

Memorial Messenger

Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Norman, OK 73069
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January 2013



Latest News

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for January is **canned meat**, i.e., tuna, chili, ham, etc. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table. Thank you for consistently supporting this important ministry.

urban mission

"Giving help today for hope of a better tomorrow"

Eleven members of the Memorial community **rang bells** for the **Salvation Army**. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of those who rang: Eileen Burke, Joan Cole, Harold Conner, Doug & Ann Forsyth, Carolyn Montgomery, Paul Phelps, Bill & Norma Taylor, Tim Thiessen, and Donna Vint.

Thanks to the generosity of many in the congregation, 26 children of incarcerated parents received two gifts each for Christmas. This a total of 52 gifts given. All of the gifts were delivered on time, which makes our job so easy. Thanks again for supporting the Angel Tree Project. — Doris Hinson and Eileen Burke.



Many thanks to all who have generously given to our Music Director, Vince Leseney. To date, we have received \$1,840.00 in donations to help Vince defray the expenses of participating in an eight-week clinical trial at MD Anderson hospital in Houston. Your extraordinary generosity is greatly appreciated.

Improvements: Building & Grounds was pleased to be able to have the carpets cleaned in the hallway, the parlor, and the nursery rooms, and the pothole in the east parking lot paved over.

The date and time of the **annual congregational meeting** will be set at the next Session meeting. In the meanwhile, committee chairs should submit reports for the Annual Report by January 10.

Thank you to all who have ordered new **hymnals** and/or **pew Bibles**. So far, fifteen individuals or households have placed orders for a total of 109 hymnals and 5 pew Bibles. We still need 121 hymnals (including 3 large print) and about 50 pew Bibles. More information about the Bibles will be available later in the year. We are awaiting a decision from the publisher of the hymnal before making final decisions about the Bibles.

The **Chancel Choir** will rehearse just three times in January, all on Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.: January 8, January 15, and January 22. Please join us. (*Nota bene: actual choir may vary from illustration.*)



Our Chancel Choir

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year!

The Christmas celebrations and subsequent clean-up are mostly over. The preparations, the stress, the pressure of perfecting the holiday are behind us and we begin anew. There seems to be such anxiety about holiday celebrations ... where to celebrate, with whom, how long to stay, what topics to avoid in conversations, who eats what and have we forgotten anything. And even in the most nearly perfect of celebrations, there is a sense of missing something or perhaps a deep longing. We are not perfect and our celebrations cannot be perfect.

So we keep trying, and some years are better than others, but after every Christmas we get to look to the New Year. We have come to associate the New Year with new beginnings. You may or may not make resolutions, but you can certainly look to this year with joyful anticipation, regardless of your circumstance.

And speaking of joy, I found this delightful piece in a book on lectionary readings¹. I hope you will join me in heeding the advice given!

Rejoice over everything.
Exult, Exhilarate.
Be glad. Be delighted, elated,
and bowled over with joy!
Frolic freely, hop, hope,
dance on the dare, cheer,
champion the little ones,
revel in the riotous light.
Invoke God without ceasing.
Pray with passion.
Whatever you do,
do not quench the Spirit.
Take care not to douse
or dampen the bold blaze
in your depths.
Jump into life.
Hold fast to it.
Give thanks for everything.
For everything,
even the most misshapen
and misunderstood,
is the disguise of the divine.
-Susan Virginia Hull

Blessings to you in the New Year!

Tracy

¹*Imaging the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource*, Volume 2, Susan A. Blain, Editor,
United Church Press, Cleveland, © 1995, p. 107

Clerk's Corner

Session met on December 4, 2012. The following actions were taken:

- (1) Examination of the candidates for new officers. For session class of 2015: Harry Wright, Lucy Lanning and Jan Johnson. For deacons class of 2015: Charlotte Lovett, Jim Rodriguez and Linda Eckel. For deacons class of 2014: Donna Vint. Each candidate explained why they felt called to the position for which they were nominated. Session unanimously voted that these candidates be presented to the congregation on Sunday, December 9, following worship. The congregation unanimously approved this slate of officers at that congregational meeting. An installation/ordination service will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013.
- (2) Session wishes to thank the class of 2012 session members (Jim Rodriguez, John Beck and Carolyn Montgomery) and class of 2012 deacons (Susan Beck, Julie Forthman and Dave Iske) for their outstanding leadership and service to this congregation.
- (3) Session voted to cancel Sunday School on December 23 and 30. The time of worship did not change.
- (4) Session voted to establish a new committee, to be known as *Fellowship and Hospitality*. The chairperson of this new committee will be appointed at the January 15, 2013, session meeting. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please let me know and I'll pass your name on to the new chairperson.

