

733 Valley Street
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BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter October 7, 2014

www.BluffParkUMC.org



We are about halfway through our Stewardship Series: Treasures of the Transformed Life. We have discussed the first two vows of our membership here at Bluff Park (our prayers and our presence). This Sunday, we turn our attention to our third vow: our gifts.

Psalm 116:12 says, according to the Message paraphrase version of the Holy Bible: "What can I give back to God for the blessings that He has poured out on me?" Part of our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ is to realize just how much God pours out blessings upon us. I often find that when I am hurrying through life, I rarely take stock of those blessings and simply take them for granted.

I wholeheartedly believe that each and every one of us have blessings in our lives that we can only attribute to God. Stewardship is all about how we take those blessings and use them to bless both God and others. We believe that our gifts to God include our time, our talents and skills, our service and, of course, our financial gifts. Join us this Sunday as we learn how we can give back to the blessing-pouring God of us all!

Celebrating Gifts and Year-End Giving

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving. As we enter the final months of the year, here are some ideas for each of you to consider:

Churches typically receive as much as 25% of our gifts in the last two months of the year. As you make your plans to complete your 2014 financial commitment, here are three additional possibilities for resources beyond cash gifts. Please note that these possibilities are listed for educational purposes. Please consult your personal advisor for your specific information.

Call the office for more information about making a gift.

Gifts of Appreciated Stocks or Bonds

You can transfer ownership of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to the church and receive a charitable tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the securities on the date of the transfer. This avoids the capital gains tax while giving the church the benefit of the full value of the security. To receive this benefit, it is important to transfer ownership before the security is sold. For your gift to apply to the current tax year, the securities must be in the account of the local church (or our Foundation) by December 31st. So, allow plenty of lead time for your broker to complete this transaction.

Gifts of Real Estate

A charitable gift of real estate can be especially tax advantageous. If a home, vacation home, acreage, or farm property has appreciated in value over the years, its sale could result in a sizable capital gains tax. If the real estate is given to the church prior to the sale, you can avoid the tax and realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate. One could even consider a bargain sale transaction with half of the funds to the church and the other half to the donor.

Gifts of Life Insurance

When you name the church as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, it usually offers you a tax advantage in the year you make the gift. You can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. Additionally, continued payments of premiums qualify as charitable tax deductions each year.

News of the Week

JOIN THE HABITAT BUILD TEAM

Our first Habitat for Humanity work day is Saturday, October 11th. The church vans will leave from the church at 7 am. We will be working on framing the house that day. Lunch will be provided as will water. If you have tools that you would like to bring that is fine, but not required. If you would like to drive to the site in your own car, the street address is 329 Creek Run Circle, Calera, AL 35040.

All who want to participate are welcome but we would like to have a count of how many will be there. We have many opportunities to participate over the next few weeks so it's not too late to volunteer. If you would sign-up at the church website or through your Sunday School class, that would be most helpful.

<http://bluffparkumc.org/habitat-2014>

CHILE MISSIONS

If you are interested in being a member of our 2015 Volunteer in Mission team to Chile, or if you are just curious about what we do while in Chile, there will be an interest meeting on Wednesday, October 15th at 6 pm. The meeting will be held in the Chapel. We will share information about the work, dates, travel, accommodations, etc. No commitments will be asked for at this meeting. It is solely for the purpose of sharing information. Please make plans to attend if you have an interest in our work in Chile.

PARKING NEAR THE MAIN OFFICE

Due to several instances where emergency vehicles have had to respond to situations at BPUMC, we are asking everyone in our church to please not park in a fire lane at any time of the week. We have several places in our campus for loading and unloading that are very close to an elevator. Thank you for taking the steps to keep our fire lanes open for when they are needed.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL IS COMING

On Wednesday, October 29th from 6:00-8:00pm we will host our annual Halloween Carnival at the church. There will be carnival games, prizes, food and more. Come dressed in your costume.

The Halloween Carnival is a great opportunity to invite new people to the church. Extend a personal invitation to your friends and neighbors.

FREE BOATING SAFETY CLASS

Allen Word and the BPUMC Bass Club have made arrangements for the Alabama Marine Police to come

to Bluff Park and lead a 3-day class for anyone interested in becoming a licensed boat operator.

