

The Newsletter

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 Worship

Find all our Newsletters on our

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

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Sunflower Bloom at Memorial United Methodist Church July 2020

Photo Credit: K. Nixon

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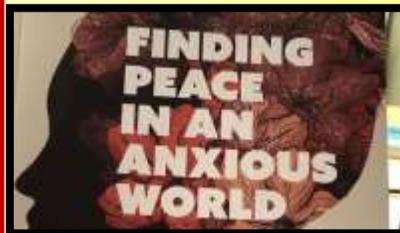
August 2020

So You Want to Talk About Race

To be blunt, most of us don't want to talk about race. We have opinions that we think may be unpopular or we have been cut down before for something we have said and truly, race is a difficult conversation to have.



But as Christians, we can't shy away from difficult conversations, and we especially can't shy away from understanding difficult topics from the perspectives of those we seldom hear from. We can't shy away from an area where we might potentially need to repent. Through conversations on this book, we hope to find a place where we are authentically ourselves, but in a way that allows us to wrestle with the role that race has played in our world and in our lives of faith. Contact Pastor Cynthia to join the conversation, call or text # 512-677-9386



Finding Peace in an Anxious World

The United Methodist Women's Spiritual Growth study is not just open to women! Though by the time this newsletter goes out, we will have already sent out study packets and books, contact the office to see if we have any extra copies. If you wish to keep a book, they are \$10 (scholarships available).

Written in 2015 as a series using Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer", the UMW did not plan for this to be as timely as it is. Through reading and the accompanying questions and exercises, it is our hope that you might discover God in the ancient wisdom of our Jewish siblings and in the modern prayer written by a Christian theologian. Call or email the office at 512-452-5796 secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

For instructions about how to worship online see May 2020 Newsletter.



UM Army this year went into a dramatic change due to Covid-19, but thankfully the leadership

was able to be innovative in these hard times. The UM Army staff decided to not cancel, but to do local missions. Since we weren't able to go out of town or interact with people, we chose to do service work at the church.

We were able to redo the youth room, do work in the sanctuary, power wash some of the outside, clean some of the gym floor, and participate in the recording of Sunday worship. We are glad we were able to do these things in compliance with social distancing by staying 6 feet apart, wearing masks, washing hands, and wearing gloves.

This week we were able to see God move by seeing him use our youth to serve the church with a cheerful heart. We are



extremely thankful to have had one of our Wesley Recreation students participate with us. We are thankful for our youth and their eagerness to serve its church body in these difficult times.

Daphne Turnage: Youth Director
512-452-5796 x 104

Congratulations on your Engagement!



*Daniel
Swayze and
Anna
Westbrook*



August Birthdays

- 4 Melanie Baccus
- 5 Doris Owens
- 6 Christian Ramos
- 14 Taryn Stewart
- 15 Lonan Zia Gray
- 21 Janet Clark
- 22 Lynda Rychlik
- 25 Karin Crumbling
- 26 Felicity Rodriguez
- 27 David Chandler
- Patricia Ericson
- Wallace Fowler
- 28 Kerry Schmidt McFarland
- 29 Vidette (Kiki) Corry
- Michele Reinhart Rehm
- 30 Scooter Cheatham
- 31 Richard Friedrich
- Julie Gonzales



Werner Stalbaum, 88, of Austin, TX passed away on Monday, June 29, 2020 while a resident at Sagebrook Senior Health Center. He was born in Bellville, TX on December 1, 1931. Werner graduated from Bellville High School in 1949. He was married to his high school sweetheart; “the love of his life”, Margie Dean Rinn on November 11, 1950. Werner worked as a commissioned salesman for the majority of his professional career selling industrial fastener products. He was a dedicated and loyal employee of Tifco Industries for 50 years and received many awards and recognitions throughout those 50 years. One of the things he, and our mom, Margie looked forward to every year was the annual banquet that Tifco would provide for their top salespeople – always an incentive for him to get out there and make those sales! Dad enjoyed first and foremost being a husband to our Mom, Margie - he loved her like no other and treated her like a woman should be treated. Their marriage wasn’t always perfect, but I am certain that is why they stay married for 69 years – they knew how to work through the difficult times but always ended up loving each other. Their marriage has been a true testament and example to their children and their grandchildren.

Dad also enjoyed his family - he loved his family with his whole being – never missed a school function of his 5 kids (unless he was traveling for his job) and attended as many of his grandchildren’s functions as possible. To his 5 children; he was a strict disciplinarian when it was needed but was also the kindest and most loving dad around – which together with our mom, is why the 5 of us turned out pretty darn good. He would do and did do anything that his children needed – he never told any of us “no” when we needed help. He loved large family gatherings – nothing made him happier than when he was surrounded by his kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Dad loved barbequing; making his traditional eggnog during our family Christmas Eve gatherings; gardening; each of his and mom’s pet dogs throughout the years – especially their last one Suzy Q; sitting outside; horse racing; football; laughing; being funny (or trying to); and he loved his beer! By far, Dad’s most favorite holiday was April Fool’s Day. As kids growing up, you knew you better be on your toes, because Dad was going to get you. He and one of his grandsons, Michael, who lived across the street during his teenage

years would do some quite elaborate April Fool’s jokes on each other -of which they still laughed about up until Dad’s memory started fading more rapidly. Dad was loved by anyone and everyone who met him.

