



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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## Community News

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 PM at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 North Porter in Norman.

## Latest News

The Urban Mission item of the month for April is Soup. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.



*From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends,

In this busy time of year (really, though, when are we not busy?), I often need to make myself stop and remember that we are in Lent. We are on the road to Easter.

As I visit with folks both in and out of our congregation, I am privileged to be in conversations that include disclosures of pain and hurt. Some of us are open with our concerns; others are reticent to disclose them. Regardless, we all have some sense of pain that we would rather not have.

In a recent sermon, I used a saying I ran across in my sermon preparation. "The road to Easter runs through a cemetery." I am reminded of this when I hear sadness or anxiety or worry.

We are on the road to Easter.

Arthur Schopenhauer said, "Every parting gives a foretaste of death; every coming together again a foretaste of the resurrection.

We are an Easter people. We live as those who know that death (or pain or suffering) does not have the final say. It is why we gather each Sunday, as we give powerful testimony to the truth of the resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, we will gather once again and celebrate in beautiful and meaningful ways the joyful truth that we worship a God who loves us enough (more than we can even imagine) to send God's very Son to be one of us, to know our sorrows as well as our joys, to know our very nature. It is this Son who died for us and who we worship as resurrected, living fully with God.

I look forward to worshipping with you on Easter, as I do each Sunday of the year.

Grace and peace,

Tracy

## Clerk's Corner

### Session Notes

The Session met on March 21; here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Welcomed new members Jo Beth and Bruce Bailey by transfer from Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church in Kansas City
- Elected Michael Yeager as Assistant Clerk
- Voted to host a Listening Session for Indian Nations Presbytery as part of the work of the Transition Task Force
- Session is studying Pathways workbook by David Sawyer, which is also being used by the presbytery task force
- A Task Force will be developed to examine and make recommendations regarding ongoing budget deficits

Full meeting minutes are available in the office.

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### Stewardship Update

February 1 to February 28, 2017

	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	\$35,707.00	\$36,999.99	\$148,000.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$1992.58	\$2749.98	\$11,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$37,699.58	\$39,749.97	\$159,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$40,938.00	\$47,379.81	\$189,521.00





# Holy Week



## PALM

S U N D A Y

April 9th



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

*His Last Supper*

**April 12th, Worship at 7:00pm**



April 16

*Easter*  
**SUNDAY**

• HE IS RISEN •

There will be Easter Pot Luck Breakfast on Sunday, April 16. The breakfast will be during Sunday school time and will start at 9:30 and end at 10:30. There will be a sign up sheet for those who would like to bring a breakfast item to share. We look forward to seeing everyone for fun breakfast fellowship to celebrate Easter.

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Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 16 following the potluck! Donations of wrapped candy are welcome. Please bring to the church by Tuesday, April 11.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

Have you ever wondered who opens the church on Sunday mornings, or gets the sound system ready, or, for that matter, who changes the banners and cleans the baptismal font? There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes each Sunday morning to ready the sanctuary for worship.

Take the head usher, for example. (Yes. We have head ushers.) The head usher is usually responsible for a month of Sundays. His/her job includes turning on the lights in the sanctuary, checking the thermostat, checking the wicks in the candles on the communion table and by the cross, cleaning the font and hanging banners if necessary, serving as backup for the ushers, checking on the attendants in the nursery, and taking a head count of worshipers. After worship he/she pulls the attendance pages from the booklets, readjusts the thermostat, and turns off the sanctuary lights.

Mike and Joan Cole have been responsible for signing up head ushers **and** volunteers to run the sound system (more on that at another time), and we thank them immensely for the time and energy they spend at and for Memorial. We also thank those fearless volunteers who serve as head ushers and ushers. These are a few of the many who work behind the scenes at Memorial. Thanks be to God!



Dear Friends,

As you know, Indian Nations Presbytery is in a time of transition. We're working together to look at who we are as a presbytery, what we're called to do as a presbytery and what structures need to be in place to assure that we live out our identity and mission in a healthy way. We began that process at our February presbytery meeting by reflecting upon and discussing the roles within the presbytery; the rules within the presbytery; how we work on our differences; the emotional impact the presbytery has had on us and the stories associated with those stories; and anything else that we need to talk about at future times. The Transition Task Force and our consultant, David Sawyer, were introduced at that meeting and have been working together to facilitate more opportunities to gather data from everyone in the presbytery.

