

Memorial Messenger

Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 24th Ave. S.W.
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 329-3640
www.memorialpres.org

February 2013



Latest News

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for February is **crackers**, i.e., saltines, etc. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Paul Burns will present a workshop on his book, *Prayer Encounters*, February 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. The workshop will be free and open to the Norman community. Please inform us in advance if you require nursery care. It will not be necessary to have read the book to participate in the workshop, but you will have the opportunity to purchase it at the workshop. For more about *Prayer Encounters*, see the Book of the Month on page six.

The **annual congregational meeting** will be Sunday, February 3, after worship. Our youth will serve soup, salad and dessert and you will have the opportunity to donate funds to help send three of our high-school age youth to Triennium (see page seven for more information). Annual Reports will be available for your review during lunch. After lunch we will proceed with the meeting.

The **Ash Wednesday** service will be February 13 at 7:00 P.M.

Hymnal update: as a result of the generosity of many Memorial members and friends, we have raised more than sufficient funds to buy the 230 new hymnals we need. Thank you to all who have ordered new hymnals and/or 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.

Many thanks to all who have generously given to our Music Director, Vince Leseney. To date, we have received \$2,060.00 in donations to help Vince defray the expenses of participating in a clinical trial at MD Anderson hospital in Houston. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Vince has completed the eight-week trial, but will still need to travel to Houston regularly for follow-up appointments.

The **Chancel Choir** returns to its usual time, 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, beginning February 6. We will meet after the Ash Wednesday service on February 13. Please join us as we enter the Lenten season and begin preparations for Easter.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

It may seem odd to some, but I really look forward to Lent. There is something about a season that accepts and honors our repentance, our reflecting on where we fall short in our life's journey as a Christian, and our efforts to follow a truer path of faith, that brings me comfort. I find that a true Lenten time allows an even better celebration once we get to Easter!

Lent begins this year on February 13th. We will gather for a worship service on Ash Wednesday as together we mark ourselves as ones in need of repentance. This literal sign of ashes on our foreheads will remind us that we need God and one another in our humanness. The service will be at 7:00 and will be less than an hour in length.

Many people like to give up something for Lent. If that is your practice, or you would like to try it this year, please do so! I have known people to give up soda, meat, chocolate and Facebook. One friend is going to focus on being a nicer person.

I regularly recommend a practice of *adding* something to your days, such as a Lenten devotion, Bible reading or a time of prayer. Maybe a service project or committing to Sunday School would be something that would help you in your journey.

My rule of thumb is that if you can say it brings you closer to God, then it's probably a good option for a Lenten discipline.

I will be doing something that is both adding and giving up. Each day I am adding a time of silence to my time at home. I am making a commitment to turning off the TV, the computer and my phone every day for a specified time (probably for 30 minutes...I'm still negotiating with myself about this). For me, I know this will be a challenge because it is not my usual way of living, but I can also see what a benefit it will be, too. I tend to want to have distractions around; this will allow me time to really see what is happening in my life.

Here's the thing, though. There may be times that I am unhappy about my decision. Times I wish I could just forget about it and go back to my previous ways. Because I have made a commitment, though, I will keep at it, valuing the process even in my selfish attitude. And I can't go back, really, because what I have done — even for a few days — will have changed me. Even if it is just a little, one little step in the right direction gives me just a glimpse of those steps ahead.

Not all of us will choose to observe a Lenten discipline, and this is a good thing, too. There is a time for everything.

May you be blessed in this Lenten season, however you choose to participate.

