

Memorial Messenger

Memorial Presbyterian Church
601 24th Ave. S.W.
Norman, OK 73069
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www.memorialpres.org

February 2015



Latest News

The **Urban Mission** item of the month for February is crackers.

You are invited to the **Not Buying It Benefit Concert** on Saturday, January 31 at 7:00 P.M. in Meacham Auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. The concert is an artistic collaboration that will include an original play, a cinematic work, a song cycle, choreography, art, and poetry by OU students from diverse disciplines. The suggested donation is \$5 or a can of soup; all proceeds will benefit the fight against exploitation both locally and abroad. The majority of the proceeds will benefit Dayspring Villa (<http://www.dayspringvilla.com/>), Oklahoma's only faith-based, certified shelter for domestic violence victims and the first shelter of its kind in the state for adult survivors of human sexual trafficking, and the rest will go to Free the Slaves (<https://www.freetheslaves.net/>), an international anti-trafficking organization. More information on Facebook (Not Buying It: Benefit Concert), or email notbuyingit.concert@gmail.com.

The **annual congregational meeting** will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 1. Please join us as we review 2014 and conduct important business for 2015. We also will be having a "Soup-er Bowl Sunday" soup & salad potluck.

Movie Matinee: On February 8, Memorial Presbyterian Church will have its first Matinee at the Movies of the new year. We will get together

to see the recently released film, *Selma*, which recounts the events surrounding the civil rights marches in Selma, Alabama in the early 1960s. These events led to the enactment of historic civil right legislation in 1963 and 1964, as well as the Voting Rights Act. Following the showing of the film, we will get together afterwards at Freddy's for conversation and fellowship. Time and place will be announced several days before the event, depending on availability and show times.

The Norman West Public Library will host **Coffee with a Cop** on Monday, February 9, at 8:00 A.M. Come with questions and concerns, and get to know the officers in your community. The library is at 300 Center Court; call 701-2644 for info.

The OU Episcopal Association will be celebrating the **feast day of Absalom Jones**, the first African American to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church, on February 15 at 5:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend the service at St. Anselm of Canterbury, 800 Elm Ave., and dinner will be provided afterwards. Any other questions contact Samuel McCann at (956) 998-8950.

Join us on **Ash Wednesday**, February 18, at 7:00 P.M. for a service of prayer and confession, of song and silence, and of scripture reading and meditation.

(Continued)

See page 12 for a **Lenten Practices Calendar**. Thanks to pastor/author Traci Smith for creating and sharing this calendar.

Pastor Evans will lead a **Lenten study** at 7:00 P.M. on Sundays during Lent. See page 3 for details.

The Deacons will host a luncheon for the family and friends of the late **Barbara Robinson** at noon on Friday, February 27, in Fellowship Hall. You may read Barbara's obituary on page nine.

We will be hosting an ecumenical **Lenten service and luncheon** at noon on Wednesday, March 4, part of a series of services coordinated by the Norman Ministerial Fellowship and held at six local churches on Wednesdays in Lent. See page five for the schedule of services. We will be sharing more information and ways to help as the date approaches.

Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the church and took the following actions:

1. Approved participating in this year's Norman Ministerial Alliance Lenten activities by agreeing to be a host church on Wednesday, March 4. We will be serving lunch.
2. Session approved serving communion on the first Sunday of every month for 2015 as well as at the Maundy Thursday service.
3. Session approved the position descriptions of the Director of Music, the Administrative Assistant and the Organist/Pianist.
4. Session re-elected Mike Cole as treasurer and Joan Cole as clerk of session.

The following committee chair assignments were made:

Nominating Committee: Mike Cole

Building & Grounds: Mike Girdner

Christian Education: Harry Wright

Mission & Evangelism: Jan Johnson & Kirk Forthman

Stewardship: Julie Forthman

Worship: Lucy Lanning

Personnel Committee: Jan Johnson

The next regular meeting of session will be February 17, 2015.

