



733 Valley Street  
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# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter October 11, 2015*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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

## Potential

If you are a sports fan, you know that there has always been a lot of talk about potential. Potential number one teams, potential Heisman candidates, potential winning records, but, what happens when a player or a team does not play to their potential? Was this caused by a lack of preparation? Or did they decide they were good enough and could get by on past accolades?

The dictionary defines potential as possible, as opposed to actual. It is all about capacity if action is taken.

We have a great church and have done many good things, yet our potential is greater. Think of our Incomes compared to the world, our location in a desirable neighborhood, the freedoms we enjoy, education opportunities, and the many technological tools within our reach. With these advantages, we can do more. Why are we here instead of a refugee fleeing a war torn country searching for a home and food, instead of an orphaned child living day to day scrounging for sustenance, instead of Christian minority in a country threatened by death to denounce our faith? I don't know. What I do know is that we are privileged and full of potential. I also believe to whom much is given, much is expected. Jesus conveyed this message by telling The Parable of the Talents (also known as The Parable of the Bags of Gold - Matthew 25:14-30). In this parable, a master entrusted three of his servants with various numbers of bags of gold - to one he gave five, to another two and to another one-"each according to his ability". The first two servants doubled what was given to them and the third servant buried his and did nothing.

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"Dearest lord, teach me  
to be generous; teach  
me to serve you as you  
deserve; to give and not  
to count the cost."

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556),  
Jesuit founder

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In this parable, we could substitute ability with potential and see that two servants lived up to their potential and the third did not. Like the servants, we all have potential and also like them our abilities (or potentials) differ. I'm pretty sure I never had the potential to be a Heisman candidate. As Children of God and members of Bluff Park United Methodist Church, we can strive to reach our potential. If you have pledged your financial support in the past, thank you. Please consider your potential giving toward the work of your church in the coming year. If you have not pledged in the past and have given as you could, thank you. If you could make a pledge for an amount that you feel comfortable, it would help our budgeting process. If you are someone who has been unable to give financially, please know you are as welcome as any other member and we pray that you will continue to worship with us and your faith be strengthened.

Thanks for all you do,

Joe Campbell  
Stewardship Committee Chair

# News of the Week

## HABITAT ADVENT BUILD

Bluff Park UMC will take part in Habitat for Humanity's Advent Build during which Habitat intends to build two homes. We will participate by contributing \$5,000 toward the cost and providing volunteers on the weekend of November 5-7. You can volunteer all day, on all three days, or one day or a few hours. Please set aside some time during the weekend to put your hands to work on behalf of others.

## HAM MOUNTAIN

During the month of November, we will be collecting canned hams for Ham Mountain. These hams will be distributed through the Bluff Park UMC food bank on December 2nd. Look for the Ham Mountain display in the Narthex beginning November 1st.

## OFFERING OF BLANKETS

We will receive blankets on Sunday, November 15th and Wednesday, November 18th. On November 18th, at our Midweek Meetup we will have our church-wide Thanksgiving meal. As a part of our time together on November 18th we will offer a prayer of blessing for the blankets and give thanks to God who enables us to share generously with others.

## LAITY SUNDAY THANKS

Thank you to our wonderful church family for supporting the ministries of the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness! Also, thank you to the following members of our church who helped in

## 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.

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

the order of worship on Laity Sunday last week: Becky Walker, Tina Hardy, Sylvia Sumners, Marlowe Fort, Bill Pearson, Betsy Guy, Marcus Chatterton, Gene Glass, Julie Adams, Will Pearson, Steve Lawson, and Corey Ferguson.

## 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.

## FUN RUN SUCCESS

The 2015 Fun Run was a big success. More than 60 runners gathered with many more cheering them on, but they did more than run. Nearly \$1000 was raised to sponsor a well, through never-

Thirst, in a village that needs clean water.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Rollina Oglesbay—Columbiana  
Elaine Clinton—University  
Charlotte Word—Brookwood  
Susan Prueter—University



## Fast and Secure Online Donations With EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a new set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. They provide the ability to donate on our website and through a mobile app! After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly using your debit or credit card. You can also make a pledge and track your online giving. You can also make Midweek Meetup meal payments.

