



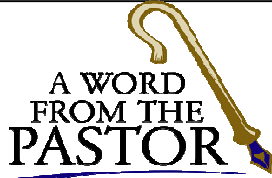
BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter, November 19, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org



Thanksgiving is about a week away and we at Bluff Park UMC hope you and your family have a blessed holiday together. If you are traveling, please know that we are praying for you. If you are staying home and do not have a place to eat with family or friends, please feel welcome to attend our community Thanksgiving meal. You only need to RSVP and bring a covered dish. More information is in this week's newsletter.

As we prepare for worship on Sunday and for Advent which begins on December 1st, we will be studying our own Rose Window in the Sanctuary to see what images within help us to grow in faith and service as well as to learn more about the very nature of God. I hope you will be here at 8:45 and 11:00 am this Sunday!

Finally, we are beginning to construct the church's 2014 ministry budget and we need you to turn in your pledge card if you have not done so. This will help us plan accordingly to what we will expect to receive in the new year. We have many new hopes and dreams as a congregation and those new initiatives need your support! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity to our wonderful church!

Mike



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.



Pecans for Autism: Glenwood's pecans have a purpose. Every purchase of our pecans and coffees raise funds essential for the operation of Glenwood's programs and services for children, adolescents, adults, and families affected by autism and behavioral health disorders. Glenwood, a non profit, uses the proceeds from this sale to benefit all of its programs and services for children with autism, young boys with severe emotional disturbances, and preschool-age kids; adult habitation programs; children and adult residential facilities; consultation and training; a summer day camp and family support diagnosis and treatment.

Over 38 years ago Glenwood's Holiday Pecan Sale began as a fund-raising effort to benefit the Allan Cott School, Glenwood's founding program. This was the first school established in Alabama to offer educational and therapeutic services to children with autism. Today, Glenwood touches the lives of over 8,000 people across Alabama. Thank you for supporting Pecans for Autism and believing in all of the people Glenwood serves.

Members of our Church Family in the Hospital: Shelby Ridge-Ralph Drennen Trinity - Odessa Harbor
Shelby—A.V Marlow Brookwood—Jewell Riley

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 (1/2). 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.

Thank You:

Thank you for the calls, cards, and flowers sent to cheer us up. Special thanks to the Opportunity Class for the love and care expressed to us. Willie and Margaret Creswell.

Many, many thanks for allowing our students to come and be a part of your worship service this past Sunday. The students were deeply touched by the generosity and interest your congregation showed in what they are doing. Please know that your congregation supported the students in service at Birmingham-Southern College in the amount of \$635.00. These gifts will strengthen the connection between your congregation, Birmingham-Southern, and the communities where we serve, locally, nationally, and internationally. We are most grateful for your support for this unique educational experience at Birmingham-Southern College. Blessings to you and your congregation.

Kristin A. Harper, Director of Service-Learning

Missions Committee— December 2 in the library at 7:00 p.m.



The **Festival of Three Kings** Christmas Wish Lists are available at the Welcome Center. Gifts for the children will be due on Sunday December 8.

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.

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. **A special offering will be taken on November 24.** 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

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 make this wonderful pageant! Please respond by Thursday.

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.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will have a breakfast gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec. 22 at 9:45a.m.

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!

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 20, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

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

Friday, Sunday, November 22-24: Centered Fall Retreat at Sumatanga

Sunday, November 24, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

THURSDAY, NOV. 21:

THURSDAY, NOV. 28:

SUNDAY, DEC. 1:

THURSDAY, DEC. 5:

TUESDAY, DEC. 10:

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17:

SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Karen Haiflich—Update on Medicare/Medicaid

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 for reservations.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS for our sick/shut-ins available in the narthex.

Fill and deliver at your convenience.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Dr. Gary Boyd, Internal Medicine Care

DINNER and CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - train ride through the park Nocalula Falls, Gadsden. Call Betty to reserve your seat on the bus.

Cost \$10 pp, (admission & gas) Dinner at Top of the River, on your on. 3:00—8:00

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

CHRISTMAS TRIP—December 4th-7th

Special Moment with Jesus!



The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

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

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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 24 - 30

Sunday, November 24

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. 4th/5th Grade Bowling
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday, November 25

Tuesday, November 26

Wednesday, November 27

Thursday, November 27

Office Closed

11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Dinner

Friday, November 28

Office Closed

Ushers

8:45: Chatter 11:00: Youth

Cross

8:45: Carolyn Thompson 11:00: Logan Watts

Acolytes

8:45: Barrett Stahr 11:00: Olivia Woodruff

Children's Church

8:45: Byrd 11:00: Prudhomme

Greeters November 24: New Light

Food Pantry: December 4: Sylvia Sumners

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 17 2013

Sunday School	434
Morning Worship	523
Evening Worship	30
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$25,765.33
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,217,127.00
Received to Date	\$1,149,064.66
Building Fund Receipts	\$2,290.33
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	\$2,228.33
Received to Date	\$269,035.06

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST COLUMBARIUM

Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

Wed. Night Servers—November 13

Fellowship Hall—Fisherman Class
Take Out—Peggy, Gaile and Betty

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 24, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"A Window to the Future"
(Malachi 3:1-3)
Mike Holly

6:00 p.m.
Community Thanksgiving Service
At Shades Crest Baptist