



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter January 18, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Abraham and Sarah did not have an easy life. They faced uncertainty and hardship throughout their journey in life. We heard on Sunday morning that uncertainty and hardship did have a way of affecting their relationship. And yet, we will see this Sunday morning that Abraham and Sarah were able to make it to the end of life together. Sarah passes away before Abraham and he and the rest of his family mourn her loss.

The death of a loved one is often a traumatic event for those who remain. In our head, we know and trust that they have been received into the arms of the God who loves them. In our hearts, we feel a gaping hole that longs to be filled. We may experience numbness or anger. We may find regret that we had not taken advantage of the time that we did have.

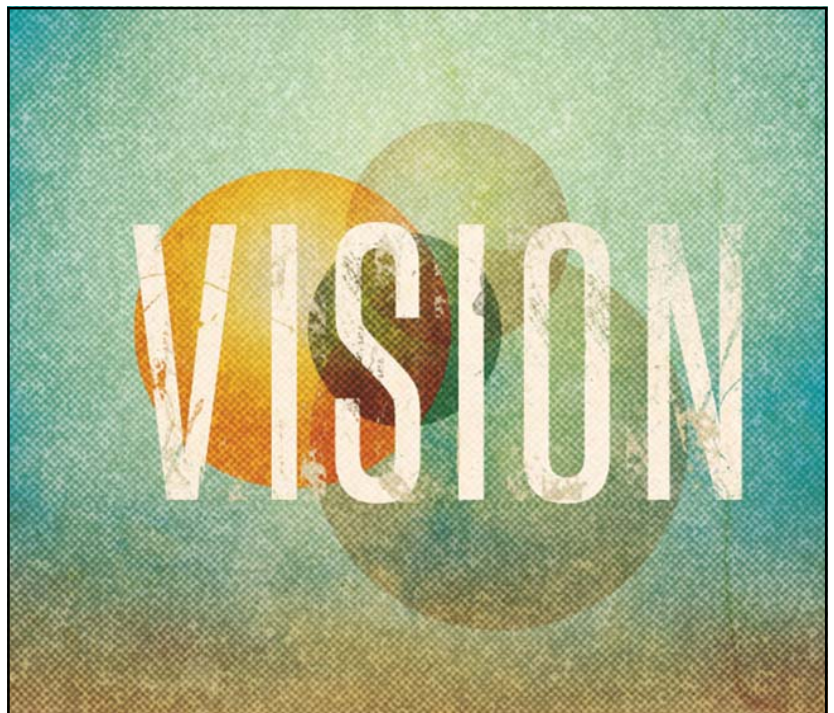
All of these feelings, emotions, and experiences are normal. They expose the depth of our love and care for those close to us. What I find most comforting is that God loves each of us with a deeper love than we can fathom and that God's heart breaks along with ours. Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote "I hold it true, whate'er befall; I feel it, when I sorrow most; 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

Setting a Vision for Ministry

The world changes fast. When people started meeting for worship on the mountain, the area was known as Hale Springs. There were no roads, neighborhoods, or schools. Fast forward 100 years or so, and Bluff Park looks very different. Different challenges, different opportunities, different people. But God is still with us and he has plans for this church.

On January 24th, leaders from the Bluff Park UMC congregation will be gathering together for a Visioning Retreat in the Sanctuary. During this time, we will dream big, pray, and ultimately seek God's will for the ministry of this church.

Keep this process and the ministry of our congregation in your prayers.



News of the Week

BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

The spring Bargains on the Bluff consignment sale is just around the corner. This sale is not only a great blessing to the families who take part in it, but it also raises money to support the children's ministry here at the church. Registration has opened for consigners and volunteers, and we need your help to spread the word. Please tell your family and friends. (We'd love to have you volunteer too!) The public sale is February 20th and 21st, but all volunteers and consigners get exclusive access to a Preview Sale on the 19th. For more details, and to sign up, visit the website:

BluffParkUMC.org/both

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

January 23rd- 25th is an important time in the Student Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. High school and college students come together to lead middle school students on a spiritual formation retreat. Together they will worship, talk, pray and play together. Please keep the students and volunteers in your prayers this coming weekend.

THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: AWARENESS, ACCESSIBILITY, AND ADVOCACY

On Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm, throughout the month of January, the United Methodist Women are sponsoring a Social action study exploring how the church is serving people with disabilities. Mike Holly will lead the discussion in the Fireside Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

CHILE PREPARATION CLASS

The Chile preparation class is underway for those who will be members of the Chile VIM team for 2015 and for anyone else who is interested in learning more about Bluff Park's work in Chile. The class is being led by Marigene Chamberlain our Chile VIM team leader for 2015. The class started on January 13th and ends on March 10th. We meet in the church library at 6:30 PM. Please join us.

Entering the Mission Field

During the 8:45 am worship service last Sunday, Tom Duley offered a blessing for Julia Glass, who left on a mission trip to Uganda on January 14th. She is taking part in a 6-day medical mission project in the village of Kinene, Bwobo Nam Ward in the Nwoya District of northern Uganda. The group expects to see about 1500 people during their trip.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry prepared and blessed over 35 receiving blankets for her to bring to Uganda and share with the mothers and newborns they minister too.

Please keep Julia, the rest of the missionaries she is traveling with, and the people they will serve in your prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Did you start the New Year with a desire to grow closer to God? Are you interested in becoming part of a small group at BPUMC? Covenant Bible Study has started, but there is still time to join. This study lasts 8 weeks, and is focused on developing relationships with God and with each other, especially within the concept of "creating". Our group meets in the Fellowship Hall every Tuesday morning from 9:30 til 11. Come and join us - all are welcome! For more information, please call Becky Walker @ 987-0404.

2015 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2015 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: March 8, 15, and 29 and April 19 and 26. Check in with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

NEW MIDWEEK MEAL PRICES

A reminder that we've changed the prices of the Mid-Week meal. To keep pace with rising costs, we've raised the prices for the adult meal, slightly, for the new year. Adult meals are now \$7 each, children 6-12 remain at \$2, and children 5 and under continue to eat free. The family maximum is now \$20.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Nan Moore as they mourn her passing on January 7th. Our prayers are with them at this difficult time.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Doyle Shaw—Brookwood
Betty Lou Black—Trinity
Shirley White—The Oaks Rehab
Opal Humphrey—Lakeshore Rehab



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

He Said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" - Luke 1:49

This is our last week to study "Jesus in the Temple." We'll try again to make our Movie "Where is Jesus?" The kids were great! The video recorder, not so much. Thank you to Ivy Holmes, Theresa Real, Theresa Richardson, Aimie Marshall, Stacy Neal, Olivia Howard, Lori Beasley, Linda King, Stephanie Turner, Georgia Pearson, Ellen Kerns and Zach Edwards for leading this month. Thank you to John Bowles for subbing this week! Thank you to Mandy Black and Kristi Wolfe for leading the preschool this month!

BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF is just around the corner! The sale is Feb 19(Private sale for volunteers and consignors) and Feb 20-21 (public). Registration for consigning and volunteering is now open! Please visit BluffParkUMC.org/botb for more information and to register online.

THE PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY is the event of the year! Well, for preschoolers.. It will be February 27th at 6:00pm. There will be crafts, snacks, and entertainment! We can still use some volunteers to help make this super fun event possible Please contact Ms. Marcie at nursery@bpumc to find out how you can help. And don't forget your jammies!

THE 4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP will be going to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga on March 13-15, 2015. This is a two 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/5th grader, plus so much fun its crazy! Cost is \$85. Registration forms must be turned in by Feb 21st. Interested? Send an email to kacibrasher@gmail.com to get the registration started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 18	Third Rotation in Sunday School Unit
January 25	Mission Sunday (Sunday School Hour)
February 20-21	Bargains on the Bluff
February 21	Deadline for exit 456 forms
February 27	Preschool Pajama Party 6:00pm.
March 13-14	Exit 456

STUDENT MINISTRY

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO...TAYLOR SWIFT!! We've created a fun Holy Ground series to kick off 2015 and the return of midweek meals. Each Wednesday night, our student worship team will lead us in a different Taylor Swift song and the message will be built around the lyrical theme. What can Taylor Swift songs help us learn about being new creations in Jesus Christ? Come find out!

DISCOVERY WEEKEND IS FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD-25TH This spiritual formation retreat held at our church is the most important annual event in our student ministry. High school and college students will lead middle school students through a weekend of worship, games, prayer, talks and discussion with support from adult volunteers. The cost is \$75 for middle school students and FREE for high school leaders. Over the coming weeks, we'll be working with our high school students to prepare them for their leadership roles. Online signup will be available soon.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND PRAYER SERVICE. Be sure to add the this service to your calendar: Saturday, January 24th at 7:00pm. All family and close friends are invited as we come forward, lay hands on our students and pray for each one at the altar. If you or a representative of your family CANNOT attend, let us know and we'll designate a group of adult volunteers to do so on your behalf.

CONFIRMATION CLASS begins on Sunday, February 1st. Students who want to be confirmed as full, confessing members of our congregation on Sunday, April 12th are required to attend 8 of the 10 class topics we offer. We'll have one extra class at the end to make up any missed topics. Our plan is to teach on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (10am).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 18, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, January 18, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, January 18, 5:00pm	HS Coed, MS Girls & MS Guys Small Groups (HS students need to attend to prepare for Discovery Weekend!)
Sunday, January 18, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 18, 6:30pm	MS Video Shoot & HS Dodgeball
Wednesday, January 21, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Hall & Gym
Wednesday, January 21, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship - Shake It Off
January 23-25	Discovery Weekend

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY JANUARY 20

CULLMAN DAY TRIP- Historical Sacred Heart Catholic Church tour/lunch. 9:00-3:00pm.

THURSDAY JANUARY 22

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

THURSDAY JANUARY 22

YELLOW DOT SIGN-UP-1:30pm - 2:30pm in the Fireside Room. If you have not signed-up for the YELLOW DOT program now is the time. Having the information folder and Yellow Dot Sticker in/on your car is so important when there an accident or help is needed.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

BPUMC RED HAT LUNCHEON with Mary Jane Wesler.

Special Moment with Jesus

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."
-Matthew 6:34



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Address Service Requested

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Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org
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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 January 18—January 24

Sunday, January 18

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Board of Stewards
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
3:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
5:00 pm Evening Worship Service

Tuesday, January 20

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
10:00 am Adult Discipleship Team

Wednesday, January 21

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 Choir

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

Discovery Weekend

Saturday, January 24

All Day Discovery Weekend
9:00 am Visioning Retreat

SUNDAY, January 18, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"No Escape... Only Preparation"
(Scripture - Genesis 23:1-6)
Rev. Tom Duley

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Peter von Herrmann

Lectionary Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 McDonald 11:00 Footsteps

Cross

8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Graham Coltrane

Acolytes

8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Patrick Williams

Greeters: Covenant

Meals on Wheels January 21: TBA
Food Pantry February 4: Becky McCrary

MIDWEEK MENU: January 21st

Fried chicken, rosemary potatoes, green beans,
baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn
dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 11, 2015

Children/Youth	98/59
Morning/Evening Worship	572/28
Weekly Operating Needs*	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$26,071.50
2015 Operating Budget*	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date*	\$54,050.00
Received to Date	\$49,031.50
New Members in 2015	0

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,728.33
Received to Date	\$626,916.52

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2015 budget.*

**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.