

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

AUGUST 2013

Pastor Kim's Letter

Dear Friends,

Last week I had the new experience of writing an application for a grant, which would be used toward children's ministry at Maplewood UMC. Until last week, I had always wondered why it is that some organizations hire people to write a grants for them. Now, I think I know. The process was pretty involved, to say the least.

From providing ideas to doing research on the costs of specific items to proofreading the final copy, Kyle Kranes, Lynn Page, Ray Jauregui, Larry Schmid, Jerry and Shay Blackwell, Jan Harsh, Steve Shirar, and Stacey Schwab, all contributed to getting this grant application written and submitted. My sons, Ben and Chris, were especially patient with the process as well.

Part of the application included a "narrative summary" which described the congregation and the particular project which is to be funded. The more time I spent writing and remembering the story of what God has done and is doing at Maplewood United Methodist Church, the more excited and grateful I became as I wrote. It was such a privilege to share this congregation's the story! I want to share some of what was written so you can celebrate too!

I hope you are as blessed to read as I was to write about the Children's Ministry at Maplewood UMC. Here is part of what was submitted.

"As the Maplewood UMC congregation has grown numerically, we have been blessed with a proportionally large number of children. Currently, there are at least twenty-seven children, ranging in age from a few months to eighth grade who are a regular part of the life of the church. In order to be faithful to our commitment to the promise to do all that is in our power to nurture these children in the

life of Christian faith we continually seek ways to improve and develop our ministry with children.

For years the congregation has supported ministry to children by providing curriculum, Bibles, and even generous summer camp scholarships from the general church budget. Our children are included in all aspects of church life at an age appropriate level. One current emphasis in our Sunday school program is to intentionally engage the children in service to the community and the congregation. The children have been invited to serve in ways that range from picking up trash in the neighborhood, collecting money for "Imagine No Malaria", to actively and intentionally praying for needs in the congregation.

Two years ago when our relatively small congregation was blessed with the privilege of baptizing six babies/toddlers in one year, we realized that we needed to honor this gift of so many children in our congregation by increasing our efforts to expand and improve our ministry with children. It became readily apparent that the most urgent need was to make our Sunday school classes more age appropriate. A one room Sunday school which included children from pre-school to junior high ages was simply not good enough!

So, in the fall of 2012 we started a pre-school Sunday school class. In January of 2013 we developed a middle school Sunday school class. This coming fall we hope to divide our elementary group once again by creating a separate class for 4th and 5th graders. We have seen Sunday school attendance increase, particularly at the middle school level, because we now offer more age appropriate classes.

The impending addition of the preschool class in fall of 2012 inspired a major undertaking which involved the repurposing and redecorating of several classrooms in the education wing of the church building. The rooms now used for nursery care, pre-school Sunday school, and elementary Sunday school were cleaned and re-painted from top to bottom. Both adults and children were engaged in a phenomenal effort during a very hot summer to transform these rooms.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

for all the children & teachers

returning to school

Sunday, August 11 during morning worship



AUGUST

2	Jon Schwab
3	Ray Jauregui
5	Michael Chance
5	John Rutledge
6	Rachel Ward
6	Suzie Ward
7	Jonathan Schaffner
10	Mike Lodholz
12	Julia Schaffner
20	Colette Cummings
24	Laura Housewright
28	Niki Lodholz

ANNIVERSARIES

8/2/02	– Robert & Ronaleaze Chandler
8/12/02	– Mark & Lisa Watkins
8/2/02	– Robert & Ronaleaze Chandler
8/24/57	– Wayne & Elaine Kidwell
8/25/07	– Amy & Johnny Kampis

YOU are invited to stay after church ...

... on Sunday, August 25th for a 'Thank You' meal. This meal will be prepared by our youth mission team in appreciation for the amazing spiritual and financial support from this faithful congregation. Be ready to enjoy a wonderful West Virginia BBQ meal, free of charge, served by a very appreciative youth mission team.

Please take time to let the youth know if you plan to attend by signing up on the communication card or at the easel in the gathering space behind the sanctuary

'Concert For A Cause' set for Wednesday, August 28.

