



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter November 1, 2015

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Bluff Park United Methodist Church is part of a story. It began many years ago when people who had moved to Hale Springs began to worship and study together. Their hard work and dedication led to the establishment of our wonderful church. They rallied together, gave generously and served faithfully. They began the story, but those who followed added their own chapters. Each new generation continued to be generous and faithful. Over time, the church grew in facilities, in attendance, and in our scope of mission and outreach. Today, we stand on the shoulders of those generations who provided for us and for our community. Their faith in God through Jesus Christ inspired and challenged them to be the kind of people who created such a wonderful church.

wonderful church.

In order to be faithful to this story, we must continue to be faithful to God. We must continue to be inspired and challenged to grow in our love of God, and to deepen our own spiritual maturity while also serving our neighbor. This is a time of rallying together, giving generously, and serving faithfully, just as it was before, and the truth is, we are.

Last week, we shared in our Facebook Page online how our church is carrying on the story that brought us to where we are today. We shared on Tuesday, October 20th that because of the generosity of our church, we were able to help a single mother with her utilities. We also provided a space to about one hundred singers from the community to share their talents. We then shared on Wednesday, October 21st, because of the generosity of our church, we were able to provide ministries to over one hundred children where they could be touched by the love of God. We also provided pastoral care with our members in the hospital. Finally, we were able to provide groceries for a family of seven. Then on Thursday, October 22nd, we were able to provide a space for senior adults from across Birmingham to come together in learning and fellowship at the Shepherd's Center. We were also able to bless an expectant mother in our community with a gift card to a store so that she could purchase clothes, food and other items for her child.

Your generosity and your service is helping our church to carry on the story of faith at Bluff Park UMC. Thank you!

Upcoming at MidWeek Meetup Schedule

- November 4 Ice Cream Time Machine
- November 11 Bluff Park VOICE (musical talent show)
- November 18 Church Thanksgiving Dinner and Offering of Blankets for the Homeless
- November 25 No Midweek Meetup
- December 2 Family Movie Night



News of the Week

VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EVENT

On Sunday, November 8th, we will have a very special Veterans Day celebration. The evening begins at 5:00 pm with dinner and at 6:00 pm there will be music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band. The program is lead by Stretch Dunn and includes, a tribute marking the 50th Anniversary of the entry of American troops into Vietnam, and an introduction to the new Veterans Leadership Ministry at BPUMC.

GET READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Get inspiration for holiday decorations and entertaining: Tabletops and Trends, Holiday Foods, and Holiday Centerpieces. Bring a favorite piece of your holiday china to the social, and share its history. Presentations by Julia Glass from Bromberg, Rosemary Dallam, RD, and Karen Jenkins from Hoover Florist. The social takes place on Monday, November 9 @ 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$8.00. Childcare is available. RSVP by November 2 to Sylvia Sumners: ssumners@bellsouth.net or (205) 824-9902.

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, one day, or a few hours. Please set aside some time during the weekend to put your hands to work on behalf of others. Contact Tom Duley to volunteer.

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. Ham Moun-

tain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 22nd at 5:00 pm at St. Alban's Episcopal. Ministers from BPUMC, Bluff Park Baptist, Shades Crest Baptist, BP Community Church, St. Alban's Episcopal and Shades Mountain Independent Church will be participating in the service. A reception will follow the worship service.

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. The offering of blankets is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

FESTIVAL OF THREE KINGS

Each year we participate in the Festival of Three Kings event which provides Christmas gifts for local children who might not otherwise have presents under the tree. If you would like to sponsor a child this year, please contact Debi Whitcomb at (205) 979-7626. Information sheets will be available in early November and gifts will need to be turned in by Sunday, December 6th. The Festival of Three Kings event will be held on December 12th, at Birmingham Southern College. You are welcome to help at the festival as well.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—University

New Children's Church Format

We're doing Children's Church in a brand new way! All Kindergarten thru 5th grade students are invited to a children's worship service, on non-communion Sundays, that begins immediately following the Prayer of Confession in both our 8:45 and 11:00 worship services. Children who would like to attend are led by Mr. Stanley, and a volunteer to Hudson Hall. There they participate in a worship service geared toward them at their age and level with 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, to be picked up as their parents/grandparents exit the sanctuary. We hope to see all the children there!