Joan Cole
Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update:

January 1 to December 28, 2012 (final numbers for 2012 will be published at a later date)

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2012 Budget
Pledges	\$151,431.00	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00
Other Income	\$30,189.10	\$46,606.00	\$46,606.00
Total Income	\$181,620.10	\$201,606.00	\$201,606.00
Total Expenses	\$180,796.67	\$201,606.00	\$201,606.00

As of December 28, Memorial members and friends have pledged \$144,664 to the 2013 Operating Budget, and \$11,600 to the 2013 Capital Improvement Fund.

Worship & Music Committee Report

The Worship & Music committee has planned a special service for the Day of Epiphany, January 6. Epiphany is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to the Christ child. You are invited to bring your own wise men (or women!) from a favorite nativity for that day's worship. Epiphany is also a celebration of God making himself known to us through the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In the words of our prayer of preparation for the day:

*Gracious God, today we thank you for making yourself known to us in Jesus Christ.
Thank you for helping us to know your character, your glory, and your grace.
All praise be to you, O God, because you have revealed yourself to us.
All praise be to you, Lord Jesus, because you have shown us the Father
and because you have embodied divine grace so that we might receive it.
All praise be to you, Holy Spirit, for helping us to live in that grace each day.
Fill us afresh with your power, Spirit of God, so that we might share the good news of
Christ with the world . . . beginning with our friends and neighbors. Amen.*

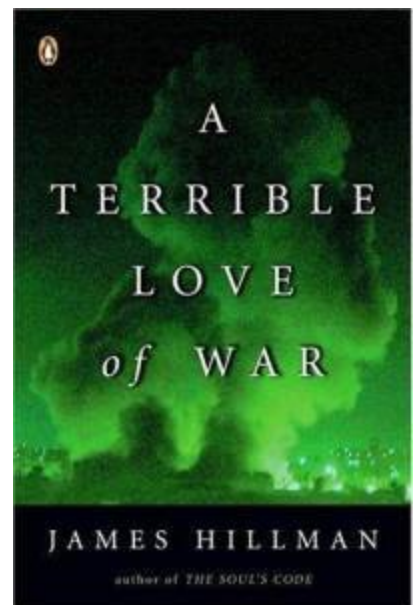
Through scripture, prayer, poems and music we will remember the appearance—the Epiphany—of Jesus the Christ, who came to bring light to a darkened world. And we will explore our response to our Emmanuel, our making-God-known-to-us. Please join us for this meaningful service.

If you have an interest in helping to plan worship services, or providing input to the way we worship, we invite you to attend the next Worship & Music Committee meeting at 3:30 P.M. on January 6, or contact Joan Cole or Charlotte Lovett, co-chairs.

Book of the Month

The book of the month, which is available in the church library, is *A Terrible Love of War*, by James Hillman. The author is an internationally renowned psychologist and teacher, and has written more than 20 books, including *The Soul's Code*, which was a #1 best seller according to The New York Times. He draws upon his original thinking to uncover the essence of war, drawing from many different fronts and times as viewed by writers such as Twain, Kant, and others. Rather than dismissing war as the machinations of evil people, Hillman argues that we can comprehend its many contradictions; and more than that, we can learn how to tame it.

— Harry Wright



This book will be displayed in the library during the month of January, and will be available to borrow.

Christian Education Committee Report

On Halloween night, under the leadership of Lisa Upton and Carolyn Montgomery, the children and young people of the Memorial Church celebrated the evening with a Trunk or Treat event. The immediate neighborhood was contacted through the neighborhood elementary schools, and the result was that 20 families from the area, plus our Kids Club families, participated in the program. There were some games, treats, and comfort food, and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who assisted in making the event a success.

