

MESSENGER

JUNE 2013

Pastor Kim's Letter

Dear Friends,

Because of the upcoming youth mission trip and the Summer Fest event for children which took place this past Saturday, the ministry to youth and children of this congregation has been on my mind in a major way. So when the most recent issue of "The Christian Century" showed up in my mailbox a few days ago with a cover story entitled, "Sticky Faith: Effective Youth Ministry", I read it right away. I thought that this congregation who genuinely loves and cares for children and young people might be interested in what this article had to say.

The "Sticky Faith" article cites data from a "comprehensive and longitudinal study which took place from 2004 to 2010" performed by Fuller Youth Institute.

The study coined the term "sticky faith" which is defined as "faith that is part of a student's inner thoughts and emotions and is also externalized in choices and actions that reflect his faith commitment. It is a faith that celebrates God's specific care for each person...in the global and local community of the church' and that "shows marks of spiritual maturity but is also in the process of growth.' This kind of faith that becomes a way of life as it influences individuals' everyday decisions as well as their interactions with the world around them is the kind of faith we hope to nurture in our young people.

Unfortunately one of the study's findings is that forty to fifty percent of students who were part

of a high school youth group do not stick with being part of a faith community after high school. On a more positive note, the study identified the characteristic of youth ministries which foster "sticky faith". These ministries have the following characteristics:

1. The ministry is centered on Jesus and strives to introduce young people to the Jesus as he is portrayed in scripture.
2. The ministry is an expression of grace. Youth are taught what the word grace means and they are given opportunities to experience grace as they are encouraged to try new things and to learn from mistakes.
3. The ministry welcomes teenagers into the larger community by providing opportunities for young people to connect with adults in the congregation. Research shows that "teens who had five or more adults from the church invest in them during the ages of 15 to 18 were less likely to leave the church after high school."
4. The ministry involves teens in all-church worship. "Involvement in all-church worship during high school is more consistently linked with mature faith in both high school and college than any other form of church participation."

I realize that no study is going to tell us everything we need to know about ministry to youth. Even with that in mind, the findings of

Continued on next page

Pastor Kim's Letter continued from previous page

this study are, I think, a source of encouragement and an a source of inspiration to continue to develop our ministries to youth and our children who are all too quickly becoming youth.

As I read the four characteristics of youth ministries which foster "sticky faith" I was encouraged to note that we are certainly doing some of these things already. Our children and youth are definitely included in the life of the congregation and in worship. Certainly, Maplewood UMC attempts to be a "place of grace" for all people.

But this article also challenged me to remember to never lose sight of the reality that the young people entrusted to our care are certainly a gift to this congregation. The ministry of this congregation is the most likely way in which our children and youth will come to know who Jesus is and what he means to our lives and for our lives. The very presence of young people is a reminder of our call (whether or not we are "officially" engaged in ministry to youth and children) to nurture a living and lasting faith that "sticks" as they grow into young adults.



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 Basket
29	Patti Carr

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

Some up coming dates...

** Monday, June 7 at 7p.m. - **Community Night at L'Arche.** All are welcome to come for a night of fun and a chance to get acquainted.

Debut performance to be at Maplewood UMC

On Wednesday, June 12, a private performance of 'Traveling Down the Highway' will take place at Maplewood UMC and YOU are invited. The show will take place in Fellowship Hall at 7 PM – and there is no charge. Plan now to attend and be part of the first audience to view & hear this new musical production. (The show will last approximately 45-60 minutes.)

You are invited to attend the planning meeting for SERVE2013 June 18th at 7 p.m. at the church. SERVE2012 was great and looking for new ideas to make this year's event even better. Hope to see you then.

calling all women for a

A study of Anne Lamott's latest book Help - Thanks – Wow, The Three Essential Prayers is scheduled

We will meet two Thursdays in July (July 11 and 25) at St. Louis Bread Company in Sunset Hills. We will gather at 6:30. The book can be purchased at Barnes and Noble for around \$15.00 or on Amazon for around \$10.00. If there is enough interest at a different date/time an additional group could be formed. Contact Jan Harsh at 314-781-3960 for questions/ comments.

