

# The Newsletter

## November 2016

### 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.**

#### *Sunday Schedule*

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

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Web site:

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

Find us on Facebook at

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# November

## 2016

### Advent Series Begins:

### November 13th

### Advent of Misfit Toys



### November 20 after Service in the Gym



### Sunday November 20 3:00pm at Wesley UMC



**Submitted by Billie Nixon  
Membership Coordinator**



In Memory of

## **Ross Edward Hise**

November 29, 1932 - October 21, 2016

Ross Edward Hise, 83 years old, of Austin, Texas, peacefully passed away on the morning of October 21st, 2016, after living several years with Alzheimer's. He is survived by his wife Zora Mae Hise, his son Paul Hise (wife Kerry) of Austin, his son Clark Hise (wife Sharon) of Dallas, and his daughter Laura Hise of Laurel, Maryland. His grandchildren are Andrea Whiteside (husband Paul), Eric Hise (wife Alison), Ryan Hise, Carly Hise, and Jacy Hise. His great-grandchildren include Ashlyn, Ben, Casen and Chloe Whiteside, Avery and Jacob Hise.

Ross was the youngest of Luther and Lockey Hise's six children. He was born at home in Falfurrias, Texas on November 29th, 1932. His father died when Ross was 2 years old, leaving his mother to run a dry cleaning and tailor shop while raising her six children with the help of an aunt. As a child, Ross was watched over by the small community of Falfurrias. Ross's oldest brother, Luther, Jr. died in a military training flight accident when Ross was 11. Because of his faith, Ross was baptized into God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit at First Baptist Church of Falfurrias. As a high school student, he started to direct choirs which began his lifetime of

following the call wherever he went. After graduating from Falfurrias High School in 1949, Ross attended college at Sul Ross State College in Alpine, Texas and graduated in May of 1953 with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education.

Ross was employed by the Sligo ISD in Denver City as a choir director for 5th through 12th grades, where he met and married Zora Mae Sweat on April 16, 1954. That summer, Ross was drafted into the United States Army, becoming an Army Bandsman (the only time he did not direct choirs). He was transferred frequently: from Texas to Fort Ord, CA, Aberdeen, MA, and Stuttgart, Germany. Ross and Zora Mae were able to use his leave times to travel the west coast of California, the east coast of Maryland, and several countries in Europe before returning to Texas in 1956.

After Ross's honorable discharge, they returned to Denver City, Texas, where their first child Paul was born. There, he continued choir directing as though he never left. Ross was called to be the Methodist Church Choir Director in Levelland, Texas, where the family moved. During that time their son Clark was born. Then Ross was called to be the Methodist Choir Director in Plainview, Texas, where Ross was employed as the High School Choir Director. Ross got a call to consider a move to Alpine, Texas in 1964. He accepted the job and as a member of the faculty, Ross taught in the Sul Ross State University Music Department. Their daughter, Laura, was born during that time. Before Ross became the acting Head of Sul Ross's Music Department, he took a college singing group - the Musical Majority - on a U.S.O. Pacific tour from October to December of 1969. The family remained in Alpine until the Fall of 1972, when they decided to move to Austin, Texas. Again attending UT at Austin, Ross was a post-graduate student at the School of Music, working on his doctoral degree.

In Austin, Ross began working for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and continued there until his retirement in summer of 1995 [his mother passed away during this time].

Ross was an accomplished vocal and instrumental musician who played several brass instruments and sang in and directed many choirs throughout his

life. He was a kind, polite, thoughtful and unselfish influence on many people. Ross was a faithful member of and truly loved being the choir director for many years at Memorial United Methodist Church. He loved being around his grandchildren: teaching them life lessons, solving riddles, playing cards, and singing with them. All of his family and friends will greatly miss him, but we know without a doubt he is now singing beautiful music with the angels in heaven.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 pm, October 29, 2016, at Memorial United Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman Dr., Austin, Texas 78723. Instead of flowers, please consider a donation to Memorial UMC at 6100 Berkman Dr., Austin, Texas 78723.

**Love and concern go out to all the family and friends as they heal from this loss.**



## Baptism

Congratulations to Katherine Eaker on the baptism of her great grandson. Drew Patrick Bryla was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, Texas on Sunday, October 16, 2016. Drew turned one year old on Oct. 19, 2016. He is the son of Eric and Jennifer Dwyer Bryla, and grandson of Jim and Judy Eaker Dwyer. He lives in Fredericksburg with his two older brothers, Will (9 years old) and Jake Bryla (6 years old).