On Wednesday evening, December 19th, the children of the church presented a special Christmas program which focused on the Biblical stories telling of the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago. (See photos on the next page.) The children performed beautifully in presenting the special stories. The Rev. Melinda Clements coordinated the preparation of the program, with assistance from Holly Van Auken, Tracy Evans, Terry Cast and Kirk Forthman. There was a potluck dinner before the program which was attended by thirty of our members. About forty people attended the presentation.

The section of the Library which involves the exchange and sharing of popular fiction is going to be refreshed. Out of date books will be removed and replaced with more current titles. The older books will be placed in a box, and will be available for members to take home if they wish. Those not taken will be donated to the public library book sale. — Harry Wright

Prayer Encounters

Sunday School class and workshop

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 1. **Rev. Paul Burns** will be presenting a workshop on his book, *Prayer Encounters*, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. The workshop will be open to the Norman community.

As many of you know, Paul grew up at Memorial, the son of Judy and Jim Burns. He is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Seminary and is the pastor of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

It will not be necessary to have read the book to participate in the workshop. If you want an introduction to the book, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying it during the month of January. Join them in the Parlor at 9:30 A.M., beginning January 6.

Christmas Pageant, December 19, 2012



Joseph, Mary, and one very sleepy shepherd



Magi from the East came to Bethlehem, bearing gifts for the newborn King



Kids Club Director Rev. Melinda Clements was aided by Holly Van Auken, Kirk Forthman and Rev. Tracy Evans in preparing the kids for the pageant



An angel in tennis shoes



Choristers' Corner

Happy New Year, everyone!

I want to use this forum to write a heartfelt thank-you to you, my Memorial Presbyterian family.

2012 was, to say the least, an interesting year for me, and not just because of my newly discovered passenger; but because God has opened my eyes to the fact that I live in a community of loving, prayerful, and generous people. A true extended family.

I have always been really bad about asking for help. Whenever I have been faced with a challenge in life I have tried to face it alone, all the while hoping that no one would notice and feel obligated to help. How ignorant I was. I now understand, literally for the first time, that God put us here, not only to help and care for one another, but also, in our darkest times, to loose the chains of pride and *accept* help and care from each other.

Because of you wonderful people, I have no fear. I am uplifted by your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement. I and my family are able to rest a little easier thanks to your financial support. And, most importantly, I can face the uncertainty of disease knowing that I have the strength of numbers.

I am endlessly grateful to you all, and I pray you will each have a blessed and fruitful 2013.

I know I will...

Vince Leseney

Mission & Evangelism Committee

2012 Activities and Plans for 2013

Community service is a long-standing tradition at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Members are involved in service activities that range from providing a monthly luncheon at Food and Shelter, Inc., to bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Christmas. Practices of service and giving are an important piece of the fabric of our church. Several years ago, the Mission & Evangelism Committee decided to expand these activities through a concept called the Mini Mission. This allows us to become familiar with new organizations while providing support to them. During 2012 these efforts included a diaper drive for the Center for Children and Families, as well as buying and delivering snacks to their summer program once a week for six weeks. The Church website was updated in 2012 and now provides lots of current information about our Church and activities as well as recordings of our services that can be enjoyed by those who visit the site.

2013 provides us with many new opportunities. Two that have been identified already are hosting a Neighborhood Watch Party in August and working with Parents Helping Parents to hold a Family Day in September. Serving the Memorial Community will receive attention as we focus on getting better acquainted through social activities. We would like to continue our Mini Missions and need additional ideas for these activities. Also, please visit the website to see the many changes that have been made there. It is an important outreach tool for the Church because so often people get their first impression of a church from its website. If you notice things that could be added or improved to make it more effective, let us know. Additional committee members are also needed to help develop and conduct our work. As you can see, it's a group effort—your ideas and your help are needed. Please join us January 8, at our first meeting of the year, as we begin making 2013 a year of accomplishment in serving our community. — John Beck



