



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

Newsletter May 31, 2015

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)



**W**e at Bluff Park United Methodist hope that all of you had a blessed Memorial Day weekend, and that you were able to spend time in reflection and develop a spirit of thanksgiving for the ways in which God almighty, as well as many others in military service, have sacrificed out of care and concern for us all. As summer begins, we will celebrate Trinity Sunday as we acknowledge the great mystery that God is three in one (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The concept of Trinity is a defining characteristic for Christianity and divides us from other Abrahamic faiths such as Judaism and Islam. Both of these other faiths say that, as the Shema in Deuteronomy 6 declares, “the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” They take that word “one” literally. Christians understand that God is still one, but has three expressions as God the Father, God the Son, displayed in Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit as we discussed this past Sunday.

The gift of the Trinity is that the one, true God does not stand separated from you and I in heaven. The “triune” God was able to be present within human history in the life of Jesus and continues to be present to you and me through the Holy Spirit. Still, the concept is tricky to understand and even more difficult to teach. This Sunday, we will turn to Isaiah 6:1-8 as we read the familiar words of Isaiah being empowered by God to speak on his behalf. Isaiah courageously responds: “Here I am, send me.” How could Isaiah be so bold as to speak on behalf of God?

I believe the answer lies in the Trinity. God empowers people like Isaiah, as well as folks like you and me, with gifts and graces. At the same time, God empowers us all with the presence of himself in the Holy Spirit. In a sense, God is with us each and every step of the way. In all of your steps this summer, remember that the Holy Spirit goes with you!

*Mike*

## Providing Clean Water

The village of Kako, in the Indian state of Bihar, now has access to clean water. Approximately 32 families will draw water from a new well created with the help of Bluff Park UMC Members. The New Light Sunday School class led the effort to raise the money for this project, which included last year's Fun Run. Combined with a contribution from the Easter Love Gift, we were able to fund the drilling of this new well.

The project was done in partnership with Neverthirst, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to clean water in communities around the world. This new well and pump replaces the village's open well which used to get contaminated frequently with surface runoff during heavy rains. Thank you to the New Light Sunday School class and everyone who helped to make this possible.



# News of the Week

## CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Bring your dirty car to church this Sunday, May 31, and our youth will redeem it with a little soap and water. They will be setup in the parking lot by the youth wing. Proceeds from the car wash help pay for summer youth trips.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2015

Have you ever wondered how important decisions are made in the United Methodist Church? One way that local decisions about the Methodist Church are decided are at Annual Conference. Every church gets to send a church member for every minister as a delegate to this annual conference, usually held at Birmingham-Southern College. This year, we ask for your prayers for our pastors and our two delegates: Becky Walker and Kathryn Coltrane. They will be representing our church.

## SUNDAY MEDIA VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to volunteer on Sunday mornings to assist with recording the audio and video taping of the worship service? If so, contact Andrew Seltz at [aseltz@bpumc.org](mailto:aseltz@bpumc.org).

## 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 look-

ing for members of the congregation interested in helping "birth" this new community outreach program to welcome all veterans—especially 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](mailto:dunnst@bellsouth.net)) and leave the phone number you wish to be contacted on so he can follow-up with you.



## CALLING ALL ICE CREAM MAKERS...

Do you have an ice cream maker and a good recipe? The BPUMC Student Ministries is looking for members to donate some home made ice cream for the upcoming Ice Cream Social. The students will provide the tasty toppings and serve up the treats.

If you can bring ice cream, please contact Bart at [barts@bpumc.org](mailto:barts@bpumc.org) and let him know what flavors and how much you plan to bring.

thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

## 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 and 26 and August 16 and 23. Check in with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Judy Farris who passed away on Tuesday, May 21st. Please keep the family in your

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dimples Sherman, who passed away on Tuesday, May 19th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Anne Travis—Brookdale  
Gaile Ketchersid—Aspire Rehab

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Special Farewell Event for the  
von Herrmann Family  
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. The Student Ministries hosts this event and it also serves as a fundraiser to support their summer activities.



