

Epiphany Events at Memorial

Sun. January 1st – 1st Sunday after Christmas worship
No Rotational Sunday school
Sun. January 8th – Epiphany Worship, Communion

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.....

Corey Fisher who led the Christmas Pageant, all children and youth who participated, to Lisa and Larry Upton for the set and costume design

Deacons who hosted the wonderful potluck dinner before the Christmas Pageant and cared for the congregation throughout 2011

Those who decorated the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season

The 3 youth and 4 adults who helped at the Presbyterian Urban Mission Santa Store on Saturday, December 10

Those who rang bells for the Salvation Army

All who brought food throughout the year for the ministry of Presbyterian Urban Mission

Those who gave generously of time and money to buy Angel Tree gifts for children of parents in prison

The 10 Session members and 9 Deacons who have led us through all the challenges and opportunities that were offered to us in 2011

The staff members who have shared their time, talents, and love to help this church accomplish its mission; a special thank you to Vince Leseney who directed the Chancel Choir; to Corey Fisher who led the children's music program and worked with the Youth and Children's ministry; to Kerri Bales as she took over working with the Logos Program; Terry Cast and Michael Yeager who worked with the Bells, and to the many members and friends who have given generously to this church and the Norman community during this past year as we strive to be a light to the world

The Pastor Nominating Committee who searched diligently and found Rev. Tracy Evans who will be installed as Memorial's fourth called pastor.

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP EVENT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18th, 2012: JAHRUBA, well-known African drummer, is coming to Memorial Presbyterian Church ! Jahruuba's music is a unique blend of blues, jazz, world beat, reggae, and traditional African rhythms. Jahruuba will teach drumming techniques during our LOGOS program. We hope to feature African food at Wednesday night dinner. After dinner, Fellowship Hall will be transformed into space for a drum circle, in which all ages are invited to participate.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS TO BE HELD ON JANUARY - 22nd.....New ruling elders Ann Fayles, Bob Clarke, and Karen Girdner, and new Deacons Trisha Bunce, and Will Farris, will be installed during the worship service on January 22nd. We pray for these new officers and look forward to their leadership as they assume new responsibilities.

SIX OFFICERS ROTATE OFF THE SESSION AND BOARD OF DEACONSMany, many thanks to David Stensrud, Trudy Beard and Charlotte Lovett for their leadership as Session members, and to Trisha Bunce, Jona Thiessen and Joan Thrailkill for their service on the Board of Deacons. The term of these officers will end on January 22nd as new officers are installed.



MEMORIAL'S NEW PASTOR, REV. TRACY EVANS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Reverend Tracy Lyn Evans has been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament since 1997. She is a native Oklahoman, raised in Oklahoma City and Edmond. She is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (M.Div) and University of Central Oklahoma (B.S. in Elem. Ed.).

After seminary, Tracy was a resident chaplain at the OU Health Sciences Center. Following the Oklahoma City Murrah Building bombing, she worked as Disaster Response Coordinator for the Presbytery of Indian Nations. She served as Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Bella Vista, Arkansas and has worked on the staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. Most recently, she has been the interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Duncan, Oklahoma since 2009. She has lived in Arkansas, California, Texas and Oklahoma.

A life-long Presbyterian, she has served the church in many capacities, including serving on the Advisory Committee to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the PC(USA), the Committee on Ministry in Indian Nations Presbytery and Congregational Care and Development in Arkansas. This summer she will be a commissioner to the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

By her own admission, she watches too much TV. She loves to knit, quilt, craft and bake, and is at home with her chocolate lab Lily and cats Maizie and Lucy Jane. She loves to travel, and loves spending time with her family (who all live in Edmond), especially the four who call her Aunt Tracy.



Dear Friends,

The time is nearing to say farewell to you, my friends in Norman, OK. In a few weeks, my trusty Toyota no longer will be adding 200+ miles to the odometer every week. I will be based in Stillwater as the Stated Clerk for Cimarron Presbytery and considering what else God is calling me to do.

While I haven't become a Sooner sports fan, I am so grateful for your hospitality during my 16-month stay. I now appreciate the many perks of life in Norman: family-owned restaurants serving international cuisines, stimulating museums that warrant repeat visits, creative concerts and theater. But more importantly, I have known YOU, Memorial Presbyterian members and friends, individually and together. So I am giving thanks for:

- the questions and energy of our children and youth
- the kind and generous hearts of our deacons
- the open and inquiring minds of our elders
- the positive responses to creativity in worship
- the embrace of new technology for communication and outreach
- the opportunity to learn about Norman, Cameroon, and Congo
- through conversations and family gatherings

I feel that your hearts are ready to commit more deeply to the way of Jesus Christ in this corner of God's world. As you welcome your new pastor, I challenge you all to discern new ways to combine the time and talent of all ages and cultures at Memorial. Under God's direction and with Tracy's leadership, I am confident that you will become more tightly knit, more welcoming of outsiders, and more visible in the Norman community!

