

# 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.'"

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December 2013



**Hanging of the Greens** - Please join us on December 1 at 7:00 PM for our annual Hanging of the Greens program directed by Yvonne Raper. This is a very meaningful service based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands and a Christmas tree. It readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the Christmas season. **Please don't miss this very meaningful program.**



## Something for Everyone

**Tuesday, December 3rd—12 noon in Wattenbarger Hall.** Please join us as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus. We will enjoy a Christmas meal of ham and all the trimmings. Our program will be a video clip from a Christmas party held in 1987 at the home of David and Becky Brewster. Many of you are in it. Reservations should be made with Charlotte or the church office by Sunday, December 1st.



The **Chancel Choir** will present its Christmas cantata, "An Advent Journey," on Sunday morning, December 22nd, during the Worship service. The cantata will musically follow the message of the Advent Wreath, as well as other themes of expectation and preparation for the season in which we celebrate the birth of Christ. Please mark your calendar and plan to be here as we celebrate this very special time of the Christian year!



The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion** will be on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM. This is a very meaningful service. Please schedule time to worship as you make your plans for the Christmas season.



## Devotions for Advent

*The Bright Star of Bethlehem*, featuring Mitri Raheb and the Bright Star of Bethlehem Ministry, meditations are available in both entryways.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field..."

See the birthplace of Christ in a whole new perspective this Advent through the eyes and experiences of Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Palestine.

The 1st Sunday of Advent is December 1st. Be sure to pick up your copy before then.



## UMW Christmas Party

The ladies will meet on Saturday, December 14, at 12 noon at the home of Marjorie Guffey for lunch and devotions. Please bring your favorite Christmas salad to share for lunch. Becky Jaquish will have a

Christmas devotion.

Each person should bring a \$15 unwrapped toy for the Rescue Squad. Also, bring a Christmas card for your Secret Pal.

Please be at the church by 11:45 if you would like to ride the bus over to Marjorie's house.



The Tennessee Wesleyan Fine Arts Department will offer the Eleventh Annual **Lessons and Carols** service on Tuesday, **December 3rd, at 7:00 pm**, at First Baptist Church here in Athens.

The service is a mixture of congregational carols and choral anthems, all centered around biblical readings that relate the birth of Christ, from the fall of Adam and Eve, to the visit of the Magi, and wondrous mystery that was Christ's birth.

The concert is free, but a freewill love offering will be received to support the Chorale in its tour to Europe in May 2014. Be sure to arrive early, as the concert is one of their most popular!



Our **Birthday Offering for Jesus** will be on Sunday, **December 15**. This offering will be divided among the local charities that our church supports. Those charities are: Coordinated Charities, Good Faith Clinic, Miracle Lake Prison Ministries, Women at the Well, Tri-County Center, McMinn Ministries, Grace and Mercy Ministries and Full Circle. Please be generous as these charities depend on the support of the community.



Twelve months seem to have passed by so quickly. We are again in that special time of the year, "Advent and Christmas."

Prayfully it will be a time of peace, joy and hope. However, it's also the time when people become stressed from all the secular challenges of gift buying, tree and home decorating, family visits, lots of cooking, and the list goes on.

But as Beth Green said recently, "If we have time to worry, we have time to pray." Prayer is communication with our Loving God, and when we really listen, He provides us with answers that are perfect and amazing.

As we share gifts with others this Christmas season, remember God shared His greatest gift. He gave us His Son, Jesus, and in Him everlasting life. There is no greater gift!

**Shepherds, continue your prayers.** God bless! Merry Christmas everyone. (Eva)



### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

December and Christmas are coming “ready or not” as the phrase from “Hide and Seek goes.” What does it mean to get ready? As we all know it means purchasing and wrapping gifts (not exactly my favorite thing), planning the menu and buying and preparing the food, setting the table, decorating the house which may be a family activity or the one individual who knows exactly where every ornament is supposed to go. OH and we can’t forget all the parties and gatherings or productions at church or school and mission projects. The one thing that may get omitted just could be the daily individual or family time devotions. We desperately need that special time to recognize “The reason for the season!” Jesus often gets pushed back in this celebration of His birth. Use available Advent devotionals from church or somewhere else. Take time to pray to Jesus and give thanks for all His gracious blessings. Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a loving heart party.

While the secular society tends to want to omit Jesus from Christmas, we as Christians have the right and obligation to make sure it is about Jesus and his birth.

It is my prayer that this Christmas season will be the best and most memorable yet for you and your family.

Pastor Joe

PS. I am grateful to all the staff at Allen Memorial and all they do to make things happen on a regular basis. Also thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard to keep the ministries going.



