

The Newsletter

December 2013

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer
Pastor

Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fridays: 8:30 - 12:30 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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Get-Ready-for-Christmas Activities



Memorial is helping your family set the stage for a wonderful Christmas - no matter what size or age your family is! Grandparents,

singles with or without kids, large families and families with only children - **EVERYONE** is welcome for the party! At least one adult per household needs to be on campus for the fun. **INVITE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!**

All Sundays include a Snack or Soup Lunch at Noon, activities start at 12:30 pm

December 1 - *Ornament and Decoration Making Party*, make ornaments to keep and ornaments to give, build both keepsakes and memories - all supplies provided by MUMC

December 8 - *Sugar Cookie Decorating Party* - come ready to paint with icing and all sorts of goodies. We'll provide the cookies and the decorations, you provide the fun!

December 15 - *Gingerbread Houses!* - we will have gingerbread all set up for you to come and make a house with your family (one house per household). Because we need time to prepare, **Reservations are required** for this event. Please call 512-452-5796 or email secretary@memorialumcaustin.com no later than Friday, December 13 at noon. We'll have goodies for decorating, but feel free to bring anything special you want to put on there.

December 22 - *Making Block Nativities* - do you remember the nativity set you weren't allowed to play with as a child? We'll be making a basic nativity set (Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph) using sturdy wood blocks, so it can be used anywhere, supplies provided by MUMC.



FROM YOUR STAFF

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

Holly Hunt

Kerry Mc Farland

Joanne Macon

Billie Nixon

Daniel Swayze



Merry Christmas

We're Busy in December!

These are other activities you might want to put on your calendar!

Mendelssohn Trio: our pianist/ accompanist, Daniel Swayze, and two of his fellow UT students have been working on a Mendelssohn presentation for this past semester and will be performing it in the sanctuary.



Date: Likely Sunday, December 8

Time: TBA

Hosting our Charge Conference Cluster: Our annual administrative meeting will happen in a cluster along with 4 other churches—and we are the hosts! We will need volunteers to help with refreshments and serving.

Date: Sunday, December 8

Time: 3:30-5:30pm

Newsletter Deadline - Monday, Dec. 9

Special Worship services for Advent and Christmas

December 8 at 10:30am - *Hanging of the Greenery*

We'll be doing this special presentation during our morning worship. Come and find out the meaning behind all of our decorations.

December 15 at 10:30am - *Cantata*

Bringing together Bible texts that tell of Christ's coming and music interpretations, the choir will explore the mystery of God coming to us.

December 24 at 7:00p - *Christmas Candlelight*

Our special night when we celebrate Christ's birth with traditional lessons and carols and communion.

Stay tuned to the church email networks and bulletin - we have some potential worship services in the works that were not nailed down as to time and date by newsletter publication time.



Wesley Child Care Center Christmas Program:

The Wesley kids are already hard at work on learning the songs for their program. Come out and celebrate the work that this church sponsors daily!

Date: Friday, December 13

Time: 6:00 pm

Caroling: Every year, we get together to go singing to several of our shut-ins, then come back to the church for beverages and food. Date and Time: TBA



December 1st Communion Offering Supports UMCOR and Student Ministries

Our communion offering this December will go toward UMCOR (especially aid for the flooding in the Philippines) and student ministries. UMCOR continues to be present in many places in the world where we have seen disaster and loss of life. Our higher education student ministries continue to uphold the next generation and offer them Christ.

CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT FOR OUR CHURCH STAFF

It's that time of year when we get the opportunity to show appreciation to our wonderful church staff. This year we have decided to send this request through our newsletter. As each of you know, we are truly blessed to have such a hard-working and loyal group of people making sure that our church follows its mission. As in the past, we will collect gifts from members and friends and then present our love gift to each staff member. All money collected will be evenly divided among our staff of 6 persons.

If you wish to participate, please mail your check made out to the church designating it "Staff Love Gift" or put your check or cash gift in the offering in an envelope marked "Staff Love Gift". Please get your gift to the church by December 31, in order for us to present it at the first Staff meeting in January.

Thank you for your participation in letting our staff know how much we appreciate what they do for our church all year long.

Wanda Stout Adams
SPRC Chairperson



Help Brown Santa Through Sunday December 8th

Please drop off Brown Santa donations of cash or new unwrapped toys, books, games, puzzles, and stuffed animals in the basket in the back of the sanctuary to help make this Christmas a happy one for Travis County children.

Apportionment Sunday

December 29 will be a last opportunity to help us with our missional giving to the wider United Methodist Church. The Finance Committee has designated that every 5th Sunday be a Sunday on which we emphasize another area of this missional giving, and so on this Sunday, our apportionment giving will go to the Austin District Missions line item. This money goes to support district-wide events, such as leadership training and large youth events. In addition, Memorial will be applying for a grant from this fund hopefully within the next year to help us with some specific ministry opportunities.



Note from your Financial Secretary End of Year Giving

End of year gifts for MUMC must be postmarked or delivered by December 31, 2013, to be credited to this year's giving. For more info, please call Kerry at 452-5796.



Pastor's Corner

In addition to all of the praise and worship music that has burst into the Christian world in the past few years, we have also had a resurgence of new hymn writing. One of my favorite new writers, Shirley Erena Murray penned what is becoming one of my Advent/ Christmas favorites - "Star Child." It talks about different children who wait for Christmas to come and ends with the chorus: "This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone - everyone alive!"

I've been pondering that again. What does it mean for Christmas to come? Not Santa, although I suppose there's a child in each of us who longs for that. But what does it mean for Christmas to come to everyone alive? I believe it means that Christ might become present in a new way in all our homes and in all our communities...in the same way that Christ was present so many years ago. Teaching, preaching, healing, offering a new way of living.

What will it mean for you to have Christmas come this year? I encourage you to think, not just of decorations or dinners or presents, but of the Presence of God, come to dwell with us. One of the names of Jesus is Emmanuel, which means God-with-us. What a switch! Immortality becomes mortal. Omnipresent is in one place and one time. All-knowing and all-powerful becomes a baby, completely dependent. Just so that we might know God.

A prayer for this season. With everything that we have to pray for in this world that seems rapidly deflating, I want to pray these prayers too. I hope you will join me.

In the face of the Gospel story,
let us ask God for a good Christmas:

...that no powerful nation should overtax the poor or uproot them;
...that no unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace;
...that no door will be shut on those who need to find it open;
...that shepherds and sheep and all creation need not be afraid;
...that barbed wire and angry soldiers may not be found in Bethlehem;
...that wise men and women might appear in Darfur, the Middle East, Egypt, and Korea
...that children may be saved from those who would abuse them;
...that this Christmas,
 worship may become a manger
 and the church a stable,
 and the rumor become a reality
 that Christ has come among us. (Pip Wilson)

And this we pray in the name of the One who is coming...
Jesus, Emmanuel. God-With-Us.
Amen.

United Methodist Women

by Jane Friedrich

IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT - IMPORTANT

Treasurer Billie Talley wants to remind members that our treasury is very low and we have some obligations that are now due. Please get your pledge up-to-date. Contributions will be greatly accepted from any and all!

BIF will meet on December 3, at 10 a.m. in the parlor. This is our very special meeting of the year when we have lunch (salads, etc.) and Christmas goodies to share - but more importantly we bring useful little items to put in Christmas bags for our shut-ins. The gifts are delivered to our friends who can no longer join us. Remember, this is not just for UMW members- - all are welcome. We always have a nice lunch, a fun time and a feeling of satisfaction in preparing these little remembrances for our friends. Stephanie Lacy will also have a short devotional.

Reading and Library will meet December 12, at 7:00 p.m. Make an effort to be there and remember this is the meeting when we order our books for next year.

Mark your calendars for the annual Parsons House party - scheduled for December 15, at 3:00 pm. Please bring some Christmas goodies and remember to avoid treats with nuts. The residents look forward to the party so try to go if you can.

Lamplighters will meet December 19, in the N.E.W. classroom at 7:00 p.m. to complete this year and plan for next.

New officers for 2014 are: President - Alberta Shelton; Vice-President - Stephanie Lacy; Secretary - Jane Friedrich; treasurer - Patty Marcum; Social Action - Kay Dunbar; Education & Interpretation - Jane Friedrich; Nature and Outreach - all members; Spiritual Growth - Norma Hauser; Program Resources - Billie Talley; Friendship Center - Billie Talley; Church Women United - Alberta Shelton; Yearbook - Norma Hauser. The nominating committee for 2014 - Billie Talley, Patty Marcum, Virginia Smith, and Norma Hauser; and 2015 - Katherine Eaker and Linda Eaker.

CONSIDER JOINING BOY SCOUTS TROOP 88

EXPERIENCE THE FUN!



Who: 5th – 8th Grade Boys

Where: Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive

When: Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact Scoutmaster: Brian Kent at
577-5523 or email: b0k3nt@yahoo.com

December Birthdays

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2nd | Laura Ruth Kozelsky, Sandra Bissett,
Ron Frederick, Norma Hauser,
Charlyne Schmidt |
| 3rd | Caitlyn Dennig |
| 5th | Drianna Gonzales |
| 6th | Ann Brady |
| 7th | Don Mohler, Paula Garner,
Harry Pomerleau |
| 12th | Evelyn Capps |
| 13th | Christine Crowe, Michael Moore |
| 15th | Carol Combs, Susan Froebel |
| 17th | Michael Shelton, Jr. |
| 19th | Gaines Leavelle, Kel Pomerleau Bills |
| 22nd | Lilia Gail Mohler, James Rhoades |
| 26th | Mark Corry, Laurie Dennig |
| 27th | Wanda Anderson, Thomas Bissett |
| 28th | George Berglund |

News from the Pews

by Billie Nixon

New Babies

One of our more exciting news articles is that of the birth of new babies. We all recognize and believe that this is one of God's greatest miracles. News from Connie Tatom is about her new great-grandson, Benjamin Gavin Rosas, born August 22, 2013, weighing 7 pounds and 1 ounce and was 18 ½ inches long. Benjamin's parents are Benjamin Thomas and Jeanette Rosas and big sister is Emily who is 2 years old.

Thomas' brother, Jacob and his wife, Selrah Rosas and big brother Jonas, had a baby, Carson Dean Rosas, who was born June 22, 2013, weighing 11 pounds 7 ounces, and was 22 inches long. The fathers are son's of Connie's daughter, Patsy Rosas in Brownsville. Connie now has 4 great-grandchildren! What a blessing - 2 new great grandsons in one year!

Next, Billie and John Nixon have a new great-granddaughter, Savannah Faith Mohler, who was born November 7, 2013, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces to the proud parents of Jeremy and Keri Mohler and big brother, Dakota and big sister, Sierra. The proud grand parents are Gail and Don Mohler. All are well and doing fine.

Our latest birth is Eleanor Violet Deutchman, who was born November 12, 2013, to parents Sandra Bissett and Abraham Deutchman, weighing 9 pounds 1.5 ounces and was 21½ inches tall. Grandparents are Tom and Priscilla Bissett and Steve and Sherry Deutchman. They are all well and at home now.

We like to keep up with our church members and their extended families. If you have news to share, please do so!

Sympathy

Love and concern go to the following families of Memorial, who have lost a loved one since our last newsletter.

continued



To Afton Pomerleau Cherry and children in the death of Donald Bayard Cherry, age 79, of Austin, who died October 11, 2013, after a brief illness. After Don joined the Army and graduation from University of Toledo, he joined NASA in the procurement division where he worked throughout the golden age of space exploration. He was an adventurous and athletic man his entire life. He retired to Bolivar Peninsula, but after Hurricane Ike, he washed ashore in Austin where he met and married Afton Pomerleau. Don was active in his church and his involvement was not limited to Sundays. He could often be found mowing the church's lawn, landscaping and doing odd jobs. Don is survived by his wife, Afton Pomerleau Cherry; his children, his sisters and brothers as well as five stepchildren, and their children.

