

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**MESSENGER**

MAY 2015



## Earthquake in Nepal

As many of you know, an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale struck

west of the ancient Nepali capital of Kathmandu, Pokhara, on April 25. It is the most powerful earthquake to hit the region in 81 years. This is the information we can share and that can guide you in any questions you receive:

- ¥ We continue to be in prayer.
- ¥ We have been in contact and confirmed that all of our missionaries and their families are safe.
- ¥ UMCOR is preparing a response, working through local and international partners.
- ¥ Donations to support the response to the earthquake in Nepal and other international disasters can be made through UMCOR Advance # 982450.

Checks can be made out to your local UMC and write UMCOR Advance #982450 in the memo and put in the offering plate or gifts can be made online: [https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/umcor\\_donate.html?type=1002&project=982450](https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/site/SPageNavigator/umcor_donate.html?type=1002&project=982450)

## Missouri Methodist camping opportunities are available

beginning with ages 4 (with an adult) through 12th grade through Next Generation Ministries. If children and youth from Maplewood are interested in trying out these new opportunities, please let Julia Schaffner know at 314-440-3119 or [merlinsc@att.net](mailto:merlinsc@att.net).

For more information, please visit [www.nextgenumc.org](http://www.nextgenumc.org).

*The congregation of  
Maplewood United Methodist Church  
is cordially invited,  
by the families\* of our 2015  
confirmands,  
to gather in the Fellowship Hall  
for a cake & punch reception  
immediately following  
confirmation on Sunday, May 10  
2015.*

\*We thank you for keeping this wonderful group of youth in your prayers as they explore their beliefs and prepare to make their statements of faith.

## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

It is difficult to watch and hear the news coverage of the riots in Baltimore that followed the funeral of Freddie

Gray. But this evening my heart was lifted by the photos of a row made up mostly of men standing in the street with their arms linked together, creating a human barrier between the police and the rioters. These men were there to protect people on both sides—from hurting and being hurt. Yes, there are wrongs that need to be righted in their city, and in our city as well, but violence is not what will make the wrong right.

I was also struck by the words of a Viet Nam veteran and citizen of Baltimore, Robert Valentine, who stood up to the rioters last night, urging them to go home rather than participate in the violence and looting. When Robert Valentine was interviewed on CNN he spoke of his hope for young people that was beyond living life on the streets, engaging in destructive behaviors against themselves and others. Mr. Valentine stated that the young people of his city need “meaning, purpose, and a direction.”

Yes they do! We **all** need meaning, purpose, and direction. When those elements are missing from our individual lives and from our communities, we find ourselves in trouble. As followers of Jesus we know that when we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we automatically receive meaning, purpose, and direction. We know that we are beloved children of God whose purpose and direction in life are to love God and love and care for our neighbor.

I am praying for the people of Baltimore, for all those who are hurt and angry because of injustice, and for all those who are lacking meaning, purpose, and direction in their lives. I am praying for the law enforcement officials, the political and civic leaders, and the clergy. I am praying for Rev. Willis Johnson, the pastor of Wellspring UMC in Ferguson, who will be consulting with the pastors in Baltimore as they work for peace.

I am also praying for our congregation because we have an extraordinary responsibility in our own community to reach out to people of all ages, especially young people—including those who already are part of our congregation—with the message that there is a God who loves them profoundly and deeply, who offers them a life that is whole and full, filled with purpose, meaning, and direction as well as forgiveness, peace, and strength. This Good News is way to good to keep to ourselves.

So, please pray for the people of Baltimore—especially for the young people who are not able to see the possibility of a good future for their lives. Pray for the young people in our community. Pray for this congregation, the people of Maplewood UMC that we are given hearts that yearn for others to experience the love of God we know in Jesus Christ, so that they too may know a life filled with love, peace, hope, meaning, purpose, and direction.

God’s grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Kim

choir corner

## Some 'notes' about our music

Amy Cordeal

On Sunday, May 3, 2015 our worship prelude will feature Josh Krakos playing the xylophone. For those of you who have been a part of worship recently, you are becoming accustomed to seeing Josh playing drums with the praise band.

Josh is a member at Webster First UMC and has been a part of the youth mission trips. We appreciate the addition of this talented young man to our musical offerings.

Choir – remember that we will meet through May. The last rehearsal will be on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> (and you know what else that means!)



- 1 Andrew McDonough
- 4 Madaleaze Cramer
- 8 Mike Shirar
- 10 Mike O'Laughlin
- 19 Diane Watkins
- 19 Ben Shirar
- 21 Isabella Ward
- 26 David Phelps
- 27 Charlotte Phelps
- 27 Tony Kunce



## UMM NIGHT (?) AT THE BALLPARK

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 3:15 PM

CARDS vs. KANSAS CITY ROYALS (AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPS)

All tickets are only \$15 (Regular price for these seats are \$45) and are in sections 365 and 363, down the 3rd base side in the Left field Pavilion.