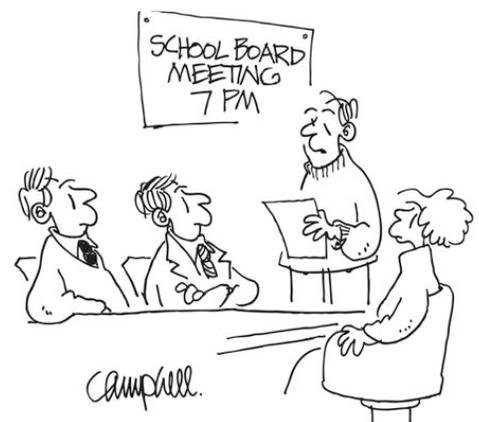
The Maplewood Community Betterment Foundation and Maplewood UMC will sponsor the 'Concert For A Cause' on Wednesday, August 28 – 6 to 8 p.m. at Ryan Hummert Park.

For the second year, concertgoers are asked to bring three or more food items for Weekend on Wheels, sponsored by the MRH School District. Donors will receive a free snow cone provided by Maplewood UMC.

The concert will feature the *Blue Devil's Rhythm and Blues Band* of MRH. Weekend on Wheels is where our food collected on the first Sunday of the month (Feed and Be Fed) is donated. Bring your lawn chair, wear the SERVE2013 t-shirts and enjoy a fun evening of music.



Worship time with our children



"The driver education teacher requests an exemption from the ban on prayer during school-sponsored activities."



in service to our community, Sept. 7 & 21

We are EXCITED about the plans for SERVE2013 September 7th.

God has truly blessed us the past two years and we hope SERVE2013 will bring us even more opportunities to be God's hands and feet at work in the world. Listed below is a tentative schedule of events.

Saturday, September 7th

"Second Time Around Shop" open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

L'Arche - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Casserole Preparation for Shalom House in church kitchen. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thank you Donna Reynolds for heading this up.

Work at homes in the Community - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The City of Maplewood has given us several names of folks in the community who could use some help. We will continue to work to get this organized. Several firefighters from the city have expressed an interest in helping.

MUMC Lawn Party - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Lawn Party on the sidewalk with an invitation to all our neighbors. We will serve hot dogs, chips, drinks and snow cones. There will be music and a few surprises. We also will be bagging beans and rice for Kingdom House.

Sunday, September 8th - SERVE2013 Celebration with "Dust and Ashes"

Saturday, September 21 - Assist with Mosaic 5K Run at MRH Senior High Track

Please look over the list to see where you would be interested in helping and **sign up to work** in the back of the church or on the communication sheets.

Jan Harsh

First Graders! You are welcome!

At Maplewood UMC when a young person enters first grade they are just too grown up to go to child care during worship! Sunday, August 11 will be the last time our newest first graders stay in the nursery during the entire worship service. They will have a "growing up" celebration in the nursery during worship on that day.

On Sunday, August 18 the new first graders are encouraged to stay with family or friends in the sanctuary during the entire service. To assist with the transition, we will be putting our new children's busy bags into service on that Sunday. Also, our wonderful nursery care-givers, Brittany and Nickey, expect that some first graders might need to work up to staying the full hour during worship. Through mid-September, new first graders who need a break toward the end of worship will be accommodated in the nursery.

children's prayer project.

And Jesus called the little children to him

For the past few months our children have been engaged in a service project on the first Sunday of each month. In July the children began to serve the congregation by praying for specific prayer needs. The containers affixed to the end of some of the pews in the sanctuary contain colorful slips of paper which are for writing prayer requests for our children. These prayer requests can be placed in the offering plate during worship and will be given to the children the following Sunday. Stop by the elementary Sunday school room to see the growing prayer chain. We are blessed to have our children praying for us!



District Charge Conference is on Sunday, August 25 at Kirkwood UMC.

Anyone from the congregation is welcome to take part. If you are interested in a particular workshop, please email Sally Hoener, the Administrative Assistant for the Gateway Central District at shoener@gatewaydistricts.org, to make a reservation.

- 2:30 – Registration, Refreshments and Fellowship
 - 3:00 – Workshops
 - Lay Leadership Development – Rev. Kim Jenne
 - Starting and Maintaining Small Groups – Rev. Laura Taylor
 - Social Media – Ryan Hebel
 - Lay Servant/Speaking – Jeff Fothergill
 - S/PPRC – Smart Goals – Rev. Bob Farr
 - 4:00 – District Conference
 - Budget and Nominations approval
 - Ministry by the Numbers – Rev. Matt Miofsky
 - 501 Creative – Maryanne Deursch
-

2nd Time Around Shoppe

First Saturday of the month help is needed

The Second Time Around Shop needs assistance (in the form of warm bodies) to be open on the first Sat. of each month*. If you are interested in this outreach, give Shay Blackwell a call at 314-822-4719.

