



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter, December 3, 2013

www.bluffparkumc.org



This past Sunday we talked about Zechariah and Elizabeth and how their prayers and their worship shaped their lives and how their lives were ready for God to work in and through as the time was right. Sometimes, God's timing is not our timing!

This Sunday, we will read through Matthew 1:18-25 and learn more about Joseph, the father of Jesus. We know that Joseph was a holy and good man, that he was engaged to be married to Mary, and that when the time came Joseph did what was right and not what was his right. When Mary became pregnant, Joseph had every right to leave her and the child behind. But instead, he chose to follow God's plans. Joseph's choice allowed him to be a part of a radical intrusion of God. God broke into our world through Joseph's adopted son.

We all face difficult choices in our lives. May you meditate and discern what response is the most loving and the most gracious response in each and every situation you face. There is no telling how God might use each decision and each situation to break into our world yet again and bring blessings and grace anew.

We hope you will join us in morning worship to learn more about Joseph and then to return at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary for Christmas on the Bluff!

Mike

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

GOD
COMES DOWN



Christmas at Bluff Park UMC

- December 8** **Sunday Morning Worship** (8:45 and 11:00 am)
Joseph, Matthew 1:18-25
EVENING: Christmas on the Bluff – 6:30 pm
- December 14** **Festival of Three Kings**
- 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 Hospital: Shelby Ridge-Ralph Drennen Trinity - Odessa Harbor
UAB—Frank Love Brookwood—Dimples Sherman

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Billie Crain in the death of her husband Marcel, on November 30. They were long time members of the Friendship Class. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Suzy Finley in the death of her sister, Nina Van Dyke of Big Canoe, GA. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Betty Lou Black and her family in the passing of her daughter. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Rainey Miller and her family in the passing of her mother, Frances F. Perreault. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

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



The **Festival of Three Kings** Gifts for the children will be due this Sunday, December 8th.

We have a **wonderful** congregation that does so much for our community and world. Thanks to each and everyone of you for all that you do in the Lord's name here in and through Bluff Park United Methodist Church!



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 to 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.



Bluff Park United Methodist Church
presents

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ON THE BLUFF

Believe

Directed by Lonnie Parsons
With the BPUMC Choir
and Orchestra
Featuring Ethan McGriff
and Carole Armistead

Sunday, December 8
6:30 p.m. ~ Sanctuary
Special Guests
Brad Simmons and Kristen Sharp



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. You can buy them at Iberia Bank Branches.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL was a huge success!! Thank you to all of the children who participated. Special thanks goes to Jamie Davis for playing the piano, Ivy Holmes for helping with the costumes, David Martin for the set construction, and Susan Vogt for coordinating the pageant players. It was a wonderful beginning of Advent!

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 required.** Please notify Leigh Delashaw at ldelashaw@bpumc.org of how many people in your family will be coming that night.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: The children will have a breakfast gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec. 22 at 9:45a.m. Be sure to join us!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Children's and Family Ministry Assessment this week!

STUDENT MINISTRY

Derek Webb Concert, Friday, December 6. Singer-songwriter Derek Webb (of Caedmon's Call and co-founder of www.noisetrade.com) will be performing in the Chapel at 7pm. If you're a student and want to attend, contact Bart ASAP. Our student ministry will pay your way but we must order our tickets soon! If you decide you want to attend the day of the concert, you'll have to buy your ticket at the door.

Festival of Three Kings is Saturday, December 14. We're collecting money at Sunday School, small groups, recreation events and at Holy Ground worship so we can sponsor two children. 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!

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 4, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing (bring \$5 for pizza and drinks)

Friday, December 6, 7:00pm: Derek Webb Concert in the Chapel (students should contact Bart ASAP if they want tickets)

Sunday, December 8, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, December 8, 4:00pm: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8, 5:30pm: FREE Snack Supper & Discovery Information Meeting for HS Students (we'll meet over supper)

Sunday, December 8, 6:30pm: Christmas on the Bluff in the Sanctuary (students are invited to sit together and support our music ministry)

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

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

THURSDAY, DEC. 5:

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 10:

DINNER and CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - train ride through the park Nocalula Falls, Gadsden. Cost \$10 per person, (admission & gas) Dinner on your own. Trip is full but we'll be happy to add you to the waiting list.

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



Special Moment with Jesus!

Matthew 1.21—*She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people for their sins.*

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733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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 8—14

Sunday, December 8

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Christmas on the Bluff

Monday, December 9

Tuesday, December 10
8:30 a.m. Maintenance

Wednesday, December 11

7:30 a.m. Advent Morning Prayer
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Children's Musical

Thursday, December 12

9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Center

Friday, December 13

Noon Friendship Class

Saturday, December 14

Festival of the Three Kings

Ushers

8:45: Adams 11:00: Alley

Cross

8:45: Sally Frances Little 11:00: Kate Culverhouse

Acolytes

8:45: Davidson Dover 11:00: Billy Neal

Children's Church

8:45: McGriff: 11:00: Bowles

Greeters December 8: Opportunity

Meals on Wheels: December 11—Fugit

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 1, 2013

Sunday School	383
Morning Worship	487
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$26,583.80
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$1,268,275.00
Received to Date	\$1,201,491.46
Building Fund Receipts	\$4,130.00
Building Fund in 2013	\$249,083.83
New Members in 2013	41

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015	
Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$4,030.00
Received to Date	\$284,886.73

**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)
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Sermon, December 8, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"Radical Obedience"
(Matthew 1:18-25)
Mike Holly

6:30 p.m.
Christmas on the Bluff Program

VALET PARKING

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

We have received \$5230.00 for the Philippines Relief Effort (UMCOR). We are still receiving an offering if you would like to give. Thank you for your generosity!