

# Memorial

## United Methodist Church

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

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday School**

9:15-10:00 a.m.

### **November 18, 2011 Newsletter**

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### **Church Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

### **Contact Us**

452.5796/ 450.0323 Fax

6100 Berkman Dr, Austin, TX, 78723

Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Email:

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

**News by Email** - Contact the office by phone or email and give us your email address.

# November 18, 2011



## **Advent Event Calendar**

### ***Hanging of the Greens***

Nov. 27 - 6:30 p.m.

### ***Christmas Cantata***

Dec. 11 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

### ***UMW Parson House's Christmas Party***

Dec. 11 - 3:00 p.m.

### ***Wesley School Christmas Program***

December 16 - 6:30 pm

### ***Christmas Eve Services***

Dec. 24 - 3:00 p.m.

"A Storytelling Service with Singing"

Dec. 24 - 6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service

### ***Christmas Day Service***

Dec. 25 - 10:30 pm



## **Get to Know Our Neighbors Saturday, December 10**

One of the goals we have at Memorial is better relationships with the people right here in our neighborhood. We have an excellent chance to meet our neighbors at the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association Christmas party.

Put the morning of Saturday, December 10 on your calendar--it will be a potluck (and what United Methodist doesn't like a potluck?), and it will be a great opportunity to meet some people and let them get to know us a little better. You never know when seeds planted will grow, but you can't know if you don't plant! More information about place and exact time will be in the bulletin.

## Christmas Cantata

"Go Tell It!"

by Jack Schrader

Dec 11, 2011

Worship - 10:30 AM

This year's Christmas cantata is "Go Tell It!" by Jack Schrader. Jack feels that the Christmas story is really the essence of the gospel, the good news, the best news imaginable. It is the story of the Son of God becoming the Son of Man, the second person of the triune God humbling himself to become like us, one of us, so he could be our eternal Savior. Therefore, the focus of this cantata is rightfully Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

The cantata contains a mix of mostly familiar carols with some new ones. It includes one of my favorite new carols, "Mary, Did You Know?" It also includes opportunities for the congregation to join in on the singing of several very familiar carols. The narrations provide dramatic emphasis that give energy and passion to the story.

We hope that when we finish singing this cantata, you will overflow with the thought of telling others about our Savior.

Carol Combs

**GO TELL IT!**



## Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24

3:00pm and 6:30pm

This year, we are offering two different Christmas Eve worship experiences for you and your family. Both will be in the sanctuary and will include singing and the Story of the Coming of Christ.

3:00pm - a storytelling and singing service done by Pastor Cynthia for those with small children and those who do not wish to drive after dark

6:30pm - Traditional Lessons and Carols with Communion



***Celebrate the Season of Advent***

## "Hanging of the Greens"

November 27, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Many volunteers are needed to help make this service go smoothly. We need people who can help hang the greens, be readers, tall people for angel hanging, banner carriers, help with putting the tree up earlier, and candle carriers.

If you are interested in helping, please see Alberta Shelton right after worship Sunday or call her at 926-8645.



## Wesley Christmas Program

Friday, December 16 at 6:30pm

One of the biggest outreach ministries of the church is the Wesley School. One of the goals of the congregation is to have more connection between our worshipping congregation and the families at Wesley School. Teachers and several parents from the Wesley came to our Wesley Appreciation Sunday back in October, and now it's our turn to come out for them!

The children of the Wesley School will be putting on their Christmas program in our sanctuary at 6:30 on Friday, December 16. Let's see if we can fill the pews with our smiling faces and show our love and support for the teachers and the families of our school!

## **Changes in the Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Annual Conferences**

The Southwest Texas Annual Conference (our conference) and Rio Grande Annual Conference (our sister, Spanish - language-based conference) are seeking unification. We will be voting on unification at our Annual Conferences in June and the Jurisdictional Conference (the conferences from Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico), meeting in July 2012).

Unification is a long process of deciding how to bring ministries, churches and clergy together in the healthiest and most faithful way. The working groups from both conferences are soliciting feedback from members of congregations in both conferences. They have set up information sessions that will also be an opportunity for members of churches to provide feedback and items for the working groups to consider.

