



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter February 7, 2016*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**A**sh Wednesday falls on February 10th this year and this important day in the life of the Church marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Many of us are familiar with Shrove Tuesday (or Fat Tuesday) where people around the world feast and celebrate the day before Ash Wednesday. This is because the season of Lent is often seen as a time of self-denial and of spiritual focus. It is a time to wrestle with our own temptations and shortcomings. Really, what this means is that Lent is a time of growth: growth in our relationship with God and growth in the way we live our lives. Sadly, some Christians only practice these steps towards God during the 40 days of Lent and then the lessons learned during that journey are put away for the next year.

During this Lenten season, we are challenging each and every member of our church family to make an intentional commitment to grow in your relationship with God as well as in your growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. What this requires is for you to register for our “Leap of Faith” Spiritual Formation Plan. You may do so either on our website, or in the main office, or even at the Welcome Center in the Narthex on a Sunday morning. During the season of Lent, each person who registers will have the opportunity to read a daily Scripture, practice daily prayer in a prayer journal, and discover ways in which to connect in learning and service through our church.

I am so excited about this plan because I deeply believe that each and every one of us can benefit from an intentional commitment to turn towards God.

This plan does not end on Easter Sunday, but will continue through the Spring. Our hope is to continue to offer these types of opportunities for spiritual growth throughout the year. Please join me in registering for the “Leap of Faith” Spiritual Formation Plan!

## **New Members at Bluff Park UMC**



Heather Ward, Cadence, and Maggie



David and Melissa Miller, and Sadie

# News of the Week

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, February 10th, at 6:30 pm as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday worship service. Normal MidWeek activities will resume next week.

## MISSION FAIR

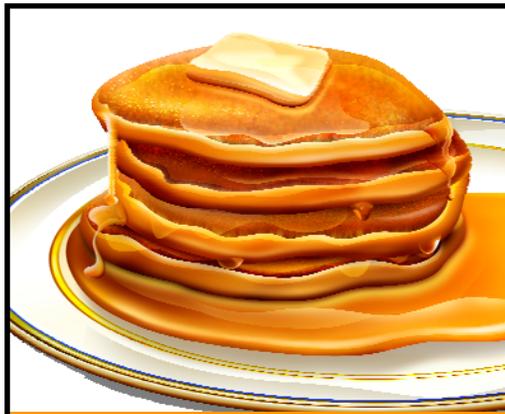
There will be a Mission Fair in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 14th from 8 AM to Noon. The mission fair will serve to introduce the congregation to the ministries and agencies which the Missions Committee has chosen to receive funding from the 2016 Easter Love Offering. Please take some time to come by and learn about the agencies and the work that they do. The 2016 Easter Love Offering is sponsored by the BP UMC United Appeal Fund.

## 14TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Gail Archer, the college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on February 28 at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.

## ROCK-A-THON AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 27 the McCoy Adult Day Care Center will be hosting its annual fundraiser event at St. Marks UMC. The event includes food, music by the Beatlads, and a silent auction. The Bluff Park Rocking Team will be visiting Sunday School classes over the next few weeks with more information. McCoy provides a variety of services to allow fragile and frail adults to main the highest level of independence with dignity, and this event provides the support they need to serve these seniors.



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Make plans to join us, Tuesday, February 9th, from 5-7pm in the Fellowship Hall for this annual Youth fundraiser. Proceeds support summer youth trips.

Adults: \$7  
Children 6-12: \$2  
Children under 6: FREE

## LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we will gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am, starting on February 18th, for a service of prayer. We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary as we prepare ourselves to meet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

## LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2016-17 school year for church members has begun. Visit the website for more information:

[bluffparkumc.org/little-imaginations/](http://bluffparkumc.org/little-imaginations/)

## CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 21st, we're having a Chili/Cornbread/Cookie Cook-off! Adult and youth/children's prizes will be awarded for best entry in each category. Participants arrive at 4:00pm, judging will begin at 4:30pm, dinner served at 5:00pm. Everyone welcome! Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex on Sunday.

## 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: February 21, March 6, and 20, and April 3. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—UAB

## Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Jean Ferrell by Myra Gray

ORGAN RECITAL  
Raymond and Nancy Bailey by Bob and Marianna Sturdivant

## Honorariums

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND  
Valerie, Randy, and Sophie Moon and Sharon McGill by Frankie and JB Thrasher

Canterbury Sunday School Class Teachers by Frankie and JB Thrasher

FOOD PANTRY  
Sara Perry by Pony Thompson

UNDER THE BRIDGE MINISTRY  
Chase, Janet, and Try Winston by Frankie and JB Thrasher

Please Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**EASTER EGG HUNT HELP:** Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 19th from 9-11. This year, one of our goals is to invite as many children from the community as possible! Because of this, we have set an ambitious goal of collecting and hiding 8000 Easter Eggs at the hunt, and we need your help! Our plan is to collect half of the Easter Eggs (4000) the way our church has traditionally collected them: bags of plastic eggs can be picked up at both entrances on the first floor or in the Narthex, stuffed with candy by those who pick them up, and returned to the same spots when completed. In the hopes of honoring any of our guests who might have allergies of any kind, we would like to purchase the other 4000 Easter Eggs online from a website that will deliver pre-stuffed candy and toy filled eggs to our church. If you would like to help, you can do so in one of two ways: bags of Easter Eggs can be picked up starting this Sunday, February 7th, and monetary donations for helping us offset the price of purchasing Easter Eggs online can be made out to BPUMC with "Easter Eggs" placed in the memo line. Thank you for helping us make this an exciting and fun event for both our children and the children of our community!

**SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** We are excited to announce that BPUMC would like to begin offering of a Sunday School class for 4K-2nd grade children with special needs in 2016. If you would be interested in volunteering in such a class or would like more information about this class, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next month: 11:00 on February 14 and 21, and at 8:45 and 11:00 on February 28. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control 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 February, we will be studying the The Good Samaritan in our Sunday School Rotation through discussion, art, food, and science!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** We have two parties during the big game, both in Carisbrooke: Middle School Students will meet at the home of the Woodruffs (3813 Carisbrooke Circle) and High School Students will meet at the home of the Turners (3834 Carisbrooke Circle). Please send/bring snacks to share and \$5 for pizza and soft drinks. Students are responsible for their own transportation and, once they arrive, students may not leave the party and return later. Both parties start at 5pm and end promptly at the conclusion of the game.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH.** Students who want to be confirmed as full, confessing members of our congregation on Sunday, April 10th are required to attend 8 of the 10 class topics we offer. We'll have one extra class at the end to make up any missed topics. Our plan is to teach on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (10am).

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE FUNDRAISER, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH** Student volunteers need to arrive between 4-5pm. Dinner will be served from 5-7pm. Students who assist with the fundraiser will earn shares of the total donations received. Anyone who would like to participate in providing entertainment for the event can sign up this week in the youth wing. We are doing a "talent show" format, with no prizes or judges. This is simply a time for students to show off their musical ability for our church family.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move deeper into 2016: Confirmation Class, Senior Recognition 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** Tuesday, February 9: *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser*; Sunday, February 21: *PREFIX at Shades Crest Baptist Church (a family oriented Addiction Prevention Event we are co-coordinating)*; Sunday, April 10: *Confirmation Sunday*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 7, 10:00am  
Sunday, February 7, 5pm  
February, February 9, 5-7pm  
Wednesday, February 10, 5:30pm  
Wednesday, February 10, 6:30pm

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (all students are invited to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast)  
Super Bowl Party (MS: 3813 Carisbrooke Cir, HS: 3834 Carisbrooke Cir)  
Pancake Fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall  
Hang Out & Dinner  
NO Holy Ground/Join us for Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Jack Owens, retired FBI, The Spy Business, The Bureau Way.

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 your class now care for - just let us know.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER...** Andy Meginniss and Dan Marson - Civil War and Jazz

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

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Amazing Pirate Stories with Ray Phillips.

THURSDAY MARCH 3

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Dr. Larry Michaels will be here...Loving Yourself

TUESDAY MARCH 8

**MYSTERY GARDEN TOUR and Lunch???** Call Betty to sign-up...this will fill up quickly..

### Special Moment with Jesus

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.  
Psalm 103:2



**Bluff Park United Methodist Church**

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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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, bartst@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
- Financial Manager**, ext. 101
- Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org
- 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 February 7—13**

- Sunday, February 7**
- 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
- Monday, February 8**
- 8:00 am AARP Safe Driving Class
- 9:00 am UMW Executive Meeting
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Tuesday, February 9**
- 8:30 am Maintenance
- 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Committee
- 5:00 pm Pancake Supper
- 6:00 pm Under the Bridge
- Wednesday, February 10**
- 9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study
- 4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir
- 5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
- 6:00 pm Handbell Choir
- 6:00 pm Men's Chorus
- 6:30 pm Choir
- 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Thursday, February 11**
- 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
- 5:30 pm Canterbury Class Social
- Friday, February 12**
- 12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon

**SUNDAY, February 7th, 2016**  
**8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship**  
**Psalm 103:8-12**  
**"Forgiving Like God"**  
**Rev. Mike Holly**

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
 Exodus 34:29-35  
 Psalm 99  
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
 Luke 9:2-36 (37-43a)

**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
 8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality  
**Cross**  
 8:45 Michael Lagan 11:00 Penny Rose Pearson  
**Acolyte**  
 8:45 Andrew Pitts 11:00 Rebekah Rice  
**Greeters:** Friendship  
**Meals on Wheels:** Thomas

**Midweek Meetup February 10th:** Chicken fried steak, creamed potatoes, green beans, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

**Last Week's Record**

January 31, 2015	
Children/Youth	97/74
Morning Worship	570
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$23,646.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$133,365.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$114,504.28
New Members in 2016	6

**LIVING OUR LEGACY**

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015	
Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$500.00
Received to Date	\$945,404.87

*\*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.