



# The Allen Memorial Messenger



*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"*

Volume 11 Number 12

December 2011



### The Athens Community Chorus Concerts

will be on Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10, at 7:30 PM at The Arts Center Downtown at 320 N. White Street. Led by our

Chancel Choir director, Nathan Windt, this chorus is well represented by members of the Allen Memorial church choir. The choir will be singing a wide variety of Christmas music, from the Classical masterworks of Vivaldi, Menotti, to the contemporary arrangements of John Rutter and Alice Parker, as well as favorites such as "White Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and many more! Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students/seniors, and FREE to TWC students with valid ID. Contact Nathan at [nwindt@twcnet.edc](mailto:nwindt@twcnet.edc) for more information. There's no better way to get into the Christmas spirit! We hope to see you there. Merry Christmas to all!



### Chancel Choir Presents Christmas Cantata!

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 18th, during the Sunday Morning Worship Service at 11:00 AM. This year's presentation, *The Tapestry of Light*, will feature a Celtic-style service of familiar and beloved melodies, new arrangements and inspirational readings from the British Isles. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special service.



Children's Choir

### "The Great Christmas Giveaway!"

Our Children's Choir will perform the Christmas Musical: *The Great Christmas Giveaway*, by Celeste Clydesdale on Sunday, December 11, at 7:00 PM. Don't miss this exciting program—our children have been hard at work practicing the songs and rehearsing their parts. Come and enjoy our children's Christmas program.

Following the program, we will have a time of fellowship in Wattenbarger Hall. You are invited to bring a tray of finger food. Drinks will be provided.

### Christmas Eve



**Our Annual Christmas Eve Communion Service** will be on Saturday, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. Pastor Joe will bring an inspiring message followed by a Candlelight Communion Service. We know families are very busy this time of the year.

However, make time for this very special service. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### Candlelight Service



The Advent Meditation "*The Lord is Near*" by Henri J. M. Nouwen, is available at each church entrance. Please pick up a copy for as you leave service next Sunday.



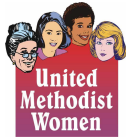
**Christmas Day Church Service**—We will celebrate the birthday of Jesus on Sunday, December 25th, at 11:00 p.m. We will NOT have Sunday School or evening services.

This will be a very informal service. You are invited to "come as you are." The children are welcome to come in their pajamas. Please plan to attend this short but very meaningful service. We want to remember whose birthday we are celebrating! Happy Birthday Jesus!



### Something for Everyone

will celebrate a "Joy to the World" Christmas lunch on Tuesday, December 6th, in Wattenbarger Hall at 12 noon. The menu will consist of: baked ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry salad, and a variety of desserts. Please plan to join us for this very special celebration. A slide show of the year's activities will be presented. Please let us know by Sunday, December 4. You may call Charlotte at 745-1915 or the church office at 745-1560 to make your reservation.



**The United Methodist Women** will meet on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Wattenbarger Hall for their Christmas meeting. Becky Jaquish will be the hostess. Kari Kuykendall will present a program about her experiences this summer on her mission trip to Nicaragua. All members are reminded to bring a card for their Secret Pal and also an unwrapped toy for the Rescue Squad Toy Program. All ladies of the church are invited to attend this very special program!

*Purpose of the United Methodist Women*

*The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.*

**Body and Soul**—We will not have a Body and Soul meeting in December. If you would be willing to host a Body and Soul meal in 2012, please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the side vestibule.

Your help is appreciated.



### MEN'S GROUP

**The Men's Group** will meet on Sunday morning, December 4th, in Wattenbarger Hall at 8:00 p.m. for breakfast. All men are invited to participate.

**Christmas Caroling**—The Youth and anyone who would like to join them will be caroling on Friday, December 23rd. Please meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to join the group later, see Lela for a schedule.





We have now entered the season of Advent. What a wonderful season it is. I have not been ready for the Christmas movies that the Hallmark Channel has been showing. I'm more of an "After Thanksgiving" Christmas person. I don't start my Christmas music until then. I know, I know, you don't have to tell me, I'm part Scrooge. But I love this time of the year when we first pause to give God thanks for all His blessings and then celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. There are two events that God brought to show his love: Christmas – when in human form God came to live on earth; and Easter which (following the terrible death of Jesus) gives us the Resurrection of Jesus.

