



733 Valley Street
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205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 17, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

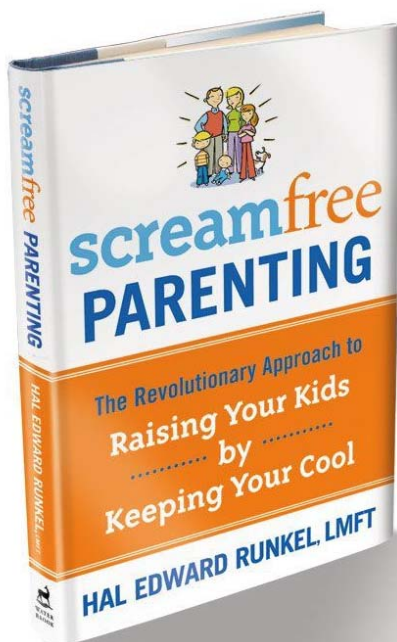
www.BluffParkUMC.org



As we begin a new year, I wanted to share with you that we met another milestone in our Children's Ministry this past Sunday, January 10th. Rev. Stanley Davidson told me Monday morning that we had our highest attendance at Children's Church last Sunday! We also have noticed that attendance in Children's Sunday school has been increasing as well. Please continue to pray for our children, our ministry staff, and for each and every student to be blessed as they grow in their faith.

In just a few weeks, our church will be filled with other young people who will also be growing in the faith. Our youth ministry will host Discovery Weekend starting on January 29th. This important spiritual life retreat is something our students look forward to each year as the older students mentor and guide the younger students in their faith. We also have some young adults who are beginning to invest their time and gifts into our student ministry and that has built some added excitement this year!

Please remember that we have an important event in the life of our church coming up at the end of the month. During the Sunday school hour on Sunday, January 31st, we will hold a State of the Church meeting in the Sanctuary (10:00 am). During this meeting, we hope to inform you of the 2016 annual budget as well as other exciting news about our church and its ministry and mission this year. This is an exciting time in the life of our church! I hope you all get to hear what is in the works.



SCREAM FREE PARENTING SEMINAR

Parenting is not about kids, it's about parents. If you are not in control, then you cannot be in charge. What every kid really wants is parents who are able to keep their cool... no matter what. Easier said than done, right?

If this sounds like you, there's help.

Join us for a Scream Free Parenting Seminar on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm starting January 27th. Sessions will be led by Daniel Seigel, MFTA, M.Ed. Call the office to sign up (group size is limited.)

News of the Week

MISSION STUDY: LATIN AMERICA

On Wednesdays in January, the UMW is sponsoring a church-wide mission study on Latin America. We are exploring the history of the region, its people, and their faith, from pre-Colombian times until colonization and the struggle for independence. Classes are being led by Tom Duley in the Fireside Room starting at 6:00pm.

NEW WOMEN'S STUDY

Rev. Angela Martin is leading this new study on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am in the Fireside Room. The study is titled "Anonymous." Contact Angela for more information.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On January 12th, Tuesday studies start with Adam Hamilton's "The Call"—a six week study which traces the journeys of Paul through Greece and Turkey to Rome. The DVD features Hamilton's unique commentary, which we will follow with group discussion and application to our lives today. We meet every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Got questions? Call Becky Walker at 987-0404, or 531-7237.

STATE OF THE CHURCH

We will hold a State of the Church meeting during the Sunday school hour on January 31st in the Sanctuary. Our church leadership will bring everyone up to speed on where we are with our 2016 pledges and budget as well as providing any other new information as we begin a new year together as a church. All classes are requested to attend.

WESLEY HERITAGE TOUR.

If you are interested in going on the Wesley Heritage Tour to England in May there is still room for you. The dates for the trip are May 10-19. There is also the possibility of extending the trip by five days and going to Ireland. Several of those who are going have chosen to do this as well. If you are interested in going, or if you would like more information, contact Tom Duley.

VIM SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

In September/October of 2015 the State of South Carolina was hit with catastrophic flooding due to Hurricane Joaquin. The recovery effort from this disaster is now in the rebuilding stage. Bluff Park Volunteers in Mission will be travelling to South Carolina to assist in the rebuilding efforts there. The dates are March 13-19, 2016. At this time, it looks like we will be in the Columbia area but this could change as we get closer to the date. We will be travelling in the church van. Please let Tom Duley know if you would like to be a part of this team.

WINTER/SPRING MISSION & MINISTRY GUIDE

The Winter/Spring 2016 guide to missions and ministries is available. The guide highlights the major events, sermon series, mission opportunities, Bible

studies, and other important activities happening in the church. The new guide was mailed last week and is also available to download on the website with additional printed copies available in the office and at the welcome station in the Narthex.

