

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2013



## ...is November 17

Sunday, November 17 will be a special day in the life of the congregation as we focus on stewardship during worship. After worship on that day everyone is invited to attend a catered luncheon in fellowship hall which is provided by the church. **Reservation cards will be available this Sunday so that you can let us know whether or not you plan to attend...if we do not have a card from you, you will be receiving a phone call.**

Our consecration Sunday speaker for 2013 is Reverend Robyn Miller, lead pastor at Church of The Shepherd, a United Methodist Church in St. Charles, MO. Robyn was selected to be the senior preacher in her graduating class at Eden Theological Seminary and has preached for the Missouri Annual Conference. We will be blessed through her message on that morning.



November 10 "A Disciple's Path: Witness"

November 17 Consecration Sunday

November 24 "Blessed and Grateful"

### thanksgiving approaches.

## There is a turkey in the back of MUMC...

... and he already is plucked nearly bare! He made his initial 2013 preparation for Thanksgiving appearance on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> fully decked with suggestions for food to be brought to church to provide Thanksgiving for eight family units on November 28<sup>th</sup>. By the time most folks had headed home, most of his decorative "feathers" had made their way into pockets and purses to be part of a trip to the grocery store

IT IS NOT TOO LATE ... friend turkey still has a few feathers to be plucked and you have two Sundays to get your foodstuffs returned to MUMC for the great food packup and delivery day. Be sure you do not miss out on this special opportunity to share Thanksgiving dinner with a family you do not know but whom God can love through you and your gifts of food.

Donna & Skip Reynolds, Ebony Jones and Shay Blackwell are working together to implement this project but it is taking every one of you to make it happen. This year we have two families who cannot cook their turkey and Larry Schmid has agreed to take care of this. What a church we have – and what an awesome God we serve.



Elaine Kidwell plucking a turkey feather labeled with a food item needed for a Thanksgiving basket.



### **Build-A-Gift**

Saturday, December 7, 2013  
10:00 A.M. to NOON

We will open the church to children from the age of 3 to 12 to come and make hand crafted gifts for family members. We provide the instructions, materials, and assistance with making the crafts. This is an “all hands on deck” event for our congregation so mark your calendar and start praying now for the event and for how you might participate. If you know how you would like to take part in Build-A-Gift, please sign up at the easel in the back of the church.

If you have questions contact Hope Watkins at [kevinhope@msn.com](mailto:kevinhope@msn.com) or 636-207-1496.  
Supply list will be coming soon!!!



**Pastor Kim welcoming Kyle Kranes, the newest member of Maplewood UMC**



### **NOVEMBER**

- 1 Terrell Carter
- 5 Scott Cunningham
- 7 Bud Yowell
- 8 Bill Housewright
- 9 Bob Harsh
- 9 Andrea White
- 12 Lisa Watkins
- 12 Emmit Jordan
- 21 Jonah Findley
- 25 Chris Shirar
- 27 Charles (Skip) Reynolds
- 28 Robbie Chandler
- 29 Helen Love

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 11/1/57 – John & Ann Rutledge
- 11/18/62 – Bob & Jan Harsh
- 11/20/71 – Chuck & Diane Hatcher
- 11/29/69 – Skip & Diane Watkins

### **Liturgist for November and December**

- November 10- Shay Blackwell
- November 17- Nancy Cunningham
- November 24- Tom Cordeal

- December 1- Bryon Stone
- December 8- Mary Downing
- December 15- Kevin Watkins
- December 22- Dave Kunce
- December 29-Brent Ford

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am so very grateful for all those who have participated in and led the small groups as we delved into "A Disciple's Path" this fall. I am grateful also for the prayers that have been lifted up for the small groups and for Sunday worship!

In worship and small groups we have talked about the spiritual practices which are described in our study material as "non-negotiables" in the life of discipleship: prayer, meditation on Scripture, presence in both worship and small groups, giving, serving, and witness. These spiritual practices serve to enrich our relationship with God and with others. They help us maintain our spiritual health and vitality just as we engage in practices such as maintaining a balanced, healthy diet, drinking plenty of water, exercising, getting adequate rest, and employing good safety habits like wearing your seat belt or bike helmet in order to maintain our physical health and vitality.