We can all go back and pull up memories of Christmases past. I remember as a boy in our small church in Knoxville having a Christmas play on Christmas Eve. We had a curtain we hung to pull open and closed between scenes. The set wasn't elaborate, but it wasn't Christmas until the play was over. The play included adults, teens and children, and you can't forget the prompters who stood behind the curtain to give us our next line since we didn't always have them memorized. After the play we had Santa to come in and pass out presents. I confess without apology that Santa doesn't belong in the sanctuary. I didn't know that then. But, I do miss the treat bags (with apple, orange, banana, nuts and lots of candy). There are also the "at home" Christmas celebration which included Christmas lunch with other family members.

In recent years I have led Christmas Eve services. It is probably my most loved service. All the hustle and bustle are usually finished, gifts wrapped, Christmas dinner purchased and maybe parts of it even cooked. We come together and sing the carols, reading the scriptures and lighting the candles. It is so peaceful and I sense a holiness in the place and the world.

I'm sure you have memories that are similar and some that are completely different from mine. These Christmases are times of laughter, joy and celebration. And why wouldn't it be? If we see the real meaning of the season we know it is about joy and as celebrate the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus.

I am not pleased with the way things have changed and the restrictions placed on the season. Happy Holidays instead of Merry Christmas. (I still do the Merry Christmas). Schools and public places are not allowed to (or choose not to) play the religious Christmas music or have programs or anything else religious. Therefore we as Christians have to take a step out sometimes and do what we feel God would have us to do. We need join in keeping Christ at the center of Christmas. At the same time, we should not expect a secular world to handle Christmas for us. It is up to Christians to do that. And we do that not just by what we say; but by how we live and show love at Christmas and throughout the year.

I want to encourage you to strive to make this Christmas the best ever. I encourage you to take the time to celebrate with friends and family in the worship of the Christ Child. At Allen Memorial we will have a Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM and Worship Service on Christmas Day at 11:00 AM. We invite you to worship with us or in the church of your choice.

I pray God's riches blessings on you during this Christmas season. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Food Pantry Gifts

Thank you to everyone who brought canned goods and grocery items during the Hanging of the Greens Service!

The Allen Food Pantry is available to those in need of assistance when other services are closed or unable to help.

Last month about 20 bags of groceries were given to those who called for food.

## Church Library Offers Good Reading

Our church library is now organized, and books are waiting to be checked out. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. You may keep the books as long as you need to. A clip board is available for you to list the books that you are checking out, sign your name, put the dates when the books are checked out and returned. Visit the library!

## Calling all Prayer Shepherds: Pray for Your Sheep!

**This is a reminder for all Prayer Shepherds to contact their sheep this month and to continue to pray for each of your sheep daily during the busy holiday season!**



## The December Rejoicing Spirits

service will be held on December 18th. The service is held at the Cedars Springs UMC and begins at 4:00. *Rejoicing Spirits* ministry spiritually reaches people with intellectual developmental disabilities and includes them in worship and fellowship opportunities but everyone is invited to participate. For more information on this special service, please see the Pastor or contact the church office.



**Thursday, December 1**

7:00 PM McMinn Ministries

**Sunday, December 4**

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Morning Worship  
/Communion

3:00 PM Children's Choir Practice

4:30 PM Youth

**Monday, December 5**

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

**Tuesday, December 6**12:00 PM Something for Everyone  
/Joy to the World

5:00 PM Children's Choir Practice

**Wednesday, December 7**

5:00 PM Children's Choir

6:15 PM Prayer Ministries

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Saturday, December 10**

10:00 AM Children's Choir Practice

**Sunday, December 11**

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Morning Worship

4:30 PM Youth

5:00 PM Children's Rehearsal

7:00 PM Children's Christmas  
Musical Program**Monday, December 12**

7:00 PM United Methodist Women

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

**Wednesday, December 14**

6:00 PM Call to Action Meeting

6:15 PM Prayer Ministries

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Sunday, December 18**

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service/Chancel  
Choir Christmas Cantata

4:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits

/Cedar Springs UMC

**Monday, December 19**

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

**Wednesday, December 21**

4:30 PM Youth/Christmas Caroling

6:15 PM Prayer Ministries

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

**Saturday, December 24**5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service  
& Communion**Sunday, December 25**

11:00 AM Morning Worship

No Sunday School on December 25

\*\* Please note that on Sunday December 25, we will *not have Sunday School* so you can have more family time. However, we hope you will join us for Worship Service that morning at 11:00 AM. The service will be informal. Bring your family and share in a special worship.