Meetings in the Austin area will be:

Thursday, December 1, 6:30pm  
at Faith UMC, Austin

Saturday, January 21 as a part of the  
District Wide Leadership Training Event

## **Austin District FreeStore: The Christmas Version Saturday, December 10**

When the fires broke out in Bastrop County, the Austin District responded. We already had a FreeStore (a district sponsored event meant to help low-income families "shop" for their children's needs) planned to help one elementary school in Smithville, one of the communities affected by the fires. But we immediately knew the need in both elementary schools would be great so we decided to expand!

You can help by bringing an unwrapped toy (around \$25) to the church before December 5. And it doesn't even have to be from you - if you have a neighbor or a friend who you would like to invite to participate, that would be great! Our district has a goal of 500 toys, and we want to be a part of helping Christmas come, especially for kids and families who may have lost everything without the means to replace it.

### **Christmas Offering**

One of the most successful pastors in our denomination reminds his parishoners every year that "Christmas is not your birthday". Churches of every size from small to mega throughout the country are beginning to commit each December to making sure that giving to "our own" does not far outweigh giving to others.

Each year we invite you as a part of Memorial UMC to give to our missional outreach. This year, we would like to challenge you to think about at least tithing (giving 10%) from your gifts to others to the church. For example, if your gift budget for Christmas is \$500 for your friends and family, consider giving \$50 to the church above and beyond your regular offerings.

Going a step further, you could even consider giving a gift to someone by sponsoring a ministry at the church! \$10-\$20 would help us provide space for a Boy Scout meeting or ESL class, \$50-\$75 would provide a meal following a funeral or enough copies of an anthem for the choir, \$100 supports a camp scholarship, or \$300 helps cover the cost of adult Sunday School curriculum for three months.

Whatever you can do, remembering that "Christmas is not your birthday" helps us to remember that participating in the missions and ministries of the church honors Christ, whose birthday we are celebrating. Mark your special gifts "Christmas" and turn them in either through the offering or in the office.

## Monday Morning

### Prayer Time

**6:15 am - Chapel**

Come join us for early morning prayer at 6:15 am on Mondays in the chapel. It's a great way to start the week!

\* \* \* \* \*

### DECEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

#### Thursday, Dec. 1

- ESL - 6:30 pm

#### Friday, Dec. 2

- Bible Study - 10 am

#### Sunday, Dec 4 - Communion Sunday

- Brown Santa Breakfast - 8:30 to 9:15am - gym
- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services - 10:30 am
- UMYF - Noon

#### Monday, Dec. 5

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

#### Tuesday, Dec. 6

- Bible Information Fellowship Circle Christmas - 10:00 am - Parlor
- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am
- ESL - 6:30 pm

#### Wednesday, Dec. 7

- Bell Practice - 6:00 pm
- Choir Practice - 7:00 pm

continued

## 2011 Christmas Journey

December 10th

**6:00-8:30 P.M. on Saturday evening  
(free to everyone)!**

The Memorial Merrymakers will make a trip to see the 2011 Christmas Journey held at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Texas on Saturday December 10.

The members of Bethany stage a night-time presentation of the Christmas Story in the rear parking lot of the church. It's an 10 minute drive-through featuring nine different stations, each consisting of special lighting, special effects, magnificent hand painted professional quality props, and live characters and animals.

The journey begins with the prophecy of Christ's birth and ends with Simeon holding Baby Jesus.

Those who wish to join us may meet us in the rear parking lot of Memorial UMC at 3:00 pm and carpool to the city of Fredericksburg to dine at a local restaurant – then off to view the lights and activity at Bethany Lutheran Church from the comfort of our cars. (There is also a hayride on a trailer for the more adventurous!)

### Office Hours during "Christmas Break"

Our office will be closed on Monday, December 26 with limited office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 27-29. We will also be closed on Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2. As always, Pastor Cynthia is available for emergencies by calling her cell phone: 512-921-3473.



### Note from your Financial Secretary

#### End of Year Giving

End of year gifts for MUMC must be dated by December 31, 2011, and delivered by 8:00 a .m., January 3, 2012 to be credited to this year's giving. For more info, please call Shirley at 452-5796.

## DECEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

### Thursday, Dec. 8

- SPRC - Parsonage - 6:30 pm
- ESL - 6:30 pm

### Friday, Dec. 9

- FIA Christmas Lunch - 10am- Gym

### Saturday, Dec. 10

- WPNA Christmas - FHL - 10:00 am

### Sunday, Dec. 11 - Cantata Sunday

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- Trustee Meeting - 11:30 am
- UMW Reading/Library and
- Lamplighter Circles - Noon - Tres Amigos
- UMYF - Noon
- UMW Parsons House Christmas - 3pm

### Monday, Dec. 12

#### Newsletter Deadline

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

### Tuesday, Dec. 13

- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am
- ESL - Gym - 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, Dec. 14

- Bell Practice - 6:00 pm
- Choir Practice - 7:00 pm

### Thursday, Dec. 15

- News Crew - Pearce - 1:00 pm
- UMW Lamplighters Circle - N.E.W- 7p

continued



## *A Note From the Pastor*

Time.

By my calculations, we have 38 days from the day I write this to Christmas Day. Five Sunday's. One major holiday weekend. A few scattered meetings and parties already on the calendar. Who knows how many hours of cleaning to make our home ready for the guests we hope to entertain.

We measure time with watches and clocks - precision calculated if we can get it. We have just changed our clocks so that we might have more daylight in the early waking hours. But the number of minutes of daylight each day are still growing fewer and fewer.

Time.

It will fly by for me with so much to do - for there are still sermons to be written, worship services to plan for, visits to be made, forms to fill out and prayers to be prayed.

I wonder if Mary felt the time flying by, especially there toward the end. I wonder if she longed for a few more hours to get things done, preparations made. Surely she was praying for more time as she and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem - more time to get there before the baby came.

I am sure the Magi were time-measurers, time-counters. They saw the passage of time as moving them ever closer to the star, were able to see progress every day.

There are many, though, for whom these days will move slowly—they will not have the same kind of busy-ness to fill them. They may be closer to the shepherds, each day seemingly like the next, the only passage of time being the movement of the flock from one pasture to another, the coming of night and the dawning of day.

And then God breaks into Time. I pray that this season, whether you are busy or whether your days are long and very much the same, that you will stop in wonder at the moments that God breaks into your busy-ness...or into the loneliness...or both.

May the Christ Child find you - and all who need his Coming - all in his Good Time.

Blessed Advent and Christmas,  
Pastor Cynthia

## NOVEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

### Friday, Dec. 16

- Bible Study - 10am
- Wesley School Christmas Program - Sanctuary - 6:30 pm

### Sunday, Dec.18

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- Caroling - 5:30 pm

### Monday, Dec. 19

- Prayer Meeting - 6:15 am
- Boy Scouts - 7:30 pm

### Tuesday, Dec. 20

- Staff meeting – 9:30 am
- ESL - 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, Dec. 21

- Bell Practice - 6:00 pm
- Choir Practice - 7:00 pm

### Saturday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

- Christmas Eve Service - 6:30 pm

### Sunday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

- No Sunday School
- Worship Services -10:30 am

### Monday, Dec. 26 -

- **Church Office Closed**

### Wednesday, Dec. 28

- No Bells or Choir Practice

### Friday, Dec. 30

- **Church Office Closed**

## United Methodist Women

by Jane Friedrich

### BROWN SANTA PANCAKE BREAKFAST COMING UP!



Join the United Methodist Women on December 4, for breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. The price will only be \$2.00 each if you bring a Brown Santa gift; if you don't bring a gift, it'll be \$3.00. If you went to the breakfast/bake sale we had recently you'll know this is a good way to start Sunday morning, and help with the Brown Santa project as well.

Reading and Library and Lamplighter groups will celebrate their annual Christmas get-together by going to Tres Amigos for lunch immediately after church on December 11. The annual Parsons House party will be held later (3:00 p.m.) so we'll be going there soon after lunch. Don't forget to bring your Christmas finger foods for the Parsons House party.

BIF is inviting all ladies of the church to join them at their December 6, meeting in the parlor at 10:00 a.m. Help us prepare the gift bags for our shut-ins friends. Please bring some suitable items for the bags. We will all bring some Christmas treats to enjoy for lunch. You'll be glad you did!

