



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter July 5, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



This summer, I am meeting with a new small group that we have started through Bluff Park UMC. Thirteen young couples and I are meeting every other Wednesday to discuss how to develop loving marriages that will last a lifetime. Only five of the couples in this group have direct connections to our church. Many in the group have expressed their thanks for us starting this group because they haven't had an opportunity as of yet in their lives to connect with others their own age for growth, study and fellowship.

As we were studying the nature of relationships and marriage, I asked them to break into groups and do a simple project. I asked them to get into groups and create "personal ads" as you would in a newspaper or on an online dating website.

I gave them permission to be funny or serious. But I asked them to really think about what men and women are looking for in their relationships with a significant other. What was interesting about all of this was that each and every answer had to do with finding someone that they could trust, and someone with whom they could enjoy life.

In the Genesis story, we hear that it was not good for Adam to be alone. He needed a helper. He needed a partner. He needed a companion. Eve was God's gift to him. She was someone whom he could trust. She was someone he could enjoy being with as she was just like him. When we look forward in our lives together, we know that life will be difficult. And yet, at the same time, we know that we will have periods of joy and peace as well. In our future there will be uncertainty and there will also be great beauty. Each and every one of us needs to know that there is someone we can trust, as well as that there is someone with whom we can enjoy life. Whether that is a spouse, a family member, or friend, or even a small group from church – we all need others. May each and every one of us be blessed with helpers and companions for the living of your days!

Mike

Final Week for VBS Registration

Mr. Stanley and the Children's Ministry staff and volunteers are working hard this week making all the final preparations for our Everest VBS program. (The picture on the right is from a video you can watch on the church Facebook page starting Monday!)

VBS this year takes place from July 13th through the 17th, from 8:30am until 12:30pm. There will be games, activities, singing, and a whole lot more.

Our VBS program is open to all rising 4k-5th grade children in our community. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors with kids to come to church.

You can register your child for VBS online at:

BluffParkUMC.org/VBS2015



News of the Week

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS 2015 is nearly here and we almost have all the volunteers we need. *We are still in desperate need of two 4K Crew Leaders and two 5K Crew Leaders.* A Crew Leader greets the kids each day, escorts the kids to their classes, helps maintain order, and assists the teachers with their activities. There is no prep work to being a Crew Leader. There are scheduled breaks and a nursery available for those who need it during VBS. The hours are 8:30am-12:30pm, Monday through Friday, July 13th-17th. All you need are your Safe sanctuaries Training (scheduled at your convenience) and your willingness to get to know these special kids! Most folks that volunteer to be a Crew Leader continue to do so over and over (this job is also called being a "shepherd.") Please consider helping us out this year. It will be a very rewarding and fun experience!



Middle School Students Volunteering with Urban Ministries

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 26, August 16 and 23, and September 6 and 13. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

BPUMC KID'S GARDEN

If you have an elementary aged child who would enjoy working in the garden, join us on Mondays from 9-10am in the Kid's Garden to harvest, weigh, and record veggies; we'll also talk about soil, worms, bees, composting, day lilies, birds and more. Bring an adult. If you can't make it Mondays, join Olivia Howard on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30. Questions, call Julie Adams 822-6516 or Olivia Howard 942-4157.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

For anyone interested in becoming a member at Bluff Park UMC, we are having a new member class on Sunday, July 12th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and visit with our new associate pastor, Rev. Angela Martin, as well as with our senior pastor, Rev. Mike Holly. Coffee will be served and we will share with you a little about our church and about each pastor. If you're interested in getting more involved in the church or in a Sunday School class or even in joining our congregation, this is a great way to find out more about the possible next steps.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Shirley White on the passing of her husband Joe on June 27th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Rollina Oglesbay—UAB
Marilyn Williams—UAB
Louise White—St. Vincent's



Bundles of Hope Diaper Drive

During the month of July, Bluff Park United Methodist Women are partnering with Bundles of Hope to ensure that families experiencing financial hardship have an adequate and reliable supply of diapers for their infants and toddlers. Our Food Pantry clients who qualify will also receive diapers through this program.

