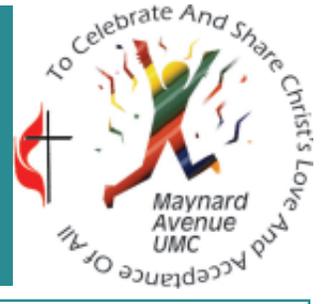


Maynard



essence

Pastor's Page...

BY PASTOR PATRICIA

"The Rapture" vs. the Bible's Message of Hope

Over the last 150 years, millions of Americans have been caught up in various forms of Rapture theology. Scripture, particularly the book of the Revelation of John, is taken out of its first Century context and manipulated, and has produced fear and misunderstanding of the core of scriptural teaching about God, Jesus and how the kingdom of God comes to the earth.

In "Rapture Theology" God is offended by faithless humans, and is plotting an end to the world, dividing families and only saving a select few. Jesus is preparing to return to violently punish those who aren't the right kind of believers. Only a few will be saved to return to heaven with Jesus. Around 59 percent of Americans believe this. Where did it come from?

In ancient Hebrew culture, there are three stages of the world: paradise, the cursed world and the Messianic kingdom. They believed that we move suddenly from one stage to the next. When Jesus did not bring about the immediate Messianic kingdom, there was a sense among some followers that he would have to come back and do that. So people have used those texts to predict when that would happen.

John Nelson Darby was a 19th century evangelist. He pulled together various scriptures, to develop a calendar of events leading up to the end of time. First, said Darby, Jesus returns to spirit away all true believers into heaven in an event that Darby named, "The Rapture." (That word does not occur in scripture.) Darby also decided that seven years after those left behind suffer great tribulations, Jesus returns for a second second coming to exterminate the evil forces gathered at Armageddon. After that battle, there will be a 1000 years of peace and prosperity.

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Rev. Patricia Wagner

Music Director:

Bryan Babcock

Secretary and Editor:

Claudia Erlenbach

June 2011

Pastor's Page (cont'd from pg. 1)

In 1909, the Scofield "Reference Bible" was written to include study notes that supported Darby's rapture

theology. The Moody Bible Institute and other fundamentalist religious schools used this bible and taught Darby's theology. Churches and media have promoted it. In the 1970s, Hal Lindsey wrote "Late Great Planet Earth," promoting Darby's idea. In the 1990s, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins began writing the "Left Behind" novels, all promoting a rapture theology. These novels also tend to promote a particular social and political agenda, linking homosexuality, for example, to the earth's looming destruction.

What does the whole of Scripture say to us?

Creation Is Good

The whole bible, from Genesis to Revelations, teaches us that God created the earth as good. God would not destroy creation, nor the people. In the Noah story, when God brings about a flood, God promises never to start creation over again.

The Empire Will End

The Book of Revelation was written in a time when the early Christian church was under siege. The author of the Book of Revelation speaks with hope about the end of the corrupt Roman Empire, or "the Beast," that was persecuting Christians. Revelation offers a challenge and a vision of hope that humankind can participate in the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

How Change Happens

Revelation challenged the early Christians to reject "the Beast," the empire that lives by injustice and violence, and participate in the beloved "city of God": to "follow the Lamb of God" into a new way of life. While ancient culture believed this happens suddenly, we have learned, partly by so many predictions being wrong, that change comes more slowly, and it is up to us to keep believing and participating in God's work of righteousness.

Jesus — Compassionate Son of God

The image of Jesus that many fundamentalists and "Rapturists" promote is of him returning in power on a majestic white horse with sword in hand to slaughter the evil masses of people.

But how about the Jesus we know from scripture? The one who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, who taught us to love our enemies and forgive those who do evil against us? The one who died on a cross and rose again and showed loving kindness toward those who betrayed him?

Do we think that Jesus would turn away from his core values and embrace violence and vengeance? Would the God who is revealed in the compassionate Jesus, really end the world with anger? Would a limitless, loving God "leave behind" so many because of an arbitrary number of those who some have predicted can be "saved?" Would we want to follow a God who could be so cruel?

We are all still learning and growing in our understanding. None of us comprehend the fullness of God's reality or the story that is happening in and through creation. But, as Christians, it is important to know the sources of our beliefs and to challenge those that are not in keeping with Jesus' life and teachings.

