



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| From the Pastor's Desk | 2 |
| Clerk's Corner | 3 |
| Stewardship Update | 3 |
| January Worship Duty | 4 |
| January Announcements | 6 |
| Kids Activity | 8 |
| Known Joys and Concerns | 9 |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries | 9 |
| Calendar | 10 |

Latest News

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

This Sunday, January 8, we will be ordaining and installing our Deacons and Ruling Elders of the class of 2019.

Community News

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on Thursday, January 12th at 7:00 PM at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 North Porter in Norman.

Happy
New Year!

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

As I write this, the world has just learned of the death of Debbie Reynolds, just a day after her daughter, Carrie Fisher, died. Many generations were affected by their works, Debbie's acting and singing, Carrie's acting, writing and her openness about her mental health issues were important to numerous people. We are coming to the end of a year that seems to have brought much heartache and pain. Whether you have grieved a celebrity death, a catastrophe in our world, or have a grief of your own holding onto you, your grief is part of what makes us human.

And yet, we are a people of the light. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). All throughout Advent we have been looking for signs of God's light in our lives. We lit candles as a sign of this witness through the Sundays of Advent, and on Christmas Eve we filled the sanctuary, the narthex and the hallway with lights...all signs of God's light in the midst of darkness.

And this time of year, the days are getting longer and the nights shorter as we move toward Easter! The darkness will not overcome the light and we can testify to it!

Let us continue to look for signs of God's presence in this world which God created, and which we are blessed to call our home. I found this poem by Howard Thurman that, though written for Christmas, speaks to the beginning of this new year with hope and truth.

I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of home where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage where fear is ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

– Howard Thurman

May you know God's blessings in the New Year.

Peace,
Tracy

Clerk's Corner

A regular meeting of session was held on Tuesday, December 13 at 7PM. Session approved the recommendation that Michael Yeager serve on the Personnel Committee. A session retreat will be held on Saturday January 21, 2017. Session approved a facility-use request from a Quilters group to meet on the second Friday of each month from 10AM-6PM in the fellowship hall.

A special thanks to Mike Cole, Michael Yeager and Julie Forthman for their faithful service to our church these last three years. They will be rotating off session.

There was a special meeting of session on Sunday, December 18 for the purpose of examining the new officers. Trudy Beard, Nick Lindley and Charlotte Lovett will be serving on session. Eileen Burke, Grace Tamakong and Breanna Upton will be serving as deacons. Session examined these officers and found them ready and able to perform their duties. The ordination/installation service for these new officers will be Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Joan Cole

Clerk of Session

| Stewardship Update | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| November 1 to December 31, 2016 | | | |
| | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | 2016 Budget |
| Pledges | \$168,071.86 | \$151,932.00 | \$151,932.00 |
| Other Income | \$10,172.41 | \$26,000.00 | \$26,000.00 |
| Total Income | \$178,254.27 | \$177,932.00 | \$177,932.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$184,306.74 | \$189,321.00 | \$189,321.00 |



January Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Tim Thiessen

January 1

Ushers: John and Susan Beck
Communion Servers:
Coffee: Loreen & Doris
Sound Booth: Mike Cole
Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner
Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint
Lock-up: Loreen Upton

January 8

Ushers: Ann Fayles and Linda Eckel
Coffee: Lisa & Trudy
Sound Booth: Mike Girdner
Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen
Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel
Lock-up: Trudy Beard

January 15

Ushers: Will and Jessica Farris
Coffee: Breanna & Linda
Sound Booth: Larry Upton
Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton
Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton
Lock-up: Mike & Joan Cole

January 22

Ushers: Ross Robinson and Loreen Upton
Coffee: Joan & Loreen
Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen
Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole
Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole
Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

January 29

Ushers: Mike and Karen Girdner
Coffee: Holly & Esau
Sound Booth:
Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard
Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck
Lock-up: Doug Forsyth

A bidding prayer for the new year

December 29, 2016 by Jill Duffield of the Presbyterian Outlook

God of all times and all places, as the calendar flips from one year to the next we are profoundly grateful that while you are always doing a new thing, your character of loving kindness remains constant. As we review a year's worth of events in our lives and in the life of the world, we confess to sometimes questioning your wisdom, power and, yes, even goodness. We can't help but lament inconsolable losses. We can't stop from asking, "Why?" in the face of violence, destruction and death. We can't keep from wondering, "How long, O Lord?" We often pray, "I believe, but, Lord, help my unbelief."

Trusting that you do not reject us when we question, doubt and grieve, but instead meet us where we are, embrace and comfort us, we share with you the past year's greatest hurts, sorrow and suffering.

Almighty and gracious God, it would be unfaithful of us not to also look back, rejoice and give thanks, for there have been many instances of grace, outpourings of mercy, flickers, even brilliant flashes, of light in the darkness. Help us remember and be grateful for the times we have been forgiven despite the evidence of our guilt. Keep us ever mindful of each person who has cared for us, helped us or encouraged us. Don't let us forget the ever-present beauty that surrounds us: the beauty of creation, of artistic creations, of the people made in your image. May the harvest moons, melodies of music, rhythmic movements of dancers and prophetic words of poets inspire us to share the gifts you given us for your glory.