**Birthday & Anniversaries****DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1. Terry Hughes, Emilee Lawson, Alfred Gamble
2. Carrie Tydingco, Kristi Hodges, Teresa Carpenter, Karen Dake
3. Ann Robbins, Eli Baines
4. Elizabeth Hicks
5. Ellen Farris
7. Kris Davidson, Jim Neil
9. Jeff Derrick
10. Nancy Barton, Perry Russell, Dee Gamble
11. Mattie Sue Hutsell, Nathan Walker
12. Carolyn Jackson, Alexander Burnette
13. Bonnie Burmood, Amber Robinson, Josh Arsenault
14. Katie Russell, Myra Owsley
15. Sarah Diggs
18. Hubert Matthews
19. Kim Huth
20. Pam Lewis, Korey McFarland
21. Gretchen Kittle, Drew Mays
22. Bob Hannah, Scott Hannah, Christy Hannah
23. Kim Miller
24. Margaret Mason
25. Ogle Wattenbarger, Patti Rae Bryant, Russell Roberts
26. Phyllis Stieb, Nicholas Arsenault, Maggie Miller
27. Eli Dake
28. Karen King

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

1. Claude & Betty Thompson
6. Tom & Betty Acuff
10. Larry & Pam Monteen
11. Allen & Amy Howell
12. Mark & Beth Jaquish
16. John & Martha Penney
17. Mike & Susan Jackson
18. Steve & Sally Garren
20. Frank & Janice Coning
22. Joe & Nancy Cranfield, Nathan & Amy Windt,
23. William & Connie Hickey
30. Mike & Annette Ray

**Worship Service  
December Flower  
Schedule**

- 4: Church (Poinsettias)**  
**11: John & Martha Penney**  
**18: Sam & Karen Guffey**  
**24: Church (Poinsettias)**  
**Have a Blessed Christmas!**

**We Worship By Our Witness****Showing God's Love**

Perhaps you have heard the saying, "I'd rather see a story than hear one." Our actions as Christians are very important. When people see us being courteous, kind, helpful, and thankful it makes an **i m p r e s s i o n**. There is a server in an eating establishment who always says "Have a blessed day." One day when we were talking I told her I was a preacher. She asked me to pray for her. Things were not going good in her life. Each time I see her I tell her I have been praying for her. I don't even know her need, and I don't need to. She always says now, "It is always a pleasure to serve you." The servers, clerks and others are accustomed to getting complaints, especially during the **h o l i d a y s**. When we show God's love with appreciation and kindness we are worshiping with by our witness.

**McMinn Ministries Meeting**

McMinn Ministries will meet on Thursday, December 1, at 7:00 P.M. Come and see what is happening at the Cooke Ministry Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Grace and Mercy Ministry:**

In October—329 meals were served! The meals are served at the Cooke Center on Mondays and Fridays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Coats and blankets are being collected and Angel Tree tags are available for Christmas giving. Please contact Becky Jaquish if you would like more information on the Grace and Mercy Ministries.

**To Our Church Family**

We wish for each of you a very merry and blessed Christmas. Our prayer for you is that the peace of God, the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit is with you at Christmas and throughout the coming year. Your Church Staff, Joe, Jane, and Charlotte



Church Secretary email:  
**allensec@bellsouth.net.**  
 Please use this e-mail address when sending information to the attention of Jane at the office.  
 Church wide e-mail:  
**allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net.**

# November Stewardship Report

**As United Methodists and members of this congregation, we are called to participate in the life of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.**

