



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter April 17, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



In the winter of 2015 and 2016, Bluff Park UMC was invited by the Office of New Church Development of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church to participate in a new covenant which places additional associate pastors in healthy and strategic churches to start new ministries and new worship services. Our church was contacted and invited to participate in this new program. We have for many years dreamed of becoming more faithful in reaching and ministering to young adults in our community (which is a growing population in Bluff Park as young families are moving into our neighborhood). Our Staff Parish Relations Committee decided to partner with the Annual Conference in this covenant and the Finance Committee and the Board of Stewards supported this decision. On this past Sunday, we announced in worship that as part of this new covenant, Rev. John Carl Hastings will be joining our staff this coming June.

As a part of this covenant, Rev. Hastings will receive salary support from both our church and from the Annual Conference for at least three years. He will be charged with working with the young adults already active in our church as well as to make new connections in our community as well. He will also be receiving further training and coaching from the Office of New Church Development. Over time, he will be working with a team of our members looking into adding an additional worship service which hopes to reach new people. The plans for that new worship service have not yet begun as we are waiting to assemble that team and to access the needs of the community first.

I can tell you that I personally am thrilled with the choice that our Bishop made in sending Rev. Hastings to us. The Annual Conference has affirmed his gifts and he has been approved for Full Connection as an Elder in our conference. But beyond that, I know him to be a passionate follower of Jesus Christ who is excited to do something new and innovative for the sake of the Kingdom of God! I invite you to begin praying for John Carl and his family as they begin to end their ministries in the Southwest District and prepare to move to Birmingham for a new chapter in their lives. His first Sunday will be June 26, 2016.

Rev. John Carl Hastings

John Carl Hastings is currently the pastor of Hargrove Memorial and St. Paul UMCs in Tuscaloosa. A graduate of Auburn University and The Divinity School at Duke University, John Carl is married to the Rev. Tori Hastings, who currently serves Druid Hills and Holt UMCs in Tuscaloosa and will be appointed to Canterbury UMC in June. Together, they have a ten-month-old son, Brooks, and an impossibly energetic miniature dachshund, Gracie. John Carl is passionate about ministry, particularly in the areas of preaching and worship. He loves helping people enter into communion with God, one another, and the world and feels that we are most at home when we are fellowshiping around God's Table. He looks forward to serving alongside all the people of Bluff Park UMC and is eager to join in with the good work that God is doing in the Bluff Park community.



News of the Week

PASTORAL STAFF UPDATE

The Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church has appointed both Rev. Mike Holly and Rev. Angela Martin to another year of service at Bluff Park UMC! We welcome them both back and we are also very excited that Rev. Stanley Davidson and Rev. Tom Duley will continue in their ministerial roles at BPUMC as well!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"The Christ-Centered Woman: Finding Balance in a World of Extremes" is meeting on Wednesdays in April beginning at 9:15am in the Fisherman's classroom.

KONSENSUS MAY BE GOOD...

Peter Kirchikov, author of "Konsensus May Be Good But Still You Need To Have a Common Sense", will be making presentations based on his book Wednesday evenings during April at 6pm in the Vitality Classroom. This latest book is a book of Soviet-era political humor and satire.

VETERANS LEADERSHIP MINISTRY UPDATE

We welcome all current and invite new volunteers to an important meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 24th at 2:00 pm. You will learn about our veterans' contacts to date, meet new volunteers, and hear from Team Leaders about important actions underway.

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.

PRESCHOOL SPIRIT NIGHT

The Little Imaginations Preschool will have a Spirit Night Fundraiser on Thursday, April 21st, from 5:00-7:00pm at the Chick-fil-A at Hoover Commons. A portion of all in-store sales will go to support the preschool.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Aileen Stickler who passed away recently. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA
Butch Hopper—St. Vincents
Vicki Burnett—Brookwood Rehab
Troyce Brunson—Brookwood

American Red Cross Blood Drive



There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in honor of Christian Cooper, who was severely burned in a car wreck this past February. The blood drive takes place on Sunday, April 17, from 7:30am—12:30pm in the gym. A Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID is required to make a donation.

To schedule an appointment to donate call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at Red-CrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.



STOP HUNGER NOW.

285,120 Nutritious Meals, and More

On April 17th—19th, Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools, and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack 285,120 nutritious meals (one full shipping container) to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now, an organization dedicated to eradicating world hunger.

We are encouraging groups from the church to volunteer together, but *each individual must register separately*. If you have any problems accessing the website to register, contact the church office for assistance.

