



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter, November 5, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Thank you again for your continued financial support of our church and its ministries and missions in 2014! We are still receiving Ministry Budget Pledge Cards and are grateful for each and every pledge. If you have already turned in your pledge card, thank you. If you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, it is not too late! Simply drop your pledge card in the mail, bring it by the church's financial office or put it in the offering plate during any worship service. If you need another card, extras are available at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex and in the Church Office.

I want to let you know about several important events going on in the life of our church during the month of November:

1. On Sunday, November 10th, we have a special Veteran's Day Program in the Chapel at 6:00 pm with a light supper at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
2. On Sunday, November 17th, our District Superintendent, Rev. Bob Alford, will be preaching at both morning worship services. We will be blessed by his presence with us as well as the message he will have for us!
3. We also have Missions displayed in the Narthex on both of these Sundays! Come and see what some of the ministries and missions we support are doing in the Narthex either before or after worship in the morning.

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!



Veteran's Day Program: Sunday Evening, November 10, dinner at 5:00, program at 6pm. The speaker will be John O'Malley and music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band.. Please come for an evening of celebration, everyone is welcome.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Linda Small in the death of her husband, Jim, on November 4. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Sunday, November 10th is the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**. Christians in foreign countries face violence, imprisonment and even death because of their faith. Let us remember in prayer our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer around the globe for we are connected through our baptisms. One faith, One Lord, One baptism.

A **big thank you** to the church planting group who worked so hard on October 9 to plant flowers, fertilize, and mulch and water at the Columbarium, Sanctuary, and Educational Building.

Julie Adams Frances Bellows Peggy Comer Patsy and Bob Cummings Joan Davis
Evelyn Lawrence Sarah Thompson Charlotte and Alan Word

What a great group! You are so faithful and always so willing to help plant the beautiful flowers that lift our spirits on any day, and enhance the beauty of our church. We have lots of fun and we welcome anyone who enjoys gardening to join our group. We plant in May and October each year and weed, fertilize, deadhead and prune in between. Join us next time. Wayne Freeman

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 there. 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 are only two dates 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. Dates available: November 17 (1/2); 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.

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A LAY SERVANT?

Lay Servants are people who –

- have the desire and are ready to serve the church;
- are well informed on and committed to scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of the United Methodist Church;
- receive specific training to develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, or care-giving ministry.

Would you like to know more about Lay Servant Ministry, and service of leading, caring and communicating both at BPUMC and at other United Methodist Churches? If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Becky Walker at 987-0404 or bwalker5129@yahoo.com. Training sessions will be held Nov. 15-16 at Birmingham Southern. (Reservations are requested.)

Permanent Endowment Funds: The market value of our Permanent Endowment Funds (Missions, General Ministries and Building) was \$639,897 at the end of the 3rd quarter of CY2013. Our earnings for the 3rd quarter were \$1835 bringing the total earnings since the funds were established in 1993 to \$304,503. Our funds had a gain in the market value of \$16,491 for the 3rd quarter of CY2013. For the first nine months of 2013, we have a gain in market value of \$30,803. Contributions may be made to the Funds at any time and in any amount. The contributions remain in the Funds permanently along with the change-of-value. However, the **income** from the Permanent Endowment Funds supports unexpected, unbudgeted expenses which sometimes arise during the year. Our Permanent Endowment Funds are invested with the United Methodist Foundation of North Alabama in the 'Balanced Fund'. The Foundation, in turn, invests in fixed income and equity instruments in a ratio which they and their advisers feel yields the greatest possible returns in prevailing market conditions.

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 did a great job making "Ham Mountain!" Make sure now that you bring your canned ham. This Wednesday we will make cards for the Veteran's Day wreaths. **Sunday Nov. 10** we are going to give out our homemade veterans' wreaths at the Veteran's dinner. We will eat dinner and hand out the wreaths. All 4th and 5th graders are asked to help. Come to the Fellowship Hall by 5:30p.m. 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. **THE NEXT ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIP** will be Monday Nov. 11. We will do a patriotic surprise trip, go eat pizza and see a movie. Doors open at 7:30a.m. We will leave about 9:30a.m. and be back around 4:30p.m. Please pick up children by 5:30p.m. We have spots for 21 students. Call and make your child's reservation for the bus! Cost is \$30.00 a child.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is Dec. 1st at 5p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Church wide Christmas Party will be at 5:30p.m. Parent letters will be mailed next week.

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.

ACOLYTE TRAINING, November 13, 6:30 in the sanctuary for third graders. Parents are invited.

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 6, 5:30pm: MS Small Groups

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

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

Sunday, November 10, 4:00pm: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, November 10, 5:30pm: Free Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 10, 6:00pm: Sunday Night Live! (an evening of skits, videos and music)

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

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

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

BRIDGE and LUNCH:
THURSDAY, NOV. 7:

With Barbara Morgan, **each Thursday** at 11:00 a.m. Beginners and advanced

SHEPHERDS CENTER —Program by the Seasoned Performers

YELLOW DOT SIGN-UP 1:30-2:30 in the gym

SUNDAY, NOV. 10:

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM-Dinner at 5pm. Program at 6pm.

John O'Malley: Guest Speaker, Music by the Jazz Band of Hoover High School

Everyone is invited to honor our veterans.

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.

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

Special Moment with Jesus!

I love you, O LORD, my strength. Psalm 18:1

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Director of Chancel Choir and Special Programs,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist, Jamie Davis

Preschool Director

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

The Week of November 10 - November 16

Sunday, November 10

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday, November 11

Office Closed

6:30 p.m. Bass Club

Tuesday, November 12

8:30 a.m. Maintenance Group
Betty—Guntersville

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, November 13

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

Wednesday, November 13

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 14

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Friday, November 15

Ushers

8:45: Carlisle 11:00: Moore

Cross

8:45: Clayton Marshall 11:00: Katie Norris

Acolytes

8:45: Ethan McGriff 11:00: Graham Coltrane

Children's Church

8:45: Chadha:00: Gold

Greeters November 10: Friendship Class

Meals on Wheels November 13: Martin

Food Pantry: December 4: Kay Adams

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 3 2013

Sunday School	475
Morning Worship	599
Evening Worship	30
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$42,805.00
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,163,077.00
Received to Date	\$1,108,465.31
Building Fund Receipts	\$5,106.51
Building Fund in 2013	\$230,563.16
New Members in 2013	41

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$4,606.51
Received to Date	\$266,806.73

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST COLUMBARIUM

Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

Wed. Night Servers—November 6

Fellowship Hall—Canterbury Class
Take Out—Peggy and Mahala

November 6

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Limas or baked chicken, baked potato bar, roll.

November 13

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

VALET PARKING

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