[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&docid=Txk2HTiUv9D_QM&tbnid=ecKvq3aHg7MiXM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://www.infyways.com/create-multiple-customer-groups-in-magento-using-easy-steps/&ei=y6LGU679BMWFogTxgoHIAg&bvm=bv.71126742,d.cGU&psig=AFQjCNHwRzio69JxqeGE4oZ1Gru0N_q38Q&ust=1405613119767974)

**2015 Coffee Cart Hosts**

March: Growth & Development Team

April: Trustees

May: Prayer Team

June: Choir

July: Education Team

August: UMW

September:

October: NBA’S

November: Finance Team

December: Missions Team

Groups



Whobodies

The whobodies will meet on March 25 at noon for a catered meal. Sally Komrofske, Gus & Shyrl Nelson are the hosts. There will be a guest speaker.

Maplewood Men

Maplewood Men meet at 7:30 am every Thursday morning at Hyvee on 108th & Fort Street.

Celebrating Our Graduates!

We will be honoring high school and college graduates on Sunday, May 17, 2015.

If you are graduating in 2015 or graduated in December 2014, or know of a current graduate, please contact the church office.

**In the event that SEVERE WEATHER requires cancellation of a church service:**

Announcements will be on KFAB radio station (1110 AM) and on TV stations (Channels 3, 6, and 7)





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**Maplewood**

**United Methodist Ministry**

Volume 54, No 1 March 2015

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Celebrating our Graduates

A Word of Encouragement

Just a few days ago we gathered for an Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of our journey to Easter. Lent is part of the church calendar, but what gives the journey real significance is what God promises. Listen to the prophet Isaiah as he repeats one of those promises for our hearing:

***“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine…”***

***Isaiah 43:1b***

We don’t need to be afraid, God is always with us. No matter what the circumstances that we encounter in our faith walk, know with all certainty that God is able to keep us through it.

If you have distanced yourself from God, be assured He is waiting for you to come home. If you feel broken or in great need, He is the Great Physician and our Provider. Maybe you are feeling unloved or unworthy to be loved; God’s love is unconditional and eternal. The Lord desires to restore us as His children. His promises invite us into His loving arms.

Blessings on you all,



Pastor



*Maplewood Scholarships*

The Maplewood Scholarship was established to assist members of Maplewood in furthering their education at a university, college or trade school. The awards will be given to qualified graduating high school seniors.

To apply for the scholarship, please get an application from the church office. Return the application to Linda Johnson or Pastor Jim.

***The Blessings of Spring***

by Deborah Ann

There are many blessings,  
that each new Spring brings  
you can see it bloom about   
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,  
and brighter days ahead  
comes promises of new life  
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,  
and their buds begin to show  
He gives to us the assurance  
grace in our hears will grow.

He sends us the robin’s song,  
with the promise to provide  
a shelter under His mighty wing  
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,  
and sends the refreshing rain  
sprinkling us with His mercies  
to heal winter’s ache and pain.

God’s given to all His Son,  
to shed upon us a new light  
and the real blessing of Spring…  
is keeping Jesus in our sight!

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2015 MISSION SHARES

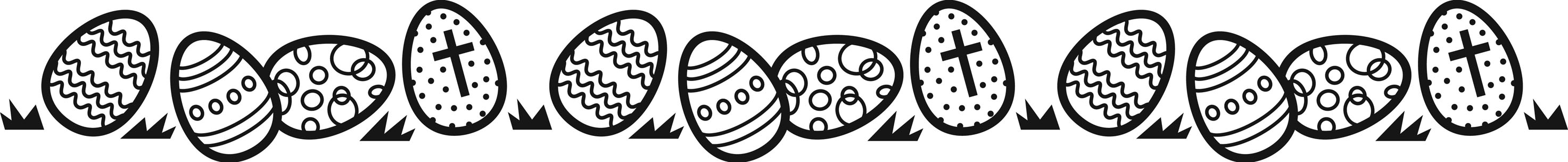
17   
 324

The bottom number represents members at Maplewood. The top number represents the amount we have paid toward our Mission Shares. We have contributed $1,615 (17 x $97). Every time we send $97 to the conference, the top number goes up by one. By using these numbers, everyone can quickly see where we are in paying our 2015 Mission Shares.

