



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter May 17, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



In the first church I served, I gained a nickname that revealed the way that members cared for me, but also showed some limitations. I was alternatively known as “little pastor” and “baby pastor.” I had two senior pastors - one of whom I outweighed by about 30 pounds, the next of whom I outweighed by about 80 and was about 6 inches taller than. Despite all this, I was “the little pastor.” It was a very loving and supportive nickname, but, eventually, I sensed some of the limitations of being the “baby pastor.” It sometimes felt like I would always be a child to them, that I could never come across as a “big pastor” with “real” opinions about the direction of the church, particularly when they weren’t popular opinions. I in some ways just wanted to “grow up.” I imagine that many of our graduating seniors have a similar feeling about “growing up” and living on their own.

This Sunday, we will talk about the “cloud of witnesses” of Hebrews 11 and the subsequent admonitions in Hebrews 12. Hebrews 11 is a list of people throughout the ages who were faithful to God. The support of other Christians is emphasized. Chapter 12, however, emphasizes that we are still at times treated as “children,” with all the discipline and needed growth that implies.

As Christians, we love each other as fellow children of God, each called by God to specific tasks as “grown up” Christians. In the “cloud of witnesses”, we are cheered on by Christians of all ages, and we take our part in cheering for others. Yet, we also remain children, in need of parenting by God who calls us to grow up more and more like Christ. In many ways, we are all “little Christians,” growing up into the full stature of Christ.

So as a “little pastor,” I look forward to serving with all of my fellow “little Christians” as we grow up to be like Christ, all the while serving in the “grown up” ways that God has for us.

Peace,

Xtphz

Ice Cream Social

Special Farewell Event for the von Herrmanns
June 7th, 2015 @5pm

Mark your calendar. On June 7th at 5pm we will have our annual Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall. This year’s event is going to be a special time for us as a church family to gather with the von Herrmanns and wish them well as Peter leaves to take on his new role as the pastor of Center Point First United Methodist Church.



News of the Week

BLOOD DRIVE

On Sunday, May 24th, from 7:30am-12:30pm, we will host a Blood Drive in the gym. Please make plans to share the gift of life! You can make an appointment to donate by visiting the Red Cross website: www.redcrossblood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.

BPUMC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

As we honor our graduating seniors this week, we are reminded that it is time to submit scholarship applications for this year. Forms can be downloaded from the website at:

bpumc.org/scholarship-form

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the our scholarship funds, please contact the church office for a donation form.

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.



Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors

Sumner Elizabeth Adams
Savannah Nicole Avant
Cristan Lee Dover
Rilee Savannah Garrett
Derricco Shambray
Terry David Turner III
Taylor Elizabeth Williamson

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Laura Lee Boren who passed away on Tuesday, May 5th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Aubrey Baugh who passed away on Thursday May 7th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Ray Glaze—Brookwood

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM!

This School Year has been a big success with the most amazing volunteers!

A big THANK YOU to this years' Preschool and Elementary Sunday School Volunteers! Mandy Black, Sarah Chavez, Lori Green, Jamie Robinson, Donna Prudhomme, Julie Self, Amanda von Herrmann, Kristin Wolfe, 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, Iy Holmes, Theresa Real, Theresa Richardson, Aimie Marshall, Stacey Neal, Olivia Howard, Lori Beasley, Linda King, Stephanie Turner, Georgia Pearson, Ellen Kerns, Zack Edwards, Jessica Hyche, 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!

Thank you to our Wednesday Night Volunteers too! You guys worked so hard and did a fantastic job! Carole Roegner, Betsy Britain, Lori Beasley, Tosh Kirchikov, and Kaci Brasher!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015/2016. Recruitment for Elementary and Preschool Sunday School is under way. If you would like to volunteer, please go to <http://vols.pt/PFzJ4t> to sign up. Thank you for your help!

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This week we conclude our Unit on Pentecost with special Opening led by Mr Stanley. He is planning a special "get to know you" time with the kids. He is also planning on doing some music! Thank you to the "New Light Class" for leading this month!

NEVERTHIRST- Next Sunday (May 24th) will be the last Sunday to bring in all your donations for NEVERTHIRST. Thank you to all the kids that helped make this happen!

FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK! We will be going to a movie, to eat Pizza, and bowling on June 10th, and the Springville Splash Pad on June 24th. Cost is \$30 per child. Drop off begins at 7:30am, pick up ends at 5:30pm. Email Melissa at mhendon@bpumc.org if you would like to register. The field trips are for Rising 1st-6th grades.