Tracy

Clerk's Corner

Session had a busy month in January, with the following actions being taken:

- (1) Session set the date for the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 3, 2013, immediately following worship. They also voted that a meal being provided would be a fundraiser for the three youth going to Triennium.
- (2) Rev Tracy Evans announced the committee chairs for 2013. They are as follows:
 - Christian Education – Harry Wright
 - Mission & Evangelism – Ann Fayles
 - Worship & Music – Lucy Lanning
 - Stewardship – Bob Clarke
 - Building & Grounds – Karen Girdner & Tim Thiessen
 - Hospitality & Fellowship – Lisa Upton (this is a new committee created by session at the December meeting)
- (3) Two session members—Karen Girdner and Lucy Lanning—were elected to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee.
- (4) Joan Cole was elected as Clerk of Session.
- (5) Mike Cole was elected as church treasurer.
- (6) Session elected the following as officers of the Board of Trustees:
 - President – Ann Fayles
 - Vice President – Jan Johnson
 - Secretary – Lisa Upton
 - Treasurer – Mike Cole
- (7) Session elected Ann Forsyth to serve on the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee.
- (8) Elder commissioner to Indian Nations Presbytery is Harry Wright. His alternate is Ann Fayles.
- (9) Session approved the recommendation of the Worship & Music Committee to serve communion on the first Sunday of every month as well as the Maundy Thursday service (March 28, 2013).
- (10) Session approved the 2013 budget (to be presented to the congregation at the February 3rd congregational meeting).
- (11) The next stated meeting of session will be February 19, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Joan Cole
Clerk of Session

Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee is off to a busy start in planning worship for 2013. Along with our regular Sunday worship, the committee will be planning special services for many of the Festival days within the church calendar, including Holy Week, Pentecost, World Communion, All Saints Day and Christmas Eve. There is also the possibility of other special services if the Spirit leads us in that direction.

We invite everyone to an Ash Wednesday service on February 13 at 7:00 P.M. This will be a contemplative service of prayer, meditation, scripture and the imposition of ashes as we begin the season of Lent.

The committee will next meet on February 24th immediately following worship. We will be planning services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. Anyone interested in helping in the planning of those services is welcome.

Praise the Lord!

Lucy Lanning
Chair of Worship & Music

Final 2012 Stewardship Update:

January 1 to December 31, 2012

	Actual	2012 Budget
Pledges	\$151,621.00	\$155,000.00
Other Income	\$32,805.03	\$46,606.00
Total Income	\$184,426.03	\$201,606.00
Total Expenses	\$180,796.67	\$201,606.00

2013 Stewardship Update:

January 1 to January 30, 2013

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2013 Budget
Pledges	\$10,330.48	\$12,138.66	\$145,664.00
Other Income	\$1,254.32	\$5,029.91	\$59,999.00
Total Income	\$11,584.80	\$17,138.57	\$205,663.00
Total Expenses	\$17,126.18	\$17,138.39	\$205,663.00

Christian Education News

Adult Sunday School Class to Begin New Series

The regular adult church school class, which meets in the parlor on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30, will embark on a new series beginning February 10. The series will coincide with Lent, and conclude on Palm Sunday, March 24. The class will consider portions of a video series, *Events that Changed History* (or, to be precise, people involved in those events). For seven Sundays we will view video lectures by the late Dr. Rufus Fears on a variety of subjects. The titles of the lectures will be: Moses and Monotheism; The Enlightenment of Buddha; Jesus—The Trial of a Teacher; Constantine I Wins a Battle; Muhammad Moves to Medina; Michelangelo Accepts a Commission; and Luther's New Course Changes History. Come, join the class for great information and interesting discussion on how these religious events have impacted our world.

A New Adult Sunday School Class Begins

Starting Sunday, February 10, a new adult class will begin to meet. It will be a study of *Listening for God: Volume 2*, and will meet for eight consecutive weeks (excluding Easter Sunday). *Listening for God* is made up of the writings of eight contemporary American writers who, in one way or another, make God, religious devotion, theological enigma, or religious experience central to their writing. Each chapter is about 10-15 pages. Volume one was the subject of a weeknight class this past fall. The new class will be discussion-centered, relying on the insights individual members bring in relation to their experience with the writers. There will also be a short video presentation which will give author profiles, and interviews with selected writers. The class will meet in the Library from 9:30 to 10:30.

