



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter March 13, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Leap of Faith: Service and Witness

The Leap of Faith Prayer Journal has been a wonderful companion to my Lenten spiritual practices this year. We've discussed in the past weeks about the importance of spiritual growth, and how we are called to live out our faith through the areas of prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness. I wanted to take a moment, in this article, to share with you some thoughts on service and witness. First of all, we are a mission-centered church and we offer many opportunities for you to give towards the needs of others. Our Easter Love Gift, during the Lenten and Easter seasons, is a prime example. However, we also encourage each and every person in our church to be personally involved in mission as well. We have several opportunities coming up in the month of April such as the *Day of Service* in the Bluff Park community as well as the *Stop Hunger Now* event. You can also navigate to the following website for other ideas: BluffParkUMC.org/missions/hands-on-ministry/

We, as followers of Jesus Christ, also covenant to witness to our faith to others. We do this by making our faith an integral part of our daily lives as Tom mentioned in his sermon this past Sunday. When we internalize the life of Jesus into our own lives, we will automatically express him to all around us. However, we also need to take action to become more invitational. When we speak highly of our faith, about church in general and about our own community of faith, we are laying a welcoming foundation for someone to consider attending church. The last step is to actually invite them to attend worship. We believe that Easter Sunday is a wonderful day to invite someone to church. If you signed up for the Leap of Faith Prayer Journal, you should have received five postcards to invite someone to worship on Easter Sunday. Now is the time to get those invitations out! If you did not receive these cards and you would like a few in order to invite someone to church, feel free to come by the church office to pick some up from our staff! Let's invite people to come and hear the wonderfully good news of Easter Sunday!

Lent & Easter Schedule

- 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

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 serveam@bpumc.org.

News of the Week

Easter Love Gift Update

We are a little more than half-way through the season of Lent. And we are a little more than half-way through the time when we receive the Easter Love Gift offering. This is an important part of our mission funding. It allows us to support agencies and ministries locally and internationally. It allows us to support agencies that work in our focus areas of food, water and shelter. Each agency we are supporting this year works in at least of our mission focus areas.

One agency that we are supporting in 2016 is **Stop Hunger Now**. Volunteers from Bluff Park went to Vestavia Hills UMC last year to help pack meals. Through the Easter Love Gift we were also able to help with a financial contribution. We will be doing this again this year. The dates for the event are **April 17-19**. There will be an online sign up process, just as there was last year. When registration opens, we will share details with the congregation. This is a fun mission project that is appropriate for all ages. It is a very family friendly event.

Stop Hunger Now distributes meals through its partner organizations in developing countries around the world. The meals we packed last year were distributed in Haiti. Meals are used to promote education, encourage children to attend school and improve students health and nutrition. Our goal this year is to pack 285,120 meals. This represents one full shipping container. Each nutritious meal costs just \$.29, so it is a great bargain.

This is just one of the important ministries that will be supported by your gift to the Easter Love Gift offering. We have a goal this year of \$30,000. It is an ambitious goal, but we think that it is achievable if we all pull together. To date we have received \$7,674. If you haven't given already please pray about doing so. No gift is too small or too large and 100% of what you give will be used to support the work of the agencies we have chosen.

Thank you for all the ways that you support the mission outreach of Bluff Park UMC.

TIME TO SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

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.

LADIES DAY RETREAT TICKETS

Tickets for the Ladies Day Retreat can now be purchased on Sunday mornings at the Welcome center. Tickets are \$15.00. The event takes place Saturday, May 14, from 9:00am - 2:00pm.

JULIA GLASS MISSION REPORT

March 23rd, at 6:00pm in the Fireside room, Julia Glass will give a talk and slide show on the trip she took to Africa with a medical team last year. Several ladies from our church made baby receiving blankets for her to present to the new mothers getting treatment. This will prove to be a very eye opening talk. Hope to see you there.

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER PARTY

Join us, March 28th at 6:00pm, for a Pampered Chef Fundraiser party for Bluff Park United Methodist Women's local missions at the home of Alice Chase! We'll have fun making a couple of easy recipes while supporting a great cause. Up to 20 percent of our total sales will go towards this fundraiser- plus an extra \$3 for every Show booked from the event. Bring a friend- the more the merrier! If you can't make it to the party, you can still order products through this link and we will still get credit for the sale: pamperedchef.com/go/rF86z3

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Laverne Boles—Lakeshore

Dorothy Quinnelly—Grandview

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA

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 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 13 - BLUFF PARK RODEO We're celebrating Daylight's Savings with a rodeo. Wear your denim and boots and join us for a party. There will be food, country music and a mechanical bull. The rodeo is free to attend, \$10 to ride the bull plus another \$5 if you want to compete for the silver buckle making you the 2016 Bluff Park Rodeo Champ. Marcus Chatterton will share with us about his passion for building clean water wells in the developing world through Neverthirst.org. (5-7pm)

HOLY GROUND IN MARCH Our Lenten-themed worship service continues on Wednesday night, March 16th.

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, May 15: *Senior Recognition 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 13, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 13, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, March 13, 5pm	Bluff Park Rodeo
Wednesday, March 16, 5:30pm	Hang Out & Dinner
Wednesday, March 16, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

THURSDAY MARCH 24

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Special Guest from Prince of Peach Catholic Church. Maundy Thursday.

SUNDAY MARCH 27

EASTER SUNDAY - Bring Flowers for the Cross.

THURSDAY MARCH 31

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Niki Sepsas will be here—Cape Horn Passage.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

COOKING CLASS - WE HAVE DOUGHNUTS, with owner Sandy McKay. A company started by 4/friends - doughnuts made from scratch and sold at a doughnut stand downtown Birmingham. 6:00-7:00pm, Fireside Rm.

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

When you make a vow to God, do not delay fulfilling it; for he has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill what you vow.—Ecclesiastes 5:4



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

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, barts@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 March 13—19

Sunday, March 13—Daylight Saving Time Begins
 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
 2:00 pm Youth Rodeo
Monday, March 14
 9:00 am UMW General Meeting
 9:00 am UMW Executive Committee
 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, March 15
 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
Wednesday, March 16
 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 17
 7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
 6:30 pm Finance Committee
Friday, March 18
 12:00 pm Opportunity Class Social
 6:30 pm Fisherman Class Social
Saturday, March 19
 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, March 13th, 2016
 8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
Philippians 3:4b-14
"Leap of Faith: 26.2"
 Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
 Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
 8:45 Nelson 11:00 Dover
Cross
 8:45 Emma Patton 11:00 Tate Turner
Acolyte
 8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Kate Ryan Black
Greeters: Seekers
Meals on Wheels: Britain
Food Pantry March 2nd:
 Becky McCrary and Rosemary Dallam

Midweek Meetup March 16th: Bingo! Ham, mac and cheese, fried okra, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

March 6, 2016

Children/Youth	100/65
Morning Worship	523
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$29,612.70
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$272,115.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$298,088.52
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$875.00
Received to Date	\$953,488.87

**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.