

Memorial Messenger

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

December 2013



Latest News



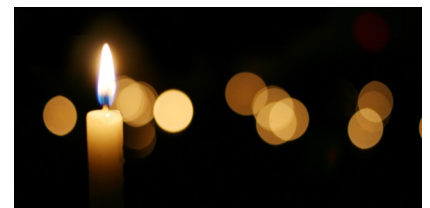
The **Urban Mission** item of the month for December is **powdered milk**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.



The **Angel Tree** will be set up on December 1st, 8th, & 15th. 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. 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 18. Contact Eileen Burke (321-1994) if you have any questions.

Don't miss the annual children's **Christmas pageant**, Wednesday, December 11. Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 P.M. followed by the pageant at 7:00 P.M.

Join us for the **Christmas Eve service** at 7:00 P.M. on December 24. We will reprise the service of nine lessons and carols which was well received last year. The service will conclude with the lighting of candles and singing "Silent Night". Please share this invitation to worship with your family, friends and neighbors.



New officers: At the congregational meeting on November 17, the proposed slate of officers was approved. Mike Cole, Julie Forthman, and Michael Yeager will serve on Session, class of 2016, and Doug Forsyth will fill a vacancy in the class of 2014. The new deacons, class of 2016, will be John Beck and Jona Thiessen. Congratulations to our incoming officers and our thanks to those who have served in the class of 2013: Ann Forsyth, Tim Thiessen, and Lisa Upton (Session); Angie Martin and Holly Van Auken (Deacons).

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we begin this Advent season!

It is time for those ubiquitous lists of the greatest things of the past year to make their appearance. You know the ones: Best Movies of 2013, Top News Stories of 2013, Most Notable Events of 2013, etc... With this in mind, I have come up with a list of the top achievements of Memorial Presbyterian Church for 2013 (in no particular order):

- Repaired/replaced one of our sanctuary's faceted glass windows
- Sent three youth and two adults to Triennium, and sent five kids to Dwight Mission for summer camp
- Created a new committee, Fellowship and Hospitality, which hosted many events for our congregation and beyond
- Purchased new hymnals
- Reached out to our neighbors through becoming a polling site, hosting National Night Out and Trunk or Treat, and sending postcards to our neighbors inviting them to several events
- Completed personnel reviews
- Initiated a new Sunday School class
- Began a weekday Bible study
- Continued our successful Kids' Club, reorganized Memorial Youth Group, and carried out a vibrant Vacation Bible School
- Remained financially secure
- Witnessed healing for several of our church family and witnessed caring for those in need

This list is just the highlights. It doesn't include all the work that goes on "behind the scenes" that takes place in order for us to gather for worship, study, work and fellowship. We have much of which to be, as one pastor friend says, "sinfully proud."

What would you include in your list of MPC highlights? What would you like to see in 2014?

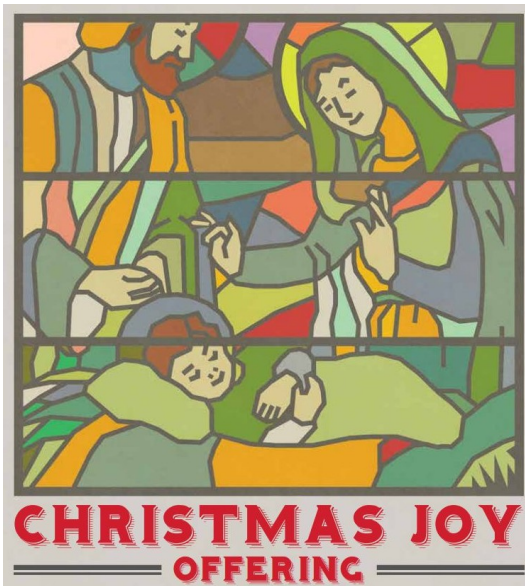
Blessings for Advent and Christmas!

Tracy



You are invited to attend an Open House at Tracy Evans' home, 3918 Mayfair Drive, on Tuesday, December 17. Drop in for fellowship and a goodie or two from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

If you would like to have something in hand when you come, please consider bringing a pair of gloves or socks for Madison Elementary School students. They will be delivered as school begins in January.



We will take up the **Christmas Joy Offering** throughout Advent, with a special emphasis on December 22.

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four Special Offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas are a time for celebrating the arrival of “the true light” (John 1:9), the PC(USA) provides this opportunity for congregations to support those in need of help and hope. Alongside this message of promise and fulfillment, we also hear the encouraging words, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4). When we give out of the abundance of God’s blessings in our lives, the light of Christ shines through us and illuminates those in need of help and hope.

