

MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

MARCH 2013

Youth Mission Trip

For Maplewood UMC youth and the youth of Webster First. UMC

Trivia Night

Saturday, March 9, 2013

at 1st United Methodist Church
of Webster Groves

doors open @ 6:00 ... trivia begins @ 6:45

Cost: \$10 per person or \$80 per table

Sign up as an individual, small group, or table
of 8 players.

(We will match up individuals and small groups to form full tables.)

Lemonade, Tea, and Water provided ... teams may bring their
own snacks and soft drinks..

Free childcare is available with reservations!

Forms to sign up in Narthex

Look for more info elsewhere in the Messenger

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest blessings that I have experienced while serving as your pastor has been that of working alongside a group of strong and committed leaders. I am so very grateful for this group of folks who serve on the Administrative Council. I am humbled by the hours and hours of service which they give, often behind the scenes, so that this congregation can fulfill its mission to Gather as God's people; Grow in faith, love, and service; and Go into the world to do God's work. Recently the leadership team has dealt with some particular challenges which have to do with the building.

At our most recent Ad Council meeting it was suggested that I share an update regarding these decisions. And so, I do hope that you will read this update carefully and prayerfully. I encourage you most of all to look for God's amazing goodness in between the lines of this report about building and finance issues. I promise you, it's there!!!

First and foremost, it is very important to be clear that the Administrative Council understands that the **building is a wonderful tool for ministry**. It is a beautiful structure that enables us to fulfill our mission. But the building is NOT in itself our mission.

Second, this wonderful tool for ministry requires a lot of maintenance. The other day Lilly Watkins, one of our second grade children, gave me a very concise explanation for why the building needs so much work: "It's old." Enough said. And to be honest, we are dealing with some issues that are a result of deferred maintenance.

The good news is that because of faithful giving and because of hours and hours and hours of time and effort given by members of the church, we are seeing lots of positive changes in the building.

Here are the **highlights to building repairs and improvements** from the last 4 ½ years:

--Sanctuary floor has been refinished. The altar area was expanded. New carpet has been installed in the sanctuary, in the gathering space behind the sanctuary, in the chapel room, the offices, and on the Sutton and Flora Street entrance stairs.

--The chapel room ceiling has been repaired after the roof leak was fixed. The chapel room, main floor bathrooms, and the hallway in the education wing have been painted. Thank you to the youth from Faith UMC in House Springs!

--The "old part of the building" (e.g. everything that is not the education wing) has been tuck-pointed and fitted with new gutters and downspouts.

--The fellowship hall floor has been re-tiled. The plaster walls have been skimmed—and are in the process of being painted.

--Most of the rooms in the education wing have been repainted and reorganized and most storage areas have been cleared, cleaned, and repurposed.

--Upon the demise of our old boiler, a new boiler was recently installed along with a stainless steel liner for the chimney as required by code.

--Repairs to the heating system (i.e. pipes) have come up subsequent to the replacement of the boiler. Some repairs are completed. Some are scheduled for spring.

Countless hours have been given toward accomplishing all these improvements and repairs. I think I have seen almost every regular member and attendee at a work day of some kind during the past few years. THANK YOU!

We also need to thank some folks who have led the way, going above and beyond when it comes to caring for the building. Former Trustee Chair, Tony Kunce, started this extreme makeover with the sanctuary renovations and the repairs in the chapel room roof, passing the torch to Jason Watkins who has been running hard for quite some time. Jason has not been alone in the race. Tami Collins and Diane Watkins also currently

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serve as trustees. Jerry Blackwell, Bob Harsh, and Liston Jent have kept plenty busy in the building doing all kinds of work. Kevin Watkins continues to help with all things electric. Mark Watkins supervised the removal of the Fellowship Hall tile. Shay Blackwell has cleaned out almost every closet in the church. AND...when the children of the church ask me if I live at the church, of course I say, "No." but I am also always tempted to say, "But Ray Jauregui DOES!" Ray is at the church doing some kind of work nearly every day. Most recently Ray was the point man for the actual installation of the boiler and has followed up diligently, doing far more trouble-shooting than we anticipated.