To create your online account, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step tutorial videos are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

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

# 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 18 children who memorized their Bible Verse for last week! I am so proud of you all: Jack Hendon, Mary Lynn Williamson, Ella Bowles, Rebekah Rice, Mary El Neal, Natalie Self, Ellie Blanchard, Tate Turner, Ian Chatterton, Annabelle Eaton, Amber Hyde, Lauren Gaites, Alisha Cain, Sarah Howard, Will Thompson, Harrison Winter, Patrick Williamson. And Kate Ryan Black!

**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 sdavidson@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 (10/11) will be our second rotational Sunday School lesson in October on the escape of the Israelites from Egypt.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12                      Mission/Field Trip                      October 28                      Halloween Carnival

# 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.

**MODERN-DAY SAINTS: WEDNESDAYS THIS OCTOBER.** Each month at our Holy Ground Worship service we have a different theme. This month we will take a look at specific Christians from the recent past who overcame failures, took on insurmountable challenges and never gave up as they sought to answer God's call in their lives.

**FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN:** [www.bpumc.org/fallretreat](http://www.bpumc.org/fallretreat) Our youth group will be joining students from Trussville FUMC, Mountain Chapel UMC in Vestavia and Cullman FUMC for a weekend at Camp Sumatanga next month. Cost is \$125 per person (with a discount for students of parents who attended our August training event). This price includes transportation, 2 nights stay, 5 meals and a t-shirt. Dates are Friday, November 20th through Sunday, November 22nd. Reserve your student's spot now with a \$25 online deposit.

**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 11, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 11, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, October 11, 5:00pm	MS Girls, MS Guys & HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, October 11, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 11, 6:30pm	Zombie Tag
Wednesday, October 14	Hang Out & Dinner in the Youth Wing (after school)
Wednesday, October 14, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

# SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14

**COOKING CLASS - Elizabeth Wood,** Consider It Joy Baking, located in Shades Mt. Plaza will be here. The name of her Bakery comes from James 1:2. Everyone's invited. Fireside Room 6:00-7:00pm - hear her story, sample something good.

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER FLU SHOTS...9-10am** in the Gym. Bring you insurance cards.

### 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

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Corinthians 13:4-7



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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BIRMINGHAM, AL  
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### 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  
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  
**Director of Finance and Administration**, ext. 117  
Jason McCrory, jmccrory@bpumc.org  
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**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**,  
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis  
**Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



## The Week of October 11—17

### Sunday, October 11

8:30 am—12:30pm Flu Shots in the Gym  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
5:00 pm Evening Worship

### Monday, October 12

7:30 am Children's Mission/Field Trip  
8:30 am UMW General Meeting  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Tuesday, October 13

8:30 am Maintenance  
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study  
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

### Wednesday, October 14

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup  
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 15

9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
9:30—10:30 am Flu Shots  
6:30 pm Finance Committee

### SUNDAY, October 11, 2015

#### 8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

*"Are You Not Satisfied?"*

(Scripture - 1 Chronicles 22:17-19)

Rev. Mike Holly

#### 5pm Evening Worship Service

Rev. Angela Martin

#### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

#### SERVING SUNDAY

##### Ushers

8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley

##### Cross

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Kate Ryan Black

##### Acolyte

8:45 Mary El Neal 11:00 Tate Turner

##### Greeters: Canterbury

##### Meals on Wheels: Slay

##### Food Pantry November 4:

Becky McCrary/Rosemary Dallam

#### Midweek Meetup Menu—October 14

Baked ham, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

October 4, 2015

Children/Youth	92/49
Morning Worship	452
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$46,453.43
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,066,920.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,077,367.58
New Members in 2015	15

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$88,305.00
Received to Date	\$897,038.54

**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.