

# The Newsletter

## January 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

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, Thursday, and Friday

12:30 pm-3:00 pm

Phone: 512.452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323

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## Epiphany Sunday

### January 3rd

Bringing gifts of Children's  
Underwear for Harris  
Elementary

as we celebrate Epiphany and  
the gifts of the Magi.



## Baptism of the Lord

### Sunday, January 10



# News from the Pews



## Women's News

Submitted by Alberta Shelton

### Merry Christmas!

We always expect this season to be a happy experience for everyone, but this has proven to not always be true. However, Virginia Smith's story is a happy one. She now lives at the Conservatory in Austin and really likes it. This past weekend she went to Corpus Christi to visit her son, Maurice E. Smith, so they could attend the graduation of her grandson and his son, Clint Joseph Smith, whose service was Saturday, December 12 at 10 AM at the American Bank Central Arena. Clint received his BS from A&M University. Congratulations to each of you for the joy of family and happy accomplishments. Virginia has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren so she is very wealthy indeed.



### *In Sympathy*

Love and concern go to Ron Frederick and others in our church family who have had death, sickness or other sadness at this time. Ron's father, Danny Frederick, age 65, of Kansas City, Kansas died December 2, 2015 from a heart attack. His memorial party for a happy life was held on December 6, 2015. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran and was survived by his wife, two sons, step-children, one sister and nieces and nephews. May the memories of this happy man warm your hearts and give you peace.

Merry Christmas to all and to you a

Happy New Year!

**Submitted by Billie Nixon  
Membership Coordinator**

Our unit of United Methodist Women had a very good year. We were able to send \$1,809.51 to mission projects. As the year drew to a close, we cleaned out our treasury of extra monies. This is a requirement of all good units. Our giving for the year included: \$275.00 to Friendship Center, \$25.00 to the Miles Scholarship Fund (helping scholars from the Montopolis area attend college), \$50.00 to Church Women United plus \$14.51 in the Least Coin Worldwide Fund for Peace, \$20.00 for two blankets for Church World Service Disaster fund, \$50.00 to JAFON ( a mission project to provide legal counsel to undocumented persons), \$25.00 to help a family in Montopolis send a young child to Friendship Center's Early Childhood School, \$25.00 to the Conference Scholarship Fund to help women pursuing a vocation in religious studies, \$100 to Wesley School to help with new kitchen expenses, \$25.00 to help with tuition for a family with limited means attending Wesley School, plus \$1150 to Conference for the mission field.

We received three bags of toys for Brown Santa. One generous member got carried away and brought over \$70.00 in toys. We also raised \$191.00 in cash for Brown Santa with a big help from a generous gentleman who dropped a \$50.00 bill in the basket at our breakfast.

December 1, we gathered to stuff Christmas stockings with items we had collected for the shut-ins of the church. Members then delivered the stockings. Greeting cards were sent to those in distant areas.

All of the above was done while the group also worked around the church doing odd jobs like repairing church banners, changing the altar, fixing

## Women's News continued

the communion, working in the library, restocking the new kitchen. As a plus they were listening to inspirational tapes and reading recommended books to enrich their spiritual lives. If you're a woman and not a member of this group, ask yourself "why not?"

Don't forget our breakfast on the first Sunday at 8:30 AM.

Don't forget the faith study beginning the last Tuesday in January led by Pastor Cynthia. Supper will be at 6:00 and the study will follow at 6:30. A donation of \$5.00 for the supper would be appreciated but not required. All proceeds go to the mission field.



### A Note from our Church Council Chair

The called Charge Conference that Pastor Cynthia has announced from the pulpit the past two Sundays met this past Monday night, and I asked for the opportunity to let you know what was discussed. The writer of Ecclesiastes mentions there is a season for everything. The past 3 or 4 years, Memorial has been blessed with a season of plenty. This year, for a number of factors, we have entered a season of want and need. The main issue discussed at the Charge Conference was the budget shortfall we are facing. I will not go into the details of how this came about, but we have provided a letter on the back table that you can take with you that explains our situation or you may call the church office to have that letter mailed or emailed to you.

The Charge Conference came up with a plan to meet our budget shortfall using funds that have been generously donated to Memorial by past members who now rest in the arms of the Lord. Your Church Council has guarded these funds over the years for just such an eventuality. Your Council is also aware that in past years, members who have wished to help when Memorial has faced similar situations have, after prayer and meditation, increased their giving during the Christmas season. If you were considering a Christmas offering, we hope that you will go to God in prayer and meditation about ways you might be able to help Memorial in our time of need. We will honor gifts which are designated either for our general fund or for our apportionment giving. Thank you for your prayers and support to the ministries of Memorial.

