



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

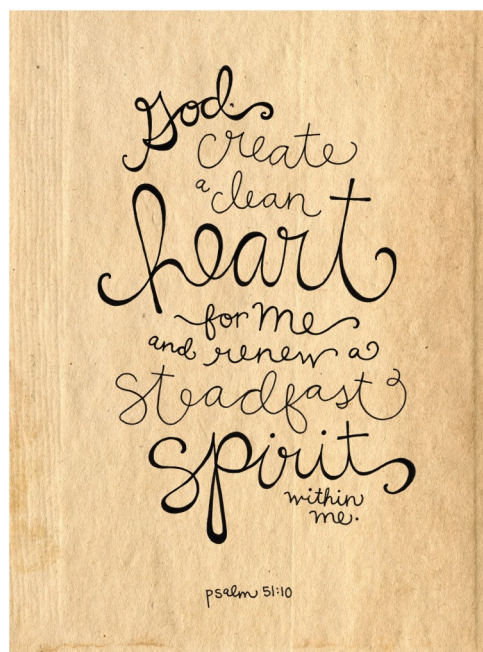
## Latest News

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We will be having a Luau on January 20th. Keep an eye out for more details in the Bulletin and the mid month Messenger.

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



Memorial Presbyterian Church 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](http://www.memorialpres.org), or scan the QR code here. 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.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

A song came to me the other day that I learned in my days as a youth director. I didn't know it at the time, but it is based in part on a poem by Howard Thurman, titled **The Work of Christmas**. The song is **I Am the Light of the World**, by Jim Strathdee.

(Chorus) I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
The work of Christmas is begun!

To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below, the sky above!

To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,  
To call a man your brother everywhere.

To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old man's heart,  
And sing to the colors of the earth!

Christmas isn't the end, it is just the beginning. Our work indeed calls us as we move forward into the new year. What will guide your work? How will Christmas' joyous celebration move you, move our congregation, into the joyous work that lies ahead?

We have had a great 2017 together as a congregation. There have been joys and sorrows, and we have continued to discern "what we were meant to do and be." God has work before us and together we can follow the path ahead.

May you know God's blessings in the new year,

Tracy

## CLERK'S CORNER

MARK YOU CALENDARS: Session has set the date for the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 4, 2018 immediately following worship.

The ordination/installation service for the new officers will be held Sunday, January 14, 2018 during worship. A special thank you to Elders Mike Girdner, Jessica Farris and Kirk Forthman for their faithful service to God and to this church. These three rotate off session this month.

Session approved the baptism of Millie Klenda (Daughter of Rachel & Michael Klenda and granddaughter of Doug & Ann Forsyth) for Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Cole, Clerk of Session

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Stewardship Update			
December 1 to December 31, 2017			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2017 Budget
<b>Pledges</b>	\$175,924.29	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$9,952.33	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$186,876.62	\$166,000.00	\$166,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$183,867.82	\$189,521.00	\$189,521.00

Friends,

We are in a season of blessings, so I feel compelled to recognize one that is special to our Church. When the year started, a large budget shortfall was projected. However, the generosity of our givers has taken us to a point where our budget needs have been met and we will end the year on a very positive financial note. The members of the Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their commitment to the support of our Church and its missions. Our thanks are given with an overwhelming feeling of gratitude.

John Beck  
Stewardship Committee Chairman



#### BEHIND THE SCENES

If you were in Sunday school the last three weeks, or if you came early for the 10:30 gathering, you may have heard the beautiful sounds of Christmas hymns played on the accordion by Michael Yeager. He and Rev. Tracy have been teaching a class about Advent hymns. If you were unable to go to the amusing and all-inclusive Christmas pageant, you missed hearing Michael play carols on his accordion while we sang along. Accordion is not Michael's only talent. He has stepped in to direct the Chancel Choir when Vince has had a conflict. He has directed and played bells, and for worship he has done some beautiful duet and solo presentations on the electric piano. He also composes. He is another of the faithful working behind the scenes at Memorial. Thanks be to God!

