



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 31, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



I am writing to you on Monday, January 25th, to let you know that in one week, Rev. Angela Martin will be on a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the bishop of our annual conference as well as with several other pastors from our area. This will be an exciting trip for her as the places that she has encountered in word form in the pages of the Bible become a place she will have seen and experienced. Not only am I thrilled to be in ministry with such a wonderful pastor, I am also excited for her and hope and pray that this is a trip that will bless her already excellent ministry.

Julie and I were able to go to Israel just before I arrived here at Bluff Park in the summer of 2013. One of the places where I encountered something that changed the way that I see our faith life together as a church occurred when we visited the city of Tagbha on the Sea of Galilee. It is traditionally known as the site of the feeding of the 5,000 by Jesus as well as the site where Jesus reconciles with Peter over breakfast in John 21. A Franciscan church is even built upon the rock where this may have occurred.

What I learned is that fishermen would often use the crevices of the rock to create small fires and would cook the fish on the areas of the rock closest to the fire. Along with the fish, they would often serve bread as well. Our guide told us that in that tradition, when you "break bread with someone you are already beginning to make peace with one another." Before Jesus begins to reconcile with Peter, their very meal at breakfast was the first step toward healing. I find that to be incredibly powerful, especially as we think about how we gather monthly to celebrate Holy Communion together as a church. My prayer for all of us is that we will continue to find ways to break bread together and to make peace with one another in the spirit of Christ Jesus!

State of the Church Meeting

Date: January 31st

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Sanctuary

We will hold a State of the Church meeting during the Sunday school hour on January 31st in the Sanctuary. Our church leadership will bring everyone up to speed on where we are with our 2016 pledges, and budget as well as providing any other new information as we begin a new year together as a church. All classes are requested to attend.



News of the Week

14TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Gail Archer, the college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on February 28 at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

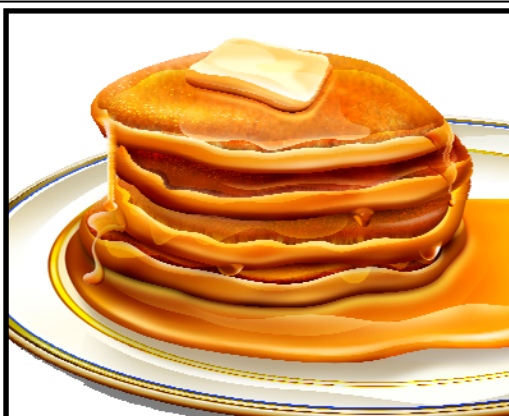
On January 12th, Tuesday, studies start with Adam Hamilton's "The Call"—a six week study which traces the journeys of Paul through Greece and Turkey to Rome. The DVD features Hamilton's unique commentary, which we will follow with group discussion and application to our lives today. We meet every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Got questions? Call Becky Walker at 987-0404, or 531-7237.

LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2016-17 school year begins for church members on Monday, February 1st at 9:30am. Visit the website for more information: bluffparkumc.org/little-imaginations/

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, February 10th, at 6:30 pm as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday worship service. Normal MidWeek activities will resume next week.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Make plans to join us, Tuesday, February 9th, from 5-7pm in the Fellowship Hall for this annual Youth fundraiser. Proceeds support summer youth trips.

Adults: \$7

Children 6-12: \$2

Children under 6: FREE

WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY

Rev. Angela Martin is leading this new study on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am in the Fireside Room. The study is titled "Anonymous." Contact Angela for more information.

2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2016 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: February 7, 21, and March 6. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Melissa and David Miller on the birth of a daughter, Sadie Ann Miller on December 18.

Congratulations to Marcie and Trey Walters on the birth of a son, Carson Blake Walters, on January 19.

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we will gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am, starting on February 18th, 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.



Fast and Secure Online Donations With EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a new set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. They provide the ability to donate on our website and through a mobile app! After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly using your debit or credit card. You can also make a pledge and track your online giving. You can also make Midweek Meetup meal payments.

