



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter, November 12, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

On my daily drive up Highway 31 through Homewood and Vestavia as I travel to drop my daughter off at school before coming to Bluff Park, you can see that Christmas is already here. Lights and images of the season are on the lampposts. Even while grocery shopping, I noticed that the Christmas chocolates and the eggnog are already in stock. As Christians, we still have two Sundays before the official liturgical season of Advent arrives. However, we are already preparing to celebrate the season the best we can with our choir practicing for Christmas on the Bluff and with many members shopping for gifts for the Festival of the Three Kings. So, it's time to talk about

what this season will mean for us as a church and as a community!

This year, Bluff Park UMC will be focusing on a wonderful resource by Methodist pastor and author James Harnish called "When God Comes Down." Your small group or Sunday school class can follow along by purchasing the materials from Cokesbury or other online Christian retailers. We will take a Sunday morning in worship to look at the characters in the Christmas story and see how their lives were blessed and shaped by "when God came down" in the Christ child.

John 1:14 says that the Word (the Son of God) became flesh (a human being) and dwelt among us. The word "dwelt" in the Bible is best translated as "tented" or "tabernacled." I'll explain more about what this means and why it is so significant and powerful for all humanity to understand during the season of Advent! But the gist of the message is this: God came down to us and made His dwelling with us - God chose to live and stay with us. During Advent, we will be highlighting ways that you can help bless people with a place to stay - a place to live - a dwelling - a home. Please do not miss out on a wonderful Advent season starting on December 1st! And invite people to visit and worship with you.

Maybe Bluff Park UMC could be their worshipping "home."

Mike

Celebrating Gifts and Year-End Giving

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving. As we enter the final months of the year, here are some ideas for each of you to consider:

Churches typically receive as much as 25% of our gifts in the last two months of the year. As you make your plans to complete your 2013 financial commitment, here are three additional possibilities for resources beyond cash gifts. Please note that these possibilities are listed for educational purposes. Please consult your personal advisor for your specific information.

1. Gifts of Appreciated Stocks or Bonds

You can transfer ownership of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to the church and receive a charitable tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the securities on the date of the transfer. This avoids the capital gains tax while giving the church the benefit of the full value of the security. To receive this benefit, it is important to transfer ownership before the security is sold. For your gift to apply to the current tax year, the securities must be in the account of the local church (or our Foundation) by December 31st. So, allow plenty of lead time for your broker to complete this transaction.

2. Gifts of Real Estate

A charitable gift of real estate can be especially tax advantageous. If a home, vacation home, acreage or farm property has appreciated in value over the years - its sale could result in a sizable capital gains tax. If the real estate is given to the church prior to the sale, you can avoid the tax and realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate. One could even consider a bargain sale transaction with half of the funds to the church and the other half to the donor.

3. Gifts of Life Insurance

When you name the church as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, it usually offers you a tax advantage in the year you make the gift. You can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. Additionally, continued payments of premiums qualify as charitable tax deductions each year.



Community Thanksgiving Service: We will not have evening worship on November 24th. Instead, we will be joining with churches in our community at 6:00 pm on the 24th of this month for a Community Thanksgiving Service at Shades Crest Baptist Church. Our own Rev. Mike Holly will be preaching!

Home Alone for Thanksgiving Day Dinner? Bring a dish and join us here at the church for dinner from 11:30-2:00. The church will provide the turkey, ham and tea. All members, friends, and community are invited. Call Betty at 822-0910.

Advent Morning Prayer: Beginning on Wednesday, November 27th we will have a service of Morning Prayer during Advent. This is a brief service of prayer, scripture and Holy Communion designed to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child into the world. The service will be in the sanctuary and begin at 7:30 a.m.

Chile. We are planning our 2014 Volunteers in Mission trip to Chile. Once again we will travel to El Vergel just outside of Angol, Chile to work with John Elmore our covenant missionary partner. If you are interested in being a part of the team please plan to attend an information meeting on Wednesday, November 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Footsteps classroom. We will discuss details of the trip and answer any questions you might have. This meeting is for those who are interested in going. You do not have to make a commitment at this time.

