

The session has called the ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for Sunday, February 5th immediately following worship. A light lunch will be served by the youth of the church (donations to Youth Ministries). The 2012 budget approved by the session will be presented. Hopes and dreams for 2012 will be discussed. Rev. Tracy Evans will moderate.

NEW ADULT CLASS BEGINS FEBRUARY 12, 2012!!! The topic: Ten Things Your Minister Wants to Tell You (But Can't Because He Needs the Job) by Reverend Oliver Thomas. Over 10 weeks, discuss difficult topics such as: *How did it all begin?*, *Is there such a thing as a miracle?*, and *What happens when we die?* Rev. Thomas is aware that the voices of centrist Christians are not being heard. As people of faith, not of politics, they want more from their religion than a voter's guide. Thomas writes sensitively about human purpose, the significance of the Bible, and how one pleases God. He deals with contemporary questions about other faiths and the place of women in religion while weaving a sensible Christian theology for modern living. Come join the discussion led by John Beck in the parlor at 9:30 A.M.

SPARK ROTATION FOR FEBRUARY – The Disciples, followed by preparation for Easter through Lent. Our K-5th graders learn about Jesus calling his disciples and how we can follow Jesus today. Sunday school begins at 9:30 A.M.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT...

.....COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES will be on Wednesdays at 12 P.M. beginning on February 29th planned by the Norman Ministerial Fellowship. The theme is "Together to the Cross" and will focus on different biblical characters from the gospels. Weekly offering will go to the Second Chance Prison Ministry helping women get back on their feet after incarceration. Lunch will be \$5. Watch for the schedule of host churches and preachers.

Faces at the Cross by Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd, this year's Lenten Study led by Rev. Pam Normile at First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Sundays at 7 P.M. Books may be obtained through online booksellers or through Pam.

A new book study is starting with the Lenten season. John Beck and Trisha Bunce will be leading a discussion on "What the Bible Really Tells Us: The Essential Guide to Biblical Literacy" by T.J. Wray. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings beginning February 21st. Time and location to be announced. Trisha has a few books available immediately for \$16, and more can be ordered. Topics like wealth, suffering, Heaven and Hell, justice, sexuality, the environment, and prayer and worship will be explored through the lens of both Old and New Testament scripture. This study is open to the community, so please invite anyone you know who may be interested.





Introducing Rev. Tracy Evans

Proverbs 24:3-43

By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write you, I am sitting amongst boxes and boxes, getting ready to move to Norman. I'm sure many of you know from your own experience that moving is a process. Days and weeks are spent packing (and, if you're like me, purging too many possessions). Then the moving truck comes and those boxes are transported to the new place. But the new place isn't home, yet. There is a quick change of location; one night in one home and the next night in another. Weeks and weeks of unpacking, putting away, arranging and getting my new place to feel like home. It takes time to feel comfortable in the new place.

This might be a good analogy for our time as we begin a new chapter in the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church. One day, I will be your new pastor. Overnight, you will go from having Deb as your interim, to having me as your pastor.

But I won't be immediately familiar to you, nor will you be familiar to me. We will need to take time to learn about each other, learn our strengths, and join together as we follow the path God is providing for us. It will take a while for us to feel "at home" with one another. But it will come.

When I first met with the Pastor Nominating Committee, they asked what I would need to begin ministry at Memorial. My answer was that I would need time. I need time to learn your traditions, your expectations, your stories and your history. And time to learn your names. PLEASE introduce yourself to me the first few weeks, even if you've introduced yourself before. It will take me some time to learn everyone's names.

A path is available for us to journey together. Notice that I didn't say that we will forge a path; God is doing that for us. It is our work to find that path and travel it together step by step.

I look forward to making a home with you. May it be a process that blesses us all.

Grace and peace,

Tracy

Pronoun shift

Society encourages us to focus on ourselves. The pronouns in the parable of the rich man indicate that he fell into this trap, too: "He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest. ... I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well!'" (Luke 12:16-19, The Message).

What a difference other pronouns would have made. The man could have asked, "What would you have me do, God?" He could have seen things as God's, on loan to him to share with others: "This barn you've blessed me with, God, isn't big enough for this harvest you've provided. I'll share the extra with others, as you've commanded."