A friend of mine who sometimes sees a personal trainer told me that when her training group got started, the trainer encouraged her group of "trainees" to avoid trying to change everything about their lifestyles all at once. Instead, she encouraged them to choose *just one thing* to focus on changing.

So, as you have listened, read, studied, and prayed, where is it that you have felt God nudging you to do something differently in your spiritual practices? Is there *just one thing* that you are willing to do differently? Could that change be to start reading your Bible? Or to agree to take part in a small group (even to form one that suits your interest)? Are you being nudged by God to commit to a prayer time each day or to evaluate where you are with giving or serving and then take another step in that area? Could it be that you are called to invite someone to worship with you? Is God speaking to your heart, encouraging you to take some time to think about what your Christian faith means to you so that when someone asks, you can tell them?

I don't know exactly what step God is urging you to take on the path of discipleship. I do

know that I am committed to doing all that is in my power to support and encourage you on that journey. Please know that I am committed to praying for you. I hope you will let me know if there are other ways in which I can support and encourage you as you take the next step on the discipleship path. It would be my privilege to do so.

God's grace, peace, and joy be with us as we travel together.

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Kim*

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### 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 11/26 when we'll rehearse on Tuesday).. 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:

Wednesday 13th - 7:00pm,  
Wednesday 11/20/12 - 7:00pm  
Tuesday 11/26/12 - 7:00pm



**Our children singing during worship in October**

## Person to Person

*Dave Phelps*

A new restaurant opened near our church a few weeks ago. While the owners of the restaurant were doing whatever they needed to do to get it ready, there was a sign on the roof announcing the impending opening. One afternoon, my wife, Charlotte, and I were leaving church and were approaching the restaurant location. From my vantage point on the passenger's side of my wife's Jeep, I could only see part of the sign: "asty Subs." Clearly, I wasn't seeing the whole word. I wondered out loud what the partially obscured word might be: "Hasty Subs?" Sandwiches served in a hurry? "Tasty Subs?" Sandwiches that are especially delicious? "Pasty Subs?" Sandwiches on extremely white or undercooked bread? "Yeasty Subs?" Sandwiches on bread made with extra leaven? "Nasty Subs?" Sandwiches with disgusting ingredients? Admittedly, that last one sounded especially unlikely.

Of course, the actual word was "Toasty," as in "Toasty Subs." Toasted sandwiches have become something of a fad during the last few years and it seems as if every sandwich chain offers them. And it wasn't really that difficult to figure out what the missing word was from context, I was simply being silly (and annoying, according to my wife). But it would have been nice to know the missing word instead of guessing.

In the same way, we should be able to fill in the "missing" parts when we are in a situation where we need to explain our faith. Most people today know at least bits and pieces of the Gospel message, like the partial sandwich sign. It's up to us to "fill in the blanks." As most of you know, our church has been participating in a small group study called "A Disciple's Path." The study is designed to help us understand what United Methodists believe. But beyond making us better Methodists, it should also be helping us become better Christians and preparing us to do a better job of sharing and explaining our faith. It's nice to be able to expound about prevention, justifying, and sanctifying grace, or why United Methodists baptize infants, but it's vital to be able to explain the Christian faith in terms people can understand.

Paul wrote to his young friend, Timothy, to "Be ready in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2a NKJV) to preach the gospel. He told his other friend, Titus, "Remind [the early disciples] to be . . . ready for every good work," (Tit. 3:1 NKJV). Most of us aren't preachers like Timothy or Titus but sharing the gospel is everyone's job. We can prepare for witnessing, as with everything else in Christian life, by praying. Another valuable practice is to know your Bible. You don't have to memorize it but it helps to know at least a few select verses.

Some people like to start with John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV). Personally, I like Romans 3:23: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (NKJV). For me, it's the very heart of the gospel. I don't just go to church for the preaching or the singing or the people, although all three are excellent at Maplewood UMC. I go because, at heart, I'm a sinner seeking grace and I need to be surrounded by a community of other

sinners who are also seeking grace.

