

# Memorial Messenger

Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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[www.memorialpres.org](http://www.memorialpres.org)

# December 2012



## Latest News

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for December is **cereal**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

The Session has called a **congregational meeting** for December 9, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on nominations for Elders and Deacons. For the class of 2014, Donna Vint has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons. For the class of 2015, the proposed slate of officers is: Session — Jan Johnson, Lucy Lanning, and Harry Wright; Deacons — Linda Eckel, Charlotte Lovett, and Jim Rodriguez.

Attention: It is **Angel Tree** time again. Memorial has participated for many years in this project. Each year, incarcerated moms and dads sign up to have church members purchase gifts for their children at Christmas. The gifts are presented as being from the parent — assuring the children they have not been forgotten.



Children's names will be available starting December 2. Each child receives two gifts: one article of clothing, and one fun gift. Please wrap the gifts and attach the name tag you select. To be delivered, gifts must be at the church no later than December 16. Contact Doris Hinson or Eileen Burke, Co-Chairs, if you have any questions.

### Caroling at Cedar Creek Nursing Facility

After the Kid's Club sang gospel songs at Cedar Creek on October 24, we were invited back for Christmas caroling in December. If you are free Wednesday, **December 12**, from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M., please come by the church and we'll walk over to Cedar Creek across the street if the weather is good. Singing is optional, but plenty of smiling opportunities will be available. — Holly Van Auken

The annual **Christmas Pageant** will be Wednesday, December 19. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner at 6:00 P.M. The pageant will begin when dinner has concluded. You won't want to miss this special event as we see our wonderful kids present their take on the Christmas Story.

Please join us for the candlelight **Christmas Eve** service at 7:00 P.M. on December 24, as we celebrate the entry into this world of Jesus, our Emmanuel, as a humble baby. Please share this invitation to worship with your family, friends and neighbors.



Dear Friends,

What are you waiting for? The children are counting down the days to Christmas...how much longer? How much longer 'til we get there? How much longer will we be here? How much longer do I have to wait?

Advent, by definition, is a season about that which is "to come." We await the coming Messiah's birth. That may be well and good, but what about our day-to-day waiting? Waiting in those lines at the check-out. Waiting on our guests to arrive. Waiting for this day to be over. Some of us wait patiently; others are not so skilled in the practice. I find myself in both categories, how about you?

What are you waiting for this Advent, whether patiently or not? Are you waiting for certainty, for healing, for love, for approval? Are you waiting for recognition, for retirement, for enough money to simply pay the bills? Are you waiting for peace on earth, good will toward all? Are you waiting for a child to grow up, a spouse to settle down, a friend to call, an enemy to be prevented from calling? Are you waiting for God's kingdom to come?

Ask that question of Jesus, if you will, but be prepared, for he may well ask it right back to you. What are you waiting for?

For wherever eyes blind to the beauty and goodness of God are opened,  
God's kingdom has come.

Wherever deaf ears are unstopped to the hearing of God's liberating word,  
God's kingdom has come.

Whenever filthy lives are cleansed by the promise of salvation,  
God's kingdom has come.

Whenever dead hopes are resuscitated, whenever dead spirits are revived,  
whenever dead faith is reawakened, whenever dead courage finds  
strength again,  
God's kingdom has come.

Whenever those who feel like they have no reason to live,  
whenever the discouraged  
and those without hope hear the good news,  
God's kingdom has come.<sup>1</sup>

Christmas may be many days yet on the calendar, or maybe just a few. But the gift has already been opened, and it is this:

God's kingdom has come,  
God's will is being done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas.  
Tracy

<sup>1</sup> Author unknown. Taken from a writing in my files.

## Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Events at Memorial

Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent: Hope  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent: Peace  
Congregational Meeting after Worship

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Wednesday, December 19 – Christmas Pageant  
Potluck Dinner at 6:00 P.M., followed by the pageant

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love  
Christmas Joy Offering

Monday, December 24 — Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 P.M. – Family Worship, nursery provided

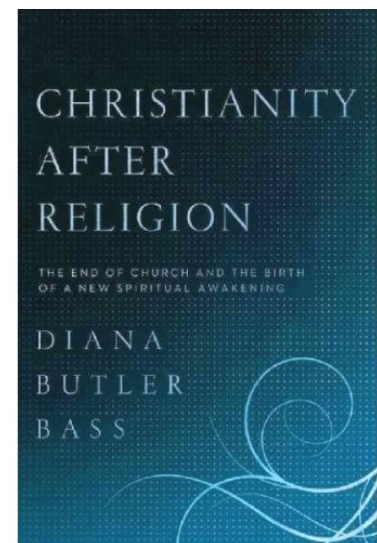
Sunday, December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas Day  
No Sunday School, nursery provided during Worship

Sunday, January 6, 2013 – Day of Epiphany  
Special service to be planned by the Worship Team

## Book of the Month

The book of the month for December is *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. The author is Diana Butler Bass, who is a regular commentator on religion, politics, and culture for Time, The Washington Post, and NPR. She has written several titles, including *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. In *Christianity After Religion*, she offers a fresh interpretation of the "spiritual, but not religious, trend." Offering direction and hope to individuals and churches, *Christianity After Religion* is Bass's call to approach faith with a newfound freedom that is both life giving and service driven. She argues that we are at a critical stage in a new spiritual awakening.

—Harry Wright



*This book will be displayed in the Library during the month of December, and will be available to borrow.*



## Christmas Joy Offering

We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on December 23. You are encouraged to give at any time during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

“For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The Offering dates back to the 1930s, when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

“Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Equally important to the financial help provided is the spiritual benefit received. Again and again, the individuals and families helped by the Offering say that as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need.”\*

Look for the bulletin inserts starting December 2 for more information about how the Christmas Joy Offering makes a difference in the lives of grant recipients.

\* from the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s website



### HOW YOU CAN GIVE

**GIVE**  
through  
your church



**Text JOY**  
to 20222  
**\$10**

[www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy)



## Stewardship Report — Percentage Living

During the last four Sundays Memorial has been introduced to the exciting concept of “Percentage Living”. Each Sunday a bulletin insert described this concept from a slightly different perspective. First we learned how to practice percentage living by giving God a portion of each day. Next, we looked at giving God our Worship. The third Sunday we examined how Christ touches others through the Holy Spirit’s activation of our individual spiritual gifts. And finally, we learned that we honor God and his creation when we give to God, through Memorial, from our monetary resources.

The message for the first two Sundays was focused on us as individuals, building us up in preparation for service. The third message showed how God’s spirit works in and through us to reach and meet the needs of others. And, again the final message showed the importance of completing God’s work by providing the financial base which permits, Memorial specifically, and the worldwide church in general, to support and advance God’s mission and will.

Percentage Living is not new. The Apostle Paul introduced this concept with his description of Macedonian Christians in his second letter to the Corinthians. “We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us...”

Percentage living is therefore giving ourselves—first to God and second to others. Many of you have turned in your pledges for 2013. If you have not done so, please open your hearts and minds to the concept of percentage living and seek God’s direction in deciding how much to give. If we—like the Macedonian Christians—first give ourselves to God and then to others, will not God make it possible for us to give generously of our financial means in support of his work here at Memorial?

Yes, with God, all things are possible. Thank you for being a part of the Memorial family, thank you for your percentage living and thank you for being open to the limitless possibilities of God.

Jim Rodriguez,  
Budget and Stewardship Chairman

### Stewardship Update:

January 1 to November 30, 2012

	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	\$137,488.00	\$142,083.26	\$155,000
<b>Other Income</b>	\$27,152.67	\$42,722.02	\$46,606
<b>Total Income</b>	\$164,640.67	\$184,805.28	\$201,606
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$165,526.00	\$184,800.06	\$201,606

As of November 30, Memorial members and friends have pledged \$92,262 to the 2013 Operating Budget, and \$6,800 to the 2013 Capital Improvement Fund.

