



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter March 22, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



On Sunday, March 15th, the Board of Stewards met and unanimously adopted Bluff Park UMC's 2015 annual budget. We are budgeting to receive more in revenue than we spend. How could this be? It is because of the generosity of our church members! During the two State of the Church meetings in February and March, we informed the congregation about the situation we, as a church family, found ourselves in. We have wonderful and exciting ministries and missions that touch so many, and yet, we experienced a forecasted loss of revenue in 2015. In response, over 70 families in our congregation either pledged, increased their pledge, or gave one-time gifts of over \$100,000. This is truly a miracle.

At this same meeting, we elected a new Church Treasurer, John Whitcomb. We announced the addition of a new Director of Children's Ministries, Stanley Davidson. Stanley will begin in ministry at Bluff Park in May, and will bring a new energy to our ministries with children. He and his wife will be moving from north Georgia to Birmingham with their young son, Gavin. They are excited to join us in ministry, and we are excited to have Stanley join the pastoral team this summer.

Finally, I want to remind you that Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are around the corner. We are planning exciting worship services, both Sundays, for all ages. We hope you will make every effort to be here. Easter Sunday, in particular, is a day in which many neighbors in our community will come and visit our church. Our hope and prayer is that these worship services will provide inspiration and joy to all who attend – and that God's grace and love will be experienced anew by all! We look forward to seeing you during Holy Week.



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.

News of the Week

DAY OF SERVICE

Our Church Life Committee is organizing a work day to help out neighbors in Bluff Park who have spring cleaning needs in their homes and yards who need assistance to get them done. On, April 12th, from 8:00-11:00 am we'll meet at the church, receive work assignments and then spread out in teams to help on projects like painting mailboxes, clearing debris, mowing the grass, planting flowers, and light housework. Sign-up will begin soon.

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!

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

SAVE THE DATE

The 18th annual BPUMC BBQ is coming on April 11th. Stay tuned for more details!



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.

We are encouraging groups from the church to volunteer together, but *each individual must register separately*. If you have any problems accessing the website to register, contact the church office for assistance. To sign-up as a volunteer visit:

BluffParkUMC.org/stophunger

VISION STEERING TEAM MEETING

The Vision Steering Team will meet on March 22nd, at 6:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

CHILE MISSION TEAM

The Chile Mission Team boarded the church van on Friday afternoon, March 13th, and began their two week long trip. They've spent one week working hard doing repairs and upkeep at a Hostel at El Vergel. Please keep the Mission Team in your daily prayers as they continue their work in Chile. Pray for the people they are serving, and for their safety during the trip.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kathyne and Blake Flippo on the birth of a 6 lb. 14 oz. daughter, Larkin Barnes Flippo on March 12th.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Shirley White—Golden Living

Joe White—Golden Living

Louise White—St. Vincent's

Charlotte Word—Galleria Woods

Bill Walker—Brookdale

Elizabeth Bogart—UAB Highlands



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

MISSION SUNDAY. This week (March 22nd) we will have a very ambitious Mission Sunday. We will stuff 2400 eggs with chocolate and 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. The other 400 will be given to Little Imaginations for their hunts. Please let me know if you would like to help us with this "outreach" project. Please email me at mhendon@bpumc.org to volunteer to help. We will need several people!

IT'S EASTER EGG TIME!!! Thank you to all who took some eggs home. We have prepared nearly 2500 eggs for the "hunt." These eggs are due back on Palm Sunday. That leaves only this Sunday and next to return them (time does fly.) 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. The kids that come have the best time finding those great treasures you prepared for them. Thank you for your support!

4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP The end of the year is fast approaching. There will be an end of the year party on April. All current 4th and 5th graders will be invited. This event will occur during mid-week. More details coming soon!

May 6th we will have a special cross over event for 3rd/4th/and 5th. After we will head down to Holy Ground to have mid-week with the youth.

OFF CAMPUS MISSION PROJECT- On April 18th we will have our first off-campus mission project. Ms Kaci and Ms Melissa will take 15 elementary kiddos to Camp Sumatanga to do some sprucing up for their Summer seasons. Summating will provide lunch and open some activities for us as a thank you. If you would like to have your child to participate please email Ms Melissa at mhendon@bpumc.org to let her know. We will leave BPUMC by 8:30 and will return by 3:30. Parents are also invited and can ride the bus if room is available.