- Maplewood Finance Team

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On Palm Sunday, March 29th, during the 9:00 am Sunday school hour, we will have our annual Easter egg hunt. Please bring one bag of individually wrapped candies (small enough to fit into plastic eggs) per family, as well as baskets/bags for your kids to collect eggs in. We will hunt outside if at all possible, so please dress children accordingly, and bring your camera, smartphone or iPad; there are always good photo opportunities.

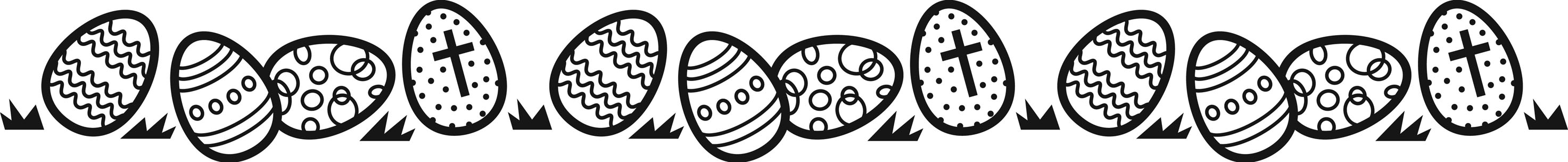
All kids are invited to be part of the

***“Procession of the Palms”***

during the worship service.







***Camp Fontanelle is in the process of hiring its seasonal summer staff***

If you are, or know someone who is,

in college and looking for summer

employment, Camp Fontanelle may

be that opportunity. Thirteen men

and women will be hired to work

directly with our campers. We are looking for mature, responsible, individuals who like working with children and youth, love the outdoors and all that it offers and want to help others grow in their faith.

Room and board is provided and we offer a competitive counselor salary. It promises to be a fun time. It is a chance to meet some great people, facilitate and participate in lively activities, and enjoy all that summer camp offers.

If you are interested in learning more, contact the camp office at 402-478-4296 or email Derek Bergman at DBergman@GreatPlainsUMC.org



**Greeter Schedule:**

**March**

1 Craig & Janice Stamp

8 Bob & Chris Brown

15 Tom & Zoy Blair

22 Greg & Pam Shearer

29 Richard & Donna Moroschak

***If you are interested in serving as a greeter on Sunday mornings, contact Shari Danielson at 402-571-1426***

**Prayer Bears Needed**

The Maplewood Angels have been busy again. We are seeing some new Prayer Bears appearing on our bookcase; however, we could use more Prayer Bears.

If anyone has some

new or nearly-new

bears that they’d like

to add, please bring them to the church Prayer Bear bookcase, and we will make sure they get their prayer tags. We will share these bears along with our Maplewood message of hope, peace, love and prayer.



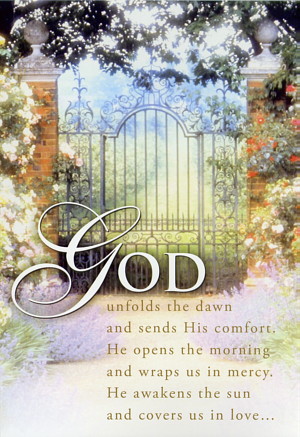


Giving to the ministries of Maplewood, to Special Projects, and Mission Shares is simple and convenient through electronic giving. Maplewood uses a program provided by Vanco Services. Vanco is used by over 12,000 congregations, and is approved by the United Methodist General Council on Finance and administration. It is both safe and secure. Giving electronically means you will not have to write a check or keep a record of your giving. Your bank statement will remind you of your giving.

If you would like to participate in the program, or just ask some questions about electronic giving, contact Gail Allbery, Financial Secretary at 402-491-3301 or email to allbery.gail@gmail.com

*This Program is sponsored by THE FINANCE TEAM, Maplewood Church*

http://cdn5.thecollegeinvestor.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/fancy_line.png





Our sympathy to Jan Waggoner and family. Jan’s sister, Joyce James died January 23, 2015.