Many thanks

for your outpouring of support at the Pasta Dinner for the youth mission trip to West VA! Proceeds totaled nearly (drum roll please) \$1300 and we estimate that at least 90 were served!! All proceeds are supporting the teen mission trip to West Virginia. Thank you for bringing yourselves, friends and family to eat and for all your prayers for a successful event - they were heard. Thank you to our friends from 1st United Methodist of Webster Groves who attended. And a special THANK YOU to all who worked and / or donated to make the event so successful.

To everyone who participated

and assisted with Summer Fest: THANK YOU!!!!
We had a wonderful time as pirates in search of treasure who learned that Jesus is the greatest treasure of all!

A special thank you to Hope Watkins (who is always fully supported by her husband, Kevin, and her boys, Kevin and Luke) for all her work in launching this wonderful pirate ship. Thanks also to Captain Kyle Kranes for a fun and engaging opening and story time; to Pickett Lema for yummy snack and pirate magic lessons; to Stacey Schwab and her helpers, Samantha Schaffner and Brooke Watkins, for helping our little buccaneers with crafts; to Lisa and Colleen Watkins for fun games; to the galley crew, Jason Watkins, Tom and Amy Cordeal, Larry Schmid, and Jan Harsh (chief officer in charge of grocery shopping) for lunch; to Bonnie Schallenberg for craft supplies, and to Sally Noel, our church secretary for organizing registrations. Thanks also to our pirate crew leaders: Julia Schaffner, Jon Schwab, Kathy Schmid, Rob and Rona Chandler, Courtney Stotler, and Mary Downing.



The pictures above are shots from the **SUMMER FEST** on June 1. Even though it rained and the event had to be moved from the park to the church, a great time was had by all. Thank you Mark and Lisa Watkins for these pictures.

Calling all quilters

A quilting group will be starting this Fall (2013) with the goal of creating prayer quilts (lap size) for presentation to seriously ill church members. An organizational meeting will be held this summer so be watching for announcement of the date. If you are interested in being a part of this outreach, contact Linda Kettman (636-795-3714, call or 314-875-9922, home) OR Donna Reynolds (314-962-3911, home)

volunteers needed

Can you make a commitment for one month?

We are in need of folks who will volunteer FOR A MONTH AT A TIME to make coffee and set up the Hospitality Table on Sunday mornings. You would need to be at the church by 9:340 to make the coffee.

We also need volunteers, again, FOR A MONTH AT A TIME, to stay for 15-20 minutes after morning worship to clean up.

People are available to help if you find you must miss a Sunday morning during your month.

Willing to volunteer? Please let Mary Downing know: marydowning@att.net or 636-517-1277.

It's not too late to sign up for this summer camp!

Jonathan Schaffner is planning to go the week of June 24 - 28 or 29. Depending on interest and availability of other families, there are a couple of different options. Camp grade levels are based upon the grade the child is entering Fall 2013. There is a camp called Kerusso at Blue Mountain for 6th - 12th graders running June 24 - 29 (code B441). During this same week at Blue Mountain there is a camp called The Journey for 3rd - 5th graders (code B241). I thought this option might be nice so that more of our kids could attend the same week of camp. While the groups would operate separately, campers would still have opportunities to see each other and have comfort from knowing familiar faces are close by. We can also share rides!

A second option I am considering is Jr. High Spirit Camp for 6th - 8th graders at camp Jo-Ota running June 24 - 28. Unfortunately there is no coinciding 3rd - 5th grade camp :(.

Julia Schaffner
314-440-3119 (cell)
314-647-7421 (home)

Here's a unique opportunity to serve

"Mouths of Babes" is a cooking class for young mothers led by Parents as Teachers Educator, Melanie West. Once a month the young women in the class get together to assemble freezer meals in one of the school's kitchens. As they learn about cooking and nutrition, the young women also have the opportunity to talk with other Moms.

Melanie has asked for a group of three to six women who would be willing to assist with the cooking class which meets after school on a monthly basis from August or September through May. She could also use help from either women or men with preparing ingredients prior to the class time.