Joan Cole

Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update			
January 1 to January 30, 2015			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2015 Budget
Pledges	\$10,047.84	\$12,499.33	\$149,992.00
Other Income	\$2,077.40	\$2,799.49	\$33,594.00
Total Income	\$12,125.24	\$15,298.82	\$183,586.00
Total Expenses	\$14,934.58	\$15,496.00	\$185,954.00

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

In just a short time, we will enter the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 18, and MPC will gather for an evening worship service at 7:00. Worshipers will have the opportunity to receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads, reminding us of our earthiness and the reality of our humanity. It is a worship service that has become increasingly important to me in my faith journey.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, those 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter. It is a time of contemplation and renewal. What is it in my life that is keeping me from getting closer to God? The act of giving up something for Lent can be effective as we are reminded that God gave God's own Son for us as a sacrifice. Some find that adding a discipline during Lent is helpful in creating a focus on the God who knows and loves us fully.

If you are interested in trying something new, I have included a calendar for Lenten Practices (page 12). It is designed for families (and since families come in sizes of 1 to 100+ people, anyone can use it). Each day rotates among three disciplines, Prayer, Fasting and Service/Almsgiving. Prayer days have a word prompt; the prayers can be written or drawn. On Fasting days, simple things are abstained from for a day to give the experience of sacrificing something to focus on God. On Service days, a simple service activity is featured.

Also during Lent, I will be leading a book study on Sunday evenings 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parlor. Joan Cole will be co-facilitating the discussion. We will be studying Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. This beautiful book takes the story of the Prodigal and studies it through the image of Rembrandt's painting in his depiction of the familiar parable.

"Nouwen guides us to recognize the particular sin that is currently dominating us, be it the infidelity of the younger son, the stubborn resentment of the older son or the refusal to become like the forgiving father. As we become aware of our sinfulness—though this awareness may be uncomfortable at times—we begin our own movement back to the Father in this Lenten season." — *From Fear to Love*, by Mark Neilsen

I first read this book in the late 1990s; it was a moving and memorable experience for me. I look forward to experiencing it again with some of you during our journey through Lent.

There is a sign-up sheet on my office door for ordering the book. Paperback copies are \$10; e-book and audio versions are also available. Please invite your friends to join us, too.

Blessings to each of you as we enter together into this Lenten season of reflection and renewal.

Tracy

February Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Tim Thiessen

February 1

Communion Servers: Mike and Karen Girdner, Michael Yeager, and Doris Hinson

Ushers: Trudy Beard and Linda Eckel

Coffee: Ann Forsyth & Charlotte Lovett

Sound booth: Trey Neal

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: Trudy Beard

February 8

Ushers: Carolyn Montgomery and Harold Conner

Coffee: Jim Rodriguez and Lisa Upton

Sound booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Joan Cole

February 15

Ushers: Paul and Erica Phelps

Coffee: John Beck and Donna Vint

Sound booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard or Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

February 22

Ushers: Charles and Jan Johnson

Coffee: Esau Jangha, Linda Eckel, and Trudy Beard

Sound booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Doug Forsyth

Norman Ministerial Fellowship Lenten Services 2015

Together to the Cross

Once again, the Norman Ministerial Fellowship will sponsor a series of ecumenical services on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. These services will be held at six local churches and each will begin promptly at noon. Each host church will offer a service of worship according to its own tradition, and a guest pastor—from another church—will preach the sermon. An offering will be taken up at each service to benefit Mission Norman. The host church will serve lunch at 12:35 P.M. (\$5.00 uniform cost). As we did last year, Memorial will be one of the host churches, this year on March 4.