**Millard Vincent** would like to thank everyone for making his 90th birthday celebration so special. He is still enjoying the many cards. He extends many thanks to all of you who made contributions to the Structural

Repair Fund in his honor.



**Divine Rhythm—2014** for Young Adults will be held on January 31—February 2 at Mills Auditorium in Gatlinburg.

The speaker is Scott Chrostek, Pastor of Resurrection Downtown in Kansas City. He is the author of Pursuit: Living Fully in Search of

God’s Presence.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jared Wright or the church office for more information.

The church will help with expenses for the program fee and accommodations. More information can be found at [www.divinethythm.com](http://www.divinethythm.com).

**Volunteer of the Month:** This month we have chosen



**Carlene Kuykendall** as our Volunteer of the Month. Carlene has served as the church **Financial Secretary** for the past few years. This is a very important position in the life of the church. The financial secretary is a member of the Charge Conference, the church Administrative Council and the Committee on Finance. The financial records are

also very important to the contributors for personal and tax reasons.

Carlene picks up the money each Sunday which has been collected during the offertory. She keeps a record of all funds received whether they are for the operating budget or are designated for special offerings, etc. She is responsible for depositing the money in the bank and for providing the church treasurer with a record of funds deposited.

At the end of the year, Carlene provides each contributor with a written record of gifts he or she has made to the church.

As you can see, this is a very sensitive, time-consuming position in our church.

Carlene is also very active in Relay for Life which sponsors life-changing cancer fundraising events that help communities fight back against cancer. She spends many hours planning and helping to implement these activities. Our church is not only proud to sponsor a team but also provide a place where the group can meet and make plans for upcoming events.

Carlene is always willing to help in any way she can to support the various activities of Allen Memorial Church—from making cookies to leading an occasional bible study.

She taught school for several years at Mountain View. She is now retired and enjoys spending time her family and traveling to new and exciting places.

Carlene is married to Albert. They have three children, Jamie, Kevin and Kari. They have three grandchildren, Hannah, Lily and Miles.

Be sure to tell Carlene how much you appreciate all she does for our church.



The Church Staff would like to wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas.

Our prayer is that you will experience peace, love and joy throughout the Christmas season and the coming year.

*Pastor Joe, Jane and Charlotte*

**Weekly Recurring Events**

**Monday**  
6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

**Wednesday**  
6:15 PM Prayer Ministries  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice

**Sunday**  
10:00 PM Sunday School  
11:00 PM Worship  
4:30 PM Youth

**Monthly Recurring Events**

**Sunday**  
8:30: 1st Sunday—Men’s Group in WH  
5:00: Selected Sundays —Super Sunday for Kids  
4:00: 3rd Sunday—Rejoicing Spirits at Cedar Springs

**Tuesday**  
1st Tuesday—Something for Everyone—Check bulletin

**Thursday**  
7:00: 1st Thursday—McMinn Ministries at Cooke Center

**Saturday**  
12:00 Noon: 2nd Saturday —UMW

**Special Events and Meetings:**

- Dec. 1— 12:00**—Dinner after Church  
**2:00**—Decorate the Church  
**7:00**—Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 3—12:00**—Something for Everyone
- Dec. 8— 7:00**—Children’s Choir Program  
Reception following program
- Dec. 14—12:00**—UMW Christmas Party , Marjorie’s house  
**4:00**—Ginger Bread House Workshop
- Dec. 15**—Birthday Offering for Jesus during Worship
- Dec. 22**—Chancel Choir Cantata during Worship  
**4:30**—Youth Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 24— 5:00**—Christmas Eve Service



*The Legend of Poinsettia*

*Legend has it that a poor child in Mexico having nothing to give the Christ-Child on His birthday gathered some weeds into lovely bouquet; the only gift he had to offer. When he brought his gift to the manger, this simple weed was transformed into a brilliant red bloom -- a poinsettia. Now known as the beautiful "Flower of the Holy Night"*



**Altar Flower Schedule**

- December 1**  
Claude & Betty Thomson
- December 8**  
Vaughn & Jane Jeffreys
- December 15**  
John & Martha Penny
- December 22**  
Brian & Kelly Bean
- December 29**  
Church

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

*"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in my power to strengthen its ministry by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness."*

**Our Presence**

	SS	Worship
(YTD) 2013 (Average)	56	137
(YTD) 2012 (Average)	63	167
(MTD) Average for October 2013	56	153

