

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.'"
Isaiah 52:7 NRSV

Volume 12 Number 1

January 2012

Chancel Choir News Adult Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 PM. In February, practice will begin for the Lenten/Easter season! Anyone interested in joining the Allen Memorial Chancel Choir please contact the church office or call Nathan Windt at 513.460.3121. We would love to see you at the next practice!!!

Thank you to Dr. Nathan Windt, members of the Chancel Choir, Accompanist, Giolda Reese and all the readers for the wonderful cantata "Tapestry of Light."

Rehearsals for Athens Area Community Chorus Begin January 10th!

—If you've been interested in choral singing opportunities, we hope you'll consider joining us on Tuesday evenings, beginning January 10th, for rehearsals with the Athens Area Community Chorus, led by our Chancel Choir director, Nathan Windt. —This spring's concert features one of the great masterworks in the classical repertoire, Johannes Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem), in an American premiere performance of Joachim Linckelmann's chamber orchestra arrangement. The Athens Area Community Chorus is well represented by Allen Memorial UMC members!

—The performance will be given Sunday, April 22nd, at Townsend Auditorium on TWC's campus. The Community Chorus is well represented by Allen Memorial, so why not join us? For more information, contact Nathan at nwindt@twcnet.edu.

Calling all Prayer Shepherds: Happy New Year!

Praying for each other is a wonderful way to start the New Year, remembering both Shepherds and Sheep.

This is a mission about showing love, mercy, compassion and concern, as we pray for one another.

In doing so we honor what Jesus told his disciples that they should do.

"Always pray and not give up."

Luke 18: 1b NIV



Flowers for Sunday Morning Services

Just a word of thanks to everyone who placed fresh flowers in the sanctuary in 2011 for use during the Sunday Worship Services this past year.

Please check the 2012 flower chart on the bulletin board in the side vestibule to reserve your date! Also, you may pick up a copy of the informative Flower Protocol Guidelines that explains floral options, how and why flowers are used in the sanctuary.

There are several Sundays still open! Please sign your name to the date of the Sunday that you are willing to provide flowers. Thank you!!!



Children's Choir Christmas Program: Great Job! Thanks to all the children and to Patti Rae Bryant for all your hard work to present the program "The Great Christmas Giveaway."

A Day of New Beginnings –Laity and Clergy Training

Make plans to attend the Cleveland District Laity and Clergy training day on Sunday, **January 29, 2012**, at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, in Cleveland, TN. The focus will be on Call to Action in our local churches and empower the laity. Training will be provided for areas of ministry such as: Staff Parish, Disaster Relief Training in the Local Church, Finance, Technology and Worship and Stewardship.

A special hands on mission project will be offered to all participants to package meals for the "Stop Hunger Now" meal packaging program.

Anyone who is interested is encouraged to participate in this special day of training. Please contact Pastor Joe or call the office at 745-1560 for more information about the training that will be offered. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, January 29, 2012 at Wesley Memorial UM

- 1:30—2:00 Registration
- 2:00—2:30 Worship
- 2:45—3:45 Workshop Session 1
- 3:45—4:00 Break
- 4:00—5:00 Workshop Session 2

Divine Rhythm 2012



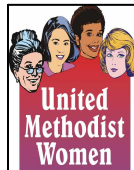
**ATTENTION
YOUNG ADULTS**

Divine Rhythm 2012 will be held on January 27-29 in Pigeon Forge at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center.

Divine Rhythm is an exciting spiritual renewal opportunity for young adults ages 18 to 35. Brochures and information is available in the College and Career Sunday School Classroom.

The church will help with your expenses for the program fee and hotel accommodations. More information can be found at www.divinerhythm.com. Please see Jared Wright so we can get your registrations sent in.

The United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, January 9, at 7:00 PM, to make plans for the New Year. The meeting will be at the home of our new President, Carolyn Delmas, who is also the hostess for the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting! Please mark your calendar and remember that all meetings are now on the 2nd Monday instead of the 2nd Tuesday. All women are welcome to attend.



Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

Once we get past Christmas and the New Year's Eve parties then we begin thinking about the Resolutions we are going to make. (Kind of makes me think of Lent and the things we are going to give up). In both cases, close to the top of the list has to do with food. We are going to eat less and lose weight (New Year) or give up something we like from our food or drink list (Lent). These are the easy things to do. And we probably need to give up something or change something, but if you are like me they don't last long. I've made resolutions. I'm going to lose weight, exercise, read the Bible more, be kind to people, help the needy. We call it a "New Beginning."

