

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 5

May 2015



Our Graduates

Sam Ingram
McMinn Central High School
Austin Meadows
McMinn County High School
Katelyn Hutchison
McMinn County High School
Sara-Beth Rymer
Tennessee Wesleyan College
Patti Rae Bryant
Cleveland State Community College

Our graduates will be honored on Sunday, May 24th, during the morning worship service. After the worship service, the Family Life Committee along with the Youth will sponsor a special meal to honor our graduates.

Please mark your calendar and plan to support our graduates and our Youth on this important day.



Church to Honor Women on Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 10, you can honor the special women in your life by having their names published in our special Mother's Day Bulletin.

Forms are available in each entryway or you can call the church office with your information.

All entries are due in the church office by Wednesday, May 6.

Donations will be directed to the Youth Fund to help with expenses for the 2015 trip to Florida.



United Methodist Women

The ladies will meet on Saturday, May 9, at 12 noon at the home of **Carolyn Delmas** for lunch and a program. Carolyn

will provide a light lunch and Jane Jeffreys will present the program.



The **Body and Soul Church Wide Birthday Party** will be on Wednesday, May 13th, at 6:00. Come and join in the fun as we celebrate everyone's birthday.



Remember Our Service Personnel

As you celebrate **Memorial Day on May 25**, remember those who died serving our country and those from our church family who are in active service.

Major **J. Tyler Cooley** and his wife **Major Mary Catherine Leach**, U.S. Army Intelligence at Fort Meade in Maryland.

Captain **Brandon Hashe**, U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Lawton, OK

Captain **Thomas Pelham**, U.S. Army Calvary at Fort Hood, Killean, TX

Marshall Lee Hashe, Chief, U.S. Navy at Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, VA

Staff Sergeant **Paul Herron**, Active Army Reserve, Ft. Riley in Manhattan, Kansas

New Bible Study

Make plans to join us for the new Beth Moore study, "**Children of the Day.**" This nine-week study is centered on 1 & 2 Thessalonians and helps us to see that our circumstances are not coincidental and God's timing is impeccable. Beginning Sunday, April 26, we will meet in the Slagle classroom at 10:00 AM and then on Wednesday, April 29, the same lesson will be offered at 7:00 PM. A worksheet will be provided for the video portion of the study and the workbook that coincides with the study is optional. Make plans to join us for this time of study and encouragement.



Bridal Shower

Friends of **Stephanie Huth** will host a bridal shower for her on Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 2:00 — 4:00 PM here at the church in Wattenbarger Hall.

Stephanie is registered at Belk

Department Store and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

You are invited to shower Stephanie with love and best wishes as she enters this new phase of her life.

The **Church Council** will meet on Sunday, May 3, at 6 PM in Wattenbarger Hall. All council members are urged to attend.

Pastor’s Corner— Several years ago, I went with my home church on a mission trip to South Dakota. To be quite honest, I remember very little specifics about the trip -- there was a LONG drive, tight sleeping quarters, and a theme song that we sang each day. I still remember the words to this song that Rich Mullins wrote:

*"O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days."*

For some reason, I have always remembered these words and held them very close. I think more than anything, they are a reminder that I need to continue to follow in the steps that God leads me. Sometimes it is easy to follow in the ways that God leads; sometimes it seems difficult for me.

When I came to Allen Memorial as your interim pastor in February 2013, I could never have dreamed what would transpire over the next year. As we worshipped together each week, I feel that we began to encounter God in some very holy ways. As we gathered for small-group Bible Studies or for fellowship meals, the conversation we shared allowed us to form relationships that grew stronger and deeper. We have laughed together at every opportunity and shed tears together during tough times. On my part, I fell in love with the people of Allen Memorial and began to dream about the ministry that God would have us do together.

Just a few weeks ago, I learned that the Cabinet of Holston Conference would be appointing me to a new church in June and that Allen Memorial would be receiving a new pastor. For almost all of my years in ministry, I have been drawn towards leading non-traditional worship and expressed to my D.S. that I would like the opportunity to do that in the future. It was because of my desire to do non-traditional worship that I was specifically chosen for my new church. This has been a hard reality for me to begin to accept because it means that I will have to leave the people of Allen Memorial that I love very deeply and step into a new reality that is uncertain. But the thing that has guided my heart and mind over the last few weeks is the chorus of the song above -- "and step by step you lead me / and I will follow you all of my days." These are not only the words I lay before myself but words I want to encourage you with. I am confident that God **will continue** to guide the worship and ministry of Allen Memorial when I leave you in June. I trust that you will love and support your new pastor just as you have loved and supported me. My prayer over the remaining months that we have together is that we will continue to love each other and be challenged to walk deeper in the ways of God.