**Our Gifts**

YTD (October 2012)	163,076.52
YTD (October 2013)	165,695.86
October 2013	14,030.85
Sunday School Outreach	86.37
World Communion Sunday	162.00
Future Fund (includes fundraisers)	60.00
Structural Repair Fund	1,460.00
Bus Fund	138.00
Food Pantry	25.00
Youth	10.00

**Our Prayers**

Our Country, our Leaders and our Troops  
**Our Pastor, Rev. Joe Black**  
 Our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Green  
 Our Bishop, Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor  
 Our Missionaries, both at home and overseas  
**Remember to Pray for Your Sheep!**

Polly Anderson	Chase Littleton
James Cameron Baker	Diane MacElman
Nancy Barton	Jim McCutcheon
Kelly Bean	Jim McQuain
Chris Beaton	Gary Mason
Darren Beckett	Cecily Myers, Brandon Myers
Kenny Benton	Jim Neil
Shealeigh Brewer	Neyland Pickel
Joseph Carpenter	Theda Poplin
Kathy Cawlfied	Lewis Raulston
William Cawlfied	Mike Ray
Kathy & Milford Clark	Jason Richards
John & Pam Cooley	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Ingrid Cooley	Russell Roberts
Jim Crittendon	Curtis Sayles
Robert Davidson	Sandy Sledge
Bruce Delmas	Mildred Smith
Elizabeth Ferris	Nell Smith
Nell Gambill	Marie Sparkman
Steve Garren	Marvin Strickland
Tully Hicks	Phyllis Stieb
Lacey & Caleb Hunter	Roy Thomas
Mike Jackson	Jim & Verdine Thompson
Erica Johnson	Curtis Trotter
R.C. Krise	Rev. Bruce Vincent
Cynthia Hudick Leigh	Millard & Mildred Vincent

**Our Service**

**Super Sunday for Kids** collected items for the McMinn Regional Humane Society in November. Thanks for your support of this project.  
Remember those who are in need this Christmas season!

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church  
 800 Decatur Pike  
 Athens, TN 37303  
 423-745-1560  
 Fax: 423-745-8320  
 Rev. Joe Black, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Youth 4:30 PM  
 allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net  
 allensec@bellsouth.net  
 allenmemorial-umc.com



**Our Youth**

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



**Our Kids**

Super Sunday for Kids is for children ages 3—5th grade. Our meetings are Sundays at 5:00. Check the bulletin for specific dates.

**Dinner after Church**

Please join the Youth on **Sunday, December 1st**, after church for **chili, grilled cheese sandwiches and dessert**. This is a favorite winter menu filled with your favorite comfort foods.

There is no charge for the meal, but donations to help fund the youth activities will be gladly accepted.

You are invited to stay after the meal to help **decorate the church for the Hanging of the Greens** which will be at 7:00.



Christmas Caroling

The Youth invite you to join them as they go **Christmas caroling** on **Sunday, December 22nd**. The group will leave the church at 4:30. If you would like to join the group later, please see Lela for a schedule. Many of our families look forward to this visit from our church.

**Schedule for Youth in December**

1st—Dinner after Church followed by the regular Youth meeting at 4:30. The Youth will practice for Hanging of the Greens at 7:00.

8th—4:30—The Youth will help feed the children before their program at 7:00.

10th- \$25.00 Deposit Due for Resurrection

15th—4:30—Youth will finish gifts for shut-ins.

22nd—4:00—Christmas Caroling followed by supper at church

29th—Christmas Holiday—No Youth



**Youth Calendar—The Youth are selling calendars for \$10 each. These are very personalized with pictures of various groups in our church. The Youth work hard to earn money for their many projects. Please support them by purchasing one of their calendars.**

The children will be making **Ginger Bread Houses** on Saturday, **December 14 from 4—6**. If your child attends Super Sunday for Kids, there is no charge. All others need to pay \$13 by Friday, December 8th. Sign-up sheets are in the Sunday School wing and the side vestibule. Call the church office, 745-1560, for late registration by 12/13.

**Children's Choir**

The Children's Choir under the direction of Patti Rae Bryant will present their Christmas musical, *An Out of the Box Christmas*, on **December 8th at 7:00 PM**.



When boxes show up at a dress rehearsal with all the wrong costumes, the kids have no other choice than to think out of the box.

Please bring a tray of finger foods and join us for a time of fellowship following the presentation.

A **surprise visitor** will delight the children and adults following the refreshment time.

Invite your friends to come with you!

**Bible Question for December: Who told Joseph to flee to Egypt with Jesus?**

**Question for November: What did the young man say he had to do first and then he could follow Jesus?**

**Correct answer for November :** Matthew 8:21 *Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."*

First Person(s) to correctly answer last month's question: Mildred Vincent

**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.