

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 2

February 2014



United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on Saturday, February 8 at 12 noon in Wattenbarger Hall for lunch and a program.

The hostess, Susan Jackson, will provide a light lunch. Susan will also present the program. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.



Body and Soul—2014 —Our first Body and Soul meal will be on March 13.

Charlotte Newman and Jane Jeffreys will be the hostesses. The menu will include baked ham, green beans, roasted potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls, drinks and peach cobbler/ice cream. Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us on March 12th.

Body and Soul is a great time to fellowship and get better acquainted with the people you only see on Sundays during Worship.

The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 10 and under. You can make reservations with one of the hostesses or call the church office.

Other Body and Soul events are as follows: May 14—Family Life Church Wide Birthday; August 13—Super Sunday for Kids will host; October 15—Yvone Raper and Carlene Kuykendall will be the hostesses, and the last but not the least will be on November 19 hosted by Joyce Grubb and Becky Jaquish.

Come and join us as often as you can. You'll be glad you did!

Something for Everyone

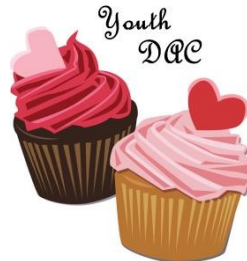
On **February 4**, we will travel to Cleveland for lunch at Aubrey's.

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. Make your reservations with Charlotte or the church office by Feb. 2nd.



The Church Council will meet in regular session on Sunday, February 16, at 6 PM in the sanctuary.

If you are a member of the Council, please plan to attend.



Dinner After Church

February 16

The Youth have a special treat in store for you. A very special DAC with a Valentine theme is planned.

The **special menu** will include chicken casserole, green beans, corn on the cob, coco-cola congealed salad, deviled eggs and a choice of cheese cake with toppings, red velvet cake or sugar-free Christmas stack cake.

The youth need to know how many to prepare for. Please call the church office (745-1560) to have your name added to the reservation list.

The youth appreciate your support. All proceeds will help fund the trip to Orlando for the Youth 2015 National Conference. Since this is a very special meal, please be generous with your donations.



Aging & Ministry

in the 21st Century

A day for adults age 50+ and those who serve in ministry with them is planned for March 2 at Keith UMC here in Athens. The time is 9:15 to 2:00.

Rev. Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., who is a nationally recognized author, teacher and leader in the field of aging and adult ministries will be the featured speaker.

Rev. Charles Maynard, Maryville District Superintendent, and the Cleveland District's first lady, Beth Green, will lead the group in a lighthearted look at aging.

The cost for the event is \$10 which includes lunch and the program. You need to preregister. Contact the church office (745-1560) for more information.



Congratulations to Carol Russell who was named system-wide **Teacher of the Year for 2013** as well as system-wide Pre-K to 4 Teacher of the Year for Athens City Schools.

Carol is a kindergarten teacher at Ingle-side School. She has 35 years of teaching experience and has impacted the lives of many students past and present.

Carol is the daughter of Marjorie Guffey and the late James Guffey. We wish Carol much success in the future.



A Note from the Pastor:

By now, you may have heard that I will be the interim pastor at Allen Memorial until the end of June. I wanted to introduce myself through a creative top-ten list, but I couldn't come up with 10 exciting things about myself. You'll have to settle for these top-seven fun facts about me:

7. I grew up in Johnson City, and graduated from Science Hill High School and then East Tennessee State University.

6. I have two brothers, one older and one younger. Please refrain from the analysis of me being a middle child.

5. I am the ultimate tomboy and still enjoy playing and watching a variety of sports. I'm passionate about Tennessee football and the Lady Vols.

4. I haven't always been a United Methodist but have fallen in love with the Methodist way.

3. Before I was a pastor, I was a full-time youth minister. My majoring in Social Work and Criminal Justice in college prepared me well.

2. I have a Blue-Gray cat named Smokey. She loves me, but will not let anyone else near her.

1. I love to laugh, mostly at myself. I'm confident that if you can bring yourself to laugh about life, it will keep you from crying as much.

I'm a people person and am very interested in getting to know you and work alongside of you. I am committed to doing everything I can do to care for you and allow this church to keep moving in the right direction. Please don't hesitate to call me and let me know how I can help you. I'm excited about being with you for this time as we share in worship and ministry together. (Melissa Smith)



February! The month some think of those near and dear and send Valentine cards, calls and best wishes. As I thought about these nice actions of LOVE, I also thought about how computers have made big changes in our lives. In many cases, it means no letters in our postal boxes, no fancy stamps for collectors, no roses are red, violets are blue notes—handwritten, etc. Now so much of our life is an open book for all to code into, and I wonder have we really grown closer to one another? Has our love for our fellowman increased? A computer may print out "I Love You," but it doesn't have a heart. It only does as directed, and only depending on the LOVE in the heart of the user.

God inspired His writers in the Holy Scriptures to write about **Love** hundreds of times. What a joy to know God's unchanging **LOVE** always remains. Extend His **LOVE**, pray for someone, send a card and surprise a person you haven't seen in church recently.

Lovingly, Eva



This month our **Volunteers** of the Month are **Charlie and Eva Oakes**. The Oakes joined our church in the early 80's. It did not take them long to become involved in the activities here at Allen. They are a very talented couple who have willingly shared their gifts and graces in many areas of the church family.

Charlie is unable to do very much now due to health concerns. However, he has been very active in the past and still encourages others with his bright smile and faithful attendance. He retired as Head Usher just a few years ago. He has served faithfully on the Church Council for many years. Even though he cannot do what he would like to physically, he is willing to share his expertise with others when the opportunity arises.

