



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

Newsletter January 29, 2017

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**F**or this week's newsletter, I wanted to share with you some good news about how our children are ministering to those who serve and protect. I've asked Rev. Stanley Davidson to tell you about what our children did for the Hoover Police Department and show you some of the pictures related to their service project.

Please do not forget about the State of the Church meeting this Sunday, January 29th!

Blessings,

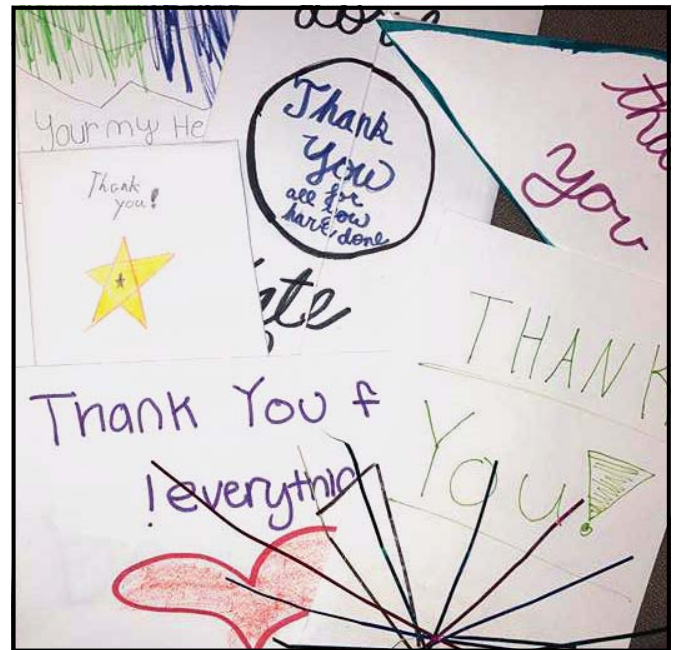
*Mike*

## Kids Caring for Our Community

The 4th and 5th graders of BPUMC recently sent thirty handmade thank you cards to members of the Hoover Police Department through a group called Hoover Cop Stop. This group seeks to honor and show appreciation for the Hoover Police Department through such things as dinners, gifts, cards, etc. The cards our children made included pictures, letters, and jokes that all expressed their appreciation for what police officers in our community do for all of us. We received an email from the Coordinator of Hoover Cop Stop that included the following:

"I want to personally thank you for the children's notes. I watched the PD open and read them as they sit and eat their meals. The smiles and laughter that come from receiving the letters warm the heart. I had one policeman ask if he could take his for the day. I was like, yes, please. We have no idea the impact we are making but I do know the children have a unique opportunity to reach them far greater than a meal."

Opportunities like this one are part of our ongoing goal to teach the children of Bluff Park UMC to pour out the love of Jesus Christ into their peers, their families, their community, and the world! We could not be more proud of our kids, and cannot wait to share with them the impact their cards had on those who received them!



# News of the Week



## 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.

## CHILE VIM TEAM

The Chile Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team is forming now. If you are interested in being a member of this team or have questions, please contact Tom Duley at 205-822-0910 ext.112 or [tduley@bpumc.org](mailto:tduley@bpumc.org). The dates for this year's trip are Saturday, July 29th to Saturday, August 12th. The deadline to become a member of this year's team is Sunday, March 5th.

## TRAVEL TO ISRAEL IN 2018

We are planning a trip to Israel in early 2018. The dates are January 30–February 8. There are options available that could extend those dates should you choose. An information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 7 pm in the library and again on Sunday, February 12th in the library. You only need attend one of the meetings. If you can't attend either meeting contact Tom Duley at 822-0910 ext. 112 or [tduley@bpumc.org](mailto:tduley@bpumc.org) for more information.

## LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Looking for a Preschool or Parent's Day Out program for your sweet child/children? The answer may be closer than you think. Registration for the 2017-18 school year at Little Imaginations begins on Wednesday, February 1 at 10:00 am. Little Imaginations Preschool is a half-day program offering classes for infants (6 months and up) through 4K. School hours are 9:00-1:00. For information or program details, please call the preschool office at 822-5813, or email our director, Tracy Estes, at [imaginations@bpumc.org](mailto:imaginations@bpumc.org).2017

## 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.

## CHILEAN CELEBRATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 14, from 6:00-8:00pm for an authentic Chilean dinner. We will be honoring our special guests John Elmore (our missionary in Chile) and his wife Cristina. Cost is \$20 per person and space is limited, so call the church office to reserve your spot!

## FLOOD OFFERING

The response to our UMCOR offering for flood relief was fantastic! Our final total is \$11,614.60. This is a wonderful testimony to the generosity of this church and our willingness to stand with those who are suffering. Thank you for your compassion and your great generosity.

## UPCOMING BAPTISM

This Sunday, January 29th, we celebrate the baptism of Daniel Wise at the 11:00am worship service.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Brett Wood—UAB



## SAVE THE DATE

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

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**MISSION/FIELD TRIP:** Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Presidents Day, February 20th. We will be working on a Bargains on the Bluff appreciation project in the morning, eating a pizza lunch, and then going bowling in the afternoon. Drop off will begin at 7:30 and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available

**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 Walks On Water" and the Elementary Sunday School will be having their monthly Mission Sunday!

**Children's Church:** The lesson this week will be on "Jesus Healing a Man Lowered Through the Roof."

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**DISCOVERY WEEKEND PREP FOR HS STUDENTS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH** We will prepare for leading our MS students through the Discovery Weekend experience at 2pm. Snacks will be provided and then we will take a break for the Chili Cookoff. We will wrap up at 7pm.

**MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST** 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 theme is the Gospel According to Pixar with a different movie-related message each week. Our monthly guest speaker will be Andrew Holder.

**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*, Tuesday, February 28th, 2017: *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser*, 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 29, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Jan 29, 2pm	Discovery Weekend Preparation for HS Students
Sunday, Jan 29, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Tuesday, Jan 31, 7:00pm	HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Wednesday, Feb 1, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, Feb 1, 6:00pm	Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups
Wednesday, Feb 1, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship
Friday, Feb 3-5	Discovery Weekend

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**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 BSC

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Shane Miller, Manager, Piggly Wiggly

### **SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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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 29—February 4

### Sunday, January 29

8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
4:00 pm Confirmation  
4:00 pm UMW Compassion Circle  
5:00 pm State of the Church  
6:00 pm Chili-Cookie-Cornbread Cook-off

### Monday, January 30

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

### Tuesday, January 31

9:30 am Covenant Bible Study  
6:30 pm Board of Trustees

### Wednesday, February 1

9:00 am Food pantry  
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 Hospitality Class  
6:00 pm The Bible and Human Sexuality  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups  
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

### Thursday, February 2

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

### Friday, February 3

Discovery Weekend

### Saturday, February 4

Discovery Weekend

### SUNDAY, January 29, 2017

8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
*"Living Foolishly"*  
Rev. Mike Holly

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

### SERVING SUNDAY

#### Ushers

8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur

#### Cross

8:45 Matthew Pitts

11:00 Emma Ruth Cooper

#### Acolyte

8:45 Andrew Pitts 11:00 CJ Lorino

**Greeters:** Fisherman

**Meal on Wheels:** Joy Shultz & Tina Hardy

**Food Pantry February 1st:**

Richerson/Lawson

**Midweek Meetup February 1st:** Discovery  
Weekend Notes of Encouragement. Menu  
TBA.

## Last Week's Record

January 22, 2017

Children/Youth	118/65
Morning Worship	444
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$21,541.75
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$108,848.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$66,538.75
New Members in 2017	6

### 10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$4,305.00
Received to Date	\$166,163.33

*\*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.