## Choristers' Corner

Greetings from the choir room. Advent is upon us, and that means lots of exciting musical opportunities. The worship committee and the choir have been working hard to put together four services in preparation for the birth of the King. As always the invitation stands for anyone who would like to take part in leading worship through music. There is plenty of room in the choir loft...

As we enter into a new church year, I hope everyone will give prayerful consideration to what he or she would like to see and hear in our musical worship. There is an exciting opportunity in the form of new hymnals, which I would love to see us acquire. (I have spent a good deal of time looking through the hymn selections and would welcome the chance to discuss the contents with anyone concerned about omissions.) In addition, I would like to see more variety in our special music offerings. If you have a hidden musical ability, vocal or otherwise, and would like to share it through worship, please stop me in the hall and we'll get you on the calendar.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I hope everyone is enjoying a happy and reconnecting holiday season, and I eagerly anticipate a 2013 full of vitality, enthusiasm and growth here at Memorial.

Vince Leseney



I SHOULD PROBABLY START PREACHING TO THE  
CHOIR AGAIN

## Worship & Music Committee Report

About every 20 years, most denominations publish a new hymnal. The PC(USA) is no exception: our last three hymnals were published in 1955, 1972, and 1990. New hymnals are published in response to changes in worship patterns, societal changes, and real-world experience with the existing hymnals — not every hymn in the current hymnal is beloved, after all!

In September 2013, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation will publish a new Presbyterian hymnal, titled *Glory to God*. This new hymnal will include about 380 hymns from the current hymnal, including most of those that we enjoy singing regularly. It will also include many “new” hymns: some hundreds of years old, others written in the past few years. It will feature more gospel-style hymns and African-American spirituals: examples include *I Love to Tell the Story*; *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*; *Shall We Gather at the River*; *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*; and *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*. Just as the church in North America has increased its emphasis on unity with Christians of every land through such celebrations as World Communion Sunday, so the editors of *Glory to God* sought to include a more diverse selection of songs from throughout the world: from Peru and Korea, Pakistan and Cameroon, and all over this wide world. New offerings from contemporary hymn writers address modern concerns, while a selection of Praise & Worship-style songs reflect the diversity of church music in modern America. The great diversity of offerings is one of the major strengths of this new hymnal.

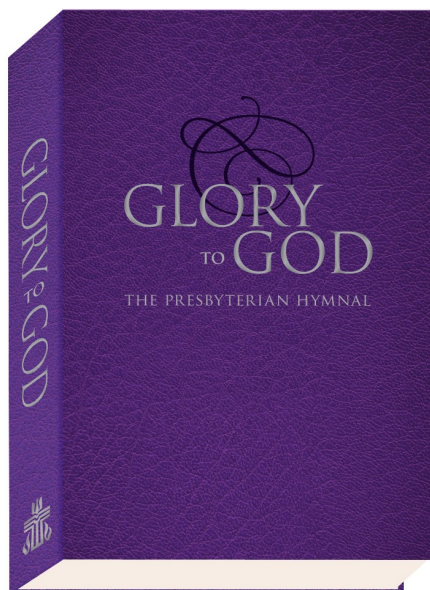
If you have attended worship at Memorial in the past three months, you may already have experienced some of the new, *and* some of the familiar, hymns in *Glory to God*. We have sung a Peruvian song of response to forgiveness, a contemporary hymn from a writer in New Zealand addressing issues of social justice, gospel songs that some may remember from many years ago, and hymns from past centuries and diverse traditions, now brought into the Presbyterian circle by the diligent work of the hymnal committee.

