



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

Inside this Issue:

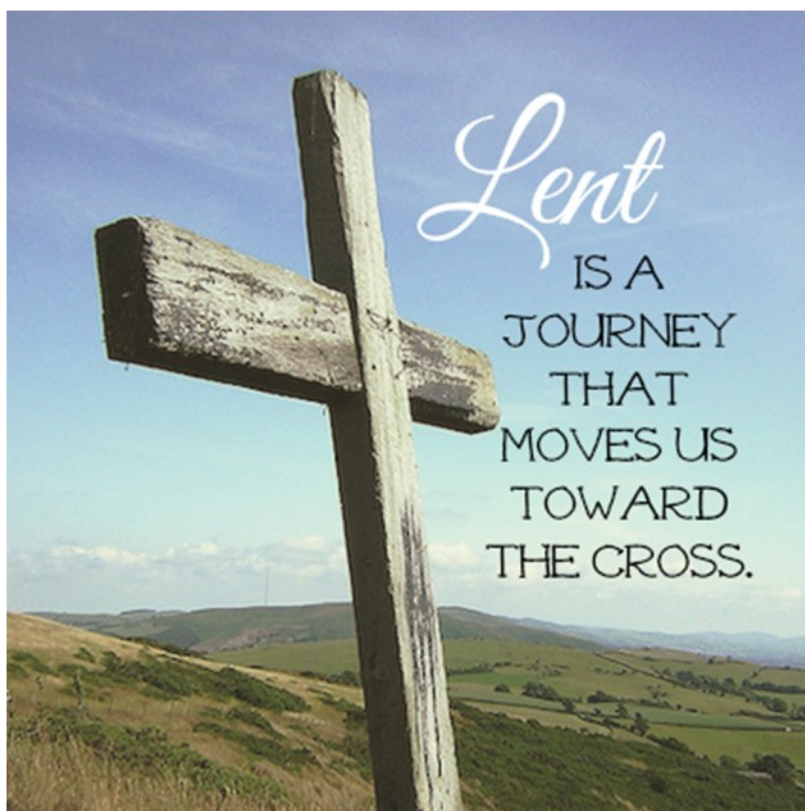
From the Pastor's Desk	2
Clerk's Corner	3
Stewardship Update	3
March Announcements	7
March Worship Duty	10
Kids Activity	11
Known Joys and Concerns	12
Birthdays and Anniversaries	12
Calendar	13

Community News

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on **Thursday, March 9th 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 March is Peanut Butter again. This is their most requested food item. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I share with you this writing by Jan Richardson, who writes beautifully and with great insight. She says that she wrote this before her husband's devastating death, but that these words continue to give her comfort.

As we begin this Lenten journey to the cross, let us not forget what a blessing we have.

BLESSING THE DUST

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,

that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

—Jan Richardson
from "Circle of Grace"

Grace and peace to you this Lent,

Tracy

Clerk's Corner

At its stated meeting on February 21, the session acted on the following items:

- Approved an "Envelope Fundraiser" for the Camp and Conference fund.
- Approved participating in the statewide "Peace4OK ad campaign, supporting unity among people of all faiths
- Approved donations of clothing and funds for Cameroon orphanage
- Asked committees to review dedicated fund accounts so that general usage may be determined

The session will be studying "Pathmarks to New Church," which is also being used by the Indian Nations Presbytery interim task force. There continues to be concern over anticipated budget shortages.

Full minutes will be available on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Submitted by Tracy Evans

Stewardship Update

February 1 to February 28, 2017

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2017 Budget
Pledges	\$23,701.00	\$24,666.66	\$148,000.00
Other Income	\$1,586.17	\$1,833.32	\$11,000.00
Total Income	\$25,287.17	\$26,499.98	\$159,000.00
Total Expenses	\$30,112.11	\$31,586.54	\$189,521.00



Deacons Meeting February 19h

Present

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

Congregational Care

Jim Rodriguez, Anita Harkey

Thank you cards to 2016 rotating deacons Donna Wright, Jim Rodriguez and Jona Thiesson.

Best wishes to Rachel Forsyth Klenda is expecting a baby.

Special Reports

Elder Melissa Gill distributed a flyer on Suicide Prevention Training offered by Heartline Inc. at 6:00 p.m. on March 22, April 19 and May 20 in Oklahoma City and Moore. Melissa spoke about Memorial's special focus on mental health awareness and the sub-committee which will reach out to all our church committees. May is set aside for National Mental Health and Harry Wright is gathering materials for the church library to increase our knowledge of the many concerns. Ann Forsyth, who has taught Special Education in public schools will give a presentation in March.