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http://cdn5.thecollegeinvestor.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/fancy_line.png

Thank you, Maplewood Faith Family, for being so wonderful.  Between my family and you, my life is amazing even walking through this cancer journey once again. I praise our Almighty God for your prayers, cards, emails, phone calls and HUGS, HUGS, HUGS!!!!!!!  The Care Package was absolutely outstanding -packed with yummy love of which I am sharing with my family and Radiation Team - they think that is super special!!  Thank you for loving us so visibly - we just soak it in.  I praise the Lord for using the prayers of my "spiritual team" to empower my "medical team" with wisdom, knowledge and expertise!    

*May you be blessed more than ever before,*

*Marilyn for the Mentzers*

My thanks, Maplewood friends, for the expressions of sympathy for the loss of my sister, Joyce James.

*Sincerely,*

*Jan Waggoner*

On behalf of the homeless men, women and children living at Open Door Mission, I want to say thank you! Your contribution of nearly 100 lbs. of new underpants will make all the difference. We appreciate your partnership. We look forward to working with you all again. May God bless your congregation for being dedicated to our community.

*Alexandra Ewing*

Jesus declared: "My House is a House of Prayer." So on Wednesday evening, You all did what you knew to do, and you did it well. Thank you.

*Pastor Jim and Sylvia*



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Resurrection Sunday

April 5, 2015

**Son-Rise Worship Service** at 6:45 a.m. Dress warmly as we will be outside. Breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall following the service.

**Easter Worship Service** at 10:15 a.m. Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

**Ministry Schedule**

**Choir/Devotional**: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Choir Practice**: Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

**God’s Kids**: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

**Prayer Ministry**: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

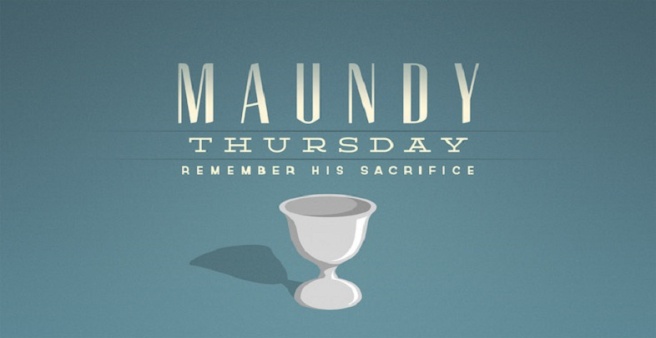
**Adult Bell Choir**: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

**Bible Study**: Thursdays at 10 a.m.

**Adult Sunday School**: 8:45 a.m.

**Kids Sunday School**: 9:00 a.m

**Worship**: 10:15 a.m



Thursday, April 2, 2015

Remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with His disciples in the context of Passover.

**2015 Dates for Blood Drive:**

*Holy Cross Lutheran:*

Sunday, March 8 &

Sunday, October 4

*Maplewood United*:

Sunday, June 7th

*PCM:*

Sunday, August 9th



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Come Join us for:

Maplewood’s Festival of Music

March 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Maplewood United Methodist Church

3535 Maplewood Blvd

Omaha, NE 68134

Hear Music From:

*Maplewood’s Chancel Choir & Adult Bell Choir*

*Madrigali at al.*

*Dr. Matthew C Harden on Organ*

\*Free will donation accepted at door

All proceeds will go to the music area of the church

Event Scheduling

If you are planning on holding an upcoming

event, please be sure to contact the church

and confirm the date and time. This not only

ensures that space is available, but it will also

provide our cleaning service with adequate notice. Thank you!

-SPRC Committee



**SAFE GATHERINGS**

If you work with children/youth, are a youth leader, a Sunday school teacher or VBS teacher and are not current on your “Safe Gatherings” certification or have questions about being certified, please see Pastor Jim. To be certified is a requirement of the Great Plains Conference.

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UMW Reading Program

One of the new books in the United Methodist Women's library was purchased with youth in mind.  Katie Quirk's novel "A Girl Called Problem" is an easy-read for all, especially teens. The author lived in Tanzania for two years and taught writing near Lake Victoria.  
  
*The book's cover has this description about the main character:*  
"Thirteen -year- old Shida, whose name means 'problem' in Swahili, certainly has a lot of problems in her life......her father is dead, her depressed mother is rumored to be a witch , and everyone in her rural Tanzanian village expects her to marry rather than pursue her dream of becoming a healer."  
  