We really can't start over or begin again. We can change things. But we are already on our life journey and we can't stop and start over. We can create a new ending. What are the changes that will make our spiritual life stronger?

Jesus was quizzed by a rich man one time. The man wanted to know what good thing he could do to gain eternal life. Really he was saying "How much will it cost me to get that eternal life you are talking about?" The same thing happened to Paul. There were some who wanted to buy the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered the man by telling him he needed to keep the commandments. The man asked: "Which ones?" Jesus went over the list of "Thou shalt nots" and then told him he should "love your neighbor as yourself." It is all stuff from the OT that any good Jewish man should know. The man replied he had done all those things. The doing of "things" didn't bring him joy and assurance. Then Jesus, realizing that for this man his possessions and riches were the most important things in his life, told him to sell and give. "Give to the poor." "Love your neighbor as yourself." Leviticus 19:18 says the same thing.

Jesus was encouraging this rich man to start genuinely loving other people and helping them. If he was going to find satisfaction he needed to give himself away.

What resolutions this year that have nothing to do with weight and exercise (we should do that anyway) might you need to do? We need to give and serve out of love. It has to do with investing who you are and what you have to help others. If we do these things, then we are working not on a "starting over/beginning again" but working toward a new ending.

Many of you have served, given, helped those who need help and you know how good that makes you feel. But it isn't just for a good feeling or to purchase a better place in heaven. It is about being obedient to what we have already been challenged to do by Jesus in serving and loving others.

May this New Year be one of blessing for you and you make it a blessing to others.

Joe

Allen Memorial Welcomes New Members

On Sunday, December 11, we received 2 new members to Allen Memorial. David and Kathy Cawfield joined our church, transferring their membership from Trinity United Methodist. Both Kathy and David are employed at Olin Corporation, where David is a Principle Chemical Engineer and Kathy works in the accounting group. They are proud parents of 5 adult children and 3 grandchildren, with another on the way.

David comes from a musical family, where his love of music was developed at very young age. He continues to sing and is a member of the Allen Memorial Chancel Choir.

David and Kathy are joined in fellowship with David's dad, Bill Cawfield, who moved to Athens from his home in St. Louis to be closer to family. We are thankful for new members to our church family and welcome David and Kathy Cawfield to our ministry.

On Sunday, December 18, we received into fellowship 3 members of the Mays family. Rick Mays is the owner/operator of Bojangles' Restaurant in Athens; his wife Lisa assists at the restaurant as well. Brooklyn Hurst is a sixth grader at Riceville Elementary School and is a member of the golf team. Brooklyn is already a big part of the Allen Memorial Youth!

Rick and Lisa have three other children...Tyler Mays who is a senior at McMinn County High School and will be attending TWC in the fall. He is a member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur. Drew Mays is a junior at McMinn County High School where he is a member of the golf team. He attends Keith Memorial UMC. Matt Mays is a seventh grader at Riceville Elementary; he is a member of the basketball team and the golf team. He attends Keith Memorial UMC.


We are thankful for the new members to our church family and welcome Rick and Lisa Mays and Brooklyn Hurst to the ministry here at Allen Memorial UMC. Be sure to say hello and welcome our new members!



We remember the following members of the church who died in 2011.

Charles Davidson
Fred Fleming
Don Hutsell
Paul Looney, Sr.
Rube Maupin

Men's Group January News

The Men's Club will meet on Sunday, January 8 for a hearty breakfast in Wattenbarger Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited.  MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Club will cook and serve a meal of soup and sandwiches for the Grace and Mercy Mission on Friday, January 13. All men are welcome to come and participate in preparing the meal at the church on Friday morning at 9:00 AM. The meal will be taken to the Cooke Center and served. Please contact Jim McQuain for more information and details.

This Month at Our Church:

Sunday, January 1

- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Morning Worship
- 2:00 PM Removal of the Greens
- 4:30 PM Youth

Monday, January 2

- 6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Tuesday, January 3

- 6:00 PM Call to Action Meeting
/Slagle Classroom

Wednesday, January 4

- 6:00 PM PPR Committee Meeting
/Slagle Classroom
- 6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 5

- 7:00 PM McMinn Ministries

Sunday, January 8

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Morning Worship
- 12:00 PM Dinner After Church
- 4:30 PM Youth/Parent
Resurrection Meeting

Monday, January 9

- 6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts
- 7:00 PM UMW Meeting

Wednesday, January 11

- 6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, January 13

- 4:15 PM Youth/leave for Resurrection

Saturday, January 14

- Youth/Resurrection Weekend

Sunday, January 15

- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
- 4:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits
/Cedar Springs UMC
- ?? PM Youth Return