Following extensive study and discussion, the Worship and Music committee recommended—and the Session approved—purchasing new hymnals as well as new pew Bibles in the New Revised Standard Version. The hymnals will come with a purple cover (see page 8), similar to the front cover of the sampler we have been using in worship. We are still evaluating our options with respect to which Bible to order.

In order that each worshiper may find a hymnal within reach, no matter where she may be sitting, we need to buy 220 hymnals to place in the pews and for the choir, as well as 10 copies of the large-print edition, for the benefit of those whose eyesight isn't what it used to be. We estimate the total cost for the hymnals at \$4,125—\$4,355, some of which anonymous donors have already offered to pay. We will also need about 50 or 60 pew Bibles.

To take advantage of discounts extended to early adopters, we plan to order, and pay for, as many as possible of the hymnals we need before December 31, and the rest before June 1, 2013. Doing so will hold down the price of most of the hymnals and Bibles to \$17.50 (large print Hymnals will be \$27.50). After December 31, the prices will increase to \$18.50 and \$28.50 respectively.

We want you, the congregation, to have the opportunity to purchase hymnals and/or Bibles in honor of, or in memory of, a friend or family member. A table with order forms will be set up in the narthex on Sundays during Advent. We encourage you to submit orders for hymnals by Dec. 30, so that the order form can be mailed on Dec. 31. This will allow us to take advantage of an offer for free shipping. We will continue to accept orders after New Year's Day. — Terry Cast



### Order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pew Edition hymnals \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pew Bibles \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Large Print hymnals \_\_\_\_\_

The pew Hymnals and Bibles cost \$17.50 each. Large Print hymnals are \$27.50 each.

After December 31 each of these prices will increase by \$1.00.

These prices include the cost of imprinting "Memorial Presbyterian Church" on the cover of each book.

Optional bookplates (one per hymnal or Bible ordered):

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Community Events this Month

### City of Norman Christmas Tree Lighting

Norman Public Library Holiday Open House  
with eReader Workshop

The annual City of Norman Christmas Tree lighting will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, December 7, at Andrews Park—just north of the Norman Public Library. The Christmas Tree lighting event includes refreshments and a children's choir. Then, join the Norman Public Library to celebrate the holidays with music, crafts and more. Bring the whole family to learn about eReaders, decorate a gingerbread house, and check out holiday books and movies. Free and open to the public: everyone is welcome. (Registration for the eReader workshop is not required, but is highly recommended. Registration ends at noon on December 7.) This family program is open to all ages and will take place Friday, December 7, from 6 to 8 P.M. at the Norman Public Library, 225 N. Webster Avenue. For more information, call the Norman Public Library at 405-701-2600.

— Tim Mauldin



### Fall Series: Voices of Family Recovery

All meetings 7-9 PM at  
Norman Regional Hospital, Education Center  
901 North Porter

Final meeting: Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7 PM: **The Family Component of Recovery**

Rob's Ranch Program Director Brent Katigan will be the guest speaker. His inpatient facility for men, located in Purcell, recognizes that addiction is very much a family disease that affects the alcoholic or drug addict's loved ones. Rob's Ranch emphasizes family recovery where all who are impacted are encouraged to work together to reconcile and heal. This meeting's discussion will center on the critical role family dynamics plays in recovery as well as prevention. Stemming from his own personal experience as well as a professional background that spans nearly three decades, Mr. Katigan will share strategies for identifying and treating unhealthy family systems in support of a loved one's recovery.

Parents Helping Parents is a network of parents and others concerned about alcohol/substance abuse among our young people (both adolescents and adult children). The group offers hope through shared experience, resources, and education. They promote prevention and intervention, collaborative efforts and increased access to information/services, and support. For more information, call 278-1221 or go to the website: [ParentsHelpingParents.info](http://ParentsHelpingParents.info)

MPC member Joan Cole is an active member of Parents Helping Parents.

## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Jim Eckel has cancer and emphysema.

Vince Leseney will be traveling to MD Anderson in Houston once a week in December and January, participating in a clinical trial of new vaccines for melanoma.

