

The Newsletter

January 2018

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

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

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Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

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January 2018



January 7th—Epiphany Sunday Covenant Renewal

Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi to worship Jesus. At the first of the year, we also take time to renew our covenant with God, a Wesleyan tradition. Join us for this special service and take time to be attentive to the signs God is sending!



January 14th— Baptism of the Lord

The Sunday following Epiphany is almost always when we celebrate Jesus' baptism. It is also an appropriate day for baptisms and renewals of baptism. If you have not been baptized and wish to be, please let Pastor Cynthia know immediately so that she can meet with you to discuss this important gift from God in a life of faith.

News From Pews

By Billie Nixon

Membership Coordinator



Women's News

Submitted by Alberta Shelton

This has been a challenging year for our unit. We grieved the loss of five members: Ann Bryant, Alma Madison, Kathy Gray, Dorothy Johnson and Norma Jones, all of whom were remembered at the Capital District's candle burning memorial in September. We rejoiced in the addition of new members Renee Simmons, Gerry Almquist, and Carol Logan.

At Christmas time we prepared 15 bags filled with gift items for our shut-ins and worked with the ESL class during the year under Carol's guidance.



We raised money for mission projects which included:

- Montopolis Friendship Community Center - \$300
- Church Women United - \$50
- Church World service = \$10
- Legacy Fund for UMW Future - \$50
- Uganda Mission - \$50
- Memorial and Candle burning - \$85
- Money to Mission in Honor of two individuals - \$80
- Pledge to Mission - \$1,000

Total of \$1,645.66



We collected right around \$200 for Brown Santa

Together We Make Children Smile



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8

We welcome 2018 with hopeful spirits and open hearts, looking forward to what the new year will bring for our Memorial family.

If you didn't make our Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Cantata and our Christmas Eve Candlelight service in December, you missed a good time of fellowship and tradition.

To be sure to keep up with upcoming events and activities, please see future newsletters, and all past Newsletters are available online at www.MemorialUMCAustin.com and via email upon request to secretary@MemorialUMCAustin.com

Current Newsletters are available in the Narthex for a month or two.



At the end of the year we will clean out our treasury and more money will be sent to projects. One that we are very interested in is The Refuge. This is a ranch

near Bastrop where victims of human trafficking can go for rehab from the horrors they have experienced. We invite you to see information on our bulletin board on this project. There are opportunities there for memorial gifts in honor of loved ones if you are so inclined.



We had three members attend the Capital District Meeting, two members attended the Rio Texas Conference UMW meeting in Corpus Christi and Alberta Shelton along with Holly and Kamika attended Mission U in Kerrville. With their regular attendance at Conference events, the girls have developed friends all over the conference. What a great experience it has been for them. It is always great to see our own Clayton Karrer as song leader at Mission U. We had four women qualify as One Minute Women meaning they donated money in the amount of one minute of mission to the UMW. They are Renee Simmons, Alberta Shelton, Connie Tatum and Joanne Bennink We are proud that four of our women serve on the Board of Montopolis Friendship Community Center and one served as an officer for Church Women United.



Finance Update

CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

On Sunday, January 7, 2018, we will have a called charge conference in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on whether or not to remove funds from savings to fill in the anticipated gaps in funding for 2017.

What usually happens at Memorial UMC is that December is a good month. Some people use that month to “catch up” on their estimate of giving for the year. Some people plan on giving in that month for tax purposes. Some folks have disbursements from retirement or savings accounts that make it possible for them to give in that month. At the writing of this article, we don’t know what kind of December we will have, but we pray as always for all of us to be faithful with what God has given to us.

Just in case you wanted to get in on giving to our new Sanctuary HVAC system, the Finance Team has arranged for a loan to cover the outstanding balance. We had just over \$18,000 pledged toward the unit—over halfway there! We will continue to take pledges over the next several months in order to pay off the loan.