Schedule of Services

February 25

Host Church: Alameda Church of Christ

Guest Pastor: David Spain (First Christian Church)

Worship Theme: I Am the Bread of Life

March 4

Host Church: Memorial Presbyterian Church

Guest Pastor: Mitch Randall (NorthHaven Church)

Worship Theme: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

March 11

Host Church: McFarlin United Methodist Church

Guest Pastor: Wade Smith (First Baptist Church)

Worship Theme: I Am the Vine

March 18

Host Church: First Christian Church

Guest Pastor: Linda Harker (McFarlin United Methodist Church)

Worship Theme: I Am the Light of the World

March 25

Host Church: NorthHaven Church

Guest Pastor: Charles Kimball (University of Oklahoma)

Worship Theme: I Am the Good Shepherd

April 1

Host Church: First Baptist Church

Guest Pastor: Rusty Tugman (Alameda Church of Christ)

Worship Theme: I Am the Resurrection and the Life

M.Y. GROUP NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our meeting schedule for the rest of the school year:

FEBRUARY 22

Susan Beck

MARCH 8

MARCH 22

APRIL 12

Lisa Upton

APRIL 26

Julie Forthman

MAY 17

Last Meeting

If you would like to provide a meal for our youth, there are still several opportunities between now through May. Please contact Joan Cole, 830-8389, if you have any questions or you would like to volunteer to bring a meal.

80 and Over Lunch

Sunday, January 18, the Board of Deacons hosted a luncheon to honor our members and friends over the age of 80. The honorees present were Waunda Baltine (Susan Beck's mother), Gene Bergstresser, Eileen Burke, Joe Garlett, Doris Hinson, Charles Johnson, Carolyn Montgomery, Ross Robinson, Bill & Betty Silman, Bill & Norma Taylor, and Harry Wright. Honorees Lola Carrol, Harold Connor, Janice Crump, and Anita Harkey were unable to attend the luncheon.

Many thanks to the deacons who worked hard to prepare for the occasion, as well as Lisa Upton, who helped to decorate the room. Pastor Tracy served as master of ceremonies and took the photos shown here.





In Memoriam



Barbara Aitken (Brown) Robinson

Barbara Robinson, 86, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, peacefully at home in Norman. A native of Leominster, Mass., she was born Dec. 8, 1928, and was married to Ross for 61 years.

She is survived by her husband and five children, Brian of San Pedro, Calif., Emily Ryther of Norman, Judith Stamper of Costa Mesa, Calif., Rachel Delchamps of Frederick, Md., and John of Athens, Ga. She also had 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Laura Brown, and her son, Ross Stuart Robinson.

Barbara grew up in Leominster, Mass., graduated from Simmons College and during her marriage, lived in Libertyville, Ill., Pasadena, Calif., Santa Fe and Norman.

Barbara served in leadership roles in organizations that worked to improve the community, including League of Women Voters, Church Women United and various Presbyterian church organizations and committees. She was recognized as "Church Person of the Year" by the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena. She also was appointed by the city of Pasadena to chair the Commission of the Status of Women.

While she lived in Santa Fe, Barbara served as president of the Interfaith Council and was instrumental in several innovative projects. In each place she lived, she inspired others to take an active role in community affairs.

A gathering will be planned in the near future to celebrate her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Norman League of Women Voters or Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Published in the Norman Transcript on Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser
Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Janice Crump
Jim Eckel
Dave Iske
Vince Leseney
Dennis Anderson (Jayelle Martin's friend's cousin)
Kay Anderson
Gail Bender (Jessica Forthman's mother)
Carol Broderon (Karen Upton's cousin)
Britany Clark (Daughter of Paul Upton's co-worker)
Kenny Comer (Karen Girdner's niece's husband)
Emma (Jayelle Martin's great, great niece)
Carol Gadd (Ann Forsyth's cousin)
Emily Hale (Jessica Farris's friend's sister-in-law)
Dan Loomis (friend of Bill & Betty Silman)
Tod Luttrell (friend of Doris Hinson)
Savannah Moseley (daughter of Ann Forsyth's cousin)
Kathy Ellison Vanderburg (former classmate of Jona Thiessen)
Keith Vermillion (PE teacher at Jessica Farris' school)

