

# 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 3

March 2015

A GESTURE OF GRATITUDE  
UN GESTO DE GRATITUD  
감사의 표현

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial • 2015  
Llamado a la Oración y el Sacrificio • 2015  
2015년도 기도와 절제의 날

## United Methodist Women

On Saturday, March 28, the ladies will meet jointly with the ladies from Trinity and Keith to celebrate the annual **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** observance.

This year the meeting will be here at Allen.

The ladies from Keith will present a special program, *A Gesture of Gratitude*. The offering collected that day will go directly to provide health and pension support for retirees.

Registration starts at 9:30 AM. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



## Lenten Offering

During the weeks of Lent, we will be receiving a special offering that will go to support the needs in our own community.

The ReThink team of Allen Memorial has been working for the last couple of months and has discovered an overwhelming need of the people that live within a mile of our church. Specifically, the poverty rate in our community is more than twice as much as the state average.

This team is working to finalize plans to offer assistance with food, possible home repair, and supporting children in our local schools. Any money that you give toward this offering will specifically go to new outreach initiatives that will be developed to meet the needs of our surrounding community.

More specific information about the new programs this offering will support will be coming soon. Thank you in advance for being a part of this important work through your support of the Lenten offering.

Please mark your check Lenten Offering and place in the collection plate any Sunday between now and Easter.



## Day Apart

The UMW Day Apart will be held at Wesley Memorial UMC in Etowah on **March 21 starting at 10:30 AM**. Each person is asked to bring 2 backpacks for any age child.

## Something for Everyone

### March 3rd—Marvelous March—Seasons

You are invited to join us at 12 noon in Wattenbarger Hall as we celebrate the seasons of the year as well as the seasons of our lives.

The tables will be decorated for the four seasons and we will enjoy food from the four seasons as well.

There is no charge for this meal. However, we need to know how much food to prepare. Please contact Charlotte or the church office to make your reservation no later than March 1st.



## Body & Soul—March 11

Our first Body & Soul meal will be **March 11**. Yvonne Raper, Carlene Kuykendall and Joyce Grubb will be the hostesses. The menu features catfish, white beans, coleslaw, cornbread, peach cobbler and a drink! Please mark your calendar now and

plan to join us on March 11.

The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 10 and under. Body & Soul is a great time to fellowship and get better acquainted with the people you see only on Sundays during Worship.

Please call the church office or see one of the hostesses to make your reservation.



## Church Council

The Church Council will meet in regular session on Sunday, March 8th, at 6:30 PM in Wattenbarger Hall.

If you have an item to add to the agenda, please contact Yvonne Raper, Chairperson. If you are a member of the Council, please plan to attend.

## Box Lunch—March 15



The Relay for Life Team will offer a box lunch after church on Sunday, March 15. The lunch will include chicken salad, congealed salad, pasta salad, croissant roll and a dessert. The price for the lunch is \$7.

Please plan to support the Allen Team by purchasing lunch to go on March 15.



**Pastor's Corner**

I have recently developed a bad habit that I may need an intervention for. While watching TV in the evenings, I have started multitasking by playing Mahjong Tiles on my iPad. This wouldn't be a problem except for the fact that my cat Smokey feels like she needs some quality time as well. I have noticed that although I move the iPad to the side and allow Smokey to sit on my lap, she is not satisfied because I continue to try and play Mahjong. Because she does not have my undivided attention, she will usually go find another warm place to lay.

This got me to thinking about how my lack of giving my complete focus to Smokey is sometimes like my spiritual life. If you are anything like me, you can become distracted by so many things going on in your life that you fail to give God the full, undivided attention that God deserves. Although I know that I should make time to nurture my faith by intensive Bible study, prayer, or service, I regularly fail to do so. Very often I have the time for these spiritual disciplines but I don't make it a priority.

I think that's why I'm so in need of the season of Lent. This time allows me to admit that I am imperfect and broken and ask for God's help to make better choices. It is an opportunity for me to work on giving God my undivided attention. I know that I need this season of Lent but how about you? The big question that we must all answer is how we will use these days leading up to Easter to grow and nourish our faith in God. While this will look different for each person, there are some common themes of discipline and sacrifice that we all must consider. Maybe for you it would mean getting up 10 minutes earlier in the morning to read Scripture and pray before you go to work or school. Maybe it would mean that you change your Sunday morning routine in order to get you and your family involved in a Sunday School class each week. Quite possibly it could mean that you look for ways to serve and help other people around you instead of focusing just on your own needs.

I challenge each of you (as I'm challenging myself) to use these days of Lent to turn our complete focus on God. I look forward to hearing about how you have chosen to grow closer to God in these days. *(Melissa)*

**Candy Needed**

The church family is invited to bring bags of individually wrapped candy for the children's Easter egg hunt. Baskets are available in each entryway to collect the candy. Thank you for supporting all our projects!



