

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 12

December 2014

Chancel Choir Cantata



The *Perfect Christmas* by Mark Cabanis and Stan Pethel will be presented by the Chancel Choir during the morning worship service on Sunday, December 14th.

This is a bright and entertaining Christmas cantata which incorporates several of your favorite Christmas carols.

Please mark your calendar and plan to be here as we celebrate this very special time of the Christian year!

Birthday Offering for Jesus



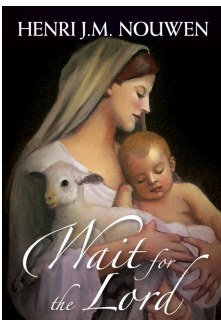
Our Birthday Offering for Jesus will be on Sunday, December 14. This year the offering will be sent to the Jubilee Project in Sneedville to help with Youth and Children's Ministries in this area.

Please give as God leads you.

Devotions for Advent

The Advent devotional book, *Wait for the Lord*, by Henri Nouwen is now available in both entryways.

There is no one more appropriate than Henri Nouwen to accompany you during Advent. His words are certain to enrich your spiritual journey as you await the birth of the Christ child.



New Short-Term Sunday School Class

A video based study, *The Journey*, by Adam Hamilton will be taught by our pastor, Melissa Smith, in Wattenbarger Hall starting at 10 AM on November 30th.

This is a fascinating look at the birth of the Christ child. Hamilton uses historical information, archaeological data and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus.

If you are not currently attending a class, this is a great opportunity to become involved during the Sunday School hour.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity!

UMW Christmas Party



The ladies will meet on Saturday, December 13, at 12 noon at the home of Carolyn Delmas for lunch and devotions. Carolyn will provide a light lunch followed by a Christmas devotion.

Each person should bring an unwrapped \$15 toy for the Rescue Squad Christmas toy drive. Also, bring a Christmas card for your Secret Pal. If you do not have a Secret Pal, bring a card to exchange.

Please be at the church by 11:45 AM if you would like to ride the bus to Carolyn's house.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion** will be on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM. This is a very meaningful service. Please schedule time to worship as you make your plans for the Christmas season.



Something for Everyone

Tuesday, December 2nd—12 noon in Wattenbarger Hall—Please join us as we celebrate Christmas in Toyland. We will enjoy a meal of baked ham and all the trimmings. Our program will be a

slide show of the year's activities.

Reservations should be made with Charlotte or the church office by Sunday, November 30th.



Hanging of the Greens

Please join us on Sunday, November 30, at 7 PM as we celebrate our annual Hanging of the Greens program directed by Yvonne Raper. This is a very meaningful service based on the

English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands and a Christmas tree. It readies the sanctuary (and church members) for the Christmas season. **Please don't miss this very meaningful service.**

Decorating for Christmas: Join us on Sunday afternoon, November 30th between 1:30 and 2:00 as we get the church ready for Hanging of the Greens.



Pastor's Corner

As I sit in my office the week before Thanksgiving, I find myself with a mixture of emotions. I'm **thankful** for the people that make up the congregation of Allen Memorial United Methodist Church. You do so much for each other and for the church that no one will ever see. As I reflect on the life of one of our dear saints this morning, Mildred Vincent, I am filled with **gratitude** for the life that she lived and the faith that sustained her through her 87 years. And as I prepare for worship for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, I am **humbled** when I consider the many blessings that God has given me that go unnoticed or that I forget about.

As we continue to move toward the celebration of Thanksgiving and enter very soon into the season of Advent, I would like to challenge the congregation of Allen Memorial UMC to make a commitment to grow closer to God during this season of the church year. It would be very easy for us to get overwhelmed by the excitement and the preparation for Christmas day that we forget all about the need to prepare for one of the biggest celebrations of the church year, the season of Advent. Advent is the Latin word for "arrival" and this Christian season is a time that we can prepare our hearts and our lives for the birth of the Christ child. We are planning some wonderful times of worship on Sunday morning that will allow us to celebrate how God has given us the wonderful gift of love through the person of Jesus and we will look at what that has to do with our lives today. We have planned a Hanging of the Greens worship service that allows us to understand this season a little better. We have some special times of musical celebration with our Chancel Choir and our children and youth choirs that remind us of the beauty of this Christmas season. There is even a special Sunday school class that is centered around the Advent season that will be held each Sunday at 10:00am in Wattenbarger Hall. Yes, the church will come alive with special activities and fun for people of all ages but don't miss out on the real reason that we celebrate -- the birth of the Christ child to the world.

Please look through this newsletter and take notice of all of the special events and activities that are planned throughout this season. Plan to attend worship and be prepared to celebrate the beauty of this season. I am filled with **excitement and love** as I continue to walk these days with you.

Melissa

"For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Children's Choir—Christmas Musical



The Children's Choir under the direction of Patti Rae Bryant will present their Christmas musical, *Back to the Manger*, on Sunday, December 7th, at 7:00 PM.

Please bring a tray of finger food and join us for a time of fellowship following the presentation.

A **surprise visitor** will delight the children and adults following the refreshment time.



