

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 11

November 2012

Our **Charge Conference** will be held on **Sunday, November 4**, immediately following the morning worship service. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Green, will bring the morning message.

This is the annual business meeting of the church where officers are elected for the coming year and reports and goals are reviewed. Members of the Administrative Council are members of the Charge Conference. The District Superintendent presides over the meeting. Everyone is welcome to stay for the meeting.

Please join us on Dec. 2 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.**



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Please join us for **Body and Soul on November 14** as we gather to give thanks and praise God for all the wonderful blessings of the year. Joyce Grubb and Becky Jaquish will serve us a traditional Thanksgiving Meal with all the trimmings. Pastor Joe will have a special Thanksgiving Devotion. The cost of the meal is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Please make reservations with the church office or one of the hostesses by Sunday, November 11th.



Please mark your calendar for the **Athens Community Chorus** Christmas concert on Saturday, **December 8th**, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, **December 9th**, at 2:00 PM. Both concerts will take place at The Arts Center and will feature a wonderful selection of Christmas carols from around the world and a variety of different styles sure to please everyone. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students/seniors and free for TWC students. Save the date and join us as we celebrate the season in great choral music!



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The Men's Group will meet on Sunday morning, **November 4, at 8:30** for breakfast and devotions. All men of the church are invited to attend.



The **United Methodist Women's Cleveland District Annual Business Meeting and Officers' Training Day** will be held at Allen Memorial on Saturday, November 3. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the meeting starts at 10:30 AM. The speaker is Rev. Sue Lynn Johnson from Kingston UMC in the Oak Ridge District. Lunch will be provided by the ladies at Allen. Officer training will be held immediately after lunch. The UMW Reading Program books will be available for purchase before the meeting starts and during lunch. Anyone interested in the work of the UMW is invited to attend.

UMW Sunday will be on November 11. The speaker will be Beth Green, the wife of our District Superintendent Joe Green. Beth is a gifted speaker and a talented musician. She will be bringing us the morning message as well as special music during the service. We are honored to have Beth for this special service. Please make every effort to be here and support Beth and the United Methodist Women.



The **Chancel Choir** is busy practicing for the Christmas cantata, *A Night for Rejoicing*, by Lee & Susan Naus Dengler. This new cantata tells the age-old story of Jesus' coming to earth, which culminates in that glorious "night for rejoicing." This cantata includes familiar carols as well as newly composed music. The cantata will be presented on Sunday afternoon, **Dec. 16, at 3:00 PM**. Since the cantata will not be during the morning worship service, you will have an opportunity to invite your friends who may attend other churches.

Please pray that the cantata will touch hearts and lives this Christmas season.



Our **Children's Choir** under the direction of Patti Rae Bryant will present their Christmas musical, *Christmas Hang-Ups*, on Sunday evening, **December 9th**, at 7:00 PM. This humorous and engaging story, created by Dennis and Nan Allen, features delightful songs and a solid salvation message for children and adults alike. This musical reminds us that Christmas is truly a time to celebrate! **Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend this very special program.**



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Imagine a world where there is no sickness, pain or death. We can't really grasp that because we do not know that kind of world. But as believers in Jesus Christ we look forward to that time in faith knowing that we are promised such a world.

In this world we will never fully experience that. But, we can remember illnesses that were prevalent in our country and took the lives of children, youth and adults—such as Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Black Plague, Polio and other diseases. These are pretty much eliminated from our country due to research, diagnostic tools, medicine and quick diagnosis and treatment. We are still fighting diseases such as cancer (which we can often conquer more than the past) and other things.

Now imagine a country where someone dies from Malaria every 60 seconds. Every minute someone dies from malaria on the Continent of Africa. The symptoms include: chills, nausea, convulsions, severe headaches, muscle pain and weakness and high fever (106F). Malaria can lead to brain damage, organ failure, coma, other infections, or death.

Due to lack of early diagnosis, treatment and prevention these numbers continue. This should not be. Malaria is treatable if caught early and treatment is begun. There are also ways of preventing it in the first place.

The conference mission project for this year is "IMAGINE NO MALARIA." We have a goal of saving 100,000 lives. We can save a life for \$10. The money goal is \$1 million. That is a number. We want to save lives and make the suffering shorter and easier for those who suffer from malaria. It can be prevented and treated. We want to provide also education and communication.

