

The Messenger

Volume 24, Issue 1

Maplewood
Presbyterian
Church



2018

NEWS INSIDE:

Session News
Elder Reports/Reminders
Worship Volunteers
Nursery Volunteers

Happenings
Prayer Concerns
A Stocking Thank You
December Martha Circle
Deacons Corner

Musical Notes from Jim

Something for Fun,
Something for Thought

Celebrations
Birthdays

Calendar of Events



“Being a Light in a Dark World”

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you....Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn!” Isaiah 60:1,3

Author Nell Mohney tells about a friend of hers who is consistently positive and upbeat. This woman's outlook is so contagiously cheerful that it infects everyone she's around. But when Nell complimented her friend on her great attitude, the woman confessed that she had not always been like that. In her earlier years, the friend admitted, she was a whiner and complainer, a seriously negative person.

One day many years earlier, this woman's husband confronted her about her constant complaining. When the woman protested, her husband pulled out a tape recorder on which he had been taping their conversations. As the woman listened to herself on the tape, she began to cry. Who was this negative woman she was listening to? Was that really how she sounded? Right then and there, the woman sent up a desperate prayer that God would show her who he wanted her to be.

A week later, this woman remembered an article she had read about an organization called "The Christophers." Their motto had made a deep impression on her: *"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."* The woman realized that she had been living in darkness for too long. She began an intensive Bible study focusing on any verse that mentioned light. A new and deepened faith, along with some counseling from their minister, completed the woman's transformation. Her attitude was permanently changed from one of negativism and complaining to one of joy and affirmation.

Surely, she studied the verse from Isaiah: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." What a great promise! This was a promise God made to the people of Israel, but it is also a promise that you and I can claim.

Continued

From
Our
PASTOR

Email: maplewoodpc@comcast.net Web Site: www.maplewoodpc.org



The Maplewood MISSION STATEMENT:
TO KNOW CHRIST and TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
By LEADING People to a Saving Faith in Jesus Christ,
NURTURING and EQUIPPING People in the Faith,
Love and Knowledge of Jesus Christ,
DEPLOYING People in Servant Ministries to the Rest of the World.

STAFF & CONTACTS

PASTOR:

Steve LaSor
724-836-3784

CHURCH OFFICE:

Diane Dale
724-834-4960

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jim Overly

Elders & Committees:

Christian Education

David Hileman, Chair
Mike Troster

Church Life

Rita Perotti
Donna Costelnock

Finance

Sharon Elkettani, Chair
Art Cappella

Missions/Outreach

Bob Cochran, Chair
Bob Harlan

Personnel

Sharon Elkettani

Property

Dana Ferry, Chair
Ray McAteer

Worship

Mike Cerilli, Chair
Bob Bereit, Co-Chair

Clerk of Session

Mary Jane Myers

Deacons Chair

Bonnie Peebly

Treasurer

Arlene Troster

Financial Secretary

Roy Myers

Webmaster

Bob Bereit

Messenger Staff

Katy Doran
Marie LaSor

From Our Pastor Continued . . .

Into the darkness of our lives God's true light shines. God's glory has come upon us. What a great word to come to us as we move through the darkest part of the year, winter: **God's light has come!**

But it's not just winter. There is much darkness out there. Whether it is threat of war in with North Korea, or the Middle East, terrorism, corruption in government...etc., there is plenty in this world to keep you awake. You may be very frightened about what the new year is going to bring.

In the midst of it all there is something we need to see at the opening of this New Year : **WE ARE KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT.** That is what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ. We have seen his light. And it is our task to make certain the light we have seen keeps shining until his return.

We are the keepers of a fire that has been burning for over 2,000 years. That is a remarkable phenomenon, is it not? Wars have been fought, revolutions have turned history on its head, numerous secular philosophies have claimed their place in the sun, but the flame of Christ has kept on shining through the darkness.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." This is our call as the body of Christ, and as individuals....be that light of Christ to the world!

A Blessed New Year to all of you!

Steve

YOU CAN'T START
THE NEXT CHAPTER
OF YOUR LIFE
IF YOU KEEP
RE-READING
THE LAST ONE

Actions approved by Session in December:

New Members

Session approved the following persons as members of Maplewood Church by transfer of membership following their public profession of faith before the congregation: **Ken and Kim Stough**

ACTION: To allow Jeremiah Williams to use the sanctuary for the Eagle Scout Award for Tyler in March.

ACTION: elected Mary Jane Myers, Clerk of Session for 2018

ACTION: elected Arlene Troster, Treasurer for 2018

Committee Reports & Reminders:

Annual Reports are due January 10th

Worship – committee has reviewed the 2017 annual report.