4K GRADUATION TO THE THIRD FLOOR WILL BE MAY 31ST. 4K Parents and kids will meet in the 4K Sunday School classroom at 9:50am. They will be taken on a tour of the third floor where they will see a sample of our Science, Art, and Cooking lessons. They will also go over the sign-in process and receive a "goodie bag" from the store. After the tour is over 4K (rising kindergarten) kids will be invited to attend Sunday School on the third floor starting the following Sunday June 7th. They may also choose to join the elementary floor for Sunday School at any time during the Summer, but will be officially promoted on August 16th.

LET'S GO TO CAMP! This year BPUMC will provide free transportation to those rising 1st-3rd graders who would like to attend Day Camp at Sumatanga. The week will be June 8th-12th, this is "Day Camp 1." The Camp last from 9am-5pm. Meet times TBA. You will need to register you kids for camp through Sumatanga at <http://www.sumatanga.org/2015-camper-registration-information.html>. Once you have registered and paid, you send Melissa an email at mhendon@bpumc.org to request transportation.

THE PRESCHOOL SPLASH PARTY IS ALMOST HERE! It is June 9th at 10am-12pm. All preschoolers and their families are invited. Bring a chair and join us for some popsicles, snow cones, and fun on the playground. To register just go to: <http://bluffparkumc.org/children/preschool-splash-party/>. Or, you can email Ms Marcie at nursery@boumc.org.

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 17	Last week of "Pentecost." Special Opening with Mr Stanley	June 9	Preschool Splash Party!
May 20	Children's Council Meeting, 6:30pm, New Light Classroom	June 10	Field Trip!
May 31	4K Graduation to the Third Floor	June 24	Field Trip!
May 31	5th Grade to start worship with the youth	July 13-17	VBS "Everest"
June 8	First Day of Day Camp at Sumatanga		

STUDENT MINISTRY

MAY STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE. The month of May presents unique opportunities for students to celebrate time with their families on Mother's Day and over Memorial Day Weekend but also includes the added stress of lots of tournaments and recitals, exams and graduation exercises. We will continue to have Sunday School as we do year-round. But we will take a break from Sunday evening fellowship activities until June and from Holy Ground Worship on Wednesday nights until September. Our student ministry team will spend this time without programming to prepare for our jam-packed summer calendar.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER, SUNDAY, MAY 31, 11AM-3PM. We'll be in the youth parking lot on Sunday, May 31 from 11am to 3pm raising funds for summer trips through a car wash. Students: Be sure to come to church that morning with a change of clothes. We'll provide lunch and sunscreen.

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: *Youth Carwash Fundraiser*, May 31, *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 17, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, May 17, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
	No Other Afternoon/Evening Activities

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 21

THURSDAY MAY 28

TUESDAY JUNE 2

SAT-SUN JUNE 6-7

TUESDAY JUNE 9

TUESDAY JULY 14

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Audrey Ann and Jim Wilson Aldridge Garden.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - MYSTERY???

CHURCH TOUR And Mystery Luncheon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL with Jimmy Carter, our 39th President. A week-end in Plains, Ga with the Carter Family.

CROSSVILLE, TN Cumberland Playhouse - Ring-of-Fire Johnny Cash story of love, faith, struggle, success.

TUPELO, MS - Elvis's Hometown Tour. Cost: \$80.00pp.

MACKINAC CITY and MACKINAC ISLAND

August 30-September 5

A week of Fun, Excitement, Tours, Ferry Rides, and lots of Surprises. Cost: \$950pp double. Call Betty.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." Proverbs 3:5



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
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 (205) 822-0910

Address Service Requested

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Pastors

- Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
- Peter von Herrmann, 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 Children's Ministries**, ext. 105
- Stanley Davidson, sdavidson@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 May 17—May 23

Sunday, May 17
 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
 9:30 am Graduating Seniors Brunch
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
 Senior Recognition Sunday
 Board of Stewards
 4:00 pm Evening Worship
Monday, May 18
 10:00 am Prayer Shawl
 6:00pm UMW Meeting
Wednesday, May 20
 6:00 pm Men's Chorus
 6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, May 21
 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
 6:30 pm Finance Committee
Friday, May 22
 5:00 pm Fisherman Class Dinner

SUNDAY, May 17, 2015
 8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Between Children and Adults "
 (Scripture - Hebrews 12:1-11)
 Rev. Peter von Herrmann
 5:00pm Evening Worship Service
 Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
 8:45 McDonald 11:00 Footsteps
Cross
 8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Matt Lagan
Acolytes
 8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Mikey Lagan
Greeters: Home Improvement
Communion Set-Up 5pm:
 JoAnn Huddleston
Meals on Wheels May 20: Shultz/Hardy
Food Pantry June 3: Julie Adams

Last Week's Record

May 10, 2015

Children/Youth	96/49
Morning/Evening Worship	545/17
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$32,422.63
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$506,787.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$534,721.29
New Members in 2015	9

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$3,628.33
Received to Date	\$755,263.20

**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.