2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

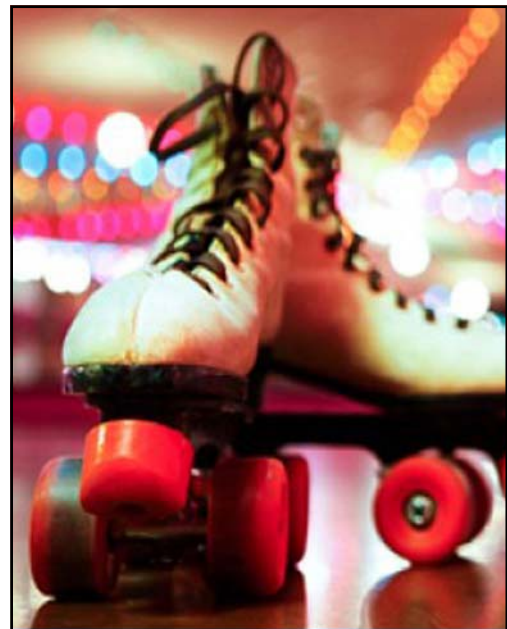
There are dates left on the 2016 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: January 24, 31, and February 7, and 14. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ellen Jean Ferrell, who passed away on January 5th. Our prayers are with them in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

John Hendricks—UAB Highland



SKATE NIGHT!
Church -Wide Skate Party

January 17th from 5:00-7:00pm

@ Roller Motion
2474 Morgan Road
Bessemer, Alabama

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MEETUP IS BACK!!! Midweek Meetup happens every week from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Each week this winter/spring 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 one of the last Midweek Meetups of the spring, any child who has memorized all of the Bible verses will get to play during recreation on a giant inflatable water slide! Will you accept the challenge!!!!!!

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT: We will be having a Church-Wide Skate Night on Sunday, January 17th, at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road in Bessemer.) The party goes from 5-7pm. All skate rentals and dinner are free! We encourage you to attend as a family and bring your friends.

MISSION TRIP/FIELD TRIP: Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Martin Luther King Day, January 18th. We will be going Ice Skating at the Pelham Civic Center in the morning, eating lunch at Chow Town, and then spending the afternoon shopping for supplies to help a local backpack ministry that sends food home with elementary aged children who are not getting enough to eat at home. Drop off will begin at 7:30, we will leave the church at 10:00, and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates over the next two months: January 31 and February 14, 21, 28. 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 contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: For the month of January, we will be studying the baptism of Jesus in our Sunday School Rotation through discussion, art, food, and science!

STUDENT MINISTRY

SKATE NIGHT - SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 5-7PM Our annual Skate Night is tonight at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road in Bessemer.) The party goes from 5-7pm. All skate rentals and dinner are free! Note: Transportation is NOT provided to the party.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 29-31 This is the single most important spiritual formation event in our student ministry each year. High school and college students will work to serve our middle school students - modeling for them what it means to live out the Great Commandment of Matthew Chapter 22. There will be games, gifts, snacks, meals and free t-shirts. But most importantly, there will be worship, prayer, discussions and testimony - all provided by our older students for our younger students.

- ⇒ We want you and your friends to experience this great example of God's love for them
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/msdiscovery to register your 6th-8th grader
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/hsdiscovery to register your 9th-12th grader

Discovery Weekend IS OPEN to non-members. Just remember:

- Because you serve as leaders, high school students attend for FREE. Please make sure your friends understand this before they register.
- The cost for middle school students is only \$75 for the weekend. You can register now and pay later. We want you to invite all your friends so please don't let the price be a roadblock. We are happy to provide financial assistance for anyone who wants to attend. Just email Bart at barts@bpumc.org to set that up.
- We know that there are scheduling conflicts almost every weekend of the year. Students can come and go if they have a recital, practice, audition, game, etc. We just need to know before that weekend.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 17, 10:00am

Sunday School

Sunday, January 17, 4:00pm

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Sunday, January 17, 5:00pm

Skate Night at Roller Motion in Bessemer

Wednesday, January 20, 4:30pm

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 20, 5:30pm

Hang Out & Dinner

Wednesday, January 20, 6:30pm

Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

CHARLIE TRUCKS will present a HOME SAFETY PROGRAM AT 11:00am in the Fireside Room. EVERYONE INVITED.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Medicare Up-date Karen Haiflich will be here discussing benefits pros/cons for 2016.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

SHEPHERD' CENTER - Ginny Lacey, Lakeshore A Better/Healthy You in 2016.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

CARDS TO OUR SICK/SHUT-INS. Meet in the Library 11:00am.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jack Owens, retired FBI will be here.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

AARP SAFETY DRIVING CLASS - 8:30am-1:30pm Call Betty to sign-up. Check your insurance - taking this class may lower your vehicle rate.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Valentines Day Party and Love Story by Delores Hydock.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

CARE'N'CONTACT SUNDAY - Help care for our sick/shut-ins - Sunday School Classes and individuals. Send Cards, make a Phone Call, Easter Baskets, Christmas Stocking, Visit, Etc. Stop by the WELCOME CENTER sign-up. If you would like to keep the same person you or you class now care for - just let us know.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

LADIES DAY RETREAT - SAVE THIS DATE and plan to join us for a day of Bible Study, Music, Special Guest, Tablesapes, lots of fun Laughter and Excitement.

Special Moment with Jesus

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
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The Week of January 17—23

Sunday, January 17

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Church-Wide Skate Party

Monday, January 18

7:30 am Children's Mission Trip
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, January 19

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, January 20

9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm UMW Mission Study
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, January 21

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, January 22

6:30 pm Fisherman Class Social

SUNDAY, January 17, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Luke 4:14-21

"God Loves Justice"

Rev. Tom Duley

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 McDonald 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Mary El Neal

Acolyte

8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Jackson Boyd

Greeters: Covenant

Meals on Wheels: Chambers

Food Pantry February 3rd:

Theresa Richerson

Midweek Meetup January 20th: Fish, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 10, 2015

Children/Youth	88/53
Morning Worship	561
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$25,892.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$53,346.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$50,465.00
New Members in 2016	0

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$560.00
Received to Date	\$943,442.87

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2016 budget.*

**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.