THE 4 TOP SELLING CHURCHES WILL HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FIELD AND ONE LUCKY PERSON WILL THROW OUT THE 1ST PITCH.

For more information contact Rom Correnti at [UMMBall@swbell.net](mailto:UMMBall@swbell.net) or 314-631-3994

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/1/04 – Gary & Rachelle Holt

5/19 - Nina Berry

5/22/94 – Tom & Amy Cordeal

5/28/76 – Dave & Suzie Ward

5/30/64 - Jerry & Shay Blackwell



**Congratulations to Samantha Schaffner on passing her karate black belt test with flying colors on April 18th!**

## Don't forget food and paper products for Joe's Place and Weekend on Wheels.

All three major food chains have 10 for 10 sales THIS WEEK ONLY. Many items needed by these organizations are on sale. This would be a great time to pick up a few of these items and bring them to church.

## Person to Person

*Dave Phelps*

It's time for my annual post-Easter message. This year, I'm going to focus on "the leftovers," the folks who learn a song after the Sunrise Service and Men's Breakfast and then perform it during Easter Worship. It's been my good fortune to be a part of "the leftovers" for most of the time I've been a part of Maplewood UMC.

After the crucifixion, the original disciples were, in a sense, "leftovers" too. They were the only ones left of the throngs who had followed him, cheering, less than a week before (Matt. 21:8-11; Mark 11:8-10; Luke 19:36-40; John 12:12-18). It's fashionable to look down on Peter but at least he stuck around, along with "another disciple" (John 18:15 ESV); the other disciples ran away after Jesus was arrested. Only one of the twelve disciples, "the disciple whom he loved," was present at the crucifixion (John 19:26 ESV). The rest had fled.

Even after the resurrection, there was nothing left but a ragtag band of misfits who weren't wanted, except by the authorities (John 20:19). Leftovers. They were the ones who were left after everyone else fell away. Jesus had once asked the disciples, "Do you want to go away as well?" (John 6:67b ESV). And Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," (vs. 68b ESV). They had nowhere to go, no one to turn to except each other and their shared faith.

But the savior who said "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20b ESV) is the same God who led Isaiah to say in faith, "[F]ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isa. 41:10 ESV). God won't let us go, God will never abandon us.

Before his crucifixion, Jesus had told the disciples, "Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone." (John 16:32a ESV). He

knew what would happen. But he also knew his friends wouldn't remain "scattered." The Holy Spirit would come to them and empower them for the task that lay ahead of them.

The same Holy Spirit who prepared them to be disciples is ready to equip us. We are empowered "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." (Zech. 4:6b ESV). The "leftovers" became the seed for the church of which we are a part today. Jesus had told the disciples, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground." (Mark 4:26b ESV). In the parable, the Gospel is the seed but so are we. God plants us and expects us to grow and flourish.

In time, empowered by the Holy Spirit, those original "leftovers" became thousands of believers (Acts 2:41; 4:4). After he and John had healed a beggar, the religious authorities asked Peter, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (Acts 4:7b ESV). And he replied "[B]y the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . ." (vs. 10b ESV). Peter wasn't alone; the Holy Spirit was present with him; he also knew there were now thousands of other Christians who would carry on the mission of the church. Those thousands have grown into millions, including you and me, and our mission is the same.

A skillful cook like my wife, Charlotte, can turn leftovers into a delicious, creative meal. An even more skilled savior can turn "leftovers" like Peter and John, you and me, into a church, a meal fit to satisfy a hungry world. Jesus told Peter to "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17b ESV). We are called to do the same today. If we feed them in Jesus' name, we can show the risen Christ to the world.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16 ESV.)

Visit Person-2-Person on the Web at <http://person2person.faithweb.com>



Easter Sunday was a wonderful day at Maplewood UMC. We certainly experienced God's presence and powerful love as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Many thanks

are in order to many people who helped make the Holy Week and Easter services and celebrations so special:

Thank you to...

... Paige &\* Brooke Watkins, Danny Findley, Jon Schaffner, Joanne Davis, Mike Chance, and Mary & Tony Kunce for leadership in the Maundy Thursday service.

... Diane Watkins and all of her helpers for the Maundy Thursday supper.

... Tom Cordeal, Larry Schmid, and their early morning breakfast crew for a delicious Easter breakfast.

... Ray Jauregui for picking up the Easter flowers and bringing them to the church.

... Peg Chulick for the new Easter paraments.

... the Chancel Choir and the 'Leftovers,' all under the direction of Amy Cordeal, for the beautiful Easter anthems.

... Suzie Ward for coordinating most hospitable usher/greeter team.

