

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2013



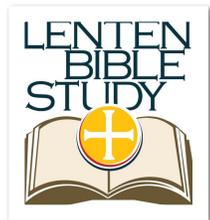
ash wednesday is near

“Eat when you arrive” ...

... are the instructions for the Ash Wednesday soup/salad supper. This

meal will be ready by 6 PM, Wednesday, February 13. Food will be served until just before worship which begins in the sanctuary at 7 PM.

Be sure to sign up on the communication card during worship this Sunday (Feb. 10) if you plan to attend AND if you are willing to help with the meal by setting up, cleaning up, or providing food.



All Church Lenten Study small group gathering days and times are scheduled

Sunday mornings--9:45a.m. on Feb. 17
(leadership to be determined)

Tuesday evenings--7p.m. Beginning Feb. 19
(led by Dennis Collins & Michael Chance)

Wednesday mornings--at 10a.m. beginning Feb. 13
(Men's Group led by John Rutledge and Rev. Wayne Kidwell)
(Women's Group led by Kim Shirar and Elaine Kidwell)

Thursday evenings--at 7p.m. beginning on Feb. 14
(led by Jan Harsh and Suzanne Thompson)

Saturday morning--at 8a.m. beginning on Feb. 16
(led by Steve Shirar and Larry Schmid)

Adopt-an-Apportionment Sunday is February 10th

We ask that you would prayerfully consider participating in our 2013 Adopt-An-Apportionment campaign as we strive for another year of making a big difference in the lives of others, both here and around the globe.

Being a "connectional" church, we participate along with our fellow UM churches in financially supporting ministries and programs at both the district and conference level. We also support a variety of "vital ministries" which include organizations that are local, national, and international.

We are very proud that Maplewood UMC has paid 100% of its conference and district apportionments for the last 6 years. This could not have happened without the generous support of our congregation and the "above and beyond" giving many of you have done each year.



Tami and Tasha 'signing' during worship.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I wrote the year-end giving letter for 2012 I looked back at what has happened at Maplewood UMC in 2012. The answer in short is...A LOT!

We have welcomed new people into our congregation and said goodbye to others. We have passed out water on the street, thrown a lawn party, sent a mission team to Northwest Missouri, supported the Mosaic Services Fun Run, prepared meals for Joe's place, provided meals and transportation for folks who are sick and folks who are in grief. We have gathered in small groups for study and prayer and launched a Sunday school class for preschoolers and a Sunday school class for middle school-aged youth.

In the past year just inside our building nearly every closet and storage area has been cleaned out and rearranged. Five rooms in the education wing have been painted from top to bottom, rearranged, and prepared for different kinds of ministry. The Fellowship Hall floor has been retiled and its walls have been prepped and skimmed with a new coat of plaster. And we replaced the boiler.

We have hosted Vacation Bible School, Build A Gift, and sponsored a "Concert for a Cause" to collect food for families in the Maplewood Richmond Heights school district. We have shared financial gifts with local, national, and international ministries.

Each week we have engaged in lively worship which is made possible through the amazing faithfulness of folks who serve as liturgists, singers, instrumentalists, sound and video technicians, ushers, greeters, and hospitality table hosts and hostesses. I believe through this worship folks have experienced God's love and powerful presence in their lives.

Our congregation has grown in average worship attendance by just under seven percent this year. We have grown in stewardship practices as well as

participation in hands on mission and service and small group ministry.

As I look back at the year I find myself thinking "Whoa!" in the sense that God has blessed us in so very many ways. I also think "Whoa!" in the sense that it is time to rest and refuel for a while.

During Lent (the six weeks leading up to Easter) for the past several years, the Maplewood UMC congregation has chosen to minimize as many of our meetings and extra activities as possible so that we can focus on our relationship with God and others. We ask that people make these three commitments during Lent:

- 1. Pray every day.**
- 2. Attend worship every Sunday.**
- 3. Take part in a weekly small group. (See the listing of small group days and times later in this newsletter.)**

This year we will be reading and discussing the Gospel of Luke in our small groups. The study book and a reading guide are available in the gathering space behind the sanctuary. This is the first time in the past five years that we have focused our attention on reading one book of the Bible all together. The decision to do was in response to the request made by some of last year's Lenten study groups.

Lent is a time when we slow way down and very deliberately see make sure that our souls are fed. Yes, it's a change of pace. Yes, it requires commitment. And yes, it will be absolutely worth the effort. I have no doubt that each of us will be blessed beyond our expectations.