—Harry Wright

January Fellowship Events

Sunday Afternoon at the Movies

On Sunday, January 20, seventeen people associated with Memorial met at the church and together attended an excellent movie—*Silver Linings Playbook*—being shown at the Warren Theater in Moore. The story line is about a young man who has been discharged from a psychiatric hospital, and how he struggles to deal with a bipolar condition. The cast is superb, and it is a touching story. Following the movie, we all met at a nearby Freddy's Custard shop, where we had good conversation and fellowship. We are planning similar activities for the future: please join us if you are able. — Harry Wright

Presbyterian Youth Event

Five courageous youth attended an OKC area-wide Presbyterian youth gathering on the night of Sunday, January 27, at First Presbyterian Church in Norman. Our five Memorial youth joined over 50 other young people (middle school – high school) for a rowdy evening of fun and games. The youth who attended were Gysheilla Jangha, Elvira Sama, Mariolise Sama, Stephanie Jangha and AJ Roesel. These five said they wanted to participate with this group of young people again, so watch for upcoming news about the next OKC area-wide gathering of Presbyterian youth. — Joan Cole

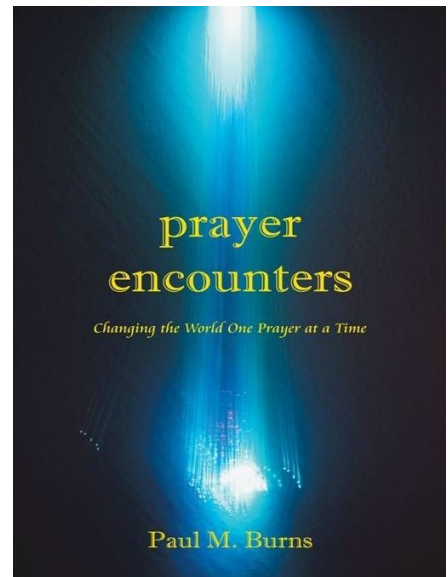
2013 Lenten Study

Sundays, February 17 – March 24
7:00-8:00 P.M.

Are there positive virtues in the seven deadly sins? Perhaps not, but there are vital, life-affirming attributes in their opposites. Just as every cloud has a silver lining, every vice has a corresponding virtue, according to Dr. Robin Meyers, minister at Mayflower Congregational Church in Oklahoma City and author of *The Virtue in the Vice: Finding Seven Lively Virtues in the Seven Deadly Sins*, the subject of our study. Meyers writes, “Embedded in the worst of things is a remnant of the best of things.” Meyer’s thoughtful analysis is broad in range, dealing not only with personal virtue and vice, but also with the war on terror and the superficiality of American pop culture. If you are looking for a delightful, yet challenging book for the six weeks of Lent this study is for you. The book will cost \$10, and will be available from Tracy Evans a week before our starting date. The study is a joint venture with First Presbyterian Church of Norman and FPC’s associate pastor, Rev. Pam Normile, will be co-teaching. Each class will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

Book of the Month

The Rev. Mr. Paul M. Burns grew up in Memorial Presbyterian Church, and he is currently pastor of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has recently published a book about prayer—*Prayer Encounters: Changing the World One Prayer at a Time*. This insightful book uses stories, reflections, questions to consider, and prayer challenges to show how individuals can bring people into direct spiritual contact with Jesus Christ by offering prayer in the moment to those who need it. It connects intercessory prayer with real-life situations. Rev. Burns will be speaking at Memorial on February 1st about his book. We will have some copies of the book for sale. This February book of the month can be found in the church library.
— Harry Wright



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

2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

“I AM”

Submitted by Lisa Upton

Memorial Presbyterian Church is proud to announce that three of our youth have been selected to attend the 2013 Presbyterian Youth Triennium that will be held July 15-21 at Purdue University. They are: Breanna Upton, A. J. Roesel and Elvira Sama.

You may ask What is Triennium? Think of it as youth camp on steroids, held every three years. Entering freshmen through graduating seniors in high school are eligible to attend. The event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches (CPC and CPCA) for the purpose of gathering Presbyterian and Reformed young people from all over the United States and the world for worship, prayer, play, and mission experiences. It is estimated that about 4,000 youth will attend this incredible event this year.

At Triennium, it is believed that young people are prime carriers of the hope Christians are called to possess and share. The event is planned around a central theme and each day there is a sub-theme and supporting scriptures, speakers, conversations and mission opportunities. The goal is to offer an experience that provides youth with the opportunity to explore their faith and their practices alongside those of the past and present faith communities.