Knowing that you created all that is, seen and unseen, and called it good, and knowing that your Spirit relentlessly works in us, through us, despite us, to bring about justice, compassion and mercy, we share with you the past year's greatest joys, manifestations of beauty and moments of grace.

God of memory and hope, you call on us not only to be a people who remember, but to be a people who look forward to the future with eager anticipation. May we recognize your present kingdom and be ready at any moment to welcome Christ when he comes again. As we stand at the beginning of a calendar year, grant us a sure sense of your purpose, gift us with courage, strength, energy, intelligence, imagination and love. Make us signs of your reign, living breathing symbols of servant leadership, sacrificial love, radical forgiveness, the peace that passes understanding and unstoppable, water-rolling justice.

Believing that you equip those whom you call, we boldly ask to be bowled over by the wind of the Holy Spirit. We pray that the Spirit's flame will burn away our dross, illumine our paths and shine so brightly in us that we might be the light of the world we are called to be. Silence in us any voice but your own as we seek to discern your will for us in this time and place.

Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, gather up the fragments of last year, bless them and use them in ways that will nourish your children in the year ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Coming In February

The MPC Showcase!

Mark your calendars for a one night only event! The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee is proud to present the MPC Showcase! This entertainment pack showcase will be on Saturday, February 11th from 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm, doors to open at 6:50 pm and the performances will begin at 7:30.

This event is open to everyone so invite all your friends and family to come. There will be a reservation sheet to sign to reserve your spot so we can make sure we have plenty of seating. We would like to suggest to those planning to attend to bring a finger food or snack to share.

Don't miss out on this fabulous social event where world renowned stars, superior cuisine and family & friends come together in one place for one spectacular experience.

JUST IN!..... we are looking for a few more talented people for the showcase. If you have a talent you would like to share contact talent scout Lisa Upton at Laupton@aol.com or 405-740-4227. All talent performers need to be signed up and confirmed with Lisa Upton no later than Sunday, January 15th.

M.Y GROUP NEWS
JANUARY 2017



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our January 2017 meeting schedule:

JANUARY 22 SHAKE THE WINTER BLUES - COME PLAY
5-6:30PM

Please contact Joan Cole, 830-8389, if you have any questions or you would like to volunteer to bring a meal.

The Baptism of Jesus

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:13-17



T Y Y J K E W N U P D N O I D
 D Z J J V S E U G J Z X F X G
 V Q V O C X P Y I A E R J M I
 O A L I H W F I M S L S D W F
 I O M K F N U A R Z H I U P X
 C M X X B F L E T I U P L S X
 E H S O N Z F T J N T Z W E U
 A I K R Z X I J S Y B E L R E
 K U A D P S L O B Y A T T K P
 C O W S D K L R K C P W H F Q
 Y P D E G A G D W I T A E L M
 E E S O R P M A E M I T A B S
 B N K U V H D N B M Z E V P G
 S E W R L E Z O A H E R E A Z
 T D P L E A S E D O D L N N Z

GALILEE
OPENED
JORDAN

HEAVEN
DOVE
WATER

VOICE
JOHN
FULFILL

LOVE
PLEASED
BAPTIZED

JESUS
SON
SPIRIT

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser
 Lola Carroll
 Sandy Clarke
 Janice Crump
 Dave Iske
 Jayelle Martin
 Paul Upton
 Devyn Upton
 Harry Wright
 Anthony Reid

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Holly Van Auken whose mother died Nov.
 21
 Alison Baker whose grandfather died

Joys

Everett William Forthman and parents
 Amanda and Wade, Born December
 22
 Liam Timothy Farris born September 9,
 2016

Seminary Student

Samuel McCann

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.

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

January Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Kerri Autry |
| 4 | Cassie Eckel |
| 6 | Audrey Stensrud |
| 9 | Karen Girdner |
| 10 | Judy Burns |
| 14 | Warren Beck Devyn Upton |
| 19 | Charles Johnson |
| 24 | Kelsey Hudson Melinda Clements |
| 25 | Matt McClure |
| 26 | Nancy Silman |
| 27 | Rachel (Forsyth) Klenda Ross Forsyth |
| 28 | Jim Annoh |
| 29 | Julie Forthman Jessica (Thiessen) Farris |
| 30 | Jeff Roesel |
| 31 | Ashu Abunaw |

January Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | John & Susan Beck Joe & Jan Garlett Rob & Traci Cunningham |
| 2 | Will & Jessica Farris |
| 17 | Zack & Brook (Thrailkill) Hesse |
| 22 | Jim & Linda Eckel |

January 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 6:00 pm Worship Meeting 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts | 10 6:00 pm Mission & Evangelism Committee 7:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting | 11 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 12:00 P.M. Deacon Meeting | 16 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts | 17 7:00 pm Session Meeting | 18 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir | 19 7:00 P.M. Building & Grounds Meeting | 20 | 21 Session Retreat |
| 22 5:30 P.M. M.Y. Group | 23 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts | 24 | 25 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts | 31 | | | | |