Activities

The deacons will replenish Tracy's Wal-mart gift cards for needs.

Breanna offered to be deacon representative on the nominating committee.

Tracy provided each deacon a flock list which will appear under a deacon's photo on the deacon's display poster

Sooner Trophy made magnetic name tags for deacons to wear at functions and services at a cost of \$121. If need be, a tag may be replaced for \$25.00 as Sooner retains the template,

Tracy designated a different deacon to attend a session meeting each month through December 2017. She explained the purpose is to have more communication between the two groups and to look for ways to support one another as officers of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Doris Hinson, secretary

Worship and Music Committee

Minutes for Feb. 12, 2017

Present: John Beck, Joan Cole, Lucy Lanning, Nicholas Lindley, Charlotte Lovett, Tim Mauldin, Stephen Wurst and ex-officio Rev. Tracy Evans

Excused: Michael Yeager, Vince Leseney

After sharing joys and concerns, Joan opened the meeting with prayer.

Services for Ash Wednesday and the First Sunday of Lent were presented by the ad hoc team. Discussion ensued. The ad hoc committee will continue to work on services for the remainder of the Lenten season, as well as services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter.

After discussion of the Administrative Assistant's request to free up space on her computer by moving some of the old bulletins, it was suggested that she leave at least the last three year's bulletins on her computer (which includes Years A, B, and C) and move others to a flash drive. We also discussed that there should be no problem with space once the new computer arrives.

After discussion of the #PEACE4OK movement, on motion made and seconded, Rev. Tracy will present the proposal to the Mission and Outreach Committee for funding. The March 5 worship service will recognize the initiative and our support of Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian and other Oklahoma houses of worship.

The next meeting will be March 2 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Lovett, committee moderator

Some months ago, the Session established a theme to help Memorial's congregation and various committees unify around a common focus. That theme, that target of focus is Mental Health. A task force, has been established to inform, guide, and assist in raising awareness of mental health issues and resources. The Task Force on Mental Health membership includes Harry Wright, Melissa Gill, Joan Cole, Michael Yeager, and Tracy Evans.

Through the efforts of many organizations and private citizens, the subject of Mental Health, it's diagnosis and treatment, has gradually come out of the shadows. Unfortunately, stigma still clings to the label in spite of multitudes of sufferers and their families. Diagnosis and treatment has been hampered by societal attitudes that cause families to hide or cover for members who suffer mental or emotional maladies. Fear of losing jobs or friends results in sufferers refusing to seek help and self-medicate with alcohol and/or drugs.

Beginning with this newsletter, the Task Force on Mental Health will be publishing a series of facts, statistics, and statements from various resources to help in a greater understanding of mental health issues. Look for a section labeled "Comfort My People". This phrase is adopted from a policy study done for General Assembly in 2008. It uses the concept of exile for those with mental illness and in need of comfort.



10 Memorial Presbyterian Church

COMFORT MY PEOPLE

FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Over the course of your life, if you experience mental health problems, your thinking, mood, and behavior could be affected. Many factors contribute to mental health problems, including:

- Biological factors, such as genes or brain chemistry
- Life experiences, such as trauma or abuse
- Family history of mental health problems

Mental health problems are common but help is available. People with mental health problems can get better and many recover completely.

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.



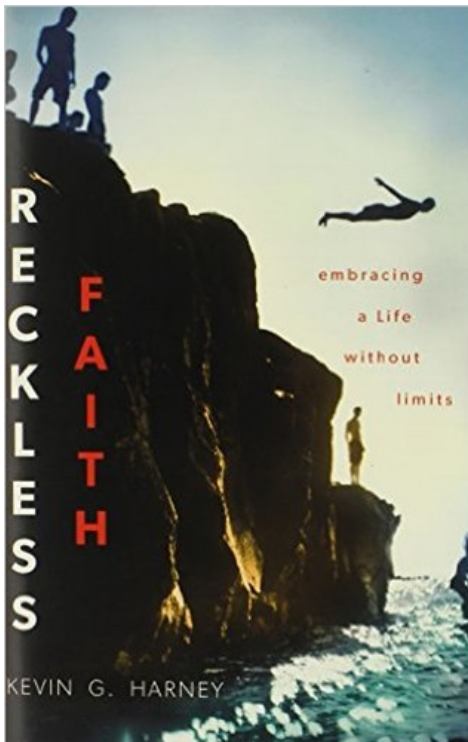
Education Opportunities at Memorial

Adult Sunday School classes:



Reading Biblical Literature-

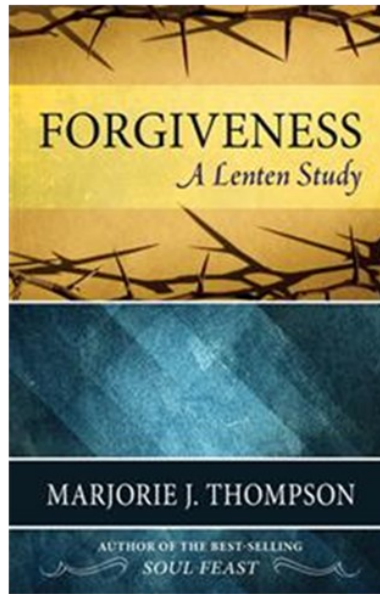
The Parlor class is using video presentation from Great Courses by Dr. Craig R. Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. From the course overview: Rightly recognized as one of the world's most important spiritual texts, the Bible has shaped thousands of years of faith, art, and human history. Yet for all its importance to believers and nonbelievers alike, we rarely engage with the Bible as a collection of unique narratives that were only later united into what we now know as the Old and New Testaments. And these different texts—historical narratives, dramatic visions, poems, songs, letters—speak to a broad range of experience, from joy and wonder to tragedy and mystery.



Reckless Faith-The Library class is reading and discussing this book together. From the publisher: "In a world where we tend to be over-cautious about, well, nearly everything, it's no surprise that our obsession with safety can carry over to how we live our faith in the world. But it's always been risky to follow God, and Kevin Harney believes we are missing a vital part of our faith when we play it safe.

"In this energizing book, he challenges readers to count the cost, take a chance, and live a reckless faith for the entire world to see. With a focus on "responsible recklessness," Harney shows readers how to develop a faith that others notice, always supported by prayer, wisdom, the direction of Scripture, and insightful counsel from other believers. He outlines how to be reckless in our love, generosity, service, relationships, prayers, and speech.

"Perfect for pastors, small groups, or anyone who is tired of feeling domesticated and docile, this book will lead readers into a fresh devotion and dynamism in their faith."



Forgiveness: A Lenten Study-This Sunday Evening book discussion is led by Pastor Tracy. From the publisher: "Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. Marjorie J. Thompson, author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study. In six brief chapters, Thompson addresses such questions as the following:

- Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

Using biblical examples and real-life situations, Thompson illustrates each chapter's theme in an informative and engaging way. A study guide is also included at the back of the book that is appropriate for either individual reflection or group discussion. With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this book is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

March Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: John Beck

March 5

Ushers: Harry Wright and Donna Vint

Communion Servers: Holly Van Auken, Loreen Upton, Julie Forthman & Melissa Gill

Coffee: Breanna & Linda

Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

Nursery Assistant:

Lock-up: Loreen Upton

March 12

Ushers: Trudy Beard and Ann Fayles

Coffee: Joan

Sound Booth: Karen Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Trudy Beard

March 19

Ushers: Holly Van Auken and Michael Yeager

Coffee: Holly & Esau

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard/Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Mike & Joan Cole

March 26

Ushers: Carl & Julie Forthman

Coffee: Ann & Eileen

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

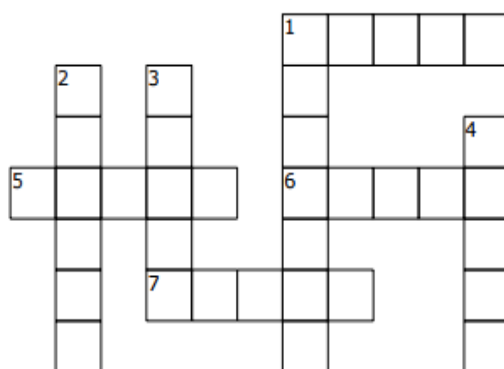
Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
5. A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
6. A small rock
7. The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

DOWN

1. To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
2. To feel a need or desire for food
3. A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
4. To try to get someone to do wrong

hungry	bread	worship	devil
stone	tempt	angel	world

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

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

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

Everett William Forthman and parents
 Amanda and Wade, Born December 22

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.

March Birthdays

3	Michael Klenda
5	David Stensrud
6	Bill Silman Harold Conner
7	Elvira Sama
9	Brian Kelley
14	Riley Benson
17	Ann Fayles
22	Marcus Williams Mandy Jiran
23	Clay Girdner
27	Loreen Upton
29	Eileen Burke Heather Yeager
30	Joan Cole

March Anniversaries

10	Matt & Holly (Forsyth) McClure
17	Bruce & Trisha Bunce
27	Cornelius & Susan Annoh

March 2017

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