If you would like to participate in this service opportunity or would like more information, please contact Pastor Kim or Shay Blackwell (shaybwell@sbcglobal.net)



Person-2-Person

Dave Phelps

One night earlier this year, after a snowstorm, my wife, Charlotte, and I saw a car that had slid off the road. We stopped to see if I could help. I asked the occupants of the car, a young Asian couple, if they were all right and they said they were and that they had already called 9-1-1. At about that time, another car stopped and two other young Asian men got out. As they approached the car, one asked the driver, "Excuse me, are you Chinese?" The young man driving replied, "Actually, I'm half Chinese and half Japanese." "What difference does it make?" I demanded. "Oh, none," the young man replied, "I was just curious." I guess it's natural for one Asian to be curious about another's origins but it would never occur to me. We weren't able to help the stranded couple but I would have stopped no matter what nationality they were.

This incident reminded me of the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-37). The Samaritan in the parable didn't ask whether the victim was a fellow Samaritan. In fact, it probably would have been clear that the other man was a Jew. And yet, the Samaritan didn't hesitate to help the other man. Instead, he did everything possible and then some.

We're supposed to help whenever and however we can. It's natural to want to help people who "deserve it." But we aren't called to do that. Instead, we're called to help whoever needs help. The parable of the Good Samaritan was in response to a question a man asked Jesus. An "expert in religious law" had asked him, "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25b New Living Translation). Jesus responded, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" (vs. 26b NLT). The man replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." And, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (vs. 27b ESV). "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" (vs. 28 NLT). But Luke tells us the man wanted to "justify his actions" so he asked Jesus "And who is my neighbor?" (vs. 29 NLT). And so Jesus told the parable we know today as the "Good Samaritan."

We're supposed to help whoever and however we can.

In our church wide study of the gospel of Luke earlier this year, we learned that this was a familiar story, except that the "Samaritan" was originally a woman. Women weren't valued then and the notion of a woman helping when the two men wouldn't was revolutionary. Jesus made it even more revolutionary by exchanging the woman for a hated, contemptible Samaritan. The priest and Levite represented "good" people by Jewish standards of the day, yet they did nothing. The point wasn't lost on Jesus' listeners: The Samaritan did it, why can't you do the same? The Samaritan was a good neighbor, why can't you be one?

Jesus didn't tell the people, "Then the King will say . . . "For I was hungry, and you asked me if I was a Christian. I was thirsty, and you asked me what denomination I belonged to. I was a stranger, and you asked me the name of my church, . . ."" (based on Matt. 25:34b-35 NLT). Instead, he said "" . . . you fed me. . . . you gave me a drink, . . . you invited me into your home."" Similarly, James didn't tell his readers, "Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ask him whether he or she is a Christian" (based on James 2:15 NLT). Instead, he wrote that if you don't give them the things they need, "What good does that do?" (vs. 16B NLT).

Jesus challenged the people, "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!" (Luke 6:32 NLT). He challenges us too, and all disciples for all time. We are not called to do for those who are like us or for those who can return the favor or those who "deserve it." Instead, we are called to give to "the least and the lost." Our simple acts of kindness—neighborliness—can speak volumes. Our lack of kindness can speak just as loudly.

"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! . . .
. . . You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." (Luke 6:32-33; 36 NLT.)

special report by Jan & Kim

We took a field trip to MRH High School in May

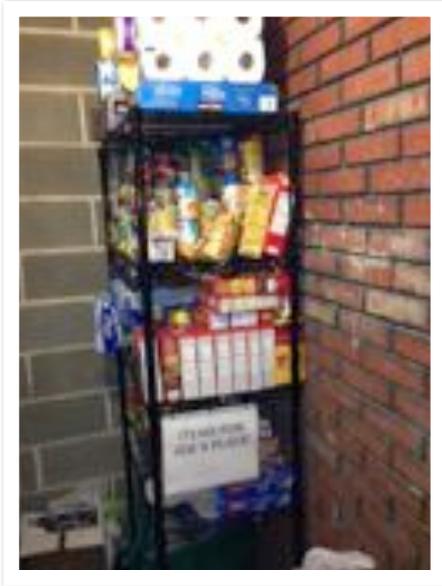
During May Jan Harsh and Pastor Kim were invited to take a “field trip” to MRH High School to meet with the Service Learning class and learn more about what they are doing to eliminate hunger, particularly through the Weekend on Wheels program.

