Memorial Messenger



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

December 2014



Latest News and Upcoming Events

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

The annual **Christmas Pageant** and potluck dinner will take place on Sunday, December 7. The evening begins with dinner at 5:30, with pageant following at about 6:30. There will be a Pot Luck sign up sheet for those wishing to provide a dish. If you have any questions about the pot luck dinner, contact Lisa Upton. We hope everyone will plan to come to enjoy a meal together and experience the Christmas story as told by Memorial's children.

The **Chancel Choir** will have an extra rehearsal at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 6, as we continue preparations for leading worship during the season of Advent. Regular Thursday night rehearsals continue at 6:30 P.M. All are welcome.

Kirk Forthman and Jessica Bender invite their Memorial church family to their **wedding** at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 13, at the church. No RSVP is required.



Senior* Adults: You are invited to a potluck lunch with the pastor on Tuesday, December 16th at noon. We'll share in a meal and maybe some reindeer games. There will certainly be good conversation! Here are the details: We'll meet in Fellowship Hall, and the pastor will make sure everything is set up, and will provide beverages. We can make it a true potluck ... just bring something to share! If we have 10 desserts, or a dozen broccoli dishes, then so be it! If you can let Rev. Evans know you're coming, great; if not, there will be an extra seat. Bring a friend if you'd like, too!

*Senior is defined as anyone who wants to claim that name of honor!

The last meeting of **Kids' Club** for the Fall 2014 semester will be December 17. Kids' Club will resume in January.

Join us for our **Christmas Eve** service of lessons and carols drawing on the prophecy of Isaiah— 7:00 P.M. on December 24.

There will be no **Sunday School** on Sunday, December 28.

Mark your calendars—The deacons will host a celebration luncheon honoring our members over the **age of 80** on Sunday, January 18.

Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7PM and took the following actions:

- (1) Voted to approve ABLE's request to use our Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 5, 2014 from 4:30PM-9PM and Friday, February 13, 2015 from 4:30PM-9PM.
- (2) Approved the hiring of Larry Upton as our church janitor for a period of 6 months (Jimmy Rambur resigned effective October 31, 2014).
- (3) Approved the adoption of the Memorial Presbyterian Church Personnel Manual as prepared by the Personnel Committee.
- (4) After prayerful consideration, Session voted to defer the motion permitting same-sex marriage in our sanctuary until after the Presbytery vote scheduled for February 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Cole, Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update January 1 to November 30, 2014							
Actual YTD Budget YTD 2014 Budget							
Pledges	\$126,781.97	\$131,987.13	\$143,986.00				
Other Income	\$27,970.63	\$48,475.13	\$52,882.00				
Total Income	\$154,752.60	\$180,462.26	\$196,868.00				
Total Expenses	\$166,118.84	\$180,460.28	\$196,868.00				

Summary of FY 2015 pledges as of November 30, 2014:

	Operating Budget	Capital Improvement Fund
Number of pledges:	19	9
Total amount of pledges:	\$108,140.00	\$7,525.00

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge card, we ask that you do so as soon as possible.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I ran across this piece from Rob Bell, from his book, Jesus Wants to Save Christians:

If you've ever been to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, you know what this is like. An AA meeting is a room full of people who are done pretending. There are no facades. There is no acting. And it's overwhelmingly powerful. Everybody in that room is in recovery from addiction, and they all know each other's games, masks, and manipulations. A whole world of posturing and pretending is simply absent. You're there because you have hit bottom, at least most of the time, and you need others who know how it feels.

Writer Anne Lamott says that the most powerful sermon in the world is two words: "Me too."

Me too.

When you're struggling, when you are hurting, wounded, limping, doubting, questioning, barely hanging on, moments away from another relapse, and somebody can identify with you— someone knows the temptations that are at your door, somebody has felt the pain that you are feeling, when someone can look you in the eyes and say, "Me too," and actually mean it-it can save you.

When you aren't judged, or lectured, or looked down upon, but somebody demonstrates that they get it, that they know what it's like, that you aren't alone, that's "me too."

That's what Christmas is about, too. The radical notion that God sent God's very son to become one of us. To experience the realities of this life on earth, not just through words or images, but to actually know and feel what we as humans know and feel. He came that he might say, "Me, too" to each of us.

We celebrate the power of this act as we anticipate the coming of Christ in our Advent worship, and on into our Christmas celebration.

Come, join us, as together we share in celebration and thanks.

Peace to you all in this season and beyond,

Tracy



MEMORIAL YOUTH GROUP NEWS

DECEMBER 2014



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our December meeting schedule.

DEC 21

Christmas Party

Lisa Upton

This year we will play "dirty Santa" a little differently. All youth are asked to bring a pair of Christmas socks wrapped. That's all the clues you get. You'll just have to come participate to see what happens next.

If you would like to provide a meal for our youth, there are still plenty of opportunities coming up in January through May. Please contact Joan Cole, 830-8389, if you have any questions.



Mental Illness and Criminal Justice Panel a Success

Many, many thanks to Harry Wright for his vision and hard work in carrying out this community event. Harry would like to recognize the C.E. committee for supporting the concept; the Session for affirming it; Pastor Tracy for her encouragement; Michael Yeager and Doug Forsyth for technical support; the Fellowship & Hospitality committee for the refreshments; the Chancel Choir for the room set-up; Larry and Lisa Upton, for several activities; Cassie Upton for covering the nursery; Dave Iske for being a greeter; Terry Cast for assisting with promotion of the event; and finally, the panel members themselves, without whom it never would have been possible. In addition to Donna, "who soothed my fevered brow as I wondered out loud many times at home if the whole thing would work at all."

We hope and plan to organize similar events in the future, with the support of our members.



The five panelists were (left to right): Lt. Cary Bryant (Norman PD), state rep. Emily Virgin (District 44), Jeff Tallent (Evolution Foundation), OU Prof. Susan Sharp, and Traci Cook (NAMI OK)



We estimated that over 100 people were in attendance.

December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Tim Thiessen

December 7

Ushers: Larry and Lisa Upton Communion Servers: Doug and Ann Forsyth, Charlotte Lovett and Jim Rodriguez Coffee: John Beck and Loreen Upton Sound booth: Larry Upton Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel Lock-up: Trudy Beard

December 14

Ushers: Mike and Joan Cole Coffee: Charlotte Lovett and Lisa Upton Sound booth: Trey Neal Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton Lock-up: Joan Cole

December 21

Ushers: Carl and Julie Forthman Coffee: Ann Forsyth and Jona Thiessen Sound booth: Will Farris Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

December 28

Ushers: Tim and Jona Thiessen Coffee: Jim and Linda Rodriguez Sound booth: Mike Cole Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole Lock-up: Doug Forsyth

You Are Invited

to a Wedding!

Ms. Jessica Lynn Bender and Mr. Kirk Forthman

Invite their Memorial Presbyterian Church family

to their wedding at Memorial

on Saturday, December 13,

one o'clock in the afternoon.

RSVP is not required.



Through the Christmas Joy Offering, your generosity provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church, as well as racial ethnic leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Follow in the tradition of the wise men, and give this Advent season.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

Through your congregation

Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10 presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

Unity of the Church in a Time of Diversity

A presentation looking at the biblical, theological, and polity path of where the PC(USA) has been and where we are in light of the recent action of General Assembly (GA) on marriage.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Achtemeier: Presentation and Conversation Leader

Dr. Achtemeier has served the PC(USA) since 1984 as pastor, writer, and theologian. He taught theology and ethics for 15 years on the faculty of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He is an author; a member of the Peace, Unity and Purity GA Task Force; and an articulate voice on the marriage issue.

