

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

JUNE 2014

Come get your car washed



There will be a car wash for the youth mission trip this summer. Youth from Maplewood UMC and Webster First will be going to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The **CAR WASH** is on Saturday, June 14th at the Masonic Lodge 9am - 1pm (Lockwood and Elm next to Webster Grove's City Hall)! All proceeds go the Webster / Maplewood youth mission trip.

Safe Sanctuary training set for June

June 18th at 7pd the MUMC conference room will be the setting for another training for Safe Sanctuary. People who have volunteered to help with the 'School's Our Café' being help at Immaculate Conception need to have this training. Give Shay Blackwell a call if you plan to participate (314-822-4719) and be prepared for about 1 ½ hour of working together.

And just so you know: there is a copy of the MUMC Safe Sanctuary policies and practices on the table under the video screen in the Narthex. Even if you have chosen NOT to be SS trained, take time to look at these policies. They apply to children, youth and vulnerable adults and it would be a good thing if everyone at MUMC knew a little about these...even better, come on and get trained. You never know when you might be in a situation when it would be helpful!!



Summer Sunday School ... teachers are needed

Remember to sign up for one or more weeks to teach Summer Sunday school! The sign up sheet is located on the easel in the gathering space behind the sanctuary. Curriculum is provided. If you have questions please talk to Pastor Kim.

We have 5 (count 'em: 5) of our children going to summer camp; it is not to late to sign up

Summer camp opportunities are available for our children at Missouri United Methodist Camps. Maplewood UMC leaders believe that the summer camp experience can be very meaningful (that includes FUN) for children and have designated scholarship funds for young campers who want to go to camp!

Additional information about camps can be found at: www.mocamps.org. If your child(ren) might take part in camp, please contact Julia Schaffner (merlinst@att.net) (314-647-7421) who is coordinator for Maplewood UMC campers.



Dear Friends,

After such a long, hard winter and a chilly spring, it is good to feel the warmth of summer again! I know it's tempting to stay outside all weekend, but I hope that you will be intentional about planning to be in worship on the Sundays when you are in town!

On Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day) we will begin a sermon series called "Between the Trees". When you think about it, the story of the Bible begins with a tree—"the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" in the Garden of Eden—and it ends with "The Tree of Life" envisioned in the last chapter of Revelation. The story of the relationship of God with humanity is told between these two trees.

The sermon series will begin and end with the stories of these two trees mentioned in Genesis and Revelation. In between we will look at three stories of God or Jesus finding people under or in trees: Elijah, the prophet, resting under the broom tree as he fled from Jezebel; Jesus' disciple, Nathaniel, who was first noticed by Jesus, while sitting under a fig tree; and Zacchaeus, the vertically challenged tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree in order to get a better view of Jesus as he was passing by.

I hope to see you in worship as much as possible this summer as we spend time growing in our faith "Between the Trees."

God's grace and peace be with you,

Pastor Kim

Two summer study opportunities are available for adults

Sunday mornings at 9:45 am: The adult Sunday school class will begin studying the book of **James** this week. This New Testament book is about how we translate what we believe into action, so that our faith is more than something we hear about on Sunday morning. Instead it becomes something that makes a difference in our lives. Study books written by N. T. Wright and Phyllis Le Peau will be provided. The Adult Sunday school class meets in the lower level of the Education Wing.

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. beginning June 10, a small group led by Bryon Stone will meet to study "The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions" written by Marcus Borg and N. T. Wright. The two authors are Jesus scholars, good friends, and followers of Jesus. But their understandings of Jesus are sometimes very different!

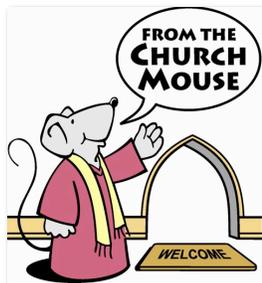
If you have ever had questions about Jesus that you were not quite sure you could ask—questions like "Did Jesus know he was the Messiah? Was he bodily resurrected from the dead? Did he intentionally die to redeem humankind? Was Jesus God?"—this might just be the group for you

Congratulations
*Donna & Skip
Reynolds*

Their Fiftieth
Wedding
Anniversary
is Sunday, June 8th

Here's the word

Your Ad Council met Sunday evening June 1st and talked about the business and ministry of MUMC. Our newly discovered church mouse (Morty, short for Mortimore) tiptoed in and took a few notes for you.



