



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter October 18, 2015*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**T**he month of October is the time in which we remind ourselves as a church family that our future is shared. What I mean by this is that our future as a congregation is carried by each individual and each household. Each and everyone of us has both an expectation and an opportunity laid upon us by the God who loves us, claims us, and calls us. It is an expectation in that God entrusts His work to us as a part of His family. He enables us as His church to do His work, but He also gives us this grand opportunity to be a part of what He is doing in the world. We do not have to sit idly by as God goes about His transformational work. No, God seeks to include us by the giving of our time, energy and financial resources.

Our future is shared because the only way for Bluff Park UMC to continue to do what we are doing now in ministry is through your support. And at the same time, the only way that we can as a church family add new ministries to make a difference in the lives of all people is through increased support. Over the years, we have seen tremendous acts of generosity as households have realized that they can support God's ministry through giving to the church, however, at the same time, we have seen a drop in the number of households that turn in a pledge card.

We believe that most of the time, people do not turn in a pledge card because they believe that the church already knows what they give, however, in order to be good stewards of what we trust that God will give us, we base our annual budget upon what we know we will receive. Because of this, we have to be very selective as to which new ministers or missions will receive a green light. By turning in a 2016 pledge card, you will be part of helping our church leadership decide what is possible for our church family. You can help us step out bravely into our shared future as we seek to faithfully serve God and to help all people find life and develop a dynamic relationship with God.

We will be mailing you a letter and a 2016 Pledge Card very soon and we hope and pray you and your family will prayerfully consider what you can give to God's ministry thorough Bluff Park UMC so that we can begin planning for our shared future as a place of God's blessing and transformation in the world.

## **Pledge Online 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 make a pledge electronically and track your online giving.

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)



# 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.

## UMW OCTOBER MEETINGS

Hope-Love will meet on October 26, 10 am, home of Odessa Harbor. Contact Jackie Wesson for more information: 824-6264.

Joy Circle is planning a site visit to Glenwood on October 26th. Glenwood is the organization that operates



**Central  
District**

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**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.

**BluffParkUMC.org**

the Promise Home. Contact Julie Adams if you would like to go on this trip: 822-6516, juliead40@bellsouth.net.

Friendship Circle will meet on October 26th at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. Speaker will be Marigene Chamberlain, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Study Abroad Coordinator at Samford University. She was the leader of our mission team that went to Chile and will present a program on the trip. Everyone is invited to this program just show up in the parlor. For more information: Alice Chace 823-2929, achase2929@gmail.com.

## 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.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Susan and Charles Prueter on the birth of a 7 lb. 2 oz. daughter, Lois Lee on October 4th.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—University  
Charlotte Word—Aspire



On Sunday, October 25th, we will begin to offer Children's Church in a brand new way! Starting that day, all Kindergarten thru 5th grade students are invited to a children's worship service on non-communion Sundays that will begin immediately following the Prayer of Confession in both our 8:45 and 11:00 worship services. Children who would like to attend will be led by Mr. Stanley and a volunteer to Hudson Hall, where they will participate in a worship service geared toward them at their age and level. This worship service will consist of prayer, hymns, offering, a children's sermon, and life application of that sermon. The children will then be led by Mr. Stanley and a volunteer back to the Narthex, where they can be picked up as their parents/grandparents exit the sanctuary. It is our hope and prayer that this way of offering Children's Church will be more spiritually nourishing and exciting than the way it is currently offered. We look forward to seeing all the children there!

# 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 11 children who memorized their Bible Verse for last week! I am so proud of you all: Annabelle Eaton, Tate Turner, Ian Chatterton, Mary El Neal, Mary Lynn Williamson, Rebekah Rice, Kate Ryan Black, Lauren Gaites, Harrison Winter, Andrew Pitts, and Alisha Cain.

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL:** The annual Bluff Park UMC Halloween Carnival will be held on Wednesday, October 28th, from 6:00-8:00! There will be carnival games, raffle baskets, prizes, a haunted house, inflatables, a cake walk, food, Steel City Pops, and so much more. Each event requires tickets and each ticket costs 25 cents. All proceeds support the children's ministry, youth ministry, and Little Imaginations Preschool. Come in costume and have a great night of fellowship and fun with your friends and neighbors in Bluff Park!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK:** This Sunday (10/18) will be our third rotational Sunday School lesson in October on the escape of the Israelites from Egypt.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28 Halloween Carnival

# STUDENT MINISTRY

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL IS COMING!** The student ministry will be planning our haunted youth wing on Sunday evening, October 18th. Then we'll begin setting it up on Sunday, October 25th. Remember: students MUST help with planning and/or setup in order to be part of the experience on Wednesday, October 28th.

**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. 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.

**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 with a \$25 online deposit.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we go leave the summer and get ready for the fall: small groups, Holy Ground worship, Fall Retreat and more. You can keep track of things via your smartphone or tablet by going to your app store and downloading our free app. Just search the key words Youth Wing to find it..

**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 18, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 18, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, October 18, 5:00pm	MS Girls, MS Guys & HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, October 18, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 18, 6:30pm	Halloween Carnival Planning
Wednesday, October 21	Hang Out & Dinner in the Youth Wing (after school)
Wednesday, October 21, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

# SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

**COOKING CLASS** Charlotte McCrary and Friends Halloween Surprises - 6:00-7:00pm. Fireside Rm. Everyone's invited.

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Dr. Bryant Samuel will be here at 10:00am discussing Eye Health Care. Fun Exercise with Katrina at 11:00.

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 27

**MYSTERY FUN TRIP???????** 9:00am - 3:00pm. Call Betty

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28

### HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

**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.

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

## Special Moment with Jesus

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am you GOD; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street  
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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  
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**Director of Worship Music**,  
Lonnie Parsons  
**Organist**,  
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis  
**Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



## The Week of October 18—24

### Sunday, October 18

8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Safe Sanctuary Training  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
5:00 pm Evening Worship

### Monday, October 19

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Tuesday, October 20

9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study

### Wednesday, October 21

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 22

9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
5:30 pm Permanent Endowment Committee  
6:30 pm Building Team Meeting  
7:00 pm Book Club

### Friday, October 23

12:00 pm Fishermen Class Lunch

### SUNDAY, October 18, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
*"The Great Loss"*  
(Scripture - Galatians 2:15-21 )  
Rev. Mike Holly

### 5pm Evening Worship Service

Rev. Mike Holy

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

### SERVING SUNDAY

#### Ushers

8:45 Lawson 11:00 Davis

#### Cross

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Avery Edwards

#### Acolyte

8:45 Vivi Shanlever 11:00 Abbey Gray

#### Greeters: Covenant

Communion Set-Up 5pm: JoAnn Huddleston

Meals on Wheels: Moore

Food Pantry November 4:

Becky McCrory/Rosemary Dallam

### Midweek Meetup Menu—October 21

All Hallows Eve Quiz: Hamburger steak, rice, field peas, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

October 11, 2015

Children/Youth	100/53
Morning Worship	412
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$23,591.18
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,093,593.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,100,958.76
New Members in 2015	15

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$2,713.33
Received to Date	\$899,751.87

**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.