

# The Newsletter

## November 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.

#### *Sunday Schedule*

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

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

#### Web site:

[www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

#### Email:

[secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)

#### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, Thursday, and Friday

12:30 pm-3:00 pm

Phone: 512.452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323

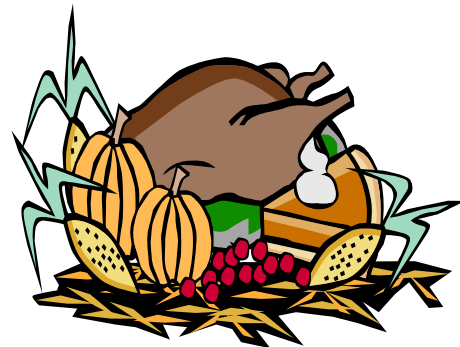
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## Toon In To Christmas



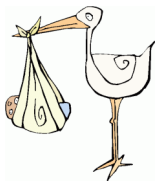
**Advent Sermon Series  
Featuring Pixar Shorts  
Starting November 8th**



**Consecration Sunday  
and Celebration  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
November 22, 2015**

**Memorial's Gym  
*Come, Share, Rejoice!***

# News from the Pews



## New Arrivals

Memorial's family and friends are blessed to have so many new babies this month.

Alberta Shelton has two new great-grandchildren. James Michael Shelton, was born October 1 to James Murry and Julissa Shelton of Buda. Michael G. and Irene Shelton are the proud grandparents. The baby weighed 7lbs. 6 oz. This is James and Julissa's first child and all is well.

Alberta's second newest great-grandchild was born October 21 to Alberta's granddaughter, Brittany Gale. The baby, Landrum Virgil Gale was welcomed by his two-year old brother, Liam. Landrum is the grandson of Matt Shelton. Alberta now has 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. With her busy schedule how can she keep up with all of them!

Ron Frederick announced he has a new cousin, Jaxon Dallas Frederick born October 2. I think he won the prize, his last count of cousins totals 105. Phew! Can you top this?

Steve and Kathy Reinhart are all excited about their first grandchild, Nolan Patrick Rehm, born on October 15. He weighed 7lbs. 9 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. He was born at St. David's North at 9:09 pm. Nolan's parents are Pat and Michelle Rehm. Nolan's other grandparents are Myron and Mag Rehm of Hallettsville, TX. Great-grandparents are Curtis Peschke of Austin, Marge Rehm of Hallettsville, and Joan and Bob Reinhart of Austin. Congratulations on Pat and Michelle's first baby. Can't wait to see him!

Now Katherine Eaker and Linda Eaker are both proud to announce the birth of Drew Patrick Bryla

on October 19. He is the son of Jennifer and Eric Bryla of Fredericksburg, TX. His grandparents are Judy and Jim Dwyer of Frankston, TX. Drew weighed 7 lbs. and was the third child of the family. Will and Jake are both proud of their new brother. This makes Katherine Eaker the great-grandmother of 10 children now. Bless you. Keep us in touch with their progress.



## In Sympathy

Love and concern go to Grant Walker Zapalac and his mother, Tina Zapalac-Nixon in the death of Grant's sister, Victoria Sade Zapalac, age 7, who was killed in a car wreck in Smithville, on September 30, 2015. Victoria was a happy, loving child that enjoyed doing for others.

Funeral services were October 5, 2015 at 2:00 pm at First Baptist Church in Smithville, Texas. Graveside services followed in Oak Hill Cemetery.

How sad for one so full of love and life to go at such a young age. May God bless this family with comfort and love.

**Submitted by Billie Nixon**  
**Membership Coordinator**

## Memorial United Methodist



*All Saints' Sunday*

*November 1, 2015*

*We Remember :*

***William Otto Mittag, Jr.***

***Edwin "Eddie" Smith***

***Elizabeth Scott***



## Women's News

Submitted by Alberta Shelton

The Executive Committee of the United Methodist Women met October 24, 2015 at Tres Amigos for lunch, fellowship, and planning amid the rain. The following decisions were made:

1. Spiritual Growth Study on finding Happiness in Your Faith Journey will be held on Tuesday nights, January 26, February 2nd, and February 9th. Supper will be at 6:00pm followed by the study at 6:30pm. The study will be led by Pastor Cynthia. February 9th is Shrove Tuesday and the meal will be the traditional pancake supper. A \$5 donation will be happily received.
2. The unit will send an additional \$150 along with the quarterly pledge to Conference Missions to help with the conference shortfall.
3. Stephanie Lacy will lead the study on Church and Disabilities on a Saturday to be determined later.
4. Sandy Wilder will be contacted to lead a study on Latin America.

