

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2013

Pastor Kim's Letter

Dear Friends,

Once again the Cardinals are in the playoffs!
Life in St. Louis is a little more fun right now!

One of the things about baseball, or really any sport, that I know about, is that you have to have get the fundamentals right. Baseball players spend hours and hours just throwing and catching and batting. Use both hands to catch. Keep your eye on the ball. Make sure your swing is level.

It's basic stuff, but that's how the big league players have gotten to be big league players. They have practiced the basics—over and over and over for hours and hours and hours.

This fall at Maplewood UMC we are talking about the basic practices for followers of Jesus. These basic practices are reflected in the promises we make as members of a local congregation of the United Methodist Church. We commit "to uphold the congregation with our *prayers*, our *presence*, our *gifts*, our *service*, and our *witness*. Through these practices we are able to follow Christ more closely and find joy, purpose, and direction for our lives as we make a difference in the world on God's behalf.

I hope that you will take part in a small group this fall as well as be present for worship as we renew ourselves in the knowledge and practice of the "basics" of our faith.

We don't have a World Series to win, but the mission of the United Methodist Church tells us that through God's grace at work in and through our lives, we have a **world to transform**.

I believe the way to make that happen is simply to trust God and stick to practicing the basics of our faith—over and over and over again.

I am looking forward to training time with all of you.

Blessings
,Pastor Kim

It's time to do some planning for 2014

All Ad Council members, Ministry Area Leaders, and any interested congregation members are invited to be part of a planning and goal-setting session for 2014 on **Sunday, October 20; from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. We will have a pizza and salad dinner while we plan! If you intend to be part of the meeting, please let Jerry Blackwell or Pastor Kim know in advance.

The annual Charge Conference for Maplewood UMC will be held on

Tuesday, October 8 at The Gathering UMC which is located at 2105 McCausland. Several United Methodist Congregations from the Gateway Central District will gather on this evening to sing, pray, and



believe it or not

Build A Gift is in the air

An initial planning meeting for BAG will be on Tuesday, October 15 – 7 pm

Bring ideas for crafts/gifts for the BAG event on Saturday, December 7th, 10 am – 12 noon.

See you there - *Hope*

choir corner

Be on the lookout

for the hymns of Charles Wesley. Yes, that's right – John's brother. MUMC has begun the book study, "A Disciple's Path" . Charles Wesley's hymns be sprinkled throughout worship for the next 6 weeks.

And remember: choir rehearsal is every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the third floor choir room. Newcomers are welcome (and so are the 'old regulars'.)

See ya by the piano- *Amy*

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: November 10, February 9 and April 27. 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.

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.

It's not too late to sign up for the church retreat at Blue Mountain. Fri., Sat., & Sun. October 11,12.13. Call Mary Kunce or Jerry Blackwell if you want to go.



OCTOBER

- 2 Sue Baskett
- 4 Andrew Stith
- 6 Charlie Cunningham
- 13 Dorleta Lodholz
- 15 Steve Shirar
- 17 John Taylor
- 20 Diane Hatcher
- 22 Geneva Keller
- 24 Ramohra Carter- Spencer
- 28 Chase Watkins
- 30 Sophia McCarter

ANNIVERSARIES

10/9/93 – Jim & Sue Baskett

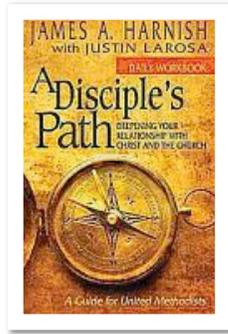


Bill McClure giving Jerry Blackwell the \$4000 grant check from the Gateway Board for Mission and Growth. The grant money will go toward purchasing blinds and furniture for our children's ministry.

Upcoming Sermons:

A Disciple's Path
The Promises We
Make when we
become members of
The United Methodist
Church to uphold the
church with our

prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, are more than promises that make us "good church members". They are spiritual disciplines which serve to deepen our relationship with Jesus. As we follow Jesus more closely, not only are we transformed, but God can use *us* to transform the lives of others and the world around us.



