



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter January 22, 2017*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**T**he Scriptures assigned to the Season after the Epiphany remind us how much we need the light of Christ and how much we need one another. Essentially, we are slowly seeing that Christ is, in fact, the Son of God ~ fully divine just as much as he is fully human. His light shines upon us all and reveals our need, our division and our brokenness. But at the same time, his light shows us the way forward: to him.

This Sunday, we will encounter Paul discussing the division in the church in Corinth and how unity was not just a part of church health; it was also a function of being faithful to Christ. According to N. Allen Moseley, "Unity is maintained when Christ is exalted." What I take this to mean is that the closer we get to Christ, his life and his life, the more that our lives will be intertwined in unity with one another.

Part of Christian unity in our church family is belonging to community. This is the right time of year to make an effort to join a Sunday school class, recommit to come more regularly or to join a Midweek Meetup study or class! And it is also a good time, as Rev. John Carl Hastings mentioned in his wonderful sermon on Sunday: share what God has been doing in the world and in our lives together. God us ushering us closer together during this season ~ preparing us for what lies ahead in March: the season of Lent.

Blessings,

## **I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...**

Samon Mary (in teal top) is a 33 year old mother of four. She lives in Katoth village in the Stung Treng province of Cambodia. Until recently, a shallow stream was the primary water source for her family. Water collection was difficult and water borne illnesses were common.

Katoth villiage now has clean water. Approximately 20 families, including Samon Mary and her children, will draw water from a new well created with the help of Bluff Park UMC Members. The New Light Sunday School class led the effort to raise the money for this project, which included last year's Fun Run. Combined with a contribution from the Easter Love Gift, we were able to fund the drilling of this new well.

The project was done in partnership with Neverthirst, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to clean water in communities around the world. This is the second well sponsored by Bluff Park UMC. Thank you to the New Light Sunday School class and everyone who helped to make this possible.



# News of the Week



**January 29**  
**5-7pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**Drop-Off @ 5:00pm**  
**Judging @ 5:30pm**  
**Awards For:**  
**Adult & Under 18**  
**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
**CHILI - COOKIE - CORN BREAD**  
No Admission - Canned Food Donations Welcome

## CHILI, CORN-BREAD AND COOKIE COOK-OFF

Time to get out those favorite chili, cornbread and cookie recipes, make a batch and bring 'em on down to the Cook-off on Sunday evening, January 29th. Judging will begin at 5:30 with everyone eating at 6:00. Prizes, along with bragging

rights, will be awarded to the judge's favorites. Your admission for this event? One canned good per person. Canned goods will be taken and donated as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, benefiting the Firehouse Shelter.

## LOVING OUR LGBTQ NEIGHBORS

Join a discussion about loving our neighbors and what that means specifically for understanding and loving our neighbors who are LGBTQ. This 4-week study meets Wednesdays in February (1, 8, 15, and 22) at 6:00 in the Faith Classroom.

## THE BIBLE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

On Wednesdays, from January 11 - February 1, the UMW is sponsoring a church-wide study exploring the Bible and human sexuality as two essential components of our Christian faith. The Bible is part of the foundation of our faith. Human sexuality is part of who we are as human beings, created by God and called good. This study invites us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understandings of it in light of human sexuality. Classes are being led by Tom Duley in the Fireside Room starting at 6:30pm.

**EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ONE WARM COAT**  
Girl Scout Troop 746 is collecting new and used winter coats to be donated through the Jimmy Hale Mission to people in need. A donation box will be in Hudson Hall until January 22nd.

## CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Claire and Guy Harris on the birth of a daughter, Annie Stuart on January 6th.

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Fred McCool who passed away on January 9th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

Our sympathy is extended to Bobbie Moore on the passing of her husband Jack on January 8th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Pat Lyle—Aspire

Shirley White—Grandview



## SAVE THE DATE

STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING  
January 29th @ 5:00 pm  
Sanctuary—Nursery Provided



## 2017 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2017 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 29, February 5, 12, 19, and 26. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**MIDWEEK MEETUP:** Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Our church is currently participating in a Scripture Reading Challenge to begin the new year, and we want the children to be involved! So, each week of Midweek Meetup, we will give the children a slip of paper with a Bible story on it at the end of the night. If they return the following week and the person signing them in lets us know that they read that Bible story (in any Bible they choose suited for their age!), they receive a prize that night. If they read all the Bible stories during the winter/spring, they will receive a special grand prize at our end of the school year water slide party. Will you accept the challenge?!?!?!?

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The Preschool Sunday School lesson this week will be on "Jesus Feeding the 5000" and the Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on "Jesus Calms the Storm."

**Children's Church:** The lesson this week will be on "The Lord's Prayer!"

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**SERVE NIGHT - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND** We will have several ways for students to serve others in our community. We start with snack supper at 5:00pm in the fellowship hall and will end around 7:00pm.

**MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH** As always, students are welcome to bring their meals down to the youth wing and visit with friends, play games, do homework or just relax. Small groups will meet at 6:00pm with Holy Ground worship at 6:30pm. Our message series this month has a seasonal theme. Each week a different speaker will incorporate a season of the year into their message: January 25th - Bart Styes - Summer.

**DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 3RD-5TH** This is the single most important spiritual formation in our student ministry each year. High school and college students will work to serve our middle school students - modeling them what it means to live out the Great Commission of Matthew Chapter 28. There will be games, gifts, snacks, meals and free t-shirts which the students enjoy. But most importantly, there will be worship, prayer, discussions and testimony - all provided by our older students for our younger students.

Discovery Weekend IS OPEN to non-members. Just remember: Because you serve as leaders, high school students attend for a discounted price of \$25. The cost for middle school students is only \$75 for the weekend. Please make sure your friends understand this before they register. 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 Kathryn at kdavis@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.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we enter 2017: Holy Ground Worship, Discovery Weekend 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** Friday-Sunday, February 3-5, 2017: *Discovery Weekend*, Friday-Sunday, June 9-11, 2017: *Whitewater Express Summer Trip*, Sunday-Saturday, July 2-8, 2017 (tentative): *Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip*. (Contact Kathryn Davis kdavis@bpumc.org if you have any issues.)

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, Jan 22, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Jan 22, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, Jan 22, 5pm	Serve Night
Tuesday, Jan 24, 7:00pm	HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Wednesday, Jan 25, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, Jan 25, 6:00pm	Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups
Wednesday, Jan 25, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER**-Gene Smith, President, Hoover City Council

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Jack Owens, General FBI Matters

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Rev. Julie Holly, Chaplain, Birmingham Southern College. What a chaplain does and the history of BSCs

### **SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... John 14:27



**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
- John Carl Hastings, jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120
- 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**,
- Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org
- Preschool Director**,
- Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
- Facilities Manager**,
- Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org



**The Week of January 22—28**

<b>Sunday, January 22</b>	
8:45 am	Morning Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm	Confirmation
5:00 pm	Gospel of Mark Study
<b>Monday, January 23</b>	
10:00 am	UMW Joy Circle
10:00 am	UMW Hope-Love Circle
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
<b>Tuesday, January 24</b>	
9:30 am	Covenant Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, January 25</b>	
9:30 am	Gospel of Mark
4:30 pm	Pastors Bible Study
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup
5:45 pm	Men's Chorus
6:00 pm	The Bible and Human Sexuality
6:00 pm	Handbell Choir
6:00 pm	Youth Small Groups
6:30 pm	Gospel of Luke
6:30 pm	Walk/Run with Laura Ann Pitts
6:30 pm	Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm	Choir
6:30 pm	Holy Ground Worship
<b>Thursday, January 26</b>	
9:30 am	Shepherd's Center
9:30 pm	UMW Friendship Circle
<b>Friday, January 27</b>	
5:00 pm	Fisherman Class Social

**SUNDAY, January 22, 2017**  
**8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship**  
**1 Corinthians 1:10-18**  
*"Community On Purpose"*  
**Rev. Mike Holly**

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
 Isaiah 9:1-4  
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
 Matthew 4:12-23

**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
 8:45 Chatterton 11:00 Vitality  
**Cross**  
 8:45 Spencer Schillaci 11:00 Beverly Redding  
**Acolyte**  
 8:45 Ella Bowles 11:00 Mary El Neal  
**Greeters:** Faith  
**Meal on Wheels:** Becky McCrary  
**Food Pantry February 1st:**  
 Richerson/Lawson

**Midweek Meetup January 25th:** Ice Cream  
 Time Machine! Menu TBA.

**Last Week's Record**

January 15, 2017	
Children	116
Morning Worship	508
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$32,532.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$81,636.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$44,997.00
New Members in 2017	4
<b>10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN</b>	
January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019	
Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$4,485.33
Received to Date	\$161,858.33

*\*Provisional figures pending approval of 2017 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.