



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter March 1, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Lent is a gift from the church's calendar to each and every one of us. We are invited each year to take this holy season as a time of introspection and reconciliation. And this year, we are invited to look within our hearts and minds as we walk the Path to the Empty Tomb.

This past Sunday we looked at how each of us must be willing to let go if we are to walk on this path with Jesus. This Sunday, we turn to the beginning of Mark's Gospel to read how Jesus was baptized and to hear John the Baptist's call for people to turn their lives around so that they will be ready for Jesus and his ministry. The second stepping stone along the path for this Lent is the step of "turning around."

If you know of anyone who is interested or intrigued about the Christian faith or in being a follower of Jesus, this would be a great Sunday to invite them to worship. And as always please know that your church family is praying for you as you grow in your faith and as you journey along the Path!

Easter Love Gift

At Bluff Park UMC the Lenten season is the time of year when we receive our Easter Love Offering for missions. The Easter Love Offering supports several ministries and missions that we as a church are involved in. Your generosity allowed us to do a great many things in 2014. We would like to do as much or more in 2015. We want to make a difference in the lives of many people as we support projects that are consistent with the "food, water, shelter" mission emphasis that the church has established. Please mark your check Easter Love Offering so that we can make sure that it goes to the right place. Your generosity will make a great difference for many people. Thank you in advance.

Bluff Park UMC Missions

2014 Easter Love Gift Distribution

Total Received: \$17,829.00

Ministries

Amount Approved

LOCAL

Greater Birmingham Ministries	\$1,319.00
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$1,319.00
Firehouse Shelter	\$1,319.00
First Light	\$1,319.00
McCoy Adult Day Care	\$1,319.00
P.E.E.R.	\$1,319.00
Church of the Reconciler	\$1,319.00
Urban Ministry, Inc.	\$1,319.00
Meals on Wheels	\$1,319.00
United Community Centers, Inc.	\$1,319.00

Total

\$13,190.00

NATIONAL

S. E. Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission	\$1,319.00
Appalachian Service Project	\$1,319.00

Total

\$2,638.00

INTERNATIONAL

Never Thirst (in conjunction with New Light class)	\$2,001.00
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Total

\$2,001.00

Grand Total

\$17,829.00

News of the Week

HELP STOP HUNGER NOW!

On April 13th and 14th Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack 250,000 nutritious meals to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now, an organization dedicated to eradicating world hunger. You can visit their website at www.stophungernow.org. There will be an informational meeting during the Sunday School hour on March 8th in the Chapel. You are invited to attend to learn more about this important project.

SPECIAL THANKS

The BPUMC youth and Student Ministry staff would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who came to Our Pancake Supper Fundraiser! We raised over \$800 for our summer trips, and we had a great time doing it. A special thanks to Marvin Broome and the rest of the men who prepared our meals.

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am for a service of prayer. We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary as we prepare ourselves to meet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

LITTLE IMAGINATIONS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2015-16 school year has begun. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a wonderful

preschool program for their little one, visit the website for more information about how to sign up for next fall.

bluffparkumc.org/children/little-imaginations

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: May 3, 10, 17, and 31. Check in with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, March 8th, from 7:30am–12:30pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life. A Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID is required to make a donation. To schedule an appointment to donate call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at RedCrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Shirley White—Golden Living
Joe White—Golden Living
Charlotte Word—Brookwood
Bill Walker—St. Vincents

LEGACY GALA

Sunday Is the Final Day to Get Your Tickets!

Come dance the night away for a good cause at this year's Legacy Gala at The Club, on March 6th!

This Sunday, March 1st, is the last day to buy your tickets (they will NOT be sold at the event!) Get your tickets in the narthex before or after each service this Sunday or email Megan Wise at megan.f.wise@gmail.com to reserve your tickets!

All proceeds from this year's FUNdraiser go to the following Mission Initiatives:

- Imagine No Malaria
- Monthly Children's Missions Projects
- High School and Junior High Mission Trips

Items to bid on include, but are not limited to, beach vacations, cakes, exercise packages, cookies, sports memorabilia and a pew for Christmas on the Bluff! We can always use more items! Contact Megan Wise at megan.f.wise@gmail.com to donate.

Remember, Sunday is your last opportunity to purchase tickets for this year's Gala. There will be a table in the Narthex before and after services or you can contact Megan Wise to reserve your tickets.

GOING ONCE

Friday March 6th 7-11 pm

GOING TWICE

The Legacy Gala

Tickets

- Single - \$42
- Youth - \$30
- Couple - \$80
- Family Max \$110
- Table of 10 - \$450

SOLD!

Food

Music

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Luke 24:5c "He is not here, but has risen." This week we will begin our unit on "The Empty Tomb." We will gather together before dividing into classes and talk about how surprised the three women were when they discovered the tomb of Jesus to be empty. Volunteers will be asked to act out the body language they may have used. Thank you to this month's volunteers: Lori Redding, Betsy McGriff, Peggy White, Laura Williamson, Michele Godwin, Meredith and Chris Lagan, Melissa Mann, Penny Williamson, Stephanie Williamson, Bill Pearson, Julie Adams, Diana Logan, Donna Prudhomme, and Sarah Chavez. Thank you for leading our kids this month!

It's Easter Egg Time!!! Pick up a bag of empty Easter eggs from the Narthex and entrance to the Fellowship Hall, fill them with yummy treats (no nuts, peanut butter, or money please), and bring them back for our Easter Egg Hunt no later than March 29th. There will be drop off locations located conveniently by the office entrance, the narthex, the fellowship hall, and the playground entrance. The Easter Egg Hunt is a major community event. Thank you for your support!

