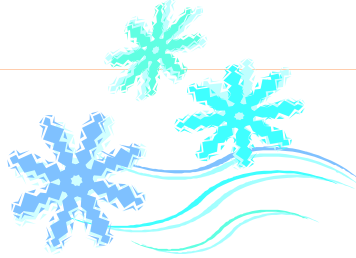


The Memorial Messenger

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January 2012



Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, February 5:

Communion

Sunday, February 12:

Fellowship Lunch

Each family is asked to bring TWO of the following: pot of soup, sandwiches, salad or dessert. Don't miss this time of food and fellowship!!

Evening Concert of Prayer and Praise, 6:30 pm

Monday, February 13:

Merry Widows Valentine's Lunch

12 Noon at Bonnie Kate Café



Tuesday, February 14: Valentine's Day!

Sunday, February 19:

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting for the election of church officers will be held immediately following the morning worship service in the Sanctuary. Please exercise the privilege and responsibility of your membership in the body of Christ at Memorial by attending and participating in this meeting.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK — Rev. Dwight Basham, Senior Pastor



The Year of the LORD's Favor



The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.*

Isaiah 61:1-2

Happy New Year! Did you know we are living in “*the year of the LORD's favor*” (Isaiah 61:2)? God's people first received that particular message of hope through the prophet Isaiah following the Babylonian exile during the 6th century B.C. They would have found much in Isaiah's prophecy to encourage them in their particular situation. In a sense, the year of the LORD's favor had begun for them with their release from captivity and return to their own land.

But the fulfillment that came with Jesus Christ has given this message a far richer meaning for us today. The “*year of the LORD's favor*” which he inaugurated (Luke 4:19) is still in force, and will continue to be so until his coming again. And amazingly, his ministry is continued by all who proclaim salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18). Yes, you and me — all those who can sing Charles Wesley's words (which are reflective of Isaiah's message as Wesley described his own personal conversion in the hymn “*And Can It Be?*”):

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed thee.*

Can you identify with Isaiah's (and Wesley's) message of freedom from the burden and bondage of sin which is like a prison because you know Christ as your Deliverer? If so, how can you continue Jesus' ministry in 2012 “*to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor*” to your friends and neighbors in Elizabethton and Carter County?

As you prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance to answer that question for yourself, might I suggest you become involved in one of Memorial's many ministry opportunities highlighted in this month's newsletter? Just as the ruins of Jerusalem were restored in Isaiah's day, the building of Christ's church will be made possible in our day by the presence and operation of Christ's empowering Spirit in each of us as we yield ourselves (our time, our finances, and our gifts for service) to him for his kingdom and his glory. Yours in Him, **Dwight**

Leadership

Team

Highlights



Deacons

Mercy Ministry: Disaster Response Coordinator Doug Thomas reported on the recent organizational meeting to discuss ministry purpose, team building, and equipment. Grant money has been received to purchase a trailer.

Treasurer's Report: Approved Treasurer's Report.

House & Grounds: (1) Approved a Memorandum of Understanding for Annex rental. (2) Discussion of regulating church thermostats.

Transportation: Church van dual wheel conversion completed with fenders. Running boards on order.

Elders

Officer Examination: (1) Approved examination of Deacon nominee Ramon Sanchez-Vinas along with Deacon nominees eligible for re-election: George Carey, Tim Henthorne, Steve Hubbard, Joe Muncey, and David Robinson for the congregational meeting for elections on February 19.

Worship: Approved (1) 2012 dates for the celebration of the Lord's Supper and (2) Maundy Thursday drama of “The Last Supper” to be directed by Carolyn Matthews.

Prayer: Approved Quarterly Sunday Evening Concert of Prayer & Praise on February 19 @ 6:30pm.

Ministry Teams: (1) Received Ministry Team reports from Student Ministries, Grow Groups, Ladies' Bible Study, Merry Widows, and Evangelism; (2) **Mercy/Outreach:** Approved \$500 for Feb 17-18 ESL Training in Sweetwater, TN.

New Business: (1) Approved Pastor Basham's requests to participate in the CCMA Winter Retreat at Fairhaven on Jan 19 and Prepare-Enrich Marriage Facilitator Workshop at Chalet Retreat on Jan 24; (2) Approved Ruling Elder Alan Richardson's request for emeritus status after 26 years of faithful service; recognition scheduled for Feb 19 morning worship service.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—Marianne Townsend, Coordinator

♥ *Children's Ministries* ♥
February Happenings! ♥

Wednesday, February 8th (there is NO school, but we are still going to meet): **CHILDREN'S VALENTINE'S PARTY!!** 6-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a special guest, games, prizes and lots of love to share!

Whoever brings the most friends to the party will get a special prize!

Children's Church is in need of 2 more volunteers to work Sunday mornings during the worship service. It will require 45 minutes once every 7 weeks. Call Marianne Townsend if you can fill this need. (This is Marianne's new phone number 423-707-5153).