To that end, congregations around the presbytery have graciously agreed to host listening sessions, enabling the Transition Task Force to gather more data and hear your stories. We need everyone's voice as we move forward. Your input is valued and we need and want to hear from you! Please encourage your congregations to attend a nearby listening session. You'll find a list of host sites and dates below.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City – March 30, 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, Clinton – April 4, 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, Pauls Valley – April 27, 7:00pm

Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norman – May 2, 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, Lawton – May 18, 6:30pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City - TBA

Church of the Savior, Oklahoma City - TBA

Other location in eastern part of the presbytery - TBA

We are hopeful as we move into a new future together, witnessing to the grace and love of God in the midst of this time of growth and renewal. It is only by working together that we can be a healthy Body of Christ, sharing the good news in a hurting world.

In Christ,

Your Transition Task Force

You are invited to a FUNDRAISER!!!

What is it, you may ask? What do I need to buy that I don't really need... Magazines? Cookies? Candy? Toys? Or do I need to donate a few of my things to be sold in a garage sale or auction (and work at the sale, too)? Do I need to come buy a meal? Will I need to hire a kid to do some work that I could do faster and better myself? The answer to all of these question is: NO!

This easy-as-pie (not one you've made yourself) fundraiser is simple: write a check.

In the hallway of the church, you will find a variety of envelopes with numbers on them from \$1 to \$100. They've been decorated by our children and youth. Simply take one or more of the envelopes, put that amount of money (or more) in it, and place it in the offering plate or return to the office. How simple!

These funds will go to our Camp and Conference fund and help our kids go to Dwight Mission summer camp, Youthquake for middle school and high school youth, and to Triennium every third year.

So grab an envelope or two and help out our youth!

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### Cameroonian Orphanage Clothing Drive Starts

One way that our church can help kids affected by unrest in Cameroon right now is by providing clothing. There is an orphanage run by a widow in Deacon Grace Tamukong's hometown (see photo below). A large box will be available in the coat area as you enter the sanctuary from now thru May. Gently used or new clothing for all ages of children would be appreciated. Have fun looking for bargains and in closets! If you have any questions contact Grace 365-6241 or Holly 326-1999.





## COMFORT MY PEOPLE

### FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

#### Early Warning Signs

Not sure if you or someone you know is living with mental health problems? Experiencing one or more of the following feelings or behaviors can be an early warning sign of a problem:

- Eating or sleeping too much or too little
- Pulling away from people and usual activities
- Having low or no energy
- Feeling numb or like nothing matters
- Having unexplained aches and pains
- Feeling helpless or hopeless
- Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than usual
- Feeling unusually confused, forgetful, on edge, angry, upset, worried, or scared
- Yelling or fighting with family and friends
- Experiencing severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships
- Having persistent thoughts and memories you can't get out of your head
- Hearing voices or believing things that are not true
- Thinking of harming yourself or others
- Inability to perform daily tasks like taking care of your kids or getting to work or school

**Give a small church the chance to nurture your children.**

One of my missions is to challenge the assumption that small congregations have little or nothing to offer children. Here are some more thoughts about how a healthy, loving small church can be a great blessing to families with children. There are good reasons for choosing a small church for your children's sake. If you become involved with this kind of congregation,

- Your children will have a nurturing extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who will truly be interested in them, encourage them, attend their sports events and performances, and celebrate their milestones. My daughter describes the senior generation at our church as her "grandfriends."
- Your children will learn how to follow Jesus from observing adult disciples of Jesus, knowing them well, and serving actively alongside them. For the rest of their lives, your children will remember these role models in faith.
- Your children's concerns will be taken very seriously. The pastor has time to spend with your children and can get to know each child personally.
- Your children's talents will be welcomed and appreciated. What better place, for example, for a young musician to make his or her debut than in the midst of the gracious circle of a small church?
- Through ongoing relationships, your children and older adults will enrich one another's lives and learn how to love and care faithfully for one another over the long haul of life.

I sometimes hear people say that they want their children to go to church with a large group of children. While it may be more exciting and more fun to be around a lot of children their own age, school, scouting, sports teams, and other programs meet that social need well. What is rare in today's society is the opportunity for different generations to mix and become one people in life and mission together. In today's world people of different ages and life stages are stratified and lead largely separate lives. They even live in separate communities. Congregations are often stratified in the same way. Intergenerational small congregations offer a much-needed alternative that challenges everyone—younger, older, and in-between—to love each other as neighbors.

