



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

Newsletter November 4, 2014

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)



We have had such a wonderful response to our 2015 Stewardship Campaign. We are excited to start looking at your commitments for the New Year, but we know that some households still have not gotten their 2015 Commitments in just yet. You still have time to get in your faithful commitments to the church office. Please make every effort to do so because we are beginning our prayerful planning for a new year of ministry.

On Sunday morning, we will continue to study the Lord's Prayer as we focus upon the phrases - "Thy kingdom come" and "Thy will be done." Author Mary Lou Redding says that "praying for God's kingdom to come means that I am opening the door to God" so that He can take over as king in our hearts and in our lives. We are asking God to do His will in the world through each and every one of us. I hope you can join us in worship as we explore this powerful prayer together.

Finally, I want to extend a special invitation to each of you to participate in our annual Veterans' Day program. I was so moved last year by our guest speaker and the Hoover High Jazz Band. The band will be back again this year, but with one of our own as the speaker: Stretch Dunn. One of the ways that Bluff Park UMC seeks to be a blessing to Veterans is by offering several free counseling sessions with United Counseling to any Veteran. If you know of anyone who might be in need of the service of a counselor, please let them know that our church provides a means by which they can have access to mental health care.

## Stewardship Update

*"Without counsel, plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed."*

Proverbs 15:22

In the first two weeks of our Stewardship Campaign more than 179 financial pledges have been received. Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge for 2015. Beyond making a commitment to God for the coming year, your pledges help the church to make responsible financial plans for 2015. This is your opportunity to be an advisor in the church. Make sure that those members charged with the responsibility of planning the church budgets have good counsel. If you have not submitted your pledge, Pledge Cards are available in the pews, at the Welcome Desk, through the office, or can be downloaded from the church website.

Your Time and Talent Commitments are equally important to those planning ministry for the upcoming year. These forms are available at the Welcome Desk, in the church office, or you can submit them online at:

[BluffParkUMC.org/2015-time-and-talent-commitment-card/](http://BluffParkUMC.org/2015-time-and-talent-commitment-card/)



# News of the Week

## VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EVENT

On Sunday, November 9th, we will have a very special Veterans Day celebration. The evening begins at 5:00 pm with dinner and at 6:00 pm there will be music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band and a presentation by Bluff Park's own Stretch Dunn.

## BLOOD DRIVE

On Sunday, November 9th, from 7:30am-12:30pm, we will host a Blood Drive in the gym. Please make plans to share the gift of life! You can make an appointment to donate by visiting the Red Cross website: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use the keyword BPUMC.

## HAM MOUNTAIN

Ham Mountain is beginning to take shape in the Narthex. Once again, we will be receiving 1 pound canned hams for use in the Bluff Park Food Pantry. You can bring your donations to the church during the entire month of November and the hams will be distributed through the Food Pantry on December 3rd. The Ham Mountain display is located in the Narthex of the church, so bring those hams by and help us build a huge Ham Mountain this year. Ham Mountain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

## CELL PHONES

During the month of November, we will be collecting old and unused cell phones. These phones will be donated to a program that provides cell phones for victims of domestic abuse who are getting a new start on their lives. A box will be in the Narthex of the church beginning on November 2nd. Please find those old cell phones you no longer need, and bring them to the church. They will be cleaned of information, refurbished, and made available to those who need them.

## CHILE VOLUNTEERS FOR 2015

We are now forming our Chile Volunteer in Mission team for 2015. The dates of the trip are March 13-27, 2015. The team is limited to 10 members. We currently have four persons committed to the team. If you are interested in being a member of the team, please contact Tom Duley. The deadline for making a commitment is December 17, 2014.

## COMMUNION PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS

The opportunities to participate in Holy Communion have grown here at Bluff Park. In addition to the monthly celebration in the Sunday morning worship, we now celebrate Communion every Sunday evening as well. This means we need some additional volunteers to help prepare and clean up the table each week. The commitment of time is small, but the work is important to the life of our church. If you are interested in participating, please call Joan Davis at 824-3415 or call the church office at 822-0910.