And instead of taking credit himself, he could have offered praise: "God, you've cared so well for me. Thank you, Lord!

Pack well

"During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries,



relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series,

www.rethinkchurch.org/lent



This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

Jahruba and the Drum Circle raised the roof in fellowship hall on Wednesday, January 18th! We had a good turnout of about 40 people. The African food was awesomely delicious! A Big Thank You to our Cameroonian cooks - Christy Masango, Nicholine Sama, Roseline Itoe, Gladys Jangha, Sussan Annoh, plus Kerri Bales, and Angie Martin. All who cooked, ate, and drummed agreed that we should do this again.

The Urban Mission item of the month for **February is canned vegetables**. Please place your donation around the pulpit.

A Special thanks to Worship and Music committee members Joan Cole, Deb Meinke, Terry Cast, Lucy Lanning, Lisa Upton, Vince Leseney for their creative and thoughtful planning of the services for Advent.

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God's call to a fruitful pastoral ministry — with his sister's assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It's a poignant reminder that God's love sustains us even when human love falls short.

Walking with God

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.
—Greg Laurie

“To love another person is to see the face of God.” —Lyrics from *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” —Anne Bradstreet

“Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof.” —Kahlil Gibran

A GENTLE REMINDER FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

When we come to worship God, please remember our sanctuary etiquette:

Turn your cell phone to silent when you enter worship.

Leave food and drink in the fellowship hall.

Refrain from flash photography and videotaping during worship.

Arrange for videotaping prior to worship with the sound booth.

Restless children may be taken to the narthex so that you may worship freely.

CLERK'S CORNER

Session Highlights

Session met on Jan 17th to conduct its regular business and examine the new officers. Bob Clarke, Karen Girdner and Ann Fayles will serve on Session and Will Farris and Trisha Bunce will serve as Deacons. Due to an emergency at Will Farris' place of employment, Will was examined by Session on Jan 22nd, prior to worship. These outstanding leaders passed with flying colors and are bringing lots of energy to their leadership positions. A hearty THANK YOU to Charlotte Lovett, Dave Stensrud and Trudy Beard, who are rotating off Session.

Session voted to set the date of the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, Feb 5, 2012 immediately following worship. The youth will be serving lunch and will use this as a fundraiser for their future activities.

Mission and Evangelism

WATCH FOR NEW MINI-MISSION OPPORTUNITIES in 2012.

We have a new mini mission project to benefit CCFI. We will again be assembling and providing meals for a parent/caregiver training meeting on February 14. You can help by donating towards food costs, preparing and packing meal bags, or delivering meals to CCFI. Please see Trisha Bunce or the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board in the hall.

Our friends Barbara and Tom Boyd have put together a fabulous set of speakers for their **Spring 2012 Presidential Dream Course**. Each lecture is open to the public and will take place at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History's Kerr Auditorium. Free parking available.

February 7, 2012 Tuesday @4:00 P.M. **"The Puzzle of America's Religious Pluralism: Making Diversity Work" by Dr. David Campbell, University of Notre Dame.**

February 23, 2012 Thursday @ 4:00 P.M. **"One God, One World" by Dr. Miroslav Volf, Yale University.**

March 1, 2012, Thursday @ 4:00 P.M. **"Christians and Jews: New Directions in an Old and Difficult Relationship" by Dr. Mary Boys, Union Theological Seminary**

March 29, 2012, Thursday @ 4:00 P.M. **"Is Double Belonging Possible? – Testimony from a Buddhist-Christian" by Dr. Paul Knitter, Union Theological Seminary**

April 17, 2012, Tuesday 4:00 P.M. **"Disciples and Citizens: Christian Commitments, Religious Diversity and the Public Sector" by Dr. Harold Netland, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.**



FEBRUARY 2012

Happy Anniversary!