VBS-EVEREST IS COMING! Lets get excited!! VBS is July 13th-17th and will be 8:30am-12:30pm. Recruitment for volunteers has already begun. Please contact mhendon@bpumc.org to sign up. We need teachers, team leaders, snack helpers, sign-in/out help, decorating help, prep help... We have a job for everyone and every schedule! **NEW** this year- Registration will be online **ONLY**. Registration will open April 6th! A big thank you to Sarah Chavez, this year's VBS director! We love you Sarah!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22	Mission Project: Egg Stuff Day!	April 4	Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast 9am	April 29	Midweek end of year festivities
March 29	Palm Parade (8:45am and 11:00am) *Easter Eggs Due	April 18	Off Campus Mission Project	May 6	3rd/4th/5th crossover event
April 1	No Mid Week (Children's Choir will rehearse!)	April 25	Church Wide Mission Project	May 6	Elementary MidWeek on Holy Ground
		April 26	Children's Musical 5pm	July 13/17	VBS "Everest"

STUDENT MINISTRY

CONGRATULATIONS TERRY TURNER III . Terry is a senior at Hoover High School and was recently awarded a Foundations of Excellence scholarship from the University of Alabama. He's currently the second-ranked baritone saxophone player in the state and will be auditioning for the Million Dollar Band this April. (Has your student won an award or been recognized in their school or our community? Let us know!)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THIS SPRING. What better way to share the Good News of Jesus' resurrection than by serving others? We have two service opportunities next month for students and their families:

Stop Hunger Now—You can sign up for morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Want to serve as a family? With parental supervision, children as young as four years old can help. See details in the news of the week. To serve alongside Bart Styes, volunteer for Shifts 10 and 11, on Tuesday, April 14, from 4:00-7:30pm.

Day of Service—Were joining our church family on April 12th, from 8:00-11:00am to help our neighbors needing assistance with Spring chores around the house. See news of the week for details.

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 22, 10:00am	Sunday School & Confirmation Class in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 22, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 22, 5:00pm	MS & HS Small Groups in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 22, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 22, 6:30pm	MS Video Shoot & HS ASP Mission Trip Informational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 25, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Hall & Gym
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY MARCH 24

THURSDAY MARCH 26

THURSDAY APRIL 2

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

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

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Easter Program with Alice Marie and Randy Morrison. Bible Study at 11:00 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 DAY 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH JIMMY CARTER, OUR 39TH PRESIDENT

Saturday June 6 - Sunday 7 Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Ga.

Traveling by tour bus - cost: \$220.00pp includes overnight at the Historical Windsor Hotel in Americus, Ga, tours with step-on guides, transportation, all meals except Saturday lunch and a few surprises Everyone invited - call Betty.



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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(205) 822-0910

Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816

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Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist, Jamie Davis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of March 22—March 28

Sunday, March 22

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Coffee with the Pastors
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Evening Worship Service
6:00 pm Vision Steering Committee

Monday, March 23

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am UMW Hope Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Tuesday, March 24

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 25

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 26

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

SUNDAY, March 22, 2015
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Get Passionate"
(Scripture - John 2:13-22)
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Phil Cartrette

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Chatterton 11:00 Youth
Cross
8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Graham Coltrane
Acolytes
8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Ruskin Gold
Greeters: Vitality
Communion Set-Up 5pm:
Lois Truss
Meals on Wheels March 25:
McDonald
Food Pantry April 1:
Penny Burns

MIDWEEK MENU: March 25th

Spaghetti, fried corn nuggets, baked chicken,
baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the
kids.

Last Week's Record

March 15, 2015

Children/Youth	97/52
Morning Worship	485
Weekly Operating Needs*	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$31,598.82
2015 Operating Budget*	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date*	\$297,275.00
Received to Date	\$300,605.84
New Members in 2015	5

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,638.33
Received to Date	\$727,401.20

**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 en-
trance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.