(Melissa)



Infant Baptism

Benjamin Joshua Arsenault was baptized on March 29, 2015. His proud parents are Josh and Tonya Arsenault. His big brothers and sisters are Jacob, Alanna, Kayla, Nicholas, Meghan and Lyndy. Please surround this family with your love and prayers and nurture Ben as he grows and becomes active in the church family.



Gifts to the Church

Yvonne Raper donated two large urns for the front of the church in memory of her parents, C.B. and Elizabeth Raper. Debbie and Kim Stewart donated two Boston ferns to be used in the urns in memory of their husband and father, Mike Stewart.

Both of these gifts enhance the beauty of our church. Be sure to thank Yvonne, Debbie and Kim when you see them.

Prayer Shepherds Remember Your Sheep

Growing up I often heard the phrase “April Showers bring May flowers.” Having enjoyed this month, one of the most glorious April of flowers, I can only wonder what will May have to offer. God never rests from His created beauty. Surely I expect His surprises to restore again the landscapes to all its colorful beauty. “So enjoy the flowerworks!”

Not only do we live in an area where God made some of His most beautiful scenery, but according to the American Bible Society, we live close to the most Bible minded cities in America—Chattanooga, #2; Tri-Cities #3; and Birmingham #1. This is based on Bible reading habits and beliefs. (Nationally, only 27% of the population is considered Bible minded.)

Let us give thanks in our prayers for this gift of living where Christians read and share what they believe in an area of awesome beauty. Thanks to all Allen Memorial Shepherds. Blessings, Eva Oakes

**Relay for Life—Downtown Market Park
5:00 PM —Midnight
Friday, May 8, 2015
Come out and support the Allen Team!**

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 May:

Sunday, May 3
2:00 PM—Bridal Shower for Stephanie Huth
6:00 PM —Church Council Meeting

Monday, May 4
8:00 AM—SFE Trip to Michigan

Wednesday, May 6
7:00 PM—Bible Study in Slagle Classroom

Friday, May 8
5:00 PM—Relay for Life, Downtown Market Park

Saturday, May 9
12:00 Noon—UMW Meeting at home of Carolyn Delmas

Wednesday, May 13
6:00 PM—Body and Soul Church Wide Birthday Party
7:00 PM—Bible Study in Slagle Classroom

Wednesday, May 20
7:00 PM—Bible Study in Slagle Classroom

Sunday, May 24
11:00 AM—Graduation Sunday
12:05 PM—Dinner After Church to Honor Graduates

Wednesday, May 27
7:00 PM—Bible Study in Slagle Classroom

Sunday, May 31
5:30 PM—VBS Begins

Food Buckets for Liberia

The food buckets for Liberia are due May 31. You can pick up a bucket in the side vestibule which has a list of items to be included. Your help will make a difference in many lives. Thank you for supporting this project.

VBS begins on May 31 at 5:30 PM. The theme is Everest, conquering challenges with God’s mighty power.

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)	54	159
(YTD) 2014 (Average)	52	160
(MTD) Average for March 2015	57	158

Our Gifts

YTD (March 2014)	55,638.03
YTD (March 2015)	50,834.60
March 2015	19,942.30
Sunday School Outreach	59.01
Youth Funds	1,485.00
Structural Repair Fund	710.00
Future Fund	100.00
Bus Fund	125.00
Food Pantry	50.00
AED Fund	30.00
Music	140.00
Holston Home	580.00
Lent	345.00
UMCOR-Cross Relief	30.00

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	Diane MacElman
Ann & Reva Barton	Susie Malone
Chris Beaton	Alice Matthews
Sheron Bellman	Jim O’Daniel
Joseph Carpenter	Virginia O’Daniel
Kathy Cawlfild	Cleston Peel
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	Millard Vincent
Chase Littleton	

Our Service—Altar Flowers

May 3	-----Tom and Kim Huth
May 10	-----Brian and Kelly Bean
May 17	-----C.J. and Les Coomer
May 24	-----Dan Herron
May 31	-----Bob and Alice Shugart

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 Melissa Smith, Pastor
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Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Youth 4:30 PM

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 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 May

Sunday, May 3rd

4:30 Regular Youth Meeting

Sunday, May 10th

No Youth Meeting—Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 17th

4:30 PM—Regular Youth Meeting

Sunday, May 24th

12:05 PM—Dinner After Church

No Youth Meeting

Sunday, May 31st

5:30 PM—VBS begins

Camp Lookout brochures are now available in the side vestibule. Call the church office for more information.



Dinner After Church

The Youth along with the Family Life Committee will sponsor a dinner after church to honor our graduates on Sunday, May 24th, following worship.

The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings.

The meal is free, but the Youth will gladly accept donations to help with their upcoming trip to Orlando in June.



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 May

May 31st

5:30 PM—Vacation Bible School begins

Youth Yard Sale—June 12 and 13

Donated items are now being accepted in the church storage building. Call the church office for more information.



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.