## Worship Survey Online



Last chance to be heard.

The Leadership Team and the pastoral staff at Bluff Park are already looking ahead to a new year of ministry in 2015. The first step in this process is to learn more about how well the things we

are currently doing are meeting the needs of the congregation.

We have created a short online survey designed to help us uncover opportunities to refine and grow our worship ministry.

The survey has been available for several weeks and we've had well over 100 responses. After this week, we will be ending the survey and tallying the result.

The survey is online, but if you do not have access to the Internet and want to participate, contact the church office and we will get a printed survey form for you to fill out.

Make sure your voice is heard, visit:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/worship-survey>

## SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

What is your favorite part of the Christmas season here at Bluff Park United Methodist Church? Is it the concerts or the children's Christmas Pageant? Do you like the Advent Morning Prayer time, the Festival of the Three Kings, or just sitting with your family on Christmas Eve? On Sunday, November 9th, Andrew Seltz will have a video camera setup during the Sunday School hour and 11:00am Service to capture your story and share it on our website. Plan to stop by and tell us what you love about Christmas at Bluff Park UMC.

## DOUBT & FAITH

On November 16th, at 6:00pm, Canterbury United Methodist Church will be hosting a presentation by author Rachel Held Evans. She will be exploring the topics of doubt and faith. This free event will be held in the Canterbury Center and childcare is available. For more information visit:

[www.canterburyumc.org/fallseries](http://www.canterburyumc.org/fallseries)

## UPCOMING THANKSGIVING EVENTS

November has arrived, and Thanksgiving will be here before you know it. This year we will celebrate a Community Thanksgiving Service in the evening on the 23rd, and we will host a Thanksgiving Dinner for members and the community on the 27th. More details in the coming weeks.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Carolyn Arthur—St. Vincent  
Dot Quinelly—Trinity  
Nan Moore—Trinity

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

**ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIP** is Nov. 11. Doors open at 7:30am. 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. We have room for 21 children. A reservation is needed! E-mail Leigh Delashaw, ldelashaw@bpumc.org.

**3rd GRADERS** and their parents will have an acolyte training session in the sanctuary on Nov. 12 at 6:30pm. Sarah Thompson, our acolyte coordinator, will speak to the parents while the children are instructed.

**THE DOLLY AND ME TEA** is Sunday Nov. 16 at 1pm in the church parlor. All young girls are invited to attend with their favorite doll and favorite mother!

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** is Dec. 7 at 5pm in the sanctuary. You will receive a letter next week about this special event. Please let Mrs. Leigh know by Nov. 24 if your child can participate. Contact Leigh Delashaw if you do not receive a letter. The Christmas Pageant is a wonderful way to ease into Advent!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

November 11 7:30am-4:30pm	OTRA Field Trip Craft, Pizza Movie
November 12 6:30pm-7:30pm	Third Grade Acolyte Training in the Sanctuary
November 16 1:00pm-3:00pm	Dolly and Me Tea Party in the Parlor
November 24	Deadline for Notice of participation on the Pageant (Name to be included in program)
November 30 9:50am-10:45am	First Sunday of Advent crafts during Sunday School (Thank you Footsteps Class!)
December 7 2:00pm-3:00pm	Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
December 7 5:00pm-5:30pm	Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary
December 7 5:30pm-7:00pm	Church-wide Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**FALL RETREAT - NOVEMBER 21ST-23RD.** 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 t-shirt. Registration is now open online at the church website under the GIVE->Online Donations tab.

