

The Newsletter

March 2015

Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer - Pastor

**Feeding Northeast Austin, body,
mind, and spirit in the name of
Jesus.**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323

Find us on Facebook at
Memorial United Methodist Church-
Austin

Web site:

www.memorialumcaustin.com

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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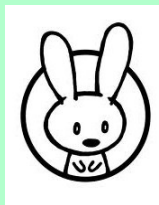
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Spring Fling 2015



Spring Fling

Sunday, March 29

2:30-4:30 pm

Games, Fun, Easter

**Egg Hunt, Pictures with the
Easter Bunny!**

We are stuffing 3000 eggs
Sunday, March 15th at 5:00 in
the Sanctuary. Come Help!



**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Austin CROP Hunger Walk
2015

March 1st, Sunday

2:00 pm: Registration

2:30 pm: Step Off

Location for 2015

Camp Mabry

2200 West 35th Street

News from the Pews

New Member

February 8, 2015 we were so honored to receive Peter Osgood into our church upon transferring from another denomination. Peter has been faithfully attending Memorial for worship and Sunday school for several months. He has also joined the Brunch Bunch who meet after church on Sundays, and he likes to help out around the church when he is able. Recently he has become the roommate of Ron Frederick.

We welcome Peter and pray God will bless each of us as we worship and share fellowship together.

Chili Cook-Off

On Sunday, February 15, 2015, faithful members joined together and sponsored another annual cook-off. Thank you goes to each person who helped set-up tables, who brought chili or cornbread with all the trimmings, who cleaned up afterwards, and who came to eat.

There were about 18 pots of delicious chili and a few pots of stew (for those with sensitive tummies).

Each guest had a chance to sample from all cooks and vote for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. After all votes were counted the winners were:

1st place– Jim Rhoades

2nd place– Billie Nixon

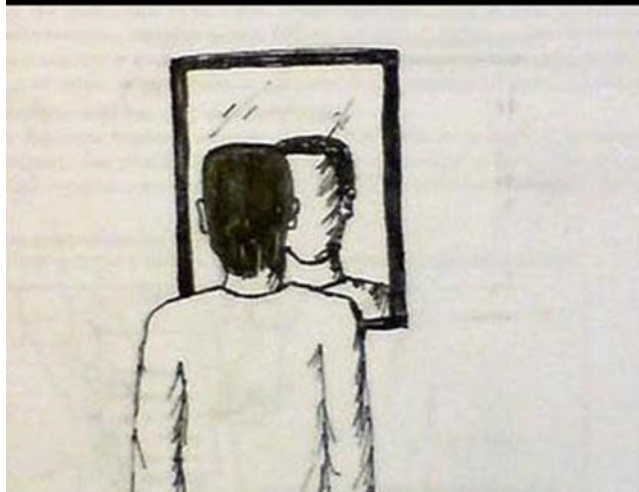
3rd place– JoAnn Bennink and her son-in-law Gary Eddleman tied with John Nixon.

If you missed the fun we look forward to seeing you there next year!

*Billie Nixon,
Membership Coordinator*

Worship Notes

What do you see?



Lenten Worship 2015

What Do You See in the Mirror?

Lent is a time of reflection—looking deeply at ourselves and at the world.

Mirrors are our focusing image this Lent—the mirrors that reveal truth, the cracks in our spirits, the blind spots, and the way that sin distorts our ways of looking at the world. In worship, we'll be looking at ways different kinds of mirrors reflect truth (or don't). Each week, we will have an assignment—a challenge that you can take home and put on your mirror to remind you of how God wants to be a part of your life.

You can also help by loaning the church mirrors of all kinds! Just bring them to worship or by the office with your name on the back (a piece of masking tape is fine). We will hang them carefully and return them to you after Easter.

