

Memorial Messenger

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

December 2015



Latest News

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

Our east parking lot has been updated! This project was completed Thursday, November 19 & Friday, November 20. Thanks to Kear Construction, LLC for their hard work in getting this update completed for us.

At the end of November as a congregation we have pledged and contributed enough to cover repaving approximately 23 parking spaces. Any gift—large or small—is welcome. All donations are tax-deductible.

We want to welcome Lisa Coker, our new administrative assistant and Stephen Wurst, our new organist. You'll find more information about them on page 6. Take time to welcome them to Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The **Mission and Evangelism Committee** collected 52 pairs of jeans in their Fall Blue Jean project. One third will be donated to Wilson Elementary School, one third will be donated to Jackson Elementary School and the remaining one third will be donated to Kennedy Elementary School, all within the Norman Public School System.

The **Mission and Evangelism Committee** will soon begin their winter/Christmas project, which will include buying gifts for the children temporarily residing in the Battered Women's Shelter, similar to the last year's project. However, this year there will be additional gift baskets for the mothers rising in the shelter with their children. More information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions contact Jan Johnson or Kirk Forthman.

On **Wednesday, December 2** Memorial will be ringing the Salvation Army Red Kettle bells. The bell ringing will take place at the East entrance to Dillards near the Ed Noble Parkway and Main Street intersection. If you want to ring a bell there are several time slots throughout the day with

only one bell ringer, so if you want to keep another company contact Paul Phelps at pphelps1@cox.net or 405-310-3198

The Urban Mission is organizing their Santa Store for the month of December. Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider volunteering either as an individual or a group. Please see page 9 of the newsletter for further information or visit the church office.

The Boy Scout Troup 245 is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on **Saturday December 12** from **8AM–11AM** in Memorial's Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will go toward our parking lot project. Please see the flyer on page 7. Also, an event has been created both on the website and on Facebook, so please share this event with friends and family in our community.

The **Fellowship & Hospitality Committee** will host the Christmas Social on **Sunday, December 20** at **5:30PM**. The evening will begin with a Christmas dinner Pot Luck, followed by Memorial's annual Christmas pageant. Dinner will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Watch for the sign up sheet to list your tasty holiday dishes/ desserts. If you have questions contact Lisa Upton 405-740-4227.

The **Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents** will meet on **Thursday, December 10** at **7 PM** at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, 901 North Porter in Norman. Many who struggle with substance use disorders also wrestle with mental health issues. Guest speaker will be local psychiatrist Patrick Ellis, DO. Dr. Ellis will discuss co-occurring disorders, treatment approaches (including nutritional medicine), and the family's role in providing support and integrating coping strategies. For more information, call 405-278-1221 or e-mail phpnorman1@yahoo.com.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Many of you know that I have taken on additional pastoral duties as an on-call chaplain for the Norman Regional Hospital System (they have three campuses). It is occasional nights and weekends, and shouldn't interfere with my primary focus on MPC's ministry. I started the first of November and the session and I will re-visit the arrangement to see if it works for the church.

I have had a connection with hospitals throughout my life, including chaplain residency right after seminary, and serving a church with lots of folks with medical concerns that brought me to hospitals. My dad was a physician, so hospital environments have always been part of my life.

I'm only called in when there is an emergency. In just my few weeks as chaplain, I have seen families in grief, seen loved ones in pain and seen hope and encouragement when the miracle of medicine worked. I have seen love of a couple that had been married over 60 years, but certainly didn't end when one of the partners died after a lengthy illness. I have seen the devastating grief of a life taken suddenly by an accident.

It is a reminder that we live in a world that can change suddenly and in a world that can change slowly over time.

I don't get to build relationships with the folks that I meet at the hospital. It is trust that the Holy Spirit will be present that enables me to move in and amongst these children of God in their particular circumstance. I have to be a non-anxious presence for them. I need to be a reminder that there is more to this world than this present circumstance, this moment in time, while at the same time assist them in navigating the present reality.

The Christmas season can be a difficult, dark time for many.

In this preparation for Christmas, this Advent time (whose literal meaning is "to come"), let us go out in the world as those who know that we believe in the one who has come and who is to come again. Let us all be present for those who may need to see the hope of the future. And let us celebrate with joy the God who became present to us in the form of a child, Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Tracy

Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at a 7PM for their regular meeting. The following actions were taken:

1. At the recommendation of the organist search committee, Session approved the hiring of Stephen Wurst as our organist.
2. At the recommendation of the personnel committee and Rev Evans, Session hired Lisa Coker as the new administrative assistant. She will start on Monday, November 30.
3. Prospective new members Samuel McCann and Nicholas Lindley met with session where they discussed their faith journey and indicated why they had chosen Memorial as their desired church home. Samuel and Nicholas will join by transfer of church letter. Session approved to receive these two new members by transfer of their church letter.
4. Session approved a request from the Boy Scouts to hold a fundraiser pancake breakfast on Saturday December 12 from 8-11AM at the church. All proceeds will go to cost of repaving our parking lot.
5. Narcotics Anonymous requested to use the library for their monthly business meeting on Tuesday, December 29 at 7:45PM. Session approved their request.

