



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARCHIVES FOR BLUFF PARK UMC

Did you know:

“About 1889, the first Methodist (M.E.S.) service was held by 12 people in a barn, on the property of Daniel P. Hale, at about 715 Shades Crest Road. In 1891, this group of people built a “Bush Arbor” on a site loaned to the community by Mr. Chadburn at about 810 on Shades Crest Road - at the point on the Mountain where Oxmoor Road merges with Shades Crest Road (near Mr. Ps). A denominationally mixed congregation worshipped together until 1908.

Most of the residents settled along Shades Crest Road in the space of about one mile, between where the two shopping centers now stand. A strip of property, about 150 feet wide, from the road to the bluff, was designated as a parkway for use of the owners going to the various springs under the bluff, from which came their water. That long strip being considered as sort of a park, and bordering on the bluff, this community became known as Bluff Park.”

This information came from *Let's call it Bluff Park - 1889-1979*, as presented in a special service of BPUMC on November 18, 1979. This and more was referenced by Rev. Mike Holly in the sermon on August 15, 2021. But what about the history of the last fifty years? As we move forward, let us *bridge our legacy to our future*, by creating an archive for Bluff Park UMC.

If you have any history, memorabilia, photos of BPUMC, contact Carol Westbrook (205-401-5515) or bring it to the church office.

Fall Event Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 24-25 Bargains on the Bluff
- 29 BPUMC Kids & Students Wild Wednesday

OCTOBER

- Offering of Blankets Begins
- 10 Blood Drive
- BPUMC Students One Night for the Homeless
- Churchwide Potluck Supper
- 11 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 27 Halloween Carnival
- 31 BPUMC Students Pumpkin Olympics

NOVEMBER

- 7 All Saints' Day @ Morning Worship
- Veteran's Day Lunch Celebration
- 11 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 12-14 BPUMC Students Fall Retreat
- 14 Churchwide Potluck Supper
- 17 Family S'Mores Night
- 28 Advent Family Workshop

DECEMBER

- 3 Preschool Christmas Storytime
- 5 BPUMC Kids Christmas Pageant and Churchwide Christmas Party
- 11 BPUMC Kids Parents Night Out
- 12 Churchwide Potluck Supper
- Sanctuary Choir Christmas Presentation
- 15 BPUMC Students Christmas Party
- 19 BPUMC Kids Sunday School Christmas Party
- Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
- 26 Blood Drive

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00 am
THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 11:00 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am
Nursery care available all morning!
Care Contact Information
205.533.9902 | care@bpumc.org

Our Staff

PHONE 205.822.0910

PASTORS

Mike Holly

mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 125

Ross Furio

rfurio@bpumc.org, ext. 124

MINISTER OF CARE: Wayne Williams

membercare@bpumc.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

Stanley Davidson

sdavidson@bpumc.org, ext. 131

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES:

J.T. Mercer

youthdirector@bpumc.org, ext. 129

CHILDREN AND STUDENT MINISTRY PROGRAM

COORDINATOR: Melissa Hendon

mhendon@bpumc.org, ext. 130

ADULT MINISTRY PROGRAM AND MISSIONS

COORDINATOR: Susan Reynolds

adultministry@bpumc.org, ext. 132

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Jason McCrory

jmccrory@bpumc.org, ext. 122

FINANCIAL MANAGER: Joe Pitard

jpitard@bpumc.org, ext. 123

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:

Andrew Seltz

aseltz@bpumc.org, ext. 127

SECRETARY: Brenda Atkins

batkins@bpumc.org, ext. 121

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Art DeWeese

adeweese@bpumc.org, ext. 128

ORGANIST: Jay Tumminello

jtumminello@bpumc.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Tracy Estes

imagination@bpumc.org

FACILITIES MANAGER: Chad Malcom

cmalcom@bpumc.org

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Editor, Andrew Seltz

newsletter@bpumc.org

Our faith, our lives, and our ministries take on a new life when the stories are shared with others. Help us tell God's story of love as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news, photos, videos, and stories to