March's Mission Focus:

UMCOR

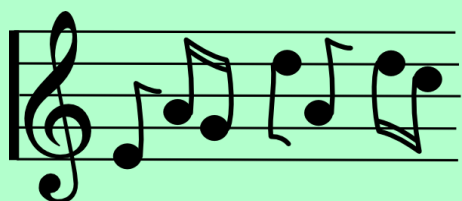
Our mission focus for March is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is internationally recognized for its excellent work in the midst of disasters. UMCOR doesn't just show up and leave when the immediate needs are taken care of-- UMCOR stays and helps communities to rebuild lives. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March allows UMCOR to continue to direct relief away from administrative costs and solely to the places where it is needed most. For more information, please go to www.umcor.org.

2015 Calendar for Altar Flowers Posted

Altar flowers may be given in memory or honor of loved ones or for special mission projects .

Fill out a form designating your wish and leave at the office or drop it off in the offering plate on Sunday. A new sign up sheet for Sundays through the June 28, 2015 has been posted in the hallway of the administration wing.

Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today.



Wednesdays

Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 PM

Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

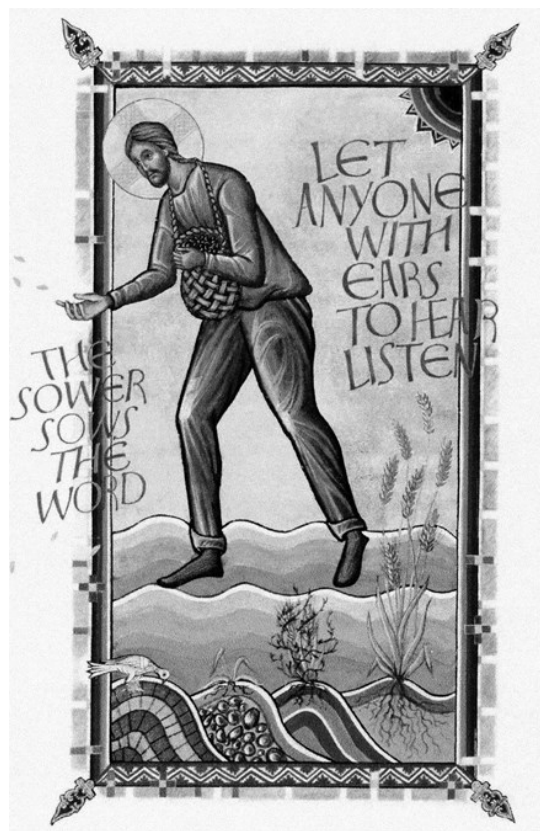
BRUNCH

We are continuing with our series, "Seeing the Word". We are learning to pray with the scriptures and to contemplate them in a whole new way—not just to learn things, but to let the Spirit of God speak to us as we focus on a word or phrase or piece of the illumination we have viewed.

As always, you do not need to have come to any previous BRUNCH sessions to try this one out—all are welcome for a communal meal following worship and then our time of learning and prayer. We hope to also take a field trip sometime this spring to San Antonio to see a Heritage edition of the St. John's Bible. We will not be meeting for BRUNCH on Sunday, March 29, as we will be preparing for Spring Fling later that day.

The St. John's Bible, which we are using in our series, is an illuminated manuscript, the first 500 years. Using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, over 10 years, artists hand-copied the entire Bible and "illuminated" it—with drawings and artwork meant to bring the text to life in new ways.

Illumination is from Mark 4:1-9





March Birthdays

- 1st Craig Amundson
- 2nd Travis Rychlik
- 3rd Elizabeth Bach-Miller
- 5th Linda Eaker
- 6th Carole Garner
Judy Johnson
- 7th David Amundson
Dorothy Burnup
Chad Ericson
- 9th Laura Elizabeth Smith
Grant Walker Zapalac
- 12th Wanda Anderson
Minda Egbert
Harrison Pomerleau
- 15th Jacy Kuruk Gray
- 16th Alberta Shelton
- 17th Chad Ericson
Elizabeth Aeon Petersen
- 19th Josh Jourdan
- 24th Courtney Garner
- 25th Jonathan Mohler
- 26th Misty Ericson
- 31st Deborah Bryant
Dorothy Johnson
Steve Reinhart

Building Use Calendar

Any group wanting to use a room at the church for a meeting needs to make arrangements with the church office. You can make a one-time reservation or an on-going reservation.



