

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2012

count the blessings. name them one by one
And get ready to share !!!!

There has been some really crappy weather: good old Sandy did a number on way too much land area and way too many people. There has been some really sad news: children who have been stolen (kidnapped) from their families and children who have been severely abused by their caretakers. There has been loss and injury and pain and sadness.

And yet... and yet... the blessings already are here. They have been here since the Beginning, they have been around us since our beginnings ... they are within and without, around and about each one of us.

AS we count our blessings, let's be sure to include the one that makes it possible for us to share with others. Once again, **we are being given the opportunity to share Thanksgiving with other families.** We have chosen the traditional menu to provide dinner for 3-5 families. On Sunday, November 4, our colorful MUMC turkey will fly (?) into the Narthex and YOU can pluck its "feathers", indicating which foods you will be bringing for the Thanksgiving baskets: stuffing mix, macaroni & cheese, canned sweet potatoes & green beans,, instant mashes potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, cherry or apple pie filling, pie crust mix AND \$15 to provide a turkey for each family. The Blessing Station will be open for ingathering of food and there will be envelopes marked "turkey" –your check can be placed in this envelope and given to Shay Blackwell.

All gifts need to be at MUMC by Sunday, November 18 to allow time to put dinners together for delivery. You may be asked to assist with making deliveries or with

helping our youth pack up the dinners. As you decide what you will bring and as you respond to requests for assistance, please pray that you, our church and the families with whom we are sharing will feel God's love and blessings.

Consecration Sunday is November 18

November is Stewardship month. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Jeff Carr, who is a former Maplewood UMC pastor. We are excited to welcome Jeff and his wife, Patty, for Consecration Sunday! Worship that day will be followed by an **all church luncheon**. Make your reservations now so we are sure to have enough food.



BUILD A GIFT is coming on Saturday December 1

Set-up begins at about 9 a.m. and children arrive at 10. At this event they are able to hand craft gifts for family and friends. We provide all that they need to make these gifts: materials, instructions, assistance, and even gift-wrapping! We even provide breakfast goodies for their parents (and the children too) who are waiting nearby while their children are busy making gifts. This is a wonderful event! Please be sure to check out the sign up sheets in the gathering space behind the sanctuary. If you have questions, please contact Hope Watkins at kevinhope@msn.com or 636-207-1496.

Remember! All types of help are needed, but **everyone** can be in prayer for this event which often brings folks into our building who are in need of a church home. Please pray for God's gracious love to abound in every aspect of this event!

Pastor's Letter

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(1
Thessalonians 5:18)

Dear Friends,

For many folks in our congregation October has been a busy month. The same has been true for the Shirar family. But no matter how busy things get in our household, the dog MUST be walked. One afternoon just a few days ago I was taking care of this necessary task. I had my head down and was fully engaged in thinking, well...actually worrying...about the "to-do" list for the day when it occurred to me to stop and look up.

It was a beautiful day—shining sun in an October blue sky serving as the backdrop for the beautiful autumn leaves. It was a gorgeous day! But for a while, I simply wasn't paying attention enough to notice.

As Christians we are taught to be people who are thankful. According to the verse in 1 Thessalonians it is the will of God in Christ Jesus that we give thanks in all circumstances. In order to be people who truly do thankfulness well, we must begin by noticing the gifts which abound all around us.

During November I plan to spend some deliberate time paying attention to life around me so that I can be obedient to God's call to give thanks. I challenge you to do the same. Maybe you could make a list of all those things you are thankful for. Write one thing on the calendar each day. At the dinner table, before you eat, ask everyone to name one thing for which they are thankful.

Paying attention to the beauty around me and being grateful for that beauty made a difference in my day. Paying attention to all those things in our lives which are good gifts from God will make a difference in our days and in our lives.

Lord, give us the grace we need to notice all of the life around us for which we are to be thankful. Help us to do your will by giving thanks in all circumstances. AMEN!