Gloria Burrus recently was hospitalized with blood clots in her lungs. She is home now.

Kenny and Danielle Comer (Mike Girdner's niece and her husband): Kenny is battling cancer for the fourth time, and requires chemotherapy.

Cody Derryberry (son of Carl Forthman's co-worker Renee) is recovering from injuries sustained in the line of duty in Afghanistan.

Kate Yost (Dave & Tamara Iske's niece) may require further surgery or chemotherapy.

Margaret Forthman (Carl & Julie Forthman's sister-in-law) is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Scherrie Martin (friend of Doris Hinson) has cancer of the liver.

Mr. & Mrs. George Sites (Georjana Mauldin's parents)

Peggy Strunk is undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer.

### Prayers Answered

Rhonda Beard (Trudy & Mike's daughter-in-law) is finished with chemotherapy and radiation, and her tumor is gone.

To receive prayer requests by email, please contact  
Janice Crump at: [janicec11@cox.net](mailto:janicec11@cox.net)

## December Birthdays

- Dec. 1 Gabe Benson  
Bruce Bunce  
Carl Forthman
- Dec. 3 Jan Johnson
- Dec. 4 Kurt Johnson
- Dec. 5 Anita Harkey  
Jacob Jones (Jayelle Martin's grandson)
- Dec. 6 Ashley Wooliver
- Dec. 7 Gene Bergstresser
- Dec. 8 Barbara Robinson  
Betty Silman  
Troy Johnston
- Dec. 11 Jack Adams
- Dec. 13 David Cole  
Kathy Baade  
Allen Silman
- Dec. 15 Kenny Martin
- Dec. 20 Esau Jangha
- Dec. 22 Jim Burns
- Dec. 23 Kay Martin  
Betsy Pennington  
Norma Taylor
- Dec. 27 Brooke Thrailkill
- Dec. 30 Haley Williams

## December Wedding Anniversaries

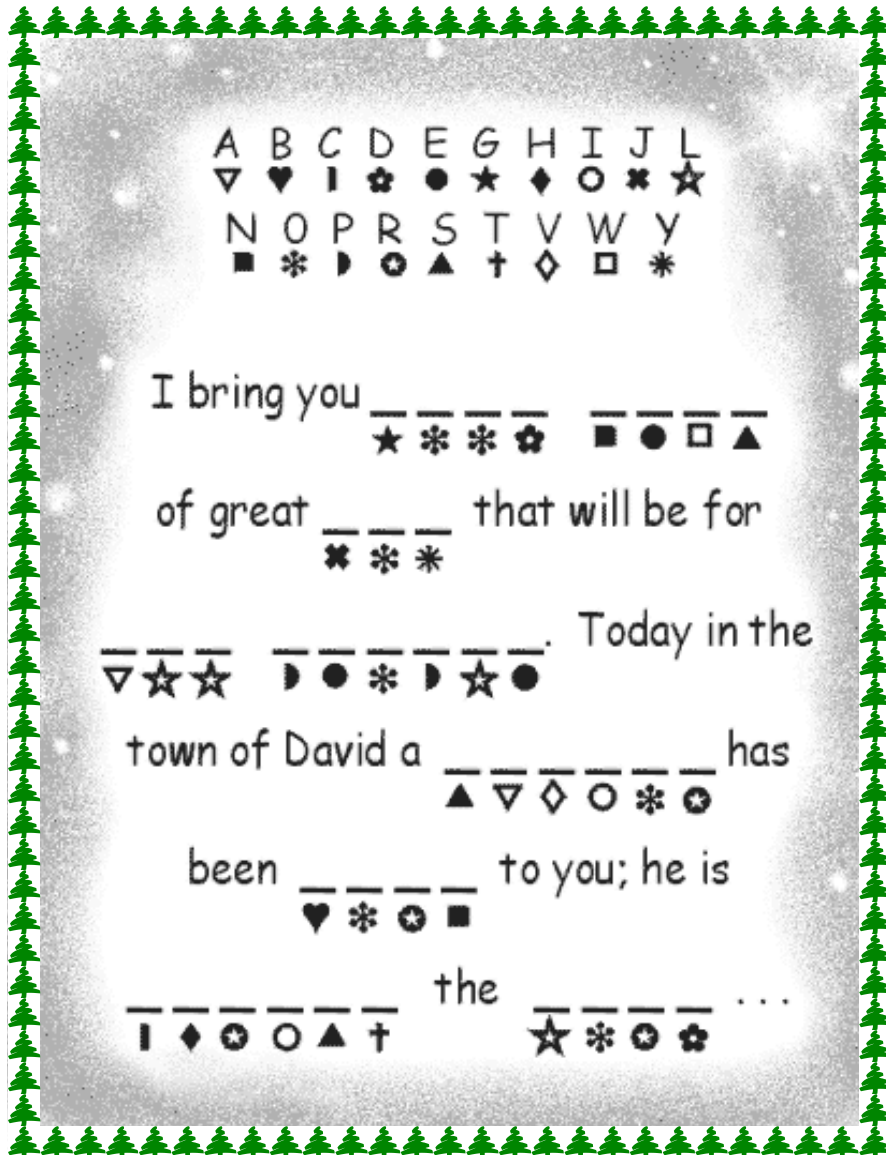
- Dec. 20 Judd & Alice Lanning
- Dec. 23 Bob & Martha Goodner
- Dec. 27 Tim & Jona Thiessen
- Dec. 30 Carl & Julie Forthman