October 6: A Disciple's Path: The Way of Grace

October 13: A Disciple's Path: Prayers

October 20: A Disciple's Path: Presence

October 27: A Disciple's Path: Gifts

November 3: A Disciple's Path: Service

November 10 A Disciple's Path: Witness



All Saints' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 4

During this worship we will remember our loved ones and congregation members who have died during the past year by reading their names and lighting a candle in their honor during Holy Communion. If you would like to remember a loved one who has died this past year during All Saints' Day worship, please give Pastor Kim the person's name and their relationship to you by email or hand-written note.

This is Jennifer's story

I could be you. I'm healthy. I live in the suburbs of St. Louis. My husband and I have four children. In 2005, we were expecting child #4 and like so many of you, we certainly didn't expect that something would break into our lives and rock our world. But that's just what happened. A 'something' from our country's medical past popped up and made some radical changes for us.

As I said, it was 2005 and baby #4 was on the way ... and I got sick. I was sick, so very sick and they couldn't figure what was wrong with me. Three children at home, baby on the way and no one knew what to do to help me get well.

(to be continued)



Pastor Kim and Emma Mikunda. Emma received her third grade bible during worship.

Person-2-Person

David Phelps

A couple of months ago, there was an interesting animal in a Chinese zoo, located in the People's Park of Luohe, in the central province of Henan. A lady named Liu had taken her son to the zoo to show him the different sounds the animals made. Everything was going well until her son told her the "African lion" was barking. Sure enough, the "lion" was a dog, specifically a Tibetan Mastiff, a large, long-haired breed. The zoo's real lion was unavailable and a zoo employee had replaced it with his dog, after teasing the dog's hair to look like a lion's mane. The fake "lion" wasn't the only substitute; there were rodents displayed as snakes, a white fox as a leopard, and another dog as a wolf. Zoo patrons understandably complained that they had been cheated and misled.

Mastiffs are truly huge, fierce looking dogs and the Tibetan breed is similar in color to a lion. But, at the risk of belaboring the obvious, dogs are not lions and a dog disguised as a lion is still a dog.

What about us? Are we genuine? Are we the real thing or do we just look like the real thing? Peter wrote, "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 1:6-7 ESV). Our response to trials—or even the normal aggravations of everyday life—can tell those around us whether our faith is genuine or not.

Paul wrote this to the church at Philippi about his young friend Timothy: "For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. They all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel." (Phil. 2:20-22 ESV). Genuineness is not only Timothy's hallmark but the hallmark of all Christians. He cared about Paul, the people of Philippi, and all God's people. Paul wrote to Timothy that in the last days, there would be people who would have ". . . the appearance of godliness, but [deny] its power." (2 Tim. 3:5a ESV).

Later in his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, "Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, . . . For we . . . worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh . . ." (vs. 3:2a, 3b ESV). Obviously, I like the verse about looking out for "the dogs" because it fits with the story of the fake zoo lion. But beyond that, dogs were considered unclean in Biblical times. It's not a stretch to say that Paul would also regard opponents of Christianity as unclean. We should also worship in Spirit, glory in Christ, and not trust in our own righteousness, so that we will be clean in God's sight, washed in Christ's blood.

What about us? You and me? Are we true or false? Genuine or fake? Are we lions for the Lord or dogs for the devil? Can others hear us roaring or barking? Are we seeking our interests or Christ's? Does our testimony have true power or is it merely a form of righteousness? Is our confidence in ourselves or in Christ? Peter gives seven characteristics of Christians: Faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, affection, and love (2 Pet. 1:5-7). These are the qualities we should possess, the qualities the Holy Spirit should be promoting in our lives and in the lives of all Christians. I freely confess that I don't have them all, and that some are more difficult and challenging than others, but the Holy Spirit is working within me to develop them. I pray that my testimony and yours are based on the saving power of Christ. "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 1:3-8 ESV.)

The blessings already are ours,
and we, indeed, have been blessed so that we
can **be** blessings.

In just one month, on the first Sunday in
November, we will begin collecting food for
Thanksgiving meals which will be shared
beyond our walls.