**Pray for Your Sheep**

Hold on to your hat—it's windy March! This month we will be celebrating Lent, St. Patrick's Day, the beginning of spring, and Palm Sunday.

This month I would like to share a "Prayer for Older People" which was sent to me by a couple of my friends recently. If you are younger, just file it away for the future.

*Lord, thou knowest that I am growing older. Keep me from becoming talkative and possessing the idea that I must express myself on every subject. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's life. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point and then be quiet. Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years, and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by. Make me thoughtful, but not noseey—helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom and experience, it does seem a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Amen (unknown)*

Shepherds remember to pray for your sheep. Praying for others is a privilege.

Blessings, Eva



**Save the Date**

The annual Allen Memorial Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, **April 3, from 11:00 to 12:30 PM at the home of our pastor, Melissa Smith.**

The children are invited to bring their Easter baskets and search for eggs that will be hidden in the parsonage yard.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Sunday school hall for those who will be attending. You are welcome to come even if you do not sign up.



**Save the Date!  
May 31—June 5  
Vacation Bible School**

An exciting theme is planned for this year, **Everest**, conquering challenges with God's mighty power.

Plan to join us on May 31st for this exciting journey.

**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 March:**

**Sunday, March 1**  
4:30 PM—Super Sunday for Kids

**Tuesday, March 3**  
12:00 Noon—Something for Everyone Marvelous March

**Sunday, March 8**  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins** - Spring Forward  
6:30 PM—Church Council Meeting in Wattenbarger Hall

**Wednesday, March 11**  
6:00 PM—Body & Soul in Wattenbarger Hall

**Sunday, March 15**  
12:05 PM—Relay for Life Box Lunch  
4:30 PM—Super Sunday for Kids

**Saturday, March 21**  
9:30 AM—UMW Day Apart, Wesley UMC, Etowah  
11:00 AM—Youth Chicken Barbeque

**Saturday, March 28**  
9:30 AM—UMW Call to Prayer at Allen Memorial UMC

**Monday, March 30 and Tuesday March 31**  
12 Noon—Holy Week Services—See bulletin for location

**The God We Can Know**

During the season of Lent, the sermons and the Sunday school emphasis will be based on Rob Fuquay’s book The God We Can Know. You are invited to join Melissa’s Sunday school class at 10:00 each Sunday in Wattenbarger Hall.

This resource deals with the “I AM” statements of Jesus and is a great way to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

**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) 2015 (Average)	53	156
(YTD) 2014 (Average)	52	158
(MTD) Average for Jan. 2015	53	156

**Our Gifts**

YTD (Jan..2014)	15,939.00
YTD (Jan. 2015)	14,830.96
Jan. 2015	14,830.96
Sunday School Outreach	61.00
Youth Funds	25.00
Structural Repair Fund, includes Fundraisers	1,545.00
Future Fund	110.00
Bus Fund	100.00
Super Sunday for Kids	25.00
Food Pantry	300.00

**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
Joseph Carpenter	Jim O’Daniel
Kathy Cawlfild	Virginia O’Daniel
John & Pam Cooley	Mike Ray
Jim Crittendon	Bettye Kaye Richeson
Ken Davidson	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Dee Gamble	Mildred Smith
Nell Gambill	Josh Sledge
Mike Jackson	Roy Thomas
Raymond & Linda Latham	Betty Thompson
	Millard Vincent

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

March 1	-----Horace and Naomi Feezell
March 8	-----Camilla Elderkin
March 15	-----Carolyn Delmas
March 22	-----Bruce Ingram
March 29	-----Tim and Lisa Sharp

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 March**

**Sunday, March 1st**

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

**Sunday, March 8th**

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

**Sunday, March 15th**

4:30—Regular Youth Meeting

**Saturday, March 21st**

11:00—Chicken Barbeque

**Sunday, March 22nd**

4:30—Youth

5:00—District Wide Youth Worship in W.H.

**Sunday, March 29th**

No Youth Meeting—Spring Break



**Annual Youth Chicken Barbeque**

The Youth are sponsoring their annual Chicken Barbeque on **Saturday, March 21, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. The meal will include Jody's barbecued chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and a drink. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any youth member.

The Youth appreciate your support of all their projects.



**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. If you have any questions concerning our Children's Ministries, please contact Kelly Bean.

**Super Sunday for Kids Schedule for March**

**Sunday, March 1, 4:30 PM**

**Sunday, March 15, 4:30 PM**

The children will enjoy a meal, a program and a time of fun.

If you would be willing to prepare a meal for the children, please call the church office.



**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.