



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter February 1, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Our church facilities were full of young people this past weekend. Seventy-one youth and college students gathered for Discovery Weekend. College and high school students led our middle school students in prayer, small group study, and in worship. All of them joined us in the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, and shared with us all about how they had been impacted by God's love and by the bonds of friendship between one another.

As they shared their thoughts, and sang one of their worship songs, I couldn't help but remember my own days as a student in my home church of St. John's UMC in Aiken, South Carolina. St. John's supported the young people and gave us space for study and fellowship. They provided us with a wonderful director and time to lead in worship. They had a vision of young people being a core part of the church's ministry. Bluff Park has the same vision!

I am proud to be the senior pastor of a church that cares so much about youth and children. They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today, along with all of us. May God use them to make a difference in our church and in our world!

State of the Church Meeting

Date: February 8th

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: Sanctuary

We invite every member of Bluff Park UMC to join us on February 8th at 3:30 pm in the Sanctuary for a special meeting about the state of our church. You will receive updates from our Building Team, from our Finance Committee about the 2015 budget, and information on our Children's Ministry program. We hope you will attend this important meeting.



News of the Week

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Our students had a great time learning how to Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with our God. They could not have had the same experience without your support. Thank you. Youth Ministry Team.

LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2015-16 school year begins for church members on Monday, February 2nd at 10:00 am. Visit the website for more information.

bluffparkumc.org/children/little-imaginations/

ORGAN RECITAL

James Cook, the chancel choir director at Birmingham's First United Methodist Church, and an emeritus professor of music at Birmingham-Southern College, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on February 22 at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear Church Family, As I count my blessings today, I put my Church Family at the top of the list. Our pastoral staff have been so generous with their time and prayers and concern for me. My Sunday School class, the Opportunity Class, have been so caring and have shown their love in so many ways. I am so grateful for the visits, cards, calls, and, especially, the prayers. My neighbors and friends have rallied around me, and I am especially grateful for their help immediately and after my fall. Please continue to pray for my recovery at home. Gratefully, Opal Humphrey.

ROCK-A-THON AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 22 the McCoy Adult Day Care Center will be hosting its annual fundraiser event. The Bluff Park Rocking Team is already in training. McCoy provides a variety of services to allow fragile and frail adults to main the highest level of independence with dignity, and this event provides the support they need to serve these seniors.

IT'S AUCTION TIME!

This year's Legacy Gala Silent Auction will be held on March 6th at The Club of Birmingham! This year's proceeds will be going towards Youth Missions, Children's Missions and one overall Mission project. We look forward to announcing these projects closer to the auction date. If you would like to be a part of the auction planning team, or would like to donate an item to the auction, please contact Megan Wise at megan.f.wise@gmail.com or 978-2907.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY FOCUS GROUP

Want to make a difference in social issues facing women today? Learn more about ministries in our city and right here in our church, or hear outstanding guest speakers? How about time to get away, relax and renew with other ladies? Or a hands on opportunity for helping others? Plus ideas for your children to help too! Please join us to share your ideas for expanding our women's ministry opportunities at Bluff Park! Our focus group is a one-time meeting on Sunday, February 8th from 9:50 - 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Hope to see you there! If you can't make it, take a few minutes and complete a survey online.

Bluffparkumc.org/wmsurvey

BOATING SAFETY CLASS

On February 9th and 10th from 5:30 pm—8:30 pm, a representative from the Alabama Marine Police will be at Bluff Park UMC to lead a class on boating law and safety. If you are thinking of getting a boating license, call the office and reserve your spot!

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Doyle Shaw—Brookwood
Betty Lou Black—Trinity
Shirley White—The Oaks Rehab
Marjorie Dulin—Lakeshore
Joe White—Brookwood
Joe Kerns—UAB
James Brooks—UAB



JOIN THE TEAM! BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

The spring Bargains on the Bluff consignment sale is rapidly approaching. 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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MARY HAS CHOSEN THE RIGHT THING AND IT WILL NOT BE TAKEN FROM HER. (LUKE 10:42) Our unit on Mary and Martha will begin this week. Thank you to Beth and Nathan Blanchard, Leslie and Danny Pair, Jennifer Chadha, Anna Samuels, Marcus Chatterton, John Bowles, Chris and Kristen Fountain, Kelli Schillaci, Crystal Bowles, Kelly Andringa, India Gold, Brian Samuels and the rest of the New Light Class for leading this month. This week during the opening, we will act out a radio show. Some students will provide the sound effects while others close their eyes and listen to the story of when Jesus came to visit Mary and Martha.