Sunday Oct. 16, 2016 we were privileged to be a part of the new

members Cesar I. Benavides and his two sons, Lucas I. Benavides age 10 & Zachary A. Benavides age 7.

Cesar comes to us by profession of faith from another denomination and both boys have been baptized so they will become baptized members.

We are happy that this family lives in our neighborhood and are already established regularly in attendance.

May God bless you richly and may we grow in worship and witness for Christ together.



## *Memorial United Methodist* *All Saint's Sunday* November 6th

**Elizabeth Jane Sanford**

**Anna Belle Turner**

**David Earnest Teaney**

**Annie Katheryn Allen**

**Jeanne May Williamson**

**Ross Edward Hise**





***Come, Share, Rejoice!***

**Thanksgiving Lunch**

**November 20th**

Immediately following the Worship Service, come to the Celebration Thanksgiving Lunch. Turkey, dressing and drinks will be provided.

Please bring 2 side dishes to share.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you would like to donate or cook a turkey, dressing and gravy please talk with Billie Nixon 512-923-4400



## **Advent Series Begins November 6th**

Every one of us has something we feel like makes us unique. That can feel special or it can make us feel left out. This Advent, we celebrate that God loves our uniqueness and even uses misfits like us and like the folks in the Bible to bring us Jesus.


Come celebrate with us!



"I believe in community. I believe that if you ask for what you need, people will give it. And sometimes, even when you do not ask, people see what you need and come forward." —*Nancy Smith Worthen*

"I am grateful for my dreams because they push me to do things that I never would have been able to do without them." —*Van Logan Franklin*

"Art, poetry, friends, health, freedom, peace, seasons, wisdom, beauty, joy, spiritual inspiration, family, love, creativity, harmony, nature, generosity, simplicity, energy, joy, and more joy." —*Judith Barbour Osborne*



**\$10 for your Christmas Poinsettias. Deadline to order is Friday December 16th. Forms will be available on December 1st**



# NOVEMBER

## CALENDAR

### **Tuesday, November 1**

9:30 am BIF - Pearce

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

### **Wednesday, November 2**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, November 3**

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

### **Friday, November 4**

### **Saturday, November 5**

8:00am-4:00pm Wesley Garage Sale - In gym

12:00 pm-3:00 pm Girl Scout Area Meeting

### **Sunday, November 6**

8:30 am Pancake Breakfast - Gym

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

### **Monday, November 7**

6:30 am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Gym area

### **Tuesday, November 8 ELECTION DAY**

**7:00am– 7:00pm Voting Site - Gym**

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

6:00 pm Wesley Board - Pearce

### **Wednesday, November 9**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, November 10**

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

7:00 pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

### **Friday, November 11**

### **Saturday, November 12**

10:00am-11:30am WPNA - Gym/FHL

### **Sunday, November 13 Begin Advent**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Trustees

### **Monday, November 14**

6:30 am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Gym area

### **Tuesday, November 15**

9:00 am - 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

10:00 am Honeybees - Pearce

6:00 pm NAMI Support - Pearce

### **Wednesday, November 16**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir room

### **Thursday, November 17**

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

10:00 am Reading and Library

7:00 pm Bread Church - Gym

### **Friday, November 18**

### **Saturday, November 19**

8:00am-5pm Private Wedding - Sanctuary

12:00 pm-3:00 pm Girl Scout Area Meeting

### **Sunday, November 20 Thanksgiving Lunch**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am- Worship Service

11:45am Thanksgiving Lunch

3:00 pm Charge Conference Wesley UMC

### **Monday, November 21**

6:30 am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

6:30 pm-8:30pm Undoing Racism - Parlor

7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Gym area

### **Tuesday, November 22**

9:00 am -1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

**Wednesday, November 23**

Wesley School Parent Lunch - Gym

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 24 Thanksgiving/Closed**

**Friday, November 25 Office Closed**

**Saturday, November 26**

12pm-4pm Private Party - Parlor

**Sunday, November 27**

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Worship Service

**Monday, November 28**

6:30 am Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm Girl Scouts - Gym area

