



**Bluff Park  
United Methodist Church**  
733 Valley Street, Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910  
[www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org)

**Newsletter, January 22, 2013**



Our student ministry will be holding a spiritual formation retreat for middle school students called **Discovery Weekend** on January 25-27, 2013. This weekend is all about them discovering what it really takes to live out the Great Commandment. The high school students will lead small group discussions, give testimonies about their faith, lead worship, help with setup and cleanup, and learn how to minister to others throughout the weekend. Along the way, a team of college students, young adults and parents will be supporting them behind the scenes.

We would like your help to make Discovery Weekend a more meaningful experience.

1. Pray. It sounds odd asking you to pray for our students, because I know you do that already. But would you please remember all the students in your prayers throughout the weekend? A list of the youth will be posted once everyone is registered. Also feel free to visit the special Prayer Room which we are creating in the parlor anytime during the weekend.
2. Write Letters. If there is a student whom you already know, write them a letter. These letters are signs of love and affirmation from their brothers and sisters in Christ. Express in the letter your love for the student as well as the love God has for them. Affirm them by sharing the gifts and promise you see in their lives. The week leading up to the retreat, we'll have a box for dropping off letters at the main office. Emailed letters can be sent to [youth@bpumc.org](mailto:youth@bpumc.org) with the student's name as the subject.
3. Attend the Prayer Service. This service is on Saturday night, January 26th at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. It is a special time of praying for all the students. Each child's name will be called out as their family walks to the altar rail and lights a candle for them. There will be a time of silent prayer. It is a very meaningful service for each youth. We would LOVE for you to come and hear about the students' experience and support them as members of their church family.
4. Bring a snack or dessert. Food is a great way to show how special someone is to us. We are asking the members of our church to bring snacks or desserts to the Fellowship Hall anytime on Friday. These could be chips and dip or something homemade. Just check inside of your class to make sure you're not all bringing the same thing. Make sure to include your name or Sunday School Class so our students will understand just how many people in our church love and support them!

Thank you so much for your love and support for the weekend. We know that God will bless our students through you during Discovery Weekend.  
Yours in Christ, Bart Styes

**Midweek Ministries**

We're having a good time on Wednesday nights with big crowds. Supper is served continuously from 5:00-6:30, with takeouts available. Two new classes are beginning.

- Starting on January 23, Peter von Herrmann will lead **"Finding the Holy in Hollywood."** Does this movie really mean anything? Is there anything I can get from this? Some of us ask these questions, particularly if we have seen a movie multiple times. Come at 6:00 in the Seekers Classroom (#270) as we find out together. Peter von Herrmann will facilitate. For the next four midweek sessions, we'll be looking at finding God in Pixar movies. Come and join the fun, even if you haven't seen the movie. January 23; Cars; January 30 Toy Story; February 6 The Incredibles; February 20 Finding Nemo.
- On January 30, Tom Duley will begin a study of **"The Last Week,"** a book by New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan that follows the final week of Jesus' life day by day based on the Gospel of Mark. Meet at 6:00 in the Footsteps Classroom.

In addition, we offer Becky Walker's Bible Study on the Book of Revelation at 6:00 in the Friendship Classroom, Reid Crotty's class on the Book of Acts at 4:30 and 6:30 in the Opportunity classroom, and Financial Peace University led by Dan Little at 6:00 in the Fireside Room. Choirs and Handbells will meet at the regular times, along with activities for children and youth.

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

February 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary  
Imposition of Ashes  
Sermon by Reid Crotty



**Lent:** During the Lenten season we will have a weekly prayer and worship service with Holy Communion. The service will be held on the Thursday mornings of Lent at 7:30 a.m. The first service will be on February 14 and will meet in the sanctuary. The service will last no more than 40 minutes. Tom Duley and Leigh Delashaw will lead the services. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Members of our Church Family in the Hospitals:** Shands—University of Florida: Tripp Mitchell  
Brookwood—Betty Lou Hager St. Vincent—Bill White; Rosemary Hill Lakeshore—Pat Henley

**Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to the family of Dan Morgan who died on January 19. He was a member of the Friendship Class....to Lou Vaughan in the death of her sister, Irene Smith of Hayden, Alabama, On January 16....to Frankie Thrasher in the death of her brother, Marvin Nix of Argo, Alabama, on January 19....to Opal Humphrey in the death of her son-in-law, Don Dawson of Bay Minette, Alabama, on January 19.....Our prayers are with these families in their time of sorrow.