If you are looking for a church for your family, don't just automatically drive past a small church. Stop in and take time to get to know the people. Give them a chance to bless you and your children. You may find that God has led you home.

by Mary Harris Todd, [maryharristodd.wordpress.com/](http://maryharristodd.wordpress.com/)

Deacons Meeting March 19, 2017

Present:

Pastor Tracy Evans, Eileen Burke, Ann Forsyth, Doris Hinson, Esau Jangha, Grace Tamukong, Breanna Upton, Loreen Upton, Holly Van Auken

Session Representative John Beck Report

John, now on the Stewardship Committee, reported budget concerns of the church which has a budgeted shortfall of \$30,000 dollars for the year and the committee is reviewing expenses for the coming months. He explained incoming memberships are needed to offset congregates moving away, changing membership and illness/dying.

Community Resources

Ann Forsyth distributed copies of the 4-page 2016-2017 Quick Guide to Social Services available through United Way of Central Oklahoma. The Guide indexes services by (1) topic, (2) partner agencies, (3) Oklahoma counties supported, including Oklahoma, Kingfisher, Canadian, Lincoln and Potawatomie. Copies Of the Quick Guide are available in the church office. For help call Heartline 211.

Orphanage needs

Grace expressed thanks for the response from the congregation providing clothing. The last box will be shipped after school is out in May for the summer. She said any messages added to the box would be appreciated.

Activities

Ann made a poster with each Flock lists topped by a photo of the Deacon caring for those listed. Holly Van Auken assisted with preparing photos. The poster is in the hall opposite the choir room.

Breanna is organizing a young adult group that will meet April 21st at Hideaway Pizza. Twenty-five post-high school young people who are listed in the church directory and who are at least 18 years old will be invited.

## April Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Carl Forthman

### April 2

Ushers: Larry and Lisa Upton

Communion Servers:

Coffee: Donna & Grace

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up: Doug Forsyth

### April 9

Ushers: Kirk and Jessica Forthman

Coffee: Loreen & Doris

Sound Booth: Larry Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up: Mike Girdner

### April 16

Ushers: John and Susan Beck

Coffee: Lisa & Trudy

Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: John Beck

### April 23

Ushers: Jim and Linda Rodriguez

Coffee: Breanna & Linda

Sound Booth: Karen Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Harry Wright

### April 30

Ushers: Mike and Joan Cole

Coffee: Joan

Sound Booth: Will Farris

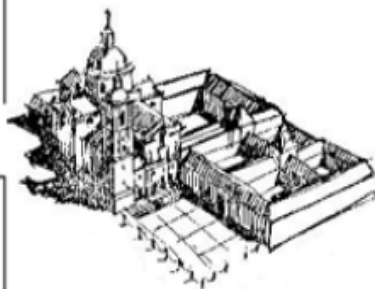
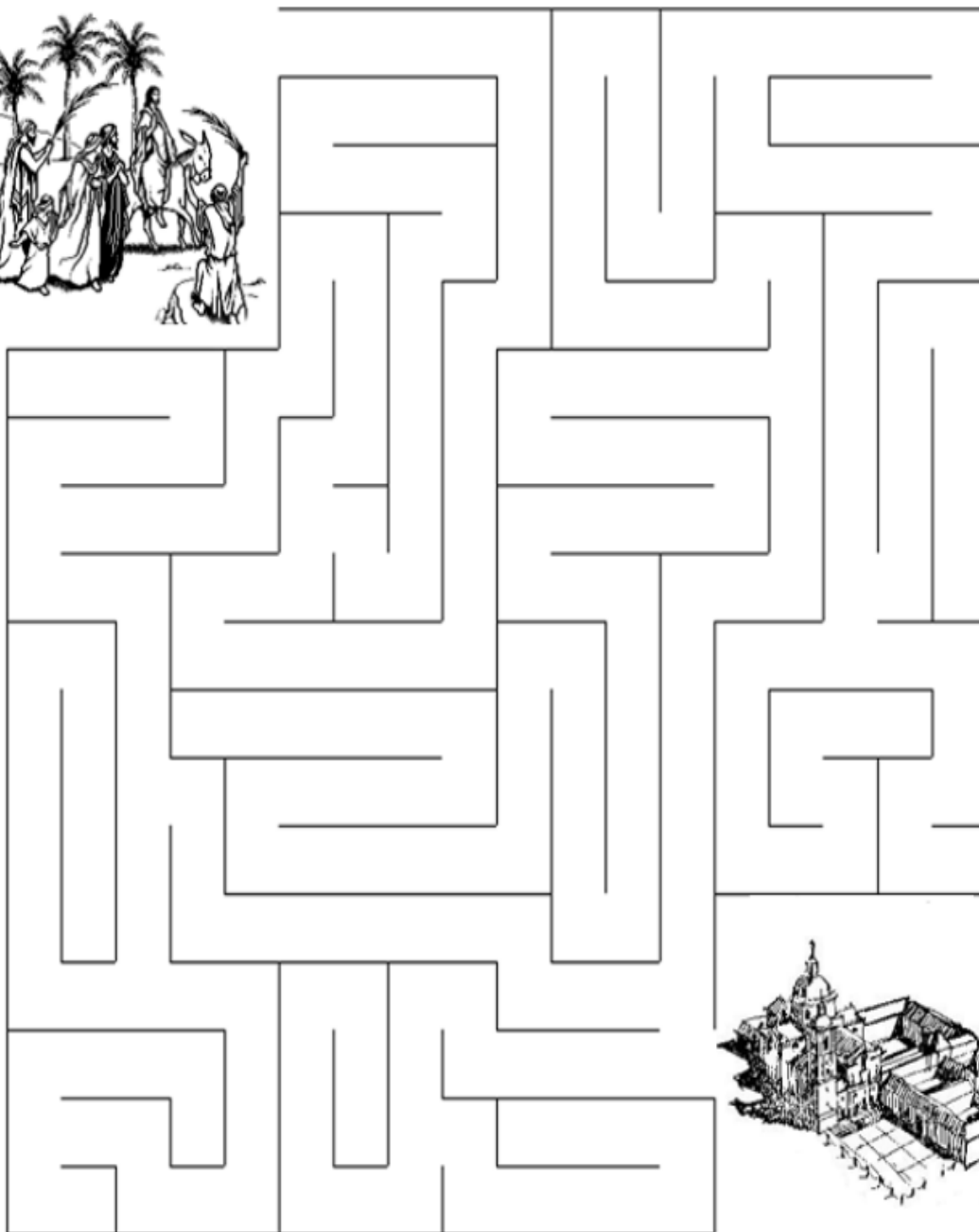
Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard / Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Holly Van Auken

