



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter October 4, 2015

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



This past Sunday in worship, Dr. Blake Horne who serves as the President and CEO of the United Methodist Children's Home presented our church with the "Guardian of the Bell" award during both morning worship services. This award is in honor of our superior support of the Children's Home through the annual White Christmas Offering. Because we have received this award, we also become the stewards for the next year of a 154 year old bell that rang to order the lives of children on the United Methodist Children's Home Selma Campus. The bell, nicknamed "Windy" will be in our Narthex for the next year.

Windy, the bell, was cast in 1858 by the Meneely Bell Company and is given its nickname after Katherine Tucker Windham, the great Alabama storyteller who wrote about the bell in her autobiography. This bell carries so much history and points to all of the young lives that were assisted, healed and helped by United Methodists here in Alabama.

I mentioned on Sunday, that our motivation in giving is not to win awards or to keep score. Instead, our motivation to give and serve comes as a high calling on our lives from Jesus himself. We are to serve others just as though we were stepping into Jesus' place and doing his work. As Christians we cannot step aside and let someone else do the work for the work is ours just as it was His. Just as Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me, for to such belongs the kingdom of God," as he was surrounded by children ~ we as the Bluff Park UMC church family will continue to help and assist children of God in need.

Why We Matter

Over the past 3 Sundays, the sermons have focused on understanding who we are, why we matter, and how we can serve others. If you missed any of them, visit our website or YouTube channel to listen to the recordings. They are foundational to understanding who we are as a church. The core message is that we are all children of God—that is why we matter to Him. As children of God, our service makes us the hands and feet of Jesus in the world—that is why we matter to others.

Over the past 12 months, we have extended the love of God into our world in many ways, both large and small. We have provided a homes for local families through our Habitat for Humanity projects. We fed thousands of people through our monthly food pantry, Under the Bridge ministry, and meals provided to local shelters during weather emergencies. The youth in our congregation repaired and painted homes during summer mission projects. Our children provided backpacks for local elementary students returning to school. And these are only a few of the ways we have served.

You matter to God, and you matter to the world!

"...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

News of the Week

BLUFF PARK VOICE

We are considering having a musical talent show at an upcoming Midweek Meetup night in October. If you would like to participate in a solo act or an ensemble act, please contact Rev. Mike Holly at mholly@bpumc.org. Open to the whole community!

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY

Would you like to learn how to love God—and each other—better? Then join Becky Walker as she leads a unique Bible study focused on "Living" our relationships. The study is offered twice each week on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am (starting on September 15th) in the Fellowship Hall, and Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm (starting September 9th) in the Friendship classroom. Call Becky for more information 987-0404 or 531-7237.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

The pastor's Bible study meets on Wednesdays at 4:30pm. This weekly study meets in Hudson Hall and will focus on the Sermon on the Mount.

THE FINAL COUNT IS IN

The final count for our UMCOR Health Kit mission project is 246 kits. This was a tremendous response, and we would like to thank everyone who donated kits, made financial contributions, and volunteered time to prepare and deliver the health kits.

COMMUNITY DAY of SERVICE



Help Your Neighbors

On October 17th, the Church Life team is sponsoring a day of service in our community. Volunteers from the church will go out into our community to help people needing assistance with yard work, painting, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our neighbors and extend the love of God in a tangible way. Sign-up on our website or in the Narthex on Sunday morning. We also need your help identifying people to serve. If you know someone who needs a helping hand this fall, please contact the office and let us know.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

The Central District of the North Alabama Conference is offering several classes for Lay Servant credit on Friday evening, October 30th, from 5:30 to 9:00 PM, and Saturday, October 31st, from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. The classes will be held in the Methodist Center on the campus of Birmingham Southern College. Classes offered are Basic Lay Servant Class, Preaching, Leading Worship, and Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts. The cost of each class is \$40. Registration forms are on the church website.