The family would like to give a very, very special thanks to Rosa Hasselberg, who cared for both Dad and Mom for 3 years until we were forced to move them to a nursing home facility. She gave so much of herself to provide them both loving and compassionate care. The family would also like to thank Encompass Hospice for the loving care provided to Dad (and our entire family) for almost a year – a special recognition to Julian Rodriguez for the love you gave to our Dad. And last, but certainly not least a very special thank you to Sagebrook Senior Health Center for the loving care provided to Dad during the last 6 months of Dad’s life. Thank you for allowing several of Dad’s family to be able to visit him during what turned out to be the last few hours of his life – even during the Covid restrictions; you showed such compassion by allowing his family to love on him one final time.

Werner is survived by Margie Stalbaum, his wife of 69 years; five children – Debbie Stratton (Mike); Robert Stalbaum, Sr.(Debbie); Stephen Stalbaum (Janet); Angela Stalbaum (Moe); Darren Stalbaum (Kassie). Eleven Grandchildren – Serena Bumpus (Ross); Michael “Corky” Stratton (Andi); Robert Stalbaum, Jr. (Jennifer); Meaghan Stalbaum; Jennifer Feldman (Brook); Racheal Benitez (Michael); Alisha Hobson (Denny); Casey Barone (Matt); Brandon Knapp; Austin Stalbaum; Sydney Stalbaum. Also survived and loved by 16 great grandchildren. Last but not least, he is survived by 2 nieces and 2 nephews. He is preceded in death by his mother and father; and his two siblings.

A viewing was held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, July 7 at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home & Cemetery; 14501 North Ih-35; Pflugerville, TX. Graveside services were held at 11:00 am. Although the family would have loved for as many of you to attend as possible; we also understand not having been able to attend given the current Covid concerns – we know you are holding us all in your hearts and lifting us in prayers.

Everette Owens, Jr. died peacefully at home in Stonewall, Texas on Friday, June 26, 2020. He lived a long and full life of 91 years and 10 months, during which he led by example and showed compassion and kindness to all who had the good fortune to cross his path. He was a loving family man with abundant energy and an incredible sense of humor. He lived life on his own terms and shared with his family this week



3 that he was ready for his upcoming journey.

Everette and Doris, his wife of 71 years, were totally devoted to one another. Theirs was a story of everlasting love and the very best of friendships. Just this week, Everette recalled the first time he saw Doris and told his buddy that he was going to ask her for a date. Fortunately, he did. After that, as the saying goes, “they were joined at the hip” for life. They met and married in rural Louisiana and dedicated their lives to caring for and enriching the lives of others.

After 20 years of service and travel with the United States Air Force, Doris, Everette, and their children, Rosalind and Rodney, moved and settled in Austin, Texas. Everette earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Texas at Austin and worked as a school teacher. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Counseling from Texas State University and spent 17 years as a Unit Director at the Travis State School, where he promoted quality care for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Everette embraced and connected deeply with people of all ages and from all walks of life, and could tell a great joke. He and Doris treated everyone as family and neither has ever met a stranger. After retiring, they traveled together in their RV making lifelong friends and building beautiful memories. These travels provided Everette with lots of opportunities to enjoy fishing, his favorite pastime. He especially loved camping and hiking in the mountains of Colorado where he could be counted on to bring home a good stringer at the end of the day.

Everette was like the energizer bunny—always “ready to go” until the very end of his life. When walking long distances was no longer an option, he embraced his power wheel chair and was hard to keep up with. He knew every waitperson by name in all of his local haunts and they were always glad to see him coming. He was a diehard Longhorn and a lifetime member of the Texas Exes. He will be missed by all who knew him and his legacy of care and service provide a model for a life well lived.

Everette was preceded in death by brothers Wayne and Delmond Owens and sister Bobbye Gordy. He is survived by his wife Doris Owens of Stonewall, TX; daughter Rosalind and husband John Merz of Stonewall, TX; son Rodney Owens and wife Debbie of New Braunfels, TX; grandchildren Brandon and Allison Owens of Austin, TX; brother Donald Owens of Simpson, LA and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to the current national health emergency, and consistent with Everette’s wishes, the funeral was private with a celebration of life to follow at a future date. The family wants to thank Audra, Theresa, Monica, William, and all of the staff at Hill Country Memorial Hospice who gave extraordinary comfort and care to Everette and his family during recent months. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to: Hill Country Memorial Hospice, 808 Reuben St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624.