Epiphany, the Light of the World, breaks upon us and grows into our lives. With the lengthening days, may you discover new energy for following the light and reflecting the light of Jesus to our world.

May the Lord watch between you and me while we are apart as we continue our journeys of faith. May God's grace and peace be yours always,

Rev. Deborah Meinke

A Few Words About Ordered Ministry – In November, you elected 3 new elders and 2 deacons, who will participate in officer training, be examined by the session, and be ordained and installed during worship early in 2011. Under our new Form of Government, The term 'church officer' has been replaced by 'ordered ministries.' The ordered ministries of deacon and elder "are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish." (G-2.0102, Book of Order)

"Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates." (G-2.0104b, Book of Order)

Deacon: "The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, sick, lost, friendless, oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry." (G-2.0201, Book of Order) The deacons of Memorial Presbyterian Church provide for congregational care and congregational fellowship as well as resources to support outreach ministries in Norman.

Ruling Elder: "Congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they 'lord it over' the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders (the session), together with teaching elders (the pastor), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships." (G-2.0301, Book of Order) The elders of Memorial Presbyterian Church are its spiritual leaders and meet regularly to discern the will of Christ for the church. They serve on standing committees (Building and Grounds, Christian Education, Mission and Evangelism, Nominating, Stewardship and Finance, and Worship and Music) and serve as presbytery elder commissioners and committee members.

We're Connected to the Larger Church...

Harry Wright is the Moderator of Indian Nations Presbytery

Joan Cole begins a 1-yr term on Indian Nations Committee on
Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Tracy Evans is a commissioner to the 220th General Assembly in
Pittsburgh, PA, June 30-July 7, 2012



Epiphanies

The word epiphany means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events — yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully.

—Father Thomas Rosica (zenit.org)

A New Year's blessing

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

Less is more



What if we took our lengthy lists of changes we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down? Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

North Carolina pastor Mike Ashcraft encouraged church members to each find one word that described a characteristic or vision they wanted to achieve in the year ahead. The experiment turned into a movement, with ideas and testimonials available at myoneword.org.

What would your one-word resolution be?

- “I love all beginnings, despite their anxiousness and their uncertainty.”

—Rainer Maria Rilke

- “Music is the shorthand of emotion.” —Leo Tolstoy

- “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” —Frederick Buechner

TAPESTRY CRAFT GROUP AND PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The craft group will begin meeting again on January 9. The regular meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M. Anyone is welcome to join, help or learn. Meeting place to be announced.

The Urban Mission item of the month for **JANUARY is canned fruit**. 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.

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 December 6 at 7:00 PM and took the following actions:

1. Approved worship committee request to move communion from January 1st to January 8th, 2012.
2. Approved worship committee request for a special offering, during the Christmas Eve service, that will go to CCFI.
3. Session approved Christian Education's request to cancel Sunday School on December 25th and January 1, 2012.
4. Session approved the 2012 budget.
5. Set date for next session meeting Tuesday, January 17th 7:00 P.M.
6. Called a congregational meeting for Sunday December 18th, following worship. At this meeting the congregation received the report of the PNC, voted on candidate Rev. Tracy Evans, and approved her terms of call.

Joan Cole, Clerk of Session

Mission and Evangelism

The annual Christmas pageant, “Scrooge in Bethlehem”, was performed on Wednesday, December 21st at 7 P.M. There was a potluck dinner before the Christmas play.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS BELLS WERE RUNG BY MEMORIAL — BETTY SILMAN

EXTENDS HER THANKS ...to the people who gave their time to help her ring the Salvation Army Bells.Our congregation has participated in the Salvation Army bell ringing for about 33 years. Betty Silman and volunteers again rang the Christmas Bells at Hobby Lobby, on December 1 from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Those who participated were: Norma & Bill Taylor, Paul Phelps, Joan Cole, Holly Van Auken, Bob Clarke, Betty Silman, Carolyn Montgomery, Loreen Upton & her four granddaughters (Breanna, Cassie, Devyn & Kierstyn), Corey Fisher and Carl Forthman.

WATCH FOR NEW MINI-MISSION OPPORTUNITIES in 2012.

Waiting to blossom

A song called “The Rose” (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth “with the sun's love” into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

The guide

Picture a man stumbling along in a heavy fog, completely disoriented. Then, off in the distance, he sees the light of one small lamp. Its glow is sufficient neither to burn off the fog nor to illuminate the obstacles that might be on the ground between the man and that lamp. Still, it is a steadily burning lamp. Something within the man prompts him to believe that if he heads toward it, he will be going in the right direction. That “something” we can call “faith.”

While heading toward the lamp, he finds another lost man whose eyesight is so poor he can't see the lamp. The first man takes the second by the hand and helps him toward the lamp also. The act of reaching out to another we can call “love.”