... Hope Watkins for leading the children's Easter Egg Hunt.

To all of you who provided Easter candy or stuffed Easter Eggs.

Thank you to each of you who offered invitations to worship and who prayed for the services and for those who would be attending.

## Youth mission trip update

On Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm, there will be a mission trip discussion with youth and adults at First UMC in Webster Groves. This will include a barbeque; please bring a dish to share!

In addition to discussing details of the trip, participants (or their parents) will be filling out paperwork. Be sure to bring your medical insurance information including physician and dentist information. If you are driving a car on the trip, be sure to bring your auto insurance card and your drivers license.



We could not include the thank you for these last two people without giving away "Whose Cross Is it Anyway" - Michael Chance as Jesus and Amy Cordeal, floutist playing "The Old Rugged Cross" Thanks to all, Peg



**MAY 10TH**

**Department of Human Services**  
**Saint Louis County Older Resident**  
**Programs**

The Department of Human Services offers personalized support through the County Older Resident Programs. CORP helps make the transition of getting older a little easier by providing transportation to appointments or to the grocery store. CORP prepares wills, power-of-attorney and other legal documents. CORP also offers basic computer classes. Services are free and are available to Saint Louis County Residents ages 60 and older who are living in their own home. Call 314-615-4516 to connect to help or to learn about resources that can help you.

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**C-L-A-S-S-I-F-E-D-S**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**  
**Louis County Older Resident Programs,**  
**CORP**

Do you have a few hours a month to make a difference in the life of an older adult? You can help seniors living near you, stay in their own homes by volunteering with the County Older Resident Programs, CORP, a division of St. Louis County's Department of Human Services.

CORP needs your time and talents as a volunteer now more than ever before. Volunteers' help seniors get to doctor's appointments, call to check on their well-being, or other life-enriching activities. Volunteer opportunities are available close to your home and offer convenient hours. Call 314-615-4516 to be a part of the solution for seniors living independently today.



centenary umc

**our sister-church needs a little assistance**

Due to unforeseen circumstances they currently are without a custodian and will be for at least the next few weeks. Though their diverse congregation is growing, their number of able-body members is too small and over-extended with other ministerial responsibilities to meet current cleaning needs without asking for outside assistance. *"We are humbling ourselves and reaching out to ask for volunteer work groups to help us in our time of need. Do you have a group that would be willing to come in one Saturday over the next four weeks and partner with our congregants to clean the sanctuary, two bathrooms, and our fellowship room?"* Dates of Need: Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23

If you would like to coordinate sending a group please contact their Administrator Dianne at (314) 526-0030 or [centenaryumcstlouis@gmail.com](mailto:centenaryumcstlouis@gmail.com) If you have any questions or concerns you may also contact Associate Pastor, Katrina Drew [centenarykatrina@gmail.com](mailto:centenarykatrina@gmail.com)

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**Liston Jent enjoying a funny moment at his 80th birthday celebration.**

## Congratulations to Karen Raborn

**“All things belong to God. All praise is due. God of light please help us. A girl also deserves a good education. Princes of Peace, please keep the young girls safe. God of love, all things belong to you, Father. God of Israel, all things belong to you. “** *(This is the English translation of Yenu Bene, a song written by our own Karen Raborn.*

The Saint Louis Women’s Hope Chorale, Ensemble in Residence at Maryville University, recently presented a program at the Sheldon Theater on April 14, 2015 entitled “Jubilee” featuring traditional spirituals and music of Africa. Included in the program was a song, “Yenu Bene,” text with traditional tune written by Karen and arranged by Fred Onovwerosuoke, founder of African Musical Arts.

Karen grew up in Zambia, Africa. Her mother understood the importance of education in making opportunities for girls to achieve their potential. Walking 10 miles to school, Karen received her basic education. Her brother who was working in Quebec, Canada, as an aeronautical engineer, made it possible for her to immigrate to Canada, where she furthered her education. In 2011 Karen came to St. Louis to marry Scott Raborn. She worked and went to school graduating from Saint Louis University with a Bachelor in Social Work. Karen and Scott founded a not-for-profit “Kwasha-Kids” whose mission is to empower girls and women through education that not only benefits themselves, but their immediate family and, over time, the entire village. Since

Scott’s untimely death in 2013, Karen is carrying on the work of “Kwasha Kids” by collecting backpacks and school supplies to send or take to Zambia.



**Pictured with Karen is Fred Onovwerosuoke, founder of African Musical Arts.**



**MUMC confirmands playing a game called taps during their retreat. Also Karen is sharing items from her home country**

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](mailto:pastor@maplewoodumc.org)

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



Don't forget to bring the much needed items for the Animal Protection Association. This is a special project lead by Brooke and Paige Watkins who are asking our church to help. Lists are available at church and bring your items and leave them in the Narthex.



# MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63143



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