## The Triumphal Entry

Can you help Jesus find the way through the streets of Jerusalem?



Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted,  
"Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser  
 Lola Carroll  
 Sandy Clarke  
 Janice Crump  
 Dave Iske  
 Tamara Iske  
 Jayelle Martin  
 Jim Rodriguez  
 Devyn Upton  
 Gerry Harner (Joan Cole's mother)  
 Vivian Carpenter & Husband

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Melissa Gill, whose aunt died Jan. 23

### Joys

Cassie Eckel and Nathan DeClaire was  
 were married February 19

Mizaret Nahbum gave birth to Kyra on Feb.  
 25

### Seminary Student

Samuel McCann, Pittsburg Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

In an effort to stay apprised of our on-going prayer concerns, prayer requests of those outside the MPC family will stay on the concerns list for one month. Please let the office know if there is a need to be listed longer.

## April Birthdays

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 4  | Faith Jangha                                       |
|    |  |
| 14 | Ara Pennington<br>Charlotte Lovett<br>Alex Leseney |
|    |  |
| 16 | Stephen Eyabi, Jr.                                 |
|    |  |
| 19 | Doug Forsyth                                       |
|    |  |
| 20 | Nicoline Jangha<br>Jeremy Bales                    |
|    |  |
| 25 | David Lanning                                      |
|    |  |
| 28 | Becca Thrailkill<br>Alison Baker                   |
|    |  |
| 29 | Mike Beard   |

## April Anniversaries

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 4  | David & Ashlei Cole 2015    |
| 16 | Charles & Alison Baker 2011 |
| 21 | Steve & Angie Martin 1990   |



# April 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

5:00 P.M. Lenten  
Study

3

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

4

7:00 pm  
Fellowship &  
Hospitality  
meeting

5

3:00 P.M. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 P.M.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 P.M. Chancel  
Choir

6

7

8

9

5:00 P.M. Lenten  
Study

10

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

11

12

3:00 P.M. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 P.M.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 P.M. Chancel  
Choir

13

14

15

16

9:00 a.m. Easter  
Potluck Breakfast

17

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

18

7:00 pm Session  
Meeting

19

3:00 P.M. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 P.M.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 P.M. Chancel  
Choir

20

21

22

23 12:00 P.M.  
Deacon Meeting5:30 P.M.  
Stewardship  
Meeting  
-----

30

24

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts  
6:00 pm  
Worship Meeting

25

26

3:00 P.M. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 P.M.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 P.M. Chancel  
Choir

27

28

29