



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter November 22, 2015

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



On Sunday, November 15th, we held our second State of the Church meeting of 2015. We shared on Sunday evening that our financial revenue from January to October is dramatically better than the same time frame last year. We are also off to a very good start with our 2016 Stewardship Campaign with 230 pledges already in during the first three weeks of our campaign. We believe that there are at least seventy more families that are about to turn in their 2016 pledge. If you are one of those households, please know that with each and every pledge turned in we are closer to being able to begin new ministries both within our congregation as well as outside the walls of the church in mission as well. While we have not yet reached the end of the 2015 fiscal year, or the end of the 2016 Stewardship Campaign, where we are now is very encouraging!

With Thanksgiving just a week away, we, as people of faith, gather around our collected tables and give thanks to God for all that He is and for all that He has provided for us. During this Thanksgiving, I am particularly thankful for the people of our congregation who have allowed their generosity to flow both into the ministries of the Church as well as out of the walls of the Church into the community and world. To the moment of my writing this article, we have collected 113 blankets for the homeless, about 200 canned hams for those who are seeking food assistance, and we have chosen to provide toys and gifts for 120 children in the Birmingham area this Christmas.

I am blessed to be a pastor in a congregation that cares deeply about our future and for the needs of the community around us. May God bless you and your families this Thanksgiving.

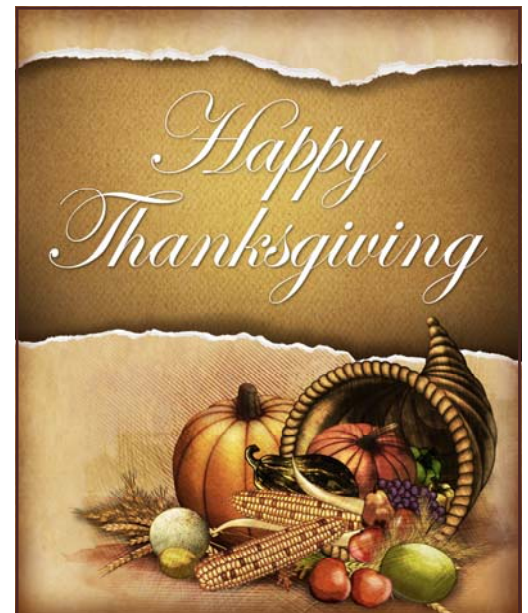
Mike

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.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Thursday, November 26th, we are hosting a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for our Members, Community, and Friends in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00am until 2:00pm. The church is providing turkey, ham, and drinks. Bring a covered dish for 8 and join the fun and fellowship here if you don't have other plans for the day. Contact Betty or call the office to let us know if you are planning to join us.




News of the Week

Bluff Park United Methodist Church
presents
The Sixth Annual Christmas on the Bluff

*Under a
Starry Sky*

Sunday, December 6
6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary



Directed by Lonnie Parsons
with the BPUMC Choir
Featuring Special Guests
Natalie Valentine and Mike Stephens

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The fun and famous Chick fil-a cows are here to help the Little Imaginations Preschool raise money. Their 2016 Cow calendar is now available through our program. Each calendar costs only \$7.00 and features 12 great offers for free Chick fil-A items.

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Come as a family and prepare for the Christmas season on November 29th from 4:00-5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making Advent Wreaths, eating dinner, and watching "A Charlie Brown Christmas!" Cost is \$20 per family and includes Advent Wreath, Dinner, and a family devotional centered around your newly made wreath that can be used by your family throughout the Christmas season. Please RSVP by today, November 22nd by emailing Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org. We hope to see you there!

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 Mountain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer will begin on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:30 AM in the sanctuary. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Thursday morning of Advent (December 3, 10, 17 and 24). The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to Julie Adams, Jimmy Ashworth, Wayne Hanlin, Patsy and Bob Cummings, Alan Word, Kathy Braswell, Otis Bibb, Thelma Stickweh, Evelyn Lawrence, Lynn Jackson, Frances Bellows, Joan Davis, and Olivia Howard - The Gardening Warriors! We did it again. Your knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication to planting the flowers, weeding, watering, mulching, fertilizing, and pruning is so appreciated. You keep our church grounds beautiful for all to enjoy. -Wayne Freeman

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—University



Christmas Poinsettias

Reserve your beautiful poinsettia now to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas. They cost is \$15.00* per plant payable to the church.