**Baseball:** We will take a group to Atlanta on Wednesday, May 22, for the Braves-Twins game. Leave at 8:15. Game time is noon CDT. \$25 for game ticket and transportation. Sign up in the church office. 28 seats available. Friends are welcome.

**Counseling:** Remarriage following a divorce or death of a spouse is a major decision and a big step. There's a lot to think about Steve Sweatt has many years of experience as a professional, licensed counselor and marriage and family therapist. He is also an ordained minister. He can help us to be sure that we've thought things through carefully and are ready to take that step. Steve is affiliated with United Counseling, a ministry of the North Alabama Conference, and he comes to the satellite counseling office here at the church and located below the chapel. Call 824-8320 for an appointment. It's confidential, convenient, and affordable. Weekend and evening appointments can be arranged.

**Membership:** There will be a Membership Class for anyone interested in joining the church on February 3 at 10:00 (during Sunday School) in the fellowship hall. Learn about Bluff Park Church and opportunities to get involved and to grow in Christ. New-comers are welcome here!

**Cookbooks**—Available in the church office and in the narthex. Cost \$20. The divider pages were drawn by the children and we hope you enjoy it.

**Meetings:**

Sunday, January 27 4:00 Chile Mission Team  
Thursday, February 14 6:00 Finance Committee

**Missions:** The church Mission Committee met this past Sunday and was reminded that it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless (James 2:14-17). Our church is a compassionate group of people who are dedicated to advancing the teachings of Jesus Christ through service to others. In order to accomplish this, our goals are to:

- Identify opportunities to serve both our local community and the greater world around us
- Foster volunteerism within our congregation
- Encourage collaborative efforts with other organizations, churches and groups
- Raise funds and allocate resources to promote missions activities

Our church members are already performing services in many ways and we want to share those opportunities with others. Therefore, the Missions Committee requests that each group send a brief note describing the work being done and how others can get involved. Please e-mail the note to Tim Mosley at [t.mosley1113@gmail.com](mailto:t.mosley1113@gmail.com) or Tom Duley at [tduley@bpumc.org](mailto:tduley@bpumc.org) no later than January 30, 2013.

Tickets for this year's **Silent Auction, "The Legacy Gala"**, are officially on sale before and after each service in the narthex. Come join us as we raise money for our youth and children's programs on March 1st at The Club from 7-11 pm. The event will include dinner, dancing and silent and live auctions. To donate an item for the auction, please contact Megan Wise at [megan.f.wise@gmail.com](mailto:megan.f.wise@gmail.com) or 978-2907.

The **North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Women** will sponsor a legislative advocacy day on March 2 at St. Paul UMC, 1500 6th Avenue North. This high impact event is grounded in Biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and integrity of creation. The 8:00-11:30 discussion will inform, educate, and mobilize for advocacy on both local and international policy issues. For 2013, United Methodist Women have four priorities of study and advocacy: immigration and civil rights, human trafficking, domestic violence, and poverty. Those interested in attending should contact Leonette Slay, District Social Action Chair, at [lwsly@cs.com](mailto:lwsly@cs.com) before February 8.

**Thank you:** Dear Missions Committee: As 2013 rolls in, we wanted to take this opportunity to look back at 2012 and thank you for your generous support of P. E. E. R., Inc. that helped take food access to another level in the eastern area of Birmingham. Because of gifts like yours, P. E. E. R. has had its best year yet. We launched two new ambitious programs, the East Lake Community Kitchen and the East Lake Mobile Market, greatly increasing the access to fresh produce to people who need it the most, specifically low income seniors and children. Because of your gift, more neighbors have found a place at the table to share in the goodness of fresh food and to have a voice in making decisions about their own health and nutrition. Wishing you the best of new years, Sally Allocca, Executive Director

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

February 12, 5:00-7:00  
Fellowship Hall  
Sponsored by the Youth  
Its Mardi Gras at Bluff Park!



