to have a completed house. Their home, however, is getting closer to being snug and secure; they (and we) have some new friends and a renewed sense of hope, a knowing that someone cares.

What did we bring home with us? Well, the yellow box, of course ... a new sense of truly knowing one another ... a renewed understanding (and acceptance) that God is always working ... and God calls us to help.

.We're already planning for The Yellow Mission Box trip in summer 2012 – won't you join us?



Our last day in front of Fred's house.



Liston spent a lot of time in the basement putting in supports and moving steps.



Measuring & cutting felt for the roof.



Mary and Shay telling us how to how to take the old roof off.

Small groups are starting to form for Fall

“What do I need to do to become a member of this church?”

“What does your church believe?”

“It has been a loooong time since confirmation! I have forgotten lots of what they taught us.”

“Actually, I never was confirmed in the United Methodist Church. I joined as an adult. No one ever taught me what it means to be a Christian in the United Methodist denomination.”

“Do I have to be a member in order to be part of Maplewood UMC? I would like to know more before I think about joining.”

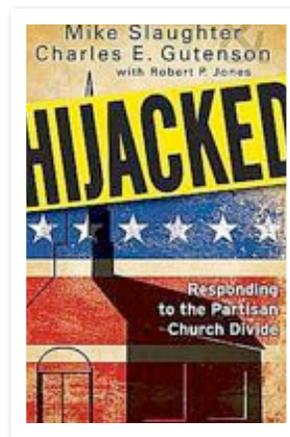
“How can I get to know more people in this congregation better?”

“Do United Methodists have set doctrines or beliefs that they make everyone agree upon?”

Do any of these statements apply to you? If so, then it might be good for you to consider taking part in a pilot six-week study that is all about being a Christian who is part of Maplewood United Methodist Church. The purpose for the study is to make sure everyone in the congregation has the chance to gain a basic understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the United Methodist tradition at Maplewood UMC. The study is so new that we have yet to find a name for it! Hopefully our pilot group will help with that! It will be led by Colette Cummings and Pastor Kim.

At this point we are considering two weekly meeting times beginning on Saturday, September 22 at 8 a.m. or Sunday, September 23 at 9:45 a.m. (Sunday school time). A minimum of six people are needed to sign up to make a group. The study material we will use as a guide is called “A Disciple’s Path”. Copies are available for preview in the gathering space behind the sanctuary. There will be TWO introductory/sign-

up sessions on Sunday, September 9 and Sunday, September 16 at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel room next to the office. Attendance at the intro session does not mean that you must commit to the study at this time! If you need more information of any kind or want to sign up for an intro session or the study itself, please contact Pastor Kim at pastor@maplewoodumc.org or 314-651-9999.



October small group preview!

The November elections are coming—and so is t“conversation” about the elections. Over the past few decades the Church in the United States has engaged

in political conversation in a variety of ways. Sometimes

we like what folks who claim to be Christian say and do in the political arena. To be honest, there are other times that we cringe when our brothers and sisters in Christ speak about God and government. It’s sometimes difficult to know where the boundary between political ideology and Christian faith can be found in these conversations. For those who are interested, there will be a chance to talk about these questions.

Jan Harsh and Suzanne Thompson will be leading a discussion about faith and politics using this book, “Hijacked” as a launching point for the discussion. Several copies of the book are available at the church if you would like to take a look at one or if you would like to take one and read it. If you have questions about this small group opportunity, please contact Jan at bjharsh@att.net.

The paragraphs below describe how the book, “Hijacked: Responding to the Partisan Church Divide” came to be written:

“When Pastor Mike Slaughter invited friend Chuck Gutenson to interview for a position on the pastoral team at the mega-church [Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church](#) in Tipp City, OH, he was completely unprepared for the concerns expressed by his church’s Leadership Board over Gutenson’s politics. (Gutenson was the COO at [Sojourner’s](#) Magazine and a politically left-leaning Evangelical.) The word that immediately came to Slaughter’s mind during the energetic discussions surrounding Chuck’s interview was “hijacked.”

The Board’s reaction, in his opinion, was another symptom of the church being hijacked by partisan politics. At the extreme, a hijacked church can forget and has forgotten its true identity as a Christian community called to follow the way of Jesus, rather than a particular political party. Galvanized by this real-life encounter with how politics can infiltrate the Church, Slaughter teamed up with Gutenson to write [Hijacked: Responding to the Partisan Church Divide](#).

(taken from: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/takeandread/2012/03/hijacked-a-qa-with-mike-slaughter/>)



Mike and Jerry spent an awful lot of time on the roof of Fred’s house.



Mike and Liston discussing where to start in the house.

Annie Schmid’s Trip to Morocco

This summer I spent a little under two months in the North African country of Morocco, in its second biggest city of Fès. When people ask me how it was, I’m never sure where to begin because my mind becomes full of memories in no particular order. Nevertheless . . .

There were without doubt many adjustments I had to make. First was the heat of being a couple hours away from the Sahara - the heat, combined with Morocco’s cultural dress code of modesty which I was determined to respect. Many people here ask if I had to wear a hijab. In Morocco, or at least where I lived, it seemed like it was up to a person’s own social and/or religious preference what level of conservatism they chose to display. Since the population is 99% Islamic, and Fès was on the more conservative side, most women did wear the hijab, and long-sleeved, ankle-length dresses called jelabas, but I did not receive different treatment simply because I chose not to.

That being said, the incredible hospitality shown by many Moroccans and Fasi people was both awe-inspiring and humbling. The family of four I lived with- parents Omar and Asmae, and their toddlers Mohammed and Abdullah- were the most gracious people I have ever met. During one of the hottest weeks, Omar shyly knocked on our bedroom door after supper and brought in a small generator so that our fan could work faster. When I was to go hiking in the Rif Mountains, he insisted on accompanying me to the medina markets so that he could argue with vendors to get me the best deal on a pair of tennis shoes- and he did! And no matter how many times my roommate and I insisted, Asmae never once let us do the dishes after eating one of her many delicious meals. Looking back, I don’t think I would have enjoyed Morocco nearly as much had I not had such a wonderful host family.

However, to simply say overall that my experiences in Morocco were “great” wouldn’t do them any justice. Many times I felt out of my element, confused, or even ready to head home. However, for me, I don’t think I would have left a study abroad trip happy had I not felt all of those things. That being said, I can’t describe my travels in one word, but I will call them what they truly were; an adventure.

(Annie Schmid)

Kim Shirar, Pastor
Pastor's Office Hours:
 Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
 Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Cell Phone: (314) 651-9999
E-Mail: pastor@maplewoodumc.org

Sally Noel, Secretary
Secretary will be in the office:
 Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Maplewood UMC phone
(314) 781-5902
Maplewood Official Website:
www.maplewoodumc.org



The newest and youngest member of the praise team song leaders.



A congregational toast to the completion of the new well in Mozambique.



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



Every Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship