

Memorial Messenger

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

May 2015



Latest News

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

Janice Crump is moving to Tulsa to be closer to family. Her new address is Woodland Terrace Apt. 105, 9524 E. 71st St., Tulsa, OK 74133. Her new phone number is (918) 286-2241.

We will have a "mini" **Spring Cleanup Day** is on Saturday, May 16, in preparation for the church's 50th anniversary celebration on May 24.

Save the date for Memorial's **50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon** following a special worship service on Sunday, May 24 (see page three). If you are in contact with former members who would like to be a part of the celebration, either in person or by a remembrance card, please contact Jona Thiessen at jthiessen2@att.net and we will gladly add them to our invitation list.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is seeking direct **donations** from the congregation to cover the expense of the celebration. If you would like to contribute, simply mark your donation "50th Anniversary Celebration". There is no specific line item in our budget for the party, so anything received will be greatly appreciated! Our thanks to those who have already donated over \$1,300 toward this celebration.

The 50th Anniversary Committee plans to put together a video to be shown on the occasion. You can help by submitting a brief **video clip** by email to Paul Phelps, paul.phelps@eac.edu, or Jim Rodriguez, jrod27@sbcglobal.net, or in another digital format to the church office.

Kids' Club will continue through Wednesday, May 20th, before taking a break for the summer.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 22-25. We will be sharing more information as the time approaches.

We will be needing some **office help** from Friday, June 19 through Thursday, July 2 while our administrative assistant is on vacation. Please contact the office if you can be of assistance.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

It's almost here!

In just a few weeks we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our congregation. The May 24th celebration has been months in the planning, and all who attend will certainly have a memorable time.

As the committee has reflected on the history of the congregation, it is always the people who are the focus of the stories that are told. Yes, there is a building story, and a story about our programs, but these are backdrops for who and what the church is. Names of people and their part in the life of the congregation are what matters. Who are the people of Memorial that are part of your story? Who has had an impact on your faith journey?

The theme for the anniversary is "Children of God, Welcome Home." All of us are children of God, sisters and brothers of the one God, who loves us more than we can ever imagine. It has been God's grace that has brought us through these 50 years.

Over 900 people have been members of Memorial. Add to this the numbers of friends of the congregation and we have quite a collection of people. Some are remembered as names in a book; others we know by their faces. They have gone before us, setting the foundation for a faithful congregation that has impacted our community for five decades. They have walked beside us and taught us. And we will be the ones remembered in the future. Perhaps 50 years from now there will be stories to tell about the many who were around in 2015 and made a difference for them.

It will be a great day as we worship together, celebrate our history, relish the present and dream of the future.

I hope you will be able to be part of this momentous day in the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace to you,
Tracy

Memorial Presbyterian Church

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Children of God, Welcome Home

*You Are Invited to
Memorial Presbyterian Church's
50th Anniversary Celebration*

Sunday, May 24th, 2015, from 10:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please join us as we welcome old friends and new for a very special worship service of praise, music and remembrance, followed by a luncheon in celebration of Memorial's first 50 years!

If you cannot join us on that day, but would still like to be a part of the celebration, please consider sending a card for display or a short video clip to mempres1@sbcglobal.net by May 20th, 2015.

*If you plan to attend, PLEASE reply before May 20, 2015 —
email mempres1@sbcglobal.net or call (405) 329-3640*

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On May 23, 1965, under the guidance of the Rev. William T. Hunt, Memorial Presbyterian Church was formally organized and chartered by the Presbytery of Washita (now Indian Nations Presbytery). At the time of its creation, there were 86 charter members. At the beginning, church programs and worship were held in the theater portion of a building on the former South Navy Base. The name "Memorial" was chosen to represent all those persons who have given their time and effort to fulfill being a channel of God's love in the community.

In May, 1967, a building fund drive began, and on September 29, 1968, culminated with the erection and dedication of a 7,300 square-foot multipurpose building. With the completion of the first building phase, the congregation had its own space for worship, and other program activities.

Reverend Hunt continued to serve the congregation until his retirement in March, 1972, when he was named Pastor Emeritus. The Rev. Hudson McNair was called as pastor of the church on January 1, 1973. He led the church through a second building fund campaign, starting in Spring 1980. The new part of the building added a permanent sanctuary, offices for the church staff, and additional educational space. A unique feature of the sanctuary was the large, triangular, faceted-glass windows, which are visible on the four sides of the worship center. These stained glass windows are lighted from within each evening, and represent some of the essential concepts of Christianity: the Nativity; the Resurrection and Crucifixion; the Descending Dove – the Holy Spirit; and the Miracles and the Ship (the church).

In June, 1984, Reverend McNair retired, and was also named Pastor Emeritus. Subsequently, the Rev. Dr. James Burns was called to be the new pastor. He brought a special emphasis on youth ministry and established a solid children and youth program. Dr. Burns was responsible for creating the Indian Nations Presbytery Youth Quake, an annual program for youth, which continues to the present. Also during his tenure, a significant music ministry was expanded. Dr. Alice Lanning began a 17+ year tenure as Director of Music, and under her guidance an exceptionally successful music program developed. The resulting program included an adult choir, children and youth choirs, and bell choirs. In 1988, a two-manual and pedal organ of 10 ranks was installed. Excellent and creative music continues to this day in the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church, under the Director of Music Ministry, Mr. Vince Leseney. Mr. Terry Cast is the church's organist.

In 1993, the session approved a new mission statement, which still guides the church today:

"We are a servant people
called to be the light to the world.
We come together as members of one body
to worship, study, fellowship, witness and serve.
In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we promise to care for and support each other,
as we share God's love with all people."

After more than 25 years as pastor of Memorial, Dr. Burns retired from his ministerial position in 2009. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meinke served as interim pastor for over a year, and on February 1, 2012, the Rev. Tracy Lyn Evans began her ministry with the church. Under her leadership, the congregation continues to be a witness for Jesus Christ in the Norman community.

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In the last 50 years, many creative programs have had an impact on the Norman community. Memorial's former pre-school program served hundreds of children over the years. The church has opened its doors for several different community groups, including the Boy Scouts of America, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous. The building serves as a voting center during elections, and other organizations use the building from time to time as well. Many of the over 900 hundred people who have been members of the church through its history have served in various leadership positions in the community. Most recently, the church offered to the community-at-large an evening with one of its former members, who is now a Presbyterian minister and author of a book on prayer. Last fall, the church presented a panel discussion on Mental Health and the Law. The church continues its music ministry, and has an active Christian Education program for all ages, including a weekday Kids Club and a vacation Bible school. Each fall, the church has a Halloween Trunk or Treat program.

On May 24, 2015, the church will have a special worship service, followed by a 50th anniversary celebration luncheon. Anyone with a past and/or present connection with Memorial, and who would like to attend, please call the office at (405) 329-3640 before May 20th to make a reservation.

Memorial Presbyterian Church sees the next 50 years as both an opportunity and challenge to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Norman community. It is a diverse congregation, and wants to minister to all who are searching to know the healing love of God, as manifested in the life of Jesus Christ.



Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 P.M. for its regular meeting. The following actions were approved:

1. The hiring of Larry Upton as church custodian;
2. Communion moved from Sunday, May 3 to Sunday, May 10;
3. Same-gender marriages will be permitted in our church;
4. All the requests to use our facility (5 in total) were approved;
5. A rummage sale scheduled for August 15 for the purpose of raising funds for camps & conferences;
6. Memorial Presbyterian Church will partner with the Mary Abbott House to co-host a panel discussion on child abuse on November 13, 2015 in our fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Cole
Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update			
January 1 to April 30, 2015			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2015 Budget
Pledges	\$47,694.85	\$49,997.32	\$149,992.00
Other Income	\$6,931.12	\$11,197.96	\$33,594.00
Total Income	\$54,625.97	\$61,195.28	\$183,586.00
Total Expenses	\$58,586.12	\$61,984.00	\$185,954.00

M.Y. GROUP NEWS

MAY 2015



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12:

The last youth group meeting will be May 19.

Assuming the weather is good, you might want to bring a towel – you could get wet.

MAY 19 – Final M.Y. Group Fling

Jan & Charles Johnson providing the meal

There are no planned M.Y Group activities for the summer (June, July, August).

I want to thank all those who provided a meal for our youth group meetings. Your willingness to help out is so appreciated; not only by me but also by our very hungry youth.

And one last thank you – this one goes to Elvira Sama, who will be graduating from Norman High School at the end of this school year. She has been an active member of our youth group for many years and we will miss her participation and leadership.

Mission & Evangelism

Opportunity to Make a Difference Locally

Memorial's Mission and Evangelism Committee is asking for help from the congregation.

CCFI (Center for Children and Families) in Norman is planning a month-long summer educational program for 60 at-risk children. The goal of this program is to teach these children about community resources available in Norman.

CCFI has given us a list of five items they need for this program's craft activities. The list of items is as follows:

- Markers
- Washable paints
- Watercolor paints
- Paper plates
- Ziploc bags

If you are willing to help, please purchase any of the listed items and put it/them in the donation box located in the hall (leading to the sanctuary).

The Mission and Evangelism Committee will deliver the items to CCFI on May 25.

Thank you for considering this opportunity for service! If you have questions, please contact Erica Phelps (405-310-3198).



May Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: John Beck

May 3

Ushers: Breanna Upton and Trey Neal
Coffee: Jim Rodriguez and Lisa Upton
Sound booth: Mike Girdner
Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole
Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole
Lock-up: Mike Girdner

May 10

Communion Servers: Mike & Joan Cole and Tim & Jona Thiessen
Ushers: Paul and Karen Upton
Coffee: John Beck and Donna Vint
Sound booth: Larry Upton
Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard
Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck
Lock-up: Mike Cole

May 17

Ushers: Jim and Linda Rodriguez
Coffee: Linda Eckel and Esau Jangha
Sound booth: Tim Thiessen
Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner
Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard or Karen Girdner
Lock-up: Harry Wright

May 24

Ushers: John and Susan Beck
Coffee: Jona Thiessen and Joan Thrailkill
Sound booth: Dave Iske
Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen
Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint
Lock-up: Trudy Beard

May 31

Ushers: Kirk and Jessica Forthman
Coffee: Trudy Beard and Charlotte Lovett
Sound booth: Will Farris
Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton
Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel
Lock-up: Joan Cole

Solar School

Many people have contacted Solar Under the Sun saying that they would like to get involved in helping Haiti or Honduras and would like to be trained to join or lead a team to provide solar energy for communities in need, for health clinics, orphanages, for churches. If this is a ministry that you feel called to serve with, now is the time to act. Our next Solar School is September 10-13, 2015. You can register online at www.solarunderthesun.org/solar-school. All our Solar School training sessions are held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Two different courses are offered and each team needs at least one person from each course.

Solar 1: Leadership, Partnership, Development, and Surveying

This course includes:

- Exploring the theology of doing mission in partnership
- Developing partnerships and organizational skills
- Trip management and leadership
- Evaluating sites for solar projects
- Increasing cultural awareness
- Negotiating covenants

Solar 2: Installation and Equipping Partners

This course includes:

- Assembling off-grid solar energy systems
- Emphasizing systems to power clean water systems and more
- Assessing electrical loads
- Learning system designs
- Practicing safety and maintenance

Plenary sessions include:

- Mission strategy session
- Fund raising
- Cultural differences between countries
- Small group reflections
- Devotions



The cost for Solar School is \$485 per registrant, which includes room, board, instruction, and training manuals. The cost for commuting registrants is \$375 per person.

Solar Under the Sun is an ecumenical ministry of the Synod of the Sun in the Presbyterian Church (USA). For more information please call (866) 381-7075 or visit:

www.solarunderthesun.org

www.facebook.com/SolarUnderTheSun

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser
 Lola Carroll
 Sandy Clarke
 Janice Crump
 Dave Iske
 Vince Leseney
 Gail Bender (Jessica Forthman's mother)
 Carol Broderson (Karen Upton's cousin)
 Britany Clark (Daughter of Paul Upton's co-worker)
 Kenny Comer (Karen Girdner's niece's husband)
 Karen Doviak (Jona Thiessen's friend)
 Emma (Jayelle Martin's great, great niece)
 Carol Gadd (Ann Forsyth's cousin)
 Emily Hale (Jessica Farris's friend's sister-in-law)
 Lee Harlan (Jona Thiessen's uncle)
 Deanna Heath (Jessica Farris's co-worker)
 Michael Hernandez (Jayelle Martin's second cousin, once removed)
 Dan Loomis (friend of Bill & Betty Silman)
 Tod Luttrell (friend of Doris Hinson)
 Savannah Moseley (daughter of Ann Forsyth's cousin)
 Conner Otis (Paige Girdner's friend)
 Jane Thomas (friend of Charlotte Lovett)
 Kathy Ellison Vanderburg (former classmate of Jona Thiessen)
 Keith Vermillion (PE teacher at Jessica Farris' school)
 Jim Webb (Doris Hinson's friend)
 Harvey Yost (Tamara Iske's father)

Those who grieve

Family of Shannon Booth (Tamara Iske's friend)
 Connor Davis (friend of Samuel McCann)
 Family of Judy Haworth (Jayelle Martin's sister)
 Family of Norma Hayes (Janice Crump's sister-in-law)

Those who serve in mission fields

Ted & Tina Crump (Ted is Janice Crump's grandson)

May Birthdays

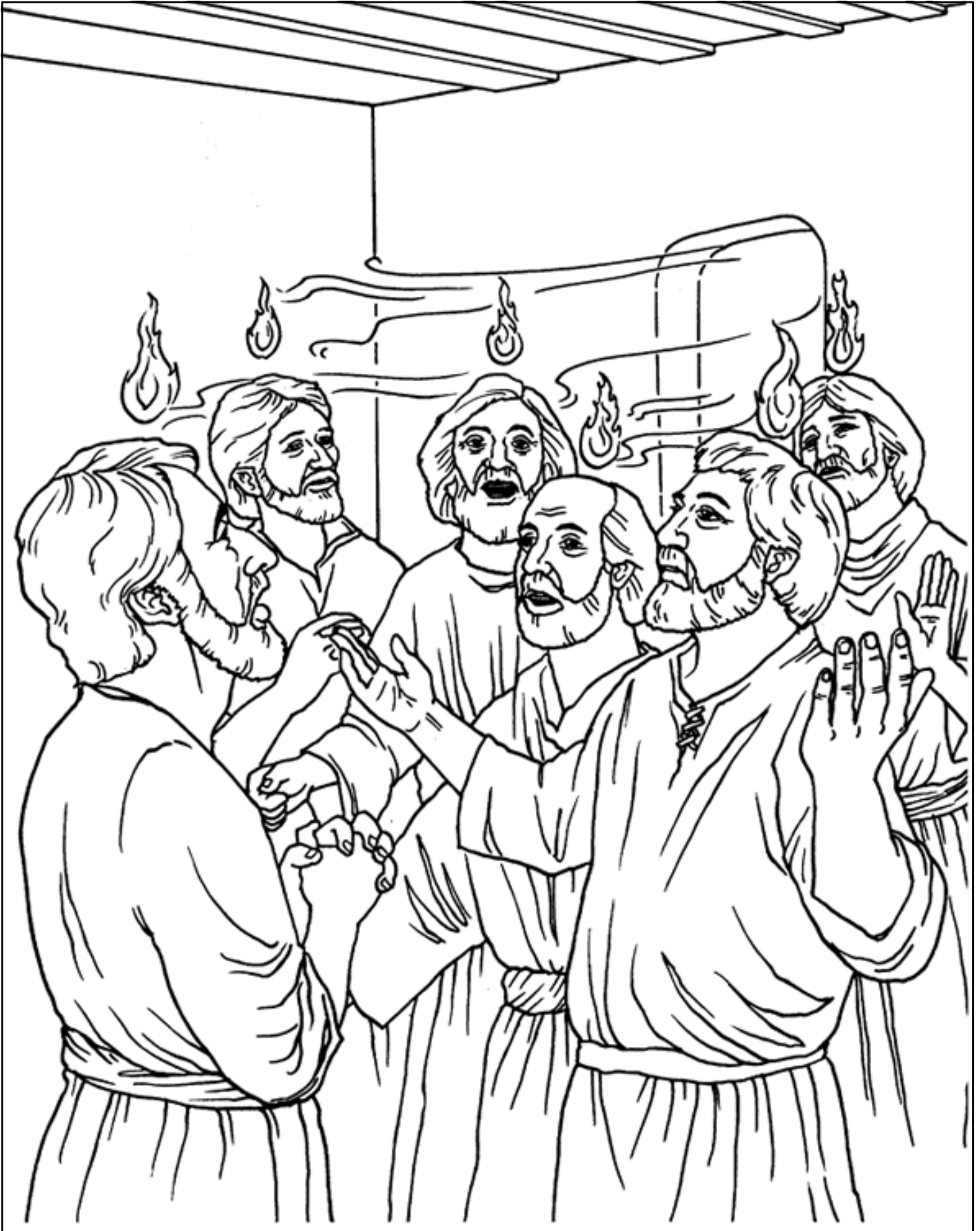
2	Chris Sivuilu
3	Ann Forsyth
	Rachel Bradley
5	Jayelle Martin
	Nate Adams
8	Steve Martin
9	Breanna Upton
10	Laure Sivuilu
	Kaylee Eyabi
13	Paige Girdner
	Kay Anderson
16	John Silman
17	Herve Sivuilu
21	Mike Girdner
	Louisa Baker
	Denise Jones (Jayelle Martin's daughter)
22	Madison Thiessen
25	Janice Crump
26	Barbara Hudson
27	Chelsea Thiessen

May Anniversaries

14	Paul & Karen Upton
24	Mike & Karen Girdner
28	Larry & Lisa Upton (1988)

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

The Day of Pentecost—Acts 2



Memorial Presbyterian Church

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	5 7:00 P.M. Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting	6 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	7 10:00 A.M. Serve at Food for Friends 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	8	9
10 10:55 A.M. Celebration of the Lord's Supper	11 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	12 6:00 P.M. Mission & Evangelism Meeting 7:00 P.M. Christian Education Meeting	13 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	14 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library 6:30 P.M. Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting	15	16 "Mini" Spring Cleanup Day 3:00 P.M. Cast Piano Studio Recital
17 4:30 P.M. Deacons Meeting	18 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	19 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting	20 3:00 P.M. Last Kids' Club of Spring Semester 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir	21 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library 7:00 P.M. Building & Grounds Meeting	22 Articles due for June/July Messenger	23
24 10:55 A.M. Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration—Worship Service and Luncheon	25 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	26	27 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	28 10:30 A.M. Bible Study in Library	29	30
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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.