Classes will be held on October 20, 21, and 22 from 5:30-8:30pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Allen at 205-382-5233/allenjword12@att.net or call the church office.

PINE STRAW WANTED

The Green Team wants to recycle your pine straw to mulch the landscaping around the church. If you have a yard full of pine needles, we want them. You can deliver the pine straw or we will come pick it up (as long as it is raked into piles.) Call Olivia Howard at (205) 942-4157 to make arrangements.

THE CHOIR ROBES ARE HOW OLD?

The existing robes have been in use since *Windows 98* was new and they need an upgrade. Thanks to the Permanent Endowment Committee, the Pit Crew, and generous donations from members of the congregation and the choir, we have raised \$11,651 to purchase new robes for the choir and acolytes. We still need \$6,594 to fully fund this purchase. To support this important project make a special contribution to BPUMC with the notation "Robes Fund." Your contribution can be in honor or memory of someone you love.

GREATER BIRMINGHAM MINISTRIES

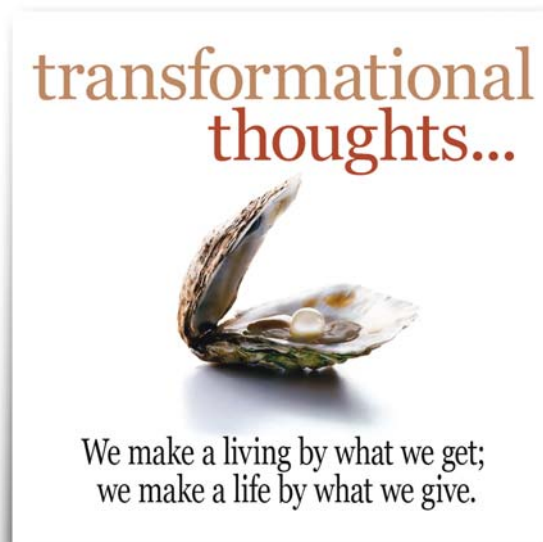
Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM) is celebrating 45 years of Serving People, Building Community and Pursuing Justice in the greater Birmingham area. On Thursday October, 16th at 6:00pm, GBM is celebrating with a banquet and silent auction. The theme is "Weaving the Just Community" and tickets may be purchased for \$45 per person. Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, Architect of the North Carolina Moral Monday-Forward Together Movement, is the guest speaker. Contact Kathryn Coltrane at 585-0144 for tickets. For more information call (205) 326-6281 or email info@gbm.org.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Bob Walker and his family on the passing of his mother, Eleanor Walker, on October 2nd. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Steve Guy, at St. Vincents



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

THE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL is coming up!!!! Wednesday Oct. 29 6-8p.m. SPOILER ALERT- As part of the festivities, there will be a Popsicle cart from Steel City Pops! There will also be food, fun, and fellowship for all who participate! Invite your friends and neighbors!!! Come dressed in Costume!

PARENTS: There is a brief survey in your Sunday School classroom about Children's Ministry. Please take a moment and fill one out. Place it in the brown envelope and someone will pick them up by Oct. 15. If you are not in a Sunday School class, you can pick one up on the information table on the Elementary Sunday School Hall or the Preschool Hall.

NEEDED - Large brown paper grocery sacks. These will be used for a missions' project for Sunday School. Please bring them to the office.

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN COOKING CLASS for elementary students is Wednesday Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside room. Instead of going to M&M KIDS that night, the children will come down to Fireside room after choir. K5-2nd graders can be signed out there. The wonderful Charlotte McCrary will again be showing us how to make some cleverly spooky treats!

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL will meet Oct. 22 in the New Light Classroom from 6:30-7:30p.m.

ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIP is Nov. 11. Doors open at 7:30a.m. We will be making a craft for a missions' project in the morning. We will then go to Little Italy for pizza. Cost is \$30.00 a child.