But, as you can imagine, someone has to pay for all this! We are blessed with wonderful giving in this faith community and a finance team that does extremely well with making sure that we use these financial gifts wisely. Thank you to Courtney Stotler, our Finance Chair, Larry Schmid, our Treasurer, and (here he comes again) Ray Jauregui, our Financial Secretary.

In spite of all that has been accomplished these last few years, the building still has some pressing needs. Probably the most pressing need is to replace the education wing roof which is quite old and has been leaking for a number of years.

At our most recent Administrative council meeting we created a simple plan for paying off the current debts which have been incurred for tuck-pointing and the boiler replacement. We will set aside ten percent of each Sunday's undesignated offering. This money will be used at first to pay off all of our current loans, hopefully by late 2013 or early 2014. After that time we will continue to set aside 10% of our income toward saving for repairs and improvements on the building.

Paying attention to maintaining the walls of our church this year means that we will step back from last year's level of mission giving which was 20% of our annual income. We will continue to be a

tithing church. Ten percent of our annual budget will be given outside the walls of the church. This ten percent amount includes apportionment giving.

No one is rejoicing that our giving beyond the walls of the local church will be at a reduced level for a while. But we also realize that the building is a wonderful tool for mission which has walls that need to be kept in good repair. Because we have experienced how GOOD it feels to give generously to mission we are eager and highly committed to increase our percentage of mission giving as soon as we possibly can!

I thank you for reading so carefully thus far. And now, I am going to ask you to do two things:

1. Continue to pray fervently for the ministry of Maplewood UMC congregation that we can be a congregation which is shaped by God's love and a congregation which shares God's love.
2. Consider sharing in the Easter offering this spring. The Easter offering will be designated toward funding the hands on mission and service events in which we will engage in 2013. Among these events are the adult and youth mission trip planned for late July as well as the mission and outreach we do during SERVE 2013.

There are times when the challenges presented by this creaky, leaky, old building begin to feel overwhelming. When they do, I try to remember the story of Palm Sunday. As Jesus entered Jerusalem the religious leaders wanted him to tell the people who were shouting his praises to be quiet. Jesus responded, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." (Luke 19:40) This story reminds me that if God would make stones to sing Jesus' praise, then God will work in the life of this congregation—even in this old building—as we seek to proclaim the love and goodness of Christ in our community and in our world.

Yours in Christ's hope and joy,

Pastor Kim

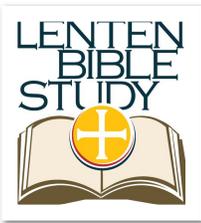
This church is so blessed with the sound of music

The Children's Choir will sing on Palm Sunday, March 24th. We will practice at 10:00am on: Sunday, March 10th, March 17th & March 24th.

Choir Corner

Thank you to our choir and soloists for a month of spirituals. Come join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm to practice Lenten and Easter music.

We found a warm and cozy rug in the choir room last week! Thanks to all the people that have helped transform the third floor space into a delightful choir room



WOW! I am so grateful ...

... for the participation in the all church Lenten study. All the study books have taken and are being used! Amen and Amen! If you are interested in joining up with a small group it is not too late. All groups meet at the church. The dates/times are Sunday 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m.—Men's group and Women's group; Thursday 7 p.m.; and Saturday at 8 a.m. If you have questions or need a book, please contact Pastor Kim. A shout out to our faithful leaders—some were recruited early on and some leaders have just stepped up as the groups have formed. What an amazing bunch of folks!

Thank you! *Pastor Kim*



Like us on Facebook....

just go to...