<b>We Worship By Our Prayers</b>		<b>We Worship By Our Presence</b>	
Connie Allen	Glenn Mason	Average Sunday School Attendance	67
Chris Beaton	Jim Neil	Average Worship Attendance	186
Evelyn Black	Curtis Nichols	Avg. SS Attendance for 2011	62
John Boggess	Charlie & Eva Oakes	Avg. Worship Attendance for 2011	166
Jackie Brown	Kylie Overton	Avg. SS Attendance for 2010	68
Lee Brown	Theda Poplin	Avg. Worship Attendance for 2010	183
Bonnie Burmood	Tom Reese		
Kandi Burnette	Bettye Kaye Richeson		
Katie Cain	Carl Richeson		
Kathy & Milford Clark	Jason Richards		
John & Pam Cooley	Katie Russell		
Nancy Crabtree	Roberta Russell		
JW Cross	Chris Russell Family		
Nell Gambill	Bud Smidt		
Steve Garren	Mildred Smith		
Joe Henry	Nell Smith		
Madison Hensley	Phyllis Stieb		
Carol Hope	Roy & Anita Thomas		
Greg Hughes	Rev. Bruce Vincent		
Darrin Hutchison	Mildred Vincent		
Mike Jackson	Millard Vincent		
Steve King & Family	Darlene Wade		
Raymond Latham	Gladys Wallace		
Eva Ruth Lawson	Sandy Yielding		



**New Arrival -Welcome:**  
 Grant Samuel Guffey born on November 28 at 9:35 PM. He weighed in at 7lbs 3ozs and is 19 1/2 inches long.  
 The proud parents: Sam and Karen! Maybe even prouder –grandparents: Linda and Paul Guffey.



**Call to Action Meeting**  
 On Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00 PM, Pastor Black is holding a meeting with the leadership of each ministry team and any others who are interested in exploring and identifying future goals for our church growth.

**We Worship With** **Our Gifts and Tithes**

Received for Operating Budget	20,562.00
Received for 2011 YTD	199,919.07
Received for 2010 YTD	192,688.25

**Special Giving**

Sunday School Outreach	82.34
Future Fund	100.00
Carpet Fund	405.00
Food Pantry	210.00
Cookbook	15.00
Homemade Goods	145.00
Bus Fund	25.00
Men's Club	50.00
Children's Time	25.00
Shoebox Shipping	252.00
UM Student Day	46.00

Pray for our nation, community, our leaders,  
 Pray for our Pastor and for each other.  
 Pray for God's vision for our church.  
 Pray for our Bishop, James Swanson and our District Superintendent, Mike Travis  
 Pray for those who need salvation.  
 Pray for Steve & Diantha Hodges in Sudan.  
 Pray for our Sunday Worship Services.  
 Pray for renewal in our lives.  
 Pray for Grace & Mercy Ministries.  
 Pray for hungry, homeless, and unloved.



Brandon Carter, Tyler Cooley, Taylor Creasman, Michael Dyer, Josh Goforth, Josh Gary, Taylor Gray, Brent Greer, Eric Greisenhour, Brandon Hashe, Lee Hashe, Daniel Hickey, Derek Hickey, Phillip Humphreys, Anderson Jaramillo, Robinson Jaramillo, Tim Lammers, Wesley Levy, Wayne McKenzie, Tyler Moore, Will Nation, Thomas Pelham, Adam Randle, Alex Randle, Zach Roberts, Brittany Rupert, Bobby Smith, Brent Stephens.



**The Gift of Jesus**  
 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory"  
 (John 1:14 NKJV).  
 Lord Jesus we're filled with wonder and praise at the miracle of your birth.



*Merry Christmas*

**We Worship By Our Service**

**PASTOR APPRECIATION THANK YOU**

I was very surprised (and pleasantly so) on the last Sunday of October and wasn't sure what to expect when Yvonne asked permission to come to the front. She came with both arms loaded with gifts. Then a wonderful massaging recliner was brought in.  
 I did not expect anything for Pastor Appreciation; but especially not all that you did. As a church you have welcomed me with open arms, tolerated my newness and different ideas, and recognized me as pastor of Allen Memorial.  
 Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make me feel at home.

Joe



**Christmas is a Time of Giving.** God has given us many gifts; but at Christmas God gave the best gifts of all. He gave us his own Son. We can never match that kind of gift. But we can give to God by sharing with those who are in need, hurting, lonely, and hungry. In that way we show our love to God.

Any youth 6th—12th grade is invited to participate in our Youth Group. Our meetings begin on Sunday afternoons at 4:30.

# UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

## 2012 Allen Memorial Calendar for Sale

The Youth of Allen are making and will be selling a 2012 "Allen Memorial Church Calendar". The calendars will cost \$10.00 and are on sale now. Order forms may be picked up at the entrances to pre-order your calendar. See Pattie Rae Bryant for more information.