Monday, January 16

- 6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 18

- 6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 22

- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Morning Worship
- 4:30 PM Youth
- 5:00 PM Super Sunday for
Kids

Monday, January 23

- 6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday, January 25

- 6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 29

- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM District Meeting
/Cleveland
- 4:30 PM Youth

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAY'S**

1. Ann Barton
2. Virginia Stephenson,
3. Kathy Christensen,
Michelle Vincent
4. Alice Matthews, Melba Sparkman
5. Paul Burns Jr.
7. Russell Seaton, Rick Parker
8. Linda Clark, John Penney,
Madalyn Maye Bailey
9. Amy Hannah, Kristin Allen
11. Robbie Boyd
12. Bailey Womac, Tim Smith
15. Nikki Coning
16. Betty Collins
17. David Robinson, Nell Davidson
18. Alex Murphy
19. Ella Parker, Doug Miller
21. Selena Brewster, Rusty Davidson,
Zachary Baker
22. Abby Bryant, Mildred Carpenter,
Letha Allen, Nikki Smith
25. Adam Kelley, Larry Monteen
26. Reva Barton
27. Mike Ray, Preston Skidmore
28. Lela Lawson, Aaron Snyder,
Kim Rymer
29. Gielda Reese,
30. Josh Blair
31. Jamie Tilley



**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

1. Vince & Jeannie Newman
2. Kevin & Michelle Hoppe
9. Tom & Gielda Reese
12. Bill & Kathy Snyder
17. Rick & Lisa Mays
19. Paul & Linda Guffey
21. Jeff & Loretta Grubb,
Amber & Todd Robinson
22. Tim & Lisa Sharp
28. Mike & Estela Black
31. Larry & Shannon Miller

Rejoicing Spirits to Meet

The Rejoicing Spirits service will be held Sunday afternoon, January 15, at 4:00 in the afternoon. The meeting will be at the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome.



**Worship Service
January Flower
Schedule**

- January 1_open
- January 8_Bob & Alice Shugart
- January 15_James & Joyce Grubb
- January 22_open
- January 29_Dan Herron

We Worship By Our Witness

Try to imagine for a moment those people in your life who made a difference.

It could be a Sunday school teacher, a school teacher, someone who helped you learn a skill or develop a talent.

Those people were witnessing of their faith. If it's a hug, a small gift, an encouragement, a prayer, a smile or other things; we witness to our faith by what we do as much as what we say.

McMinn Ministries Meeting

McMinn Ministries will meet on Thursday, January 5, 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:

Meals are served at the Cooke Center on Mondays and Fridays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please contact Becky Jaquish if you would like more information on the Grace and Mercy Ministries.

Happy New Year, It's Time to Celebrate!

What will you be celebrating as we enter a brand new year?

Isn't it time we took time to celebrate our lives by trying harder to make something more constructive of them. Perhaps that's what the celebration should be all about: Our ability to try and do better, our passion to discover more of the meaning of life, and our ability to be thinking and kind human beings.

What a wonderful world this is for us to live and love and work in. Doesn't it make you want to celebrate your existence every day of the year?

This is the time of year for you to take stock of all the wonderful things that have happened to you in your life. This is a time for you to remember all your blessings. This is the time for you to take stock for all that God has blessed you with and be thankful. **Happy New Year!** (from the writings of Arthur Levine)



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.

December 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.

We Worship By Our Prayers		We Worship By Our Presence	
Connie Allen	Jim Neil	Average Sunday School Attendance	64
Chris Beaton	Curtis Nichols	Average Worship Attendance	171
Evelyn Black	Charlie & Eva Oakes	Avg. SS Attendance for 2011	63
John Boggess	Kylie Overton	Avg. Worship Attendance for 2011	167
Jackie Brown	Theda Poplin	Avg. SS Attendance for 2010	72
Lee Brown	Tom Reese	Avg. Worship Attendance for 2010	181
Bonnie Burmood	Bettye Kaye Richeson		
Kandi Burnette	Carl Richeson		
Katie Cain	Jason Richards		
Kathy & Milford Clark	Katie Russell		
John & Pam Cooley	Roberta Russell		
Nancy Crabtree	Chris Russell Family		
JW Cross	Bud Smidt		
Nell Gambill	Mildred Smith		
Steve Garren	Nell Smith		
Joe Henry	Phyllis Stieb		
Madison Hensley	Roy & Anita Thomas		
Carol Hope	Curtis Trotter		
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		
Glenn Mason			



We Worship With

Received for Operating Budget	14,812.94
Received for 2011 YTD	214,732.01
Received for 2010 YTD	209,254.34

Special Giving

Sunday School Outreach	41.50
Future Fund	100.00
Carpet Fund	465.00
Food Pantry	185.00
Homemade Goods	421.00
Bus Fund	25.00
Men's Club	100.00
Christmas Offering	250.00

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.