<http://www.facebook.com/mumcstl>

March liturgists

March 3 - Suzie Ward
 March 10 - Cari Ford
 March 17 - Bryon Stone
 March 24 - Kevin Watkins
 March 31 - Dave Phelps

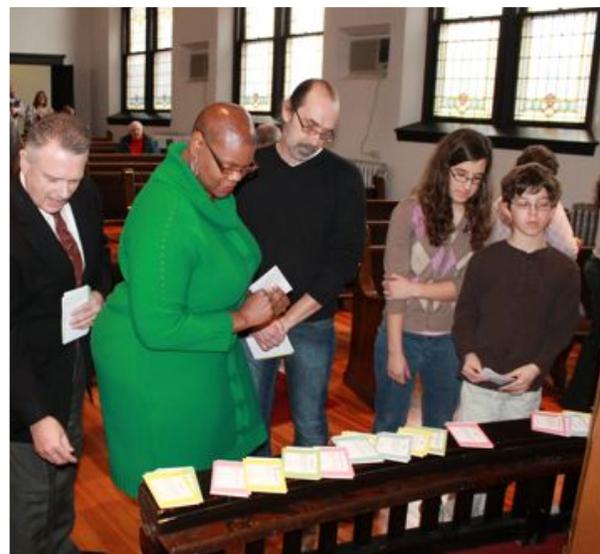


MARCH

- 1 Brooke Watkins
- 1 Matthew Housewright
- 2 Elaine Kidwell
- 5 Vanessa Moruzzi
- 8 Paige Watkins
- 9 Allen McCarter
- 10 Sylvia Stallman
- 12 Amy Cordeal
- 12 Rebecca Kunce
- 13 Serina Mikunda
- 15 Matthew Wibbenmeyer
- 17 Steven Mikunda Jr.
- 19 Helen O'Brien
- 21 Julianna Raniero
- 24 Susan Ford
- 24 Brenda Ford
- 25 Tim McDonough
- 28 Julie Taylor
- 28 Jessica Raniero



Flue liner being dropped in place - one more step for our heating system.



Adopt-an-Apportionment Sunday found folks at the altar deciding where their hearts & minds called them to help with the church's mission.

Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson compiled what is known as "The Jefferson Bible," fully titled "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth Extracted Textually from the Gospels". He originally stated that it was ". . . for the Use of the Indians, Unembarrassed with Matters of Fact or Faith beyond the Level of their Comprehensions." However, he produced it mostly for his own reading. "Unembarrassed" means that it wasn't overly complicated. Jefferson's idea of complication was any reference to the supernatural. He liked the "Christian System" of moral teaching but rejected the notion of Jesus' divinity. Jefferson took a Bible and a razor, cut out the parts he wanted, and pasted them together. The result was a single narrative of about forty six pages. In the process, he eliminated any references to the divine and all miracles, including the resurrection. He believed that what was left was ". . . the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man." There were those who disputed Jefferson's claim that he was a Christian. He responded that he was one but ". . . of a sect by myself, . . ."

For those of us who believe, the Bible is more than a "sublime and benevolent code of morals". It's the story of a God who loves us and a savior who died for us and rose again. In a sense, it's true that each of us is "of a sect by [him or her] self,"--my personal beliefs probably aren't quite the same as yours--but there are certain things that unite us. One of them is the belief that Christ was not simply a moral teacher but the Son of God.

In New Testament times, "Scripture" meant what we know today as the Old Testament, plus at least some of what we know as the New Testament. 2 Peter 3:16 refers to Paul's letters as "scriptures" so we know that at least some New Testament writings had been accepted by that time. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that the scriptures are "not . . . the word of men but . . . the word of God, which is at work in you believers." (1 Thes. 2:13 ESV). In the scriptures, we find eternal life (John 5:39). We believe not only in a moral teacher but in the risen Son of God. Without the divine Christ, there is no

Christianity. Without the resurrection, there is no hope. The cross represents our redemption (Eph. 1:7) but the empty tomb represents our hope of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:20-22). Paul also wrote about "a different gospel" (2 Cor. 11:4, Gal. 1:7), one in which salvation was earned instead of being a free gift from God. Thomas Jefferson's "gospel" was a way of life, a set of moral teachings. But neither is the true gospel of Christ. The real gospel is, in Jefferson's words, "embarrassed". It's complicated "with Matters of Fact [and] Faith". And yet, it's also simple: ". . . if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom. 10:9 ESV).

