



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter May 3, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



The United Methodist Church began as a revival movement led by John Wesley, a priest and educator in the Church of England. He sought to reform the Church of England with this "Methodist" movement and eventually his influence did bring about reform after his passing. This movement did, however, create a new denomination in the colonies that became the United States under the leadership of Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury.

By the way, did you ever notice that the United Methodist bookstore, Cokesbury, is the combination of the last names of Coke and Asbury? Francis Asbury was said to have come into Northern Alabama and visit churches under his leadership.

One of the many important documents that John Wesley left behind for Methodists is a summary called The Character of a Methodist, which sought to solidify for us "our identity as genuine and fruitful disciples and followers of Christ." In it, he says that a Methodist: Loves God, Rejoices in God, Gives thanks, Prays constantly, and Loves others.

As we continue in our sermon series on United Methodism, these five points can be markers for us all as to how we live out our common faith!

VBS 2015 - EVEREST!

Excitement is building in Children's Ministry!! Vacation Bible School for summer 2015 takes place July 13th-17th. Daily sessions will run from 8:30am-12:30pm.

New this year is an exclusively online registration process. Registering online will streamline the process for parents and staff. To register visit:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/VBS2015>

The cost is \$10 per child for up to two children. Three or more children is just a flat \$25 family rate. Payment is due by the first day of the event.



News of the Week

BECOME A CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

The Children's Ministry (Preschool-5th grade) is recruiting Sunday school teachers for the coming school year (August 2015-May 2016). They are also in need of volunteers for Children's Church during the 8:45 and 11:00 worship services. If you are interested in volunteering in either of these settings, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

BUNDLES OF HOPE DIAPER BANK

Last October ladies from Mountain Chapel UMC wanted to help families with diaper need in the Birmingham area. Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank began from their commitment to help meet this need. The mission is to raise community awareness and provide families experiencing financial hardship with an adequate and reliable supply of diapers free of charge. In just 2 short months, over 6000 diapers were donated by church members to meet the needs of families screened by the United Way Community Food Bank. Come to dinner and hear their story and see what we can do to help with this timely issue. Monday, May 18, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Sylvia Sumners by May 12. 824-9902 or ssumners@bellsouth.net

VETERANS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Bluff Park UMC is in the early planning stage of a new ministry reaching out to War on Terror Veterans (WOTV). While we will always embrace everyone as a guest, our journey to provide a Promise Home for autistic adults has proven our willingness to be a safe haven of hope, love, and compassion for those with unique needs. Our War on Terror Veterans are a group who need such special attention. We are looking for members of the congregation interested in helping "birth" this new community outreach program to welcome all veterans—specially those with physical or invisible wounds. If you are interested in learning more about this new ministry opportunity, please contact Stretch Dunn by email (dunnst@bellsouth.net) and leave the phone number you wish to be contacted on so he can follow-up with you.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On May 6th, during the final MidWeek Meal and Fellowship before we break for summer, there will be a special opportunity to welcome Stanley Davidson to Bluff Park UMC. Stanley is joining the staff here as the Director of Children's Ministry. Come join us, say hello, and get to know Stanley.

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: July 19, 26, and August 16, 23, and 30. Check with the office for other

available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Laura Lee Boren—St. Vincent's



HELP THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL

The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, through its disaster-relief arm and in conjunction with longtime local and international partners and Nepal-based Global Ministries missionaries, is responding to the devastating earthquake that rocked Nepal on April 25th.

On April 27th, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Global Ministries' relief and development unit, approved a grant of \$90,000 for international partner GlobalMedic to bring sorely needed clean water to survivors through provision of household and public water-filtration units.

Global Ministries has been in mission with the people of Nepal for a long time and this relationship will be an avenue of blessing for the disaster response in the area. All five Global Ministries missionaries serving in Nepal, and their families, have reported that they are safe.

Natural disasters touch our hearts and call us to respond with God's grace and mercy. Here are some ways that you can help:

- Pray for all who have been impacted by this emergency: for the people of Nepal, for Global Ministries and UMCOR partners at work on the ground there, and for Global Ministries' five missionaries and their families assigned to serve there.
- Give to UMCOR International Disaster Response, Advance #982450. Your gifts to UMCOR International Disaster Response make it possible for UMCOR to respond quickly to emergency situations through our local and international partners. Visit: bluffparkumc.org/nepalquake
- Stay informed. Visit www.umcor.org and www.umcmmission.org for updates and developments regarding Global Ministries' and UMCOR's response to and accompaniment of survivors.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WELCOME MR STANLEY DAVIDSON OUR NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTER! The kids have prepared a "Flat Stanley" as a welcome card for you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4) This week we will dive right in to our next unit, "Pentecost." We will talk about the festival of Shavuot, why the disciples were gathered together, and attempt to replicate their experience of witnessing the presence of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to the "New Light Class" for leading!

VBS 2015—EVEREST! WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH THE TOP! With a 5 member leadership team and an increased budget, this year's VBS will be the best we've ever had! We need teachers, team leaders, snack helpers, sign-in/out help, decorating help, prep help... We have a job for everyone and every schedule! Go to <http://vols.pt/fNszBT> to sign up. New this year! Training videos for most positions!