**All church members are invited to attend any of the studies.**

5. Time of Prayer and Self Denial will be led by Connie Tatom on Monday, March 21st at 7pm. The program will follow a day-long prayer vigil. This is during Holy Week.
6. Sale of baked goods, crafts, books, and white elephant items will be held on the Sunday of the Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 22)
7. Sunday morning breakfast will continue to be held on the first Sunday of the month. We appreciate the church's support and donations of \$5 to the missions program of United Methodist Women.
8. We will extend an invitation to Church Women United to meet in our facility in 2016.

The following announcements were made:

1. Alberta Shelton plans to attend the UMW Jurisdictional meeting in April and invites anyone interested to join her in going to Oklahoma City.
2. Another member of Memorial's UMW team has joined the Montopolis Friendship Center Board. Stephanie Lacy has accepted the position of Coordinator of Early Childhood Education Program operated by the center on Monday –Friday.

Additional news is that Patty Marcum and Alberta Shelton were a part of the historic first meeting of the Rio Texas UMW Conference. They each purchased Rio Texas t-shirts and if you are interested in purchasing one for \$20 they can order them. The shirts are blue with the conference logo.

## MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**Come join your church family  
for a pancake breakfast on**

**November 1**

**8:30 AM in the gym.**



## Can You Help with Our Church History?

Craig Peterson is collecting pictures and history documents of the Central Methodist Church and the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church. If you have any he would like to make copies.

You can bring them by the church office.



## Consecration Sunday and Celebration Thanksgiving Dinner November 22, 2015

### Memorial's Gym

Immediately following the Worship Service, come to the Celebration Thanksgiving Dinner.

Turkey, dressing and drinks will be provided.

Please bring 2 side dishes to share.

(If you would like to donate or cook a turkey,  
please talk with Billie Nixon.)

***Come, Share, Rejoice!***



### Used Shoe Drive!

Once again, we will be collecting old shoes between now and Thanksgiving for one of our partners, Redemptive Work. Redemptive Work offers coaching and connects people who have barriers to employment with services which can help them get on their feet. Redemptive Work is paid by the pound for the shoes they collect from all over the city.

In addition to the good that you can do through Redemptive Work, which is a ministry of Parker Lane UMC, another congregation here in Austin, you can keep lots of shoes out of the landfill! Over 600

million shoes from the US alone wind up in landfills every year. Instead, these shoes will be taken and used to provide jobs, either by repairing them or by using them as raw materials for economic opportunity in developing countries—helping to lift people out of poverty both here in Austin and overseas!

Bring any shoes you wish to donate to Memorial by November 29, and feel free to ask for a flier to give to your neighbors. This is a great (and easy!) mission project to invite them to participate in! Shoes can be in any condition. Contact Pastor Cynthia or the church office for more information.



### UMYF-United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Sun 11/1 – UMYF right after church 12-2

Sun 11/8 - UMYF right after church 12-2

Sun 11/15 – FreeStore work day 1-3

Sun 11/22 – Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner right after church

Sun 11/29 – No Youth (Thanksgiving Weekend)

We are still looking for the best date for our Star Wars Marathon to watch all six previous movies before the new one comes out in late December... fun, right?! Someone suggested 11/20. Stay tuned on that.

Also, the District Lock-In date has been set for Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>, the day after AISD school lets out and will again be at Blazer Lazer tag. Mark your calendars now!

**Feel free to contact Kendall for more information, 512-844-6809 or [kendallsmith@accentfoods.com](mailto:kendallsmith@accentfoods.com).**

**See you on Sunday!**

**Kendall**

# CALENDAR

## **Sunday, November 1 All Saints Day/ Communion**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

8:30 am - UMW Pancake Breakfast

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

12:00 pm - UMYF (Youth group)

## **Monday, November 2**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, November 3**

### **Election day, voting in the gym**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - BIF (Bible Information Fellowship)  
United Methodist Women— Pearce Room

## **Wednesday, November 4**

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

## **Sunday, November 8**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:30 am - Trustees— Pearce Room

12:00 pm - UMYF (Youth group)

## **Monday, November 9**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, November 10**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

