



733 Valley Street
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 205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter, July 16, 2013

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



This past Sunday, Rev. Tom Duley gave a wonderful sermon on Holy Communion as an opportunity for each and every one of us to recognize and then join in to the abundant living that Jesus show us in his life and teaching. Next Sunday, I will be preaching on the fifth dimension of abundant living: praying always.

Praying always, or "praying without ceasing" as it is referred to in Scripture, is a difficult concept for us to take in. Prayer seems to be a time_limited event. There is a beginning (Dear God...) and there is an end (...Amen). Early Christians had prayers such as these. They would often pray the prayers associated with Judaism such as the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

However, prayer is also understood in a radically different way. Instead of thinking about prayer in these formal and formatted ways, you can also understand prayer as an ongoing conversation with God, no matter what you are doing. I once encountered a pastor who would pray every morning for his wife, for his family and over his church. Each and every day, his hope was that he would treat each and every person he encountered with the love and grace of God. Praying each day helped him to remember that his words and his actions could either be used for God's purposes or they could be...well...just words and actions with no clear purpose and no clear direction.

If you have ever seen Fiddler on the Roof, you have seen Tevya live out this ongoing conversation with God - seeking help and assistance for those times in our lives where there is no clear pattern of what to do next. We must continue to listen and search for God's voice and God's way forward...even if our lips are not moving.

Mike

BLOOD DRIVE

July 21
 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 In the gym
 Give the Gift of Life!



Scholarship



Scholarships: Application forms for the Bluff Park United Methodist Higher Education Scholarship grants for the 2013-2014 academic year are available in the church office. Nominations for the Victor Harbor Community Service Scholarships for entering college freshmen can be submitted to the church office. Also accepting applications for the Christin Crockett Scholarship, which is available to anyone. Deadline for applications and nominations is August 1. We have many applicants so any donation would be appreciated. Mark your check scholarship fund. Thank you.

Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Megan Wise in the death of her grandmother, Lelia Sellari, on July 10 also, to Neal Matthews in the death of his mother Margaret Ivey Neal on July 5 in Marianna, Florida..... Our prayers are with the families in their time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Jason and Meredith Colquitt on the birth of daughter, Mary Wynn, on July 3. Shawn and Debbie Smith are the maternal grandparents.

Counseling: Remarriage following a divorce or death of a spouse is a major decision and a big step. There's a lot to think about. Steve Sweatt has many years of experience as a professional, licensed counselor and marriage and family therapist. He is also an ordained minister. He can help us to be sure that we've thought things through carefully and are ready to take that step. Steve is affiliated with United Counseling, a ministry of the North Alabama Conference, and he comes to the satellite counseling office here at the church located below the chapel. Call 824-8320 for an appointment. It's confidential, convenient, and affordable. Weekend and evening appointments can be arranged.

Thank You: The flowers were beautiful and I am still enjoying them. Thanks so much for the thoughtfulness—for the home visit from Ann Gilliland. I'm always grateful for all the friendly people at Bluff Park UMC. And now we can show our new minister who we are. My love to all of you, Sally Frederickson

Open House: Mildred Huber left her house to the church. It is for sale and an open house will be held on Sunday July 28, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The location of the house at 433 Shades Crest Road .

Please plan to attend a very important and informative meeting on **Sex Trafficking in Alabama**. Every year, thousands of women and girls in the United States are victimized by the sex trafficking industry. Every day, girls as young as 13, are being coerced into a life where they are no longer in control. Several months ago the local news-casts presented a documentary on Sex Trafficking along I-20 in Alabama. This was a real eye opener for all of us. Everyone is welcome to this program as we learn what is being done to combat this issue. Grandparents, parents and youth all need to be aware and know what to look for. Our speaker is Tajuan McCarty, the Executive Director and Founder of WellHouse. Please invite family and friends to this important program. Dinner (\$6) at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Program at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel on August 12. RSVP for dinner to Sylvia ssummers@bellsouth.net or 824-9902



Need a wedding gift? A cookbook from Bluff Park would be a perfect gift. They are on sale in the narthex every Sunday.

Is God calling you to the **ministry of foster care**? United Methodist Children's Home, a non-profit Christian ministry caring for the abused and neglected children of Alabama, is now recruiting Christian parents to provide a stable and nurturing environment for foster children. UMCH foster parents receive free training, on-going support, and compensation. Your home could be the bridge to a child's future. Become a foster parent.

Moniko Lawson, Program Supervisor (205-956-0966)

Fairhaven

On July 26th, Bluff Park will host a Birthday Party Celebration at Fairhaven Nursing Home. Our youth will provide the entertainment

You Can Help!

The United Methodist Women are collecting bed sheets for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please bring donations of new bed sheets marked "Sheets for UMCOR" to the Church and leave them on the counter in the Parlor kitchen.

United Methodist Women

We will celebrate our UMW circles and all of the good that they do on Sunday, August 4th, in worship. Please be sure to attend and hear more about the United Methodist Women!



Friday Night July 26

*Bring a few dollars for a frozen treat at 6:30
Then join us in the chapel at 7:00 to see the movie!
Here's a hint: Jerry Seinfeld is a buzzy insect....*

CHILDREN'S NEWS

ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIP Our next trip is July 24. We will go to Cathedral caverns in Woodville Alabama. For fun, we will make our lunches here for the trip and have a picnic. We will also stop for a special snack on the way home. Cost is \$30 for 1 child, \$55 for 2 children in the same family.

REGISTRATION FOR FINE ARTS CAMP is now! The Theme is "You Are the Salt of the Earth." We will have Drama, Music (Hand bells), Cooking, and something else that's fun! You can register on-line at www.bluffparkumc.org. Fine Arts Camp is **July 29-August 1**. 9a.m.12:30p.m. This is for Children who are rising 1st thru 6th graders. Cost is \$35.00 a child.

THANK YOU to all the adults and youth who helped with our EVERYWHERE FUN FAIR! A grand time was had by all. A special thank you goes to Georgia Pearson and Ann Welborn for all they did as the preschool and elementary directors. A special shout out goes to Melissa Hendon for so adroitly managing all the correspondence and lists! And a huge thank goes to Jesus for helping us learn that being a good neighbor means that we are friendly, giving, bold and welcoming!

VBS MISSION PROJECTS What an outstanding group of children we had for VBS this year. We collected **279 canned goods** to donate to our food pantry and the food pantry at UCC. The children also **raised \$450** to go toward the medical treatment of Gretchen Anderson. She is the mom of 2 of our preschool children who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in May. She will be in treatment for a year. The children really learned a lot about who is their neighbor and how WE can be a good neighbor to the person living next door, the people living down the street, the people living across town, and people living across our world!

STUDENT MINISTRY

We're finishing the summer strong at BPUMC Student Ministries. Magic City Tribes starts back up on July 24 and continues on July 31 and August 7. We have some fun events scheduled for Youth Week, Aug 4-7, including a Scavenger Hunt that Sunday, Broomball that Monday, and a Luau that Tuesday. Our annual Youth Beach Retreat is Thursday-Sunday, August 8-11 at Laguna Beach, Florida. Cost is \$175 and you can register and pay online through our church website.

We have SO many ways to get involved through recreation or service this summer. Interested in something you see on the schedule? Text your name and what you'd like to do to [205-790-1803](tel:205-790-1803) to sign up or get more info.

Sunday, July 21, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 21, 5:30pm: Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 21, 6:00pm: Romans vs. Christians (meet in the gym)

Sunday, July 21, 7:15pm: Vespers Worship in the Youth Wing

Monday, July 22, 2:00pm: Monday Sports in the Gym

Tuesday, July 23, 10:20am: Recreation with Community Garden Kids in the Gym

Tuesday, July 23, 12:00pm: HS Student Lunch Bunch (we'll txt location out that morning so can meet us there)

Tuesday, July 23, 2:30pm: Fun at First Light Shelter (meet at Youth Wing Parking Light, we leave at 2:30 sharp!)

Wednesday, July 24: Magic City Tribes at Trace Crossings Elementary (5-6pm check-in, 6-8pm Capture the Flag)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

BRIDGE and LUNCH: With Barbara Morgan, **each Thursday** at 11:00 a.m. Beginners and advanced
THURSDAY, JULY 18: **SHEPHERD'S CENTER**—James Spann—ABC 33/40 weather
THURSDAY, JULY 25: **SHEPHERD'S CENTER**—Doll Show with Gaile, Peggy, and Sylvia
SATURDAY, JULY 27: **RED HAT LUNCHEON**—call Betty for reservations
TUESDAY, JULY 30: **DAY TRIP AUBURN**—Jordan Hare Stadium Tour, 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. Call Betty
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1: **SHEPHERD CENTER**—Story Time with Delores Hydock

GOOD NEWS:

THE DILL PICKERS will be coming to Bluff Park on Sunday, August 25.
Mark your calendar for an evening of worship, music, and fun.



MONDAY, AUGUST 5 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 HISTORICAL CHARLESTON, SC

Historical District tour, Carriage Ride Tour, Plantation Tea Tour, Church Tour, and more. Side trip to Myrtle Beach, Barefoot Landing, shopping for the ladies, men bring your Golf Clubs for a round of golf at a local golf course. **Balance Due ASAP.**

Special Moment with Jesus!

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:3

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

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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 July 21-27

Sunday, July 21

7:30 a.m. Blood Drive
8:45 a.m. Permanent Endowment
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, July 22

Tuesday, July 23

Wednesday, July 24

8:00 a.m. On the Road Again—Leigh
6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus

Wednesday, July 24

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday, July 25

9:00 a.m. Shepherd Center

Friday, July 26

6:30 p.m. Movie Night—Chapel

6:30 p.m. Fishermen Class

Saturday, July 27

5:00 p.m. Wedding Howell/Guy

Sermon, July 21, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"Praying Always"
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)
Mike Holly

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
"Worry"
(Luke 10:38-42)
Mike Holly

Ushers
8:45: Nelson 11:00: Dover
Cross
8:45: Nelson Coler 11:00: Barrett Stahr
Acolytes
8:45: Ethan Pomeroy 11:00: John Michael Williamson
Children's Church
8:45 a.m. TBA; 11:00 a.m. TBA
Greeters July 28: Faith
Meals on Wheels: July 24 David and Laura Fugit
Food Pantry: August 7: Sylvia Sumners

Last Week's Record

July 14, 2013

Sunday School	393
Morning Worship	560
Evening Worship	35
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$13,877.07
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$757,702.00
Received to Date	\$736,553.64
Building Fund Receipts	\$2,039.00
Building Fund in 2013	\$160,652.85
New Members in 2013	36

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015	
Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$1,699.00
Received to Date	\$217,430.34

BLUFF PARK UNITED
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM
Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY
1st Wednesday each month
We are serving 100+ families a month.
We appreciate all donations!

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered entrance near the nursery and fellowship hall.



Monday 6:30
In the Gym

Men's Freeplay Basketball In the Gym

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