



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter March 6, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



The word “catechumen” is not one that you might hear brought up very often in our church, but it is still a part of who we are as Christians particularly in this season of Lent. We began the journey through the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday as many of us were marked by the ashes. This journey goes back to at least the year 325 AD, as the Council of Nicea advised churches to commemorate the 40 days leading up to Easter. Eventually, this 40 day season was used to prepare and train new Christians in the faith and way of Jesus. They received instruction and examination and then were baptized at the Easter vigil when they received Holy Communion for the first time. These people preparing to join the church were called “catechumen.”

During the general time frame of Lent each year, our Confirmation class convenes each year to receive instruction and examination as they prepare to claim the faith they were baptized into as children. Bart Styes, our Director of Youth Ministry, teaches the sessions and helps each student learn to articulate his or her faith. On April 10th, these young people will officially join our church and profess their faith. I invite you to pray for them as they undergo training and examination in our youth area each and every Sunday morning!

Just as these young people are being trained in the ways of faith, so are the rest of us in our church family. Each of us are called during this holy season to reflect on our own sinfulness as well as our own need for God and His grace. We are also called to reflect on how we can faithfully live for Him each and every day. Are you ready to take the Leap of Faith?

Chili Cook-off Winners



Chili Winners:

- 1st - Chris Matheson
- 2nd - Natalie Self
- 3rd - William Coler

Combread Winners:

- 1st - Stacey Neal
- 2nd - Natalie Self

Cookie Winners:

- 1st - Lena & Davis Holly
- 2nd - Stacey Neal

Lent & Easter Schedule

Lenten Morning Prayer March 10, 7:30am

Lenten Morning Prayer March 17, 7:30am

Easter Egg Hunt

and Breakfast March 19, 9:00am

Palm Sunday Worship March 20, 8:45am & 11:00am

Lenten Morning Prayer March 24, 7:30am

Maundy Thursday Worship

and Foot Washing March 24, 6:30pm

Good Friday Worship March 25, 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship March 27, 8:45am & 11:00am

News of the Week

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we will gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am 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.

JOHN ELMORE VISIT

Our missionary partner, John Elmore will be visiting here at Bluff Park UMC on Sunday March 6 in morning worship and during Sunday School. If you would like to welcome him and learn more about his work in Chile, stop by the Fellowship Hall between 10-11:00 am.

EASTER LOVE GIFT

At Bluff Park UMC, the Lenten season is the time of year when we receive our Easter Love Gift Offering for missions. The Easter Love Offering supports several ministries and missions that we as a church are involved in. Your generosity allowed us to do a great many things in 2015. We would like to do as much, or more, in 2016. We want to make a difference in the lives of many people as we support projects that are consistent with the "food, water, shelter" mission emphasis that the church has established. Please mark your check Easter Love Offering so that we can make sure that it goes to the right place. Your generosity will make a great difference for many people. Thank you in advance. The Easter Love Gift is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund.

LEAP OF FAITH FACEBOOK GROUP

A new Facebook Group has been started for everyone participating in the Leap of Faith spiritual formation project. This is a dedicated place for people using our new prayer journal to discuss their thoughts and experiences. To join the group visit:

www.facebook.com/groups/leapoffaithbpumc/



Wheweeee...

What a trip! The Bluff Park team reached the 'stars' and finished in first place at the McCoy Adult Day Care Rock-a-thon fundraiser! Thanks to everyone who took part. It was truly a whole congregation effort. Many, many thanks to all!

UMW COMPASSION CIRCLE

On Friday, March 11th, the UMW Compassion Circle will be preparing a meal at First Light. Any ladies (children welcome) interested in going please contact Tina Hardy. Tina.hardy@elpaso.com

SPRING SERVE DAY

The BPUMC Serve Team is looking for people in our neighborhood who could use a helping hand with Spring cleanup on April 16th. If you know someone who could use help with yard work or light exterior projects, call the church office or email serveteam@bpumc.org.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Laverne Boles—St. Vincents

Dorothy Quinnelly—Grandview

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA

Memorials

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Elaine Clinton by Jan Harris

MUSIC FUND

Elaine Clinton by BD Tohill

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Elaine Clinton by David and Penny Williamson

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

John Hendricks by Barbara Brannum

Honorariums

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mike Holly by JB and Frankie Thrasher

NEVERTHIRST

Becky Walker by Pony Thompson

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

Easter Lilies

Reserve your beautiful Easter Lily now to remember or honor a loved one at Easter. The cost is \$15.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is March 21st.