West Ohio Conference

Newsletter - Newsnet

Take a few minutes each month to check out the Newsnet website: newsnet@wocumc.org. It brings you into the happenings of people and churches in the West Ohio Conference – like stories of the tornadoes, the youth going south over Memorial Weekend, conference annual report, Rev. Guadalupe (Lupina) T. Villalpando-Stewart leaving the conference (she spoke here a few years ago), and many other important happenings in the conference. There is a link from Maynard's website to this newsletter. Check it out!

Congratulations
to Nichole Dodd on her
high school graduation!!



Good goin', Nichole!!

Pride Weekend 2011



BY BETHANY TORRES

Pride weekend, **June 17-18**, is now less than two (2) weeks away so it is time to get busy and commit! I have a posse together who has planned theme, music, decorations, etc., for the parade/booth. Exciting right?! I know you all are so pumped to make a BIG presence at Columbus Pride's 30-year anniversary!!! Let me know if you can be a part of this fun event!

Thank you for participating in the Kroger Community Rewards program. Supporters who shopped at Kroger between February 1, 2011, and April 30, 2011, helped contribute to Kroger's \$321.39



total donation to Maynard. Just by shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger's Reward Card, you have helped raise money for Maynard's ongoing ministries.

Reminder, if you have not already done so, please re-enroll at the Community Rewards program website. Encourage your friends and family to sign up, too. Enrolling with Maynard as a Community Rewards Program recipient does not affect your benefits for shopping or purchasing gas. Thanks for your support!

Check Out Our Website

www.maynardav.org

- ➔ Read prayers from Sunday and prayers added during the week
- ➔ Read Pastor Patricia's sermons
- ➔ Read current and previous newsletters
- ➔ See update on Freedom School
- ➔ View calendar of events, and much more!

The Fantasticks

Support Asher Pollock in *The Fantasticks* at TAPA! Asher has been cast as the lead boy, Matt, in this musical. It's a story of trials, maturity, and above all love told through a musical show in an intimate setting. Come share in an incredible journey through a timeless fable of love. The Academy for the Performing Arts, Linden Lutheran Church Annex 1230 Oakland Park Ave. Columbus, Ohio. Order your tickets today!

Times: June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 at 8:00
June 19, 25, and 26 at 3:00

Ticket Prices: \$15 for adults
\$12 for children, students, and seniors

Support Asher as well as enjoy the wonder that is live theatre.

Missions Group

BY ZACHARY WILCOX

Just a reminder that on June 4, the missions group will be going out for a clean-up day at the homeless camp. Waste Management will provide a Dumpster free of charge for the day.

We are looking for volunteers. We will also need to borrow shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows and a donation of trash bags. If anyone is interested in donating some time or allowing us to use any needed equipment, please let me know ASAP so we can coordinate our effort to help these people out.

Thanks for all you do, God bless.



SUBMITTED BY **DIANA KUBOVCIK**

UM Community Ministries Helps Churches Partner for Mental Health

Did you know that United Methodists are offering Pro-Bono Counseling in central Ohio? And it is happening here at Maynard! Many thanks to Stacy Brannan and her team who go this project off the ground, then it spread to other churches.

Mt. Sterling Community Center in Madison County has been offering free counseling for several years. They have a professional counselor who offers free counseling to people who cannot afford it and offer workshops on mental health for the community, like their Women's Wellness Day, focused on stress management/ depression held this spring.

Pro-Bono Counseling is about offering hope to people who feel lost, stuck, or broken.

Now a new Pro-Bono Counseling Program has started in Franklin County. So far seven United

Methodist Churches: Broad Street, Livingston, **Maynard Avenue**, Northwest, Maple Grove, Crossroads and Asbury South are partnering with Mental Health America to offer a safe place where people can meet with a counselor and receive coffee and friendly hospitality from a volunteer. This is so important because mental health funding has been slashed dramatically in recent years and people going through divorce, grief, and stressful situations often have nowhere to turn. Hopefully through this partnership our churches will be seen as a place for hope and new beginnings!

Laura from Mental Health America writes,

"In just six short weeks, our professional volunteer pool has provided free mental health counseling to 66 individuals and families in the community. The feedback from professionals, clients, and members of our community has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive.

"Across the county and the state, individuals and organizations recognize the need for this type of volunteer-based service to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors and communities.