Blessings, *Pastor Kim*

My thankfulness for today: I give thanks for the privilege of serving in ministry with the people of Maplewood UMC—for the ways I see God in your lives and for the ways in which I am challenged and inspired to grow as a follower of Jesus. I give thanks to God for each of you!

new leaders

We are excited & grateful for members who have agreed to take on new leadership roles!

Mary Downing has agreed to lead the ministries which involve connecting folks into the life of the congregation—hospitality, engaging newer folks with the life of the congregation, and caring for folks who are part of the congregation who are in need of care and support.

Rona Chandler has agreed to co-lead the Children and Youth Ministries with Hope Watkins.

It may be that one of these folks will approach you with an opportunity for ministry. When they do, please prayerfully consider the request. Also, please hold Mary and Rona along with all of our ministry leaders in your prayers.

Mary and Rona, we are grateful that you are willing to serve in these areas! God's grace, wisdom, joy, and strength be yours!

Please continue to keep in your prayers ...

Dennis and Tami Collins and family as they mourn the death of Dennis' mother, Ellen Collins, on October 24th in Texas.

Renee McDonough who suffered a broken elbow and has had surgery to repair it.

Shay Blackwell who is undergoing therapy on her shoulder following rotator cuff surgery.

Ray Norris as he regains strength after a bout with pneumonia.

Barbara O'Sullivan, mother of Coleen Watkins & Maureen Ryerson, as she recovers from surgery.

Church Calendar

November (Mission emphasis - Thanksgiving baskets)

9 - (Fri.) 6-9p.m. Planning Retreat
10 - (Sat.) 1-4p.m. Planning Retreat
12 - (Mon.) Leadership Dinner
18 - (Sun.) Consecration Sunday and All Church Luncheon.
22 - (Thurs.) *Thanksgiving*
25 - (Sun.) Hanging of the Greens after worship.

choir corner

The Advent and Christmas season is nearing!

Come sing with us! We would love to have you join us, or just sing with us during December. (Requirements do not require a Carnegie Hall voice-just the desire to help make a joyful noise.)

Our rehearsals begin at 7:00 Wednesday evenings (except for 11/20 when we'll rehearse on Tuesday). If you'd like to only rehearse the Christmas anthems planned for December, come at 7:30pm. We truly need sopranos and altos. Please prayerfully consider joining us. We have some lovely and very meaningful anthems to learn. We are a fun group - Come On Board!! Hope to see you in our beautiful new 3rd Floor Choir Room.

Choir Schedule for November

11/7/12 - 7:00pm Wednesday
11/14/12 - 7:00pm Wednesday
11/20/12 - 7:00pm Tuesday
11/28/12 - 7:00 Wednesday

hanging of the greens **We will decorate the church**

for Advent following the worship service on Sunday, November 25th. Please mark your calendar for this festive event.



Ad Council & Ministry Area leaders to plan, Nov. 9 & 10

Friday, November 9 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturday, November 10 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. the Ad Council and Ministry Area leaders will meet to set goals and plan for 2013. We will be led by Ken Willard, a certified church consultant.

Please be in prayer for this meeting. If you are not officially part of the Ad Council or a Ministry Area Leader, but feel led to participate you are welcome to do so. Please let Pastor Kim know to expect you so that enough materials are available. If you would be willing to help with providing a light supper on Friday night or light snacks on Saturday afternoon, please contact Pastor Kim.

Soup supper served up success!

To date we have raised \$4,119.29 towards our boiler replacement. We have the opportunity for a matching gift of up to \$5,000.00 and are getting close to our goal. (The boiler project will cost approximately \$36,000.00 in total.) If you missed the dinner but would like to make a donation, you are welcome to do so. Just designate "Boiler Fund" on your check or envelope, please.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Soup Supper Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, October 20th. We had a wonderful event! Special thanks to Jerry & Shay Blackwell, Marjie Brammeier, Amy Cordeal, Madaleaze Cramer, Jan Harsh, Mary Kunc, Sharon McGee, and Julia Schaffner who made delicious soups, stew, chili, etc., Larry Schmid who made warm, fresh baked rolls, Mary Downing who made a phenomenal salad bar, and Rona Chandler who provided scrumptious desserts. No one left hungry!