Source: Presbyterian Mission Agency

Stewardship Update January 1 to November 27, 2013			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2013 Budget
Pledges	\$124,019.45	\$133,525.26	\$145,664.00
Other Income	\$28,728.40	\$54,999.01	\$59,999.00
Total Income	\$152,747.85	\$188,524.27	\$205,663.00
Total Expenses	\$167,917.08	\$188,522.29	\$205,663.00

Thank you for your financial support

As of November 25, thirty-one individuals or households have pledged a total of \$137,842 toward the 2014 Operating Budget, and fifteen have pledged a total of \$10,866 to the Capital Improvement Fund. This compares well with 2013, which saw a total of thirty-two pledges to the operating budget for a total of \$145,664, and fourteen pledges to the Capital Improvement Fund for a total of \$11,600.

If you have not yet made a pledge, we ask that you consider doing so. If you need a stewardship packet or pledge card, please contact the church office. Your financial support is essential to the ongoing ministry of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

End-of-year giving

As the end of the year approaches, we would like to remind you that contributions are deductible in the year they are made. Checks must be received by the church or postmarked before January 1, 2014 to be included in this year’s contribution statement.

Worship News

Glory to God is in the pews! The mighty ones in worship on Nov. 24th received their introduction as we switched from using the old faithful blue hymnals to our shiny new purple ones. While it was the intention of the worship committee to sing familiar hymns that first Sunday, the early season ice storm caused a few wrinkles in our plan and prompted us to sing a new tune to old words. Did you realize that “Joy to the World” could be sung on Christ the King Sunday? Check it out.

Speaking of new hymns, there was an interesting article in *The Presbyterian Leader* recently in regard to *Glory to God*. It started like this....

Can you finish the lines of these hymns?

Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to thee, _____
God of the sparrow, God of _____
Let us talents and _____
Lift high _____
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? _____

How did you do? Do you know what these hymns have in common? All five of these hymns were unfamiliar to Presbyterian congregations when the “new blue” hymnal appeared in 1990. Yet they have become “old” favorites to many congregations, including ours, I think. We have to remember even the “old” hymns were “new” at some point. I ask you to keep this in mind as we make this change. The Worship & Music committee will not be bombarding you with new hymns, but will introduce them slowly and gently. Several of us “hymn nerds” have been looking through the hymnal and are very excited about what is ahead, including a hymn festival in January when we will dedicate the new hymnals. More information about that to come. We do pray that you will find some new “old” favorites as we sing praises to God every Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who has willingly volunteered to assist with the many duties of worship this past year. I will be putting together a schedule of ushers for the first six months of 2014 within the next few weeks and sending that out for everyone to look over. I will also have a sign-up sheet for Communion servers at the December Session and Deacons’ meetings. Be checking your calendars. If you are not on a list and would like to help, let me know. There is always room.

Most importantly, please plan on joining us for worship the four Sundays of Advent and for our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. This is a wonderful time to invite your friends to join us for worship. “For Unto Us a Child is Born!”

Lucy Lanning, Chair
Worship and Music Committee



December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Larry Upton

- December 1 Communion Servers: Mike and Joan Cole, Ann Fayles
 Ushers: Loreen Upton and Ann Fayles
 Sound booth: Tim Thiessen
 Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard
 Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton
 Lock-up: Doug Forsyth
- December 8 Ushers: Trudy Beard and Rachel Bradley
 Sound booth: Larry Upton
 Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner
 Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole
 Lock-up: Joe Garlett
- December 15 Ushers: Paul and Erica Phelps
 Sound booth: Will Farris
 Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen
 Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck
 Lock-up: Mike Girdner
- December 22 Ushers: John and Susan Beck
 Sound booth: Mike Cole
 Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton
 Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard or Karen Girdner
 Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett
- December 29 Ushers: Jeff and A.J. Roesel
 Sound booth: Mike Girdner
 Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole
 Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint
 Lock-up: Harry Wright

MEMORIAL YOUTH GROUP NEWS



M.Y. Group will meet on Sunday, December 8 at 5PM for a time of study, games and good food. Our focus will be on respect. Dinner will be provided by Susan Beck.

Our second meeting in December (Dec 22nd) will focus on Shine: Be a light for Jesus. There will also be a Christmas celebration that includes some reindeer games. Details will be discussed at the Dec 8th get-together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: YOUTHQUAKE IS COMING IN APRIL 2014. CHECK OUT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD FOR INFORMATION.

East Main Place—Finding a Home for Christmas

In response to the Mission & Evangelism committee's request for potential mission projects, Georgiana Mauldin suggested that the committee examine the possibility of furnishing a room at East main Place. This is a transitional housing program for homeless and barely surviving individuals and families here in Norman. I have learned that Memorial Presbyterian Church once did that and the committee is seeking further information. Since our outreach theme this Christmas season is "Finding a Home for Christmas", the committee felt it appropriate to recommend a donation to East Main Place by anyone in the congregation who feels led by the Lord.

