



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

*Newsletter November 18 2014*

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



Next week, we will all be gearing up for a national holiday in which we give thanks for all that we have and all that we are. After the meal of thanksgiving, people will either watch professional football or attempt to enter into the fray of Black Friday. But let's focus upon the first part of the holiday: Giving thanks.

I am thankful for a wonderful year in ministry and mission at Bluff Park. We have seen several changes this year, but all the while, we have stayed faithful to our mission together as a church. I'm thankful for all that we have accomplished by the grace of God ~ as God has equipped us to use what we have in service of Him and His world.

I invite you to come to a special service of thanksgiving. The Community Thanksgiving Worship Service will be at Bluff Park UMC this year. Join us in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm as pastors from the community of Bluff Park lead the community in a service of giving thanks. Let us join together and thank God for this wonderful year..

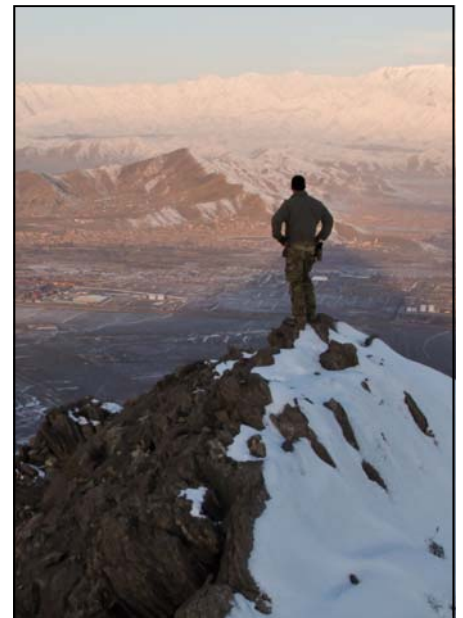
## **Telling it on the Mountain**

Bluff Park United Methodist Church is an amazingly busy place. Some churches sit empty for most of the week with a flurry of activity on Sundays and the occasional Bible study or choir practice scattered here and there. But, this ministry is humming with activity every day of the week. One of our challenges is making sure that members know what is happening, and how we are making a difference in our community and the world.

Telling the story of ministry is important. Stories help us to see how God is working in our world through his church. They help us to connect our mission to our actions. They encourage us to see the blessings and opportunities that surround us. And, they serve as a witness to our faith as a community of Christians.

Tom Duley shared a powerful story in his sermon this past Sunday. He talked about a young man he met in a prison who was transformed by the power of forgiveness. That story showed the power of the Spirit to transform a life, the need for prison ministry efforts like Kairos, and the value of sharing the story of ministry (the sermon is on our website if you missed it or want to hear it again.)

There are many ways you can help tell the story of our ministry. If you keep a smartphone in your pocket, take a few pictures at the next ministry event you attend and share them. When you visit the church's Facebook page, click the 'like' button and share the pictures and stories posted there. If you have a talent for writing, photography, or video, commit yourself to documenting the ministries in which you are involved.



Help grow the ministry here at Bluff Park UMC by telling the story of what God is doing through us.

# News of the Week

## HABITAT HOME DEDICATION

The dedication of the Bluff Park Habitat house will take place on Sunday, November 23rd at 3pm. We are hoping to have a big turn-out of church members. Please make your plans to attend and wish the Perry family well as they start life in their new home. The address of the house is 329 Creek Run Circle, Calera.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We continue to experience a strong response to our Stewardship Campaign. To date, we have received 224 Financial Pledges for 2015. Your pledges help the church make responsible financial plans. If you haven't turned in a Pledge Card, they are available in the pews, at the Welcome Desk, through the office, or can be downloaded from the church website.

## 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

The Chile Volunteers in Mission team has openings for additional team members. We will be traveling to Angol, Chile to support the work of John Elmore our Covenant Missionary Partner at El Vergel Methodist Agricultural School. The dates of the trip are March 13-27, 2015. If you are interested or have questions please contact Tom Duley.

## Thanksgiving at BPUMC

Sunday, November 23rd, at 5:00 pm, we will be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Service in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with Christians from other area churches and worship God together.

Thursday, November 27th, we are hosting a Thanksgiving Day Dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00am until 2:00pm. The church is providing turkey, ham, and drinks. Bring a covered dish for 8 and join the fun and fellowship here if you don't have other plans for the day.

## ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

The holy season of Advent begins on November 30th. This year we will again have Advent Morning Prayer each Wednesday as a way of focusing our hearts and minds as we prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world. Advent Morning Prayer starts on Wednesday, December 3rd. The service begins at 7:30 am and will be held in the sanctuary. This is a service of Scripture, prayer and Holy Communion. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

## SPECIAL THANKS...

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the prayers, cards, calls, and donations in Charles' memory. I am blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. I so appreciate Mike's and Andy's help during this most difficult time. Your love and support have been a source of strength and comfort during the darkest days. —Win Shelby

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Nan Moore—Trinity  
Nancy Piros—Trinity  
Andy King—St. Vincent's



## Christmas Poinsettias

Reserve your large beautiful poinsettia now to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas. The cost is \$23.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is December 15.

