



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter, December 10, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org



On Sunday evening, I experienced my first Christmas on the Bluff here at BPUMC and while I was amazed at the talent and commitment of our choir and special guests, I was struck more so by how I was touched by a sense of warmth and comfort as if God was whispering to us all: "Peace be with you all." I hope everyone received this wonderful gift as well. Thank you to everyone involved in Christmas on the Bluff!

Earlier that morning, we focused upon Joseph and his character as a "righteous man." Joseph not only sought out to do the right thing; he was also available to do the extraordinary thing when he was asked to do so by God through the angelic messenger. This Sunday, we turn our attention to Joseph's betrothed: young Mary.

This summer, my wife, Julie, and I toured the country of Israel with other pilgrims from our area. We toured several churches believed to be built on top of holy sites. One such place was the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Below the main worship space, deep within the rock you can visit the Grotto where Mary is believed to have been greeted by the angel and told that she would become the mother of the Son of God. We stood behind a gate looking in at the first century living space turned into a holy site complete with an altar. Peeking in, we saw what might have been the very spot in which God broke into our world through the Christ child.

May you and your family experience an in-breaking of God's holy presence into your 21st century living spaces and lives!

Mike

Advent Morning Prayer will be every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m.

GOD
COMES DOWN



Christmas at Bluff Park UMC

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 15 | Sunday Morning Worship (8:45 and 11:00 am)
Mary, Luke 1:26-38
EVENING: Magic City Choral Society – 5:00 pm |
| December 22 | Sunday Morning Worship (8:45 and 11:00 am)
The Innkeeper, Luke 2:1-7
EVENING: Blue Christmas Service - 5:00 pm |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Communion Services
(4:00 and 6:00 pm) |
| December 29 | Sunday Morning Worship (All Together at 10:00 am)
Breakfast at 9:00 am
NO EVENING WORSHIP |

Members of our Church Family in the Hospitals: University—Frank Love Brookwood—Judy Morgan
St. Vincent—Betty Lou Black Galleria Woods Rehab—Dimples Sherman Lakeshore —Odessa Harbor

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Leigh Delashaw in the death of her father, James A. Anchors on December 4.....also to the family of Ralph Drennen who died on December 9.....also to Angela Henderson whose father, Richard Smith, died on December 6. Our prayers are with these families in their time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Andrew and Leakhena Holder on the birth of Andrew Bowles Holder VI, on December 7.

Planning for **The Legacy Gala Silent Auction** is starting! There will be an initial planning meeting on Monday, December 16th at 6 pm in the Library. If you have any interest in promotion, fundraising, gathering auction items or party planning, please come join our team! The Legacy Gala will be February 28th and will benefit both the youth and children's programs. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to help, please contact Megan Wise at 978-2907 or megan.f.wise@gmail.com.



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

Come and join the fun at our "**Prayer Shawls Meeting**". The dates are: Jan. 6 Jan. 20
Feb. 3 Feb. 17 Mar. 3 Mar. 17 Apr. 7 Apr. 21 May 5
May 19 Jun. 2 Jun. 16 Call Kandis Scudder for more information

Celebrate Christmas By Blessing Others

During the month of December, we invite you to consider giving generously in two ways. The first is the **White Christmas Offering** which goes to support children in the state of Alabama. The United Methodist Children's Home helps connect children to loving families and group homes.

The second opportunity to bless others is through giving to the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund** which is used to help people in a financial crisis with the necessities of life such as food, water, and utilities.

You can give to these two ministries each and every Sunday of December by writing on the memo line of the check or on the envelope provided either 1) White Christmas Offering or 2) Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



Poinsettias: Please reserve your large beautiful poinsettia now to remember or to honor a loved one at Christmas. The cost is \$22.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is **December 15**.

Thank you.

In honor of: _____

by _____

In memory of: _____

by _____

Blue Christmas: The Blue Christmas Worship Service helps minister to the needs of those for whom the Christmas season is a difficult time. Many people are coping with personal problems that make Christmas a time of pain rather than joy. The Blue Christmas service is a quiet, meditative service that reminds us of the hope and comfort that God brings to us through Jesus. This service will help us to share our hurting places with God as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

The service will be on Sunday, December 22nd at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary.



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 pre-school-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. You can buy them at Iberia Bank Branches.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

THANK YOU to all the people who participated in the Children's and Family Life Ministry assessment. After the start of the new year we will have a review where everyone who is interested can come and hear what the results are.

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.



4TH5TH FELLOWSHIP will have their Christmas party on Sunday Dec. 15, 5:30-7:30p.m. If any parent would like to offer their house, please let Katie Pauley or Leigh Delashaw know.

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

STUDENT MINISTRY

Festival of Three Kings is Saturday, December 14. Volunteers will need to arrive at the church sanctuary narthex at 7am. Donuts provided! We'll pack everything into a truck and take church buses to the Crossplex at the State Fairgrounds in West End. There we will unload the gifts, play games and interact with the children. We'll be done around noon, will come back up to the church and WILL NOT eat lunch as part of our time serving.

Youth Christmas Party, Sunday, December 15. We'll meet at the Youth Wing at 5:00pm and then go out in groups to sing Christmas carols to people in our community. Then we'll return to church for dinner and a game of Dirty Santa. Please bring a gift of \$10 or less and a side dish or dessert to share.

Holy Ground Homecoming, Wednesday, December 18. All college-age and early career "alumni" of our student ministry are invited to worship with our students at our Wednesday night worship event. Trey Cathers will be giving the message and we'll have New China for dinner. Starts at 6:30pm.

Discovery Weekend is Friday-Sunday, January 24-26 here at the church. The cost is \$75 for middle school students and FREE for high school students who help lead the retreat. Over the coming weeks, we'll be working with our high school students to prepare them for their leadership roles. If you're a parent who has not yet signed up to help, you can do so online. Check the student section of our church website for more info.

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, December 11, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing (bring \$5 for pizza and drinks)

Saturday, December 14, 7:00am: Volunteers arrive at the Sanctuary to volunteer with Festival of Three Kings

Sunday, December 15, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, December 15, 4:00am: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15, 5:00pm: Christmas Caroling & Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 18, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

THURSDAY, DEC. 12: SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Advent Bible Study with Charlotte Word

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17: CHRISTMAS CARDS to our sick/shut-in 11:00-12:00 library

THURSDAY, DEC. 19: SHEPHERD'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY—The fun starts at 9:30

Last Shepherd's Center Meeting until January 9. ———**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Special Moment with Jesus!

And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. Luke 1:14

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 DECEMBER 15–21

Sunday, December 15

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Magic City Choral Society

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

11:00 a.m. Christmas Cards/Sick/Shut-in

6:00 a.m. Building Team

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center

Friday, December 13

Noon Opportunity Class Luncheon

Saturday, December 14

Ushers

8:45: White 11:00: Davis

Cross

8:45: John David Shanlever 11:00: Ruskin Gold

Acolytes

8:45: Ethan McGriff 11:00: Jonathan Trucks

Children's Church

8:45: Little 11:00: Bowman

Greeters December 15: Seekers

Meals on Wheels: December 18—Shanlever

Food Pantry: January 8: Penny Burns

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY

1st Wednesday each month

We are serving 200+ families a month.

We appreciate all donations!

Last Week's Record

December 8, 2013

Sunday School	409
Morning Worship	580
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$36,638.00
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,295,300.00
Received to Date	\$1,238,129.46
Building Fund Receipts	\$10,345.00
Building Fund in 2013	\$259,428.83
New Members in 2013	41

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$10,145.00
Received to Date	\$295,031.72

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST COLUMBARIUM

Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

Men's Free Play Basketball In the Gym

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

Sermon, December 15, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"All Things Are Possible"
(Luke 1:26-38)
Mike Holly

5:00 p.m.
Magic City Choral Society

VALET PARKING

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

We have received \$5300.00 for the Philippines Relief Effort (UMCOR). We are still receiving an offering if you would like to give. Thank you for your generosity!