This year's theme is to explore the “I AM” statements of Jesus, as shared with disciples and the early followers of Jesus. Youth will look at the deep connection between the divine “I AM” and the human “I AM”. Bill Buchanan, co-coordinator for the Triennium worship team stated, “We want young Christians to explore the nature of God through Jesus Christ. As they wrestle with their sense of God and self in today's world, we hope they will hear God calling, “I AM with you, preparing a place and path for you to be my eyes, hands, and feet in the world.”

The cost of attending Triennium is \$900 per youth. The Indian Nations Presbytery will cover approximately \$400 of this for travel and lodging which leaves our candidates, Breanna, A.J. and Elvira to pay the balance of \$500 each. We want to help make this opportunity possible for Memorial's Triennium candidates by holding four fundraisers.

The first fundraiser will be a Soup & Salad Lunch after the worship service on February 3. The next fundraiser will be a Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction in March. We will be looking for donation items to be auctioned off. In April we are considering having a Church Yard Sale — as you do your spring cleaning, please keep this fundraiser in mind. We will also be looking for volunteers to help work this event.

The fourth fundraiser will be a Picnic Lunch in the courtyard after a worship service in June. Watch for dates and times as well as ways that you can contribute and help these youth reach their goal to attend Triennium 2013. If you have any questions about Triennium or any of the Fundraiser Events, feel free to contact Lisa Upton at 740-4227 or Laupton@aol.com.

Youth who have attended Triennium have stated that it was a life-changing experience. For A. J., Elvira and Breanna, Triennium 2013 can be a truly amazing experience and faith journey as a young Christian in today's world.

Christian camps and retreats develop church leaders

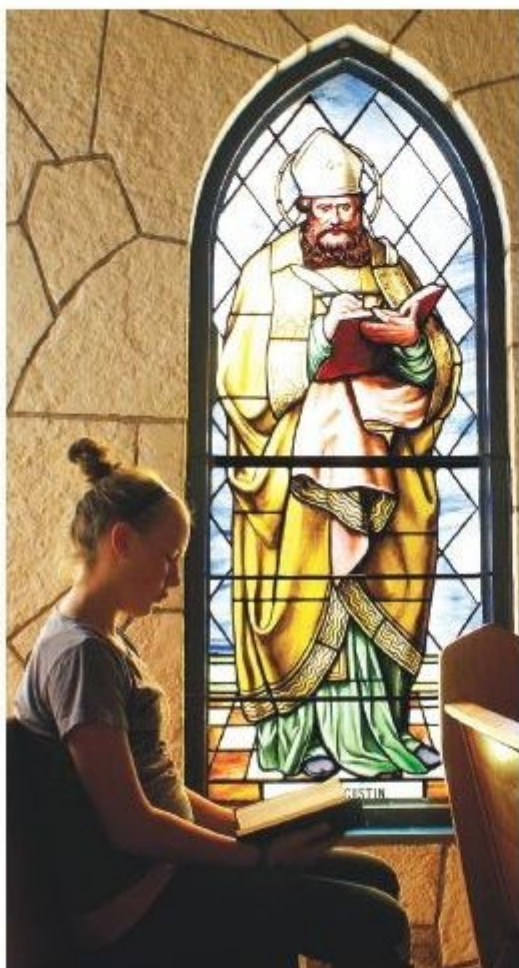


Photo by Sonja M. Hill

71 percent of pastors and 44 percent of ruling elders say church retreats played a *very important* or *important* role in teaching them the Christian faith and the connection between faith and life.

86 percent of pastors, 65 percent of members and 71 percent of ruling elders say church retreats are *very important* or *important* for Christian young adult leadership development

70 percent of ruling elders and 77 percent of pastors say Christian camping is *very important* or *important* for young adult leadership development.

from Presbyterian Panel Survey, May 2012: "Spiritual Growth Experiences and Church Retreats"

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CCFI Update

Memorial has a long-standing association with the Center for Children & Families, Inc. (CCFI), which includes both cash and in-kind contributions, as well as efforts such as last summer's Mini Mission. In 2012, Memorial gave \$250.08 in cash and \$200.00 in non-cash contributions to CCFI. Excerpts from CCFI's recent semi-annual donor update are reproduced below. The full report is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.