But regardless of where you start, start somewhere, with a verse of scripture, a personal experience or anything else the Spirit can use.

My "testimony" isn't dramatic. I don't have a story of addiction or prison, or a life of regrets. I'm just a regular guy who has recognized his need for a savior, and I want to share the good

news of that savior. Your story doesn't have to be dramatic either. Quite frankly, I'll confess that I never seem to find opportunities to share my faith. But I'd like to think I'm better prepared now and that I'll be even better prepared when the study is completed. Then we can all continue on "A Disciple's Path" together.

"And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. 'And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.' But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed." (1 Pet. 3:13-16 NKJV).

**It's up to  
us to fill  
in the  
blanks.**

## THANK YOU to ...

... Peg Chulick for her great leadership of the 2014 Ministry Planning session!



... everyone who participated in that planning session on a beautiful fall afternoon and evening.

... Kevin Watkins for coordinating and supervising many hours of work done (after your regular working hours) to repair and upgrade the heating system! Thank you!

... Jason Watkins, Ray Jauregui, and Jerry Blackwell who also worked with on the heating system as well.

... Shay & Jerry Blackwell, Donna \* Skip Reynolds, and Ebony Jones for helping us with the Thanksgiving basket ministry!

... Maplewood UMC for the wonderful casseroles you prepared for Shalom House! They will go a long way, and they sounded delicious. Volunteers such as yourselves truly make a difference in the lives of our residents. Shalom! Sincerely, *Julia Lucas* VISTA Volunteer Coordinator

... Our Friends at Maplewood United Methodist Church: A Heart felt thank you on behalf of Mosaic Services and all the families we serve. Your volunteers and support help us to continue to serve children at MRH. Thank you! *Heather A. Bailey*

... all of you for the beautiful flowers and for thinking of us. We miss all of you. Love, *Emmit and Velma Jordan*

### safe sanctuary

## MUMC has decided to continue Safe Sanctuary training at the local level

For the past few months there has been discussion concerning the method MUMC would use to provide Safe Sanctuary training for people in this congregation. While this training has been available through the MO Conference for the last several years, MUMC has had one of the conference trained 'trainers' in its congregation and has offered on-site training. On-line training now is available through the conference; MUMC has researched and tested this procedure and has come to the conclusion that we will continue with our on-site trainings.

As a result of this decision, dates have been set for three Safe Sanctuary training opportunities between now and May 2014: February 9 and April 27; additional trainings will be scheduled as needed. Each of these dates falls on a Sunday and we will gather from noon to 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Childcare will be available but you will need to request it in advance. To make our in-house trainings easily available and as valuable as possible, MJMC has a group of six people who will be serving as trainers: Shay Blackwell, Rona Chandler, Mary Downing, Jan Harsh, Kyle Kranes and Julia Schaffner.

Remember, if you work with children, youth OR vulnerable adults at MUMC, you need to be Safe Sanctuary trained. Check with Shay about your status.

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malar-triv-ia

some trivia about malaria

**\$30.00 provides fifteen (15) Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits for malaria.**

The more quickly malaria is diagnosed, the more effective the treatment will be and the number of other infected will be less. Hmmm...

## Planning session bring results

Folk gathered on October 20th to share dinner and make plans for the coming year. The planning session was lead by Peg Chulich. everyone was asked to share what they were passionate about, where they would like to see ministry in the church and folks had the opportunity to vote for the 6 areas they would like to see happen. The results are:

- Start a youth group for Maplewood UMC by the Fall of 2014
- Develop some community service projects for the children of the church by February 2014
- Create an "On Call" or "Tool Belt Ministry". This would offer repairs and/or disaster relief to the immediate and surrounding community.
- Finish the kitchen in Memorial Hall by the end of 2013 and renovate the Fellowship Hall Kitchen by the first quarter of 2014.
- Start a library and a computer lab for the community. Plan and assess the need in 2014. Put plan in place by 2015.
- Start a congregation care ministry as soon as by November 1, 2013.
- Develop an outreach ministry to families. Start process by January 2014.