** Spent time reviewing goals that had been set and the decision was made to make enhancing children's ministry a priority. The council has decided to be in prayer for this ministry and all to be Safe Sanctuary trained as a show of support.

** We have 12 volunteers helping with "School's Out Café" being held at Immaculate Conception this summer. WHOO HOO!!!

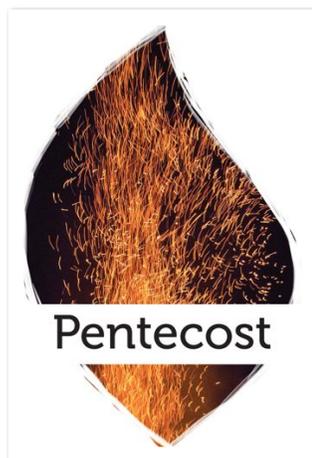
** From A Day to A Way: SERVE no longer is simply a HUGE one day event. Read about how SERVE has "morphed" at another location in this paper.

** Plans are underway to complete the redecorating in the children's Sunday School area ... including the hallways! Be watching for date, time and plan to help paint, clean up or feed the painters.

** Contractors are coming in THIS WEEK to make bids on our roof!!! We are moving on.

Hearing assist devices are available

In an effort to make worship a better experience for everyone, we have devices available to help those who have trouble hearing all or part of the worship service. If you would like to use one of these devices, see Ray Juaregui or Tony Kunce before worship begins...or speak to the morning greeter.



Sunday, June 8th



JUNE

8	William Houswright
11	Phyllis Hughes
14	Erin McDonough
15	Johnny Kampis
17	Bonnie Jent
21	Dennis Collins
24	Renee McDonough
25	Gary Holt
28	Nancy Collins
29	Emily Baskett
29	Patti Carr

AND ANNIVERSARIES

6/1	– Julia & David Schaffner
6/8/64	- Donna & Skip Reynolds
6/9/01	- Jason & Colleen Watkins
6/21/80	– Kim & Steve Shirar
6/22/96	- Mike & Juanita O'Laughlin
6/29/57	– Liston & Bonnie Jent

Congratulations to our graduates.....

Chris Shirar and Milo Brucker graduated from high school this year. Ben Shirar graduated from college. Best wishes to all three as they set out in new directions.

A special "Thank you" goes to ...

... Rona Chandler for coordinating the children's leadership during the worship service on Mother's Day. Rona, along with all of the regular Sunday school teachers, assisted the children in writing words they would say during the service as well as rehearsing the service. The congregation was certainly blessed by the children's leadership on that day!

... Dave Phelps for sharing the message on May 18. The congregation was blessed by your words, Dave!

... our chancel choir for another year of beautiful music! The choir will sing for the last time before their summer break on June 8. We wish all of the choir members and especially their director, Amy Cordeal, a great summer off. (We will be glad when you are singing again in September.

and....

... Jerry and Shay want to thank the congregation for helping to make our 50th wedding anniversary very special.

...A thank you comes from the 6th grade class of Maplewood/Richmond Heights Schools for the use of our church for their 6th grade promotion dance. About 70 students and 12 adults were there for the dance and it was reported that everyone danced and had a good time.



Above is a picture of the finished new house our adult mission team worked on last summer in Piedmont, Missouri.

Is this a ministry opportunity for you?

If you are free around lunch time (11:30 to 12:30 to be exact) during the week, come and be a part of the group from MUMC that is helping with the School's Out Café. You get to pick how often you participate. Contact Jerry or Shay Blackwell (314-822-4719) for more information.

Even though school's out we are still collecting food for the **Weekend on Wheels** program and paper goods for **Joe's Place**. From June 4 until June 10, Schnucks has a "10 for \$10 deal in the their stores. If you buy 10 items you get the 11th one free. This would be a great way to stock up.

H E L P W A N T E D

* **Person or persons who are able to install base shoe** have an opportunity for good indoor work in the church nursery, preschool and elementary Sunday school rooms. If you are interested in serving please contact Jason Watkins at jcblwatkins@sbcglobal.net or 314-646-7116.

