

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 13 Number 2

February 2013



Youth
Valentine
Dinner

The Youth are planning a special dinner at 6:00 PM on Saturday, February 9, in Wattenbarger Hall to celebrate Valentine's Day. The menu includes a choice of Breaded Ranch Chicken or Pork Loin with potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and drinks. You get all this plus entertainment for \$10/person. Tickets are available from any youth or you can call the church office at 745-1560 to make a reservation. A nursery will be provided. If you are unable to make an advance reservation, you are still welcome to come. Advance reservations help them plan better for the meal. Please plan to support our Youth. They work very hard to earn money for all their projects.

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. The number 40 appears many times throughout Scriptures, usually a symbol of spiritual renewal. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness before beginning His ministry. In the same way, Lent is a period of renewal and preparation for the coming of Easter Sunday.

This year our **Ash Wednesday service** will be at **Trinity UMC at 7:00 PM on February 13**. The wearing of ashes is a biblical expression of repentance and humility. They represent the acknowledgement of death and pain which is a result of selfishness and sin. This is a very meaningful service which is usually not very well attended.

Let us resolve this year to attend this service to show our support and solidarity for the Lenten season.



The new **Young Adult Sunday School Class** taught by Jane Jeffreys is now meeting upstairs in the room next door to the Pastor's Study. If you are not attending Sunday School, you are invited to join us Sundays at 10 AM.



The ladies will meet on Saturday, **February 9 at 12 noon** in the **Slagle Classroom**. Charlotte Newman will be the hostess and present the program. Please bring a salad to share for lunch. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.



The Men's Group will meet on February 3rd at 8:30 AM in Wattenbarger Hall for breakfast and devotions. All men of the church are invited to attend.



Something for Everyone

On **February 5**, we will travel to **Aubrey's Restaurant in Cleveland** for lunch. You will have the opportunity to shop for some winter bargains after lunch. If you don't care to shop, the bus will be open. We need to know by **Sunday, February 3rd** if you plan to join us. You can call Charlotte, 745-1915, or the church office, 745-1560, to make your reservation. We will leave the church at 11:30AM and return to Athens around 4:00 PM.

Brochures are now available in the side vestibule for the upcoming Tour of the Volkswagen Plant on May 7 and the Spring trip to Georgia on May 28 and 29. Please pick up a brochure if you are interested in either of these trips.



Remember to Pray for Your Sheep:

Paul's writings (Ephesians 6:18) gives the reminder to pray on ALL occasions with ALL kinds of prayers and requests. Prayer is crucial to effective Volunteer ministry and how blessed are Prayer Shepherds that

God has given us the opportunity to serve our fellowman by praying for those of the flock.

As we move into the early days of 2013, help us prayerfully to accept this mission confident of God's presence, power and enabling. **Sheep** pray for your Shepherds this month as they remember you. (*Eva Cakes*)

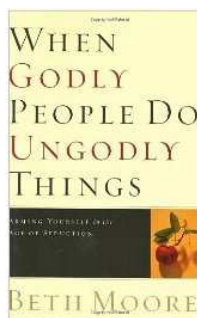


Senior Adults

Cleveland District is sponsoring an event for senior adults at Keith Memorial on February 26. There will be a silent auction and several speakers to enjoy. If you would like to attend this event, you can register by calling Keith Church at 745-2612.



This year our Offering for Lent will be collected on Easter Sunday, March 31. The offering will go to support the Youth and Children's Ministries of our church. Please give as God leads you.



Beth Moore's study "*When Godly People Do Ungodly Things*" will begin on February 10 led by Carlene Kuykendall. The study will be begin at 4:00 PM in the Slagle Classroom across from the Nursery. If you are interested, please call Carlene at 462-1210 or the church office at 745-1560. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth.



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The New Year is well underway now. I'm guessing many of the resolutions people made are broken and maybe even forgotten. I quit making them because I knew I couldn't or wouldn't keep them. They

were good and good for me, but I easily forgot them or cast them aside or got too busy or something.

I can remember a hymn we sang in my home church as I was growing up. It is called "I Am Resolved." I have 5 different hymnals on my shelf in my office and found the hymn in only one. Let me give you the words of the first stanza and refrain.

I am resolved no longer to linger, Charmed by the world's delight; Things that are higher, things that are nobler, These have allured my sight.

I will hasten to Him, Hasten so glad and free; Jesus, Greatest Highest, I will come to Thee.