THE FINAL MIDWEEK FOR THE 2014/2015 YEAR IS THIS WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH. Here is a schedule for 5K-5th grade. Please remember the sign-in/out board will follow the kids. 5K-2nd-5:15-5:45-Gym Time, 5:50-6:20-Choir on the playground, 6:25-7:30-Worship in the Youth Hall. 3rd-5th-5:15-5:45-Gym Time, 5:20-6:20-Cooking with Charlotte in the Fireside room, 6:25-7:30-Worship in the Youth Hall.

4K GRADUATION TO THE THIRD FLOOR will be May 31st. Details soon!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS: Thank you to all the parents who helped with the musical. Thank you to all our amazing kids who practiced so hard and did so well! Next week we will have a playground day during choir practice. This is for the 5k, 1st, and 2nd grade only. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th will be at a separate event.

4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP The end of the year is fast approaching. There will be an end of the year party on April 29th 6:30-7:30 on the playground. Word has it ice-cream will be involved. All current 4th and 5th graders will be invited.

MAY 6TH 5:50PM-6:25PM we will have a special cross over event for 3rd/4th/and 5th. Charlotte McCrary will be having a special cooking class just for them. After we will head down to Holy Ground to have mid-week with the youth. **All 5th Graders (AKA Rising 6th Graders) can start attending youth activities on May 31st!!**

PRESCHOOL NEWS: On the first Sunday of every month the preschool kids will have a Mission Sunday. This Sunday (May 3rd) they will be making Teacher Appreciation cards to take home for their teachers!

SPLISH SPLASH! THE PRESCHOOL SPLASH PARTY is Tuesday June 9th from 10am-12pm. Bring a chair and come join the fun on the preschool playground. Register online at the church website!

VBS 2015-EVEREST IS COMING! Let's get excited!! VBS is July 13th-17th and will be 8:30am-12:30pm. *NEW this year- Registration will be online ONLY.* Go to BluffParkumc.org/VBS2015 to register! Cost is \$10 per child for up to two children. Three or more children is just a flat \$25 family rate. Payment is due the first day of the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3	First Week of Pentecost	May 31	5th Grade to start worship with the youth
May 5	Special Final MidWeek	June 9	Preschool Splash Party!
May 31	4K Graduation to the Third Floor	July 13-17	VBS "Everest"

STUDENT MINISTRY

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY IS COMING SOON. We will recognize our graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 17th with a breakfast in the fellowship hall at 10am and during worship at 11am. Make sure that your student is included in our program by contacting Becky McCrary at mccrary.becky@gmail.com if you have not yet confirmed your participation.!

PICK UP YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR. There's so much going on in June, July and August. The Ice Cream Social, Band Tour, Mission Trips, Magic City Tribes, Beach Retreat and more. Be sure to pick up your four-page, color-coded Student Ministry Calendar in the Youth Wing so you don't miss a thing.

SAVE THESE DATES: *Senior Recognition Sunday*, May 17, *Band Tour*: Sunday-Wednesday, June 7-10, *MS Mission Trip*: Sunday-Friday, June 21-26, *ASP Mission Trip*: Sunday-Saturday, July 5-11, *Beach Retreat*: Friday-Monday, July 31-Aug 3.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 3, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, May 3, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
	No Other Afternoon/Evening Youth Programming
Wednesday, May 6, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, May 6, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Wing
Wednesday, May 6, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship (last of the spring!)
Sunday, May 10, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
	No Afternoon/Evening Youth Programming on Mother's Day

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 7

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Civil War Gardening by Jason Kirby, Botanical Gardens. Everyone invited.

THURSDAY MAY 14

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Niki Sepsas, slide presentation.

SAT-SUN JUNE 6-7

SUNDAY SCHOOL with Jimmy Carter, our 39th President Plains, Ga. Over-night at the Historical Windsor Hotel In Americus, Ga. Join us for a week-end with the Carter Family. Cost: \$220.00pp. Includes everything but Saturday lunch. Payment due Friday 15. Call Betty.

TUESDAY JULY 14

TUPELO, MS - Elvis's Hometown Tour. Church, School, Hardware Store, Auto Museum and much more. Cost: \$80.00pp includes Breakfast, Lunch, Admissions, Tour Guide, and Bus.

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 5

MACKINAC ISLAND - A week of Fun, Excitement, Tours, Ferry Rides, and Surprises. Cost: \$800.00-900.00pp. Call Betty.



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Pastors

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



The Week of May 3—May 9

Sunday, May 3

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Evening Worship

Monday, May 4

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, May 5

7:00 am Becky Walker's Bible Study

Wednesday, May 6

9:00 am Food Pantry
4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study
5:00-6:30pm Final Dinner of Semester
5:30 pm Disciple 1
6:00 pm Welcome Stanley Davidson
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, May 7

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, May 8

6:00 pm Friendship Class Dinner

SUNDAY, May 3, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"METHODISM: Do You Get A Choice?"
(Scripture - Romans 8:31-39)
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Tom Duley

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Carlisle 11:00 Moore

Cross

8:45 Carolyn Thompson
11:00 Penny Rose Pearson

Acolytes

8:45 Ellie Pomeroy 11:00 Caroline Owen

Greeters: Fisherman

Communion Set-Up 5pm: Betsy Guy

Meals on Wheels May 6: Moore
Food Pantry May 6: Becky McCrary

MIDWEEK MENU: May 6th

Fried chicken, rice, lima beans, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

April 26, 2015

Youth	52
Morning Worship	490
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$18,362.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$453,441.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$475,582.66
New Members in 2015	9

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$5,446.67
Received to Date	\$749,699.87

**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.