Thank you, again, to everyone for making our fundraiser such a success!



NOVEMBER

1	Terrell Carter
5	Scott Cunningham
5	Mary Pat Corcoran
7	Bud Yowell
8	Bill Housewright
9	Bob Harsh
9	Andrea White
12	Lisa Watkins
12	Emmit Jordan
16	Dale Chambers
21	Jonah Findley
25	Chris Shirar
28	Tori Chandler
29	Helen Love



Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

I remember when I was growing up in the Church of God, and later the Baptist Church, hearing the story of the "rich young ruler" (Matt. 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30). But when I got older and read the story for myself I realized it doesn't say he was young and only Luke refers to him as a "ruler." Matthew and Mark just call him "a man" But he was apparently rich because he had a lot of stuff. He asked Jesus how to be saved and Jesus told him to follow the commandments. "All these I have kept," he replied (Matt. 19:20b ESV). Jesus then said, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (vs. 20b ESV). And the man "went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." (vs. 22b ESV). Jesus then talked about rich people getting into heaven and camels going through the eye of a needle (vs. 23-24) and the disciples asked him "Who then can be saved?" (vs. 25b ESV). And Jesus replied, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (vs. 26b ESV).

The bar of salvation is higher than we can imagine. Not only can you not murder somebody, you can't even be mad at him (Matt. 5:21-22). Not only can you not commit adultery, you can't even look at a woman the wrong way (5:27-28). Not only do you have to love your neighbor, you have to love your enemy (5:43-44). And not only do you have to follow all the commandments, you have to give away everything you own and follow some itinerant carpenter. You can never do enough. You can never follow enough commandments carefully enough. There will always be something else. The bar of salvation is so high because our sin is so great.

Peter wasn't satisfied though. He asked, essentially, "What about us?" (a paraphrase of vs.27b). And even though Peter was the one speaking, I'm sure the others were thinking the same thing. James and John had turned their backs on their father and the family fishing business (Matt. 4:21-22). Matthew had given up a good job as a tax collector (Matt. 9:9). They had all left their old lives behind to follow Jesus. They were all thinking, "What about us? We gave up everything: businesses, families, careers, land, and for what? To follow this guy around until we all die broke?" But Jesus said to them, ". . . everyone who has left houses or brothers or

sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life." (vs. 29 ESV).

Peter and the others missed the part where Jesus said ". . . **with God all things are possible.**" **In other words, if you make a sacrifice, God will make it worthwhile; He won't hang you out to dry. He won't "throw you under the bus." He'll be there for you no matter what.**

Hebrews says ". . . we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, . . ." (Heb. 4:14b ESV), an advocate, someone to take our side with God. He understands. He's ". . . one who in every respect has been tempted as we are," (vs. 15b ESV). The difference is that he is without sin (vs. 15c). God knew that we could never stand before Him on our own so God Himself provided the way for us.

About ten years ago, a man in Romania was told by a fortune teller that either he or his son would die before the week was out. So the man went home and cut his own throat in order to save his son. You can respond to this in one of a few different ways: You can be creeped out by what the man did, you can laugh at him for being foolish enough to believe the fortune teller, or you can marvel at the love he had for his son.

God has that kind of love for us and He died for us in the form of Jesus. But then he rose from the dead and he lives for us so that we can live for him. God could have lowered the bar but instead he raises us. May we lift him up today and every day.

"And Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.' When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" (Matt. 19:23-25 ESV.)

