

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 15 Number 1

January 2015



We would like to express our appreciation to Yvonne Raper, Patti Rae Bryant, Marius Bahnean, Geilda 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.

GET REAL

**Cleveland UMC District
Training Event
Walker Valley High School
Sunday-January 11, 2015
3:00—5:05 PM
(Registration 2:30 PM)**

GET REAL Seminars are as follows:

**Real Functions of SPPR Committees
Real World of Church Finances
Real Strategies for Youth Ministry
Real Conflict Resolution
Real Power of Team Building
Real Story of Recovery Ministry**

All seminars begin at 3:00 and repeat at 4:00.

Choose two "Get Real" Seminars.

Leaders, Get Real, Plan to attend.

The church bus will leave at 2:00. Please call the church office if you would like to ride the bus.



Dinner After Church

On January 11th following morning worship, our Youth are sponsoring a Dinner After Church. The meal is a favorite and includes soup, salad, grilled cheese sandwiches and dessert. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will gladly be accepted to help fund the Youth-2015 trip to Orlando. This is a great opportunity for fellowship with your church family while supporting our Youth.

**"In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he shall direct thy paths."**

Proverbs 3:6



**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, **Jan. 4 at 1:00**. We need several strong bodies to help us. Thank you.



The United Methodist Women will meet on Saturday, January 10, 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

No activities are planned for January or February. However, please save the date for the following activities:

March 3rd— "Marvelous March" - Seasons—We will celebrate the 4 seasons of the calendar year as well as the four seasons of our lives. We will enjoy food from the four seasons and our tables will be decorated for each season of the year.

April 7th—Whitwell, Tennessee—We will travel to Whitwell for a lunch and a show.

The lunch menu is from the table of Jefferson Davis and includes Savannah Baked Chicken, Louisiana Bayou Cornbread Stuffing, Charleston Style Green Beans, South Carolina Sweet Carrots with Alabama Molasses, Plantation Pan Biscuits, Varina Davis' Blackberry Cobbler, Blockade-Runner Tea and Mr. Lincoln's Coffee. The show is a Christian based historical program. We will travel back to a time when Christian values and man's word were his bond.

The total cost for the meal and the show is **\$38.95** per person. Reservations **MUST** be made and paid for with Charlotte or the church office by **March 29th**. We plan to take everyone who wants to go, but it is very important that we know how many are attending so that transportation is arranged for everyone.

We will leave the church at 9:45 AM and return around 5 PM.



Pastor's Corner

If someone were to force me to choose my favorite part of the Advent season here at Allen Memorial UMC, I'm not sure if I could do it. I have loved having different families of our congregation light the Advent candles as a part of our worship each week and hearing the words of the prophets that point to the gift of Jesus to the world. I was reminded of the reason that the church celebrates Advent in the Hanging of the Greens worship service and welcomed the beautiful symbols of Advent that adorned our Sanctuary. I was inspired and amazed by the musicals that both our children, youth, and Chancel Choir shared with our congregation. Their message through music helped to keep me and so many others focused on the real meaning of the season.

You see, it's hard for me to pinpoint what I enjoyed the most because I treasured everything that played a part in preparing us for Christmas. From building gingerbread houses to the many fellowship opportunities that we have gathered around, I have been blessed so much by this congregation. You have encouraged me with your words and your tireless service. You have inspired me through your dedication to telling about God's love for the world through many different avenues. I have been richly blessed by sharing laughter and tears through the ministry that we have been involved with. It has been my privilege to worship with you each week and sit around the table in fellowship and conversation. In short, I have been richly blessed by the people of Allen Memorial UMC and feel so grateful to serve as your pastor.

As I look ahead to the final week as we lead up to Christmas, I can hardly contain my excitement in remembering "the greatest story that has ever been told." As we journey closer through Advent and make our way closer to Bethlehem, it is my prayer that we would experience anew the wonder of God coming to earth in the flesh. May we remember the humble birth of Jesus in the manger but not forget the reason that he was born -- so the world would be reconciled to God. Indeed, this is an exciting time to celebrate the wonder of the season of Christmas and I am thankful to be celebrating with the congregation of Allen Memorial UMC. May God continue to come to each of us and guide our congregation into the blessings and opportunities in the new year.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Melissa



Happy New Year!

Having celebrated the beautiful season of Jesus birthday, we quickly moved into the new year—the time people make resolutions and others make future predictions. I do not involve myself in either—at least not very much. First, I am not good at keeping resolutions and certainly if I received a revelation to prophesy, I definitely want it to be truth from God, not a counterfeit of some uninformed earthling.

As we begin this new year, it's a golden opportunity for Christians to show the light of Christ truly making a difference in our world that appears to be in more darkness as it glorifies sin. It is my hope that the excitement, love and joy that's experienced during the Holy Season will continue to be felt and shared every day in 2015. As 2 Timothy 3:14 encouraged, "Continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of."

Thanks for all the prayers and may the grace and peace of Christ be with everyone in the new year.