We normally say either "Jesus" or "Christ" or, more rarely, "Jesus Christ" or "Jesus the Christ." But neither is truly sufficient without the other. "Jesus" represents his human aspect and "Christ" represents the divine. "Jesus" is derived from "Joshua," the name of the man who led the Israelites after Moses died, and means "savior." "Christ" means "anointed" or "consecrated" and is the Greek translation of the Hebrew "messiah." This is what the angel said to the shepherds: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10b-11 ESV).

Our witness is to the reality of both Jesus and Christ, the man who was more than a man, who was both servant and Lord, teacher and savior, and the impact of the gospel on our lives. We have "good news of a great joy", of Jesus, who informs our morals, and the risen Christ, who redeems our souls. This is the message of the gospel. This is the message of Easter.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Rom. 15:4-7 ESV.)

Help is requested for Maundy Thursday supper

Tom Cordeal has graciously agreed to coordinate the Maundy Thursday Supper. If you are willing to provide food or assist with set-up or clean-up for this meal, please mark the communication card in the bulletin on Sunday morning or contact Tom directly at tomcordeal@gmail.com or at 314-518-7769.



YES! DO LOOK NOW!

Mary Kunce's creativity is on a roll and you can see it in the updates to the MUMC website:

www.maplewoodumc.org

Holy Week Events, 2013

Saturday, March 23—Church cleaning day in anticipation of Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship—11 a.m. The children sing and will parade with Palms during worship

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday Service

6 p.m. Soup and Salad supper will be served in Fellowship Hall on an "eat when you arrive basis" until just before the service. More details about helping with the supper are in this newsletter.

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary

Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday Worship

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:45 a.m. (approximately) Easter Breakfast prepared and served by the MUMC Men

9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for all children (Held Rain or Shine)

11:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service



Troop 362 worshipped with us and cooked & served breakfast on Boy Scout



Fifteen meals for Joe's Place and 2 meals for our Gladys Ministry were prepared at Time for Dinner.



Trivia Night will help support youth mission trip

We have **5 youth and one adult** (so far) going on the youth mission trip. We will be working on homes in Flatwoods, West Virginia (in the Appalachia Mountains.)

MUMC will be joining with about 17 youth and adults from Webster First UMC in Webster Groves and leaving on Sat. June 8th. We will spend in that night in a United Methodist Church in Lexington, KY (and do something fun.) On Sunday afternoon where we will arrive in Flatwoods where we will stay and work Monday through Thursday. Friday is our free day to do something fun, like swimming. We head back on Sat. June 15th, arriving late in the afternoon.

We will be doing several fund raisers as it costs \$500 for each of us to go. The Trivia Night and a couple of car washes will be joint events with the youth from Webster First. MUMC youth are planning a pasta dinner in April and an 'adopt-a-mile' campaign to get us to West Virginia and, hopefully, back.

and YES, you CAN help

1) support the March 9 Trivia Night

- Gather your friends and **reserve a table** to play. Forms will be available soon!
- **Donate an item** for the silent auction. Auction items might include a gift basket, gift certificates to your favorite local merchants, a handmade ware, or a service.
(If you are interested in donating to one of the auctions, please **contact Julia Schaffner** at 314-440-3119 or merlinsc@att.net or **Paula Murphy** at 314-698-6398 or pmathome@yahoo.com by preferably by February 28th. (We will still take your item later..we need to know you what your item will be before the event.)
- **Donate a whole desert** for the desert auction - YUM.
- **Pray** for a successful event full of lots of fun for all!

2) be sure to take your winter-dirty vehicle to the car wash(es)

3) as the information reaches you, adopt as many miles as you can

4) and be sure to come to the pasta dinner – and invite your friends & neighbors



Ash Wednesday's soup supper makes it easier for folks to come from work to worship.

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:



It's Not to Late

If you are interested in adopting an apportionment and have not yet done so...there are some left.

The apportionments are on cards on the table to the left of the alter by the Flora entrance. Pick up a card and sign it into the book on the table.

Thank you

Thank you to the MUMC congregation for its support and love over the years.
God bless you all, *Michael Plonka*

Register for Summer Camp

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.



MAPLEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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