Other stanzas begin: *I am resolved to go to the savior...I am resolved to follow the Savior...I am resolved to enter the Kingdom.*

The hymn calls us to a life of commitment to Jesus Christ, our Savior which is seen in our actions. We are called to be committed to Jesus and His call in our lives. We are called to follow and be faithful. We are called to leave behind the paths of sin.

I believe we are also called to a life of commitment to Jesus in our treatment of other people. In a world that often displays selfishness and greed and pride; we can also see around us a world of hunger, loneliness, lostness and despair.

Let us all commit ourselves to making a difference in the world where we can. Let us commit our time, talents and possessions to further the cause of Christ. This isn't a New Year call. This is an everyday call. Let us give our time to worship so we may receive strength and encouragement and show our love and devotion to God. Let us give ourselves to Bible study which will enable us to know God's holy Word. Let us give ourselves to service so we may be able to help children, youth and adults to know Christ. Let us give our lives to be used in His kingdom as He calls us to do.

Joe



We Welcome Sandra Hixson who joined our church on January 6th. Sandra is married to William. They have one son. She enjoys music, reading and walking. Sandy has been singing in our church choir for several months. Please make her feel welcome in our congregation.



Madilyn Grace Blair, daughter of Josh and Melissa Blair, received infant baptism on Sunday, January 6th. She has two big brothers, Jamison and Braden. Madi is now a member of the Family of God and a preparatory member of our church.

Please nurture this child so that she will grow in the knowledge and love of God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Volunteers of the Month: This month we have chosen two of our **Trustees, Charles Newman and James Ivan Grubb**, as our Volunteers of the Month.

The Trustees supervise and maintain all property belonging to our congregation. This includes the church, two parsonages, a storage building, all equipment and furnishings. Keeping our property well maintained is a way to honor God and facilitate the ministry of the church. A physical plant that is "well groomed" and attractive is much more welcoming, safe, and hospitable than one that shows signs of neglect.

Charles and James Ivan can be seen at the church or one of the parsonages almost every week. They keep up routine maintenance on the buildings as well as trouble shoot problems as they arise. They do everything from painting, hanging pictures and mini-blinds, to unclogging drains. When a problem is reported, Charles and James quickly take care of it.



Charles is chairperson of the Grounds Committee. This committee is charged with keeping the grounds well maintained so that our property is pleasing to God and presents a welcoming place for members and visitors. James Ivan, along with several others, helps Charles with this task. Charles takes his turn mowing the lawn and keeping the leaves cleaned up. The shrubbery and tress are trimmed when needed. Our church has received many compliments on the appearance of our grounds.

Charles and James both serve on the Church Council and are always willing to help where they are needed. Charles is an active member of the Men's Club. He enjoys helping with the projects they have throughout the year

James has served as Treasurer for the Special Funds of the church for many years. This is a very important job which he takes very seriously. We have recently had the Chair Fund to buy new chairs for Wattenbarger Hall. James and Joyce have made several trips to Sam's to purchase these new chairs which add so much to the attractiveness of the Hall.



Charles is married to Charlotte. They have two children, Vince and Laura. They have four grandchildren. When Charles is not working at the church, he enjoys gardening and keeping his own lawn beautiful. He enjoys reading when time permits. Charles and Charlotte enjoy traveling and spending time with their family and friends.

James Ivan is married to Joyce. They have three children, Betty, Sherri and Jeff. They have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He enjoys gardening, all sports and helping Joyce with her many projects. James and Joyce also enjoy traveling and spending time with their family and friends.

Our church is so fortunate to have these two men who are so dedicated to taking care of God's gifts. Be sure to tell them how much you appreciate all they do.

The Family Life Committee is sponsoring a covered dish meal after church on February 24. The committee would like you to bring a picture or a story about your "favorite pet." If you don't have a pet, you can enjoy learning about the pets of others.

**No More Malaria
196 lives have been saved.
Our goal is 250 lives saved.**

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: 1st & 3rd Sunday—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/Meetings

February 1-3—Divine Rhythm-Gatlinburg
February 3—Souper Bowl of Caring
February 9—UMW meeting in **Slagle Classroom**, 12 noon—Bring a salad to share for lunch
February 9—Valentine Dinner @ 6 PM-Wattenbarger Hall—Sponsored by our Youth
February 13—Ash Wednesday—Combined Service for Allen and Trinity to be held at Trinity at 7:00 PM.
February 24 —Covered Dish after church—Bring a picture of your pet.