Joan Cole, Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update			
January 1 to November 30, 2015			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2015 Budget
Pledges	\$131,423.45	\$137,492.63	\$149,992.00
Other Income	\$20,598.99	\$30,794.39	\$33,576.00
Total Income	\$152,022.44	\$168,287.02	\$183,586.00
Total Expenses	\$160,022.05	\$170,456.00	\$185,954.00

Memorial Presbyterian Church now accepts **online donations** through a partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation, via the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. Look for the "Give Now" button on our website, www.memorialpres.org, or scan the QR code below. Recurring or one-time donations may be made by credit/debit card or by direct transfer from your bank account (EFT). We will continue to accept cash and checks as well.



M.Y GROUP NEWS DECEMBER 2015



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our December meeting schedule. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You are always welcome to bring a friend (or two). All meeting times are 5-6:30PM unless otherwise stated.

DECEMBER 6 – Career Information Night

DECEMBER 20 – Christmas Party at HeyDey. All participants must bring \$5. We will leave the church immediately following worship and will bowl and have pizza there. We will be back at the church around 3:30PM. Please wear socks or at least bring a pair with you.

If you have any questions call or text me: (405) 830-8389). If you would be willing to provide a meal for our youth please let me know. The December 6th date is still available.

Joan Cole

December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Carl Forthman

December 6

Ushers: Kirk & Jessica Forthman
Communion Servers: Linda Eckel, John & Susan Beck, Michael Yeager
Coffee: Esua Jangha & Linda Eckel
Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen
Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard
Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck
Lock-up: Joe Garlett

December 13

Ushers: Karen & Kierstyn Upton
Coffee: Joan Thrailkill & Jona Thiessen
Sound Booth: Dave Iske
Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner
Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard & Karen Girdner
Lock-up: Mike Girdner

December 20

Ushers: Lucy Lanning & Charlotte Lovett
Coffee: Georjana Mauldin & Doris Hinson
Sound Booth: Will Farris
Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen
Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint
Lock-up: Mike Cole

December 24

Ushers: Need Volunteer
Sound Booth: Mike Cole
Lock-up: Mike Cole

December 27

Ushers: Charles & Jan Johnson
Coffee: Trudy Beard & Charlotte Lovett
Sound Booth: Mike Cole
Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton
Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel
Lock-up: Harry Wright

New Hires

We have 2 new individuals working for Memorial Presbyterian Church. Lisa Coker is joining us as our new administrative assistant and Stephen Wurst is joining us as our new organist/pianist.



Lisa Coker

Lisa Coker is currently an online student at OSU/OKC studying for an Associate's degree in Business Administration. Lisa has two children; Braden who is 6 years old and Ryan who is 4 years old. She grew up in the Moore/OKC area and is a current resident of Moore, Oklahoma. She has previously worked as an Administrative Assistant for 8 years at Remington Park and looks forward to working with Memorial Presbyterian.



Stephen Wurst

Stephen Wurst is a first year graduate student at the University of Oklahoma studying Church Music and Organ Performance. He previously studied at Concordia University in Wisconsin, which is near Milwaukee. Stephen is from Traverse City, Michigan. He has been playing the organ for 10 years now, and looks forward to using that experience to proclaim God's Word and enrich the worship here at Memorial Presbyterian.



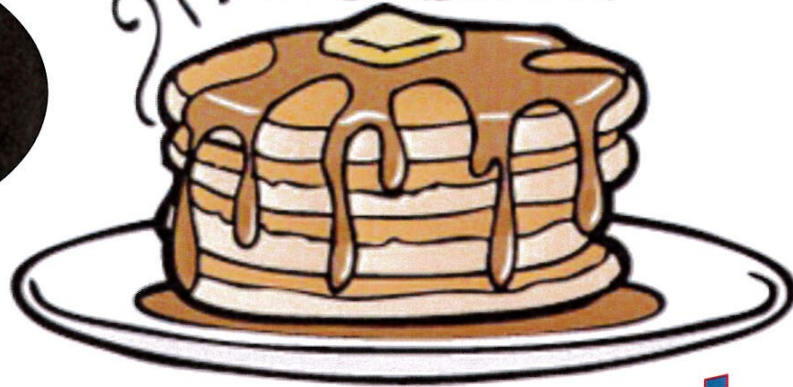
Boy Scout Troop 245

Hosting

pancake breakfast

\$5/person

All You Can Eat
Pancakes



**Proceeds go toward
Memorial Presbyterian's
Parking Lot Fund**

WHERE

Memorial Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
601 24th Street SW
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 329-3640

WHEN

Saturday
December 12
8:00AM-11:00AM

Flyers are also posted on the church information table.

urban mission

*"giving help today for hope
of a better tomorrow"*



Santa's Big Day

Our annual Christmas program, Santa Store, is quickly approaching! So many families across our state struggle to make ends meet. We are working to help Santa reach every home by providing a shopping experience for parents who are without gifts for their children. Santa Store will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 9:00 AM–2:00 PM.

