

# 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.

### December 15, 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.

**December 15, 2011**

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

FROM  
YOUR  
STAFF



Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

Billie Nixon

Carol Combs

Shirley Rhoades

Kerry Mc Farland

Lacy Kirby

Joanne Macon



## Advent Event Calendar

### *Christmas Eve Services*

#### **"A Storytelling Service with Singing"**

Dec. 24 - 3:00 p.m.

#### **Candlelight Communion Service**

Dec. 24 - 6:30 p.m.

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

Dec. 25 - 10:30 am



#### ***Ring in the New Year Service***

Jan. 1, 2012 - 10:30 am

Bring a bell on Sunday, and help ring in the New Year !



## 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!

\* \* \* \* \*

### JANUARY'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

#### Sunday, Jan. 1 – Bell Ringing Sunday (Communion on Jan. 8)

- UMW Breakfast - 8:00 to 9:15am - gym
- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services - 10:30 am
- No UMYF

#### Monday, Jan. 2 - Office Closed

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

#### Tuesday, Jan. 3

- Bible Information Fellowship Circle 9:30 am - Pearce
- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am

#### Wednesday, Jan. 4

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

#### Thursday, Jan. 5

- Trustee/SPRC Meeting - 6:30 pm

#### Friday, Jan. 6

- Bible Study - 10:00 am

continued

## Worship in the New Year - you won't want to miss it!

**January 1** - Renewing our Covenant with God and with others

**January 8** - Epiphany (the coming of the Magi)

**January 15** - Remembering our Baptism (if you have never been baptized and would like to talk about it, please call Pastor Cynthia!)

**January 22** - The Tale of Jonah

**January 29** - February 12 - Sermon Series on Healing

**Invite your friends and neighbors!**



### 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.

## JANUARY'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

### Sunday, Jan. 8 - Communion Sunday

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- No Trustee Meeting
- UMYF - Noon - St. Mark's UMC

### Monday, Jan. 9

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

### Tuesday, Jan. 10

- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am
- Wesley School Board Mtg - 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, Jan. 11

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

### Saturday, Jan. 14

- WPNA Meeting - Gym - 10:00 am

### Sunday, Jan. 15

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- UMYF - Noon - Memorial UMC

### Monday, Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office Closed

- Finance Meeting - 6:30 pm
- Church Council Meeting- 7:30 pm

### Tuesday, Jan. 17

- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am

### Wednesday, Jan. 18

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

continued



## *A Note From the Pastor*

As I write this, Christmas is almost upon us. We'll be filling the sanctuary and our homes with carols. Many of you already have the tree up, decorations swinging from the branches. We've got garland and candles and banners up in the sanctuary. Soon the poinsettias will be giving every spare place a burst of red.

So what do you do when it all comes down?

Several people have commented that the sanctuary feels so empty when the decorations come down. I think that happens in our homes too.

Where I don't want it to happen is in your life.

When a child is born into our lives, one thing I hear a lot of parents say is that they have to get used to a 24/7 lifestyle. That child is absolutely dependent on them, and it can be a little overwhelming--it takes some adjustment, but they know they have to be dependable.

God very deliberately chose to become a child first. This Jesus whom we know and love as an adult, is in need of our attention.

Can you hear his cries? Can you see that he needs feeding? Can you keep him safe from those who would wish him harm? And can you do that, not just for a week or two when everything smells like cinnamon and evergreens and the malls are playing Christmas music? This baby doesn't get put away with the rest of the décor.

There is something that we can allow to fill us even after the garlands are down and the tree is put away, after all the sparkle seems to be gone from the world and there's just winter to get through—wet, dark and cold winter.

We can allow ourselves to be filled with the joy of the manger and the hillside. We can allow ourselves to look with wonder on what God is doing in our lives and in the lives of so many around us. We can keep on giving of ourselves and thinking about how best to show those around us how important they are to us.

Then Christmas won't be about the one day. It will be about what it was always meant to be about: Emmanuel, God *with* us.

Peace and Joy, Pastor Cynthia

## JANUARY'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

### Thursday, Jan. 19

- UMW Lamplighters Circle - 7:00 pm

### Friday, Jan. 20

- Bible Study - 10am

### Saturday, Jan. 21

- ReThink Leadership - NW Hills UMC  
- 9:00 -12:30 pm

### Sunday, Jan. 22

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- UMYF - Noon - St. Mark's UMC

### Monday, Jan. 23

#### Newsletter Deadline

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

### Tuesday, Jan. 24

- Staff meeting – 9:30 am

### Wednesday, Jan. 25

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

### Thursday, Jan. 26

- News Crew - 1:00 pm

### Sunday, Jan. 29

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- UMYF - Noon - Memorial UMC