Find this book and many others in the UMW cupboard of the church kitchen.

The United Methodist Women will be celebrating its 150th year on March 23rd!



**2015 SPRC Members**

*(Members serve as liaisons to*

*the congregation)*

Donna Moroschak

Matt McKeever

Larry Sexton

Zoy Blair

Michelle Doughty

Bill Crawford

Ex-official: Don Mentzer

Lay Leader: Heather Dienstbier

***Strong Tower VBS in Caracol, Haiti***

We are excited to announce our 2015 VBS Mission Dates:

**July 31-August 8  
  
*Our goal:* To share the Gospel of Christ with approximately 400 Haitian children.**



**The UMW Unit Meeting will be Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. on March 12. Hosted by the Tuesday Evening Circle.**

Please pray for our 2015 Mission Team:

Nancy Jones

Joyce Smith

Havala Rahn

Jared Hyland

Dustin Smith

Brent Gebbie

http://cdn5.thecollegeinvestor.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/fancy_line.png

Thank you, Mary Kay Kellogg, on a great job with the UMW books!

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MAPLEWOOD PRESCHOOL NEWS

Holly Marasco, Preschool Director February 2015

5

In March the children will celebrate Dr. Suess’s birthday and St. Patrick’s Day with some fun activities. Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on March 26th from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Maplewood Preschool will be closed for spring break March 30-April 3.

Help us fill our classrooms! We are currently accepting registrations for all classes for the 2015-2016 school year. We have many fun filled options to choose from. Please call the preschool office at 402-572-1079 for more information or to set up a tour.

Thank you to all who donated Hy-Vee receipts! Our grand total of receipts turned in was $48, 619! Maplewood Preschool will receive a check for $243.10.

**Strong Tower is now accepting applications for two new missionary positions**

***On-Site Ministry Coordinator (based at Strong Tower Orphanage in Caracol)***

***Director of Marketing and Development (based in the U.S.)*** 

For complete job descriptions, application, and doctrinal questionnaire,  please visit the “Missionary Opportunities” page at [www.strongtowerorphanage.com](wlmailhtml:%7b23675020-7B9A-45DD-AFBA-F74584C2B437%7dmid://00000062/!x-usc:http://www.strongtowerorphanage.com/).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lorie Holt:   
[lorie@firstsayyes.com](wlmailhtml:%7b23675020-7B9A-45DD-AFBA-F74584C2B437%7dmid://00000062/!x-usc:mailto:lorie@firstsayyes.com)

660-620-0866



**Mission Shares**

**Luncheon Extravaganza**

March 22

Following Worship

*Provided by the UMW*

**Maplewood United Methodist Church**

**3535 Maplewood Blvd, Omaha**

***Will be hosting the 2nd Annual “Hearts for Haiti” Silent Art Auction***

**Saturday April 11, 2015 3:00-6:00 pm**

Enjoy beautiful art created by Caracol children and Haitian artists. Plus artwork donated and created from our local community! There will be music and hors d'oeuvres.

Advance tickets are available now for $5.00 or $8.00 at the door. Contact Nancy Jones at 402-953-6227 for tickets or interest in donating art or picture frames.

*This is a fundraiser to send our Mission Team to Caracol Haiti to*

*share the love and grace of Jesus Christ to orphans and*

*vulnerable children through Strong Tower Orphanage.*

*Visit* [*www.strongtowerorphanage.com*](http://www.strongtowerorphanage.com)

*to learn more about Strong Tower Orphanage.*



*Saturday night,*

*March 7*

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!

***Undie Sunday Sets Record!***

**Thank you to everyone, including some preschool families, who**

**contributed new underwear, socks, T-shirts, and pajamas to our collection for the open door mission.**

**Over seventy pounds of items were graciously received. You have helped provide dignity to countless men, women and children by providing them with new under-garments.**

***Blessings from the Mission Team***

The Living Hope Pantry is in need of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat. These are items that are purchased by the Living Hope Pantry Coordinator. Please make sure other food donated is not outdated. If you are able, we would appreciate gift cards in any amount to Bakers, Bag & Save, or Wal-Mart. Please mail all gift cards to the District Office.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

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