December—the beginning of Advent and excitement of the glorious wonders and beauty of the season—The celebration of CHRISTmas—God's greatest CHRISTmas gift ever given—CHRIST in CHRISTmas!

Sometimes I question if we realize what an indescribable gift we have received. In October when shopping for CHRISTmas cards, I was overwhelmed with all the rows and rows of "stuff" stacked high and low for sale and hardly anything I saw was a reminder of the real CHRISTmas of awe and gratitude—God's gift Emmanuel.

Prayerfully, we will not become calloused by "stuff" this Holy season and forget that Jesus CHRIST came to give us eternal life with Him. May we never forget our most precious gift!

Thank you Shepherds for a successful year of prayers and support in this ministry. May the joys of God's abundant blessings and peace of Jesus' presence be with everyone always.

Merry Christmas, Eva Oakes



Welcome New Member

Evan Walden united with our church on Sunday, November 16th. Evan is married to Kari Kuykendall Walden. He is an attorney here in Athens. Be sure to welcome Evan to our congregation when you see him.

Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas

The Office Staff would like to wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas.

Our prayer is that you will experience peace, love and joy throughout the Christmas season and the coming year.

Melissa, Jane and Charlotte

Weekly Recurring Events

Monday
6:30 PM Junior Girl Scouts

Wednesday
6:00 PM Prayer Ministries
6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
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 December:

Tuesday, December 2
12:00 noon—Something for Everyone, Christmas in Toyland in Wattenbarger Hall

Saturday, December 6
2—4 PM—Gingerbread House Workshop in WH


Sunday, December 7
7:00 PM—Children’s Christmas Program & Reception (Bring a tray of finger food.)

Saturday, December 13
11:45 AM—Bus leaves church for Delmas home
12:00 Noon—UMW lunch at the Delmas home

Sunday, December 14
11:00 AM—Chancel Choir Cantata
Birthday Offering for Jesus

Sunday, December 21
4:30 PM—Youth will go Christmas Caroling followed by Dinner at the church

Wednesday, December 24
5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Worship Service



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.

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	162
(YTD) 2013 (Average)	56	137
(MTD) Average for Oct. 2014	50	148

Our Gifts

YTD (Oct. 2013)	165,695.86
YTD (Oct. 2014)	171,070.65
Oct. 2014	14,015.21
Sunday School Outreach	59.50
Youth Funds	100.00
Future Fund	100.00
Structural Repair Fund	170.00
Bus Fund	72.00
Food Pantry	105.00
World Communion	23.00
OCC Shipping	77.00

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
Joyce Bailey	Diane MacElman
Ann & Reva Barton	Susie Malone
Chris Beaton	Alice Matthews
Sheron Bellman	Jim O’Daniel
Dorothy Bigbee	Virginia O’Daniel
Joseph Carpenter	Monte Raper
Kathy Cawlfeld	Mike Ray
John & Pam Cooley	Bettye Kaye Richeson
Jim Crittendon	Myrtle Lee Roberts
Ken Davidson	Mildred Smith
Dee Gamble	Josh Sledge
Nell Gambill	Roy Thomas
Mike Jackson	Millard Vincent
Raymond & Linda Latham	Family of Mildred Vincent

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

December 7-----	Church—Poinsettias
December 14-----	John Penney
December 21-----	Church—Poinsettias
December 28-----	Church—Poinsettias

Allen Memorial United Methodist Church
 800 Decatur Pike
 Athens, TN 37303
 Melissa Smith, Pastor
 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



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 December

Sunday, December 7th

4:30—Regular Youth—The Youth will help feed the children before their program.

7:00—Children and Youth Program

Sunday, December 14th

5:00 to 7:00 —District Wide Youth Worship in Wattenbarger Hall

Sunday, December 21st

4:00—The Youth will go caroling to the shut-ins at 4:30. After caroling, dinner will be served at church.

Sunday, December 28th

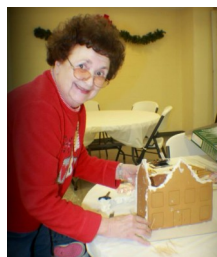
Christmas Holidays—No Youth Meeting



Children’s Ministries

Super Sunday for Kids is for children ages 3—5th grade. The meetings are on selected Sundays from 5:00–6:30.

If you any questions concerning our Children’s Ministries, please contact Kelly Bean.



Gingerbread House Workshop

The children will be making **Ginger Bread Houses** on Saturday, December 6 starting at 2:00 PM.

This is a fun event open to anyone who would like to come.

If you are interested in this workshop, call Kelly Bean or the church office for more details.

Sign-up sheets are in the Sunday School wing and the Side Vestibule.

Help us make this event a huge success!

In Loving Memory of Mildred Vincent

February 15, 1927—November 18, 2014

Mildred was a faithful reader of this Newsletter. She especially loved the Bible Challenge each month. She answered every question including last month’s. She will be greatly missed by her family and her church friends.



Youth Calendar—The Youth are selling calendars for \$10 each. These are very personalized with pictures of various groups in our church. Please support the Youth by buying one of their calendars.



The Youth will leave the church on **Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4:30** to go Christmas Caroling. You are welcome to join the group as they visit many of the church families. See Lela Lawson for more details.

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.