It is a privilege to serve on the "Imagine No Malaria" task force for the Holston Conference. The Gates Foundation was so impressed with the UMC's ability to serve areas of need across the world because of our church's record of health, education and existing ministries that they gave a grant to finance the initiative throughout the denomination which pays for the advertisement and promotion and the staff and training for each conference. Every dollar you give goes directly to the Malaria Initiative.

I am encouraging you to join with me in stamping out Malaria by saving a life or 10 lives or 100 lives. I want to encourage our youth to get involved in raising money. I want to encourage our children's ministry workers to allow the children to be involved. I want to encourage the UMW, the Men's group and the Sunday school classes to get involved.

You can save a life in honor of someone or in memory of someone. You can save a life as a birthday or anniversary gift.

Pray and ask God what He would have you to do. Then follow the Spirit in giving to your church your gift of saving lives. Mark your gift for the "Imagine No Malaria" initiative, drop it in the offering plate or send it in to the office and it will be forwarded to the Conference.

I know that Allen Memorial has a good record of giving to the needs of people and in the community and to the conference. You have been and continue to be generous.

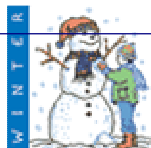
Thank you in advance for what you are doing and will do to help stamp out this terrible disease.

In Christ's love, *Joe*



Church Magazine Ministry

Dan Herron would like to thank everyone for continuing to bring magazines for this important ministry. The magazines are delivered to the Emergency Rooms of both the hospitals in McMinn County. It is important that people in the waiting rooms have something to occupy their time as they wait to see the doctor or wait for their loved ones to be seen. Please continue to bring your magazines. You can leave them on the pew in the side vestibule.



Something for Everyone

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, Dec. 4th, for our **Winter Wonderland** celebration in Wattenbarger Hall. The meal will feature baked ham with all the trimmings. The program will be a slide show of the year's activities. The meal is free; however, we need to know how many to prepare for. Please make your reservations with Charlotte, 745-1915, or the church office, 745-1560 by Sunday, December 2nd. All age groups are welcome to attend.

November Calendar

Thursday, November 1

7:00 PM McMinn Ministries

Saturday, November 3

9:00 AM Cleveland District Annual
UMW Conference/Allen Memorial

Sunday, November 4

8:30 AM Men's Group Breakfast/WH
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
12:00 PM Charger Conference
4:30 PM Youth/Soul Surfer Lesson 1
5:00 PM Super Sunday for Kids

Monday, November 5

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Tuesday, November 6

9:30 AM SFE/Trip to Pigeon Forge

Wednesday, November 7

5:30 PM Children's Choir
6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, November 11

10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM UMW Sunday
12:00 PM Dinner After Church
/Potato & Salad Bar
4:30 PM Youth/Packing Shoeboxes

Monday, November 12

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday, November 14

5:30 PM Children's Choir
6:00 PM Body & Soul
/Thanksgiving Dinner
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, November 18

10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
4:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits
4:30 PM Youth
5:00 PM Super Sunday for Kids

Monday, November 19

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Thursday, November 22

Happy Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 25

10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service
2:30 PM Youth/ Laser Tag & Cici's
Pizza's @ Knoxville

Monday, November 26

6:00 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday, November 28

5:30 PM Children's Choir
6:15 PM Prayer Ministries
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 29

7:00 PM Lesson & Carols by TWC
Choir at Allen Memorial

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 4th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