Sunday December 14 at 1:30 р.м. Chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City 1001 NW 25th St., Oklahoma City

For convenience, there will be a catered lunch (donations accepted) in Watchorn Hall beginning at noon. Lunch reservations can be made by calling (405) 525-6584 or at the website: www.fpcokc.org/INPevent

This event is co-sponsored by Indian Nations Presbytery and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.



THE ACTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF DWIGHT MISSION

Number 4 of 12 short articles

Native American boys and girls were educated off and on from 1822 to 1948 at Dwight Mission—the longest active Native American mission in Oklahoma. From the very first, the boarding school schedule was a good mix of basic education plus household and farming skills of that era. A superintendent of Western Indian Affairs wrote in a letter, "There is no other school in Indian Territory which includes the manual skills. This school would not suffer from a comparison with the schools in the most favored parts of the United States." And surprisingly, there was a preschool for children as young as twenty months old!

Before breakfast, boys worked in the fields and the girls in the kitchen or at needlework, spinning or weaving. The meal was followed by three hours of reading and writing English and also math. After the 12:30 dinner (when the "healthy Cherokee children eat their meal with great avidity") the boys and girls separated for a short playtime. Then the boys worked with instruction on the farm, and the girls in the kitchen, laundry, or sewing room until supper. Then came prayers, recreation, and bedtime. The Sunday schedule included two worship services (public invited), one in English and one in Cherokee. Classes were not held and only the necessary work was done. Sabbath School was attended in the afternoon.

Some sixty years later, in the 1900's, school through eighth grade was held from 8:00 to 2:30 with a break for lunch. Afterwards the industrial education began. Everyone worked in laundry and garden. On Saturdays there were extra-curricular activities such as competitive sports. Hunting and fishing were encouraged. Self-control, one of the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, spread throughout the students' and personnel's lives during their days and years on the Dwight campus.

Submitted by Mary Helen Hite, Historian, Indian Nations Presbyterian Women

Primary Resource: Mission to the Cherokees by O. B. Campbell, 1969



The Dwight schoolboys chop wood

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser Lola Carroll Sandy Clarke Janice Crump Dave Iske Vince Leseney Barbara Robinson Devyn Upton Lori Adams (Jessica Farris's co-worker) Carol Broderson (Karen Upton's cousin) Britany Clark (Daughter of Paul Upton's co-worker) Kenny Comer (Karen Girdner's niece's husband) Carol Gadd (Ann Forsyth's cousin) Emily Hale (Jessica Farris's friend's sister-in-law) Don Harmon (friend of Larry & Loreen Upton) Judy Haworth (Jayelle Martin's sister) Norma Hayes (Janice Crump's sister-in-law) Dan Loomis (friend of Bill & Betty Silman) Tod Luttrell (friend of Doris Hinson) Michelle McCully (Bill & Betty Silman's great niece) Savannah Moseley, born prematurely (daughter of Ann Forsyth's cousin) Bob Rose (son of Judy Talley-Dale) Patrick Upton (nephew of Larry and Loreen Upton) Kathy Ellison Vanderburg (former classmate of Jona

Those who grieve

Thiessen)

Family of Robert Cunningham (Jona Thiessen's father) Family of George Sites (Georjana Mauldin's father) Larry Upton, Sr., whose brother passed away

Those who serve in mission fields

Ted & Tina Crump (Ted is Janice Crump's grandson)

Please inform the church office of any changes or additions to this list.

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	Dec	ember birtindays	R
	1	Gabe Benson	N C
	-	Bruce Bunce	
		Carl Forthman	
S	3	Jan Johnson	
	4	Kurt Johnson	R
	5	Anita Harkey	
		Jacob Jones (Jayelle Mar-	
		tin's grandson)	R
	6	Ashley Wooliver	K
	7	Gene Bergstresser	
	8	Betty Silman	
		Barbara Robinson	
		Troy Johnston	E
	11	Jack Adams	
	13	David Cole	
8		Allen Silman	
	15	Kenny Martin	E
	17	Ruby Marsh	
	20	Esau Jangha	
	22	Jim Burns Kay Martin	
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To receive prayer requests by email, please contact Janice Crump at: janicec11@cox.net

JESUS IS THE GREATEST

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be the greatest singer in the world, or the greatest athlete in the world? Have you ever thought about what it would be like hear the cheers of people as they watched you perform?