The students in the Service Learning class were very well-informed and articulate as they explained what they had learned about the very complex social issue of hunger. They also described the current state of their Weekend on Wheels program as well as their hopes for expanding that program and gave us a tour of the food pantry and the school gardens. In addition to learning about the broad scope of the hunger issue, the students have learned that making their dreams come to reality for the Weekend on Wheels program takes careful planning and persistence!

This past year the Weekend on Wheels program served fifteen families of various sizes by sending home food for seven meals each weekend—from supper on Friday through supper on Sunday. The families who were served during the school year have been connected with food pantries as a source for additional summer. In the fall, the Service Learning class is hoping to expand the scope of the Weekend on Wheels program by providing bread for every family on a regular basis. They have been reaching out to faith communities for support in this effort. As the class reconvenes in August they will be contacting us with more information about how we can support this effort.

We were sure to offer the Maplewood UMC congregation's support with next fall's service learning class' food drive at the "Concert for a Cause" on August 28 at Ryan Hummert Park.

As we wait for more information about the need for bread this fall and how we can be supportive at the concert in August, please keep the young people of our community and this congregation's ministry to the community in your prayers. Also be sure to plan to attend the “Concert for a Cause” on Wednesday, August 28, at Ryan Hummert Park.



Our closet full of food donations for the Weekend on Wheels program was delivered last month and our shelves are now empty. We need to fill them up againyahoo yaho.



Theresa, Ronnice, and Brittany standing in the room where food donations are stored



Welcome to the Big Ten Drive In

**Open: Sunday, June 23rd through Sunday,
August 25 at 11 a.m.**

Each Sunday there the morning message will address one of the Ten Commandments. Each commandment will be connected with the story line from a movie. So plan now to spend Sunday mornings at the "Big Ten Drive In" located at Maplewood UMC.

No Advance ticket sales required.

**Free concessions will be available at the
back of the theater.**

**Do ya, do ya, do ya wanna go?
Hurry, hurry, hurry & let us know**

"ADULT" Mission Trip for persons who are 16 years or older is scheduled for the week of July 28 through August 3. The team will travel to Piedmont, Missouri to rebuild flood-damaged homes. If you are interested in going or have questions about the trip, please contact Shay Blackwell (shaybwell@sbcglobal.net). Participants can expect to be asked to share in the cost of the trip in an amount ranging from \$50-\$100. Assistance will be available if needed.

St. Lou Fringe Festival coming in June

"Traveling Down the Highway" has been in rehearsal at Maplewood UMC for about a month. This musical production, which shares the story and music of St. Louis gospel musicians, Slim and Zella Mae Cox, will be presented at the Saint Lou Fringe Festival at the Kranzberg Black Box (Kranzberg Arts Center at 501 N. Grand) on Friday, June 21 at 6 p.m.; Saturday, June 22 at 9:00, and Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m.

While you are at the Festival, you might want to attend another performance by "The Four Fronts" presenting "Rhythm City"! Four Fronts is a dance group composed of four of the nation's leading swing dancers (one of whom is **Jenny Shirar**). The group will bring you "toe-tapping, hand-clapping, hip-shaking beats, high flying energy, beautiful movements, and feel-good fun". They perform at the Kranzberg Cabaret (also in the Kranzberg Arts Center at 501 N. Grand) on Saturday, June 22 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 23 at 7:30.

For more information about the St. Lou Fringe Festival go to www.stlfringe.com/ 2013.



**Recognition of our 2013
graduates.....congratulations!!!!**

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



Commissioning of our youth mission team.

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



Keep up to date!!!

Check the website to see what is happening at Maplewood UMC. There is a link to the church calendar on the website.

www.maplewoodumc.org



**MAPLEWOOD
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

7409 Flora Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63143



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



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