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: November 22, and December 13. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Rollina Oglesbay—Columbiana
Elaine Clinton—University
Tom Doran—Brookwood

Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ann Bass by Martha McLemore, Opal Humphrey, Betty Bagby

Nick Glenos by Xanthi Hahamis

Hugh Craig by Xanthi Hahamis

John Medders by Carol Medders

Dr Pat and Lilli Baldone by Xanthi Hahamis

Victoria Sfakianos by Xanthi Hahamis

Angelo Nichilos (Nick) Petelos by Xanthi Hahamis

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elizabeth Bogart by The Friendship Class

Betty Peeler by The Vitality Class

Ann Bass by Brad and Charlotte Word

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Louise Sturdivant by Bob and Marianna Sturdivant

FOOD PANTRY

Ray Glaze by William P. and Hazel Askew

NEVER THIRST

Tom Lyle by Pony Thompson

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP

Jack Lee Baker by The Seekers Class

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ann Bass by The Covenant Class

Ann Bass by Jim, David, and Sarah Perry, Mahala

McKinney, Jolly and Sue Chapman

Peggy Hardin by Mahala McKinney

Honorariums

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jamie Davis by Andrew and Ann Holder

FOOD PANTRY

Tina Hardy by Richard and Patricia Strahan

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Chris and Adam Wilkins by Fred and Pam McDonald

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert and Ellen McClure by The Seekers Class

Please Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every week from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more.

MIDWEEK MEETUP MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Each week a Bible verse will be given to everyone who attends. A prize will be given every week to anyone who has memorized their weekly verse. Then, on the last Midweek Meetup of the fall, any child who has memorized all 11 Bible verses will get to dump a large bucket of slime on Mr. Stanley's head! Will you accept the challenge?!?!? Congratulations to the following 13 children who memorized their Bible Verse for last week! I am so proud of you all: Kate Ryan, Amber Hyde, Harrison Winter, Will Thompson, Andrew Pitts, Lauren Gates, Lily Matheson, Annabelle Eaton, Ellie Blanchard, Ian Chatterton, Mary El Neal, Rebecca Rice, and Jack Hendon!

4TH/5TH GRADE EVENT: On Sunday, October 4th, we will be holding a special event that is only open to 4th and 5th graders! This event will run from 4:00-6:00 and will consist of a Bible Study with Mr. Stanley followed by 45 minutes of Bubble Ball Soccer and Free Play in the Gym. Cost is \$5/child. You don't want to miss it! Please RSVP with Mr. Stanley at s davidson@bpumc.org as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

MISSION TRIP/FIELD TRIP: Our next Mission/Field Trip will be on Monday, October 12th (Columbus Day)! We will be taking the children to help us buy Ham for Bluff Park's church-wide Thanksgiving Mission Project (Ham Mountain) and then we will be going to the Great Pumpkin Patch in Haden, AL. There the children will get to pick their very own Pumpkin, take a Hayride, play on inflatables, tour the petting zoo, and enjoy the beautiful Fall weather. 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 1st-5th graders.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This Sunday (10/4) will be our first rotational Sunday School lesson in October on the escape of the Israelites from Egypt.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4	4th/5th Grade Bible and Bubble Ball	October 28	Halloween Carnival
October 12	Mission/Field Trip		

STUDENT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS THIS FALL. Our Holy Ground team members will meet for about an hour (arrive between 4:00-4:30pm) for warm-up and sound check for that night's worship. All students are welcome to join us and hang out on the youth wing after school. Most students choose to bring their meals downstairs and eat among friends. There will be hours posted on the door to the gym when students have the court as well. From 6:30-7:30pm we have student-led worship which we call Holy Ground. All ages are welcome to join us. We do want to remind families that students must either participate fully in programming, stay with their parents while on church property OR must check out with a student ministry staffer if they need to leave before 7:30pm. Students are not allowed to leave the premises and return during programming.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: WEDNESDAYS THIS SEPTEMBER. Each month at our Holy Ground Worship service we'll have a different theme. Starting out we'll spend our first four weeks exploring the main characters in one of 2014's biggest superhero films. We'll take a biblical approach to finding out what made them tick, what were their weaknesses or challenges, and how did they overcome them with the help of friends - just like God calls us to do as a church family or inside of our youth group. You won't have to have seen the movie to get it.