March Calendar

Sunday, March 1

- 8:45 am - Pancake Breakfast –Gym
- 9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am - Worship Service
- 11:45 am- BRUNCH
- 2:00 pm- CROP WALK at Camp Mabry

Monday, March 2

- 6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel
- 6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area
- 7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, March 3

- 9:30 am - Staff meeting
- 9:30 am - BIF-Bible Information Fellowship
UMW Circle - Pearce

Wednesday, March 4

- 10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

Friday, March 6

- 11:00 am - Women’s Bible Study –Moore

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

- 9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am - Worship Service
- 11:30 am - Trustees– Pearce
- 11:45 am - BRUNCH

Monday, March 9

- 6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel
- 6:00 pm - Girl Scouts –Gym area
- 7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

CALENDAR

CONTINUED

Tuesday, March 10

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees Arts and Crafts (formerly listed as knitting) - Pearce

6:30 pm - Wesley School Board - Pearce

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Reading and Library Circle– Library

Thursday, March 12

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society –Gym

Friday, March 13

Saturday, March 14

10:00 am - WPNA meeting– FHL/Gym

Sunday, March 15– Memorial For Christ

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:45 am - BRUNCH

Egg Stuffing

Monday, March 16

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:30 pm - Church Council –Pearce

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts –Gym area

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, March 17

9:30 am - Honeybees Arts and Crafts -Pearce

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

7:00 pm - Lamplighters, UMW Circle –NEW

Friday, March 20

11:00 am - Women's Bible Study –Moore

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:45 am - BRUNCH

Monday, March 23

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts –Gym area

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, March 24

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees Arts and Crafts - Pearce

Wednesday, March 25

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29– Palm Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:45 am - BRUNCH

Spring Fling

Monday, March 30

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts –Gym area

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, March 31

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees Arts and Crafts - Pearce

Looking Ahead

- Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
- Good Friday, April 3rd
- Easter Sunday, April 5th

Pastor's Corner

"[Jesus] would withdraw to deserted places and pray..." (Luke 5:16)

"A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program should include such leaves at least one week each year and at least one month during one year of every quadrennium." (*UM Book of Discipline 2012, paragraph 351.2*)

It is a little embarrassing to tell you that I haven't been following the rules of the Book of Discipline that I have promised to uphold. Now, going through the book, there are probably many things I haven't been able to do or had the time to do, but there is one thing that I am about 10 years overdue for—a study leave.

We see in the Gospels that Jesus took opportunities to go off by himself, often specifically to pray. Perhaps he also sought direction for his ministry. Almost assuredly he rested. All of these were important to the patterns of the ministry that he had, and they have all been proven over the years to be important to clergy as they seek to be health ministers of the Gospel.

The United Methodist Church provides for two kinds of pastoral continuing formation leave—study leave, which typically lasts 4 weeks; and sabbatical leave, which can last up to 6 months. I am taking a study leave, beginning April 6 and lasting until May 4. During my time, I hope to visit churches which are growing in their multi-cultural and diverse socio-economic outreach to find tools that Memorial can use in seeking its own growth in these areas in our neighborhood. I will also spend at least one week doing nothing but praying and listening to God on a silent retreat. In this time, I hope to come back refreshed and with a strong vision from God for how our congregation might move out and continue its vital work in our

neighborhood and community.

But there are many preparations to be made, not only for myself and my own plans, but also for the church. I am currently arranging for excellent preachers as well as other pastors to do hospital visitation and see to any other pastoral care needs. I am working with the staff and key church leaders to make sure that they have the tools they need to succeed while I am away. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or Wanda Adams, the SPRC chair.

