

# 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 14 Number 1

January 2014

THANK YOU

for making Advent special



We would like to express our appreciation to Yvonne Raper, Patti Rae Bryant, Dr. Nathan Windt, Giolda Reese and others who helped make our Advent services so special this year. It takes a lot of work to present these programs. Thanks for all your efforts.



Take  
down the  
Tree

It's time to take down the tree and decorations. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Sunday afternoon, **January 5, at 2:00**. We need several strong bodies to help us. Thank you.



Body & Soul

**Body and Soul—2014** —We will not have a Body and Soul meeting in January. However, we will have meetings in March, May, August, October and November. Body and Soul is for all age groups in the church family and is usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It is a great time to fellowship and get better acquainted with the people your only see on Sundays during Worship.

We always have a great meal which nourishes the body and a short program which nourishes the soul. This is a great way to inexpensively feed your family. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 10 and under. If you haven't been participating, why not resolve to do so in 2014. The meal starts at 6:00 and the program is usually over by 7:00. This gives plenty of time to get the youngsters in bed on time. We look forward to seeing you at Body and Soul in 2014.

**Cleveland District Rethink Church Event** will be held Sunday, January 12, 2014, at Walker Valley High School. Registration begins at 2:30. Events are from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Those leading groups will be:

Mark Lay, training for finance & church treasurers

Del Holley, workshop for Lay Servants

Joe Green, workshop for PPR chairpersons and committee members

Sherry Shelton, workshop for those involved in Children's Ministry

Betsy Switzer and those who attended the Leadership Institute in Kansas will be sharing.

There will be a guest speaker for the worship service.

**We hope many of you will plan to attend this important event.**



## United Methodist Women

The Women will meet on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 12 noon in Wattenbarger Hall for lunch and to plan for the coming year. Please bring your favorite salad to share for lunch.

## Something for Everyone



We do not have an activity planned for January. However, we do have some exciting trips planned for 2014. On **February 4**, we will travel to Cleveland for lunch at Aubrey's. After lunch we will shop in the Bradley Square Mall for some winter bargains. The mall has recently been renovated. It has more stores and those people who don't care to shop will have a warm place to sit and people watch. We will leave the church at 11:15 AM and return around 3:30 PM.

## Farewell to Pastor Joe



Saying goodbye is never easy; however, we do want to express our love and best wishes to Pastor Joe as he enters the retirement phase of his life.

Joe has devoted almost all of his life to the pulpit ministry. He decided as a very young child that someday he wanted to be a preacher. He even used his siblings and cousins to practice on. He realized his dream and became an outstanding preacher and pastor.

He came to us almost three years ago as he was nearing the end of his ministry. During that time, he has become loved and cherished by the members of the church. He is perhaps best known as the "teaching pastor." Many members have commented that they learned more about the teachings of the Holy Scripture from Joe than from any other source. His "dry wit" came to be cherished also. He especially loved the children, and that love was returned four-fold.

We wish Joe a blessed and healthy retirement.



**To the Family of Allen Memorial:**

This is my last opportunity to address you by means of this newsletter. It has been a great privilege to serve as your pastor. Your prayers and encouragement have truly blessed me more than you know.

It has been a joy to work almost three years with a supportive staff that has served the church faithfully. Jane and Charlotte have worked diligently in the office making sure that deadlines were met and that our church finances were in order. Nathan, Gielda, Charlotte and Yvonne (the worship/music staff) have worked hard to provide meaningful worship services. Our youth and children are fortunate to have many volunteers who have given many hours of service to guide them in a growing relationship with our Lord. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make sure our physical facility is well maintained and our spiritual lives are enriched beyond measure.

This church has many outreach ministries not only to the community here in Athens but also to God's kingdom around the world. It is my prayer that as a church you will continue to support those programs both locally and globally which promote the kingdom of God.

Your friendship and continued encouragement are a blessing to me. Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and visits. Loving church members make the role of a pastor much easier.

May God richly bless you and the church.

In Christian love,  
*Joe*

The Men's Group will have a very important meeting on **January 5** at 8:30 AM in Wattenbarger Hall.



After enjoying a hearty breakfast and devotions, the men will discuss **future options** for their organization. If you are interested in this group, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Men of all ages in our church are welcome to attend.

**Chancel Choir Practice** resumes on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:00 PM—If you love to sing, you are welcome to join us in 2014. See Nathan Windt if you have questions.



**Volunteer of the Month** – This month we have chosen **Kelly Bean** as our Volunteer of the Month. Kelly is a busy wife and mother, but she finds time to work with our younger children here at the church. She organizes and makes sure that the Super Sunday for Kids program functions smoothly.

Super Sunday for Kids is for children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They meet twice a month for supper, activities and a lesson. It is very important to involve young children in church activities. Children who are involved at an early age in the church are more likely to be involved later in life.

Kelly has several parents who help her with this program. She is very grateful and appreciative of everyone who becomes involved even if it's just to provide a meal. If you haven't provided a meal this year, you can put your name on the list located on the bulletin board in the side vestibule.

Kelly is married to Brian. They have two children, Wesley and Madi. She enjoys running and spending time with her family and friends. Be sure to tell Kelly how much you appreciate her dedication to our children and our church.



Please Pray ..

A few days ago we celebrated our most beautiful CHRISTmas time of year. As we begin 2014, prayerfully we will continue that hope, love and peace which was brought to earth over 2,000 years ago by a baby (Jesus) born in a stable in Bethlehem. Amazing isn't it?

Beginning the new year, some folks make resolutions. I'm not one for making them, but I am quite good at making wishes. My big wish this year is that we will all bond together in earnest prayers for our church and our country. May we have a closer walk with HIM and witness to the belief we associate ourselves with called CHRISTianity.

God bless and Happy New Year! (Eva Oakes)



We remember the following members of the church who died in 2013:

- Charles Glenn Mason*
- Al Gamble*
- Gene Farris*
- Kathy Clark*
- Bruce Delmas*

**Weekly Recurring Events**

<b>Monday</b>	
6:00 PM	Junior Girl Scouts
<b>Wednesday</b>	
6:15 PM	Prayer Ministries
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Practice
<b>Sunday</b>	
10:00 PM	Sunday School
11:00 PM	Worship
4:30 PM	Youth

**Monthly Recurring Events**

<b>Sunday</b>	
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
<b>Tuesday</b>	
1st Tuesday—	Something for Everyone—Check bulletin
<b>Thursday</b>	
7:00:	1st Thursday—McMinn Ministries at Cooke Center
<b>Saturday</b>	
12:00 Noon:	2nd Saturday —UMW

**Special Events and Meetings:**

- Jan. 5—8:30—Men’s Breakfast**  
2:00—Take down church decorations
- Jan. 11—12:00—UMW in Wattenbarger Hall**
- Jan. 12—12:00—Dinner after Church**  
2:30—Cleveland District Training Event
- Jan. 31—Young Adults leave for Divine Rhythm**

**Altar Flower Schedule**

<b>January 5</b> .....	Dan Herron
<b>January 12</b> .....	Charles & Charlotte Newman
<b>January 19</b> .....	Paul & Linda Guffey
<b>January 26</b> .....	Vaughn & Jane Jeffreys



The Flower Chart is up on the bulletin board in the side vestibule. This is a great opportunity for service to your church.

Be sure to reserve your special date. This is a great way to honor or remember a loved one. You can use fresh flowers or potted plants.

You can fix an arrangement yourself or order from one of the local florists.

Give Jane a call at 745-1560 if you have any questions.

**Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**

Hebrews 11:1

**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**

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
(YTD) 2013 (Average)	56	138
(YTD) 2012 (Average)	62	161
(MTD) Average for November 2013	58	145

**Our Gifts**

YTD (November 2012)	177,599.84
YTD (November 2013)	183,556.31
November 2013	17,860.45
Sunday School Outreach	81.81
Future Fund (includes fundraisers)	90.00
Structural Repair Fund	815.00
Bus Fund	173.00
Food Pantry	550.00
United Methodist Student Day	46.00
Shoebox Shipping	119.00
Men’s Club	50.00

**Our Prayers**

- Our Country, our Leaders and our Troops
- 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
Rev. Joe Black	Neyland Pickel
Shealeigh Brewer	Theda Poplin
Joseph Carpenter	Lewis Raulston
Kathy Cawlfild	Mike Ray
William Cawlfild	Jason Richards
Family of Kathy Clark	Myrtle Lee Roberts
John & Pam Cooley	Russell Roberts
Ingrid Cooley	Curtis Sayles
Jim Crittendon	Mildred Smith
Robert Davidson	Nell Smith
Family of Bruce Delmas	Marie Sparkman
Elizabeth Ferris	Marvin Strickland
Nell Gambill	Phyllis Stieb
Steve Garren	Roy Thomas
Lacey & Caleb Hunter	Jim & Verdine Thompson
Mike Jackson	Rev. Bruce Vincent
Erica Johnson	Millard & Mildred Vincent
R.C. Krise	
Cynthia Hudick Leigh	

**Our Service**



Our Youth wrapped and filled 50 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thanks for your support of this project!

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, January 12th**, after church for **chili, grilled cheese, salad bar and dessert**. This menu offers something for everyone.

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

Please mark your calendar and plan to join the youth for lunch on the 12th.

Super Sunday for Kids will meet on January 19th at 5:00 for supper and activities. Melissa Blair and Janet Boggess will provide the meal.

If you would like to provide a meal for the children, the following dates are available: **February 16, March 16, April 13 and April 27**. If you don't wish to prepare the meal, you can donate money for pizza, etc. Thanks for all your help.

**Schedule for Youth in January**

5th—No Youth meeting.

12th—Dinner after church

4:30 —**Resurrection Meeting**—All youth and a parent must attend.

**Final Payment is due at this time!**

17th-19th—**Resurrection**

26th—4:30—Regular meeting

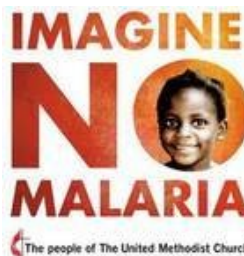
**Divine Rhythm—2014**

Divine Rhythm 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, 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.divinerhythm.com](http://www.divinerhythm.com).



Your **Imagine No Malaria** money is already at work in South Sudan.

Holston Conference donated \$1.2 million to fight malaria.

South Sudan has received a \$50,000 grant to purchase medicine and protective bed nets. A

second \$50,000 grant is in progress. Praise God!

The mission offering for **Annual Conference 2014** will be used to develop education in South Sudan.



**Bible Question for January: Who witnessed to a man in a chariot?**

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

**Correct answer for December :** Matthew 2:13

*“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, “Arise take the young child and His mother, flee to Egypt.....”*

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.