## 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 will begin our interactive video series "Kidmo." This year our theme is "Fetch-Friendship, a journey through Luke." Next week (6/7) we will have a special movie and popcorn day!

**NEVERTHIRST-** We are extending our collection to include one more Sunday. Please bring your donations in. The kids of the New Light Class will be taking our donation to their parents on Sunday! 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](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org) if you would like to register. The field trips are for Rising 1st-6th grades.

**4K GRADUATION TO THE THIRD FLOOR IS THIS SUNDAY, 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.

**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@bpumc.org](mailto:nursery@bpumc.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](http://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 31	4K Graduation to the Third Floor	June 9	Preschool Splash Party!	June 24	Field Trip!
May 31	5th Grade to start worship with the youth	June 10	Field Trip!	July 13-17	VBS "Everest"
May 31	Lesson 1 Kidmo	June 14	Lesson 2 Kidmo		
June 7	Movie and Popcorn Day Movie Title "TBA"	June 21	Father's Day Project		

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**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. Church family: This is a fundraiser for our summer trips. All donations are appreciated! (Weather permitting!)

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH OUR FAST-MOVING SUMMER SCHEDULE.** 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. You can keep track of things via your smartphone or tablet by going to your app store and downloading our app. Just search the key words Youth Wing to find it. As well, 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:** *Band Tour:* Sunday-Wednesday, June 7-10, *Tribes Kickoff Event:* Wednesday, June 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 31, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, May 31, 11:00am-3:00pm	Car Wash in the Youth Parking Lot (This is a fundraiser for our summer trips and any size donation is appreciated!)
Sunday, May 31, 5:00-7:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Monday, June 1, TBD	Battle of the Youth Bands (at Munger Hall on the campus of Birmingham-Southern College)
Tuesday, June 2,	Sports in the Gym & Arts/Crafts in the Fireside Room (All rising 6th graders through HS graduates welcome!)
Super Tuesday, 3:00-5:00pm	All rising 9th graders and up are invited to eat lunch together. We'll text a location that morning.
Wednesday, June 3,	(Transportation not provided.)
HS Lunch Bunch, 12:30pm	

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 28

TUESDAY JUNE 2

THURSDAY JUNE 4

SAT-SUN JUNE 6-7

TUESDAY JUNE 9

WEDNESDAY JULY 1

TUESDAY JULY 14

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER - MYSTERY???**

**CHURCH TOUR** And Mystery Luncheon.

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER**—Mike Clark Owl's Hollow Farm.

**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.

**LUNCHEON BOAT CRUISE**—Join us on the Montgomery Harriott

II. Traveling by tour bus. \$20pp-\$10pp for Shepherd's Center

members. Call Betty.

**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: \$975pp double. Call Betty.

"For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness." Psalm 33:4





## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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### Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104  
Peter von Hermann, 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, barts@bpumc.org  
**Director of Children's Ministries**, ext. 105  
Stanley Davidson, sdavidson@bpumc.org  
**Financial Manager**, ext. 101  
Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org  
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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 31—June 6

### Sunday, May 31

8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
11:00 am Youth Car Wash

### Monday, June 1

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Wednesday, June 3

9:00 am Food Pantry  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

### Thursday, June 4

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

### SUNDAY, May 31, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
*"The Empowering God"*  
(Scripture - Isaiah 6:1-8)  
Rev. Mike Holly

**No Evening Worship Service**

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

### SERVING SUNDAY

#### Ushers

8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur

#### Acolytes

8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Ruskin Gold

**Greeters:** New Horizons

**Meals on Wheels June 3:** Martin

**Food Pantry June 3:** Steve Lawson

## Last Week's Record

May 24, 2015

Children	41
Morning Worship	374
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$17,466.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$560,133.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$571,995.29
New Members in 2015	9

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,656.67
Received to Date	\$758,291.87

**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.