I heard a story about a little boy who walked out into the backyard wearing his baseball cap and carrying a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he said. Then he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed. "Strike One!" he yelled.

He picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again, he tossed the ball into the air, and again he swung at it and missed. "Strike Two!" he cried.

The boy looked at his bat and ball, straightened his cap and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!"

A third time he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed again. "Strike Three!"

The little boy picked up the ball, looked at it, and cried out in a loud voice, "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"

I guess all of us at some time have dreamed of being the greatest. This morning I want to tell you about a man who had no desire to be thought of as being the greatest. In fact, he wanted to make sure that everyone knew that he was NOT the greatest. The man's name was John.

John was very popular in his day and people would travel for miles to see John and to hear him speak. He was so popular that many people began to think that he might be the Savior that had been promised -- or that he must at least be Elijah or one of the great prophets who had come back from the dead.

John assured people that he was not the Christ, or even one of the great prophets. He told them that he was just a man who had come to tell them about one who was coming who truly was the greatest. "The one who is coming -- why, I'm not even worthy to unbuckle his sandals," John said. Of course, the one he was talking about was Jesus.

Most of us will probably never be known as "the greatest anything," but we can, like John, tell others about the One who is The Greatest. We can tell them about Jesus. I can't think of anything that we could do that would be greater than that!

"Dear Jesus, you are truly the greatest. During this season when we celebrate your birth, may we eagerly share with others the true meaning of Christmas. Amen."

Jesus Is the Greatest

He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." John 1:27

The puzzle is based on John 1:6-8, 19-28



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GOD	TRUE	PROPHET	WORLD	SENT
MEN	VOICE	JOHN	WITNESS	MAN
LIGHT	BELIEVE	MESSIAH	TESTIFY	NAME

Memorial Presbyterian Church December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30-8:30 P.M. New Officer Training 7:00 P.M. Fellowship &	3 11:00 A.M. League of Women Voters 3:15-6:15 P.M. Kids' Club	4 10:30 А.М. Bible Study in Library 6:30 р.М. Chancel	5 4:30-9:00 р.м. ABLE Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall	6 10:00 A.M. Chancel Choir extra rehearsal
7	7:00 р.м. Boy Scouts 8	Hospitality Meeting 9	10	Choir 11	12	13
10:55 A.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper 12:00 P.M. Worship & Music Meeting 5:30 P.M. Potluck Dinner & Christmas	7:00 р.м. Boy Scouts	6:00 P.M. Mission & Evangelism Meeting 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Meeting	3:15-6:15 р.м. Kids' Club	10:30 А.М. Bible Study in Library 6:30 р.м. Chancel Choir	6:30 р.м. Bender/ Forthman wedding rehearsal	1:00 р.м. Bender/ Forthman Wedding
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	6:00 р.м. Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00 р.м. Boy Scouts	7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting of the Session	3:15-6:15 p.m. Last Kids' Club of Fall Semester	10:30 а.м. Bible Study in Library 6:30 р.м. Chancel Choir		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12:00 P.M. Deacons Meeting 5:00-6:30 P.M. M.Y. Group 5:30 P.M. Steward-ship Meeting	7:00 р.м. Boy Scouts	Articles due for January Messenger	NO KIDS' CLUB 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols	Office Closed Merry Christmas!		
28	29	30	31			
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	7:00 р.м. Boy Scouts		NO KIDS' CLUB			

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:30 а.м.
Fellowship and Refreshments	10:30 а.м.
Worship Service	10:55 а.м.

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE Wednesdav:

Kids' Club	3:15-6:15 р.м.
Thursday:	
Chancel Choir	6:30 p.m.