November

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2. Alda Stewart
 3. Candi Cole, Jimmy Guffey
 4. Jared Wright
 5. Betty Davidson, Paul Guffey, Shelby Goddard, Kathy Clark, Marucine Smidt, Bettye Kaye Richeson
 6. Debbie Gable, Jessica McFarland, David Hutsell, Rachel King
 7. Katelyn Hutchison
 8. Debbie Hashe
 9. Paul Looney Jr.
 10. Jody Boggess, Rachel Klusman, Sam Carter, Sylvia Johnson
 11. Mary Sparkman, Charles Newman, Millard Vincent
 12. Addison Haggart
 14. William Hickey
 15. S.L. Johnson
 18. Skylar Giltneane
 19. Taylor Gray
 21. John Clark
 22. Lynette Culberson, Jim McQuain, Herb Dake
 24. J.R. Griggs, John Michael Moore
 25. Travis Snyder
 26. Dr. Fred Lawson
 28. Grant Guffey, Richard Hashe, Daniel Diggs
 30. Andrew Russell, Tom Reese
- ### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
2. Robert & Barbara Thomas
 6. Scotty & Debby Hannah
 8. Jerry Don & Linda Clark, Deborah & Jason Richards
 13. Herb & Haley Dake, Jeremy & Emily Wade
 25. Millard & Mildred Vincent, David & Judy Tilley

DOLLARS As Christians, it's important to give because God first gave to us. Your giving develops the next generation of Christian leaders, builds new churches, teaches lay and clergy leaders how to revitalize existing congregations, combats devastating diseases and engages directly in ministry with the impoverished. Where else can you get such a great return for your money? Are you using your gifts and talents to further the Kingdom? Think about it!

WE WITNESS BY OUR WORSHIP

Do you ever look around you and see what others are doing during worship? You will see some texting. Some will look as if they are in the dentist's chair having a root canal. Some will be whispering to someone else next to them. Others will be looking at their watch and thinking "Will this preacher ever get done?" Others will be singing, smiling, listening, nodding in agreement or even saying "Amen" or "That's right" or some such phrase.

I remember worshipping in a church that had an entire section filled with teenagers. During the service they were singing and being a participant in worship. During the prayer time after the sermon, if one youth went to the altar to pray at least one other and usually more went down to the altar, put their arms around the one who went and prayed with and for them.

The habit of going to worship and the practice of worship is a witness to seekers who have been disillusioned by insincere worship or lack of worship at all by those who call themselves Christian.

I am not talking about doing something to be noticed. I am talking about truly worshipping God. It isn't how you worship; but that you worship that is important. When we truly worship, we are a witness to those who are struggling. (Joe)

Flowers for November

Nov. 04—Yvonne Raper
Nov. 11—James & Joyce Grubb
Nov. 18—Paul & Linda Guffey
Nov. 25—Claude & Betty Thompson

The Advent Devotional, *In Joyful Hope*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen will be available in each entryway on Sunday, Nov. 25. The 1st Sunday of Advent is December 2nd. Please pick up a book for your family.

**Don't Forget to Pray for your
Sheep this month!**

October 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									
Stacy Alexander Chris Beaton Warren Brewster Linda Brown Bonnie Burmood Joseph Carpenter Kathy Clark Milford Clark John & Pam Cooley Al Gamble, Jr Nell Gambill Betty Hamby Carol Hope Mike Jackson Steve King & Family Tammy Lowry Tiffany Lynch Glenn Mason Jim Neil Martha Penney Amberly Richards	Austin Richards Mildred Smith Nell Smith Nathan Thomas Roy Thomas Rev. Bruce Vincent Mildred Vincent Millard Vincent Emily Grubb Wade Justin Walden Mike Wallace Brenda Walker Ogle Wattenbarger Renay Wattenbarger Nancy White Sandy Yielding Chloe Zavala Mary & Bob Zimmer	Avg. YTD 2012 Avg. YTD 2011 Avg. for October	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Sunday School</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Worship</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>63</td> <td>156</td> </tr> <tr> <td>69</td> <td>163</td> </tr> <tr> <td>56</td> <td>171</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sunday School	Worship	63	156	69	163	56	171
Sunday School	Worship										
63	156										
69	163										
56	171										
We Worship With Our Gifts and Tithes											
		Received for Operating Budget/October11,792.43 Received for 2012 YTD 163,076.52 Received for 2011 YTD179,357.07									
Special Giving											
		Sunday School Outreach65.20 No More Malaria.....40.00 Future Fund295.00 World wide Communion.....40.00 Men’s Club.....50.00 Holston Home45.00 Chair Fund.....638.00 Bus Fund40.00									
We Worship By Our Service											
<p><i>Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will BE my WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.</i></p>											

- 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, Virginia Taylor and our District Superintendent, Joe Green
- 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 the hungry, homeless, and unloved.