**Center for Children
& Families, Inc.**

www.ccfnorman.org

**A Community
Celebration**



As many of you may know, our Clinical Director, Fran Roberson has left CCFI after more than 28 years of service to the agency.

It is no small thing to say that Fran's

contributions to CCFI have made quite an impact on the mission and strength of our organization. Please join us as we host a community celebration in honor of Fran and her decades of service to CCFI.

Friday, February 8th, 2013

4:30 p.m. - 6:30p.m.

St. Stephens United Methodist Church
1801 W. Brooks St., Norman, OK

To contribute a note to Fran's Memory Book before the event, please send submissions to Liz Biolley at lbiolley@ccfnorman.org.

Dear Friends of CCFI,

I recently came upon these words by Pauline R Kezer:

"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."

The roots of the Center for Children and Families, Inc. (CCFI) have been growing for the past 44 years. Your support in 2012 was instrumental in providing CCFI the initiative to take steps in looking for a home of our own.

As we embark on this capital campaign, we know 2013 will be a transformative year for CCFI. Not only are we raising funds to renovate the former Immanuel Baptist Church, but after 28 years of service to CCFI, we are saying goodbye to our Clinical Director Fran Roberson. I hope you will join us on February 8th at 4:30 p.m. at St. Stephens United Methodist Church to help us celebrate Fran's dedication to children and families.

CCFI served more than 1, 800 clients in 2012. Integrating services under one roof will allow us to reach more children and families through:

- Doubling play therapy and counseling space

- Adding sensory integration and occupational therapy services
- Creating a state-of-the art outdoor therapeutic play space
- Increasing the amount of time students spend in our out-of-school services
- Expanding the Baby Pantry, which distributed more than 70,000 donated diapers in 2012, a 80% increase since 2011

I want to share my thanks with you! CCFI is truly blessed to have 740 donors who made a financial commitment to heal children, empower youth and strengthen families last year. You will be hearing more about CCFI's capital campaign soon, but if you have any questions, please give me a call or send an email to kfitzgerald@ccfnorman.org.

With much appreciation,



Katie

Katie Fitzgerald, MSW
Executive Director
kfitzgerald@ccfnorman.org
405-364-1420
405-923-8073 cell

Healing Children • Empowering Youth • Strengthening Families

1151 East Main Street, Norman, OK 73071 | 405-364-1420 | 405-364-1433 FAX | www.ccfnorman.org

Norman Ministerial Fellowship
Together to the Cross
Lenten Services 2013

The Norman Ministerial Fellowship will host a series of Lenten mid-week services at noon on Wednesdays. Each service will be hosted at a different church with the host church providing music and a guest preacher giving a sermon. The theme for this year's series is "Words from the Cross." Pastor Tracy will be the guest preacher on February 27, at McFarlin United Methodist Church. Each service will begin at noon and be followed at 12:35 by a simple lunch (cost for the lunch is \$5.00). An offering will be taken each week for the benefit of a local non-profit, Among Friends (Cathe Fox, Director).

2013 Lenten Services Schedule

Worship Theme: Words from the Cross

Feb. 20—NorthHaven Church (Host Pastor: Mitch Randall)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Boyd (David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Professor of Religious Studies, University of Oklahoma)

Worship Theme: *Father, forgive them. . .*

Feb. 27—McFarlin UMC (Host Pastor: Linda Harker)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Tracy Evans (Memorial Presbyterian)

Worship Theme: *Here is your son. . .here is your mother.*

March 6—St Mark's Catholic Church (Host Pastor: Tom Boyer)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Mike Bumgarner, (Chaplain, NRHS)

Worship Theme: *My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?*

March 13—First Christian Church (Host Pastor: David Spain)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Amy Venable (St. Stephen's UMC)

Worship Theme: *I am thirsty.*

March 20-(Spring Break) First Presbyterian (Host Pastor: Rev. Bob Rice)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Sami Chaaya (Our Lady of Lebanon)

Worship Theme: *It is Finished.*

March 27—(Holy Week) Alameda Church of Christ (Host Pastor: Rusty Tugman)

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wade Smith (First Baptist)

Worship Theme: *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Jim Eckel has been battling cancer and emphysema. It appears he may soon be cancer-free.