4th/5th Fellowship be heading to exit 456 (Sumatanga) on Friday March 13th at 4pm and will be back Saturday March 14th by 5pm. Please keep all our attendees and chaperones in your prayers: Kaci Brasher, Tosh Kirchkov, Jonathan Kerns, Matt Lagan, Clayton Marshall, John-David Shanlever, Josh Pearman, Will Thompson and Davison Dover .

The Legacy Silent Auction and Gala is March 6th. Please help raise funds for our children's mission projects by contributing \$10 gift cards or biddable items. You can bring these items to the office this week from 9am-4pm or to the third floor on Wednesday Evening. Please mark items "Megan Wise" or "Legacy Auction Donation" and have them here by 3/5/2015 12pm. Thank you so much for your contribution!

A super big THANK YOU goes out to the men and women that helped make this season's Bargains on the Bluff our best ever! The fun and fellowship that we have during this event makes the time fly and the work easy. You are the reason why it is so successful!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1	First Week "The Empty Tomb"	April 1	No-Mid Week (Children's Choir will rehearse)
March 15	Church Wide Skate Party 5-7 Roller Motion	April 4	Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast 9am
March 13-14	Exit 456	July 13-17	VBS "Everest"
March 29	Palm Parade (8:45am and 11:00am)		

STUDENT MINISTRY

LEGACY GALA & SILENT AUCTION, FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH. Proceeds from this year's Legacy Gala will go towards mission projects throughout our church. That means that if your child is going on the MS Mission or ASP Mission Trip this summer, then your family could have a significantly discounted trip cost! Here's how you can help make the fundraiser a success:

Buy a ticket to the Gala: You can purchase individual tickets or a table in the narthex of the sanctuary before Sunday morning worship—this Sunday is your last chance to purchase tickets.

Donate Auction Items Needed: Vacation rentals, art, sports memorabilia, etc. all make great auction items. Contact Megan Wise megan.f.wise@gmail.com if there is something that you'd like to donate.

Gift Cards Needed: Each student who brings three gift cards (\$10 minimum value) will receive a free ticket to the Gala. Please don't feel that your family is expected to buy a gift card. Consider asking businesses that you frequent and asking them for a donated gift card. Our church office has tax deduction letters that you can give to the business owner, as well, since this is a charitable donation.

Save These Dates: *Confirmation Sunday*, April 12, *Senior Recognition Sunday*, May 17, *Band Tour (tentative)*: Friday-Tuesday, May 29-June 2, *MS Mission Trip (tentative)*: Sunday-Friday, June 21-26, *ASP Mission Trip*: Sunday-Saturday, July 5-11, *Beach Retreat*: Friday-Monday, July 31-Aug 3.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 1, 10:00am	Sunday School & Confirmation Class in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 1, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, March 1, 5:00pm	Student Small Groups
Sunday, March 1, 6:00pm	HS Catchphrase & MS Kickball
Wednesday, March 4, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Hall & Gym
Wednesday, March 4, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MARCH 5

SHEPHERD'S CENTER – "BONANZA" Bible Study 10:00am with Charlie Trucks. Bridge, Rummikub, Short Stories, Funny Stories, Knitting, Exercise and more. Everyone invited for a fun morning.

TUESDAY MARCH 10

MYSTERY DAY TRIP??? Fun and lunch...call Betty.

APRIL EVENTS

Cooking Classes each Wednesday starting April 8th with Jon McClure, Author and Publisher of Alabama's Best Restaurants CookBook and maybe a surprise or two.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY WITH JIMMY CARTER, OUR 39TH PRESIDENT

Saturday June 6 – Sunday June 7. Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Ga. Tour his Museum, School, Family Home, Peanut Farm, plus a side trip to Andersonville. Overnight at the historical Windsor Hotel in Americus, Ga. Traveling by tour bus. Cost: \$220.00 includes everything but Saturday lunch

Special Moment with Jesus

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." -Philippians 4:13



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Pastors

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Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org

Director of Worship Music,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist, Jamie Davis

Preschool Director,

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of March 1—March 7

Sunday, March 1

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am State of the Church
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Evening Worship Service

Monday, March 2

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, March 3

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Pantry on the Bluff
4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study
5:00-6:30pm Dinner
5:30 pm Disciple 1
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Bargains on the Bluff Committee
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, March 5

7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Handbell Choir

Friday, March 6

7:00 pm Legacy Gala/Silent Auction

Saturday, March 7

4:00 pm Covenant Class Party

SUNDAY, March 1, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Turning Around"
(Scripture - Mark 1:4-15)
Rev. Mike Holly

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

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Carlisle 11:00 Moore

Cross

8:45 Lauren Gates 11:00 Jonathan Kerns

Acolytes

8:45 Carolyn Thompson 11:00 Caroline Owen

Greeters: New Horizons

Communion Set-Up 5pm:

Betsy Guy

Meals on Wheels March 4:

Schultz/Hardy

Food Pantry March 4:

Kay Adams

MIDWEEK MENU: March 4th

Lasagna, garlic bread, corn on the cob, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken Fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 22, 2015

Children/Youth	101/47
Morning/Evening Worship	501/25
Weekly Operating Needs*	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	**\$34,731.30
2015 Operating Budget*	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date*	\$216,200.00
Received to Date	**\$184,324.67
New Members in 2015	5

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	**\$1600.33
Received to Date	**\$717,470.87

*Provisional figures pending approval of 2015 budget.
**Current Totals Not Available at Printing

**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.