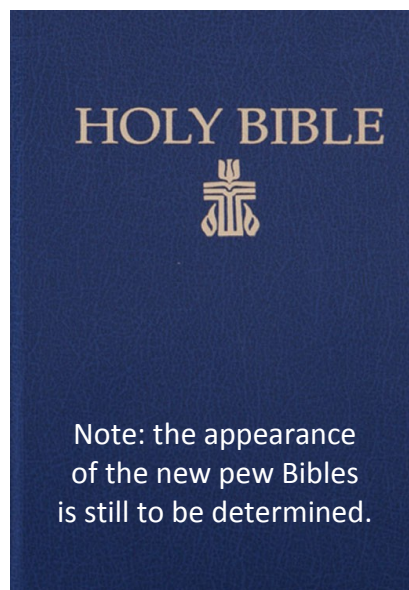
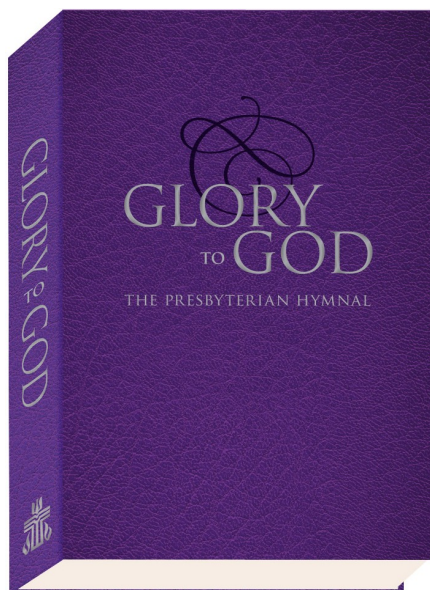
urban mission

"Giving help today for hope of a better tomorrow"

The Urban Mission wants to wish you and your church family a wonderful holiday season. Words can barely express our sincere gratitude for your generous donations of time and gifts that your congregation provides all through the year. We could not do the work we do without people like you.

**Thanks for all you do,
The staff at The Urban Mission**

*Thanks so much
for all your help!*



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 \$18.50 each. Large Print hymnals are \$28.50 each.

These prices include the cost of shipping and 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): _____

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Jim Eckel has cancer and emphysema.

Vince Leseney continues to travel to MD Anderson in Houston once a week in January, participating in a clinical trial of new vaccines for melanoma.

Marge Sewell was injured in a fall and has been in the nursing center of her retirement home.

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) had additional surgeries in December and will need another round of chemotherapy.

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

Scherrie Martin (friend of Doris Hinson) had cancer removed from the liver and is undergoing chemotherapy.

George & Billie Jean Sites (Georjana Mauldin's parents)

Peggy Strunk is undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer.

January Birthdays

Jan. 1 Kerri Autry
Jan. 4 Cassie Eckel
Jan. 6 Audrey Stensrud
Jan. 9 Karen Girdner
Jan. 10 Judy Burns
Jan. 14 Warren Beck
Devyn Upton
Jan. 19 Charles Johnson
Jan. 24 Kelsey Hudson
Jan. 26 Nancy Silman
Jan. 27 Rachel (Forsyth) Klenda
Ross Forsyth
Jan. 28 Jim Annoh
Jan. 29 Julie Forthman
Jessica Farris
Jan. 30 Jeff Roesel
Jan. 31 Ashu Abunaw

January Wedding Anniversaries

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

To receive prayer requests by email, please contact
Janice Crump at: janicec11@cox.net