THE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CENTER is located in the narthex by the stairwell on the left side by the plants. There are clip boards with paper and crayons, Bibles, and storybooks that you can borrow and then return after the service is over. If your child goes to Children's Church, we ask that parents return the materials when the service ends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 22	Spooky Cooking Class with Charlotte McCrary. 6:30pm in the	Fireside Room.
October 29th	Halloween Carnival 5pm-8pm, gym	

STUDENT MINISTRY

FALL RETREAT - NOVEMBER 21-23. Our annual fall retreat to Camp Sumatanga is the weekend leading into Fall Break. We will "retreat" to the camp to "re-center" ourselves on Christ. Cost is \$125 and includes transportation, lodging for two nights, five meals and a tshirt. Registration is now open online at the church website under the GIVE->Online Donations tab.

HOLY GROUND WORSHIP - "THE WALKING DEAD" SERIES. Each week as we approach Halloween, we'll look at our culture's fascination with zombies, vampires and werewolves. On October 15th, we ask the question: What are the negative 'vampires' that are sucking the joy out of your life?

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 12, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 12: 4:00pm	Holy Ground Rehearsal in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 12: 5:00pm	MS Guys, MS Girls and HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, October 12: 6:00pm	FREE Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 12: 6:30pm	Middle School Mystery Event: High School Zombies vs. Humans Game
Wednesday, October 15, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 15, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Wing
Wednesday, October 15, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9

SHEPHERD'S CENTER Rev Buddy Majors, Associate Pastor/Music Minister 1st Baptist Church, McCalla, Al.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15

COOKING CLASS: ???? by Anita - 6:00-7:00pm Fireside Room. Everyone invited.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16

FLU SHOTS - SHEPHERD'S CENTER 9:00-10:00 am in the Gym - bring your insurance cards.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Program by Dr. Segrest, Baptist Princeton Vein Center - 10:00am

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19

FLU SHOTS - Church Members and Community. Robert, of Robert's Pharmacy will be back with us. 8:30am-12:30pm - come to the Gym. Bring your insurance cards/\$25.00 without cards.

MONDAY DECEMBER 8

CHRISTMAS TOUR - GOVERNOR'S MANSION Montgomery-3:00- 9:00pm - tour and dinner Cost: \$65.00. Traveling by Tour Bus.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 -

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

BILTMORE HOUSE CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOUR, Dinner at Deer Park, Biltmore Gift Shop, Historical Church tour, over-night in Asheville, NC. Thursday we'll visit Billy Graham's ministries/campus - Guided Tour, Ruth's Attic, Library, live Nativity, Lights, Music, Carriage Ride, Cow Barn, Christmas Dinner - overnight in Charlotte, NC. Cost: 450.00pp. Traveling by Tour Bus.

Special Moment with Jesus

"Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!" Psalm 97:12



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
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Pastors

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



The Week of October 12—October 18

Sunday, October 12

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
3:30 pm Music Committee
3:30 pm Nominating Committee
6:00 pm Evening Worship
7:00 pm ISN'T Bible Study

Tuesday, October 14

8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
6:00 pm Under The Bridge

Wednesday, October 15

4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study
5:00-6:30pm Dinner
5:30 pm Disciple 1
5:45 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Midweek Ministries
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Children's Council

Thursday, October 16

8:00 am Habitat Work Day
9:00 am Flu Shots
9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, October 17

8:00 am Habitat Work Day
6:00 pm Opportunity Class Lunch

Saturday, October 18

8:00 am Habitat Work Day

SUNDAY, October 12, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"The Three Treasures"
(Scripture - Matthew 6:19-21)
Rev. Mike Holly

6:00pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Tom Duley Preaching

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley
Cross

8:45 Carolyn Thompson 11:00 Preston Scott
Acolytes

8:45 Will Thompson 11:00 Caroline Owen
Greeters : Canterbury

Meal on Wheels October 15:
Debra McCallum

Food Pantry November 5: Penny Burns

MIDWEEK MENU October 15

Chicken fried steak, creamed potatoes, green beans,
baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chick-
en fingers for the kids .

Last Week's Record

October 5, 2014

Children/Youth	84/56
Morning/Evening Worship	516/15
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$32,830.00
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$1,081,000.00
Received to Date	\$954,953.64
New Members in 2014	48

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$7,520.00
Received to Date	\$555,291.34

**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!

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered en-
trance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.