Senior lunch series at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parish Hall

On November 19 at 11:30 a.m. Mary Ann Peters will present "Are You Smarter than a Scam Artist?" Ms. Peters is a certified volunteer with the Senior Medicare Patrol, a national/state organization that works with seniors to help them understand their medical and other rights. The format will allow for an interactive, educational, and fun time.

Lunch and the program are free but you must register by the Wednesday before each program by calling Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse, at 314-644-6805. If you leave a message, please leave your name and phone number. Please notify Kathleen if you must cancel once you have registered.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parish Hall is located at 7240 Anna in Maplewood.



Pastor Kim became the object in the children's sermon.

Given any thought to "gifting" lately?

On Saturday, November 17, Sunday, November 18 as well as Friday through Sunday, November 23, 24 and 25, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., more than 2,500 sq. ft. of space will be filled with *fair trade* items from all over the world at [Manchester United Methodist Church](#).

Market attendees enjoy cultural entertainment, chocolate and coffee tastings, movie showings, fair trade cake, a fashion show, food and more. Certified fair trade items from Plowsharing Crafts, Partners for Just Trade, Just Sweets and Roots-n-Streams will be available. Dedicated volunteers with a passion for social justice spend hundreds of hours throughout the year to make sure the market is successful.

Buying fair trade products provides artisans, farmers, and producers a living wage for their work. It also supports care for the environment, gender equality, child labor prohibition, safe working conditions and more.

Today, approximately \$4,000 of fair trade retail dollars provides one artisan or farmer's family a living wage for a year, through work, not charity. The Fair Trade Market's 2011 sales were \$132,000 in just five days. As a result of those sales the equivalent of 33 artisans in developing countries can support their families with Fair Trade wages for their work for a year in dignity, without exploitation or harm to the environment.

The choice to buy fair trade is easy, but choosing what to buy might be difficult. Come browse the Fair Trade Market's huge selection of products including: chocolate, coffee, tea, clothing & accessories, home decor, toys, clothing, musical instruments, stationary, holiday decorations, soaps, and more. Find all of your holiday shopping items, including something for yourself, at the 10th Annual Fair Trade Market located at [Manchester United Methodist Church, 129 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, Missouri 63011](#).

For more information visit www.manchesterumc.org/ftm.

some news about the family

Bits 'n' Pieces

a HUGE 'Thank You' to Jason Watkins for all the work he has done toward getting the new boiler installed! Jason, you have our WARMEST thanks!

Congratulations to ...

... **Teresa Jauregui**, daughter of Ray Jauregui, who passed the bar exam. Way to go Teresa!!!

Deanna Jent is honored by Fonbonne College

On, October 18th, Deanna Jent (yes, that's Listen & Bonnie's daughter-in-law) was one of six recipients of the Fontbonne College **Founders Award**. These presentations honored distinguished service by each of the honorees. Deanna received her award for her work in theatre and education.

Her play, *Falling*, opened at Minetta Lane Theatre in New York, an off Broadway Theatre, earlier in October to rave reviews. The play is an account of a family life with an aggressive teenage son with severe autism. When the play first was produced a Fontbonne's Mustard Seed Theatre last year it was extended twice. Then Terry Schnuck, a New York producer, saw it and optioned it for a New York run.

Deanna said she felt called to write this play because it was needed in the autism community, giving a voice to those "who didn't know they needed a voice."

Good luck Deanna. May it run long and bless many.

And looking ahead, the play, *Imaginary Jesus*, adapted and directed by Deanna, starts November 16 at the Mustard Seed Theatre.

(Deanna is a member of Webster First UMC.)