—Steve Reinhart, Council Chair



**UMYF-United  
Methodist Youth  
Fellowship**

### **MIDWINTER 2016!**

Four events hosted by our seven districts. All are welcome at each event. Mark your calendars now!

Jan 15-18—Las Misiones  
@ Camp Young Judea

Jan 29-31—Coastal Bend and El Valle  
@ Camp Zephyr

Feb 12-14—Hill Country, West, and Crossroads  
@ Mt. Wesley (with the Mark Swayze Band!)

Feb 26-28—Capital  
@ Camp Tejas

**Feel free to contact Kendall for more  
information, 512-844-6809 or  
kendallsmith@accentfoods.com.**

**See you on Sunday!**

**Kendall**

# Pastor's Corner

*“All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.” Acts 1:14*

Memorial UMC has, by one name or another, been worshiping and serving Jesus in Austin for the past 143 years. For many of those years, the congregation felt like it knew what to do: you had a place, you had a pastor, you had worship on Sunday morning (and sometimes Sunday night...and sometimes Wednesday night!), and the rest of the week you might have Bible studies. You took care of sick people and shut ins, and you hosted weddings and funerals. You baptized babies and had Sunday School for the children as well as many of the adults. You had meetings to talk about how to administer the church and relate to other churches and how to be in mission. That was what church was. That was what church did.

Over the past several decades, the world has begun changing more and more rapidly. We have spent time and energy decrying some of those changes—rightfully so in some cases, but many times to no effect and without any better argument than, “But it’s always been this way.”

At the beginning of Acts, the disciples see Jesus ascend, after he had been with them for 40 days following his Resurrection. There was no “we’ve done it this way before”. They were trying to figure out a whole new understanding of what it meant to worship God, to follow a resurrected Savior. So what did they do?

They prayed. They kept in contact with other believers—in the verses just beyond the one above, it talks about Peter giving a sermon to “all the believers”, who numbered about 120. They served. They prayed. They went outside themselves.

With our rapidly changing culture, we are faced with whole new questions about how church can offer the Good News. Following the old map exclusively is not possible anymore if we want to go to where the people are. The Pentecost experience that follows this chapter makes it clear that the mission is wider than just our folks in our place.

So there are two things that I need to ask of you. The first is to pray. You might think that’s a small thing, but it’s not. It’s big. We need to pray for our needs. We need to pray for the needs of the community surrounding us. We need to pray that we can be the answer to prayers that are going up around the city. We need to pray for direction and understanding. You, whether you serve on a committee or are even able to come to church every week, are a part of those prayers. Your Council will be putting more emphasis on prayer as well.

And then we need you to say, “What has God asked me to do about it?” Because I believe that every prayer we pray, God answers. And sometimes we are the answer. If we stop being the answer to prayer, I believe we stop being the Body of Christ. We try to make it possible for everyone to participate—but we also need for people to choose to serve. Many of you already are, and we give thanks for that! But many of you are on the fence about what you can do—and if you are, then I’d love to come and speak with you one-on-one to see how it is that God is asking you to offer yourself in service. There are tasks for every ability and age if we listen to God speaking to us about the need.

And we can continue to worship together. This is vital because it is in worship that we continue to grow together as the body of Christ, reminding each other that we are baptized into Christ. I will see you there.

Peace and Joy, Pastor Cynthia





## Winter Worship Series:

### “God Sightings”

January 10-February 7

“Where do you see God at work?” Methodists of all kinds have always seen God in many ways, including through the ways in which we present God to others. When the New York Daily News had the large headline, “God Isn’t Fixing This” after the tragedy in San Bernadino, Christians across the country reacted in many ways.

What does it mean for God to be active and involved in the world? What does it mean for God to be active and involved in your life? How do you see God working?

Our worship series, starting on Baptism of the Lord Sunday (January 10), will look at some of the episodes in the Bible where God was revealed to particular people in particular circumstances. What do we have to learn from the way that God worked with them? I think it will help us to all be able to see and speak about where God is working (and through whom God is working!) now. Join us!

## Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10

Baptism is a celebration of God’s love for us. It is a sacrament that incorporates us into the church, the Body of Christ. It is something we believe happens once in a lifetime (because it is an act of God and God doesn’t make a mistake!), though it is something which we can recommit ourselves to over and over.