**On Epiphany Sunday
Jan. 7th, we will be collecting
underwear and socks for Harris
Elementary.**



*****They especially need
the smaller sizes.*****

Pancake Breakfast



Join Your Church
Every 2nd Sunday
of the month for
Pancake Breakfast in
the Gym
January 14 8:30am

Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?



Bread Church
Thursday 7pm
January 18th in the Gym



We now have an option to give to Memorial UMC online through our website. This way of giving is not meant to replace normal giving paths (electronic funds transfer, checks or cash), but to offer people an additional way to support the ministry of the church. If you have friends or know of people who have wondered how they can give to the church for a memorial donation or to support a ministry outreach that they are particularly interested in, that's a great place to send them. We hope to get connected to more folks who value the ministry that we do and want to support it through giving. For more information, contact the church office at 512-452-5796.
www.MemorialUMCAustin.com



Girl Scout Troop 172

continues to grow. Membership is at 28 now. We are the largest Troop in the Council at this time. We

just completed a successful Fall Products Sale. Thanks for your support. Cookie sales begin January 17 and cookies will be on sale after church on Sundays through February. The girls recently rededicated themselves at a ceremony at Covenant United Methodist Church. They have had two outdoor weekend camp-outs this fall. See Alberta Shelton for more info.

Meet The 2018 Cookies



Girl Scout S'mores™ Crispy graham cookie double dipped in yummy crème icing and finished with a scrumptious chocolaty coating.



Thin Mints® Crispy chocolate wafers dipped in a mint chocolaty coating.



Caramel deLites® Vanilla cookies topped with caramel, sprinkled with toasted coconut, and laced with chocolaty stripes.



Peanut Butter Patties® Crispy vanilla cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating.



Shortbread Traditional shortbread cookies.



Peanut Butter Sandwich Crisp and crunchy oatmeal cookies with creamy peanut butter filling.



Lemonades® Savory slices of shortbread with a refreshingly tangy lemon flavored icing.



Thanks-A-Lot™ Shortbread cookies dipped in rich fudge and topped with an embossed thank-you message in one of five languages.

PASTOR'S CORNER

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Matthew 2:9-10

Sometimes a star surprises you. Our Bread Church recipe for the last couple of months has produced bread that comes complete with a star. You don't set out to make a star—it just forms as you're shaping the bread.

I sometimes wonder what else we miss because it's not something that we are actively involved in trying to make happen. I think it happens all the time in people, especially kids—we try so hard to help them be what we want them to be that we begin to miss who they are and who they are becoming.

I also note that after greeting the child, the Magi followed instructions to go home by another way. Perhaps that is our cue to notice what is happening...and then become something different. Perhaps to turn closer to God. It is a new year, but God is always there waiting on us. A star appears for you, not just in the Christmas season, but at every time of the year. You didn't put it there. But I urge you not to miss it.

Cinnamon Star Bread

2 cups Unbleached All-Purpose Flour	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup instant mashed potato flakes	2 teaspoons instant yeast (or 1 packet)
1/4 cup nonfat dry milk	2 tablespoons sugar
3/4 cup to 1 cup lukewarm water	1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature	

Sprinkle the yeast over 1/4 cup of the water, just to soften it.

Put all of the ingredients (except the yeast mix and the rest of the water) into a bowl. Then pour 1/2 cup of the rest of the water and the yeast mixture over the other ingredients.

Mix everything together. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until it becomes a smooth dough. Use a little bit more water if you have too much flour at the bottom that isn't mixing in. Gather into a smooth ball and place in a clean bowl and cover.

Let rise 1 hour or until roughly doubled in size. Punch the dough down and divide into 4 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a sphere and let those rest for about 10 minutes.

Filling ingredients: Mix 1/2 cup sugar and 1 Tbsp. cinnamon; beaten egg (don't mix that in!)

Roll out the first piece of dough into a rough circle—you can either do this on parchment or place it on the parchment paper after you've rolled it out. Use a pastry brush to brush the beaten egg on the surface, then sprinkle the cinnamon sugar mixture on the top, leaving about a 1/4 in gap at the edges.