ANNIVERSARIES

2/11 Mike & Joan Cole
 2/14 Jim & Judy Burns
 2/22 Dale & Juliet Dillon

FEBRUARY 2012 BIRTHDAYS

2/01 Charles Terrell
 Dana Terrell
 2/04 Mike Johnson
 2/05 Cody Yeager
 2/06 Laurianne Fisher
 2/09 Karl Ngonge
 Gysheilla Jangha
 2/11 Sussan Annon
 2/13 Terry Williams
 2/16 Helen Blackstone
 2/17 Ryan Johnson
 2/18 Rainey Sewell
 2/20 Jim Eckel
 2/25 Blake Terrell
 2/26 Larry Upton
 Will Farris
 2/27 Jim Rodriguez
 2/28 Katie Bradley
 2/29 Jody Yeager



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!.... or not

We keep a very special file
 On every sir and miss
 And now, we're asking for your help
 On one thing, and it's this:

If we don't have your birthday date
 We don't know what to do
 You won't be in the Messenger
 That's mailed each month to you.

We can't send you a birthday card
 Perhaps a birthday call
 Or sing (off key!) the birthday song
 Or wish you well at all.

If you tell Elaine she'll put you on
 Her special "birthday page"
 Then tell us all when it's "your day"
 But she won't tell your age!

Bible Quiz

During Jesus' time in the wilderness after his baptism, Satan tempted him to do three things. Which of the following was not one of the temptations?

- A. To change water into wine so wedding guests would know he was God's Son
- B. To throw himself down from the top of the temple, expecting angels to save him
- C. To turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger
- D. To worship Satan in order to gain all the world's kingdoms



Answer: A (See Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.)



Everyone had a great time at do-it-yourself night! We made prayer boards and friendship bracelets.



Save the Date:

Feb 5 No regular youth group - instead, our luncheon fundraiser! I'll have a treat for everyone after!

Feb 12 Activity TBA

Feb 19 Dollar Movie Night! More info to come.

Feb 26 Activity TBA.

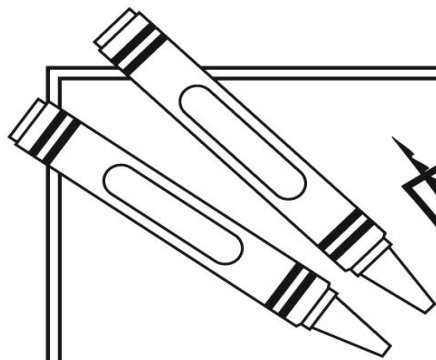
Mar 30 One Night In a Box - more info to come, but please mark your calendars! This is an overnight event!



Please join us for a youth group fundraiser luncheon on February 5 following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Why Church Camp?

Many of you may not know that I (Corey Fisher) was a camper every summer at Dwight Mission from age 8 to 18. My first camp was Family Camp, which I attended with my mom. It was a great beginning experience because I got to have all the fun of church camp with none of the homesickness. From the next summer on I was hooked. I went back each year for increasing amounts of time. What I loved was getting thrust into a group of people my age and learning about the dynamics of group work and life, and meeting great people along the way. It's hard to imagine that you can make great friends in such a short amount of time, but I always did. It was a great experience that taught me so much about how to lead a happy social life while keeping in the faith of Jesus Christ. Each summer was a crucial moment in my faith journey, and it is partly why I am still so involved in the church today. I think every child and youth should get to experience church camp at least once. For more info, please come talk to me or go to the Dwight Mission website (dwrightmission.org). There are scholarships



PUZZLE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



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COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13, NIV

February 2012

Sun

Mon











Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 LWV 11:15am—1:30 PM Library Regular Scheduled Activities	2 Serve at FFF 10:00 AM 	3	4
5  ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SOUPER BOWL OF CARING	6 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	7	8 Regular Scheduled Activities	9 Building and Grounds 7:00 PM	10 ABLE VALENTINE PARTY	11
12	13	14  CE Committee 7:30 PM Mission & Evangelism Committee 5:00 PM Regular Scheduled Activities	15	16	17	18
19  Deacons Meeting Stewardship Committee 5:30 PM	20  Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	21 Session Meeting 7:00 PM	22  regular Scheduled Activities WORSHIP 7:00 pm	23	24 Indian Nations Meeting Lawton	25 Presbytery OK
26 	27	28	29  Regular Scheduled Activities			
SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE Sunday School 9:30 AM Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 AM Worship Service 10:55 AM				WEDNESDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE LOGOS - Recreation 3:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner 5:45 PM Youth In Motion (6th—12th) 6:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM		