In order to abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policy of our church, we are in need of one adult volunteer for each session of Children's Church. This person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control and leading the worship service. There is no pre-planning required for this volunteer spot. Simply show up and worship with Mr. Stanley and the children! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please sign up here: <http://vols.pt/22XY7w>.



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?!?!?!?

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL: Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Halloween Carnival in any way! Whether you helped decorate beforehand, volunteered with us the night of the event, brought in candy and prizes, or prayed for us, we could not have done it without you. I am proud to serve at such a loving and giving church!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: In order to abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policy of our church, we are in need of one adult volunteer for each session of Children's Church. This person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control and leading the worship service. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot. Simply show up and worship with Mr. Stanley and the children! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please sign up at <http://vols.pt/22XY7w> or contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This Sunday (11/1) will be our first rotational Sunday School lesson in November on the story of Jonah and the Big Fish.

STUDENT MINISTRY

HOLY GROUND IN NOVEMBER - THE FAM As we get closer to Thanksgiving and Christmas, we'll discuss what it means to be part of a family - both the family that we share a data plan with and the family that God calls his own. Our weekly topics will be inspired by Henri Nouwen's great book on Rembrandt's portrait "The Return of the Prodigal." Parents: I would LOVE for you to join us for worship in November!

FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN: 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.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we 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: Friday-Sunday, November 20-22: *Fall Retreat at Camp Sumatanga*; Saturday, December 12: *Festival of Three Kings*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 1, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, November 1, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, November 1, 5:00pm	MS Girls, MS Guys & HS Coed Small Groups
Sunday, November 1, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Youth Wing
Sunday, November 1, 6:30pm	Romans vs. Christians Game
Wednesday, November 4, 5:30pm	Hang Out in the Youth Wing & Gym
Wednesday, November 4, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17

MYSTERY DAY TRIP??????? call Betty.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Niki Sepsas will present a Veterans Day Program at 10:00am. Charlie Trucks Bible Study will be at 11:00am. Everyone's invited.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM - everyone's invited to honor and celebrate our Veterans. Dinner at 5:00, music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band, program by Stretch Dunn, A Tribute marking the 50th Anniversary of the entry of American troops into Vietnam and the Veterans Leadership Ministry.

THE HOLIDAY SHOP and Lunch Call Betty.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - CAROL ARMISTEAD, Actress and Story Teller will be here at 10:00am. Charlie Trucks Bible Study at 11:00.

+SCOTTSBORO UNCLAIMED BAGGAGE.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

Christmas Trip - Opryland - Nashville, TN

3 days - 2 nights at Opryland Hotel, Dinner Cruise/ Christmas Show on The General Jackson, ICE Fantasy, Carriage Ride, Gatlin Brothers Christmas Dinner Show, Mystery stops??? and much more. \$495.00pp - 1 room available. Call Betty.

Special Moment with Jesus

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalms 118:24



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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

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Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
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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 November 1—7

Sunday, November 1—All Saints Sunday
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Vision Steering Meeting
Monday, November 2
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, November 3
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
Wednesday, November 4
9:00 am Food Pantry
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm Becky Walker's Bible Study
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, November 5
7:00 am Habitat Advent Build
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
7:30 pm Sursum Chorda Concert
Friday, November 6
7:00 am Habitat Advent Build
Saturday, November 7
7:00 am Habitat Advent Build

SUNDAY, November 1, 2015
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"The Most Important Thing: Grace"
(Scripture - Romans 5:18-21)
Rev. Angela Martin

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
Carlisle 8:45 Moore 11:00

Cross

8:45 Caroline Marshall
11:00 Penny Rose Pearson

Acolyte

8:45 Lauren Gates
11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson

Greeters: Fisherman

Meals on Wheels: Martin

Food Pantry November 4:

Becky McCrary/Rosemary Dallam

Midweek Meetup—Wednesday, November 4
Ice Cream Time Machine: Pork loins, cabbage, carrots, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

October 25, 2015

Children/Youth	93/54
Morning Worship	455
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$21,963.12
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,146,899.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,149,981.88
New Members in 2015	15

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$3,226.67
Received to Date	\$904,195.54

**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.