

# The Newsletter

## January 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.

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Find us on Facebook at  
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Web site:

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

### *Sunday Schedule*

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

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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# This Month

## Youth Mid-Winter Retreats

January 9-11, Sr. High

and

January 23-25, Mission

### Sermon Series:

## Why Are We Here?

### *Lectionary Scriptures:*

**January 4-** Isaiah 60:1-6,  
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

**January 11-** Genesis 1:1-5,  
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

**January 18-** 1 Samuel 3:1-10,  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

**January 25-** Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

### Next Month:

Chili Cook-Off

February 15th

## News from the Pews

We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I'm sure that many of you have exciting news to report during this season and fun things to do and places to go.

I did learn that JoAnn Bennink's grandson, Blake Edward Lander, graduated from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor on December 12th. His degree is in Exercise Science and a minor in Psychology. We are so proud for all of you.

Lela Barker told us that she has a new great-grandbaby, Ryan Moore, born November 21st weighing 7.5 lbs. Parents are Robin and Rustin Moore of College Station. They also have a 2 year-old son, Caleb. All are well and so proud.

Another granddaughter of Lela's is Jessica Phair who got married to Anthony Pantello of college Station. They laughed that their anniversary will always be 12-13-14.

Lela has 3 children and in-laws, 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren with 2 more on the way.

If you have news to share please let us hear from you. To everyone have a blessed and safe holidays and New Year.

***Billie Nixon,  
Membership Coordinator***

## Community Partners



We received a thank you gift from Austin Achieve School who uses our gym three days a week. The bees that produced this honey were cared for by Austin Achieve's CHEFS club in partnership with Central Texas Bee Rescue. CHEFS is an after-school club that offers healthy cooking, gardening, and beekeeping classes to 6-8th grade students.



## Welcome Church World Service

We are pleased to announce that church World Service now has there regional office on our campus. Kevin Murphy, a lay person at Leander UMC and Susan LaSalle, an ordained elder in the Disciples of Christare staffing the office. They will join us in worship on January 18th to tell us more about what CWS is doing in our community, our nation, and around the world.



# Women's News

## THANKS SO MUCH

To all the volunteers that helped with Hanging of the Greenery. Special thanks to Bambi Teaney and Dave Teaney, Jr., for putting up the tree and repairing the lights and for the gift of the new tree skirt. What would we ever do without our dear Billie Nixon?

To all of you for Brown Santa Donations. We raised \$140.00 and collected six bags full of toys (over 100). Thanks again to Bambi Teaney for her special donations and her fun decorations at the pancake breakfast.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thanks to everyone for their hard work and faithfulness. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- Reactivating the Honeybees in a knitting and sewing group was great thanks to Patty Marcum. We have had so much fun making scarves and tissue box covers and working on a prayer shawl.
- We sent \$1342.51 to the mission field.
- We served pancake breakfasts each month.
- We delivered flowers from the church.
- We collected items for, filled and delivered bags for 20 homebound members.
- We did Brown Santa and supported JFON (Immigration program for justice)
- Four of our members serve on the Board of Montopolis Friendship Center - Billie Talley runs the Clothing Sales, Virginia Smith heads the Nominating Committee, Alberta Shelton serves as Secretary and Kay Dunbar works in the sorting and display area.

We will host the first meeting of the UMW Capital Area in January.

We are working with Wesley School to implement the Children's Reading Program laid out by the UMW National Office.

The proposed slate of officers for 2015 are: President - Alberta Shelton, Vice President - Stephanie Lacy, Treasurer - Patty Marcum, Spiritual Growth - Connie Tatom, Program Resources - Billie Talley, We need a Secretary. We also need three additional members for Nominating Committee. Present members are Katherine Eaker and Linda Eaker.

**UMW Officers to be elected in a brief meeting after church on Sunday, January 4.**

If you missed the Parson's House visit this year we changed it to combine with the church/choir caroling which was held on Sunday afternoon.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Come join your church family**

**for a pancake breakfast on  
Sunday, December 7, 2014 at  
8:45 AM in the gym and bring  
a new toy for Brown Santa.**



## YOUTH NEWS

**UMYF-United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

The Youth are planning to attend two Midwinters, January 9-11 Sr. High and College and January 23-25 Missions Weekend.

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



**Wednesdays**

**Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 PM**

**Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM**



## January Birthdays

- 2 Candy Valentine
- 4 Jeremy Mohler
- 5 Bambi Teaney
- 8 Mary Bryant
- 11 Johnie Madison
- 12 Kay Dunbar  
Matthew Shelton
- 13 Kendall Smith
- 14 William Head
- 15 Robert R. Hauser
- 16 Carl Helge  
Travis Purtle
- 17 James Shelton
- 18 Anna Belle Turner
- 21 Clay Ericson  
Eric Reinhart
- 23 Connie Tatom
- 26 Steve Jourdan
- 28 Helen Cox
- 31 Kirk Amundson

## 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.



## January Calendar

**Thursday, January 1– Office closed**

**Friday, January 2– Office Closed**

**Sunday, January 4**

8:45 am - Pancake Breakfast –Gym

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

**Monday, January 5**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

**Tuesday, January 6**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting - Pearce

**Wednesday, January 7**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 8**

7:00 pm - Reading and Library Circle– Library

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society –FHL/Gym

**Friday, January 9**

Youth at Midwinter

**Saturday, January 10**

10:00 am - WPNA meeting– FHL/Gym

**Sunday, January 11**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

11:30 am - Trustees -Pearce

10:30 am - Worship Service

**Monday, January 12**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:30 pm - Church Council –Pearce

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

# CALENDAR

## CONTINUED

### **Tuesday, January 13**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting - Pearce

6:30 pm - Wesley School Board - Pearce

### **Wednesday, January 14**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, January 15**

7:00 pm - Lamplighters, UMW Circle –Pearce

### **Friday, January 16**

11:00 am - Bible Study –Moore

### **Sunday, January 18– Memorial for Christ**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

### **Monday, January 19**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

### **Tuesday, January 20**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting -Pearce

### **Wednesday, January 21**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, January 22**

### **Friday, January 23**

Youth at Midwinter

### **Sunday, January 25**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

### **Monday, January 26**

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

### **Tuesday, January 27**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting - Pearce

### **Wednesday, January 28**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, January 29**

### **Friday, January 30**

### **Saturday, January 31**

UMW District Officer Training Event, Campus Wide

## Looking Ahead

- Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1st
- Chili Cook-Off, Sunday, February 15th
- Ash Wednesday, February 18th
- Crop Walk, Sunday, March 1st

### **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.



# Pastor's Corner

*"The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." (UMC Book of Discipline)*

I was talking with someone in the church a few weeks ago when all of a sudden that person said something to the effect of, "You know, this whole Christianity thing, if you really believe it, should absolutely change your life."

Truer words were never spoken.

And what do we, as humans, not really want to do?

That's right. Change.

What that astute lay person was talking about, in the end, is discipleship. It is one thing to receive new members into the congregation, but our task is not just to create people who like hanging out with us and seeing us once a week. Our task is not to just help people feel good about themselves or to make their life easier.

Our task is to make disciples. Those whose lives are truly changed by Jesus.

When was the last time that you didn't make a choice that you would otherwise make because of Jesus? When was the last time you took the Good News into account when you were watching the evening news or interacting with a fellow human being?

Many of us probably do that a little bit at least. But becoming a disciple is learning to do it more and more. To let feelings of revenge subside into a prayer that we might be the kind of people who pray for our enemies, that their hearts might turn to love. To see our environment and know that we are stewards and not just those who use what they can regardless of the consequences. To watch the pain of our racial divides and not simply dismiss them as media hype, but to know that we have brothers and sisters who are hurting...brothers and sisters who may be of a different skin color or socio-economic background but still deserve to be taken seriously (as we deserve to be taken seriously).

The world won't be transformed if we are not the first point of transformation. So, in this new year, is it going to be life going on as normal, nothing in your life that hasn't already been touched by God that gets to be touched by God? Or are you going to welcome Christ in, who gets up in our business and won't let us be?

Transformation is not easy. But it is our mission. I will be praying for you all, and I hope that you will pray for me as we all seek to be found more faithful in Christ each day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cynthia Kepler-Harner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and 'H'.

# Worship Notes

## BRUNCH returns on January 18!

After taking a break for the Christmas holidays, BRUNCH will return on Sunday, January 18. We will be doing a brief 4-week Bible study (to be announced, but if you have suggestions for a topic you'd like to cover, please let Pastor Cynthia know!). Then we will take a break on February 15 for our annual Chili Cookoff and begin again with our Lenten BRUNCH. We are also looking for people who can help share the cooking duties for BRUNCH. The church has a subsidy to help with food costs, but if you could help prepare a simple meal (usually we try to make food for 16-20), please let Pastor Cynthia know. We can even give you menu suggestions for things that can be made ahead of time!

## *“Why Are We Here?”*

Most of us have looked around at times and wondered why we are here—here in worship, here in our family, here at our workplace, here in this neighborhood, here on this planet. It's one of our deepest questions.

And it's one that we believe God has something to say about. Join us beginning on January 18 to discover how far those answers might extend and connect you to the source of Life, Jesus Christ.

## Baptism

We are looking forward to a season of Baptism! On January 18, we will be having an infant baptism, but we will also be talking about baptism on Sunday, January 11. If you have not been baptized and would like to talk about what that means OR if you have been baptized and would like to publicly renew your vows on either of these dates, please let Pastor Cynthia know!



*Praying for our  
congregation  
and friends*

For privacy we do not publish in the newsletter the reason these individuals are on our prayer chain. You may contact the church office for information if it is available.

Darlene Moore  
Dick and Betty Moore  
Kathy Gray  
Eddie and Virginia Smith  
Billie Talley  
Dave and Pat Teaney  
Charlotte Gabriel  
Ross and Zora Mae Hise  
Ed Owens  
Dorothy Dennig  
Anna Kennedy  
William Bennink Sr.  
Bill Simmons  
Marcha Fowler  
Laster Bryant  
James Hall  
Jorge and Ashley Garza  
Mike Pena  
Werner Stalbaum

**January Communion Offering  
Supports Austin Missions and Human  
Relations Ministries**