**Rock-a-thon**

Saturday, February 23,  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Please help McCoy Adult Day Care Center by  
supporting our Rocker, Elizabeth Davis

**VALET PARKING**

Every Sunday morning!  
Drive to the covered  
entrance near the nursery  
and fellowship hall.

**BPUMC FOOD PANTRY**

1st Wednesday each month  
We are serving  
100+ families a month.  
We appreciate all donations!



Monday 6:30  
In the Gym

**SONRISE MEN'S PRAYER****BREAKFAST**

**Mondays, 6:30-7:00 am**  
Arby's on Montgomery Highway

**Men's Freeplay Basketball****In the Gym**

Sunday & Thursday: Wednesday:  
7:00pm 7:00pm  
(church members) (community)

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Organized by women for hands-on missions to spread God's love

**Upcoming Circle Meetings:**

Grace – January 28 @ 10AM in Fisherman Class  
Hope-Love – January 28 @ 10AM at Evelyn Lawrence home  
Compassion – Sunday, February 10 @ 5PM in Parlor. Our guest speaker will be Susie Richardson to present an Urban Ministries project opportunity.

Friendship – January 28 @ 6:30PM in Parlor  
Joy – January 28 @ 10AM in Fireside Room

**Mission Highlights**

Looking forward to the study on Immigration – a timely subject from the Word of God  
Teacher: Reid Crotty - February 20, 27, March 6, 13  
Time & place: Opportunity Classroom – 4:30pm and 6:30pm  
ALL are welcomed!

**District Leadership Training** – Saturday, January 26, 2013 – 8am-12noon – St. James UMC, Warrior, AL  
**Questions** – Call Elizabeth Davis at 823-9093

**Sermon:** Did you miss church this Sunday? Would you like a reminder of what was said? Was there a really fantastic sermon you'd like to hear again? Our new website has a sermon archive going back to June 3, 2012 (the beginning of Reid's series on the Beatitudes). Just go to <http://bluffparkumc.org/sermon/> and click on the sermon you'd like to hear. Your web browser should begin playing the sermon immediately. Each sermon has the date, scripture, title, and preacher. We will update this page weekly so that you can catch the latest sermon.

**CHILDREN'S NEWS**

**4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> FELLOWSHIP** will next meet on Wednesday, January 23. We will go bowling on Sunday Jan. 27. Cost is \$8.00. We will go on a retreat Feb. 1-2. It is **EXIT 456 at Camp Sumatanga**. This is a conference wide camp which was a lot of fun last year. Cost is \$65.00. Registration starts now. Please let Mrs. Leigh know if your child is going by Jan. 20. An updated travel/medical form is required. An information sheet will be handed out this Wednesday and Sunday.

**PRESCHOOLERS** and their parents are invited to a **PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY!** It is Friday, February 8, 6-7:30p.m. The theme of the evening *Bedtime Stories!* So come dressed in your pajamas, bring a blankie and/or your favorite snuggle buddie and have some fun with us. We'll have a bed time snack and make a craft. We'll also hear some stories from one of the best storytellers in Birmingham!! (Hint- She's on the library circuit!) Please call Mrs. Leigh at 822.0910 Ext. 107, so we can reserve your family a spot!

**PARENTS** We have 25 featured children's art work in the new cookbook. Check it out and purchase one at the Welcome Center on Sunday

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES****THURSDAY, JANUARY 24:**

**SHEPHERD CENTER**—10:00 a.m. Sharon Lambert and Mary Hollis.  
Everyone is invited to come hear about our new YMCA on Highway 150.

**Special Moment with Jesus!**

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.* **Psalms 29:2**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:****SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10:**

**CARE N' CONTACT BREAKFAST** — 10:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall—Join us for breakfast and get involved caring for our sick and shut-ins.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18:**

**HYUNDAI PLANT TOUR**—9:00—4:00—Call Betty for reservations on the new bus. \$5 gas donation requested.

**Student Ministries**

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation event for students held here at the church. We invite all members of our church family to be in prayer for our students and adult volunteers this weekend of Jan 25-27. To make sure our students know how much we love and support them, we are asking members of the church to provide homemade snacks and deserts that weekend. You can drop these off at the church office on Friday, Jan 25 during regular hours or at the Fellowship Hall on that Friday night. Make sure to include an encouraging note to our students!