In an effort to make it more convenient for folks to give a part of their Saturday for Shoppe coverage, the day has been split into 2 shifts: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. By being there by 8:30 a.m., this allows for putting signs up and getting out the money for change and getting everything set to open the shop at 9 a.m. Two people are needed for each shift.

*** Being open on Saturday has permitted us to serve a part of our community which cannot be here on Thursdays.**



choir corner

Choir people, come together, let your notes soar

Choir practice will begin Wednesday, September 4th on the 3rd floor. We hope to see everyone back, and newcomers are welcome. We're in special need of sopranos, and we don't expect you to sing real high, just a bit higher than the alto section. We're a fun group to hang with, learn some great songs together and be inspired. Come check us out on Sept. 4th!! h, at 7:00 pm, in the Choir Room

Thank you to the folks who provide special music during the summer. It is a joy to be a part of the music at MUMC. I am always amazed at the talent and spirit of those I am privileged to work with. **Amy**



Thanks for all the special music this summer while the choir was on summer break.

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

On a recent Sunday, my wife, Charlotte, and I were listening to the radio after church. There was a program about the brain and a woman was talking about how memory works. At one point, she mentioned reading a document and finding "typos or infelicities". "Infelicities?" I wondered. When I read something I've written, I might see plenty of typos but I don't see "infelicities." I might see bad writing, poor grammar, or just plain mistakes. But I don't see "infelicities." The dictionary defines "infelicity" as "something (as a word or phrase) that is infelicitous." And "infelicitous" as something "not appropriate or well-timed, . . . awkward, or unfortunate." In other words, it's a way of sugar coating a mistake or something not done especially well.

It's simple human nature. "To err is human," but, as late vice president Hubert Humphrey said, "To blame someone else is politics." Our mistakes, no matter what they are, are minor or someone else's fault. They're not real mistakes; they're "infelicities."

Imagine the Lord's Prayer changed to reflect how we really think about our mistakes: "And forgive us our infelicities as we forgive those who are infelicitous toward us."

We don't like to talk about "trespasses" or "debts" or "sin," at least unless it's someone else's.

Then it's fair game. But Jesus said that's not the way to be. "Judge not, that you be not judged. . . . Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" (Matt. 7:1 & 3 ESV).

After the plague of hail, the seventh plague (Exod. 9:13-35), Pharaoh said to Moses, ". . . I have sinned; the Lord is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong." (vs. 9:27b ESV). It took him seven plagues--blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, and finally hail (7:14-9:35)--but as soon as the hail stopped he ". . . sinned yet again and hardened his heart," (vs. 34b ESV). And after the next plague, locusts (10:1-20), he said it again (10:16). He was no different from us today. Public figures, from performers to politicians, commit all manner of acts, from dumb to outrageous to criminal, and swear they will "never do it again." And usually, even while

they're apologizing, they're either doing whatever it is or thinking about doing it. The news is filled with examples and I'm sure you can think of at least as many as I can.

The Psalmist wrote, "Put not your trust in princes, / in a son of man in whom there is no salvation." (Psa. 146:3 ESV). People--even the best of us--will let you down. And Paul confessed to the Christians in Rome, ". . . I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out." (Rom. 7:18b ESV). We aren't able to save ourselves. We're not even able to stop sinning on our own. But we can have our sins forgiven.

The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) is an example for us. After he "came to himself" (vs. 17a ESV), the words out of his mouth when he stood before his father were "'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'" (vs. 21b ESV). He knew what it meant to sin. And, thanks to his father, he learned what it meant to be forgiven (vs. 22-24). The prophet Micah wrote, "I will bear the indignation of the Lord / because I have sinned against him," (Mic. 7:9a ESV).

Sounds pretty familiar, doesn't it? But here's the rest of the verse: "until he pleads my cause / and executes judgment for me. / He will bring me out to the light; / I shall look upon his vindication." (vs. 9b ESV). Micah had sinned, just like you and me. But he had faith that God would "plead [his] cause." God will "bring [us] out to the light" too.