"The MHAFC Pro Bono Counseling Program by the Numbers (as of 4/13/11):

- * 70 Volunteer Professionals Recruited
- * 195 Client Requests for Service
- * 66 Clients Linked to Professional Volunteers
- * 12 Community sites who have volunteered their space"

Pro-Bono Counseling is about offering hope to people who feel lost, stuck, or broken. Anne Wilson Schaefer writes, "Hope is not expensive to have. It is very expensive to be without." Proverbs 13:12 states, 'Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.' I'm thankful United Methodist churches are providing a place for hope and healing in the midst of difficult times."

Pro-Bono Counseling is a pilot project started in Franklin County and hoping to expand soon to other counties in central Ohio as well.

Circle of Caring

Did you know your Community Ministries apportionment giving helps frail, elderly and disabled people remain in their homes? Martha Buller, Director of Circle of Caring in Pickaway County writes, "We finished our first ramp this spring at the mobile home of an 84-year-old woman. 7 volunteers were able to see it through from start to finish in one day." Circle of Caring is truly Faith in Action! For more info about the many ways Circle of Caring helps people in need, contact Martha Buller at marthabuller@bergerhealth.com.

Community Ministry Festival

Save the date: this year's Community Ministry Festival, the BIG Community Ministries event of the year, will be on September 20 at Bethel International UMC in Columbus, from 2-8 p.m. Our theme is Fanning the Flame by Going Deeper—going deeper into relationship with Jesus and deeper into relationship with the local community. It's a great way to see many wonderful local UM outreach ministries in action and get ideas for your outreach.

We will have great speakers, 60 displays, great music! See firsthand where your apportionment money is going!! Let Diana Kubovcik know if you would like to bring a display for your local outreach ministry: \$5 to reserve a table.

IGMG

Donations Needed by Intergenerational Mission Group (IGMG)

The Intergenerational Mission Group will be going to visit the missions downtown on **June 12** and are collecting bottled water to distribute. If you can help, please bring what you can and place on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Storytelling Workshop

Storytelling Workshop at King Avenue

On **June 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, a storytelling workshop will be held at King Avenue. Cost is \$25, which includes lunch. Talk to Pastor Patricia if you would like to attend or go to King Avenue's website, kingave.org and sign up.

Baptism / Special Music

Our annual Summer Special Music series began Sunday, May 29, and it started the summer with a bang!! Julie Cremean Russell, a friend of Doug's from *Curtains*, shared her beautiful voice with us. Alex VanBibber blessed us with two piano solos during offertory. Brass players (Ryan VanBibber, Pink Pinkley, Merv Matteson, Nat Anderson) accompanied a couple hymns, with Doug directing. Bryan sang a solo, accompanied by Jeff Hamm, in honor of Aravis Elizabeth VanBibber's baptism. What a joyful Sunday!!



(Above, clockwise): Adrielle carefully watches over Alex's playing; Pastor Patricia and the VanBibbers preparing for Aravis's baptism; Doug directing brass; praise team (Julie Cremean Russell, Randy Willey, Doug Joseph, Joan Krause); Daddy Ryan playing postlude; and Bryan Babcock singing a special song for Aravis)



Happy Father's Day!!!



BY CHERYL CARTER

In April, NSI provided **Easter food baskets** for 187 families in the university district neighborhood. Many THANKS to all of our churches, individuals and businesses for their support this spring!

So far, this year (Jan – April), NSI has **provided food** for 2000 people and given used clothing to 161 children.

The **AARP tax aide program** prepared and submitted tax forms for 45 persons this year and provided tax information for more than 100 neighbors.

The **library's Ready to Read** program has visited the food pantry twice and is providing reading materials for parents with young children.

On Mondays, staff from **The Columbus Health Department** is in the food pantry for health consultation and free testing.

Nearly 40 percent of those we help are children and their education is critical if they are to escape poverty, and the 2011-2012 School year will be here soon. Neighborhood Services, Inc., offers a **back-to-school program** that provides children with school supplies and new school clothing so that they will be better equipped to succeed. For the ninth year, NSI presents its Back-to-School Program which offers donors three ways to help families purchase new school clothing for children.

- “adopt” one or more children and purchase new outfits for them.
- purchase one or more gift cards to clothing or department stores.
- make a monetary donation to the Back-to-School Program.

Neighborhood Services, Inc., also collects school supplies and distributes them to children in grades K-12.