**HOLY GROUND WORSHIP - THREE SIMPLE RULES.** On November 5, we start a new series at our youth worship service based on three very simple rules for Christian living: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. We'll learn how to follow these simple rules in a complex world.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 9, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, November 9, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Rehearsal in the Youth Wing
Sunday, November 9, 5:00pm	MS Guys, MS Girls and HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, November 9, 6:00pm	FREE Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 9, 6:30pm	MS: Risk! & HS: Serve Night
Wednesday, November 12, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Rehearsal in the Youth Wing
Wednesday, November 12, 5:30pm	Hangout Time in the Youth Wing & Gym
Wednesday, November 12, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing - Do Good

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6

#### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

#### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18

#### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 -

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 8

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER**—the fun starts at 9:30 am.

**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM** an evening to honor our Veterans. Dinner at 5:00, music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band and program by Dunn. Everyone invited.

**ANNISTON DAY TRIP** - Lunch, Classic-on-the-Noble, Rabbit Shop and more - cost: \$5.00 gas donation 9:30am - 3:00pm. Call Betty.

**BILTMORE HOUSE CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOUR/BILLY GRAHAM MINISTRIES-CAMPUS**, Christmas Dinner at Deer Park, Historical Church Tour, overnight in Asheville. Thursday we travel to Charlotte for a guided tour of the Billy Graham Campus, we'll visit Ruth's Attic, Mr. Graham's Library, live Nativity, enjoy the Christmas Lights, Cow Barn, take a Carriage Ride, and have Christmas Dinner. Traveling by tour bus with Mr. Bob. Cost: \$450.00. \$100.00 deposit balance due November 24th. Come - go with us.

**GOVERNOR AND MRS BENTLEY CHRISTMAS TOUR** Tour the Mansion and grounds, visit the 1st Lady's Gift Shop and Dinner. Cost: \$65.00 - Traveling by tour bus. 3:00-9:00pm. If you need a ride to and from the Church call Betty

### Special Moment with Jesus

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

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### Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104  
Peter von Hermann, petervh@bpumc.org, ext. 107  
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112  
**Director of Senior Ministries**, ext. 103  
Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org  
**Director of Student Ministries**, ext. 118  
Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org  
**Director of Children's Ministries**, ext. 121  
Leigh Delashaw, ldelashaw@bpumc.org  
**Director of Finance and Administration**, ext. 117  
Ben Sheets, bsheets@bpumc.org  
**Financial Manager**, ext. 101  
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**Director of Communications and Media**, ext. 119  
Andrew Seltz, aseltz@bpumc.org  
**Secretary**, ext. 111  
Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org  
**Director of Worship Music**,  
Lonnie Parsons  
**Organist**, Jamie Davis  
**Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



## The Week of November 9—November 15

### Sunday, November 9

7:30 am—12:30 pm Blood Drive in Gym  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
9:45 am—12:00 pm Christmas Story Interviews  
9:45 am New Member Class  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
5:00 pm Veterans Day Event

### Tuesday, November 11

7:30 am OTRA Field Trip  
8:30 am Maintenance  
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study  
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

### Wednesday, November 12

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

### Thursday, November 13

9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
6:30 pm Handbell Choir

### Friday, November 14

12:00 pm Friendship Class Lunch

### SUNDAY, November 9, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
*"Kingdom Come"*  
(Scripture - Romans 8:18-28)  
Rev. Mike Holly

### No Evening Worship Service

**SPECIAL VETERANS DAY EVENT**  
In the Fellowship Hall  
5:00pm Dinner  
6:00pm Presentation

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
I Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### SERVING SUNDAY

**Ushers**  
8:45 Nelson 11:00 Dover  
**Cross**  
8:45 Will Thompson  
11:00 Campbell Hecklinski  
**Acolytes**  
8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski  
**Greeters:** Friendship  
**Meals on Wheels November 12:**  
Becky McCrary  
**Food Pantry December 3:** Kay Adams

### MIDWEEK MENU November 12th

Bake ham, mac & cheese, fried okra, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

November 2, 2014

Children/Youth	102/76
Morning/Evening Worship	612/26
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$42,357.50
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$1,189,100.00
Received to Date	\$1,053,282.25
New Members in 2014	48

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$5,845.00
Received to Date	\$568,749.86

**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 entrance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.