



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter, July 23, 2013

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



I recently received a gift I did not deserve. It was beyond generous. It was extravagant. I realized that in receiving this gift, I was receiving something that I could not repay. I could only receive it and be thankful.

Does this sound familiar? God's grace for each and every one of us works in the same way. God's grace is not based upon what we have done to earn it. God's grace is an extravagant gift. It is not something we can repay. We can never earn it. We can only receive it, be thankful, and share God's grace and love with others.

This Sunday, I will be preaching on the sixth dimension of Abundant Living: extravagant generosity. Christians know that they have received extravagant gifts and blessings from God and so they share extravagantly with others.

A philosopher in Athens, Greece, once wrote to Emperor Hadrian in Rome around 120 AD about the early Christians: "...and they love one another, and from widows, they do not turn away their esteem; and they deliver the orphan from him who treats him harshly. And whenever one of their poor passes from the world, each one of them according to his ability gives heed to him and carefully sees to his burial. And if they hear that one of their number is imprisoned or afflicted on account of the name of their Messiah, all of them anxiously minister to his necessity, and if it is possible to redeem him they set him free. And if there is among them any that is poor and needy, and if they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply to the needy their lack of food." Notice how generous our early Christian forefathers were! They knew that they had received a great gift. And when you receive something you did not deserve and you cannot repay, the only option you have is to share the joy and abundance with others! That is extravagant generosity.

Mike



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....*

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 Nan Moore, in the death of her daughter, Nancy Williams, of Birmingham, on July 20....also to Harry Hill in the death of his niece, Jennifer Hill, of Philadelphia, PA, on July 16..... Our prayers are with these families in their time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Josh and Lori Beasley on the birth of a 8 lb. 1 oz. son, Will Russell, on July 16.

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.

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 ssumners@bellsouth.net or 824-9902

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)

2013 Flower Calendar: The following dates are still available to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the year 2013. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. Please sign up in the foyer of the Education building. Thank you for adding to the beauty of our Worship Services. Dates available: August 25; September 8, 29; October 20 (1/2), 27; November 3, 17); December 8, 29.

TO ALL VBS KIDS AND PARENTS: Thank you so much for sharing your canned food with our Food Pantry. We will use the food to help those who come to our Church for help and we share with our Pantry Partners at United Community Center in Powderly. You are truly sharing God's gifts when you give to others.

The Pantry Committee

Bass Club Meeting: Thursday, August 8, at 6:30P.M the Alabama Marine Police will speak at the Bass Club. We will also talk about the Weiss Lake Fishing Tournament on September 21. It will be open for Bass, Ski, Pontoon, White Water and other types of boats.

Blood Drive: Thanks to all who donated to the Blood Drive. We received 27 pints of blood.

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 or used bed sheets (any size) 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!

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 online 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.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Our ASP Mission Team returned from a great week of work in Johnson City, TN. Thank you for your prayers and support. Magic City Tribes 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.

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

Thursday, July 25, 6:30pm: Art Night with Laura & Lauren-Michael in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 28, 10:00am: Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 28, 4:00pm: Holy Ground Team Rehearsal in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 28, 5:30pm: Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 28, 6:00pm: Messy Games in the Youth Parking Lot (wear old clothes you don't mind getting funky)

Sunday, July 28, 7:15pm: Vespers Worship in the Youth Parking Lot

Monday, July 29, 2:00pm: Monday Sports in the Gym

Tuesday, July 30, 10:20am: Recreation with Community Garden Kids in the Gym

Tuesday, July 30, 12:00pm: HS Student Lunch Bunch (we'll text location out that morning so you can meet us there)

Wednesday, July 31: 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 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

****Need a meal for one of our sick/shut-ins? Pick one up at the Shepherd's Center on Thursday.*

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.

Special Moment with Jesus!

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT NO. 1816

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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 July 28-August 3

Sunday, July 28

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 29

9:00 a.m. Fine Arts Camp

Tuesday, July 30

8:00 a.m. Betty to Jordan Hare
9:00 a.m. Fine Arts Camp

Wednesday, July 31

9:00 a.m. Fine Arts Camp
6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus

Wednesday, July 31

6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday, August 1

9:00 a.m. Fine Arts Camp
9:00 a.m. Shepherd Center
6:00 p.m. VIM

Friday, August 2

6:30 p.m. Movie Night—Chapel

Saturday, August 3

6:00 p.m. Wedding Walker/Sherman

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 31: Roy and Charlotte Shanlever
Food Pantry: August 7: Sylvia Summers

Sermon, July 28, 2013
8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship
"Extravagant Generosity"
(Matthew 6:24-34)
Mike Holly

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
"Father"
(Luke 11:1-4)
Tom Duley

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)

Last Week's Record

July 21, 2013

Sunday School	426
Morning Worship	593
Evening Worship	35
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$40,549.66
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$784,727.00
Received to Date	\$777,103.30
Building Fund Receipts	\$2,828.33
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	\$2,348.33
Received to Date	\$219,778.67

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!