Need a gift for someone who has everything? By joining our Christmas Club, you can give a donation in honor of a friend or family member. This gift will provide toys, food, and clothes to a child in need this Christmas. We will send you a card stating your gift and give their name a place of honor at the Santa Store event. Send in the Christmas Club form attached to this newsletter, or pay online at www.urbanmissionokc.org.

We love having volunteers partner up with us to make this event happen! If you are interested in working the Santa Store or would like to sign up a group, please email us at volunteer@urbanmissionokc.org or call us at 405-946-1556. We separate volunteers into two shifts, 8:30 AM–11:30 AM and 11:00 AM–2:00 PM.



Santa Store Wish List

The following items should be new and unwrapped:

Toys for children ages 0–17

Senior gift items (puzzles, books, scarves, etc.)

Storybooks, coloring books, crayons

Socks, gloves, hats (all sizes)

Small gifts for stocking stuffers

Sports items (basketballs, footballs, skateboards, etc.)

Gift bags and tissue paper

Home décor items

Kitchen items



Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser
Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Paula Coffman
Janice Crump
Dave Iske
Vince Leseney
Jayelle Martin
Devyn Upton
Pam Ashley's
husband (Pam is
Karen Upton's
boss)
Cory Beck (John
Beck's brother)
Mary Jean Beck (John
Beck's mother)
Gail Bender (Jessica
Forthman's
mother)
Carol Broderson
(Karen Upton's
cousin)
Britany Clark
(Daughter of Paul
Upton's co-worker)
Karen Doviak (Jona
Thiessen's friend)
Carol Gadd (Ann
Forsyth's cousin)
Lee Harlan (Jona
Thiessen's uncle)
Michael Hernandez
(Jayelle Martin's
second cousin,
once removed)
Clark Hollingsworth
(son of John
Beck's friend
Charles
Hollingsworth)
Dan Loomis (friend of

Bill & Betty Silman)
Don Smith (Charlotte
Lovett's uncle)
Michelle (Charlotte's
neighbor)
Sharon & Gordon
Waterous, family of
Donna Vint & Harry
Wright
Paul Gallagher (Karen
Upton's father)
Tod Luttrell (friend of
Doris Hinson)
Andrew Megehee
Savannah Moseley
(daughter of Ann
Forsyth's cousin)
Kathy Ellison
Vanderburg
(former classmate
of Jona Thiessen)
Keith Vermillion (PE
teacher at Jessica
Farris' school)
Sheri Aresco (Friend of
Rachel Bradley)
Jimmy & Molly
Rambur
Caitlin Stensrud

Those who grieve

Family of Les Johnston
Family of Jane Garlett
(Joe Garlett's
sister-in-law)
Family of Michael
Johnson (son of
Charles & Jan
Johnson and
husband of Diana
Johnson)
Andrea Eyabi (Peter
Jambe Arrey)

To receive prayer requests by email,
please contact Jona Thiessen at:
jthiessen2@att.net

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

13 Kirk & Jessica Forthman—1
year!
20 Judd & Alice Lanning
27 Tim & Jona Thiessen—35 years!
30 Carl & Julie Forthman



Christmas Word Jumble

Unscramble these words that you might expect to find in the Christmas story.
If you need help, the words are listed below the puzzle -- but not in order!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. NNI _____ | 8. RTAS _____ |
| 2. ESEHHDPSR _____ | 9. NYOKDE _____ |
| 3. HWORISP _____ | 10. YABB _____ |
| 4. JHOPSE _____ | 11. RMGENA _____ |
| 5. TEHMHELBE _____ | 12. SSJEU _____ |
| 6. YMRA _____ | 13. IGFST _____ |
| 7. LATESB _____ | 14. AGLSEN _____ |

Mary
Joseph
manger
star

stable
donkey
worship
shepherds

inn
Jesus
Bethlehem
baby

angels
gifts

Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1  7:00 P.M. Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting	2 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	3 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	4	5
6 Worship w/ Communion 10:55 A.M. 5:00 P.M. M.Y. Group	7 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	8 6:00 P.M. Mission & Evangelism Meeting 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Meeting	9 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel	10 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	11	12 Boy Scout host Pancake Breakfast 8A.M. to 11A.M.
13	14 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	15 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting	16 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel	17 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	18	19
20 12:00 P.M. M.Y. Group 4:30 P.M. Deacons 5:30 P.M. Stewardship Committee 5:30 P.M. Christmas Pot Luck & Pageant	21 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	22	23	24 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service	25 	26
27	28 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	29	30	31 		

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

Thursday: Bible Study 10:30 A.M.