newsletter@bpumc.org

Message from the Pastor

A recent article from a Christian thinker and mentor has me thinking about navigating these times. In writing about leading through constant stress and bad news, Carey Nieuwhof said that Christian leaders should 1) grieve our losses, and 2) learn to respond and not react. There are several other ideas that he shares with Christian leaders about how to lead and adapt, but these are two that have stuck with me this week. Learning to deal with the emotional loss with difficult times is so important. We cannot forever bottle up our feelings and carry them around with us. Christians eventually must learn to trust God enough to share our loss and our sadness with Him and allow Him to help our hearts mend. At the same time, we must understand that reacting to everything that comes our way puts us at risk of giving off the wrong witness time and time again.

As we move into a new wave of COVID-19 illnesses with very few ICU beds in Birmingham, I have heard of a couple of breakthrough infections for vaccinated adults in our church membership. Thankfully, their symptoms were not that severe which means that the vaccine seems to be doing its job! We have also heard of several children from our church family infected with COVID-19. While we are all better prepared to deal with this new wave (having lived through the first waves), I know that like me you might need to admit the emotional loss of what you had hoped would happen this fall. Just two months ago, we were planning for physical distancing to end and life to get back to some new normal. That future is a little further down the road now as we need to return to practices to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

We must respond (and not react) to the changes ahead of us. It is time to allow space and grace for people. There are some who can mask and some who cannot. There are some who can worship from home and some who cannot. It is time for us all to be the Church for one another, choosing purpose and unity over preference and division.

I had a seminary professor that repeated a phrase so many times that his words are burned into my synapses! He said that the first role of the Church is to be the Church. We are to be the Body of Christ. Every action or response that is needed from the Church should come from who we are and what we are called to do. If the Body of Christ (the Church) exists to make disciples and share God's love with the world, then we can choose to create space and grace for people so that they can be reached with the Gospel, empowered to become disciples, and extend God's love to all around them. Let us all choose to be the Church for such a time as this!



Mike

Bargains on the Bluff

Bargains on the Bluff is Virtual this Fall! Join us for our online consignment sale starting Friday September 24th 8am through Monday September 27th 11:59pm. All proceeds from the sale support our children's ministry and our award winning parent's day out program, Little Imaginations! We've got all things maternity, kids, and babies as well as Jr's and women's clothes, shoes, and accessories! Want to shop early? Consider consigning or volunteering! For more information on everything go to bargainson-thebluff.com.

Women's Conference

Join us in the Chapel, October 16th, from 9am-4pm, as Bible teacher, Priscilla Shirer and worship artist, Anthony Evans lead us, via Simulcast, in this Bible teaching event! Register today to reserve your spot:

bluffparkumc.org/event/womens-conference/

Midweek Meetup Classes - Fall 2021

Starting Wednesday, September 8th, we will begin providing several midweek learning opportunities. Note: there will not be meals available for adults.

Ministers' Bible Study with Mike Holly
"The New Testament You Never Knew"
by Michael Bird and N.T. Wright
4:30 pm - Fireside Room

"In this eight-session video Bible study, well-known Bible scholars N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird team up to take you on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament.

You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his

death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today."

Women's Bible Study with Amy Baird
"Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirers
5:30 pm - Seekers Classroom

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you – unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you. The Armor of God, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory. This is a wonderful study for women and a great introduction to the speaker of the Virtual Women's Conference at Bluff Park UMC this October.

Grow Deeper Podcast

Mike Holly and Ross Furio will be publishing a weekly podcast discussing a variety of ways that we can all grow in faith and in life.

Soldier Mission Project - Thank You!

When Bluff Park UMC is asked to fill a need, it does so in a big way! Recently, a box containing: 150 cooling towels, 150 Upper Rooms, 150plus wonderful cards and letters of encouragement, and \$400.00 for snacks ~ was sent to an Air Force wing located somewhere in the Middle East. Thank You for showering these military personnel with a bit of home and the love of Christ in these most crazy and turbulent times.