# The Angel's Announcement

Luke 2 (NIV)

About 2000 years ago there was a very special baby  
born in the town of Bethlehem.

This baby had been promised to a woman named Mary by the angel  
Gabriel. You can read about this in Luke 1:26-36. On the same night  
that he was born, an angel appeared to the shepherds in a nearby  
field who were watching their flocks.



After this announcement a great company of Angels sang a song:  
*Glory to God in the highest, and peace and goodwill to all people on earth.*

You can read about it and the shepherds reaction after  
they heard this message in Luke 2:8-20.



# cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

**Directions:** Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminemewhat  
youminemehaveminememinemydecidedmeinmy  
myyourmineheartmemyminetomygivemineminot  
minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion  
minemymeforminemymyGodminemymylovesmy  
meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_”  
2 \_\_\_\_\_ 9:7, NIV

Answer:  
“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## December 2012

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
<b>2</b> Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:55 A.M.	<b>3</b> Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	<b>4</b> Session meeting 7:00 P.M.	<b>5</b> League of Women Voters 11:15 A.M.—1:30 P.M. <b>Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>6</b> Serve at Food and Shelter 10:00 A.M.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Congregational meeting after worship Worship & Music 12:15 P.M.	<b>10</b> <b>Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.</b> Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	<b>11</b> Christian Ed. meeting 7:00 P.M.	<b>12</b> No Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> Building & Grounds 7 P.M.	<b>14</b> ABLE Christmas Party 5:30-8:00 P.M.	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Deadline to bring Angel Tree gifts Stewardship meeting 5:30 P.M.	<b>17</b> <b>Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.</b> Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Potluck Dinner & Christmas Pageant 6:00 P.M. No Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Articles due for January Messenger</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.	<b>25</b>  Office Closed	<b>26</b> <b>No Wednesday night activities</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve — Office Closed	New Year's Day — Office Closed				

### SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Fellowship and Refreshments 10:30 A.M.  
Worship Service 10:55 A.M.

### WEDNESDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

Kids' Club 3:30-6:00 P.M.  
Hand-Chime Choir 5:00 P.M.  
Children's Choir 5:30 P.M.  
Chancel Ringers 6:00 P.M. (as scheduled)  
Chancel Choir (see calendar for schedule)