We have begun building **Ham Mountain** in the Narthex of the church. This mission is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund to raise money for the Food Pantry. We will receive hams each Sunday until December 1st. The hams will be given out at the food pantry on December 4th.



2013 Flower Calendar: There is only one date available for 2013 to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. Please sign up in the office of the Education building. Date available: December 8. The 2014 Flower Calendar is available in the office for anyone to sign up.

Started your Christmas shopping yet? There are still Bluff Park Cookbooks available. Pick one up in the church office or the narthex on Sunday.

Dollie and Me Tea: Sunday, November 17 at noon. This Sunday we will enjoy our annual Dollie and Me Tea. If you have a daughter, chances are she's got a doll of some sort. You may have even had rather intense negotiations about whether a doll (or how many dolls) can accompany you on various outings. Sometimes, such negotiations occur around going to church.



dollie & me
Two. Perfect.

This Sunday, your little girl will have the opportunity to bring her doll to church, enjoy various activities with her doll, and make some great memories. Our annual Dollie and Me Tea has been a highlight of the year for many of the little girls of our church, and we hope that you'll bring your daughter to enjoy it. Paul implores us to "rejoice with those who are rejoicing" in

Romans 12:15, and we hope that you will do just that as we celebrate the joy of youth as we offer this wonderful opportunity to the little girls of our church.

Calling All Volunteers

What does 40,000 lbs of sweet potatoes look like?



Join us Saturday, November 16th, starting at 9am and find out. Our goal is to finished by noon. Come to the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama Parking Lot, 107 Walter Davis Drive Birmingham and help us bag potatoes. It is easy to participate, just bring your hands and a heart to help the hungry in our area. We will be there until the last potato is bagged and loaded. Volunteer time is flexible. Grab a friend and join us! Need more information, call Sylvia Sumners at 824-9902. Hunger is a real problem for many of our fellow Alabamians so come and be a part of the solution. This event is sponsored by the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama in partnership with Society of St. Andrew. **250 bags will be donated to Bluff Park for the Food Pantry. Please help!**



World Prematurity Awareness Day

Sunday November 17, 2013

Join the world in prayer for babies born too soon and the families that love them.



Disaster Relief in Philippines

If you would like to support Relief Efforts in the Philippines, please consider giving money to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. All donations go directly to relief efforts for this disaster. Write checks to Bluff Park United Methodist Church marked **Disaster Response #982450**. You can drop checks in the Offering Plate on Sunday or drop it by the church.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL We will have a "Month of Missions" for November. We will make Wreaths for our veterans, Christmas cards for our military personnel, and have a canned food drive for our pantry and for U.C.C. We are looking for volunteers to help with the advent Sunday school unit. We need volunteers for Dec. 1, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15.

4th 5th FELLOWSHIP Our next fun trip will be Sunday, Nov. 24. We will go bowling and eat pizza. Be here by 5:30p.m. We'll be back at 7:30p.m. cost is \$10.00.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is Dec. 1st at 5p.m. in the Sanctuary. **Rehearsal is on Sunday Dec. 1, 2-3p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The Church wide Christmas Party will be at 5:30p.m. Please notify Mrs. Leigh at ldelashaw@bpumc.org that your child will be in the pageant. We need animals, shepherds, angels and townspeople to create this wonderful pageant!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL is Wednesday Dec. 4. Dinner will start at 5p.m. and the musical will be at 6p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

PRESCHOOL ADVENT WORKSHOP All preschoolers and their families are invited to participate in an Advent Workshop on Wednesday Dec. 11. Dinner will start at 5p.m. with a family devotional at 5:45p.m. There will be 3 advent crafts for families to make together. Reservations are a must. Please notify Leigh Delashaw at ldelashaw@bpumc.org of how many people in your family will be coming that night.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Our student ministry will be sponsoring two children in this year's Festival of Three Kings, which will be held on Saturday, December 14. Starting in November, we'll begin taking up an offering at Sunday School, small groups, recreation events and at Holy Ground worship. Our goal will be to raise \$200 (\$100 for each child). We'll then use the funds raised to purchase items on their Christmas wish list. Please give to this great effort!