### Goals from Charge Conference Report

- Replace education wing roof by the end of 2014
- Enhance ministry with children by:
  - a. Start a Sunday School class for 4 and 5 graders.
  - b. Complete the redecorating/cleaning process for the Sunday School classes.
  - c. Offer two summer activities to which children in both the congregation and the community are invited.
- Increase the average attendance for worship by 14%. If we reach this year's goal of 85 the average attendance would be 97.

Continue to strengthen our connection with the Maplewood Community by strengthening our

relationship with the MRH Schools and the Maplewood Police and Fire Departments by working together in hands on mission and projects.



(above) Peg Chulich leading the planning process.



(left) Jan Harsh and Michael Chance sharing work done on one of the goals for the future.

### imagine no malaria

### This is Jennifer's story, part 2

It really was just one of those chance remarks. The doctor wanted to know whether or not there had been anything different in my life recently (or even not so recently.) And I remembered – I HAD been on a mission trip, a mission trip to Central America, a mission trip to Central America where the continue to battle with the mosquito, just as we used to do.

Had I been bitten. Ah, yeah. A mosquito bite in Central America. I had malaria. Let me tell you, once they knew what to do with me I was in the hospital, and on medication and could begin to tell a difference in about a week. ... but it took a lot longer than that to really get well.

(to be continued)

## Meals on Wheels Grocery List

*This grocery list is provided by the Maplewood UMC Mission Team to make it easier for you to shop for the Meals on Wheels Program for the Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School. This program sends backpacks of food with students whose families are in need of extra help food wise to get them through the weekend.*

- \_ Romen Noodles - all flavors
- \_ Tuna Helper
- \_ Chicken Helper
- \_ Canned Tuna
- \_ Canned Chicken
- \_ Canned Corn
- \_ Canned Green Beans Canned Pineapple
- \_ Canned Peaches
- \_ Canned Fruit Cocktail
- \_ Fresh Apples
- \_ Fresh Oranges
- \_ Fresh Bananas
- \_ Fruit Snacks
- \_ Boxed Mac and Cheese
- \_ Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- \_ Boxed Au Gratin Potatoes
- \_ Boxed Hash Brown Potatoes
- \_ Oreos - Family Packs
- \_ Chocolate Chip Cookies
- \_ Oatmeal Cookies
- \_ Pancake Mix (mixed with water)
- \_ Peanut Butter
- \_ Jelly
- \_ Bread
- \_ Cheerios Cereal
- \_ Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal
- \_ Instant Oatmeal Cereal
- \_ Cheez-its
- \_ Pretzels
- \_ Wheat thins
- \_ Popcorn
- \_ Tortilla chips
- \_ Dips for above chips
- \_ Bagels
- \_ Fruit Juice (not frozen)
- \_ Special K bars
- \_ Granola Bars
- \_ Spaghetti
- \_ Spaghetti Sauce
- \_ Canned Soup (including chunk variety
- \_ Chili
- \_ Beef Stew
- \_ Chicken and Dumpling
- \_ String Cheese
- \_ Lipton, Knorr, Uncle Ben, Rice a Roni , Pasta Roni and other brands of flavored rice and pasta packets

### **Joe's Place Needs:**

trash bags, toilet tissue, napkins, paper towels, aluminum foil, sandwich baggies, saran wrap, lysol wipes, kleenex and dryer sheets.

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)

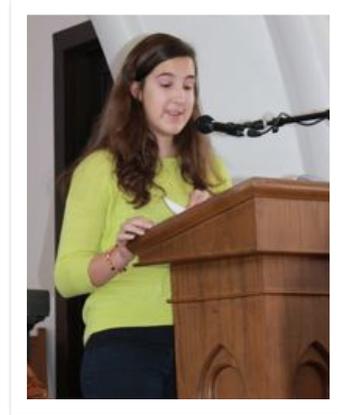
malar-triv-ia

some trivia about malaria

**It takes only \$75.00 to provide the medication required to treat 15 patients sick with malaria!**

Hmmm ... \$5 per person. Almost any prescription I purchase sets me back that much. \$75 to possibly save 15 lives Is there a question here!

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](http://www.maplewoodumc.org)



**Samantha Schaffner sharing during worship about the Imagine No Malaria campaign.**



MAPLEWOOD  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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



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