And the lamp that draws him? It's called “hope.”
—The Wired Word (August 7, 2011)



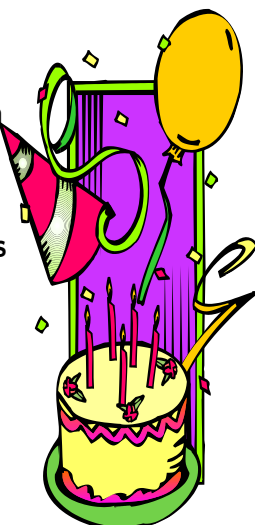
JANUARY 2012



ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2012 BIRTHDAYS

- 1/01 Kerri Autry
- 1/04 Cassie Eckel
- 1/06 Audrey Stensrud
- 1/09 Karen Girdner
- 1/10 Judy Burns
- 1/14 Warren Beck
- Devyn Upton
- 1/19 Charles Johnson
- 1/22 Carissa Collins
- 1/24 Kelsey Hudson
- 1/27 Rachel (Forsyth) Klenda
- Ross Forsyth
- 1/28 Jim Annoh
- 1/29 Julie Forthman
- Jessica (Thiessen) Farris
- 1/30 Jeff Roesel



- 1/01 John & Susan Beck
- Joe & Jan Garlett
- Rob & Traci Cunningham
- 1/2 Will & Jessica Farris
- 1/22 Jim & Linda Eckel

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

In the book of Judges, a cycle is repeated many times: The Israelites do "what is evil in the sight of the Lord," God hands them over to an enemy nation, they cry out to the Lord and he appoints a judge, or political/military leader, for them. Under the judge's leadership, the Israelites conquer their adversary and prosper — until they start doing "what is evil in the sight of the Lord" all over again.

Who was not one of these judges?

- A. Deborah
- B. Ehud
- C. Esau
- D. Shamgar



Answer: C (See Judges 3-5.)

JANUARY 2012

Youth in Motion

Memorial Presbyterian Church

Bring youth group home

This past semester in our youth group devotionals we have covered quite a few real life topics – like our judgments of others, keeping God present in our everyday lives, and feeling special because God made us that way. I have challenged the youth to keep these ideas in mind at home and at school, and to keep a bible near their bed to maybe read a verse or two each evening. Youth – have you been remembering these things?

Youth Group Playlist Remember these songs?

Song for a Friend – Jason Mraz
Awake My Soul – Mumford and Sons
Without Condition – Ginny Owens



Fall 2011 Accomplishments

We have done some amazing things in youth group so far this school year! We started with a fantastically attended Harry Potter-themed lock-in. We put together and led Trunk or Treat for dozens of kids from our church and elsewhere. We collected over 70 canned goods to donate to the Presbyterian Urban Mission just in time for the holidays. Then we put on a fun Christmas pageant along with the LOGOS choir. I would call those great accomplishments! How are we going to top them in 2012?

Save the Date!

January 4, 2012

6:30 – 7:30

First Wed. night
youth group video
devotional. TBA.

January 8, 2012

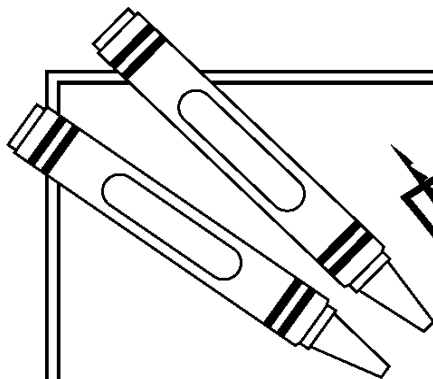
5:00 – 7:00

First Sunday night
youth group –
activity TBA.

April 13-15

YOUTHQUAKE!

Set this weekend
aside now! Info
coming soon!










PUZZLE







A caring disciple

In **Acts 9**, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

_____ adcltne			
_____ rohmtae			
_____ srgbape			
_____ rbieda			
_____ pehtshred			
_____ rdhaenlca			
_____ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

_____ pdeesh		
_____ dchilnero		
_____ drove		
_____ acehtr		
_____ sarcos		
_____ nusoatinm		



2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 1st Sunday after Christmas	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 New deacon and elder training 6:30—8:30 PM Regular Scheduled Activities	5 Serve at FFF 10:00 AM	6	7
8 <i>Epiphany</i> Communion	9 Tapestry Group 7:00 PM	10 CE Committee 7:30 PM	10 LWV 11:15am—1:30 PM Library New deacon and elder training 6:30—8:30 PM Regular Scheduled Activities	12 Building and Grounds 7:00 PM	13	14
15 <i>Epiphany</i> Baptism of the Lord Deacons Meeting Stewardship Commit- tee 5:30 PM	16  Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	17 Mission & Evangel- ism Committee 6:00 PM Session Meeting 7:00 PM	18 Jahruha Special Fellowship Dinner and Drum Circle 6:00 PM	19	20	21
22 <i>Epiphany</i> 2nd Sunday after Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons	23 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	24	25 Regular Scheduled Activities	26	27	28
29 <i>Epiphany</i> 3rd Sunday after	30 Boy Scouts 7:00 PM	31				

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