



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
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BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter March 15, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



STOP HUNGER NOW.

Living Our Mission and Making a Difference

Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of all deaths in children under five - 3.1 million children each year. In fact, hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. There is something you can do to change that.

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.

Over the course of two days, groups of volunteers will combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix that includes 23 essential vitamins and minerals into small, shelf-stable, meal packages. The packaged meals are shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages and crisis relief.

This is a multi-generational ministry opportunity. During the event, volunteers work in teams at each packaging station. Volunteers also set up and take down packaging stations and equipment, fill bins with raw ingredients, weigh and seal the bags, box the packaged meals, and stack the boxes on pallets, and load the pallets and equipment onto a truck. If you have a heart to serve, there is something available for you to do during this event.



How To Get Involved

Visit bluffparkumc.org/stophunger to sign-up or make a donation. That link will re-direct you to the official sign-up page for the event. We are encouraging Sunday School classes and ministry groups within the church to participate as a group. But, each person must register individually on the website. If you have any problems accessing the website to register, contact the church office for assistance.

The meal packaging event takes place at Vestavia Hills UMC, 2061 Kentucky Ave.

This event is one of the easiest ways to make a tangible impact on the lives of people around the world who struggle with access to nutritious food. In addition, it is a wonderful opportunity to gather together as a community, and it is fun.

News of the Week

BOARD OF STEWARDS MEETING

The Board of Stewards will be meeting on Sunday, March 15th, at 4:00 pm in the Library.

NAME THAT ROOM CONTEST

The Opportunity Class changed rooms and now room 160 needs a new name, so we're having a contest. Each Sunday School class is invited to submit suggestions for a new name to Catherine in the church office by March 29th—1 submission for every 10 members on your official roll. The pastoral staff will pick 5 names from the submissions and then we'll have a church-wide vote. The winning class will get a \$150 donation to the mission project of their choice and a pizza party!

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.

BPUMC BOOK CLUB SPRING READING

Come join us in the church parlor at 7:15 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month for discussion and fellowship.

March 26 *The Final Note: A Novel*
by Kevin Alan Milne

April 23 *My Salinger Year*
by Joanna Rakoff

May 28 *Age of Innocence*
by Edith Wharton

SPECIAL THANKS

Diane Moore would like to say how much she has appreciated everyone's prayers and thoughts through out the difficult time she has been going through recently.

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, and we would like to do as much (or more) in 2015. Our goal is 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 it goes to the right place. Your generosity will make a great difference for many people.

Thank you.

LEGACY GALA THANKS

The Legacy Gala this past weekend was a wonderful success. Over \$17,000 was raised to support Imagine No Malaria, Monthly Children's Missions Projects, and High School and Junior High Mission Trips. Thanks to Megan Wise, Julia Glass, the event committee, donors, volunteers, and everyone who attended.

CHILE MISSION TEAM

This past Sunday, at the 11:00 am worship service, we commissioned the Chile Mission Team and offered a blessing on their trip. Friday afternoon, they left from the church parking lot to begin a two week long trip. Please keep the Mission Team in your daily prayers over the next two weeks. Pray for the people they are going to serve, and for their safety during the trip.

USHER TAGS

The usher tag box is a little empty. If you have served as an usher in recent weeks and inadvertently taken a tag home, please return it to the usher station. Thank you!

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Shirley White—Golden Living

Joe White—Golden Living

Charlotte Word—Galleria Woods

Bill Walker—St. Vincent's



Easter Lilies

Reserve your beautiful Easter Lily now to remember or honor a loved one at Easter. The cost is \$15.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is March 29th.

In Honor Of: _____ **by** _____
In Memory of: _____ **by** _____

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Luke 25:5c "He is not here, but has risen." This week will be our last on "The Empty Tomb." This week the Zoo room will be turned into a large "Tomb." The kids will come in and sit on the floor. They will be given flameless candles and we will turn down the lights. While we gather in the tomb, we will talk about how God sacrificed his only son for us, and now that he has risen, we should rejoice! 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!

MISSION SUNDAY. Next week (March 22nd) we will have a very ambitious Mission Sunday. We will stuff 2400 eggs with invitations to join us at Sunday School. These eggs will be included in our Egg Hunt on April 4th. This event is historically well attended by the community. Please let me know if you would like to help us with this "outreach" project. Please email me at mhendon@boumc.org to volunteer to help. We will need several people!

IT'S EASTER EGG TIME!!! The 2000+ eggs that we prepared for folks to take home and stuff are nearly gone. We will be working hard this week to get some more ready to go! Thank you to all that have taken them home!! There will be drop off locations located conveniently by 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.