Blessings,
Eva Oakes



Welcome Baby Izzy

Evan and Kari Walden welcomed Izzy Alexis to the world on December 5th, 2014. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 1/2" long. Albert and Carlene Kuykendall are the proud grandparents.

Our prayers of joy and gratitude are with the Walden family as they celebrate this new blessing.



The Chancel Choir will resume practice on January 7th at 7 PM in the sanctuary. If you love to sing, you are welcome to join the choir in 2015.

See Marius Bahnean if you have any questions.



We remember the following members of our church who died in 2014:

- Delora Elder*
- Mike Stewart*
- Mildred Vincent*

Weekly Recurring Events

Monday	
6:30 PM	Junior Girl Scouts
Wednesday	
6:00 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	
5:00:	Selected Sundays —Super Sunday for Kids
4:00:	3rd Sunday—Rejoicing Spirits at Allen
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 for January:

Sunday, January 4

1:00 PM—Take Down the Tree and Decorations

Saturday, January 10

12 Noon—UMW—Salad Luncheon in Wattenbarger Hall

Sunday, January 11th

12:05 PM—Dinner After Church, sponsored by Youth
 2:00 PM—Bus leaves church for Get Real District
 Training Event at Walker Valley High School
 4:30 PM—Super Sunday for Kids

Friday, January 16th

Youth leave for Resurrection—See Lela Lawson for time

Sunday, January 25th

4:30 PM—Super Sunday for Kids

Saturday, January 30th

Young Adults leave for Divine Rhythm in Gatlinburg.
 See Jared Wright for time of departure.

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) 2014 (Average)	53	161
(YTD) 2013 (Average)	56	138
(MTD) Average for Nov. 2014	52	160

Our Gifts

YTD (Nov. 2013)	183,556.31
YTD (Nov. 2014)	190,101.74
Nov. 2014	19,031.09
Sunday School Outreach	76.00
Youth Funds	75.00
Shoebox Shipping	105.00
Structural Repair Fund	1,410.00
UMCOR	50.00
Food Pantry	300.00
Holston Home 5th Sunday	605.00
Super Sunday for Kids	35.00

Our Prayers

Our Country, our Leaders and our Troops
 Our Pastor, Rev. Melissa Smith
 Our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Green
 Our Bishop, Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor
 Our Missionaries, both at home and overseas

Polly Anderson	Chase Littleton
Ann & Reva Barton	Diane MacElman
Chris Beaton	Susie Malone
Sheron Bellman	Alice Matthews
Dorothy Bigbee	Jim O’Daniel
Joseph Carpenter	Virginia O’Daniel
Kathy Cawlfild	Monte Raper
John & Pam Cooley	Mike Ray
Jim Crittendon	Bettye Kaye Richeson
Ken Davidson	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Dee Gamble	Carol Russell
Nell Gambill	Mildred Smith
Mattie Sue Hutsell	Josh Sledge
Mike Jackson	Roy Thomas
Raymond & Linda Latham	Millard Vincent

**Our Service—Flowers for January
 Altar Flower Schedule**

January 4	----- Poinsettia
January 11	----- Charlotte Newman
January 18	----- Paul & Linda Guffey
January 25	----- Sarah Rymer



Flowers for 2015

The new flower chart is now up in the side vestibule. Please sign up for the dates you would like to provide flowers for our Worship services.

You can use potted plants or fresh flowers you fix yourself or you can order from any florist of your choice.

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church
 800 Decatur Pike
 Athens, TN 37303
 Melissa Smith, Pastor
 423-745-1560
 Fax: 423-453-5530

Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Youth 4:30 PM

allenmemorialumc@bellsouth.net
 allensec@bellsouth.net



Youth Ministries

Any youth 6th—12th grade is invited to participate in our Youth Group.

Our meetings begin on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 in the Youth Hall.

Youth Schedule for January

Sunday, January 4th

No Youth Meeting

Sunday, January 11th

DAC/Soup/Salad Bar/Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
4:30—Resurrection Meeting—All Youth and one parent must attend. Final Payment is due at this time!

Friday January 16th—Sunday January 18th

Resurrection

Sunday, January 25th

4:30—Regular Meeting—Resurrection Reflection



Divine Rhythm

Divine Rhythm for Young Adults will be held on January 30—February 1st at Mills Auditorium in Gatlinburg.

The speaker is Tiffany Thomas, pastor of South Tryon Community United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC. As a young pastor herself, Tiffany is passionate about sharing the gospel with young people.

The church will help with expenses for the program fee and accommodations. More information can be found at www.divinerhythm.com.



Children's Ministries

Super Sunday for Kids is for children ages 3—5th grade. The meetings are on selected Sundays from 4:30—6:00. (Note: Start time has been changed from 5 to 4:30.) If you have any questions concerning our Children's Ministries, please contact Kelly Bean.

Super Sunday for Kids Schedule for January

Sunday, January 11th, 4:30 PM

Sunday, January 25th, 4:30 PM

The children will enjoy a meal, a program and a time of fun. If your children have not been attending, this would be a good time to start.



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 Melissa Smith, Editors.