To Clayton Karrer and Pastor Cynthia Kepler-Karrer in the death of Clayton's father, Ray Edward Karrer, age 78, who died October 12, 2013 of Paris Texas. Ray spent most of his professional life as an educator and for 32 years taught speech and drama at Paris Junior College, as well as serving as Chair of the Fine Arts Division. He was a lifelong United Methodist and served his church tirelessly. Ray participated in Habitat For Humanity, and Boy Scouts of America to name a few. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Tolle Karrer and his son, Clayton Karrer and his wife, Cynthia Kepler-Karrer and other family members.

To Kathy and Steve Reinhart in the death of Kathy's mother, Margaret Alvina Peschke, age 82, of Austin, who died November 2, 2013. She was born in Holland, Texas to William Wusterhausen and Mattie Townsend. Margaret married Curtis Peschke in Paige, Texas and moved to Austin in late 1955. Margaret was a loving and devoted wife and mother and was active in her church. She was employed for several years with the American Lung Association in Austin. She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her husband, Curtis Peschke, son, Kenneth Peschke, daughters, Kathy Reinhart and Janice Slager and their families.

We at Memorial pray God will watch over you and comfort you with His love through this time of sorrow.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 1 - Communion

8:30 am - 1st Sunday Pancake Breakfast
9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Services
12:00 Noon - BRUNCH Snack Lunch - Gym
12:30 pm - Ornament Making - Gym

Monday, Dec. 2

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 3

10:00 am - UMW BIF Circle - Pearce

Wednesday, Dec. 4

6 pm - Bell Practice
7 pm - Choir Practice

Friday, Dec. 6

10-2pm - Drive a Senior Christmas - Gym

Saturday, Dec. 7

10:00 am - WPNA Yard of the Month - FHL

Sunday, Dec. 8 - Hanging of the Greens

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Services
11:45 am - Trustee Meeting - Pearce
12:00 Noon - BRUNCH Snack Lunch
12:30 pm - Cookie Decorating - Gym
3:30 pm - Charge Conference

Monday, Dec. 9 - Newsletter Deadline

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 10

9:30 am - Staff Meeting
6:30 pm - Wesley Board Meeting - Pearce

Wednesday, Dec. 11

6 pm - Bell Practice
7 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, Dec. 12

7 pm - Austin Ukulele Society - FHL
7 pm - UMW Reading & Library Circle

Friday, Dec. 13

10 am - Bible Study
6 pm - Wesley Christmas Program - Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 15 - Memorial for Christ

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Services
12:00 Noon - BRUNCH Pot of Chili - Gym
12:30 pm - Gingerbread House Decorating - Gym
3:00 pm - Parsons House Christmas

Monday, Dec. 16 - Poinsettia Order Deadline

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 17

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 18

6 pm - Bell Practice
7 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, Dec. 19

7:00 pm - UMW Lamplighters Circle - N.E.W.

Friday, Dec. 20 - Saturday, Dec 21

6pm - District Wide Youth Lock-In

Sunday, Dec. 22

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Services
11:45 am - BRUNCH Snack Lunch
12:30 pm - Nativity Making - Gym

Monday, Dec. 23

6:15 am - Morning Prayer - Chapel

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Noon - Office Closed
7 pm - Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Dec. 26

Church and Wesley School Closed

Friday, Dec. 27

Office Closed at Noon

Sunday, Dec. 29 - Bell Ringing Service

Apportionment Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Services

Monday, Dec. 30

Office Closed at Noon

Tuesday, Dec. 31 - New Years Eve

Office Closed at Noon

Order Your Poinsettias!

Poinsettias - \$10 each

Poinsettias will be placed in the Chancel, Sunday, December 22. Deadline for purchasing poinsettias is Monday, December 16. Sign up early! Any questions, please call the church office at 452-5796 or secretary@memorialumcaustin.com



2013 POINTSETTIA ORDER - \$10 each



From Whom	How Many	In Honor of or In Memory of	Donate	Keep



Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive
Austin, Texas 78723
Phone: 512-452-5796
Fax: 512-450-0323

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule - Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

9:15 a.m.- Sunday School (kids and adults)

10:30 a.m.- Worship Service

11:45 am - BRUNCH

Wesley School - Chris Banda, Director (467-9740)

Office Hours

Church Secretary - Joanne Macon

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m.– 12 noon and 1– 4:00 p.m.

Fridays
8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

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