## January Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Carl Forthman

### January 7

Ushers: Larry and Lisa Upton

Communion Servers: Trudy Beard, Lucy Lanning, Nicholas Lindley, Holly Van Auken

Coffee: Loreen and Breanna Upton

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Holly Van Auken

### January 14

Ushers: John and Susan Beck

Coffee: Mike Cole and Trudy Beard

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up:

### January 21

Ushers: Jim and Linda Rodriguez

Coffee: Lisa Upton and Ann Fayles

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up:

### January 28

Ushers: Mike and Joan Cole

Coffee: Diana Johnson and Linda Eckel

Sound Booth: Larry Upton

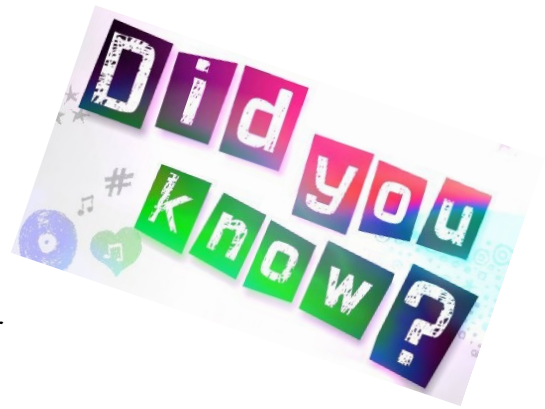
Acolyte Assistant: Melissa Gill

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up:

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Memorial is fortunate to have four extremely gifted and faithful staff. Three face us every Sunday, for better or worse. One works tirelessly in the background. Without them worship as we know it would not happen. For the next four months you will have the opportunity to get to know our staff a little more in-depth.



This month's interview is with Rev. Tracy Evans.

Where do you consider home? "My home is in Norman, but I grew up in OKC and Edmond."

What degrees do you hold and from where? "Bachelor of Science (Elementary Education) from UCO, and Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary."

In what activities are you involved, other than your work at Memorial? "Lots of care for my parents who live in Edmond. Also enjoy baking, knitting and quilting. I do a variety of presbytery stuff, and especially like getting together with my clergy women colleagues."

What is your favorite musical genre? "Anything I can sing to! Pop, musicals, hymns..."

What is #1 on your bucket list? "Probably visit Europe. And I'd really like to see the Northern Lights. Is there a way I can meet Mary Poppins?"

Is there anything you would share with the Memorial community? "Ya'll are a great community, and I have learned so much from being your pastor. I look forward to the years ahead!"

## The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	W	B	T	E	H	F	Q	S	O	G	N	A	Y	V	X	P	D	J	M	R	I	L	Z	K	U

1. 9-22-12-9 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 21-5-17-5-12-4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 6-10-23-14 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 3-13-17-4-22-24-5 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 18-10-15-5 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 9-17-22-21-22-4 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 6-5-13-15-5-12 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 15-10-22-1-5 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 1-10-12-7-5-9-9 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 2-13-4-5-21 \_\_\_\_\_

SPIRIT	HOLY	HEAVEN	SINS	BAPTIZE
DOVE	CONFESS	VOICE	WATER	REPENT

## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser  
 Lola Carroll  
 Sandy Clarke  
 Harold Conner  
 Janice Crump  
 Jim Eckel  
 Doug Forsyth  
 Diana Johnson  
 Alice Lanning  
 Blair Lanning  
 Jayelle Martin  
 Harry Wright  
 Gerry Harner (Joan Cole's mother)  
 Denise Jones (Jayelle Martin's daughter)  
 Jan Ferguson (friend of Georjana Mauldin)

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Caitlyn Stensrud-Smith and her husband, Alexander. Alex's mother, Nina Smith, died December 23  
 Family and Friends of Anita Harkey who died on December 13  
 Andrea Eyabi, whose brother Francis Arrey died November 27.  
 Family of Johannes Feh Tasem, uncle of Gladys Jangha, who died October 10

### Seminary Student

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray 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.

## January Birthdays

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 1  | Kerri Autry               |
| 4  | Cassie Eckel              |
| 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 (Thraikill) Hesse |
| 22 | Jim & Linda Eckel              |



# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	4 7:00 P.M. Fellowship and Hospitality meeting	5	6
7 12:00 P.M. Worship Committee Meeting	8 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	9 7:00 P.M. Called Meeting of Session	10 3:00 p.m. Kids' Club 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 Ordination/instal lation of new officers	15 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	16 7:00 P.M Session Meeting	17 3:00 p.m. Kids' Club 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 12:00 P.M. Deacons Meeting 5:30 P.M. Stewardship Meeting	22 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	23	24 3:00 p.m. Kids' Club 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 3:00 p.m. Kids' Club 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir			