

The Newsletter

March and April

2014

Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer - Pastor

**A great place to meet new friends,
find needed encouragement and
discover God's plan for you.**

New Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 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.

March 2014 Highlights

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Holy Week 2014

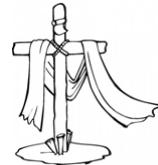


Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13

We begin our Holy Week worship at 10:30am with palms and more.

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Gathering at 7:00pm in our parlor for an intimate worship experience.



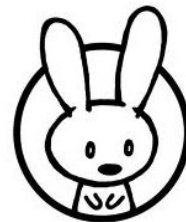
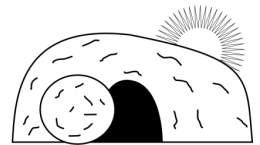
Good Friday, April 18

Our Chancel Choir presents "Tenebrae" by Hal Hoppson at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Service at 7:00am on the lawn next to the sanctuary.

10:30 Easter Sunday worship—come celebrate the risen Christ!



Spring Fling

Sunday April 13, 2014

2:30-4:30 pm

**Games, Fun, Easter Egg
Hunt, Pictures with the
Easter Bunny!**

See article inside on page 7 for more details about how to volunteer and our new goals for this year!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Come join your church
family for a pancake breakfast on
Sunday, April 6 at 8:30 am. in the gym.**

April/ May Missions Project



Shoes for Redemptive Work

Did you know that every year, over 600 *million* shoes are thrown into landfills? These shoes contain many materials that become toxic as they breakdown in the environment.

We will be collecting gently worn shoes in bags of 25 pairs each at the church in April and May. This is a project that is being run through Redemptive Work, an organization that helps people who are traditionally considered unemployable with coaching and opportunities to find a pathway to sustainable employment. Your shoes (and your neighbors' shoes!) can help like this:

1. We fill bags—25 pairs of shoes per bag. These bags are taken to Redemptive Work.
2. Redemptive Work gathers all the bags and receives \$.40/pound from an organization that will ship the shoes to places in the developing world.
3. Redemptive Work uses the money to train and hire people who would otherwise be stuck in the poverty cycle (providing jobs!).
4. The shoes go to places where shoes are needed. People are hired to repair shoes that can be repaired as well as to break shoes into their component parts which can be used in other goods and items. Microeconomies are created in developing nations (providing jobs!).
5. The landfill doesn't get filled as quickly. The land is not polluted.

EVERYONE WINS! In April, we will be handing out bags and rubber bands (to band the shoes you collect together). Return all your bags to the church by May 18 so that we can get them to Redemptive Work.

Worship

March 30 is Apportionment Sunday

Every 5th Sunday, MUMC celebrates and takes up a special offering toward one of our apportionments, which are funds that are used in mission and ministry on many different levels of the church (in our city/district, in our conference and in the global church). On March 30, we will be lifting up our Austin District missions, which include the Austin Free Store as well as our direct partnership to build a school and clinic in Diecke, which is on the Guinea-Liberia border.

April Communion Offering Goes to One Great Hour of Sharing

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is one of the highest rated charities both for their work in the United States and throughout the world. Part of the reason they can say that when you give to a particular relief effort, 100% of the money that you give goes directly to that effort, is One Great Hour of Sharing. Every year, we take up an offering that helps to defray administrative costs for *the entire year*. This allows all fund-raising throughout the year to be targeted for specific relief instead of having to have a percentage taken out for ongoing salaries and other administration. Please consider a gift to this life-giving arm of the UMC. For more information, please visit www.umcor.org.

Spring 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 end of June has been posted in the hallway of the administration wing. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today.

MARCH/APRIL

CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 25

6:30 pm - Feedback Session for *Wealth of Poverty* -Moore

Wednesday, March 26

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Saturday, March 29

9:00 am - UMW Day Apart Retreat

Sunday, March 30 -Apportionment Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

12:00 noon - BRUNCH -Snack Lunch -Parlor

12:30 pm -BRUNCH - Study -Parlor

5:00 pm - Stuffing Easter Eggs—Sanctuary

Monday, March 31

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, April 1

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - BIF Circle - Pearce

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, April 3

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society -Gym

Friday, April 4

10 am - Bible Study

Sunday, April 6 -Communion Sunday

8:30 am - Pancake Breakfast -Gym

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Services

12:00 noon - BRUNCH -Snack Lunch -Parlor

12:30 pm -BRUNCH - Celebration-Parlor

5:00 pm - UMYF -Gym

Monday, April 7

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, April 8

9:30 am - Staff meeting

6:30 pm - Wesley Board Meeting -Pearce

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Friday, April 11

10:00 am - Bible Study

6:00 pm - Wesley School Talent Show

Saturday, March 12

10:00 am - Neighborhood Association -Gym

Sunday, April 13 -Palm Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

2:30 pm - Spring Fling

Monday, April 14

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:30 pm - Church Council -Pearce

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Tuesday, April 15

9:30 am - Staff meeting

Wednesday, April 16

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, April 17

7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday -Parlor

Friday, April 18

Office Closed

7:00 pm - Good Friday -Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20 -Easter Sunday

7:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service —side lawn

9:15 am —Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am —Worship Service

Monday, April 21

Office Closed

Tuesday, April 22

9:30 am - Staff meeting

Wednesday, April 23

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Friday, April 25

10:00 am - Bible Study

Sunday, April 27

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

5:00 pm - UMYF -Gym

Monday, April 28

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

Wednesday, April 30

6:00 pm - Bell Practice

7:00 pm - Choir Practice

Newsletter Deadline -

Monday, April 14



Birthdays

March

1st Craig Amundson
 2nd Travis Rychlik
 3rd Elizabeth Bach-Miller
 5th Linda Eaker
 6th Carole Garner
 Judy Johnson
 7th David Amundson
 Dorothy Burnup
 Chad Ericson
 9th Laura Elizabeth Smith
 Grant Zapalac
 12th Wanda Anderson
 Minda Egbert
 Harrison Pomerleau
 15th Jacy Kuruk Gray
 16th Alberta Shelton
 17th Elizabeth Aeon Petersen
 19th Josh Jourdan
 24th Courtney Garner
 25th Jonathan Mohler
 26th Misty Ericson
 31st Deborah Bryant
 Dorothy Johnson
 Steve Reinhart

April

2nd Stephanie Shelton
 3rd Zora Mae Hise
 5th Virginia Smith

7th David Paul Teaney
 Christina Williams
 9th John Shelton
 13th Michael Shelton
 18th Debbie Schmidt Parsley
 Victoria Purtle
 19th William Dennig
 21st Russell Moore
 22nd Betty Moore
 24th Lauren Michele Dennig
 Glenda Houston
 27th Lela Barker
 Jacob Shelton
 Sarah Shelton
 30th Jane Friedrich

Welcome our new Church Administrative Assistant

Laurie Strawbridge has been hired as our church's new office Administrative Assistant. Laurie, a native of Alabama, came to Austin seven years ago to work as the youth director at Covenant UMC before coming to work here at Memorial. Four years ago Laurie became the guardian of two teenagers, Zack and Arian. Laurie loves the Lord and is excited to serve Him through serving our pastor and our church. Come by and meet her during our new office hours.



New Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:30-3:00

But remember, Pastor Cynthia can be reached by cell phone (512-921-3473) for your pastoral needs as they arise.

News from the Pews

Billie Nixon, Membership Coordinator

In sympathy

Memorial UMC mourns with the families of Kim Pena, James Brown Sr., Lorene Weir, Warren Deitz "Champ" Crumbling, Robert Lee "Bob" Turner and Nancy Smith.

Kim Pena passed away on February 27, 2014 at the age of 53. Her memorial service was held at MUMC on March 8th. Kim joined Memorial on April 14, 2013. Kim is survived by her mother, Jenny Miles, a sister, her two children and two grandchildren who were the light of her life.

James Wilford Brown, Sr., 84, of Austin, Texas, passed away Wednesday, March 5, 2014, after battling lung cancer and COPD for the past couple of years. He will be remembered as a much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. James was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley in 2007. They were married for 55yrs. He is survived by his children; James W. Brown, Jr. and his wife Kristi and their sons; Jarrod and his wife Mallory and their daughter, Maddie; Justin and Jacob; Tracey Ann Brown; David Brown and his wife Tracy and their daughter Mackenzie.

Warren Deitz Crumbling passed away on February 6th at the age of 98. Warren is survived by his daughter, Karin Crumbling, his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Joy Crumbling, his brother, William Crumbling and a surrogate son, Miles McAlister. Warren was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Althea Baker Crumbling. Services for Warren were held at Memorial February 12, 2014.

Robert Lee Turner passed away on February 19, 2014 at the age of 89. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters. He is survived by his wife, Annabelle Turner, one sister and one brother, his son Wesley Turner and wife, his son, Donald Turner, four grandchildren, five great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Bob's funeral service was held on February 23, 2014 at Colonial Chapel- Cook Walden.

Lorene Weir, the mother of Paula Garner, passed away in Sinton, TX at the age of 89. Funeral services were held in Sinton on January 21, 2014. The interment was in Karnes City.

Nancy Smith, the sister of former pastor Rev. William Harris III, passed away on February 18, 2014 in Alabama after a long battle with cancer.

We pray for God's blessing and comfort for the families and friends of these wonderful people.



Congratulations!

Chili Cook-off

Winners

1st place - Jim Rhoades

2nd place - John Nixon

**3rd place - Kenneth and Mary
Ann Baker**

We wish to thank Pat Marcom, William Dennig and many others who organized and sponsored our annual Chili Cook-Off, February 16, 2014. There were at least 16 pots of chili to feed our hungry members and friends. Thanks to each participant who cooked, cleaned, or just came to enjoy.

United Methodist Women

by Alberta Shelton

UMW would like to thank Norma Hauser for her leadership and the wonderful program on Prayer and Self-Denial. If anyone was unable to attend and would like to donate to this special mission project, see Norma.

We would also like to thank Sue Sydney and Pastor Cynthia for leading the study of the Sacraments. It was deeply meaningful to all who attended.

Day Apart on Forgiveness Study

Saturday, March 29 at the Old Town Meeting Room, Clayton Karrer will lead us in this study from 9-2. We will order lunch from Jason's Deli so bring a little extra money. You don't have to be a member of the UMW or Memorial to attend. Men are also invited. All are welcome.

Pastor's Corner

As we move through Lent and approach Easter, I find myself once again in that strange mix of places. In the present, I am journeying through Lent, much the same way most people are—looking with more seriousness at the ways in which I have sinned and fallen short of God's hopes for me, trying to repent and fall on God's grace. This is not just what I do for a season—nor should any of us, as if once Easter comes, we're free to then go back to life as we were accustomed, sinning because it's easier in many ways than a life of following Christ. Lent should be a time of setting our life in a direction that's more consistent with the Good News gift we've been given.

But I'm also preparing for Easter with resurrection and all that joy on my mind. I find myself distracted by thoughts of Alleluias ringing through the air, lilies in full bloom perfuming the sanctuary, the proclamation that Christ is RISEN! It is easier and more fun for me to move to the joy, though there are still 4 weeks left in Lent.

What distracts your spiritual life? Some people get distracted by the part that says "Christ will come again." I was driving to Dallas this week and saw a sign that said "8/2/2027 Christ stands on Mt. Olivet at NOON". The amount of time that this billboard and the accompanying website must take in someone's life is incredible to me. Some people are distracted by a preoccupation with Jesus' suffering and death. Some, like me, want to live more constantly in the joy.

The gift for me of this season in which I am present with all three of the statements above is that I have to learn to hold all of them simultaneously. I can't so concentrate on Jesus' death on a cross for me and for my salvation that I don't remember that his resurrection is ongoing as well. I can't get so caught up in the resurrection that I don't pay attention to the injustices going on around me—injustices I am called to cry out against and work alongside the Holy Spirit and others to end. I can't get caught up in Christ's return, though I must remember that we look for that day and prepare for it by learning to live in the kingdom that Jesus describes in the Gospels...the kingdom that will be "on earth as it is in heaven."

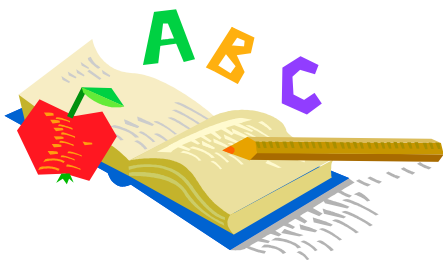
My prayers are with this congregation as it learns to live in the midst of all kinds of things that distract us... things we have to learn how to do simultaneously. Our witness is that most of this is impossible, except that Christ is with us, helping to make us whole. May you have a blessed Lent...and a joyous Easter!

BRUNCH in April

Our "It Is Well" cycle will conclude on April 6 with a celebration of any goals that we have either made progress toward or completed! Even if you didn't set goals, come and support those who did.

We will be taking a break on both April 13 (Palm Sunday) and April 20 (Easter Sunday). We will resume meals and discussion/activities together on April 27. May activities will include follow-up on how we move forward with our learnings from *The Wealth of Poverty* as well as getting feedback for series and activities that would enrich our life together.

It has been wonderful to see the group of people who gather for a meal and more after worship. We have had as few as 6 and we hit a high last week of 23! As we continue to grow, we hope to have more diverse offerings for activities, keeping in mind that BRUNCH stands for Bible, Relationships, Understanding, Nourishment, Christian connection and Holiness



The Wesley School


The Annual Wesley School Talent Show (formerly known as the **Spaghetti Dinner**) is scheduled for Friday, April 11, 2014, at 6 pm in MUMC's gym.

Tickets will be available for purchase before and after Sunday services from any Wesley School board member. Tickets also may be purchased through the church or school offices. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children under 10 years of age and children under two years of age are free.

Each ticket will be entered in a drawing for door prizes, including the traditional hand pieced quilt. Additional door prize tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$1 each.

After the Talent Show "substantial" snacks will be available to be consumed on-site. The "substantial snacks" will be available for take out before or after the show.

Teachers are working actively with students to prepare their talents for the show.



Wesley School Talent Show

April 11, 2014

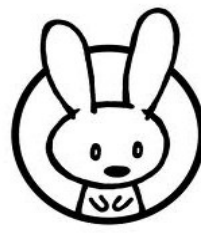
6:00 PM

\$7 adults

\$4 children (2+)

YOUTH NEWS

- Sunday, March 30th Youth will be **stuffing eggs** for the Spring Fling. We need everyone's help for this. We will start at 5:00, tentatively.
- And don't forget that **Spring Fling** is April 13th. This is our church-wide gift to the neighborhood, so let us know if you can help with this.
- **Youth Worship Conference** is April 4-6 in Corpus Christi. Contact Kendall if you are interested in going. More info can be found at www.reachingyouth.org.



SPRING FLING! A Church-Wide Goal

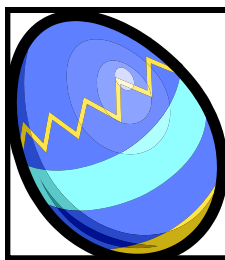
In evaluating last year's Spring Fling event, several of the coordinators grew convinced that the value of Spring Fling is not only trying to get people to come to us,

but demonstrating a willingness to serve others and a desire to meet them. In setting our goals for this year, we hope for two things:

1. **That we can have an attendance 25 kids higher than last year (which hovered at slightly over 100).**
2. **That we can have over 40 people from the congregation participating in one way or another with at least 25 of those people in direct contact with our neighbors.**

What can you do to help? We need:

- ⇒ People to help stuff eggs with goodies on March 30 at 5:00pm.
- ⇒ People to commit to intentional prayer (call Pastor Cynthia).
- ⇒ People to help set up and tear down the event.
- ⇒ People to man the "stations" we have set up (most involve sitting and interacting with kids and their families).
- ⇒ People to take fliers to the neighborhood elementary schools.



We are stuffing 3000 eggs Sunday, March 30th at 5:00 in the Sanctuary. Come Help!

Honoring our Graduates



We are gathering the names of students who will be graduating this year so we may honor them and their families in May. If you have a graduate or know of one please notify the church office or Billie Nixon so we can prepare for this special event.

"Easter Lily Order Form"

The Easter Season is upon us again and it is time to place your orders for the Easter Lilies. The cost is \$10.00 a plant. Please fill in the information below to ensure that your message will be included in the Lily Insert on Easter Sunday. Return the form along with your payment no later than Sunday, April 13, 2014.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Messages to be placed in the Insert: _____

How many plants? (\$10.00 each) _____

Donate _____ or Keep _____

Return to Memorial United Methodist Church

Attn: Laurie Strawbridge 6100 Berkman Dr. , Austin, TX 78723



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

12:00 Noon - BRUNCH

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

New Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

www.memorialumcaustin.com

E-Mails: secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Church Administrative Assistant:

Laurie Strawbridge