I hope you will join in this Lenten journey. As always, if you have any questions please let me know.

God's grace, peace, and joy be with you,

Pastor Kim

time for dinner

Here's a unique way to serve our community

Folks from MUMC will gather on Tuesday, Feb. 26, to prepare nutritious meals for the residents of 'Joe's Place'*. *Time for Dinner*, 8506 Manchester in Brentwood, is a full service dinner preparation site; we will find all ingredients and assembly instructions and will mix and package 15 meals to be placed in the freezer for weekday preparation as needed.

There are two ways you can support this endeavor. (1) We need 8-10 volunteers to work on the 26 to assemble the meals. (2) You can donate dollars to help offset the cost of the meals (you can place a donation in the Sunday offering marked "Time for Dinner") If you choose door #1, be sure to contact Julie Schaffner at merlinsc@att.net or 314-440-3119; space is limited!

If you are volunteering and would like to add on meals to stock your own freezer, let Julia know and she will provide further directions. ALL meals are PRE-ORDERED so advance notice is needed.

*This nationally recognized program provides a safe, nurturing environment during the school year for boys in the MRH School District who are affected by homelessness.



FEBRUARY

- 2 Rachelle Douglas-Holt
- 6 Pascale Perraudin
- 14 Rona Chandler
- 17 Cory Blackwell
- 21 Henry Stotler
- 25 Kathy Schmid
- 25 Bryon Stone

New church calendar available on website

We now have an online church calendar showing church event schedules. Everyone has access to this calendar from the church website: www.maplewoodumc.org. Just click on 'calendar' on the top header for the webpage. If you click on an event, more information about the event appears. You also have the capability of forwarding that event to a friend or someone who you think might enjoy participating.

Here's an especially neat feature of the this calendar. You can use the web address below in the calendar portion of your phone setup and all the events of the church will automatically appear as a part of your phone's calendar.

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/ical/73941849/public.ics?tz=88>



Mike Plonka clearing off what mother nature left for us last Sunday....thanks Mike!



We Are on Facebook....

just go to....
<http://www.facebook.com/mumcstl> and like us.

Here's an update from the 2012 Mission Trip

Just a few weeks ago we received the word that Fred's house was just one step from being completed! The last step – plumbing – was scheduled for "any day now." YEA!!

For folks interested in participating in this summer's work adventure, the date set is July 29,30,30 and August 1 & 2. We have sent out queries requesting information about where our services might be needed and will share that additional information with you when it is available.

If you think you may be interested in being a part of this summer's work group, send that information in an email to Shay Blackwell at shaybwell@sbcglobal.net. We will add you to our info-loop.

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

Last month, St. Louis Cardinals baseball fans mourned the passing of "Stan the Man" Musial at the age of 92. Born in Donora, Pennsylvania in 1920, the son of Polish and Czech immigrants, Musial signed with the Cardinals in 1938 and, except for a stint in the US Navy during WWII, spent his entire career with the team, an astounding 22 seasons. In 1940, he married his high school sweetheart Lillian "Lil" Labash, also from Donora, whom he had known since he was 15. They were married until her death in 2012, nearly 72 years. Musial acquired the nickname "Stan the Man" in 1946. He retired in 1963 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1969. Musial was an All-Star twenty four times, MVP three times, and won three World Series. Over the course of his career, he had 3,630 hits, the fourth best record of all time. In February, 2011, President Barack Obama presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

In the days following Musial's death, accolades poured in from countless sports figures. During the tributes, the question arose as to why "Stan the Man" Musial, not merely a great St. Louis Cardinal but one of the greatest baseball players in the history of the game, wasn't more famous. Some suggested that it was because he wasn't flashy like Mickey Mantle or Willie Mays, hadn't married a movie star like Joe DiMaggio, or hadn't been involved in scandal like many other players before and since. He had simply been an extraordinary, consistent player and, from most accounts, a good and decent human being.

But some also speculated that he wasn't more famous simply because he spent his entire career in St. Louis, rather than someplace better known and more respected such as Boston, Chicago, or Los Angeles. St. Louis is certainly an under-appreciated city that doesn't receive nearly the respect it deserves. And as those of us who live in the St. Louis area know, it's also a city with a serious inferiority complex.

In John's gospel, we're told that after Philip met Jesus he went to his brother Nathanael and said, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth,

the son of Joseph." (John 1:45b ESV). But Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (vs. 46b). Philip simply answered, "Come and see." (vs. 46c). You can almost hear people today asking, "Can anything good come out of St. Louis?" Many people, at least many people who aren't from St. Louis, might say "No."

On a personal level, we might ask "Can anything good come out of me?" Frankly, no. Paul wrote to the Romans, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out." (Rom. 7:18 ESV). We're sinners. Only the indwelling of Jesus of Nazareth, the son of God, can make us truly good. We can be kind, generous, successful and even famous but true "goodness" comes from God. Paul told the

Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal. 2:20a ESV).

Something—someone—good came out of Nazareth because God put something good in it. God can do that for us too.

He had simply been an extraordinary, consistent player and, from most accounts, a good and decent human being.

We don't know for certain why Nathanael asked the question he did but we can speculate. Vincent's Word Studies, by Marvin R. Vincent, says that "Contrary to the popular explanation, there is no evidence that Nazareth was worse than other places, . . . It was a proverb, however, that no prophet was to come from Galilee (John 7:52)." Whatever the reason, Philip's response was simple and straightforward: "Come and see." This should be our response as well: "Come and see." See God present in our lives and in our church. See God at work in our community. Nathanael did "come and see" and both he and his brother Philip became Jesus' disciples. We can make disciples too. We only have to invite them to "Come and see."

"The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'" (John 1:43-46 ESV).

Church camp signup is OPEN!

If you are interested, here are some things you need to do:

1. Check out www.mocamps.org to learn about camping opportunities.
2. Get in touch with Julia Schaffner (merlinsc@att.net) if you want to coordinate dates and rides with other kids from Maplewood UMC.
3. The Administrative Council has committed funds to assist with camp fees. Again, let Julia know your plans so that arrangements for camp scholarships can be made.

If you have questions, it's best to talk to the kids who went last year: Samantha Schaffner, Jon Schaffner, Noah Buxton, Paige Watkins, Brooke Watkins, and Maggie Pole.

We want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to Ray Jauregui, Larry Schmid and Jerry Blackwell for painting the primer coat on the Fellowship Hall Walls!....both rooms. It looks great!

... to Ray Jauregui (again!) for all the time and attention he has given toward making sure that the church heating system is functioning properly. The pipes in the boiler room have been showing their age! Thank you, Ray, for checking up on them and following up with the repair folks.

... to all the parents and grandparents who took part in the Parent Meeting on February 27!

... to Tom and Amy Cordeal and Larry Schmid for preparing a wonderful lunch for our Guest Gathering a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to Mary Downing for organizing the event. Thank you most of all to the folks who attended! We are thrilled to welcome you as part of Maplewood UMC!

... to Steve Shirar & Bryon Stone for teaching the new Middle School Sunday School class during its first month ... and to Pastor Kim, Jerry Blackwell, Lynn Page, Dorleta Lodholz, and Courtney Stotler who will "teach this class through to the summer."

Youth mission trip opportunity has come our way

The Maplewood UMC Youth have been invited to take part in a mission trip with the youth from First United Methodist Church in Webster Groves. The dates for the trip are June 8-15. The youth and adult chaperones will travel to West Virginia and work under the direction and with the support of NextStep, a Christian ministry which specializes in leading youth mission trips.

The cost of the trip is \$399 plus approximately \$100 in travel expenses. Several fundraisers are planned to help pay for the trip. Youth participants must be have completed sixth grade and may be no older than having graduated from 12th grade the spring before the trip.

So far three youth from Maplewood UMC and one friend have committed to taking part in the trip. If you have any questions or if you are interested in serving as an adult sponsor, please let Pastor Kim know. You will be placed in contact with the trip leaders.

anger management classes

And the church said 'amen'

Shay Blackwell and Mary Downing have been leading an anger management class since early January. This quiet ministry has been supported by folks in the congregation who have supplied meals for the students. The course led by Shay and Mary has been certified by the court system. Men and women who are recently paroled can fulfill their requirement for an anger management course. Word is getting out that anger management courses are offered at Maplewood UMC. There are eight participants signed up to take the next course. Past participants have shared with their social workers that the folks who lead anger management at Maplewood UMC "treat us like real people." The anger management classes spring from our belief that indeed God is a God of change and second chances. Please pray for Shay, Mary, and for their students who are working hard to change old patterns.

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



Our first "Guest Gathering" after worship. The event gave everyone a chance to get to know each other better.



Parents and grandparents meeting with Pastor Kim to discuss the needs and future of our children and youth ministry.



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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