7:00 pm - Wesley Board —Pearce

## **Wednesday, November 11**

### **Veterans Day**

10: 00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

7:00 pm - UMW Reading and Library group

## **Thursday, November 12**

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society— gym

## **Saturday, November 14**

10:00 am - Windsor Park Neighborhood

Association Monthly Meeting— gym

## **Sunday, November 15 Memorial for Christ**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

1:00 pm - UMYF— youth help at Free Store

## **Monday, November 16**

### Newsletter Deadline

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

6:30 pm - Church Council-Pearce room

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, November 17**

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees UMW crafting group

## **Wednesday, November 18**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

## **Sunday, November 22-Consecration Sunday**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

12:00 pm - Thanksgiving Dinner

## **Monday, November 23**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts -Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, November 24**

9:30 am - Staff Meeting



# CALENDAR

## CONTINUED

### Wednesday, November 25

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day– Office Closed

### Friday, November 27

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

### Sunday, November 29 Apportionment Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

### Monday, November 30

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts -Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony– Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## Looking Ahead

December 6– Hanging of the Greens

December 13– Special Musical Presentation

December 24– Christmas Eve Service

December 25– Christmas Day



# Birthdays

4th Karl Amundson

7th Holly (Shelton) Wright

10th Wanda Stout Adams

11th Mary Beth O'Hanlon

15th Afton Pomerleau Cherry

16th Jonathan Ader

17th Lester Bryant

Philip Lowe

Jessica Christine McFarland

18th Stefani Stephens

24th Bob Hauser

25th Pat Gibson

Barbara Metzger

27th David Elliott

Alma Madison

Billie Nixon

28th Ronald Dee Gray

29th Ross Hise

## 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.

## 2016 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. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and sign up today.***

# Pastor's Corner

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19*

At our Church Conference a couple of weeks ago, I showed a Pixar "short"—one of the short cartoons that Pixar shows before its feature-length movies. It's called "Lifted", and it depicts what amounts to an alien "driving test" in which a young alien is attempting to abduct a sleeping person from their bed. He presses wrong buttons from amongst the thousands in front of him, and the man (still sleeping!) is shown bouncing all around his bedroom. Even when it looks like he has gotten it right, he presses a button too soon and the man plummets to the ground, only to be saved by the instructor, who quickly rights everything. The instructor, who takes the wheel of the spaceship from the trainee, watches as the trainee dissolves into a puddle of tears. Finally, the instructor relents and allows the trainee to fly off, but not before the trainee drives the spaceship into the ground and ends up hauling a lot of the dirt off with him. It's a funny coming-of-age story.

I talked about how Memorial seems to be in a time of transition—which is essentially what "coming of age" is. Our financial situation has had a huge turn this year. For the last two years, we were able to fund all of our ministries and the building and staff and even consider major repairs and expansion. This year, we are facing a \$35-\$40,000 deficit. Instead of panicking, I suggested that this may be God's way of saying that it is time to completely rethink how we go about ministry.

In "Lifted", the young alien is faced with a dizzying array of possibilities. While the situation may seem silly to illuminate the state of our congregation, we are faced with a similarly dizzying array of possibilities. We push one button or invite one person, and things seem to go in the right direction. But then we push another button and all of a sudden, we have dropped an average of 10 in worship. Or we think we're on the cusp of something amazing and then at the last minute, we move sideways into unfamiliar territory. It's difficult to know what to do, and we'd like to impress our Teacher—we'd like to drive our own ship.

Here's the thing. The Teacher in the seat next to us is trustworthy. Jesus doesn't so much want to be impressed by us as to see us doing what we're called to do—and to remember that this is God's kingdom, not our own. Our task is faithfulness to the primary mission—the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have to depend on God to make a river in the desert...a new way where there seems like no way. BUT—we have to be willing to follow in that Way.

So what we are called to do in the moment is to take the time to pray and discern—we are asked to perceive what it is that God is doing. What if we have all that we need to do what God is calling us to do, even if that looks different from what we've always done? Perhaps it is time not to look to impress God or ourselves or our neighbors, but to simply ask "what's next?". And then to ask "how might we most faithfully get to the place God wants us to be?". And then, no matter what those changes might look like, no matter where it takes us, do what God is asking us to do.

Maybe then our neighborhood—and us!—together might be "lifted" up for the sake of witnessing to God's movement in our midst. My prayer is that you will pray along with the leadership of the church—for faithfulness in all things: in our giving and in the way we do ministry.



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