STUDENT SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE THIS SUNDAY AT 5:00PM. Our middle school groups will focus on becoming strong young men and women of faith while our high schoolers will discuss the intersection of faith and pop culture. MS Guys (leaders: Trey Cathers, Toshi Kirchikov & Sammy Slack) will meet in the Bistro, MS Girls (leaders: Kaci Brasher & Sarah Miller) will meet in the Rec Room and HS Coed (leaders: Ivy Holmes & Bart Styes) will meet in the Cave.

SAVE THESE DATES: Wednesday, October 28: *Halloween Carnival*; Friday-Sunday, November 20-22: *Fall Retreat at Camp Sumatanga*; Saturday, December 12: *Festival of Three Kings*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 4, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 4, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, October 4, 5:00pm	MS Girls, MS Guys & HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, October 4, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 4, 6:30pm	Dodgeball in the Gym
Wednesday, October 7	Hang Out & Dinner in the Youth Wing (after school)
Wednesday, October 7, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7

COOKING CLASS - DELORES HYDOCK will be here with a good story and may be a surprise or two. 6:00-7:00pm in the Fireside Rm. Everyone's invited.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jason Kirby, Botanical Gardens will tell us all about Fall Planting.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - "Its A Wonderful Life" Bible Study with Charlie Trucks at 10:00am.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

CHRISTMAS TRIP Nashville, TN. 3/days 2/nights. Opryland Hotel, Carriage Ride, Hotel River Boat, Gatlin Brothers Christmas Dinner Show, ICE Fantasy, The General Jackson, Dinner Cruise Christmas Show, Holiday Treasures, MYSTERY. Stops????? Cost: \$495.00pp includes breakfast each morning at the hotel, shows, dinners, rides, Atrium, motor coach and much more. Lunch on your own each day. \$100.00 non-refundable deposit due Thursday Oct 15 - balance due Nov. 20. Call Betty.

*****FLU SHOTS--SUNDAY OCTOBER 11*****

Mark your Calendar. Robert, Robert's Discount Pharmacy, will be giving Flu Shots in the Gym 8:30am-12:30pm. Bring your insurance cards.

Special Moment with Jesus

And hope does not disappoint us, because GOD has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:5



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NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
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The Week of October 4—10

Sunday, October 4—Laity Sunday
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Evening Worship
Monday, October 5
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, October 6
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
6:00 pm Church Life Meeting
Wednesday, October 7
9:00 am Food Pantry
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm UMW Mission Study
6:00 pm Cooking Class
6:00 pm Becky Walker's Bible Study
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:15 pm Scream Free Marriage
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, October 8
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
Friday, October 9
12:00 pm Friendship Class Dinner

SUNDAY, October 4, 2015
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"If It's to Be, It's Up to Me..."
(Scripture - 1 Peter 2:9-10,21)
Becky Walker and Tina Hardy

5pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 25
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10: 2-16

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality
Cross
8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Jackson Boyd
Acolyte
8:45 Annabelle Eaton 11:00 Ella Bowles
Greeters: Cornerstone
Meals on Wheels: Fugit
Food Pantry October 7:
Penny Burns/Kay Adams

Midweek Meetup Menu—October 7
Happy Birthday BPUMC: Meatloaf, rosemary potatoes, fried okra, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

September 27, 2015

Children/Youth	83/58
Morning Worship	496
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$24,301.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,040,247.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,030,914.15
New Members in 2015	15

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$3,840.67
Received to Date	\$808,733.54

**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.