The best way we can show that we are forgiven is not to keep sinning and asking forgiveness but to live in the light into which God has brought us. John wrote, "Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling." (1 John 2:10 ESV). If we have God's love in us, God will help us keep from stumbling, and others will see that we "abide in the light."

"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested . . . through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." (Rom. 3:21a,22b-25a ESV.)

**"To err is human,"
to blame someone
else is politics."
Our mistakes, no
matter what they
are, are minor or
someone else's
fault.**

L'ARCHE ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

August 17 ----- 1:30-3:30 PM

at L'Arche St, Louis
290 Marshall Avenue
Maplewood, MO

Join the fun and games - all free!

ALL ARE WELCOME

bits 'n' pieces

Here's a few updates about the family

* **Congratulations to Tami Collins** on her Graduation/Pinning in Deaf Communication Studies, Interpreter Education Program. Tami was named the Outstanding DCS/IEP Student, class of 2013. The award is based on cumulative grade point average and commitment to interpreting and to the deaf community.

* **and here's a current address for**

Ray Norris

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services
Mary, Queen and Mother Center
Room 222
7601 Watson Road
Saint Louis, MO 63119

The center's phone number is 314-961-8000. We don't think Ray is using his cell phone any more

Mouths of Babes.

Here it is – another way to reach out in God's world, in our community

"Mouths of Babes" is a cooking class for young mothers led by Parents as Teachers Educator, Melanie West. Once a month the young women in the class get together to assemble freezer meals in one of the school's kitchens. As they learn about cooking and nutrition, the young women also have the opportunity to talk with other Moms.

Several women from our congregation will be assisting with a cooking class (mouths of babes) for young mothers. Please hold these women and the class in your prayers. If you are interested in being part of this helping ministry, or in helping with food preparation prior to the class (men and women can help with prep!) please contact Pastor Kim Shay Blackwell (shaybwell@sbcglobal.net). Linda Kettmann is busy making aprons for the moms' first class in September. Thank you, Linda!

The Best Seat in the House...That's what we want to offer to our guests when they arrive the first time at Maplewood UMC!

In most places the "best seat in the house" is near the front and center where all the action is---the fifty-yard line at the football game, right behind home plate at the baseball game, or a few rows back from center stage at the theater. But at church things are different. The best seat in the house for first time guests is in the back of the sanctuary, usually as close to the door as you can get.

A simple way to express radical hospitality to our first time guests is to keep the back rows open for our first time guests. So, the next time you come to worship, consider moving up a row or two and a little further away from the door so that we have room for new folks. It's a small change which can make a big difference for someone who is seeking a place to worship.

It never seems to be quite enough, but ...

Thanks to two Skips for taking care of the church lawn: **Skip Watkins** for lawn mowing and **Skip Reynolds** for maintaining the flower garden area and trimming.

Thank you to **Rona Chandler** for providing an special service project for the children during worship on August 4!

Thanks to **Mark Watkins** and **Jerry Blackwell** for taking care of Video and Sound while Ray and Tony were on vacation.

Thank you, **Kyle Kranes**, for sharing a great message while Pastor Kim was on vacation!



This year's yellow box mission team



Michael cranking up ceiling sheets of drywall.

Drywall, Drywall, Drywall and a little insulation

A report from the adult mission trip team: the trip was a great success! It can be summed up in about 5 pictures of putting up insulation, carrying drywall, measuring drywall, cutting drywall and screwing in drywall. Oops - and ONE electrical "thing".

Piedmont, MO, where they had flooding in 2008 and 2011, was our destination. Volunteers in Mission (VIM) working with Catholic Charities has build 4 new homes to replace flood damaged homes. These are built on higher ground to prevent future flood damage.

Mike Lodholz, Steve Kettmann, Michael Chance and Jerry Blackwell were able to completely insulate the home and drywall all but the bathroom and utility room during the 5 days. There are many funny stories to share about our stay in Piedmont; be sure to ask!

Thanks to this church family for their support, food (oh yeah!) and prayers: these all made the trip a success.



The home the team worked in



Mike and Steve cutting drywall.

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



Jerry working under the direction of Mike Lodholz on an electrical box.

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



Steve fastening ceiling drywall



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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



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