Altar Flower Schedule

February 3..... Duane & Amy Rikard
 February 10..... Brian & Kelly Bean
 February 17..... Becky Jaquish
 February 24..... Alfred and Dee Gamble



Check out the bulletin board in the side vestibule to see who has been in the news from our church. Recent pictures include: Carol Russell, Zoe Jackson, Jesse Sparkman, Abby Bryant, Beth Caulfied and others. If you have a picture you would like to have posted, just give it to Jane.

Divine Rhythm for Young Adults, ages 18-35, will be held in Gatlinburg at Mills Auditorium February 1-3. If you would like to attend this event, please contact Jarred Wright for more information. Don’t miss this great opportunity for worship!

The Athens Community Chorus is now rehearsing for its next concert, “A Night at the Opera,” and there’s still time to join. You now have a chance to sing some of the greatest music written for the stage right here in Athens! All voice types are welcome; no singing experience is necessary! The concert is April 20th, and rehearsals take place in the choir room at TWC on Tuesday nights. For more information about joining, contact Nathan Windt at nwindt@twcnet.edu or 423.746.5234.

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) 2012 (Average)	62	160
(YTD) 2011 (Average)	62	166
(MTD) Average for Dec. 2012	54	149

Our Gifts

YTD (December 2011)	214,732.01
YTD (December 2012)	195,156.68
December 2012	17,556.84
Sunday School Outreach	80.00
Imagine No Malaria	1,336.75
U.M. Student Day	25.00
Future Fund (includes fundraisers)	983.00
Chair Fund	738.00
Bus Fund	20.00
Men’s Group	100.00

Our Prayers

Our Country, our Leaders and our Troops
 Our Pastor, Rev. Joe Black
 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!
Pray for the Names Listed Below:

Nancy Barton	Kathy Niswonger
Chris Beaton	Jim Neil
Linda Brown	Eva Oakes
Joseph Carpenter	Ella Parker
Kathy Cawfield	Bonnie Richards
Kathy & Milford Clark	Russell Roberts
Grace Coleman	Charles Seargent
John & Pam Cooley	Family of Ellen Bradshaw Sherill
Ingrid Cooley	Donna Smith
Jim Crittenden	Mildred Smith
William Cross	Nell Smith
Bruce Delmas	Christopher Spence
Linda Dennis	Bill Stewart
Lisa Evans	Edward Tessier
Bob Everage	Roy Thomas
Doug Ford	Jim Toomey
Al Gamble, Jr.	Bruce Vincent
Carol Hope	Mildred Vincent
Lacey Hunter	Emily Grubb Wade
Mike Jackson	Brenda Walker
Greg Lawson	Jim & Mary Watkins
Tonya Linder	Ogle Wattenbarger
Tammy Lowry	Renay Wattenbarger
Glenn Mason	Nancy White

Our Service



Our Food Pantry continues to be a way of service to the community. During the Christmas season, several bags of groceries were given to those who were in need. This month while doing your grocery shopping, you might want to pick up a few cans of soup for the pantry.

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 Rev. Joe Black, Pastor

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 21
 Athens, TN 37303



Return Service Requested



Sunday School 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Youth - Sunday 4:30 PM
 Prayer Ministries - Wednesday 6:15 PM
 Adult Choir Practice- Wednesday 7:00 PM



Our Youth
 Any youth 6th—
 12th grade is invited
 to participate in our
 Youth Group. Our
 meetings begin on
 Sunday afternoons
 at 4:30.



Our Kids
 Super Sunday for
 Kids is for children
 ages 3—5th grade.
 Our meetings are
 on the 1st & 3rd
 Sundays at
 5:00.



**SOUPER
 BOWL**
 of Caring

Nearly 100 million Americans are expected to tune in to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 3rd. During that time 1 billion chicken wings, 28 million pounds of potato chips and 8 million pounds of popcorn will be consumed. At the same time, 1 billion people will be hungry—some worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and securing the next meal.

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 3**, to help feed those who are hungry in our community. All items will go to the Allen Food Pantry. Containers will be available in each entry-way for collecting your donated items. **Thank you!**

February 10th: 5:00—Gretchen Kittle will provide supper.
February 24th: 5:00—Jane Jeffreys & Lisa Sharp will provide supper.

If you haven't provided a meal for Super Sunday for Kids, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the side vestibule. The leaders really appreciate everyone's participation.



Bible Question for February: What was the name of Ruth's second husband?

Correct answer for January: Tubal-Cain

...she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. Genesis 4:22

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.