What I have learned from watching other clergy prepare for their own leaves is that I need to TRUST GOD and to TRUST YOU. In so many ways over the past couple of years, you all have shown that you are faithful when I have placed trust in you, and so this time, we will take that even further. For that to work, all of us have to TRUST GOD. God will be faithful in providing for our needs. God will also be faithful in granting us hope and vision in the midst of our prayers. And I will not leave you without leadership, both lay and clergy. I ask that you join me in prayer during this time as we all contemplate what it will mean for Memorial UMC to be a Body of Christ in this area of Austin for many years to come.

Prayers I am praying and questions that I am carrying with me:

What might God be calling me to do? What might God be calling me to give up?

When and where has this church made a difference in our community? What continues to make us "church"? What change may be necessary in order to move into God's future?

Will you pray on those questions along with me?





Women's News

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. To everyone who helped make a success of all our events this past month.

1. The District meeting was a great success. Thanks to all who provided coffee hour goodies and helped with lunch. Thanks to Afton Cherry for broccoli and cheese soup, to Patty Marcum for potato soup, and Alberta Shelton for vegetable beef soup. Thanks too for all of the cornbread and cookies. Thanks to Carole Garner for setting up and overseeing the salad bar and to Wanda Adams for taking care of drinks. Thanks to Billie Nixon for decorating the tables. Thanks to Clayton Karrer for running the audio/visual equipment. Thanks to Cliff Masters, James Shelton and Pat Marcum for setting up tables and chairs and taking them down. We hosted about 80 people.
2. Thanks to Connie Tatom for a wonderful Prayer and Self Denial Meeting. The money is still coming in and we have a good offering to send off.
3. Thanks to the crew who always does a great job with first Sunday breakfast.
4. Thanks to everyone for the cornbread for the Chili Cook-Off.
5. Thanks to the crew who made the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper a success. We cleared \$100.00 for mission work. The crew was Billie Talley, Stephanie Lacy, Linda Eaker, Connie Tatom, and Alberta Shelton.

BIF had to cancel their meeting in February due to illness of almost everyone in the group. They will meet the first Tuesday in March.

Honeybees are selling scarves, tissue boxes, driving gloves and chicken egg covers for Easter. All these are beautifully handmade by members of the group under the leadership of Patty Marcum.

Reading and Library met and Alberta reviewed "Strong Was Her Faith" from the reading list. The book by J. Ellsworth Kalas tells the story of many New Testament women and their courage.

Our first quarter pledge has been paid as well as our membership to Church Women United. World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday, March 6. If you would like to go, call Alberta Shelton. If you do not have her contact information you may call the church office, 512-452-5796.

YOUTH NEWS

UMYF-United Methodist Youth Fellowship

3/1- UMYF after BRUNCH.

3/8- UMYF after BRUNCH.

3/13-3/14- SPRING BREAK LOCK-IN! Tentative time 9 pm to 6 am.

3/15- No UMYF

3/15- Church wide egg stuffing for Spring Fling at 5:00 pm

3/22- UMYF after BRUNCH.

3/29 - SPRING FLING! Set up right after church. Event is 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, then cleanup.

Other upcoming youth events:

April 18- Confirmation Celebration with Bishop Jim Dorf at St John's UMC 3-5 pm

May 22-24- 6th annual End of School Trip???

June 22-25- First ever Capital District Summer Camp at Mount Wesley!

Call, email or text Kendall for questions! If you don't have his information contact the church office, secretary@memorialumcaustin.com or 512-452-5796.

“Easter Lily Order Form”

The Easter Season is upon us again and it is time to place your orders for the Easter Lilies. The cost is \$10.00 a plant. Please fill in the information below to ensure that your message will be included in the Lily Insert on Easter Sunday. Return the form along with your payment no later than Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Messages to be placed in the Insert: _____

How many plants? (\$10.00 each) _____

Donate _____ or Keep _____

Return to Memorial United Methodist Church Attn: Laurie Strawbridge
6100 Berkman Dr., Austin, TX 78723

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