November 3 is the day the sign-up charts
showing what foods is needed will appear. You
really can't miss those charts; they will be in the
back near the coffee and snacks (and we are
able to find that!) While food donation sign-up
will take place for a couple weeks, be among
the first to add your name ... no, you won't get
a prize but you **WILL** be sure to get your choice
of foods to bring!

The prize, the gift, the blessing comes later; it
happens as you join with loved
ones to share your Thanksgiving together and
realize that your hands, your gifts, your hearts
are joined with another family, feasting at their
table.



A big THANK YOU to all the folks make SERVE2013 a great success

Eight casseroles were prepared under the
direction of Donna Reynolds for Shalom House
with five folks working on this project. Under
the direction of Jason Watkins 17 folks worked
at the senior citizens home on Walter. Four
folks worked at L'Arche, seven folks worked in
the Second Time Around Shop and 26 folks
worked the Lawn Party at the church. On
September 21st around 20 folks worked the
Mosaic Run for the MRH Early Childhood
program. It was a great opportunity to share
God's love with our this community.

There is still a little to be done at the Walter
house. Any painters and house cleaners
available for a few hours on either Oct. 5th, 12th
or 19th please let Jan Harsh know at
bjharsh@att.net or 314-781-3960 –
314-780-1797.

Mouths of Babes Cooking Class is underway

A small group of women from Maplewood UMC
is assisting with a cooking class offered for
young mothers. The class is led by Parents as
Teachers Educator, Melanie West. The
mothers gather after school with their children
in the teen kitchen at the high school, and work
together to make several freezer meals to take
home for their families for that month. As they
cook together they learn more about food
preparation and nutrition and share ideas with
each other about raising their children (who, by
the way, are very cute!)

For the September class Rona Chandler and
Madaleaze Cramer assisted with advance
preparation. Dorleta Lodholz, Patricia Trout,
and Pastor Kim helped with the cooking and the
children. All the participants were delighted to
wear aprons which were sewn by Linda
Kettmann. It was a good afternoon! And we
are invited back for next month.

If you want more information about how to
support Mouths of Babes, please contact
Pastor Kim. In fact, you are already supporting
Mouths of Babes by sharing food for the MRH
food pantry which supplies some of the
groceries used for making the meals.

(Note: glass casserole, baking dishes are used
in this class. If you have unused ones.)
stashed away, consider donating them for
Mouths of Babes.)



Recent deliveries have emptied the shelves

The cupboards are nearly bare after deliveries
to MRH "Weekend on Wheels" and Joe's Place.
Just a reminder that the first Sunday of the
month is "Feed and Be Fed" for food supplies.
Lists for both projects are available at the table
by the greeters.



As promised – recipes from SERVE 2013

King Ranch Casserole

- 1 whole hen, boiled and shredded
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 pkg. Tortillas, torn bite sized
- 1 can Rotel w/chiles
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 10 oz. shredded sharp cheddar

Preheat Oven to 350 degrees
 Combine all ingredients, reserving some cheese to sprinkle on top.
 Grease a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Pour mixture into dish. Bake 30 – 40 minutes, should be moist but not soupy. Let sit 10 minutes before serving.

Chicken Vegetable Bake

- 6 oz pkg. Stuffing mix
- 1 ½ cup hot water
- ¼ cup butter
- 6 bonless skinless chicken breasts
- 10 oz mixed vegetables
- 10 oz. Cream of mushroom sour
- 1/3 cup sour cream

Preheat oven to 375 degrees
 Mix together stuffing mix, water and butter, set aside. Place chicken breasts in a lightly greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Top with vegetables. Mix together soup and sour cream, pour over chicken. Top with stuffing. Bake 35 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.



Nina Berry showing her handy work on the prayer quilt for Ray Norris



John Caswell and Donna Reynolds praying over Ray Norris' prayer quilt.



A large crowd from Maplewood UMC participated in helping with the Mosaic Run. We helped set up and stationed ourselves along the route of the run. There was face painting, balloon animals and caricature drawings for the kids. Jonathan Schaffner finished 3rd in his age bracket on run. This was the first time he had run the 5K.



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



The "tech angel" has been busy again around the church. Thanks for the donation and installation of the new screen in the sanctuary and the 3 flat screens and DVD players in 3 of the Sunday School class rooms.



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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



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