## Consider joining Boy Scout Troop 88

**Action, Adventure, Fitness and fun are all part of Boy Scouts. Go camping and rafting. Cooking, first aid, riflery, rock climbing, archery, sports and photography are just a few of the great things to learn and do.**

Who: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys

Where: Memorial United Methodist Church,

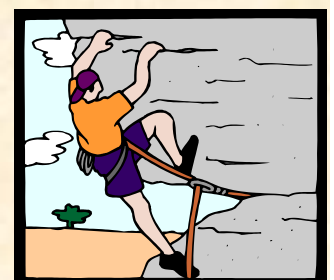
6100 Berkman Drive

When: Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact Scoutmaster:

Brian Kent at 577-5523 or

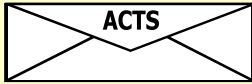
email: b0k3nt@yahoo.com





## Prayer Chain

Would you like to receive the word who needs prayers either by phone or E-mail? If so, please contact the church office at 452-5796, during office hours.



Do Acts of Caring To Shut-ins (ACTS) by picking up an ACTS envelopes in the foyer and put a smile on our shut-ins faces by sending them a card!

**Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, December 12**

## Immediate Prayers

The Family of Terry Ericson  
Dwain Mason (Janet Clark's grandson)  
Frank Viduya (Ron Frederick's friend's father)  
Janet Clark Isabel Velasquez  
Carroll Hesfand Marvle Bissett

## Continuing Prayers

Dick and Dorothy Dennig (William Dennig's parents)  
Francisco Fuentes (Isabel Shelton's grandfather)  
Ozelma Goodlett (Connie Tatom's mother)  
Barbara Compton (Cleo Wilson's daughter)  
Liliane (Jack Dahan's Grandmother)

Chase Holland	Evelyn Capps	Pat & Dave Teaney
Suzanne Wright	Bambi Teaney	Cecil Angermann
Lillian Talley	Diana Valastro	Greg Mikeska
Margi Bienemann	Russell Moore	Paul Moore
CW2 Michael Moore	Bob & Anna Bell Turner	



## Memorials in Loving Memory were given for:

### John Marshall

Jeannie Williamson  
Don Morrison  
Norma Jones  
Harvey Doerr  
Dorothy Johnson  
Judy & Stephen Smith  
Alma & Johnie Madison

### Bill Bennink

Norma Jones  
Jeannie Williamson  
Dorothy Johnson  
Carolyn Rogas  
Carole & Charles Garner  
Alma & Johnie Madison

### Don Metzger

Patrick O. Reardon  
Norma Jones  
Jeannie Williamson  
Johnie & Alma Madison  
Don Morrison  
Dorothy Johnson  
Carole & Charles Garner

### Terry Ericson

Billie & John Nixon      Marie & James Jones      George & Caryl Swenson



# December Birthdays

1st	Kaye Collins	9th	Kendall Marie Hauser	26th	Mark Corry
2nd	Laura Ruth Kozelsky	12th	Evelyn Capps		Laurie Dennig
	Sandra Bissett	13th	Christine Crowe	27th	Wanda Anderson
	Ron Frederick		Michael Moore		Thomas Bissett
	Norma Hauser	15th	Carol Combs		Debbie Stratton
	Charlyne Schmidt		Susan Froebel	28th	George Berglund
3rd	Caitlyn Dennig	17th	Michael Shelton, Jr.	29th	Cynthia Ann Breeding Brown
5th	Drianna Gonzales	19th	Gaines Leavelle		
6th	Ann Brady		Kel Pomerleau Bills		
7th	Don Mohler	22nd	Lilia Gail Mohler		
	Paula Garner		James Rhoades		
	Harry Pomerleau	23rd	Carolyn Rogas		



*Happy  
Birthday!*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**TO:**

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**Sunday Services - Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer**

9:15 a.m.-Sunday School (all ages)  
10:30 a.m.-Worship Service

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

**Church Office Summer Hours**

**Church Secretary - Joanne Macon**

8:30 a.m.– 12 noon and 1- 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Fridays - 8:30 - 12:30 pm

**E-Mail:** secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

pastor.cynthia@earthlink.net