Vince Leseney has finished participating in a clinical trial of new vaccines for melanoma. Regular check-ups will be required.

Jayelle Martin recently had knee surgery, and is rehabilitating at Grace Living Center in OKC (2400 SW 55th St, 73119).

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 has not been responding well to chemotherapy.

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

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 Sites (Georjana Mauldin's father)

Peggy Strunk is undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer.

Kate Yost (Dave & Tamara Iske's niece) has low cancer markers but recently required a preventive round of chemotherapy.

Those who grieve

Family of Sean Miller (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Goodner)

Family of Betty Moore (Anita Harkey's sister)

Family of Peggy Ann Richardson (niece of Bill & Betty Silman)

Family of Billie Jean Sites (Georjana Mauldin's mother)

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

February Birthdays

- Feb. 3 John D. Montgomery, Jr.
- Feb. 4 Mike Johnson
Tim Mauldin
- Feb. 5 Cody Yeager
- Feb. 6 Laurianne Fisher
- Feb. 9 Gysheilla Jangha
- Feb. 11 Susan Annoh
- Feb. 13 Terry Williams
- Feb. 16 Mary Clark (Carolyn
Montgomery's daughter)
- Feb. 17 Ryan Johnson
- Feb. 20 Jim Eckel
- Feb. 24 Georjana Mauldin
- Feb. 26 Larry Upton, Jr.
Will Farris
- Feb. 27 Jim Rodriguez
- Feb. 28 Katie Bradley
- Feb. 29 Jody Yeager

February Wedding Anniversaries

- Feb. 11 Mike & Joan Cole
- Feb. 14 Jim & Judy Burns

Blessed Attitudes

Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV)