Those who grieve

Family of Judy Haworth (Jayelle Martin's sister)
Family of Barbara Robinson
Family of Norma Hayes (Janice Crump's sister-in-law)
Family of Michelle McCully (Bill & Betty Silman's great niece)
Family of Robert Cunningham (Jona Thiessen's father)

Those who serve in mission fields

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

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

February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

11 Mike & Joan Cole (1978)
14 Jim & Judy Burns

The Actions of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Dwight Mission

Number 6 of 12 short articles

The Civil War devastated the Oklahoma Territory including most of the Cherokee families. After the war, the average daily attendance in all available schools was under 2,000 children in a population of about 15,000 Cherokees. Finally, in 1884 (twenty years after the Rev. Worchester Willey had to abandon what little was left of Dwight Mission's buildings and farm), a representative of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, the Rev. W. C. Roberts, visited the Cherokee Nation. He was begged by the Cherokees to provide a teacher at Dwight Mission.

Much-needed healing of the split in the Cherokee Nation began with the Treaty of 1866, which also approved the re-establishment of Dwight Mission. The school started up again in one old log schoolhouse repaired by tribal members.

Newly-assigned Rev. Nicholas Neerkin died within 2 months of starting his new ministry at Dwight. A nearby missionary wrote to the Board of Missions about his death and the dilapidated ruins. His replacement, the Rev. L. Squirer, was in charge when the Holy Spirit gave a gift of generosity to the Women of the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City. As soon as these women heard of the needs at Dwight they were moved to immediately provide funds for a schoolhouse and a dormitory. The work at Dwight has never been forgotten by these New York City women and, in 1905, they funded a dorm for 200 girls plus a house, a shop building, and the salary for a farmer (former student Sam Ussery) and even farm and blacksmith equipment. Ladies, we thank you for continuing to respond to the needs of Dwight even into the 21st century!

Please support Dwight Mission in any way you can and remember Dwight staff in your prayers.