### Monday, Jan. 30

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

### Tuesday, Jan. 31

- Staff meeting – 9:30 am

## 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. In the past, we have mailed a separate letter with this information. 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 loyal and hard-working 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 7 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

## 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,

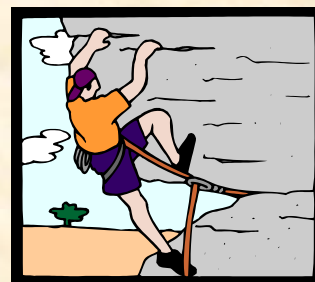
6100 Berkman Drive

When: Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact Scoutmaster:

Brian Kent at 577-5523 or

email: b0k3nt@yahoo.com



## United Methodist Women

by Jane Friedrich

January 2012 sounds a long way off but it will be here before we know it. President Norma Hauser reminds us of the Leadership Development/Training meeting scheduled for January 21, at the Friendship Center of Smithville United Methodist Church. Mark your calendars and let Norma know if you plan on participating.

January 22-24, are the dates set for the Texas United Methodist Legislative Event. Details will be announced later.

Our unit meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 28. Hopes are that we can plan our meetings for the second Saturday of every month for a breakfast meeting in one of the area restaurants. Details will be posted when they are finalized.

Kay Dunbar will review the book, "Same Kind of Different as Me" at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Reading and Library. This unique book involves a slave, and international art dealer and an unlikely woman who bound them together. Norma Jones expects to have the books we ordered available for distribution.

BIF will meet at 9:30 am in the Pearce Room on January 3. Be thinking of some good programs we can have in 2012, and tell Carolyn Rogas what you would like. Billie Talley will review the new book, "The Dovekeepers" - Alice Hoffman's latest novel which was set in Masada in 70 C.E.

Lamplighters will meet on January 19, in the N.E.W. Room at 7:00 pm. Virginia advises that work will be done on ongoing projects.

Get a 2012 calendar now and put down this reminder:

UMW PANCAKE BREAKFAST:  
JANUARY 8, 2012, 8:00 - 9:15 am.



## News from the Pew

by Billie Nixon

Love and concern go the family of Emogene Monson Bengston, who passed away at the age of 95, in Houston, Texas on November 12, 2011.

Emogene married Arnold Bengston on July 3, 1940. They had 3 children, Bette, Donald, and Dennis (deceased). She was very active in the Eastern Star, and was a life long member of Memorial United Methodist Church, formerly Central Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday School. Arnold and Dennis preceded her in 1985. She moved to Houston, Texas, in November 2007 and had been residing at Treemont Nursing Care.

Emogene leaves to cherish her memory daughter, Bette Austin and (Paul), and son Donald Bengston and may grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held on Thursday, November 17 at Weed Corley in Austin, with funeral services immediately following and interment at Capitol Memorial Park.

We remember Emogene who was very friendly, loving, and enjoyed church, her family, friends, playing cards and dominoes.

May God bless the family and know that she was a much-loved Christian who won't be forgotten.

### Office Hours during "Christmas Break"

Our office will be closed on Monday, December 26, with limited office hours on Tuesday, December 27, Wednesday and Thursday, December 27-29. We will also be closed on Friday, December 20 and Monday, January 2. As always, Pastor Cynthia is available for emergencies by calling her cell phone: 512.921.3473.

### A Note from your Financial Secretary

#### End of Year Giving

End of year giving 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 information, please call Shirley at 452-5796.

# January Birthdays

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Candy Valentine | 17 James Shelton       |
| 4 Jeremy Mohler   | 18 Anna Belle Turner   |
| 5 Bambi Teaney    | 19 Eric Reinhart       |
| 11 Johnie Madison | 20 Warren D. Crumbling |
| 12 Kay Dunbar     | 21 Clay Ericson        |
| Matthew Shelton   | Eric Reinhart          |
| 13 James W. Brown | 23 Connie Tatom        |
| Kendall Smith     | 26 Steve Jourdan       |
| 14 William Head   | 28 Helen Cox           |
| 16 Carl Helge     | Juliet Milk            |
| Travis Purtle     | 31 Kirk Amundson       |



*Happy  
Birthday!*

**Newsletter Deadline  
Monday, January 23**

**Immediate Prayers**

Wanda Stout Adams  
Emma Bawden

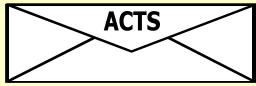
**Continuing Prayers**

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)  
Frank Viduya (Ron Frederick's friend's father)

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

**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!**

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](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)

[pastor.cynthia@earthlink.net](mailto:pastor.cynthia@earthlink.net)