Jean W. Sheffield, age 89, passed away July 12, 2020. She was born August 1, 1930 in Bastrop, Texas to Melvin and Leona (Hoffman) Watson. Jean graduated from Austin High School in 1947. She then attended the University of Texas College of Pharmacy and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Pharmacy. Jean was quite the trailblazer in her pursuit of

education and was one of the first women in the Pharmacy program at the University of Texas. Upon graduation, she worked as a Pharmacist at the University of Texas Student Health Center. In 1955 she married the love of her life, William J. Sheffield. From 1955 to 1977 Jean devoted herself to raising her children and taking care of the home front. In 1977 she returned to her work as a Pharmacist as the Director of Organizational Affairs and Pharmacy Recovery Network with the Texas Pharmacy Association. She was the founder of the Pharmacy Recovery Network in Texas and mentored several other states in starting a Pharmacy Recovery Network. Jean retired in 1997 as the Senior Director of the Pharmacy Recovery Network with the Texas Pharmacy Association. Throughout her career she was very active in various Pharmaceutical organizations and published many articles. Jean was also the recipient of numerous awards and honors throughout her career.

Although very accomplished in the world of Pharmacy, Jean’s greatest love was spending time with her family. Jean and William enjoyed traveling the world and she shared this love with her children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed gardening and genuinely loved all animals. After retiring, Jean volunteered at Handcrafts Unlimited in Georgetown for many years.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Leona Watson and her beloved husband, William J. Sheffield. Graveside services were held at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, July 19, 2020 at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Jean’s memory can be made to your favorite Veteran’s charity or animal rights charity.

Jean is a member that many of you may not remember. She was very active when her three children were growing up. She, Thelma Latz and Betty Sampler were all involved with our youth, MYF, Girl Scouts and of course Betty added her talents of music. Jean and her husband were both pharmacists, Lisa was in the military and Bill is very active in the theater field. There were wonderful to be involved in the whole church together.



Love, prayers and condolences for your loss out to each of these families, from everyone here at Memorial. May God bless you with His comfort at this difficult time.



The Pastor's Corner



*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.*

*Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126, NRSV*

We have entered Month 5 of being apart from each other physically. Spring completely bypassed us—I looked at the early worship videos the other day and discovered that I was wearing turtlenecks in the beginning! We are well into summer, and I hope that the trends of the last few days here in Austin (fewer cases, fewer numbers in the hospital) continue to go down.

But the question always is, what are we doing in the meantime? Where have your prayers been lately?

The Bible is full of agricultural metaphors, likely because it was something that almost everyone had a base knowledge of. Jesus uses plenty of stories about seeds and sowers and even Paul references such things. Psalm 126 was a pilgrim's song—a part of a longer song cycle of psalms that were chanted or sung as pilgrims made their way up the steps into the city of Jerusalem.

It feels like we are also on a pilgrimage right now, though there's no map out in front of us. Still—it's interesting to me that a pilgrim might sing agricultural songs, since it seems as though a pilgrim on the move might not be the best choice for singing songs about tending a particular planting.

It's instructive for these days, though. It's somewhat of the opposite—we have been staying isolated and still, but it feels like a very long journey. And along that journey, I can guarantee that we have been planting seeds.

Sometimes those seeds have been seeds that are accompanied by tears. In fact, frequently on this particular journey we have mourned things that are not possible right now. The congregation has had several deaths which we have been unable to commemorate in person. We have missed graduation celebrations, weddings and simply the weekly time of getting together for worship and Sunday School. Our youth had to modify their camp time, and our choir hasn't been able to sing in each other's presence, hearing the harmonies lift our spirits.

In the midst of this, we have also learned new ways of doing things—new ways of intentionally being present to each other and especially reaching out to those who are not at the center of our worshiping life together. What will it mean when we are cleared to begin doing some of the old things again? Will we also have sowed seeds that will lead to a harvest of connection where more people feel included?

You have a part in this. You are a planter, whether you plant with tears or with hope (or both!). Who are you reaching out to? Who are you praying for? See you in the fields...

Synthia Kepler-Haver

August Newsletter



August is normally the time we would be talking about gathering school supplies and donating to our Harris supply fund. We would be having conversations about doing breakfast for the teachers coming back for in-service and workdays. We would be planning on doing a meet-and-greet for the new principal at Harris as well as starting back up the Wesley Rec program that our youth director, Daphne, made such a fantastic start of.

But this year, we are in limbo. School will be starting (at least the first three weeks) online. Parents are talking about establishing small groups for help with instruction. When kids do come back, they will need even more support because they may not be able to share supplies as much as they had in the past.

We will keep you up to date with how we are supporting kids and parents and teachers at Harris, even if it doesn't look the same. For now, what we really need is your prayers—any of the solutions carry a great deal of risk, either to academic/social development or teacher/student relationships or the health of everyone in the school.

The address of Harris Elementary is 1711 Wheless Lane. If you translate 1711 to a 24-hour-clock, that makes it 5:11PM. Please set an alarm at 5:11PM every day and stop to pray for schools, parents, teachers and students in general and Harris specifically, that they may discern a way to be safe and provide the best education they can.

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