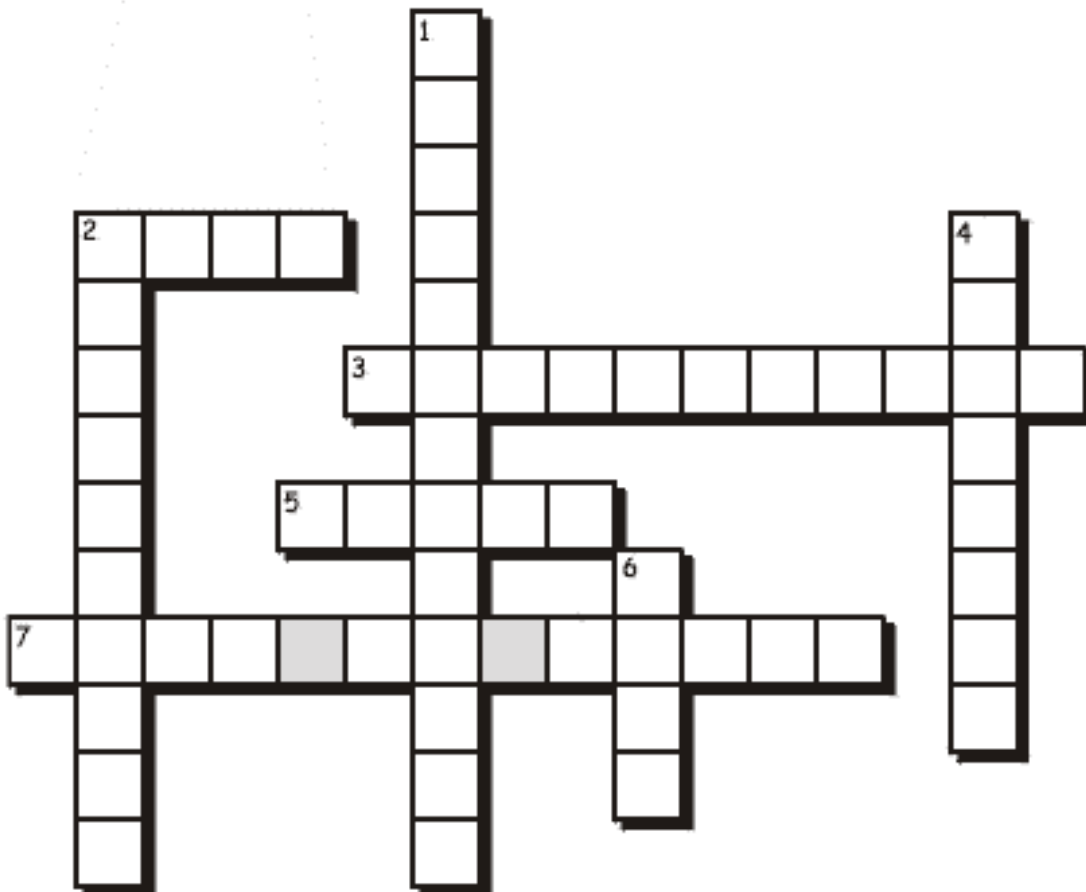
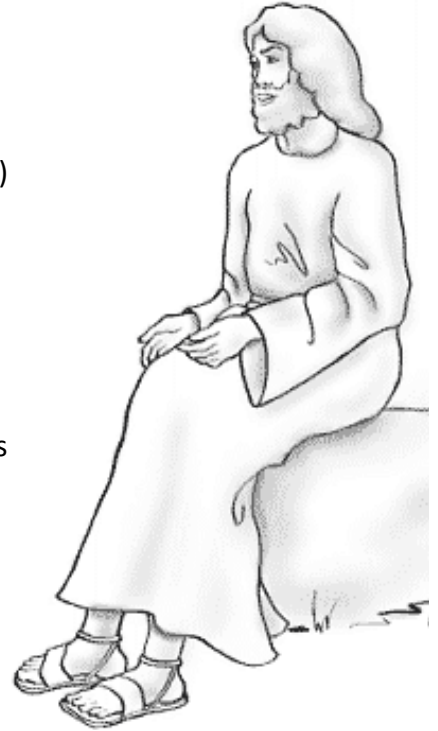
Jesus traveled around the area of the Sea of Galilee and taught the people about God. He also healed many of their diseases. One of these times he went up on a mountainside and taught a large group of his disciples about the things that we should do and attitudes that God would bless. Read about them in Matthew 5:3-10 and complete the crossword puzzle below.

Across:

- 2. Blessed are the ____ in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. (vs.3)
- 3. Blessed are the _____, for they will be called the sons of God. (vs.9)
- 5. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted. (vs. 4)
- 7. Blessed are the ____ _ ____, for they will see God." (vs.8)



Down:

- 1. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after _____, for they will be filled." (vs.6)
- 2. Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (vs.10)
- 4. Blessed are the _____ for they will be shown mercy. (vs.7)
- 6. Blessed are the ____ for they will inherit the earth." (vs.5)



Memorial Presbyterian Church

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Paul Burns' workshop on <i>Prayer Encounters</i> 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.	2
3 Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:55 A.M. Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 P.M.	4 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M. <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Pastor Evans in Austin for continuing education</div>	5	6 League of Women Voters 11:15 A.M.—1:30 P.M.	7 Serve at Food and Shelter, Inc. 10 A.M. Christian Education meeting 7:00 P.M.	8 ABLE Valentine's Day Party 5:30 P.M.	9
10	11 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	12 Mission & Evangelism meeting 6:00 P.M.	13  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M. Choir following service	14  Valentine's Day	15	16
17 Deacons meeting 4:30 P.M. Stewardship meeting 5:30 P.M.	18 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	19 Session meeting 7:00 P.M.	20 NMF Lenten service & lunch at Northhaven Church 12 P.M.	21 Articles due for March Messenger Building & Grounds meeting 7:00 P.M.	22	23
24 Worship & Music meeting 12 P.M.	25 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	26	27 NMF Lenten service & lunch at McFarlin UMC 12 P.M.	28		

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 7:00 P.M.