English as a Second Language

There are five members from our church going to the *English as a Second Language Ministry* training session at Christ Presbyterian Church in Sweetwater, Tennessee. The dates for this training are February 17 and 18. Those attending are Alan and Ellen Richardson, Sarah Roberson, Nancy Robinson and Pam Turpin. We have many interested members desiring to participate in such a ministry at our church. With the support of the Session and Diaconate and the prayers of God's people, we hope to establish such a ministry here at Memorial. This is part of the Mercy Ministry of the PCA, and we are eager to be a part of it. Thank you for your support and prayers. If you want to be part of this ministry or have questions, call Ellen Richardson (474-2307).



YOUTH MINISTRIES—Jacki McCartt & Josh Richardson, Coordinators

CONGRATS, GRATS & TRANSITIONS

Congratulations to Student Ministries Coordinator **Jacki McCartt** who graduated from ETSU (BSW in Social Work) in December! She will soon begin working full-time for the Department of Children's Services in Washington County. We are **grateful** for Jacki's faithful service to our students over the last two years and we pray God's blessings upon her!

We are also **grateful** that **Josh Richardson** will continue serving as a Coordinator for our Student Ministries while he continues to be enrolled at ETSU in Conservation.

We are **transitioning** to a family based/led approach to Student Ministries on an interim basis. Parents and students are enjoying spending time together as we build relationships through games, worship, Bible study and prayer on Sunday evenings (5-6:30) in the Youth Room.

Please pray for our students, parents, and Ruling Elder Bob Thomas who oversees Student Ministries during this period of transition!



A Women's Challenge
(one to another)

Ok ladies, it is the beginning of a new year and we've all been making promises to ourselves haven't we? Promises to do better this year; whatever that may entail. Many of you will read thru the scriptures, pray more, attend a bible study, or perhaps you will begin a new exercise program with better eating habits. Maybe you will work on being a better mother, wife, sister, daughter or Christian witness. Whatever you desire to improve this year let me encourage you to add to it a healthy portion of service to one another. What better way than to join me in women's ministry.

*I need you and we need each other. Last year I confess I was a poor women's leader. I totally underestimated how much energy I had and that I needed help. This year we need more opportunities to come together for fellowship and discipleship. So, how about a **Spring Fling**, a conference to renew relationships and re-energize our walk with the Lord? This will mean that we need a committee for planning and implementation. I promise it will be fun because we will do it together; it will be our 'Fling'. Please call me if you are interested, my number is 342-8829 cell or 543-7687 landline.*

Blessings and much love, Carolyn Thomas

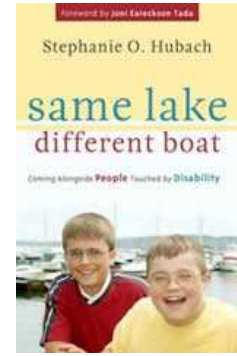
Short Term Missions Gain Traction

Memorial's short term missions have been active recently. In November a group from Memorial church traveled to the Collegedale, TN area to spend three days helping rebuild a home that was destroyed by tornadoes earlier in the spring. After the trip to Collegedale, TN an anonymous benefactor donated \$10,000 to be used to purchase and equip an enclosed cargo trailer for use in future local and intermediate distance assistance. An informal committee recently met to develop a plan for implementing a more formal ministry within the church to assist in disaster emergencies as well as work within the church community. Planning will help insure we have a clear vision and are good stewards for this generous donation. Questions? Contact Disaster Response Team Coordinator, Doug Thomas (542-0160).

Additionally, several church members have been devoting time and effort to assisting with remodeling and damage repair at Chalet Retreat. This has been an excellent opportunity for wider participation of church members in helping with preservation and improvement of the grounds and structures at Chalet Retreat. Thanks to all who have contributed to that effort. Special thanks to Millard King and Lynn Brown for the additional individual days they have spent helping Director, Larry Rose.



Special Needs Ministry:

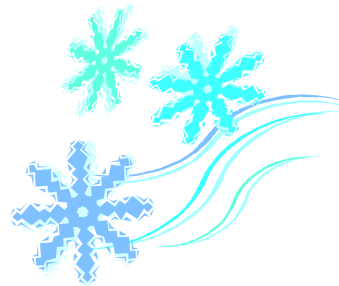


Some of you expressed further interest in a special needs ministry following Chad and Jennifer Smith's recent visit during our January Fellowship Lunch. If you would like to learn more about our PCA MNA Special Needs Ministries, please go to <http://pcamna.org/specialneeds/index.php>.

In addition, Stephanie Hubach, MNA Special Needs Ministries Director, has written an excellent book, **Same Lake, Different Boat** to help believers think biblically about facilitating disability ministry within the local church: <http://www.cepbookstore.com/p-3703-same-lake-different-boat.aspx>. If you would be interested in promoting disability ministry at Memorial, please speak to Pastor Basham.

Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Ministry Staff:

Rev. Dwight Basham, Pastor

Ms. Jacki McCartt, Youth Ministry

Mrs. Terri Money, Pianist

Mr. Josh Richardson, Youth Ministry

Mrs. Sarah Roberson, Organist, Custodian

Mrs. Marianne Townsend, Children's Ministry

Mrs. Pam Yarberry, Office Manager

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8:00-3:00; Friday: 8:00-12:00