Charlie loves the guitar, and has shared his talent down through the years not only by teaching others to play the instrument but also by playing at the Senior Center and for other groups. He is an accomplished artist. Many friends proudly display his work in their homes. He is a master gardener. Tomatoes are among his favorite plants to grow and share with others.

Eva keeps busy with a variety of church related activities. She is a very creative person and is willing to share her many treasures with the church family. She keeps the table seasonally decorated near the stairs that go up to the office. If you haven't seen it, be sure to make it a point to do so. She is chairperson of the Nurture Ministry Team and makes sure that all church members have a Prayer Shepherd. She contributes an uplifting article each month to the *Allen Messenger*. She recently served on the Adult Ministry Team where she helped plan the events that were held in Wattenbarger Hall for the Something for Everyone group. She is a faithful member of the Chancel Choir. And last but not least, she helps the church secretary keep the membership records in order.

As you can see, the Oakes are a very busy couple. They care deeply about the church both locally and globally. They are shining examples of what can be done to further the kingdom if you never give up. Be sure to complement Charlie and Eva for all they have done and continue to do when you see them!



This year **Ash Wednesday** falls on March 5th. Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day period in the Christian year known as Lent. Many Christians use this time as an opportunity for introspection, repentance and fasting. Please consider how you can observe Lent this year. More details will follow in the March Messenger concerning our Ash Wednesday service.

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:

Feb. 2—8:30—Men’s Breakfast

Feb. 4-12:15—SFE, Aubrey’s in Cleveland

Feb. 8-12:00—UMW in Wattenbarger Hall, hostess Susan Jackson

Feb. 16-12:00—Valentine’s Dinner after Church, No charge, Donations welcome
5:00—Super Sunday for Kids
6:00—Church Council Meeting, in Sanctuary

Altar Flower Schedule

February 2
February 9 Brian & Kelly Bean
February 16 James I. & Joyce Grubb
February 23 Patricia Parker



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.

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)	57	153
(YTD) 2012 (Average)	62	160
(MTD) Average for December 2013	54	161

Our Gifts

YTD (December 2012)	195,156.68
YTD (December 2013)	183,556.31
December 2013	22,110.10
Sunday School Outreach	119.00
Future Fund	80.00
Structural Repair Fund (includes fundraisers)	4,317.00
Bus Fund	70.00
Ginger Bread Houses	156.00
Holston Home/5th Sunday	770.00
Birthday Offering for Jesus	862.00

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

Remember to Pray for Your Sheep!

Polly Anderson	Chase Littleton
Nancy Barton	Diane MacElman
Kelly Bean	Theda Poplin
Chris Beaton	Mike Ray
Darren Beckett	Jason Richards
Rev. Joe Black	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Joseph Carpenter	Curtis Sayles
Kathy Cawfield	Mildred Smith
John & Pam Cooley	Marie Sparkman
Jim Crittendon	Mary Sparkman
Robert Davidson	Mike Stewart
Elizabeth Ferris	Roy Thomas
Nell Gambill	Rev. Bruce Vincent
Steve Garren	Millard & Mildred Vincent
Mike Jackson	
Erica Johnson	

Relay for Life—This year Relay for Life will be on May 9th in downtown Athens. It’s time to start thinking about how you can honor or remember your loved ones that have been touched by cancer. The Allen Team is already busy working on ideas to raise money for this very worthy cause. Watch the church bulletin for opportunities to help our team raise money to fight this dreadful disease.

Our Service



Our Food Pantry continues to be a way of service to the community. Several bags of groceries are handed out each month to those in need. Thank you for your support.

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church
 800 Decatur Pike
 Athens, TN 37303
 423-745-1560
 Fax: 423-745-8320

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



Resurrection—2014

Several of our Youth and their leaders recently attended Resurrection in Gatlinburg.

Everyone agreed this was an amazing weekend filled with opportunities to make new friends and learn more about the awesome grace of God.

This is one of the trips that your donations helped fund. The Youth work hard to earn their money. Please be generous!!!

Schedule for Youth in February

2nd —4:30 Regular Meeting

9th—Dinner after church— Valentine Dinner
 4:30 —Make Valentines for Shut-ins.

16th—4:30 Regular Meeting

23rd—4:30—Regular meeting
 Barbeque Tickets will be given out.

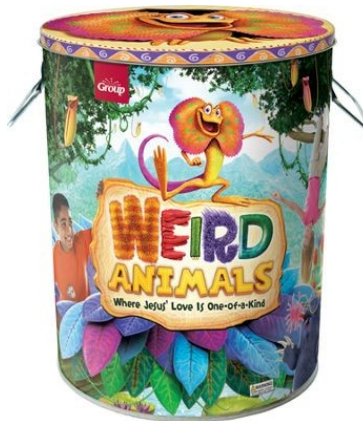


Souper Bowl of Caring is Youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl. A total of ninety million dollars has been collected since the movement began in 1990!

Our Youth are again sponsoring Souper Bowl of Caring. You are invited to bring a can of soup or other canned food item of your choice on Sunday, February 2, to help feed those who are hungry in our community. All items will go to the Allen Food Pantry. Needed items are chicken noodle soup, peanut butter and jelly; however, any canned item will be welcome. Containers will be available in each entryway to collect your items.



Super Sunday for Kids will meet on February 16 at 5:00 pm for supper, fun and activities. This ministry is open to children ages 3 through 5th grade. If you child has not been attending, we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.



**SAVE THE DATE!
 June 1—6, 2014**

Vacation Bible School
 God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures....including you! When kids feel weird, different or even lost in a crowd, noting compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus. Plan to join us for VBS on June 1st!



Bible Question for February: Who did Jacob love?

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

Correct answer for January : Acts 8:31
'And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Phillip to come up and sit with him.'

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.