



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter August 19, 2014

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Human beings have always been quick to take sides. It is part of who we are to be skeptical, to believe what we want to believe, and to divide people into “us” and “them.” People quickly take sides and lash out at others who disagree with them on both sides in places like Ferguson, Missouri, or Washington, D.C., or even Bluff Park, Alabama. Sometimes sides are taken due to deep convictions that we hold; however, other times sides are taken due to our own emotional reactions as events unfold. While we as Christians are never instructed to sit back silently, removed from reality or from engagement in culture, we are instructed to enter into such conversations with grace, respect and integrity.

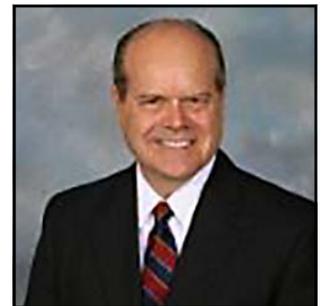
Paul lays out hope in the New Testament for communities of faith, gathered in the name of Jesus Christ, to serve the community as agents of grace and reconciliation. When divisions arise in our communities, churches should not be the first ones to take sides, but to hold out a process of reconciliation where people within the community can have safe dialogue and work towards a mutually beneficial solution.

Think this is impossible? It is already happening in places like the Sudan and in Korea as churches take the lead role in helping bring division back into unity. It is not easy and much of the time it is a very slow process. However, the end result is that we as people living together in the same community will not be seen as either winners or losers, but that we will be seen as people who had different opinions on matters, but were able to come together for the sake of one another. As we face complex issues in our own time and in our own communities, may each of us work hard to be agents of reconciliation – making sure that we try to bring all people to the same table where we can respectfully and lovingly move forward together.

Providing Shelter, Making a Difference

The Promise Home is a residential group home here at Bluff Park UMC and they recently passed a new milestone. A 6th resident moved in, which means the house is filled to capacity. One member of our congregation instrumental in the creation of this project is Bill Pearson.

Bill Pearson’s efforts were recently recognized. He is a 2014 winner of the Alabama Complex Community Impact Award. Also, Bill has now been nominated as one of three finalists for an Invest in Others Foundation Community Leadership Award. Because of these nominations, \$5,000 has already been donated to the Autism Society of Alabama.



Thanks to Bill Pearson for his important work and congratulations to the Promise Home for welcoming a new resident.

News of the Week

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Mrs. Jane Robinson (Joy Shultz's mother) will join us Sunday evening, August 24th at 6 PM in the Chapel to speak about malaria in Africa. Mrs. Robinson is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Maryville, TN and has traveled extensively on short-term mission projects. She has first-hand knowledge of the impact of malaria in Africa, especially South Sudan. Her presentation will officially kick-off our campaign in support of Imagine No Malaria. Dinner will be served from 5 to 6 PM in the fellowship hall followed by Mrs. Robinson's presentation in the Chapel.

AUGUST 27 PARENT ORIENTATION

All parents are invited to attend an orientation dinner and meeting. We will present an overview of all the ministries and procedures associated with children birth thru 12 grade. A nursery will be provided. Supervision will be provided for elementary children. They will either be on the playground or in the gym. Come and learn about all that we do and what you and your children can do! There will be a Safe Sanctuaries training after the orientation.

BLUFF PARK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Please start making plans to join us as we build the Bluff Park Habitat House in October and November. Please set these work dates aside on your calendar and make your plans to be with us as much as you can.

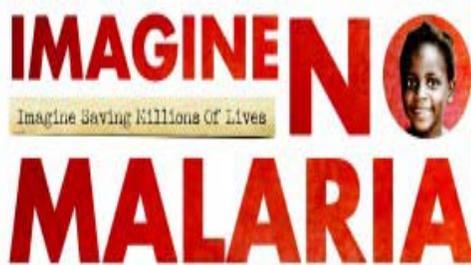
Work Dates: October 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31. November 1, 6, 7, 8.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

On September 15, at the Riverchase Country Club in Hoover, Bluff Park United Methodist Church and St. Mark United Methodist Church will hold their annual benefit golf tournament. Proceeds from the event support the youth and children's ministries at the churches. Register today to reserve your spot or to become a sponsor. Forms and more details are available on the church website or stop by the office.

BEAUTIFUL BLUFF PARK UMC

On August 12th, the Hoover Beautification Board awarded our church a Commercial Beautification Award for 2014. The event program featured images of the renovated courtyard and the Columbarium.



Malaria's Dirty Dozen

Eleven: Church member Katie Shultz has had experience in two countries where malaria is prevalent-Botswana and South Sudan. Her thoughts are especially helpful as we begin our fundraising campaign and as we prayerfully consider what our individual efforts should be.

"In country, I slept under a mosquito net every night, as is encouraged for everyone there who is able to access a net, as I would frequently hear the buzz of mosquitos lingering outside my net. Eliminating stagnant, standing water where mosquitos can breed is also a good intervention, but employed less often.