All are invited to attend a Prayer Service for our students at 6:30pm, Saturday, January 26 in the Chapel.

Wednesday, Jan 23, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing  
Friday-Sunday, Jan 25-27: Discovery Weekend (NO Youth Sunday School & PM Student Activities)

Wednesday, Jan 30, 6:30pm: Holy Ground Worship in the Youth Wing

\*Check [www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org) for info on our various student small groups that meet throughout the week.

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733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226

Address Service Requested

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

**Pastors**

Reid A. Crotty, rcrotty@bpumc.org, ext. 104  
Peter von Herrmann, pvonherrmann@bpumc.org, ext. 105  
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112  
Tom Roberts

**Dir. of Seniors**, ext. 103

Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org

**Director of Student Ministries**, ext 118

Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org

**Dir. of Children**, ext. 107

Leigh Delashaw, ldelashaw@bpumc.org

**Director of Finance and Administration**, ext. 117

Ben Sheets, bsheets@bpumc.org

**Secretary**, ext. 111

Cindy Myers, cmyers@bpumc.org

**Director of Chancel Choir**

and **Special Programs**, Lonnie Parsons

**Organist**, Jamie Davis

**Preschool Director**

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



**The Week of January 27-February 2**

**Sunday, January 27**

8:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
4:00 p.m. Chile Team Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

**Monday, January 28**

**Tuesday, January 29**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

**Wednesday, January 30**

4:30 p.m. Children's Handbells  
4:30 p.m. Reid's Bible study  
5:00—6:30 p.m. Midweek Meal  
5:45 p.m. Adult Handbells

**Wednesday, January 30**

6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus  
6:00 p.m. Becky Walker's Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Financial Peace  
6:00 p.m. On A Mission From God  
6:30 p.m. Coffee and Conversation  
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir  
6:30 p.m. Reid's Bible Study

**Thursday, January 31**

9:30 a.m. Shepherd Center

**Friday, February 1**

**Saturday, February 2**

**Last Week's Record**

January 20, 2013

Sunday School	471
Morning Worship	634
Evening Worship	24
Weekly Operating Needs	\$27,025.00
Operating Receipts	\$21,569.08
2013 Operating Budget	\$1,405,300.00
Needed to Date	\$81,075.00
Received to Date	\$72,440.74
Building Fund Receipts	\$7,578.33
Building Fund in 2013	\$17,400.33
New Members in 2013	0

**LIVING OUR LEGACY**

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,080,950.00
Received Last Week	\$7,078.33
Received to Date	\$96,974.36

**BLUFF PARK UNITED  
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM**  
Information Sheets in Narthex and Church  
Office

**Midweek Meal, January 23**

Baked fish, rosemary potatoes, vegetable  
casserole, or baked chicken, baked potato  
bar, bread.

**Midweek Meal, January 30**

Pork Loin, dressing, and green beans or  
baked chicken, baked potato bar, bread.

**Sermons January 27, 2013**

**8:45 and 11:00 Morning Worship**  
"Under Attack"  
(Matthew 4:1-11)  
Reid Crotty

**6:00 p.m. Evening Worship**  
"This Day"  
(Psalms 18:24)  
Tom Roberts

**MIDWEEK MEAL SERVERS  
January 23**

Matt and Pat Reeder—Fellowship Hall  
Peggy and Gail—carry out  
**Cashiers**  
Sally Holland and Woodie Comer

**Ushers**

8:45: Chatterton 11:00: Youth

**Cross**

8:45: Jasmine Hendon 11:00: Caroline Owen

**Acolytes**

8:45: Savannah Sanders 11:00: Mollie Edwards

**Children's Church**

8:45 Andre 11:00: Neal

**Greeters: February 3:** Fishermen

**Meals on Wheels: January 30** Pearson/Adams

**Food Pantry: February 6** Sylvia Sumners