



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

Newsletter November 25, 2014

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



The season of Advent begins this Sunday, November 30th. Advent is always a special season around Bluff Park UMC as we await the good news of the birth of Christ, and as we serve our neighbors through the Festival of Three Kings and our White Christmas Offering for the United Methodist Children's Home.

This Advent, we invite you to read along with us in worship as we journey through the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. We will explore how God's exciting news unfolds as Elizabeth, Zechariah and Mary all come to hear and understand what God is about to do in their lives and in the world. We also have a wonderful Advent devotional that you can participate in. Each daily meditation is written by a member of our church!

Let us enter into the season of Advent together with joyful hearts, and with a willingness to learn and be moved by God's spirit!

## Christmas Time at Bluff Park

The decorations are up and the Christmas season is shifting into high gear here at the church. We've already been collecting hams to distribute through the food pantry and gifts to share with families at the Festival of the Three Kings. The Children's Ministry is preparing for the Christmas Pageant on December 7th and the Senior Ministry has a full slate of trips and events during the month of December.

December 14th, we present our 5th annual Christmas on the Bluff choir concert at 6:30 pm. Lonnie assures us that this will be a concert to remember!

Our special Christmas worship services include a weekly Advent Morning Prayer Service on Wednesdays at 7:30 am, a service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion on the evening of December 21st, and Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on December 24th. Make sure to extend an invitation to a friend or neighbor to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth this season.

## White Christmas Offering

Each Advent, our church takes up the White Christmas Offering in support of the United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to heal children, unite families, and to change lives in northern Alabama. Through your support, children are placed in safe and loving foster homes and are able to continue to be cared for in college as they transition into independent adulthood. Simply assign checks or envelopes to "White Christmas Offering" in morning worship throughout Advent, or by dropping off your gift in our Financial Office.

*Mike*

Bluff Park United Methodist Church  
presents  
The Fifth Annual Christmas on the Bluff •

# What A Glorious Night

Sunday, December 14  
6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary

Created by  
BRADLEY KNIGHT and  
DALE MATHEWS  
Arranged and Orchestrated by  
BRADLEY KNIGHT

Directed by Lonnie Parsons with the BPUMC Choir  
Featuring Special Guests  
Amy Johnson and Anthony Hardin

# News of the Week

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We continue to experience a strong response to our Stewardship Campaign. To date, we have received 236 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.

## 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 and lasts approximately 30 minutes.

## 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 are 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 basket is in the Narthex of the church near the elevator to collect your phones. 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.



## Thank You, Leigh Delashaw!

We want to thank Leigh Delashaw for fourteen years of faithful service to the children of Bluff Park UMC. Leigh's last Sunday with us will be on December 7th. That evening, we will have our annual Children's Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm. We will honor and thank Leigh at this important event, and then have a Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm, where we will all have a chance to both thank Leigh and say goodbye. Please come out and celebrate Leigh Delashaw!

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to John and Ruth Calloway on the passing of their grandson Casey Calloway on November 14th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Carolyn Schaefer on the passing of her husband Rudy, on November 23rd. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL EMAILS

Every day during the Season of Advent we will be sending out a devotional written by a member of the church. Sign-up at: [BluffParkUMC.org/advent-devotionals](http://BluffParkUMC.org/advent-devotionals)

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Luther Murphy—St. Vincent  
Nan Moore—Trinity



## 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. Our rehearsal is Dec. 7 at 2p.m. in the sanctuary. Speakers will rehearse during Sunday School that morning.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS-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.

**ADVENT PREPARATIONS**- As Advent approaches, may you breathe in the love of God as you gather with the people who mean the most to you. Count your blessings and then be a blessing to someone else!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**HOLY GROUND WORSHIP IN DECEMBER.** Our student worship service will continue after mid-week meals end. We'll have an Advent-themed series on Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. Since there won't be dinner upstairs, please bring \$5 for a light snack supper at 5:30pm on the 3rd and 10th. Then on the 17th, we'll have a special FREE meal from New China as our college kids join us for a Holy Ground Homecoming! The worship service will continue to be 6:30-7:30pm.

**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 30, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, November 30	No Afternoon/Evening Youth Activities (most of our students will be returning from our Fall Retreat)
Wednesday, December 3, 5:30pm	Snack Supper in Youth Wing (bring \$5 to eat or just come hang out before worship)
Wednesday, December 3, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship - Advent Conspiracy//Spend Less
Friday, December 6, 7:00am	Festival of Three Kings. Volunteers need to arrive at the church sanctuary narthex at 7am. Donuts provided! We'll pack everything into a truck and take church buses to the Crossplex at the State Fairgrounds in West End. There we will unload the gifts, play games and interact with the children. We'll be done around noon, will come back up to the church and WILL NOT eat lunch as part of our time serving.)

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - History of Mr. P's on the Bluff.  
10:00am Everyone invited.

#### SUNDAY MORNING DECEMBER 7

**CHRISTMAS STOCKING FOR OUR SICK/SHUT-INS:** pick up a stocking, at the Welcome Center, fill with goodies and surprises and deliver to one of our sick/shut-ins. Reap the rewards.

#### MONDAY DECEMBER 8

**GOVERNOR'S MANSON** - Christmas Tour, time to visit the 1st Lady's Gift Shop and Dinner. Traveling by tour bus. Cost: \$65.00pp - call Betty.

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

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

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY** The fun starts at 10:00am with special Christmas music and a visit from Santa.

#### SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

**BPUMC RED HAT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** with Mary Jane Wesler - call Mary Jane for reservations.

### Special Moment with Jesus

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:8



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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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 30—December 6

**Sunday, November 30—First Sunday of Advent**  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
5:00 pm Evening Worship Service  
**Tuesday, December 2**  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal  
**Wednesday, December 3**  
7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer  
9:00 am Food Pantry  
5:30 pm Disciple 1  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:00 pm Fisherman Class Christmas Party  
**Thursday, December 4**  
8:00 am Shepherd's Center  
6:30 pm Handbell Choir  
**Saturday, December 6**  
8:00 am Festival of the 3 Kings  
9:00 am District Clergy Breakfast

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014**  
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
*"The Christmas Spirit: Gladness"*  
(Scripture - Luke 1:5-20)  
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service  
Rev. Tom Duley

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

### SERVING SUNDAY

**Ushers**  
8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur  
**Cross**  
8:45 Ethan McGriff 11:00 Billy Neal  
**Acolytes**  
8:45 Davison Dover 11:00 Graham Coltrane  
**Greeters: New Horizons**  
**Meals on Wheels December 3:**  
David and Robin Martin  
**Food Pantry December 3:**  
Theresa Richardson

## Last Week's Record

November 23, 2014

Children/Youth	90/77
Morning Worship	524
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$20,334.50
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$1,270,175.00
Received to Date	\$1,121,474.84
New Members in 2014	48

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015	
Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$4,181.67
Received to Date	\$576,939.86

**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.