**In Honor Of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **by** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **by** \_\_\_\_\_

Return order form and payment to the church office.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** is Dec. 7 at 5p.m. in the sanctuary. All preschoolers through 5th graders are asked to participate. Please let Mrs. Leigh know by Nov. 24 if your child can be in the pageant. Our rehearsal is Dec. 7 at 2p.m. in the sanctuary. The Christmas Pageant is a wonderful way to experience and ease into Advent!

**NEEDING 2 VOLUNTEERS** starting in January. For Wednesday night programming (6:30-7:30p.m.), Mrs. Carole needs someone to work with her while she teaches the Bible skills class to the 2nd and 3rd graders. We also need a volunteer to teach the K5-1st graders on Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30p.m.

**THE 4TH 5TH FELLOWSHIP** will go to Trussville Playstation on Sunday November 23. We will need parents to help drive the children there. Let us know if you can help. Cost is \$10. Please let Kaci Brasher know if your child will be going with us. kacibrasher@gmail.com. We will leave at 1:30 and be back by 5p.m.

**THE 4TH 5TH FELLOWSHIP** will be going to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga on March 13-15. This is a 2 day event. It is a weekend designed to help children understand their Methodist heritage and to encourage their faith journey. It is a **FABULOUS** event sponsored by the North Alabama United Methodist conference. It can be a very important event for your 4th or 5th grader to attend!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 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 this weekend. We ask that you pray for our students as we re-center our heads, hearts and hands on Christ in the midst of a busy season.

**FESTIVAL OF THREE KINGS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.** Our students are sponsoring two families this year. Anyone who wants to pick out presents for our kids can meet us at the Target in the Grove Shopping Center on Monday, November 24th at 11:00am. We'll shop and then eat lunch at a nearby restaurant. There are service hour opportunities in the coming weeks for students who want to organize and tag gifts as they are received at the church. Contact Bart to volunteer. Then we'll meet on the morning of December 6th to load and distribute the gifts. More details on that day are coming soon!

### THIS WEEK

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, November 23, 10:00am | Sunday School in the Youth Wing   |
| Sunday, November 23          | No Afternoon/Evening Youth Activities<br>(most of our students will be returning from our Fall Retreat) |
| Wednesday, November 26       | No Afternoon/Evening Activities (Happy Thanksgiving!)   |

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27

**THANKSGIVING DAY** - Thanksgiving Day Dinner for our members and friends 11:00am-2:00pm. The Church will furnish the Turkey, Ham and Drinks - you bring a covered dish for 8. Call Betty for reservations.

#### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3-

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 8

**CHRISTMAS TRIP** - Biltmore House Candle Light Tour, Asheville, NC and Billy Graham Ministries/Campus, Charlotte, NC.

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

**GOVERNOR'S MANSON** - Christmas Tour Gift Shop and Dinner. Traveling by tour bus to Montgomery. Bus arrives at 2:30pm we'll De part at 3:00pm. Cost: \$65.00pp. Call Betty.

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Christmas program by Niki Sepsas.

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

### Special Moment with Jesus

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18



## 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  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
PERMIT NO. 1816

### 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  
Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org  
**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 23—November 29

### Sunday, November 23

8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
3:00 pm Habitat House Dedication  
5:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service

### Monday, November 24

10:00 am UMW Love Circle  
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

### Tuesday, November 25

5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, November 26

6:00 pm Men's Chorus

### Thursday, November 27

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
Thanksgiving Day Dinner

### Friday, November 28

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
Fisherman Class Dinner

6:30 pm

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
*"The Temptations We Face"*  
(Scripture - James 1:12-18)  
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service  
In the Sanctuary

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

### SERVING SUNDAY

#### Ushers

8:45 Chatterton 11:00 Youth  
Cross

8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Caroline Owen  
Acolytes

8:45 Matt Lagan 11:00 Rory Edwards

**Greeters:** New Light

**Children's Church**

8:45 Fountain 11:00 Sparks

**Meals on Wheels November 26:**

Nan and Ed Thomas

**Food Pantry December 3:** Kay Adams

## Last Week's Record

November 16, 2014

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Children                | 76             |
| Morning/Evening Worship | 501/14         |
| Weekly Operating Needs  | \$29,189.36    |
| Operating Receipts      | \$27,949.09    |
| 2014 Operating Budget   | \$1,517,847.00 |
| Expected to Date        | \$1,243,150.00 |
| Received to Date        | \$1,101,140.34 |
| New Members in 2014     | 48             |

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Amount Pledged     | \$1,083,250.00 |
| Received Last Week | \$1,685.00     |
| Received to Date   | \$572,758.19   |

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

### 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.