God's Blessing from Mission & Evangelism
Ann Fayles

East Main Place
1100 East Main Street
Norman, OK 73071
(405) 447-4663
www.EastMainPlace.com

Synod of the Sun Mission Story

How powerful is the gospel! The good news of Jesus can transform our life from darkness to the light, like it has for Farhad. Farhad is an Iranian refugee living in Houston; he was born as a Muslim. Farhad was not sure that Islam provides him inner peace, so he was interested to know more about Christianity. God opened his heart while he was in Iran. Since it was dangerous for Farhad to live in Iran because of his faith, he came to the USA as a refugee. No doubt, it was hard for him to start a new life in Houston. He began to look for a church. While he was walking in the street, he found Grace Presbyterian Church. Farhad met with Rev. Chris French (one of Grace staff) and Rev. Chris connected him with me. I found out that he was isolated and had no resources. We prayed together, and I visited with him several times. God blessed him with a good job.

On one Sunday, I worshipped with him at Grace Presbyterian Church and during the collection of the offering I noticed that he put some money in the offering tray, and some more in an envelope. After church was over, I asked him about that, and he told me "God has given me a good job and I want to return back some of what God has given me." I was fascinated when I heard him say that. Farhad has connected with my group and still goes to Grace Presbyterian Church on Sundays. I visit with him to help him regularly to grow in Christ. God has changed his heart from darkness to the light of Jesus Christ. We thank God for Farhad, and we trust that God will bless his life to glorify Him.

Hope International Center of Houston is a recipient of a Mission Grant from the Synod of the Sun and is supported by the Presbytery of New Covenant, and congregations of that presbytery.

Rev. Eid Abdelmassih Hanna

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
 Bob Clarke
 Sandy Clarke
 Melinda Clements
 Mike Cole
 Dave Iske
 Vince Leseney
 Hank Baltine (Susan Beck's step-father)
 Kenny Comer (Karen Girdner's niece's husband)
 Cody Derryberry (son of Carl Forthman's co-worker Renee)
 Judy Haworth (Jayelle Martin's sister)
 Dottie Hinson (Karen Upton's mother)
 Norvin Hinson (Karen Upton's grandfather)
 Dan Loomis (friend of Bill & Betty Silman)
 George Sites (Georjana Mauldin's father)
 Peggy Strunk
 Dan Van Auken (Holly Van Auken's nephew)

Those who grieve

Karin Cummings (daughter of Kay Anderson), whose husband died suddenly
 Family of E.W. Hanselman (Julie Forthman's father)
 Family of Bob Montgomery (Carolyn Montgomery's brother-in-law)

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



December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

- 20 Judd & Alice Lanning
- 27 Tim & Jona Thiessen
- 30 Carl & Julie Forthman

Christmas Word Jumble

Unscramble the letters using the words from the word bank below.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. VISROA | _____ | 11. MALEC | _____ |
| 2. NGELA | _____ | 12. DPREHSEH | _____ |
| 3. YRAM | _____ | 13. LHEHTEEMB | _____ |
| 4. ODNYKE | _____ | 14. REMGNA | _____ |
| 5. ISKNG | _____ | 15. RASTW | _____ |
| 6. HEJOPS | _____ | 16. PEEKNNRIE | _____ |
| 7. NAECDL | _____ | 17. TSRA | _____ |
| 8. BHTRI | _____ | 18. YTSPOIHLIR | _____ |
| 9. AVENHE | _____ | 19. SUJES | _____ |
| 10. SINAMEW | _____ | 20. SEDSBLE | _____ |

angel
candle
Jesus
manger
Mary

star
wiseman
camel
shepherd
Bethlehem

birth
donkey
Heaven
innkeeper
Joseph

Savior
Holy Spirit
straw
kings
blessed

Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:55 A.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper	2 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	3 7:00 P.M. Session meeting	4 11:00 A.M. League of Women Voters 3:15 P.M. Kids' Club 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir	5 10:00 A.M. Serve at Food for Friends 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Bible Study	6	7
8 12:00 P.M. Worship & Music meeting 5:00 P.M. Memorial Youth Group	9 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	10 7:00 P.M. Christian Education meeting	11 3:15 P.M. Kids' Club 6:00 P.M. Pot-luck Dinner 7:00 P.M. Christmas Pageant 8:00 P.M. Chancel Choir	12 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Bible Study	13	14
15 12:00 P.M. Deacons meeting	16 7:00 P.M. Fellowship & Hospitality meeting 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	17 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. Open House at Pastor Tracy's home	18 3:15 P.M. Kids' Club 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir	19 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Bible Study	20	21
22 5:00 P.M. Memorial Youth Group	23 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	24 Articles due for January Messenger 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28
29	30 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	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 3:15 P.M.
 Children's Choir 5:00 P.M.
 Chancel Ringers 6:00 P.M.
 Chancel Choir 7:00 P.M.