"As was particularly my experience in South Sudan, many people in malarial zones treat it as if it were the flu-bound to come to many folks at least seasonally, to be waited out for healing without much help for intervention...suffering multiple rounds of illness wears on vital organs like your liver and stomach. While I didn't personally have the experience of knowing someone who died of malaria while I was there, most Sudanese do-much the way that people here at home know someone who has died of cancer. While the sadness is similar between the two, the opportunity with malaria is that it is a preventable disease-or at the least, deaths from malaria are preventable with access to bed nets, access to care, and other interventions."

Katie also had health insurance to help pay for anti-malarial medications which may not be affordable for many in affected countries. According to Katie, the greater expense of a newer anti-malarial drug with fewer side effects " is especially problematic as drug-resistant malaria strains have developed resistance to the cheaper, more common treatments."

Next: What difference does one person or one family really make?

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

THE NEW SIGN IN/OUT POLICY is presently established. Parents of K5-2nd graders- You will sign your children out with the grade shepherd in the room, not at the table. 3rd-5th graders will sign themselves out to go meet their parents. If you have a child who has permission to sign out K5-2nd grader, the shepherd needs to have the release waiver card in hand or the child will not be released to the sibling. The same goes for adults picking up other children other than their own.

8:45A.M. CHILDREN'S CHURCH If your preschooler comes to Children's church the nursery staff will continue to take the them to Sunday School without you coming down to sign them in. Mrs. Leigh or the Children's Church volunteer will sign them in. When you pick you child up from either Children's Church, after the service, OR from Sunday School you will sign them out.

MIDWEEK PROGRAMMING will begin Wednesday Sept. 3rd. The nursery opens at 5:30p.m. Elementary children will have Open Gym at 5-5:45p.m. Children's Choir is at 5:50-6:25p.m. From 6:30-7:30p.m K5-1st Graders will have Holy Moly time, 2-3 graders will meet with Mrs. Carole Roegner for her class on "How to use your Bible," and 4th and 5th graders will meet in the Zoo Room on the 3rd floor for 4th 5th Fellowship.

BIBLES FOR 3rd GRADERS Each 3rd grade student will receive their Bibles at the 11a.m. service on Sept. 7. Please let Mrs. Leigh know what name your child will want in his or her Bible. ldelashaw@bpumc.org

STUDENT MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL RAFTING TRIP, SEPTEMBER 5-7. We are offering an experience just for our 9th-12th graders to go rafting, play paintball, experience a high ropes course AND worship with students from across the country. Cost is \$150 with a \$50 deposit due this Sunday and this price includes all activities and four meals/two nights stay. This is limited to students who are either members or active non-members. This is because we hope to use this experience to build more cohesion among our older students going into the fall. We know this is a tight turnaround from the summer. So we'll be discussing quick fundraising options with the students who sign up to go.

STUDENT MINISTRY IN AUGUST. We are taking a few weeks off from our normal student programming to let your family get back into the rhythm of the school year and to put our youth wing back together. We will continue to have Sunday School at 10am and Holy Ground team rehearsal at 4pm on August 17th and 24th. But we will not have other evening youth-specific programs until September. Instead, here are some events we hope you attend:

Sunday, August 24th - Imagine No Malaria Dinner - This is an important church-wide effort.

Wednesday, August 27th - Student Ministry Orientation & Training - This is just for parents. Come let us feed you dinner and learn how to volunteer successfully with our students. Dinner at 5:30pm.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 24, 10:00am

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, August 24, 4:00pm

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

SHEPHERD'S CENTER -Sing-along-with Opal & Sally.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

MYSTERY FUN DAY - 9:00-4:00pm-call Betty to sign-up

THURSDAY AUGUST 28

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Ginny, Lakeshore, will be here.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

PEACH PARK - BBQ, Dogs, Peach Ice Cream, 4:00-7:30pm - call Betty to sign-up—this will fill up quickly.

Special Moment with Jesus

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136: 1



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
(205) 822-0910

Address Service Requested

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Cindy Myers, cmyers@bpumc.org
Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist, Jamie Davis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

The Week of August 24-30

Sunday, August 24

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Spiritual Formation
5:00 pm Living Room Study
6:00 pm Evening Worship Service
Imagine No Malaria Speaker

Tuesday, August 26

9:00 am Mystery Trip w/Betty

Wednesday, August 27

6:00 pm Training for Parents of Youth
and Children
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, August 28

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
7:00 pm Book Club

SUNDAY, August 24, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"An Appeal for Reconciliation"
(Scripture - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; 7:2-4)
Rev. Mike Holly

6:00pm Evening Worship Service
Special Imagine No Malaria Presentation

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Montz 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Clayton Marshall 11:00 Caroline Owen

Acolytes

8:45 John David Shanlever

11:00 Rory Edwards

Children's Church:

8:45 Fountain 11:00 Green

Greeters : New Light

Meal on Wheels August 20: Diane Moore
Food Pantry September 3: Sylvia Sumners

VALET PARKING

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

Last Week's Record

August 17, 2014

Children	76
Morning Worship	562
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$23,830.92
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$891,825.00
Received to Date	\$815,114.49
New Members in 2014	44

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,580.00
Received to Date	\$531,764.67

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

FREE PLAY BASKETBALL in the gym

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

1st Wednesday each month
We are serving 200+ families a month.
We appreciate all donations!