6:30 pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Gym area

**Tuesday, November 29**

9:00 am - 1:30 pm ESL classes - Parlor

**Wednesday, November 30**

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir room

Barbara Metzger

Cesar Benavides

27th David Elliott

Alma Madison

Billie Nixon

28th Ronald Dee Gray

Kim Pena

29th Ross Hise



**MONTHLY**



**Come join your church family for a pancake breakfast on Dec. 4th at 8:30am in the Gym.**



**November Birthdays**

- 4th Karl Amundson
- 7th Holly (Shelton) Wright
- 10th Wanda Stout Adams  
Eddie Smith
- 11th Mary Beth O'Hanlon
- 15th Afton Pomerleau Cherry  
Gerry Almquist
- 16th Jonathan Ader
- 17th Lester Bryant  
Philip Lowe  
Jessica Christine McFarland
- 18th Stefani Stephens
- 24th Bob Hauser
- 25th Pat Gibson



Membership Coordinator:

Billie

Monday & Tuesday

9am-3pm

Administrative Assistant: Kc

Monday, Thursday and Friday

9:30am- 1:00pm

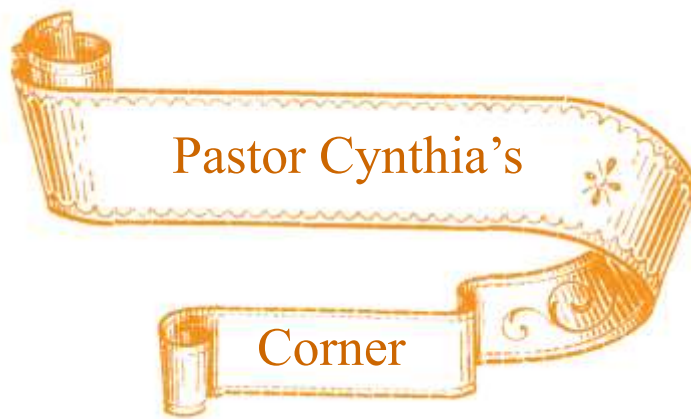
You may Email:

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

Or leave a Message: (512)-452-5796

**\*\*Please Note: Emails and Messages are only checked during Kc's hours. For Urgent issues contact the Pastor or Billie directly.\*\*** Closed Nov. 24th & 25th





*“Dear friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, “Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!” and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?” James 2:14-17, The Message*

“Faith without works is like a song you can’t sing. It’s about as useless as a screen door on a submarine.” – Rich Mullins

The Christian acapella singing group that I helped found at Stanford is going to be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a couple of weeks. I won’t be able to go out for the anniversary concert because it’s in California on a Saturday at 6:30pm—not exactly conducive to being in worship in Texas at 10:30am the next morning!

One of the songs that was the most fun for us to sing is the Rich Mullins song quoted above. We talked a lot about the James passage it referenced as we were preparing it. We talked about the balance between the faith and works, and though we could speak intellectually about knowing that faith is what saves us and that genuine faith will produce a real desire to help those in need, that was much harder to live out.

I find that this is still true. We have far more desire to do good than we have energy, time, money, health or other resources. We want our faith to make a difference, but many times, it’s hard to do that when we have bills to pay (and therefore work to get done), friends to keep in touch with, family to care for. And there seem to be a never-ending stream of needs. A never-ending stream of those who need our kindness or assistance.

And sometimes the overwhelming amount of need causes me to seize up—to say that there isn’t anything I can do. And sometimes I can’t do exactly what people are asking for, but I think that there is something in this passage that makes me try to look for a third path, an alternate solution. Right now, in a denomination and a country that seems more and more divided every day, I think that third path thinking is going to be crucial. And this passage from James is one that holds me to trying to be creative—because saying that I have faith means that I assume that God can work through me. That God can

work through the church.

The friend in rags that James speaks of—are the only solutions to either ignore or to take care of all of his needs? What might be some other options? What are long-term

solutions? Can we not only meet his need, but help him to find a sustainable way to live? Or are there others who are good at this who we can call upon to help—be the connecting point between this friend and the life-giving and life-sustaining resources that he can’t find on his own?

I feel like we do this work every day at Memorial, not just in the sense of literally helping people find food or clothing, but helping people find *life*. There is so much fear and anger in the world today—and fear and anger are life-drainers. I think that reaching out to other people and hearing their stories might help us (and them!) to figure out what it means for them to not just trust God, but do things that demonstrate that trust, something that helps them to have more life.

In this season, please think about not just what you are thankful for, but also what you are being called to do. If it seems impossible, remember that God is always providing a way for us to practice our faith in a way that brings life to us, and to the world. See you in worship.



Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?

**Bread Church**

**Thursday November 17th**

**7pm Gym**

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

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