Fall Retreat is Friday-Sunday, November 22-24 at Camp Sumatanga. Sign up and pay online at www.bluffparkumc.org.

Thank you to every parent who has signed up to help as a volunteer this fall. We still have several needs, including Sunday School teachers, event chaperons and small group leaders. To learn more, contact Bart at 205-790-1803 or barts@bpumc.org.

Wednesday, November 13, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

Wednesday, November 13, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

Sunday, November 17, 10:00pm: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, November 17, 4:00pm: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, November 17, 4:30pm: HS Guys Small Group

Sunday, November 17, 5:30pm: Free Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 17, 6:00pm: Hunger Games

Sunday, November 17, 6:00pm: HS Girls Small Group

Wednesday, November 20, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

Wednesday, November 20, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

THURSDAY, NOV. 14:

SHEPHERDS CENTER — Mystery ???????

TUESDAY, NOV. 19:

THANKSGIVING CARDS to our sick/shut-ins in the library from 11:00-12:00

THURSDAY, NOV. 21:

SHEPHERD CENTER—Karen Haiflich—Update on Medicare/Medicaid

THURSDAY, NOV. 28:

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER for members, friends, and community that will be home alone. We invite you to join us. 11:30-2:00. Call Betty.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5:

SHEPHERD CENTER—Dr. Gary Boyd, Internal Medicine Care

TUESDAY, DEC. 10:

DINNER and CHRISTMAS LIGHTS at Noccalula Falls

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11:

CHRISTMAS CARDS to our sick/shut-in 11:00-12:00 library

CHRISTMAS TRIP—December 4th-7th; Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg. Christmas lights/ shopping/ shows, Christmas on the Titanic, and Christ in the Smokies Museum.

Special Moment with Jesus!

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Psalm 7:17

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816**

Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
Peter von Herrmann, pvonherrmann@bpumc.org, ext. 105
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112

Dir. of Seniors, ext. 103

Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org

Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118

Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org

Dir. of Children, ext. 107

Leigh Delashaw, ldelashaw@bpumc.org

Director of Finance and Administration, ext. 117

Ben Sheets, bsheets@bpumc.org

Financial Manager, ext. 101

Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org

Secretary, ext. 111

Cindy Myers, cmyers@bpumc.org

Director of Chancel Choir and Special Programs,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist, Jamie Davis

Preschool Director

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of November 17 - 23

Sunday, November 17

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Dollie and Me Tea
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday, November 18

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, November 19

6:00 p.m. Building Team

Wednesday, November 20

4:30 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. Men's Choir

Wednesday, November 20

6:00 p.m. Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Mike Holly's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Coffee Conversation
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday, November 21

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center

Friday, November 22

Ushers

8:45: Carlisle 11:00: Moore

Cross

8:45: Nelson Coler 11:00: TBA

Acolytes

8:45: Sam Coler 11:00: TBA

Children's Church

8:45: Coler 11:00: Mann

Greeters November 17: New Light

Meals on Wheels November 20: Pearson/Adams

Food Pantry: December 4: Sylvia Summers

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY

1st Wednesday each month

We are serving 200+ families a month.
We appreciate all donations!

**Men's Freeplay Basketball
In the Gym**

Sunday & Thursday: 7:00pm (church members)
Wednesday: 7:00pm (community)

Last Week's Record

November 10 2013

Sunday School	398
Morning Worship	518
Evening Worship	30
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$14,824.00
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,190,102.00
Received to Date	\$1,123,289.31
Building Fund Receipts	\$2,520.00
Building Fund in 2013	\$233,083.16
New Members in 2013	41

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$2,420.00
Received to Date	\$266,806.73

**BLUFF PARK UNITED
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM**

Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

Wed. Night Servers—November 13

Fellowship Hall—Richard and Derilda Joiner
Take Out— Wesley Forum

November 13

Taco Salad, baked chicken, baked potato bar, roll.

November 20

Turkey/dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato bar, and roll.

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered entrance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.

Sermon, November 17, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"Action Prayers"
(Nehemiah 1:5-11)
Bob Alford
District Superintendent

6:00 Evening Worship
"Integrity"
(II Thessalonians 3:6-13)
Mike Holly