Deadline for ordering is December 14th.

In Honor Of: _____ by _____
In Memory of: _____ by _____

Return order form and payment to the church office.

*The plants this year will be a bit smaller than previous years, but no less beautiful!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Congratulations to the following 9 children who memorized all of their Bible verses for the Fall and got to slime Mr. Stanley this past Wednesday! We are so proud of you all: Kate Ryan Black, Harrison Winter, Annabelle Eaton, Mary Lynn Williamson, Ellie Blanchard, Ian Chatterton, Mary El Neal, Jack Hendon, and Lauren Gaites.

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 (11/22) will be our mission Sunday: we will be making Christmas cards to place on gifts that the Food Pantry will be giving out to families at the beginning of December.

STUDENT MINISTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ONE NIGHT FOR OUR HOMELESS & VETERANS Twenty four students and four adults spent last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, outside on our church campus, collecting winter clothing for the homeless and distributing information on our church's new Veterans Leadership Ministry. We were all so moved by the support of our church family. We especially want to thank the Shepherd's Center who provided breakfast. We have just finished itemizing and packing all of the items for distribution to area homeless ministries and our students cannot wait to do this again next year!

HOLY GROUND IN DECEMBER - ADVENT Our student worship service continues after Midweek Meals end. We'll have an Advent-themed series on Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th. Since there won't be dinner upstairs, please bring \$5 for a light snack supper at 5:30pm. Our worship on the 16th will include a Homecoming for all of our college students home for the break. The worship service will continue to be 6:30-7:30pm.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we end the fall and get ready for 2016: Discovery Weekend, Confirmation Class 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: Saturday, December 12: *Festival of Three Kings*; Friday-Sunday, January 29-31: *Discovery Weekend*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 22, 10:00am
Sunday, November 22
Wednesday, November 25

Sunday School in the Youth Wing
NO AFTERNOON/EVENING EVENTS
NO AFTERNOON/EVENING EVENTS

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE - St. Alban's Episcopal Church
THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER for our Members, Community and Friends that will be home alone. Jerry Ryan, of Three-on-a-String, will entertain us with music and lots of laughter. Bring a covered dish for eight and join us. Good food, fellowship a Happy Thanksgiving Day with old friends and the making of new ones. If you are planning to join us for our Thanksgiving Day Dinner, please call the Church office or Betty.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS TRIP
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas Memories
SANTA'S WORKSHOP, lunch and maybe a surprise or two. Go with us for a day of fun and excitement. Call Betty.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15
THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas around The world with Niki Sepsas.
SHEPHERD'S CENTER Santa's Workshop Huntsville Day Trip. Call Betty
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas Party, Santa will be here and a very special Mystery Musical Group???? come see, come hear, come enjoy. The fun starts at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last meeting of our Shepherd's Center until January 7, 2016..

Special Moment with Jesus

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. Isaiah 2:2



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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

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Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of November 22—28

Sunday, November 22

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service @ St. Alban's

Monday, November 23

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00 am UMW Hope Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Wednesday, November 24

6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed

11:00 am Thanksgiving Dinner

Friday, November 27

Office Closed

SUNDAY, November 22, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

*"The Most Important Thing:
Three Truths"*

(Scripture - Philippians 2:1-13)
Rev. Mike Holly

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Chatterton 11:00 Youth
Cross
8:45 Annabelle Eaton 11:00 Ella Bowles
Acolyte
8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Jackson Boyd
Greeters: New Light
Food Pantry December 2:
Kay Adams/Penny Burns

Last Week's Record

November 15, 2015

Children/Youth	95/50
Morning Worship	452
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$22,241.75
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,226,918.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,232,480.23
New Members in 2015	24

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$2,890.33
Received to Date	\$915,565.87

**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.