Skip Watkins is inducted into "2012 UCM Wrestling Legends Hall of Fame"

Skip Watkins was recognized and inducted into

the "2012 UCM Wrestling Legends Hall of Fame" in October. Skip's wife, Diane, and 2 of their sons, Kevin and Mark, were in attendance for this special night. Wrestling has continued to be a very important part of Skip's life. He has been officiating for 43+ years, officiated at the MSHSAA State Wrestling Tournament for 20 years, coached for 14 years at MRH, was a Little League coach for 15 years. Skip is very proud of the fact his grandson, Kevin, Jr., is a little league wrestler. There will be many more years of wrestling in the Watkins family! A quote from Skip: "*My involvement in wrestling opened doors in my employment, my community and my family life.*"

Bob Harsh awarded '2012 Maplewood Citizen of the Year'

On Friday night, October 12th, Bob Harsh attended the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce's annual Dinner/Auction. Much to Bob's surprise, (but known to his family at the table), Bob was the recipient that evening of the 2012 Maplewood Citizen of the Year Award! Presented by Maplewood Mayor, Jim White, Bob was recognized for his volunteerism and long-term contributions to the City of Maplewood, including his work at MUMC, past and present service to the MRH School District, membership on the Maplewood Parks Board, and leadership of Maple Days - just to name a few!

To further add to the element of surprise, Bob returned home that evening to find his yard "flocked." (Why does the name Watkins come to mind??)

Congratulations to Bob on this much-deserved award!



Blue Mountain Poem

by Norah Basket

A-B-C-D-E

Blue Mountain is where I want to be.

F-G-H-I-J,

Learning to canoe each day.

K-L-M-N-O,

Now it's time to start the show.

P-Q-R-S-T,

the bunk beds are where I want to be.

U-V-W-X-Y,

Now it's time to say good-by.

Z-Z-Z-Z-Z.

Blue Mountain is where I want to be.

(original copy is on display in the Narthex)

More Blue Mountain Retreat Pictures



Good food was shared by all.



Weather was good for getting some canoeing in.

Here's a Thank You ...

On behalf of the Maplewood Community Betterment Foundation (MCBF), thank you for your sponsorship donation of \$500 in support of the 2012 Summer Concert Series. Your sponsorship allowed us to bring the community and families together for free entertainment throughout the summer.

At our August concert, we held our first Concert for a Cause and collected donations for the MRH School District's Weekend on Wheels program. We collected well over 500 food items for hungry families living right here in Maplewood. Without sponsors like Maplewood United Methodist Church we wouldn't have the platform to hold this kind of benefit.

Thank you again for your generous support of the MCBF and our community!

Sincerely,

Jeanine Beck, Executive Director

In a handwritten note, Jeanine added: "Thank you" doesn't begin to describe how grateful we are for your support of the concert series! The Maplewood United Methodist Church deserves 100% of the credit for our success with the concert for a cause! Please share this with your members and know how very appreciated the Maplewood United Methodist Church is!

"Finding Your Way through the Bible" Small Group was GREAT!

Tori Chandler and Kevin Watkins are now able to find any verse in the Bible. Give them the name of the book of the Bible (and which Testament it is in), the chapter, and the verse and they can find it for you! In addition to learning how to find their way through the Bible, Tori and Kevin are now fully trained to serve as acolytes. That's a big amount of learning for one small group! We are proud of you, Tori and Kevin!



The Children's choir sang in October

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:
 Tues. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Maplewood UMC phone
(314) 781-5902
Maplewood Official Website:
www.maplewoodumc.org

Here's a reminder for you

Bring your items for "Feed and Be Fed" and Joe's Place to worship on **November 4th**. A big thank you to the elementary Sunday School class for organizing and moving the items for delivery. **Extra copies of the "shopping list" for Feed and Be Fed on available at the top of the stairs as you enter the church.** Use this list when you go shopping, it will make it easier for you to remember what is needed.

As a part of SERVE2012

five Maplewood members prepped and painted the basement at the L'Arche home. We received a note from the members of the L'Arche community thanking the Maplewood UMC congregation for "your services". It was signed by Agnes, Justin, Pauline, Jimmy, and Chip with a special note from Sister Janet, the community leader, saying, "Thank you for your love and support of L'Arche!" The actual note is colorfully illustrated. Please look for it on an easel in the gathering space.



MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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