Roll out the next piece of dough—don't worry if it's not exactly the same size and shape. Just get a rough approximation. It will all work out! Place on top of the first circle and repeat the egg wash and the sprinkling. Do this with the third piece of dough as well. Finally, roll out the final piece of dough and place it on top without the egg wash or cinnamon.

Place something that is about a 2 inch circle in the center (can be a glass or anything you have handy) but don't break through the surface—just press down enough to leave an indentation. Then take a knife and cut from the edge of the circle to the edge of the dough. Cut 16 total strips all the way around the circle. Then take two strips and twist them towards each other twice, joining them at the edge of the dough. Do this all the way around. Then let rise for about 45 minutes.

Bake in a 400 degree oven for 12-15 minutes or until the center registers 200 degrees.

Ingredients and shaping instructions are also online at:

<https://blog.kingarthurfLOUR.com/2017/11/01/cinnamon-star-bread-bakealong/>



JANUARY CALENDAR

There are several ongoing events that may not be listed. Please check the building use calendar or with the office if you need to use space in 2018.

Monday January 1 OFFICE CLOSED

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

Tuesday January 2

Wednesday January 3

11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping Each Wednesday

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 4 Resume Office Hours

Friday January 5

Saturday January 6

9:00-11:00am FreeStore Shopping Each Saturday

9:00am-12:00pm Crop Hunger Walk - NEW Rm.

1:00pm-3:00pm Girl Scouts - Gym/Believer's

Sunday January 7 Epiphany Sunday

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Called Charge Conference

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

Monday January 8

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

Tuesday January 9

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

Wednesday January 10

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 11

8:00am-1:00pm English Class Registration- Parlor

7:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

Friday January 12

6:00pm-9:30pm Austin Ukulele Society - Parlor

Saturday January 13

10am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. - FHL

Sunday January 14 Pancake Breakfast and Baptism of the Lord

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday January 15

(February Newsletter Content Deadline)

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday January 16

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

Wednesday January 17

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 18

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

Friday January 19

Saturday January 20

Sunday January 21

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday January 22

Tuesday January 23

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

Wednesday January 24

Thursday January 25

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

Friday January 26

5:00pm-10:00pm Christ Church - Gym/FHL

Saturday January 27

Sunday January 28

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday January 29

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday January 30

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

Wednesday January 31

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal



January Birthdays

- 1st Jean Breazeale
- 2nd Candy Valentine
- 4th Jeremy Mohler
- 5th Bambi Teaney
- 8th Mary Bryant
- 11th Johnie Madison
- 12th Kay Dunbar
Matthew Shelton
- 13th Kendall Smith
- 15th Susan Froebel
- 16th Carl Helge
Travis Purtle
- 17th James Shelton
- 21st Clay Ericson
Eric Reinhart
- 23rd Connie Tatom
- 26th Steve Jourdan
- 28th Catherine Lancaster
- 31st Kirk Amundson



Please be in prayer for our congregation and friends.



2018 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!

DIRECTORY UPDATES NEEDED

We get a lot of returned EMAIL and returned mail. In addition, we've got some outdated phone numbers.

PLEASE send updated information either by email or a clearly printed note with your name, new email address, phone number or mailing address so that we may do these updates.

Thank You!

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com



Pew Crosses For Sale \$25

Last year, Pat Marcum fashioned crosses from the dismantled pews.

We now have these crosses for sale in either a free-standing form or a wall-hanging form. They are \$25 apiece, and all funds will go to updates to the sanctuary (like the carpeting). This is a beautiful opportunity to have a piece of Memorial in your home. Please contact the church office for more information on getting your own cross (512-452-5796).



February 11th

The Chili Cook Off to Return

Mark your calendars, the Chili Cook Off will be held in the gym after Worship Service to benefit the Rainbow Class for their annual Kingdom Kamp over Labor Day Weekend.

Ask Wanda Stout Adams or Susan Froebel for details. More info to come.