I can remember living in a small town where every Saturday some preacher was on the sidewalk preaching in front of the Court House. I did not know this person, who he or she was, what they believed or how he or she lived their life. So I paid very little attention.

On the other hand, I have known people who never said anything, but lived in a way that I knew they were a true follower of God. I knew a man in one city where I lived who was of a different religious persuasion as mine.

But this man mowed his yard and the church yard across the street and their ball field beside his house. In addition he mowed the yard of a neighbor who was an elderly woman living alone. He mowed the yard of a neighbor man who had previously had a heart attack and was not able to mow. They never asked him to do it. He knew their need and did it without pay.

At Christmas time he drove through the neighborhood where we lived and stopped at the homes where he knew there were children and took gifts to the children and gifts of jelly or sweet bread or some such item to the parents. He came to our house. He also took his turn in the carpool we had to take our children to school.

He was a tax preparer by trade. I called him once being late in filing and he came to my house (after finishing all his mowing), prepared my tax forms and refused any payment even though I insisted.

He never said anything to me about his faith, his church or words of witness. I knew we believed differently in some of our practices. He knew I was a preacher. But, I never doubted his sincere faith by the way he lived his life and served in his community. I knew he was a true Christian. He worshipped by serving as well as in his church services. That’s what we are called to do. The scripture quoted above from Acts 1 says, “You shall be my witnesses” – not just give a witness. When people see me and see how I live; I hope they can see Christ. I know they can’t always do it. But I continue to try even in my failures. (Pastor Joe)

Coming in January: A new Sunday School Class for Young Adults taught by Jane Jeffreys. Watch the bulletin for more details.



PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS!

Brandon Carter, Tyler & Mary Katherine 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, Ginni Jordon, Wayne McKenzie, Tyler Moore, Will Nation, Thomas Pelham, Adam Randle, Alex Randle, Zach Roberts, Brittany Rupert, Bobby Smith, Brent Stephens.

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



November Youth Activities Calendar:

- November 4: 4:30 PM-Regular Youth. Soul Surfer-Lesson 1 (Searching for Something Bigger)
- November 11: 12:00 PM-Dinner After Church for UMW Sunday
4:30 PM-Pack boxes/Operation Christmas Child
- November 18: 4:30 PM-Regular Youth. Soul Surfer-Lesson 2 (Trusting God in the Impact Zone)
- November 25: 2:30 PM-Laser Tag and Cici's Pizza in Knoxville

Our Youth were busy in October, with the preparations for the Fall Festival. In November, the Youth will begin the study series "Soul Surfer" and pack Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Don't miss the activities and fun planned for this month.



Looking Ahead: On Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 we will be getting the church ready for our "Hanging of the Greens" service at 7:00. We need some strong men to help put up the Christmas tree. The ladies can help carry in the garlands, wreaths and the candles. Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us as ready the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

New Chair Fund: The Church Council voted to establish a Chair Fund to purchase new chairs for Wattenbarger Hall. The chairs are \$29/each or \$116/pack of 4. If you would like to buy a chair or several chairs, please mark your check "Chair Fund." Thank you for your support of all our projects.



Operation Christmas Child—Wrapped shoeboxes and brochures for filling the boxes are available in both entryways. Place your filled boxes with \$7 for shipping in the side vestibule. **Boxes should be returned by November 11th.**



The 2013 Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the side vestibule. Please sign your name to the date of the Sunday you are willing to provide flowers.

The TWC choral ensembles will present their tenth annual **Lessons and Carols Service** here at our church on Thursday, **November 29th, at 7:00 PM.** This concert is free and open to the public, but space is limited, so be sure to arrive early. Conducted by Dr. Keith Wheeler and our own Dr. Nathan Windt, and accompanied by Ms. Ellen Jones, this service will feature a wonderful variety of Christmas choral selections, readings by TWC faculty and staff, and opportunities for congregational carol singing—in other words, a great opportunity to usher in the Christmas spirit! For more information contact Nathan at 423.746.5234.

Volunteers of the Month

This month we have chosen our **Church Greeters** as our Volunteers of the Month. Our greeters help our church put its best foot forward. The first impression people have of our church comes from their encounter with our greeters. The role of greeters is one of service to others. Their presence enhances the gathering assembly and sets the tone for all to enter more fully into the Worship celebration.