When we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday, it is a particularly appropriate time to baptize children or adults (who would also be confirmed at that time). If you have already been baptized, it will be a time to recommit to a baptized life. If you wish to have a child baptized or to be baptized yourself either on this Sunday or on any Sunday in January, please call the church office at 512-452-5796 or Pastor Cynthia directly at 512-921-3473 to set up an appointment to discuss and prepare for this sacred time.

## Special Conference-Wide Announcement

The Rio Texas Conference and the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops announced on December 4 that Bishop James Dorff was resigning as bishop and surrendering his credentials as of January 1, 2016. He also took an immediate leave of absence. Bishop Mike McKee, President of the SCJ College of Bishops, announced that an interim bishop would be assigned to the Rio Texas Conference as of January 1.

The Rio Texas Conference was already anticipating a new bishop as of September 1, 2016, because of Dorff’s impending retirement which was to have occurred on August 31, 2016. Interim bishop’s are usually assigned from a pool of available retired bishops.

Bishop Dorff’s statement is as follows:

"It is so difficult to admit and share, but I must inform you that I did not uphold the sacred vows I made to God at my wedding, at my consecration as bishop, and at my ordination as elder. I crossed what were the clear expectations of relational boundaries.

For this transgression, I am profoundly sorry. I offer my sincerest apologies to all concerned. My actions have caused pain to many, including my family, the person involved, each of you, members of the annual conference, and the greater church. I am so, so sorry."

We invite prayers for Bishop Dorff, his wife (Barbara), his family, the person who was involved, and the whole Rio Texas Conference as we seek to follow Christ Jesus.



**Please Remember to be in prayer for our congregation, especially our shut-ins.**

# CALENDAR

## **Friday, January 1**

Office Closed

## **Sunday, January 3—Epiphany Sunday**

8:30 am - UMW Pancake Breakfast

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service— Communion

## **Monday, January 4**

6:30 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, January 5**

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - BIF (Bible Information Fellowship)  
United Methodist Women— Pearce Room

## **Wednesday, January 6**

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

## **Saturday, January 9**

10:00 am - Windsor Park Neighborhood  
Association Monthly Meeting— gym

## **Sunday, January 10— Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:30 am - Trustees —Pearce

## **Monday, January 11**

6:30 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, January 12**

6:30 pm - Wesley Board—Pearce Room

## **Wednesday, January 13**

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

7:00 pm - Reading and Library UMW— Library

## **Thursday, January 14**

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society— gym

## **Sunday, January 17**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

## **Monday, January 18— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day— Office Closed**

6:30 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

6:30 pm - Church Council— Pearce

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, January 19**

### Newsletter Deadline

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees UMW crafters— Pearce

## **Wednesday, January 20**

10: 00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

## **Sunday, January 24**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

## **Monday, January 25**

6:30 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

## **Tuesday, January 26**

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

6:00 pm - Bible Study

## **Wednesday, January 27**

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

## **Sunday, January 31**

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

# CALENDAR

CONTINUED



# Birthdays

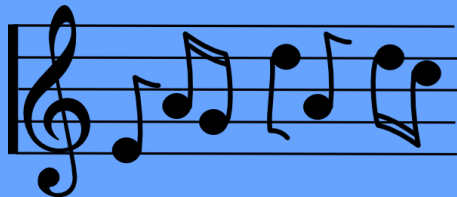
## MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Come join your church family for a pancake breakfast on January 3 at 8:30 AM in the gym.

## Wednesday Rehearsals

Choir @ 7:00 pm



- 2 Candy Valentine
- 4 Jeremy Mohler
- 5 Bambi Teaney
- 8 Mary Bryant
- 11 Johnie Madison
- 12 Kay Dunbar  
Matthew Shelton
- 13 Kendall Smith
- 14 William Head
- 16 Carl Helge  
Travis Purtle
- 17 James Shelton
- 18 Anna Belle Turner
- 21 Clay Ericson  
Eric Reinhart
- 23 Connie Tatom
- 26 Steve Jourdan
- 31 Kirk Amundson

## Building Use Calendar



Any group wanting to use a room at the church for a meeting needs to make

arrangements with the church office. You can make a one-time reservation or an on-going reservation.

## 2016 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. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and sign up today.*

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### January 3rd

Bringing gifts of Children's Underwear for  
Harris Elementary

as we celebrate Epiphany and the gifts of  
the Magi.



### Baptism of the Lord

### Sunday, January 10



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED