




733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter, July 2, 2013*

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



I want to thank everyone for the wonderful reception in the Fellowship Hall this past Sunday during the Sunday School hour. My entire family felt welcomed and loved! I also want to thank the Rev. Peter von Herrmann for preaching on the second dimension of abundant living: reading Scripture.

This Sunday, I will be preaching on the third dimension: hospitality. One thing we have to remember about the entire canon of Scripture is that it comes from a particular context. Many of the cultural assumptions within the Bible come from a Middle Eastern context where hospi-

tality is expected and demanded of each person. That is what makes the Parable of the Good Samaritan so scandalous: no one, except the loathed Samaritan, is living up to the cultural expectations of hospitality. Guests in the Middle East even to this day are treated even more hospitably than members of the host family with the best seat at the table and the best portions of food.

Jesus clearly calls his followers to live out this radical hospitality by becoming servants to others. The goal is simple: as Christians, we are to make every attempt to make friends out of strangers. This goes beyond "Southern Hospitality" as we learn to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Think about how our team of Ambassadors, Greeters and Ushers work each Sunday to make sure that every visitor feels welcome in our church. Think of how members have given up their normal seats for visitors. Think of how Sunday School classes have opened their doors to new members. When we make friends out of strangers, we find that our lives become more abundant with grace and love as we are blessed by our new friends.

*Mike*

Bluff Park UMC

Presents

*Everywhere Fun Fair*

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12

9a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Rising 4K thru rising 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Cost is \$10.00 a child-

\$25.00 family Max

Register on-line at [www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org)



## 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.

**Counseling:** Divorce can be a devastating experience. It turns our lives upside down, upsets all our plans, and frequently leaves us floundering. Help is available. Steve Sweatt is an ordained minister, licensed counselor, and certified marriage and family therapist affiliated with United Counseling (an agency of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church), who comes to the satellite office here at the church to provide counseling services for people in our congregation and community. He has many years of experience and quite literally “has heard it all.” Call 213-0227 or 824-8320 for an appointment. It’s confidential, convenient, and affordable.



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

**VIM:** We still have room for more folks on the New York VIM trip. We will be travelling to Massapequa, NY on Long Island to assist with Hurricane Sandy relief work. The dates are August 10-18. If you are interested in being a part of the team please contact Tom Duley to register. The deadline is July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Important Event:** The United Methodist Women at Bluff Park UMC invite you to attend a special presentation on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm (Dinner at 6:00 pm) to hear guest speaker Tajuan McCarty, Founder of The Wellhouse. The program will be in the Chapel and you will hear about how The Wellhouse is a place of grace for women and girls who have been coerced and trafficked into a life of abuse and exploitation. Please RSVP for dinner (\$6) by August 5<sup>th</sup>: [ssumners@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssumners@bellsouth.net).

**Fairhaven**

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, in worship. Please be sure to attend and hear more about the United Methodist Women!

The **Missions Committee** has made its determination concerning the distribution of the 2013 Easter Love Gift. The following report gives the detail about how those donations will be used. We are thankful that we can provide financial support to assist these ministries and missions in the important work that they do.

**Many thanks to all of you for your generous support of the Easter Love Gift!**

**Bluff Park UMC Missions  
2013 Easter Love Gift Distribution  
Total Received: \$21,680.60**

<b><u>Local</u></b>		<b><u>National</u></b>	
Greater Birmingham Ministries	\$1,000.00	S. E. Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission	\$1,000.00
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$1,000.00	Red Bird Mission	\$1,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00	NY VIM Trip	\$680.60
Firehouse Shelter	\$1,000.00	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,680.60</u></b>
First Light	\$1,000.00	<b><u>International</u></b>	
McCoy Adult Day Care	\$1,000.00	John Elmore (Covenant Missionary Partner Chile)	\$3,000.00
P.E.E.R.	\$1,000.00	Chile Materials Fund (2014 VIM Trip)	\$3,000.00
Church of the Reconciler	\$1,000.00	El Vergel Septic Project	\$1,000.00
Urban Ministry, Inc.	\$1,000.00	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,000.00</u></b>
Meals on Wheels	\$1,000.00	<b><u>Grand Total</u></b>	
Under the Bridge	\$1,000.00	<b><u>\$21,680.60</u></b>	
United Community Centers, Inc.	\$1,000.00		
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,000.00</u></b>		

## 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.

**EVERYWHERE FUN FAIR VBS** is July 8-12, 9a.m.-12:30p.m. This is for rising 4K-rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Cost is \$10.00 with a family max of \$25.00. You can register and pay on line at [www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org).



**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](http://www.bluffparkumc.org). Fine Arts Camp is **July 29-August 1**. 9a.m.12:30p.m. This is for Children who are rising 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Cost is \$35.00 a child.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

Our students will be volunteering with Vacation Bible School, July 8-12. And then we'll have a group serving in the Johnson City, TN area through Appalachia Service Project from July 14-20. We've got a couple spots left on the trip for students ages 14. If you're interested in being a part of either of these opportunities, information is available in the Youth Wing OR you can email [youth@bpumc.org](mailto:youth@bpumc.org).

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.

Wednesday, July 3, 7:30am: Student-led Worship for Food Pantry Program (meet in Youth Wing)

Sunday, July 7, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 7, 4:30pm: Worship Team Rehearsal in the Holy Ground Room

Sunday, July 7, 5:30pm: Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 7, 6:00pm: Training for Vacation Bible School (all student volunteers need to attend)

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

Monday, July 8, 2:00pm: Monday Sports

Tuesday, July 9, 1:00pm: HS Student Lunch Bunch (we'll text out location so you can meet us there)

Tuesday, July 9, 2:30pm: Fun at First Light Women's Shelter (leaving from Youth Wing at 2:30pm sharp!)

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### **BRIDGE and LUNCH:** **TUESDAY, JULY 9:**

With Barbara Morgan, **each Thursday** at 11:00 a.m. Beginners and advanced **ATLANTA DAY TRIP**, Church Tour, International World Farmers Market and more—tour bus. Bus arrives at 6:15 a.m.—depart 6:45 a.m.

### **THURSDAY, JULY 11:**

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER**

### **THURSDAY, JULY 18:**

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER**—James Spann—ABC 33/40 weather

### **TUESDAY, JULY 30:**

**DAY TRIP AUBURN**, Jordan Hare Stadium Tour, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Call Betty

### **NEWS:**

**THE DILL PICKERS** will be coming to Bluff Park on Sunday, August 25.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS 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 July 1.

### **Special Moment with Jesus!**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

# Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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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, jpitar@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 July 7-13

### Sunday, July 7

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

### Monday, July 8

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School

### Tuesday, July 9

6:45 a.m. Betty—Atlanta Day Trip  
9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School

### Wednesday, July 10

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School  
6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus

### Wednesday, July 10

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

### Thursday, July 11

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School

### Friday, July 12

6:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School Closing

### Saturday, July 13

5:00 p.m. Black/Neel Wedding

**Sermon, June 30, 2013**  
**8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship**  
"Friends out of Strangers"  
(Acts 2:37-47)  
**Mike Holly**

**No Evening Worship**

### Ushers

8:45: Carlisle 11:00: Moore

### Cross

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

### Acolytes

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

### Children's Church

8:45 TBA 11:00 TBA

### Greeters July 10: Cornerstone

**Meals on Wheels: July 10** Diane Moore

**Food Pantry: August 7:** Sylvia Sumners

## Last Week's Record

June 30, 2013

Sunday School	435
Morning Worship	561
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$22,859.00
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$703,650.00
Received to Date	\$696,077.08
Building Fund Receipts	\$2,245.00
Building Fund in 2013	\$156,110.85
New Members in 2013	36

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$2,065.00
Received to Date	\$213,653.34

### 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)