PARENTS, WE NEED YOU HELP! As of January 2015, Children's Church leaders are all volunteers. We need as many parents as we can get to make this ministry a success. You can volunteer at <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/548515394053> or email Melisa@bpumc.org to find out more or have a link to the Volunteer Spot website emailed to you.

THE PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY is the event of the year for our preschoolers! It will be February 27th at 6:00pm and is open to all 2k's-5k's and their families. There will be crafts, snacks, and entertainment! Register for this event online at BPUMC.org or email nursery@bpumc.org. We can still use some volunteers to help make this super fun event possible. Please contact Ms Marcie at nursery@bpumc.org to find out how you can help. And don't forget your jammies!

4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP will be having a field trip on February 6th. They will be going to Oak Mtn Lanes to do some Bowling and Chow Town for lunch. Meet in the children's wing by 9:45am and they will return by 2pm. A co-Chaperone is needed if a parent would like to join them. This event is \$15 and don't forget to bring socks! You can sign up by emailing Kaci at kacibrasher@gmail.com.

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 Feb 21st. Interested? Send an email to kacibrasher@gmail.com to get the registration process started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1	1st Sunday in SS Rotation (Mary and Martha)	February 21	Deadline for exit 456 forms
February 16	4th/5th Fellowship to go Bowling and Chow Town	February 27	Preschool Pajama Party 6:00pm.
February 17	Pancake Supper (Benefits Youth)	March 15	Church Wide Skate Party (more info to come)
February 18	Ash Wednesday (no midweek activities)	March 13-14	Exit 456
February 20	Bargains on the Bluff		

STUDENT MINISTRY

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY. We have two Super Bowl Parties, across the street from each other. Both parties start at 5pm and end promptly at the conclusion of the game. Middle School students are invited to the Turner home at 3834 Carisbrooke Circle. High School students are invited to the Adams home at 3833 Carisbrooke Circle. Please send/bring a snack to share. We'll provide pizza and drinks. Students are responsible for their own transportation and, once they arrive, students may not leave the party and return later.

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).

SAVE THESE DATES *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - 5-7pm* on Tuesday, February 17th and the *Silent Auction - Friday, March 6th*. Check the "News of the Week" section for details on how to support these important fundraisers for our student ministry. As we get closer to time, your family will be contacted via email with information on how to serve as a student or parent volunteer.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 1, 10:00am	Sunday School & Confirmation Class in the Youth Wing
Sunday, February 1, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, February 1, 5:00pm	Super Bowl Party (details above)
Wednesday, February 4, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Hall & Gym
Wednesday, February 4, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BIBLE STUDY with Charlie Trucks coming soon...
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jack Owens, retired, FBI, will be here - Hoover, JFK, Selma, Cuba.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11

VALENTINE CARDS - to our sick/shut-in. Meet in the Library 11:00am.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Valentine Party Celebration - program by Alice Marie and Randy Morrison. Bring a Valentine for your secret pal.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14

BPUMC RED HAT VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON with Mary Jane Wesler. Call Mary Jane, 979-8047, for reservations.

SATURDAY MAY 24

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY with former President Jimmy Carter, Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Ga. Over-night at the historical Windsor Hotel in Americus, Ga. Traveling by tour bus.

SUNDAY MAY 25

Special Moment with Jesus

"May GOD be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us."

-Psalm 67: 1



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(205) 822-0910

Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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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, bartst@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 February 1—February 7

Sunday, February 1

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

Tuesday, February 3

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
5:30 pm Community Ministries
6:30 pm Building Committee

Wednesday, February 4

9:00 am Food Pantry
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, February 5

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

SUNDAY, February 1, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

"Taking Care of our Elders"

(Scripture - Genesis 27:1-29)

Rev. Mike Holly

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality

Cross

8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Ruskin Gold
Acolytes

8:45 Ellie Pomeroy 11:00 Preston Scott
Greeters: Fisherman

Meals on Wheels February 4:

David & Laura Fugit

Food Pantry February 4: Becky McCrary

MIDWEEK MENU: February 4th

Pork loin, scalloped potatoes, peas, baked chicken,
baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 25, 2015

Children/Youth	128/77
Morning/Evening Worship	615/27
Weekly Operating Needs*	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$20,968.00
2015 Operating Budget*	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date*	\$108,100.00
Received to Date	\$95,122.11
New Members in 2015	5

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$2,681.67
Received to Date	\$631,170.19

**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.