### December News:

December 4 will be a regular meeting.

On Sunday, December 11 at 4:30 PM, the Youth will help prepare and set up for the Children's Christmas Program that evening at 7:00PM. Sign-up for Resurrection Trip and \$25.00 deposit due.

On Sunday, December 18, the Youth will meet at 4:30 PM for a regular meeting and Christmas fun!

### Resurrection News: January 13th-15th

Resurrection Registration will be on Sunday, December 11. The deposit of \$25.00 will be due on December 11. Each Youth will be given the green forms that will list the amounts each Youth has earned during the past year toward the cost of the Resurrection trip in January 2012..

The Youth/Parent meeting for the Resurrection Trip will be held on Sunday, January 8th at 4:30 PM. Balances will be due at this meeting.

The Allen Youth will be attending Resurrection January 13th thru the 15th. All youth attending need to be at the church on Friday, at 5:00 PM and be ready to leave.

### Dinner After Church

On Sunday, January 8th, the Youth will have a Dinner after Church. The menu will be soup/chili and grilled cheese sandwiches, drinks and dessert. We hope you will plan to eat with the Youth that day. As always, there will be no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

### Souper Bowl of Caring Coming in February

In February our Youth once again will lead us in the Souper Bowl of Caring. When you come to church that day, please bring at least one canned food item for every member of your family. The cans collected will be given to the Allen Food Pantry. We will also be collecting monetary donations and those donations will go to Coordinated Charities. You can give either canned goods, money or both!

### Flowers for Sunday Morning Services

The 2012 flower chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the side vestibule. Reserve your special date! Please sign your name to the date of the Sunday that you are willing to provide flowers.




**Need a Quick Gift?** On December 18th you will be able to purchase Mattie's chocolate and peanut butter fudge, Joyce's peanut butter balls and Charlotte's Martha Washington candy. The church cookbook, Bless This Food, will also be available. The candy and the cookbooks make great gifts. All the proceeds will go to our Sanctuary Carpet Fund. A display table will be set up in both entryways. Check it out!


Divine Rhythm 2012 will be held on January 27-29 in Pigeon Forge at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center. The church will help with your expenses for the program fee and hotel accommodations. More information can be found at [www.divinerhythm.com](http://www.divinerhythm.com). Please see Jared Wright or contact the church office, so we can get your registrations sent in.



ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS



















# PUZZLE



## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

 7+6 strength	 9+1 shepherd	 30-5 the	 7+5 ends	 30-26 live	
 21-10 will	 27-24 reach	 10+7 flock	 40-20 stand	 15+4 security	 8+8 his
 35-34 low	 17-3 greatness	 10-3 earth	 10+5 will	 5+1 will	

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_

15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ ... And they \_\_\_\_\_

13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_

19                      16                      14                      8

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

3                      12                      28                      7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

**Attention Kids:** Bring your completed puzzles to the church and we will display them on the bulletin board. Just give them to one of the church ushers.

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church  
 800 Decatur Pike  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 Phone: (423) 745-1560  
 Fax: (423) 745-8320  
 allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net  
 Rev. Joe Black, Pastor

Non-Profit Organization  
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 Athens, TN 37303



Return Service Requested

Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Youth - Sunday 4:30 PM  
 Prayer Ministries - Wednesday 6:15 PM  
 Adult Choir Practice- Wednesday 7:00 PM

# Bible Quiz

*Editor's Note: The first person to call the church office with the correct answer will have their name published in next month's newsletter.*

**Question for December:** To (1) whom was Jesus' coming first announced, and by (2) whom (they sang)?

**Correct answer for November:** Jesus instructed a blind man to go wash in the pool at Siloam, which resulted in the man regaining his sight.

**First Persons To Correctly Answer the November Question:** Mildred Vincent, Russell Roberts & Elizabeth Coleman

If you no longer wish to receive this monthly newsletter, please call the Church office at 423 745 1560 or send an email request to allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net.



**THE ALLEN MEMORIAL MESSENGER**, a monthly publication of the Allen Memorial United Methodist Church, is intended to be an informative link between the church members and friends. Your comments and/or article contributions are welcome! If you know of other people you would like to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office at 800 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN 37303 or call (423) 745-1560. Jane Jeffreys, Charlotte Newman and Joe Black, Editors.