CHURCH WIDE SKATE PARTY, Join us Sunday, from 5pm-7pm, at Roller Motion in Bessemer. The address is: 2474 Morgan Road, Bessemer AL, 35022. Bring you appetite and your socks and come get your skate on. This is a free event open to all! No reservations needed. Food and skate provided! Thank you to Mrs Doris and the Pit Crew for preparing the food!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-------------|---|------------|--|
| March 15 | Third 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) *Easter Eggs Due | | |

STUDENT MINISTRY

CONGRATULATIONS FINLEY AWARD WINNERS - BEN CATHERS & RAY BOYD. Given each year, in the spirit of Coach Bob Finley, to recognize students of exemplary character from each Hoover school in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. The Finley Award is one of the most prestigious honors in the Hoover School system. Longtime coach/educator at W.A. Berry High School (the original Hoover High), Finley led by example and was known for his calm demeanor, integrity and strong faith. This year, two of our students won in their grades: Ben as a junior and Ray as a sophomore. They are great representatives of the many BPUMC students we are proud to call our own.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE LEGACY GALA SILENT AUCTION. Over \$17,000 were raised and a portion of that will go to our student mission trips this summer. We are very grateful for the event committee, led by Megan Wise, all the donors, bidders and volunteers.

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 15, 10:00am | Sunday School & Confirmation Class in the Youth Wing |
| Sunday, March 15, 4:00pm | Holy Ground Team Rehearsal |
| Sunday, March 15, 5:00-7:00pm | Skate Party at Roller Motion (on Morgan Road in Bessemer, FREE skate rental & dinner) |
| Wednesday, March 18, 5:30pm | Hang Out Time in the Youth Hall & Gym |
| Wednesday, March 18, 6:30pm | Holy Ground Worship |

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MARCH 19

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Ada Womack, Poet, Artist, Writer, will take us on a journey of strength, survival and spirituality at 10:00. Our Bible Study, "BONANZA" with Charlie Trucks will be at 11:00 am. Everyone invited.

TUESDAY MARCH 24

DAY TRIP/LUNCH-Avondale and Post Office Pies. Call Betty to sign-up.

THURSDAY MARCH 26

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Geoffrey Dye, Podiatric Medicine, will be here. Bible Study at 11:00am with Charlie Trucks. Everyone invited.

EASTER BASKETS AVAILABLE: - For our sick/shut-in's. Call Betty or stop by the office for a basket. Fill with goodies and deliver to our sick/shut-in's.

COOKING CLASSES: April 8th is our first class with Jon McClure, Author and Publisher of Alabama's Best Restaurants Cook Book. 6:00-7:00pm-Fireside Room.

LADIES MORNING RETREAT: SATURDAY MAY 2, 9:00AM - 12:30PM

Breakfast Brunch, Worship, Music and Bible Study with Becky Walker, Jamie Davis, Doreen Duley, and Delores Hydock. Tickets, \$10.00, will be on sale Sunday, March 22. Look for us in the Narthex.

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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AUTO
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Director of Worship Music,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist, Jamie Davis

Preschool Director,

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of March 15—March 21

Sunday, March 15

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Coffee with the Pastors
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Board of Stewards
5:00 pm Church-Wide Skate Party
5:00 pm Evening Worship Service

Monday, March 16

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am UMW Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 18

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 Choir

Thursday, March 19

7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Friday, March 20

5:30 pm Fisherman Class Dinner

SUNDAY, March 15, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

"Clean Slate"

(Scripture - Ephesians 2:1-10)

Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service

Tina Hardy

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 McDonald 11:00 Footsteps

Cross

8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Patrick Williamson

Acolytes

8:45 Davison Dover 11:00 Emily Toth

Greeters: Seekers

Communion Set-Up 5pm:

JoAnn Huddleston

Meals on Wheels March 18:

Adams

Food Pantry April 1:

Penny Burns

MIDWEEK MENU: March 18th

Hamburger steak, creamed potatoes, collard greens, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

March 8, 2015

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Children/Youth | 79/59 |
| Morning/Evening Worship | 495/38 |
| Weekly Operating Needs* | \$29,189.36 |
| Operating Receipts | \$29,109.00 |
| 2015 Operating Budget* | \$1,517,847.00 |
| Expected to Date* | \$270,250.00 |
| Received to Date | \$269,007.02 |
| New Members in 2015 | 5 |

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Amount Pledged | \$1,083,250.00 |
| Received Last Week | \$3,572.00 |
| Received to Date | \$725,762.87 |

**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.