You can help support our Back-to-School Program and help a child receive new school clothes. Please visit our website at www.neighborhoodservicesinc.org or call us at 297-0592 if you would like to help a child!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED MONDAY, JUNE 6

There will be a out-of-state delivery of cereal designated for four area pantries. NSI is looking for volunteers to assist with unloading and transferring the boxes to another truck to be brought to NSI. There has been limited cereal available recently therefore a few local pantries partnered up to buy bulk cereal at a reasonable price. NSI is very excited that they were able to purchase the cereal but need volunteers to help unload and transfer the boxes to their delivery truck. Volunteers should meet at **9 a.m ., Monday, June 6**, at Lutheran Social Services located at 1460 S. Champion Ave., Columbus.. The delivery should not be strenuous nor time consuming; it should only take about an hour. Please contact Tiffany Flewellen at NSI, 614-297-0592, if you available to help.

2011 Maynard Directories

You have been very patient waiting for the new directory to be completed. But finally!! They will be sent out via email within the week of June 5-11. For those who do not have email, you can pick up a copy by the church office on June 12.

Freedom School

Dates: June 13 through July 22



Charity Romero Rose and the University District Freedom School Servant-Leader Interns presented the Children's Message one Sunday in May. Enthusiastic is the only word I can think of to describe this group of leaders. What a great time the children will have this summer!

Our funding came through from the Columbus Foundation, and all you great supporters, so the University District Freedom School is about to begin. This full day, literacy-based program starts June 20 and runs through July 29, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We have bus service this year for those living in the district. Here at Maynard, we will have 10 Pre-Kindergartners and 30 children entering first through third grades. (Scholars entering 4th through 8th grades are at Summit UMC.) Six Maynard youth are registered to be part of the program this year.

We are looking for volunteers to help with registration, lunches, field trips and nurturing. Fill out the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or call or email the church office if you are interested. Many thanks for all your support!!!

Pentecost Sunday

June 12 we will be celebrating Pentecost, the presence of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures speak of a Wind of the Spirit that swept through the place where the people were gathered, and we thought it would be fun to symbolize the movement of that Wind in our church with KITES! So you are invited to "Fly a Kite" on Pentecost Sunday. Bring them to Sunday School, if possible, or just bring them along to worship, and we'll set them soaring on the balcony! Everyone is encouraged to wear red (or orange or yellow) to signify the flames of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Media Help Needed

We are looking for someone to take responsibility for the projection part of worship in Jim Stephenson's absence starting July 3. Jim will train anyone willing to take over this work/ministry each Sunday. Contact the church office if this is something you feel called to do.

Tweets from Conference

If you are interested in following the debates and issues at conference this year, you can get Stacy Brannan's Tweets! We'll send you the instructions by email! Also, you can watch the worship services at Lakeside by streaming video. Go to www.westohioumc.org. We will also be joining in prayer on Tuesday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for the conference to turn away from Recommendation #8, which would discriminate hiring on a conference non-heterosexual lay persons for conference level positions.

MaryMakers Fellowship of Women



Another successful year is drawing to a close as the MaryMakers take a few months off. We have knitted, crocheted, sewed, talked, and ate many great snacks. Hats and scarves are always in demand so we usually are seen with a crochet hook or knitting needles in hand. We are making a prayer quilt; each member decorating a square to be included in the quilt. In a desire to help those in need of food and housing, we are striving to buy a cow through Heifer International. Thank you to all of those who purchased sewn/reusable bags. We are well on our way to buying our cow next fall. You'll be hearing more from us in September! Have a great summer!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	JUNE					
5 1 p.m.—Luminous Flux	6 7 p.m.—AA	7 7 p.m.—Tie-dying T-shirts for Pride	8 12 p.m.—AA 7 p.m.—AA	9 6:30 p.m.—Pro Bono Project 7 p.m.—Trustees	10 7 p.m.— Youth Group 8 p.m.—NA	11 3 p.m.—Storytellers
← Annual Conference June 6-10 →						
12  1 p.m.—Luminous Flux	13 7 p.m.—AA	14  Freedom School	15 12 p.m.—AA 7 p.m.—AA	16 6:30 p.m.— Pro Bono Project	17 8 p.m.—NA	18  PRIDE PARADE 3 p.m.—Storytellers
19  1 p.m.—Luminous Flux	20 7 p.m.—AA	21 Freedom School	22 12 p.m.—AA 7 p.m.—AA	23 6:30 p.m.— Pro Bono Project	24 7 p.m.— Youth Group 8 p.m.—NA	25 1 p.m.— Assn. of the Blind 3 p.m.—Storytellers
26 1 p.m.—Luminous Flux	27 7 p.m.—AA	28 Freedom School	29 12 p.m.—AA 7 p.m.—AA	30 Freedom School		