Church Life – 95 people attended the Christmas dinner.

Finance – financial overview and final draft of the 2018 budget.

Mission & Outreach – 13 pies for Otterbein Family Thanksgiving, 31 Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and 24 Stockings for Soldiers. We received an email "Thank You" from a soldier serving in Bahrain that he is from Johnstown and received one of the stockings.

Personnel – all the 2017 employee reviews are done.

Property – Don Snyder has resigned from the Property Committee after serving for many years. Baseboard heaters in sanctuary are being replaced; getting a quote for removing the shrubs from the front of the church. The roof was inspected; repair for ponding will be scheduled in 2019. There was also a discussion on security for our church and how it should be handled.

Christian Education – winter curriculum has been ordered; adult Sunday School class is going well.

Next Session Meeting: **January 15, 2018**

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Communion Preparation:

Arlene Troster

Communion Servers (Intinction):

Katy Doran, TBD

Lay Reader: Arlene Troster

Greeters: TBD

Ushers: TBD

Downstairs Greeter: Shirley Filicko

Acolytes:

January 7th - Rebecca Bouknight

January 14th - Jonathan Bouknight

January 21st - Tyler Williams

January 28th - Logan Williams

February 4th - Emerson Musgrove

NURSERY SCHEDULE:



1/07 – Susan Witt, Bonnie Peebly

1/14 - Christy Musgrove, Kristen Wonderling

1/21 - Marie LaSor, Carol Limegrover

1/28 - Val McAteer, Bonnie Peebly

"As the year comes to an end, don't look back on yesterday's disappointments. Look ahead to God's promises yet to unfold."

{Buky Ojelabi}

Maplewood Happenings

IN SPECIAL NEED OF PRAYER

Bob Bogert
Ruth Gordon
**Bob Harlan- son-in-law's
mother, Pat, for cancer**
Lee Immel
Joyce (and Allan) Neville
Jane Myers' nephew, Tyler
Pastor LaSor's mother, Arleen

**New Additions in BOLD

- Prayers for our Maplewood Church Leaders
- Prayers for our College Students
- Prayers for our local, national and world leaders, our armed forces and their families
- Prayers for our persecuted Christian brothers & sisters world-wide
- Prayers for our missionary families, the Carlsons & the Saldis

My name is Daniel Wozniak. I'm stationed in Bahrain overseas in the US Navy and I have received a stocking and a Christmas card from your church and I wanted to say thank you very much and Merry Christmas to all of you at Maplewood Presbyterian. I am also from Pennsylvania (Johnstown) so it doesn't surprise me that when I received a Christmas stocking from such great people, you happened to be from Pennsylvania!

Thank you all, Merry Christmas and God bless you!
Sincerely,
Daniel Wozniak



MARTHA CIRCLE IN JANUARY:

Happy New Year from your Martha Circle membership. We had a wonderful Christmas luncheon at DeNunzio's and discovered who our Christian Sister had been throughout 2017. We always have such fun with each other and welcome any lady of our church family or their friends to join us in 2018.

In January we will go back to our regular meeting day, place and time. On **January 17th** we will meet in the church lounge at **9:15AM**. The program has not been decided yet but you can bet it will be based on our Christian beliefs. If anyone can recommend a good program, please see **Arlene** and you might just get a hug.

Since we had so much fun at our Christmas luncheon and did not have a "meeting" I will need volunteers for hostess and devotions. If you can help me (Arlene) hostess or volunteer to do devotions, please let me know.

P.S. *Missions/Outreach has a special "Thank You" for the generosity of the Martha Circle for their response in providing pies for the Otterbein Methodist Family Thanksgiving! A blessing!*

The DEACONS CORNER:

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas card service again this year. We distributed more than 1,500 cards! Thank you to all the Deacons for taking time to deliver cards each Sunday.

I've reached my term limit, so I had to come off the Deacons at the end of 2017.

Bonnie Peebly will be taking over as chair and I know she will do a wonderful job! We have a great group of Deacons with caring hearts and the desire to serve!

Have a blessed and healthy 2018!
Marie

Musical Notes from Jim

Hi, y'all! By the time you read this, it will be 2018, so let's jump in with both feet by looking back at December 2017.

December tends to be a very busy month for me, and 2017 was business as usual times two! 2 Christmas carol sing-alongs, the choir Christmas dinner, the Christmas cantata *Breath of Heaven*, and 2 services on Christmas Eve...and that's just at Maplewood! I was also in the process of moving for 12 days, and don't tend to sleep well in unfamiliar settings. Busy Christmas season + poor sleep = very tired Jim...and a good Samaritan to his rescue on Christmas Day.