Mary Helen Hite, Historian, Indian Nations Presbyterian Women

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



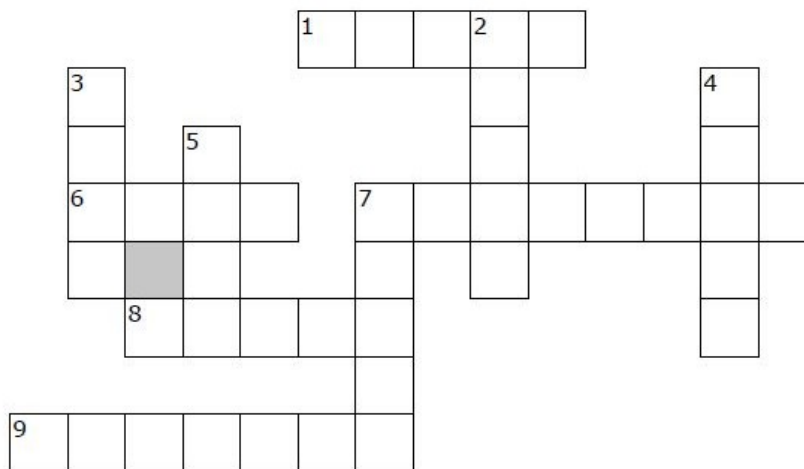
Photo: The only school house until 5th Avenue Presbyterian Women of New York City provided funds.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LENTEN PRACTICES CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES 2015						
FEBRUARY 22 [F] No snacks between meals today	FEBRUARY 23 [S] Do something kind for a neighbor.	FEBRUARY 24 [P] GRATITUDE	FEBRUARY 25 [F] Only water to drink today	FEBRUARY 26 [S] Buy or find 5+ items for a food bank. (Deliver on March 28)	FEBRUARY 27 [P] JESUS	FEBRUARY 28 [F] Eat very simple meals for breakfast, lunch, & dinner.
MARCH 1 [S] Pick up litter outside your house or at a park.	MARCH 2 [P] SPIRIT	MARCH 3 [F] Do not use toys that require batteries or electricity	MARCH 4 [S] Call someone and tell them you are thinking of them today.	MARCH 5 [P] HOLY	MARCH 6 [F] Do not listen to music in the car.	MARCH 7 [S] Take a treat or meal to someone
MARCH 8 [P] PATIENCE	MARCH 9 [F] No desserts or treats today	MARCH 10 [S] Say something nice about each person in your family.	MARCH 11 [P] DESERT	MARCH 12 [F] No TV or screens today (except for homework)	MARCH 13 [S] Invite someone to your house for dinner.	MARCH 14 [P] JOURNEY
MARCH 15 [F] No snacks between meals today	MARCH 16 [S] Give someone real or paper flowers.	MARCH 17 [P] SERVICE	MARCH 18 [F] Only water to drink today	MARCH 19 [S] Draw a picture for someone and mail it.	MARCH 20 [P] FRIENDSHIP	MARCH 21 [F] Eat very simple meals for breakfast, lunch, & dinner.
MARCH 22 [S] Write someone a thank you note	MARCH 23 [P] GOD	MARCH 24 [F] Do not use toys that require batteries or electricity	MARCH 25 [S] Learn something about another country or culture	MARCH 26 [P] MERCY	MARCH 27 [F] Do not listen to music in the car.	MARCH 28 [S] Deliver your food bank items
MARCH 29 [P] PEACE	MARCH 30 [F] No desserts or treats today	MARCH 31 [S] Buy dog or cat food for an animal shelter (deliver Sat.)	APRIL 1 [P] KINDNESS	APRIL 2 [F] No TV or screens today (except for homework)	APRIL 3 [S] Plant a tree or flowers	APRIL 4 [S] Deliver animal items.
APRIL 5 Easter! [P] RESURRECTION						
These activities are based around the traditional "3 Pillars" of Lent: Prayer [P], Fasting [F] and Almsgiving/Service [S]. The pillars are rotated throughout lent with simple activities. On the prayer days, use the word provided to inspire a prayer you write, draw, or sing. All of the activities are suggestions. Modify them for your own family!						
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On the Mountain Top

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. Mark 9:2

Based on Mark 9:2-9



ACROSS

1. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
7. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
8. The Son of God
9. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.

DOWN

2. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
3. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The color of snow or milk
5. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone
7. Jewish leader who received the Ten Commandments

CLOTHES	MOUNTAIN	WHITE	LOVE	VOICE
MOSES	CLOUD	JESUS	HIGH	GOOD

Memorial Presbyterian Church

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:55 A.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper 12:00 P.M. Annual Congregational Meeting	2 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	3 7:00 P.M. Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting	4 3:00 P.M. Kid's Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	5 No Bible Study	6	7
8 12:00 P.M. Worship & Music Meeting	9 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	10 6:00 P.M. Mission & Evangelism Meeting 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Meeting	11 3:00 P.M. Kid's Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	12 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	13 4:00-9:00 P.M. FH Reserved for ABLE Valentines Party	14
15 4:30 P.M. Deacons Meeting 5:30 P.M. Stewardship Meeting	16 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	17 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting	18 3:00 P.M. Kid's Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service	19 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	20 Articles Due for March Messenger	21
22 5:00 P.M. M.Y. Group 7:00 P.M. Lenten Study in Parlor	23 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	24	25 3:00 P.M. Kid's Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	26 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	27 12:00 P.M. Luncheon in memory of Barbara Robinson	28 <div> Presbytery Meeting @ Connecting Point Presbyterian Church in OKC </div>

SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

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

MIDWEEK REGULAR SCHEDULE

Wednesday: 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club
 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir
 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday: 10:30 A.M. Bible Study