* **Painting in the Education building.** Painting the hallways in where the Sunday School classes are. Do some finishing touch up painting in a couple of the Sunday School classes. Check with Jason Watkins for more info.

* **Limited Time Offer available** for those of you who would like the opportunity to teach Sunday school this summer. Our regular Sunday school teachers need a break and more of our members need the joy of working with children. At this time we are seeking one or two people to *coordinate* summer Sunday school teachers. Please let Pastor Kim know if you are interested in coordinating teachers or actually teaching a Sunday school class. You **MUST** be Safe Sanctuary certified to teach! Not sure if this is the opportunity for you? Come one Sunday at 9:45 and observe or help with a class.

Person to Person

Dave Phelps

Last month, I broke my glasses and, since I was overdue for an eye exam, I scheduled one. When I first sat down, the letters on the screen were "O-F-L-C-T". The human brain is very good at recognizing patterns. This was quite handy thousands of years ago when our remote ancestors were fleeing from saber toothed tigers. It's still handy today, allowing us to recognize modern dangers. But sometimes our brains make mistakes, which is how optical illusions work. In this instance, my brain kept trying to form these random letters into the word "CONFLICT", only to be frustrated when the letters didn't match the pattern it expected. There were letters missing and, no matter how hard my brain tried, it couldn't make sense out of them.

In the same way, when we try to make sense of our lives without God, we can't do it. In the eye test example, the letters "C," "N," and "I" weren't there, so I couldn't form the word I had in mind. If the letters "G-O-D" aren't there, we can't make the lives we need. We don't have the spiritual tools to live the way we should.

Jesus told the disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 ESV). Without Christ, we are doomed to conflict; we're unable to do anything for God--to "bear fruit"--but a part of us realizes that it's equally pointless to quit.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized." (1 Cor. 11:18b-19 ESV). At that time, there were no denominations so you either agreed with Paul or you were wrong. Divisions in the churches made it possible to see who had Christ (i.e., who agreed with Paul) and who didn't. Those who didn't were a source of conflict. Today, Paul probably wouldn't like our modern denominational system but minor differences of agreement don't necessarily mean someone is "wrong."

But for most of us, our conflicts are internal in

origin, between ourselves and God or, as Paul would say, between the Spirit and the "flesh" or sinful inner nature (Rom. 7:18-20). He wrote that ". . . I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing." (vs. 19, ESV). Most of us don't want to sin but our unspiritual nature steers us in that direction. Similarly, Peter warned his readers ". . . to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." (1 Pet. 2:11b ESV). Our souls are battlefields with "the flesh" on one side and the Spirit on the other.

That doesn't mean, though, that we are free from external conflicts--in fact, far from it. James wrote, "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?" (Jas. 4:1 ESV). Internal struggles produce external conflict. The spiritual war that rages within each of us spills over into personal strife between us and others. James blamed this on "bitter jealousy and selfish ambition" (3:14b). When we believe others have things or advantages we don't, the natural result is jealousy. But we are not called to be "natural" but to be supernatural (1 Cor. 2:14).

When others look at us, they pay attention to the way we deal with everyday conflicts, especially if we claim to be Christians. If we respond with anger, jealousy, selfishness and ambition, they will see that we are unspiritual. They will see hypocrisy. But if we respond with peace, gentleness, reasonableness and sincerity (Jas. 3:17), then they will see God in us. Even though Paul couldn't always "do the good I want," I believe people could see that he was struggling on the side of the Spirit rather than on the side of the "flesh." And, in the same way, they will see which side we are on too.

"Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called 'the uncircumcision' by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands--remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Eph. 2:11-12 ESV.)

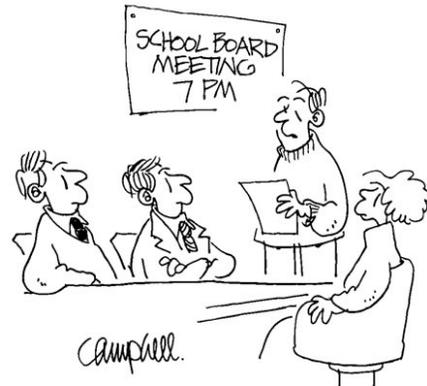
Visit Person-2-Person on the Web at <http://person2person.faithweb.com>

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



Back in April two students from MRH High School came to tell the story of Week-end on Wheels

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



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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



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