Our Greeters are **Kim Stewart** who welcomes people as they arrive through the front entrance of the church and **Sam Sparkman** who welcomes those who enter through the side vestibule.

Kim has been serving as a greeter for the last few years. She has a warm smile which makes everyone feel welcome, visitors as well as regular church members. Her warm greeting encourages newcomers to make a return visit. She is a member of the Worship Committee where she helps with the Acolytes and is also a member of the Finance Committee. Kim works at Athens Insurance Agency as Commercial Line Account Manager. She is also active in Relay for Life, a fundraiser for cancer research. Kim enjoys reading and staying physically fit.



Sam has served as a greeter for several years. He welcomes most of the children as they make their way to the sanctuary from their Sunday school classes. He makes sure each child receives a children's bulletin. He always has a smile and a warm welcome for the church staff and the choir members as they make their way into the worship service. Sam is married to Mary. He has one child, Pamela and two grandsons, Jason and Michael. He retired from General Motors after 39 years of service. He has family members in Michigan but is proud to call East Tennessee his home. He enjoys music and spending time with his family.



Even though Kim and Sam are our official Greeters, we are all called to be welcoming and caring toward those who come to worship with our church family. It has been said that anyone can greet, but it takes the heart of Jesus to really welcome people. Romans 16:16a says "Greet each other in Christian love." (New Living Translation)

Be sure to greet someone at the next worship service.



The Fall Pope Street Clean-Up was a huge success. On a beautiful fall day, eight people donned the orange vests and proceeded to pick up the trash. Doughnuts provided by Pastor Joe, were enjoyed by all. Please plan to join us in the Spring!

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Rev. Joe Black, Pastor

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 21
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



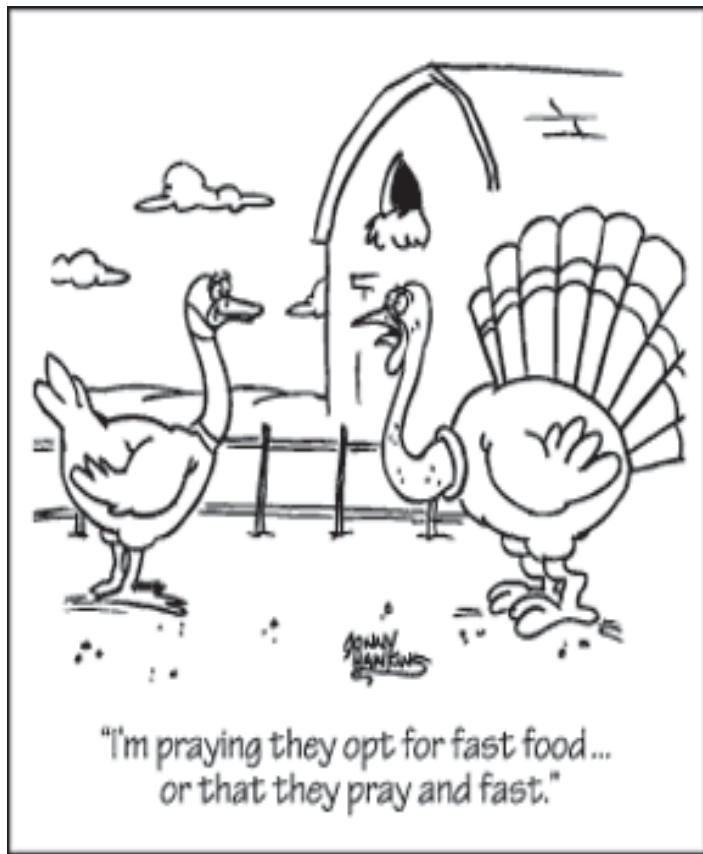
Editor's Note: The first person to call the church office with the correct answer will have their name published in next month's newsletter.

Question for November: What instruments were used to praise God after the foundation of the temple was rebuilt?

Correct answer for October: John 11:2— Elisha put salt in the spring to heal the waters of Jericho.

First Persons To Correctly Answer this month's Question: Eva Oakes, Mildred Vincent

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.