To create your online account, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step tutorial videos are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: We are excited to announce that BPUMC would like to begin offering a Sunday School class for 4K-2nd grade children with special needs in 2016. If you would be interested in volunteering in such a class or would like more information about this class, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

EXIT 456: We would love to take a group of 4th and 5th graders to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga again this year! This retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 11th (we would leave right after school) and Saturday the 12th. It is a one night retreat full of fun, food, worship, and speakers. The cost for the retreat includes lodging at Camp Sumatanga, 3 meals, all snacks, and a T-shirt. The cost is \$75 per child and we would need to know who is going by Wednesday, February 10th in order to register at this price. We do have scholarships for anyone who would like to attend but is unable to pay the fee. Please email Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org if your child would like to attend!

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every week from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Each week this winter/spring a Bible verse will be given to everyone who attends. A prize will be given every week to anyone who has memorized their weekly verse. Then, on one of the last Midweek Meetups of the fall, any child who has memorized all of the Bible verses will get to play during recreation on a giant inflatable water slide! Will you accept the challenge?!?!?

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates over the next two months: January 31 and February 14, 21, 28. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control and worship with Mr. Stanley and the children! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: This week is our Mission Sunday! We will be meeting in Hudson Hall to help pack food for a local backpack ministry that sends food home with elementary aged children who are not getting enough to eat at home.

STUDENT MINISTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR DISCOVERY WEEKEND!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO...COUNTRY MUSIC! When Holy Ground returns on February 3rd, we'll be discussing all kinds of relationships: family, friendships and dating. Each week there will be a different country song that will help us learn God's plan for our lives.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH. Students who want to be confirmed as full, confessing members of our congregation on Sunday, April 10th are required to attend 8 of the 10 class topics we offer. We'll have one extra class at the end to make up any missed topics. Our plan is to teach on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (10am).

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE FUNDRAISER, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH Student volunteers need to arrive between 4-5pm. Dinner will be served from 5-7pm. Students who assist with the fundraiser will earn shares of the total donations received. Anyone who would like to participate in providing entertainment for the event can sign up this week in the youth wing. We are doing a "talent show" format, with no prizes or judges. This is simply a time for students to show off their musical ability for our church family.

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 Tuesday, February 9: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser; Sunday, February 21: **PREFIX** at Shades Crest Baptist Church (a family oriented Addiction Prevention Event we are co-coordinating); Sunday, April 10: Confirmation Sunday.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 31, 10:00am

Sunday, January 31

Wednesday, February 3, 4:30pm

Wednesday, February 3, 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30pm

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (all students are invited to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast)

No Afternoon/Evening Programming

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Hang Out & Dinner

Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

SATURDAY, MAY 14

CARDS TO OUR SICK/SHUT-INS. Meet in the Library 11:00am.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jack Owens, retired FBI, The Spy Business, The Bureau Way.

AARP SAFETY DRIVING CLASS - 8:30am-1:30pm Call Betty to sign-up. Check your insurance - taking this class may lower your vehicle rate.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Valentines Day Party and Love Story by Delores Hydock.

CARE'N'CONTACT SUNDAY - Help care for our sick/shut-ins - Sunday School Classes and individuals. Send Cards, make a Phone Call, Easter Baskets, Christmas Stocking, Visit, Etc. Stop by the **WELCOME CENTER** sign-up. If you would like to keep the same person you, or your class now care for - just let us know.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER... Andy Meginniss and Dan Marson - Civil War and Jazz

LADIES DAY RETREAT - **SAVE THIS DATE** and plan to join us for a day of Bible Study, Music, Special Guest, Tablesapes, lots of Fun, Laughter, and Excitement.

Special Moment with Jesus

Great is our LORD, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Psalm 147:5



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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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
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 January 31—February 6

Sunday, January 31

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am State of the Church
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Compassion Circle Packing
Bags for Food Pantry

Monday, February 1

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 2

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, February 3

9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study
9:00 am Food Pantry
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
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, February 4

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

SUNDAY, January 31, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Matthew 18:21-35

"Seven"

Rev. Angela Martin

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Doran 11:00 Youth

Cross

8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Kate Ryan Black

Acolyte

8:45 Emma Patton 11:00 Tate Turner

Greeters: Fisherman

Meals on Wheels: Wesson/Brown

Food Pantry February 3rd:

Theresa Richerson

Midweek Meetup February 3rd: Bingo Night!
Chicken fettucini, fried okra, baked chicken,
baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers
for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 24, 2015

Children/Youth	94/54
Morning Worship	576
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$18,362.89
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$106,692.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$90,858.28
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,155.00
Received to Date	\$944,904.87

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2016 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.