Removal of the Greens-We Need You!

We have all enjoyed the beauty of our Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas, but it is once again time to take down the tree and decorations. Please join us on **Sunday, January 1, at 2:00 PM** to help take down our decorations. We would appreciate your help.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS! 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, 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.

We Worship By Our Service

Through the Christmas season we have (in the spirit of Christmas) given of ourselves. Maybe you bought, wrapped, delivered gifts; served meals; or in other ways served those who needed help.

Now we have to remember that these same people are probably still in the same situation. They need a smile, a phone call, a card, a small plant, a meal or something else to make them feel good and loved.

As we have loved, may we still serve the One who served us by serving others.



There were two boys who were cousins. During their high school years they became close – going to ballgames together, to eat together, to movies.

One boy lived with his mother and grandmother and sister on his mother's side. The other boy had an aunt who lived next door on his father's side. He would often go and stay with his aunt and the boys would hang out together.

The boy visiting the aunt came down to the car one day and said: "Look what my aunt gave me." It was a dollar – that was a number of years ago and a dollar was a good thing. The other cousin said, "She never gives me anything." He was a little jealous. The first boy then said, "Oh, by the way, here is your dollar." The first boy grinned sheepishly. In the act of giving a small amount (a dollar) it changed a boy's attitude. We don't have to give a lot. Every gift makes a difference.

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



On Sunday, January 8, 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.

Resurrection 2012

A mandatory meeting with parents will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 4:30 PM; at least one parent or guardian must attend this meeting for those attending Resurrection. All balances due for the Resurrection Trip should be paid at this meeting.

January 13-15 will be 2012 Resurrection weekend! All youth attending need to be gathering at the church starting at 4:15 PM on Friday and ready to leave by 4:45 PM. The Youth will return on Sunday evening.

January 22—Youth meeting at 4:30 PM.
January 29—Youth meeting at 4:30 PM.

The “Share Your Heart Dinner” will be held on Saturday, February 4, tickets will be on sale after January 8. See a Youth for more details about the Valentine Dinner.

On Sunday, February 5, 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!

Thanks to All!

The Pastor and Staff would like to thank everyone for all your extra efforts during the Advent/Christmas season. We appreciate all your extra effort and time given to the work of Christ during this busy season and we would like to thank the church family for the Christmas gifts that we received from the church. Thank you for thinking of us.

Something for Everyone

No activity is scheduled for January. If you do not have a brochure outlining our year activities, you may pick up an updated copy in the side vestibule window.

Looking Ahead: Please mark your calendar now for February 7th. We will enjoy lunch at Keri’s Restaurant (inside Mountain View Inn). After lunch we will shop for some winter bargains. If the weather is extremely cold, we will shop inside the mall; otherwise, we will shop the Kohl’s area.

Also, please make the following schedule change. “A Salute to America” scheduled for June 5th as been changed to May 29th in order not to conflict with Vacation Bible School.

Body and Soul 2012



Body & Soul will not meet in January. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the side vestibule.

There are four Body and Soul dates open for 2012—February 15, March 21, May 16 and August 15. Please check your calendar and sign up soon. The next Body and Soul will be on February 15.

You can prepare a meal or host a covered dish meal. Please consider this opportunity to serve your church.

PUZZLE

A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne (candle) ___ rohmtae (table) ___ srgbape (baptism) ___ rbieda (bread) ___ pehtshred (shepherd) ___ rdhaenlca (calendar) ___ fadoo (food)

Her name in Greek (crab) ___ pdeesh (children) ___ dchilnero (dove) ___ acehtr (heart) ___ sarcos (sarcos) ___ nusoatinm (tent)

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

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.



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Non-Profit Organization
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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 January: Why did John call Jesus "the Lamb of God"?

Correct answer for December: To (1) whom was Jesus' coming first announced, and by (2) whom (they sang)? The shepherds in the fields heard of the coming birth of Jesus from the Angels as they sang. Luke 2:8-20

First Persons To Correctly Answer the October Question: 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.