In Honor Of: _____ **by** _____

In Memory of: _____ **by** _____



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

EASTER EGG HUNT: Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 19th from 9-11. Come as a family and invite your friends to breakfast, pictures with the Easter Bunny, an Easter Egg Hunt with 8,000 eggs, special prize eggs hidden for each age group, and more! Breakfast starts at 9 and the Egg Hunt starts at 10! You don't want to miss it!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Did you know that we have been averaging 25 children in Children's Church since we started in November, with a high mark of 36 children one Sunday! The children have loved having a service specifically geared towards them, learning how much God loves them, and talking about ways they can put their faith into action! We would love for some of you to come and worship with us! Would you prayerfully consider volunteering in Children's Church at some point soon?

We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next two months: 8:45 on March 13th & April 10, and 8:45 and 11:00 on March 20, April 17, and April 24. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will simply worship with Mr. Stanley and the children and assist if necessary! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: For the month of March we will be studying Easter through discussion, science, cooking, and more!

STUDENT MINISTRY

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - ART & KART NIGHT We'll have a Wii Mario Kart Tournament and several arts and craft options on the Youth Wing tonight from 5-7pm. This is a FREE event that includes taco salad and a short devotion.

HOLY GROUND IN MARCH Our Lenten-themed worship service continues on Wednesday night, March 9th.

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 Sunday, April 10: *Confirmation Sunday*; Sunday-Friday, July 10-15: *Urban Ministries Middle School Mission Trip*; Sunday-Saturday, July 24-30: *ASP High School Mission Trip*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 6, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 6, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, March 6, 5pm	Art & Kart Night
Wednesday, March 9, 5:30pm	Hang Out & Dinner
Wednesday, March 9, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MARCH 3

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Larry Michaels will be here...Loving Yourself. BINGO after lunch.

TUESDAY MARCH 8

MYSTERY GARDEN TOUR and Lunch 9:00am-3:00pm. Trip is FULL waiting list available - happy to add your name.

TUESDAY MARCH 10

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Geoffrey Dye, Podiatric Medicine.

TUESDAY MARCH 15

FUN DAY TRIP and LUNCH ???

THURSDAY MARCH 17

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - St Patrick Day Program—Ireland, The County, The People with Bob and Phyllis Henson, world travelers/members of the Fisherman Class.

FRIDAY APRIL 1

RATTLESNAKE SALOON, Helen Keller Museum, Historical Church Tour and much more.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

GEE'S BEND, Quilting Ladies, Gaine Ridge Plantation, Museum, Ferry Ride to Camden and so much more. Tour Bus - \$65.00pp - Call Betty.

LADIES DAY RETREAT

Saturday May 14 9:00am - 2:00pm.

Plan to join us for a morning and afternoon of Bible Study with Becky Walker, Special Music by Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis (Rocket), Story time with Delores Hydock and Bobby Horton, Special Luncheon Guests and Entertainment, Tablescares. Save the date **SATURDAY MAY 14**. Invite a friend! Tickets, \$15.00. Sign-up for Tablescares at the Welcome Center... you may win a prize.

Special Moment with Jesus

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



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Hoover, AL 35226
(205) 822-0910

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BIRMINGHAM, AL
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Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
Director of Senior Ministries, ext. 103
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Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118
Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org
Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 105
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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 March 6—12

Sunday, March 6

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am John Elmore Presentation
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

Monday, March 7

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, March 8

8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, March 9

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Communion Service
7:00 pm 30 Minute Theology

Thursday, March 10

7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, March 11

4th and 5th Grade Retreat
12:00 pm Friendship Class Dinner

Saturday, March 12

4th and 5th Grade Retreat

SUNDAY, March 6th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Luke 15:1-7

"Leap of Faith: God Doesn't Recognize Walls"

Rev. Tom Duley

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Carlisle 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Jackson Boyed
Acolyte

8:45 Lauren Gates 11:00 Mary El Neal

Greeters: Opportunity

Meals on Wheels: Martin

Food Pantry March 2nd:

Becky McCrary and Rosemary Dallam

Midweek Meetup March 9th: Fish, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 28, 2015

Children/Youth	105/51
Morning Worship	544
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$23,504.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$240,057.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$268,475.82
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,587.00
Received to Date	\$952,613.87

**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.