Jesus as a Boy

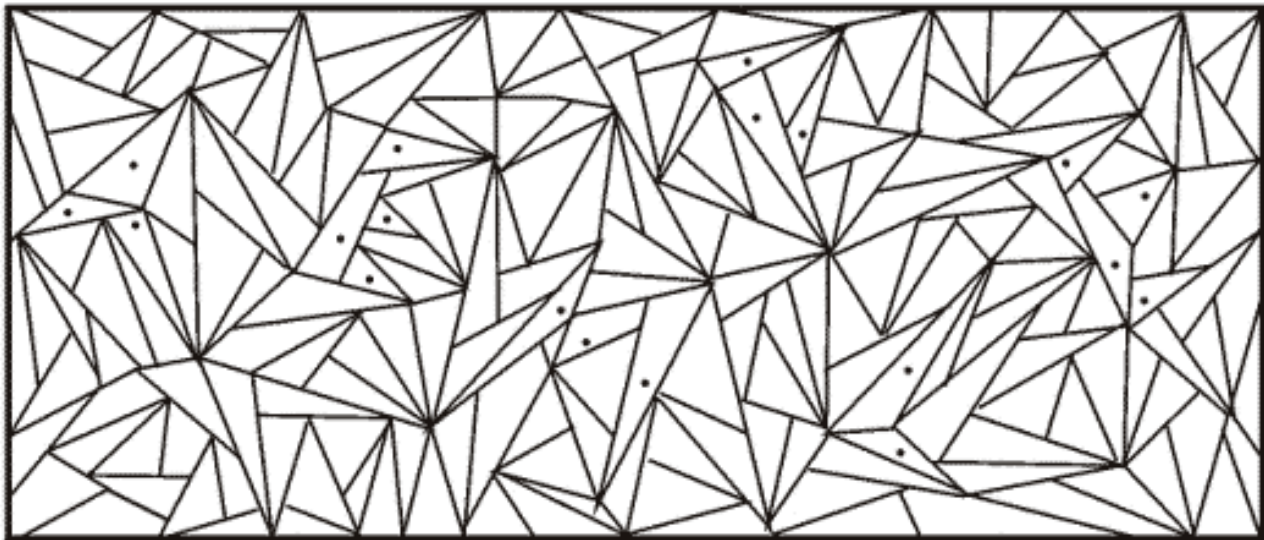
Luke 2:40-51 (NRSV)

Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” Luke 2:40

Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem every year for a Jewish celebration called the Feast of Tabernacles. When Jesus was twelve years they went once again. After they started to go back home Joseph and Mary discovered that Jesus was not with them, so they turned around and went back to Jerusalem to find him.



Color all the spaces below that have a dot in them to see where they found him.



Read Luke 2:46-47 and fill in the blanks to see what he was doing when they found him.

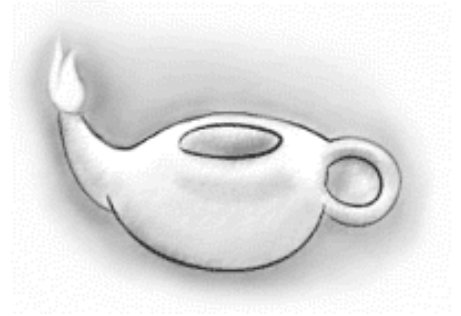
“sitting among the teachers, _____
to them and asking them _____.
And all who heard him were _____
at his understanding and his _____.”

copyright 1999 Sharon Whittaker

Light of the World

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

Jesus wanted the people to know that they should live lives that would please God and bless others. Unscramble the words below to see what he had to say.



You are the ^{GLITH} _____ of the ^{OWRDL} _____.

A ^{TCYI} _____ on a ^{ILLH} _____ cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a ^{AML} _____

and put it under a ^{LOBW} _____. Instead they

put it on a ^{SANTD} _____, and it gives light

to ^{VEREYNOE} _____ in the house.

In the same way, let your light ^{HSNIE} _____

before ^{ENM} _____, that they may see your

^{DOOG} _____ ^{EDEDS} _____ and

Unscramble the letters in the circles and see what he said this would do for God.

_____ your Father in heaven.

Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed for New Year's Day	2 No Kid's Club or other Wednesday Night activities	3	4	5
6 Day of Epiphany Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:55 A.M. Worship & Music meeting 3:30 P.M.	7 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	8 Mission & Evangelism meeting 6:00 P.M. Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	9 League of Women Voters 11:15 A.M.— 1:30 P.M. Kid's Club resumes	10 Committee reports due for Annual Report Christian Education meeting 7:00 P.M. Building & Grounds meeting 7:00 P.M.	11	12
13 Ordination and installation of Elders & Deacons 10:55 A.M.	14 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	15 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M. Session meeting 7:00 P.M.	16 League of Women Voters 9:00—11:00 A.M.	17	18 League of Women Voters 9:00—11:00 A.M.	19
20 Deacons meeting 12:00 P.M. Stewardship meeting 5:30 P.M.	21 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	22 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.	23	24 Articles due for February Messenger	25	26
27	28 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	29	30	31		

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 Will return to 7:00 P.M. Wed. in February