I accidentally locked myself out of my apartment building on Christmas Day, as I was loading my car to head to my sister's place for dinner at 6. It happened at 4:36 and I waited for almost 2 hours for someone to let me in until a neighbor from down the hall came out to catch a ride to his family's Christmas celebration. On his way out, he let me in and wished me a merry Christmas. I retrieved my keys and arrived at Jen's place at 7:15. I have never appreciated the gifts of heat, food, and family so much. Thank you, God, for kind neighbors!

One more thing before I sign off: Our 2017 Christmas cantata *Breath of Heaven* was very successful. We had 14 singers and used an accompaniment track. We will be performing our 2018 Easter cantata *Redeemed* during the morning service on April 8th, the Sunday AFTER Easter. we will use approximately 10 musicians for live accompaniment, so let's shoot for a minimum of 20 singers! The tentative rehearsal schedule will be part of my newsletter article for February 2018. keep an eye out for it! (And please let me know if you'd like a preview of the songs in the cantata...I will do a mini-performance for you!)

As we enter this new year, please consider using your voice as an offering to God, and as a gift to your Maplewood family. Thanks, y'all, and Happy New Year! =)

In Him, *Jim*

**You know what music is?
God's little reminder that there's something else besides us in this
universe;
harmonic connection between all living beings,
everywhere, even the stars.**

Robin Williams 2007

Something for Fun

Not to be outdone by these little SNK (snotty nosed kids), now, finally we long-suffering seniors have our own texting Codes:

The New "Seniors" Texting Codes

ATD - At the Doctor's
BFF - Best Friend's Funeral
BTW - Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT - Bring your own teeth
CBM - Covered by Medicare
CUATSC - See You at the Senior Center
DWI - Driving While Incontinent
FWBB - Friend with Beta Blockers
FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
FYI - Found Your Insulin
GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA - Got Heartburn Again
IMHO - Is My Hearing-Aid On?
LMDO - Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL - Living on Lipitor
OMMR - On My Massage Recliner
ROFL..CGU - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!
TOT - Texting on Toilet
TTYL - Talk to You Louder
WTP - Where are the Prunes
WWNO - Walker Wheels Need Oil

Thank you, Bob Harlan, for sharing!

Clean & cozy humor submissions are always welcome from members of our Maplewood family.

Something for Thought

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

**When you get to your wit's end,
You'll find God lives there.**

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage..

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

**The Will of God never takes you to where the
Grace of God will not protect you.**

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*

If being a Christian was illegal. Would there be enough evidence to convict you?

FINALLY:

**365 Days in the Year = 365 times
"Fear not" occurs in Scripture!**



Celebrate or Commemorate

Do you have a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion to rejoice about? Are you remembering a loved one who has died? Are you joyful about God's love? If so, share these events with others by placing flowers in our church for Sunday service. It's very easy. Choose a date you wish to have flowers, fill out the form below and put in the church's office. The rest will be taken care of for you. For \$24.00, you can have fresh flowers for a service, a note in the bulletin to commemorate your special occasion and you can take the flowers home with you. If you do not want the flowers, the Deacons can deliver them to shut-ins. Detach and send to church office:

M.U.P.C., 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

Name _____ Phone _____

Date for flowers (Sunday) _____

Notice for bulletin to read: In honor of _____

OR: In memory of _____

I wish to (check one) _____ take the flowers after the service _____ let the Deacons deliver them to shut-ins

1...Gary Hemminger

3...Matthew Christianson

4...Betty Mansour

5...Christi Musgrove
Dr. H. King Hartman

6...Autumn Limegrover

9...Doris Bogert

10...Jim Boronky

12...Drew Gordon



15...Marcia Remaley

17...Kim Githens

20...Karen Langenbacher

26...Sharon Elketanni
Dave Gosser
Steve Truxal

30...Tony Cerilli
Mackenzie Williams

31...Rachel Rossi

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 AM Food Bank Collection 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service	1  New Year's Day	2 7:00 PM Church Life	3 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	4 6:30 PM C.O.M. 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	5 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	6 9:00 AM Food Bank 12:00 PM Private Party
7 Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service	8 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM Missions/Outreach	9	10 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	11 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	12 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	13
14 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Worship Committee	15 7:00 PM Session	16	17  9:15 AM Martha Circle 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	18 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	19 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	20
21 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service	22 7:00 PM Deacons	23	24 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	25 10:00 AM Presby 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	26 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	27
28  FOOD COLLECTION Food Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Coffee Hour	29	30	31 10:15 AM Women's Book Club 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM NAR-ANON	1 11:00 AM Presby 6:30 PM C.O.M. 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Prayer Ministry	2 7:00 AM Men's Study Breakfast	3 9:00 AM Food Bank