To sign-up as a volunteer visit:

BluffParkUMC.org/stophunger



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY: All preschoolers and their families are invited to a Pajama Party on April 22 from 5:30-7:30. There will be dinner (spaghetti and meatballs!), crafts, story time, and more! Please register online at BluffParkUMC.org/preschoolpjparty or email Marcie Walters at nursery@bpumc.org. We hope to see you all there!

DOLLY AND ME PAR-TEA: Girls of all ages: You are cordially invited to a Dolly and Me ParTEA in the Courtyard and Fire-side Room on Sunday, May 15th from 12:30-2:30! There will be a light lunch, activities, crafts, and more! If you would like to attend, please register online at www.bluffparkumc.org/dollyandme. We hope to see you all there!

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 40 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?

CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next two months: 8:45 on May 15, and 8:45 and 11:00 on May 8, 22, and 29. 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 April we will be learning about Pentecost in Sunday School through discussion, science, and cooking!

STUDENT MINISTRY

EVENING OF PRAISE & WORSHIP - SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 5PM Our student worship team will lead us in songs of praise and worship as they prepare for their summer experience - which will include leading worship at Church of the Reconciler, competing in the battle of the youth bands at Annual Conference and recording their very own CD. At the end of the night, a donation will be taken up to support their efforts. Afterwards, you are welcome to join us for a free snack supper in the fellowship hall.

HOLY GROUND IN APRIL We continue a worship series on change and transitions in April. Whether we are moving from middle school to high school, on to college, or are experience changes in our relationships, God is with us through all things. We'll explore scripture where we find God active through times of change and celebrate these moments in our own lives.

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, 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*; Friday-Monday, August 5-8: *Beach Retreat*.

THIS WEEK

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 17, 10:00am | Sunday School |
| Sunday, April 17, 5:00pm | Evening of Praise & Worship in the Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, April 20, 6:30pm | Holy Ground Worship |

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 14

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Peter Kirchikov will be here discussing his new book "Consensus May Be Good But You Need To Have Common Sense." Everyone invited.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 13

COOKING CLASS Jessica Cox, St. Vincents One Nineteen - "30 Minute Meals for Families". Fireside Room - 6:00-7:00pm.

TUESDAY APRIL 19

STOP HUNGER NOW at Vestavia UMC. 9:00am-11:00am. Meet at the buses at 8:30am. We'll have lunch before returning to the Church.

THURSDAY APRIL 21

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - MYSTERY ????? - You will love - come see, come hear, come prepared for a morning of fun. Invite a Friend.

LADIES DAY RETREAT

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

AMAZING GRACE FOR A WOMAN'S HEART

Join us for a morning and early afternoon of Bible Study with **Becky Walker**, Music by **Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis (Rocket)**, Story Time with **Delores Hydock** and **Bobby Horton**, special Entertainment at lunch???? and special Luncheon Guest, **Harmony Mendoza**, Metrologist, WVTM 13 plus beautiful Tablescape and lots of door prizes.

Special Moment with Jesus

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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(205) 822-0910

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

Pastors

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Angela Martin, amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
Director of Senior Ministries, ext. 103
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Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118
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Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 105
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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 April 17—23

Sunday, April 17

8:00 am Blood Drive in Gym
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Evening of Praise & Worship
Stop Hunger Now

Monday, April 18

Stop Hunger Now
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, April 19

Stop Hunger Now
Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, April 20

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 Cooking Class
6:00 pm Konsensus Book Review
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, April 21

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
5:00-7:00 pm Preschool Spirit Night
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Friday, April 22

5:30 pm Preschool PJ Party

SUNDAY, April 17th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Luke 24:13-35

"Revealed"

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45am Footsteps 11:00am Davis

Cross

8:45 Caroline Marshall

11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski

Acolyte

8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Tate Turner

Greeters: Covenant

Meals on Wheels: Slay

Food Pantry May 4th: Steve Lawson

Midweek Meetup April 20:

Children's Choir—Main course TBA. Baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

April 10, 2016

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|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Children/Youth | 71/38 |
| Morning Worship | 549 |
| Weekly Contributions Expected* | \$27,212.00 |
| Weekly Contributions Received | \$22,788.83 |
| Annual Contributions Expected* | \$1,415,000.00 |
| Contributions Expected to Date* | \$408,175.00 |
| Contributions Received to Date | \$453,501.74 |
| New Members in 2016 | 10 |

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Amount Pledged | \$1,083,250.00 |
| Received Last Week | \$725.00 |
| Received to Date | \$959,855.87 |

**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.