How you can help:

- • Donate disposable diapers, sizes newborn - 6
- • Make a financial donation

Designated Bundles of Hope bins will be placed around the church. Diaper donations should be placed in the bins. For financial donations, make checks payable to Bundles of Hope, a registered Alabama non-profit organization. Place checks in the offering plate or leave them in the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VBS DECORATIONS NEEDED! We are looking for the following items to help us decorate the church for VBS: Hiking Rope, Sleeping Bags, Back Packs, Camping Lanterns, Hiking Boots, Hiking Poles, Shovels, Wood Crates, and Christmas Trees. If you have any of these items that you would like to lend us for the week, you can drop them off at the church office, Mr. Stanley's office, or Mrs. Melissa's office ASAP! Please just let us know what you have dropped off so that we can return it to you at the end of VBS. We appreciate your help!

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 (7/5) will be a lesson with Mr. Stanley! Next week (7/12) will be a VBS related Sunday School that encourages the children to become excited about Vacation Bible School!

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. Scholarships are available upon request.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5	Lesson with Mr. Stanley Sunday School
July 12	VBS Related Sunday School
July 13-17	VBS "Everest"

STUDENT MINISTRY

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH OUR FAST-MOVING SUMMER SCHEDULE. There's so much going on in July and August. The ASP Mission Trip, 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...

BEACH RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN. We'll be taking our students to Laguna Christian Retreat again this year, from Friday, July 31st through Monday, August 3rd. The cost is \$175 and includes transportation, accommodations, most meals and a t-shirt. You can register by making a full or partial payment on our church website by clicking on the GIVING tab at the main page. This trip is open to all rising 6th graders through 2015 high school graduates.

PRAY FOR OUR HS MISSIONARIES. Our high school student mission trip is the week of July 5-11. We'll be taking four work teams of students and adults to Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee. Please keep us in your prayers as we repair and winterize existing homes in rural Appalachia.

SAVE THESE DATES: Beach Retreat: Friday-Monday, July 31-Aug 3.

THIS WEEK

Sunday-Saturday, July 5-11	Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip in Johnson City, TN
Sunday, July 5, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
	No Afternoon/Evening Activities on Sunday, July 5

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY JULY 9

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Music by Buddy Majors, Asst. Pastor 1st Baptist Church, McCalla.

TUESDAY JULY 14

TUPELO, MS - Elvis's Hometown Tour. Trip is full - may we add your name to the waiting list?

THURSDAY JULY 16

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Come See, Come Hear, Come Laugh.

THURSDAY JULY 23

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Program at 10:00 by the Season Performers. Exercise, Bridge, Rummikub, Knitting, and Funny Stories at 11:00. Lunch at Noon.

MACKINAC CITY and MACKINAC ISLAND

August 30-September 5

A week of Fun, Excitement, Tours, Ferry Rides, Grand Hotel, Good Food, Good Fellowship, lots of Surprises. Overnight in Indianapolis going and returning. Cost: \$975.00pp double room. \$100.00 extras for single rooms. **Final payment due July 15th.** Call Betty - 4 rooms available.

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS:

"May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans." Psalm 20:4



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816

Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
Angela Martin, amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
Director of Senior Ministries, ext. 103
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Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org
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Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org
Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Jamie Davis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of July 5—July 11

Sunday, July 5
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
Monday, July 6
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, July 7
9:00 am Betty Day Trip
Wednesday, July 8
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, July 9
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
4:00 pm Building Team

SUNDAY, July 5, 2015
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Where Is The Wisdom We Need?"
(Scripture - Proverbs 24:13-14)
Rev. Mike Holly

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

Carlisle 8:45 Moore 11:00

Acolytes

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Caroline Owen

Greeters: Cornerstone

Food Pantry August 5: Theresa Richerson

Last Week's Record

June 28, 2015

Children	64
Morning Worship	500
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$17,053.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$693,498.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$683,078.50
New Members in 2015	13

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,506.67
Received to Date	\$768,023.87

**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.