Stuff The Bus 2021

For this September's annual Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank (Bundles) diaper drive, Bundles plans to stuff an actual bus with donated diapers, collecting more than 400,000. You can support both Bundles and BPUMC's own Food Pantry diaper distribution. Here's how you can help:

1. **Make a monetary gift.** Write a check to BPUMC with "Bundles of Hope" written in the memo line. Bundles can take your dollars and stretch them even farther thanks to their membership in the National Diaper Bank organization.
2. **Donate diapers:** Place them in one of the collection boxes located throughout the church. REMEMBER, BUNDLES NEEDS SIZE 6 AND PULLUPS (ANY SIZE) THE MOST.
3. **Host a neighborhood diaper drive!!!** Get the entire family and neighborhood involved – make it real rather than just writing a check. You will receive:
 - a. A collection box along with yard signs, delivered to your home.
 - b. Weekly fun and encouraging messages for you to post on your social media.

c. Even better – school age children can earn Community Service Hours for any time spent working on the drive! (Betsy Guy will sign their community service hour card or supply documentation.)

4. **Stuff the Bus:** If you want to personally help stuff the bus, you can take donated diapers directly to the bus on Saturday, October 2.

For further information and to volunteer to host a neighborhood drive, please send an email to Betsy Guy at betsydguy@att.net. You can also send a text to 205.542.6634.

Help us reach our goal of 400,000 diapers!!!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Even though it looked a little different because of the pandemic, we had a great summer in the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC: we had over 70 children attend both Camp on the Bluff and Vacation Bible School this year, and each of them learned who God is, how much God loves them, how they can be friends with God, how they can grow in their friendship with God, and how they can share the love of God with others! As we now turn our attention to the Fall, we want to let everyone know that Midweek Meetup for children is back! Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 for birth-5th Grade on the 1st floor! The children who attend will enjoy dinner (\$2), choir, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and recreation! We would love for your children to attend and invite their friends!

Many aspects of the ministries described above would not be possible without the support of Bargains on the Bluff, our semi-annual Mommy and Me Consignment Sale! Bargains on the Bluff generously donates a large portion of its proceeds to the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. Because of this, I would love to invite you to support Bargains on the Bluff in two ways. First, please consider shopping the Virtual Fall sale on September 24th-27th! Second, if you are able, consider volunteering to work before, during, or after the sale. For more information on how you can volunteer, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org or, go to bargainsonthebluff.com and click on the "Volunteer" button. By doing either of these things, you will be investing in the lives of the children of our church and our community!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

Midweek Meetup/ Holy Ground September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Come on Wednesdays for a \$2 dinner starting at 5:30 then stay for sometime to hang in the New Gym from 5:30-6:30 with Holy Ground (our Student led worship service) going from 6:30-7:30!

Sunday Night Activities September 12th, 19th, 26th

Join us on Sunday Nights from 6:00-7:30 for something different each night! Dinner will be served and then we have a rotating schedule of Serve Night, Game Night, and Mystery Night. So every Sunday is a little different!

Wild Wednesday September 29th

This month's Wild Wednesday is WATER WEDNESDAY. Lots of water balloons and water themed activities! You are not gonna wanna miss out! It will be during our normal Wednesday Night Time (5:30-7:30) and will feature a dinner for only \$2 a person!

One Night for the Homeless October 10th- October 11th

Our annual One Night for the Homeless is coming up soon and we are so excited about it! Every year our students spend the night outside and discuss homelessness and food insecurity. We also raise money/ materials for our local shelters. This year we will be collecting blankets. You can drop your blankets by Susan Reynolds office in the staff building anytime before the event, or you can drop them off with the Students on the night of October 10th from 5:00 onward!!



ADULT MINISTRY

Adult VBS Success

BPUMC's very first Adult Vacation Bible School was a huge success! About 50 people enjoyed three days of encouragement, informative and entertaining guest speakers, music, fellowship, and games!

If you missed this year's event, you can still watch recordings of our guest speakers by visiting the Adult Ministry Page on our church website. The link is:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/adults/>

- **Day 1** ~ *The Great Requirement* (Micah 6:6-8) by Rev. Clay Farrington
- **Day 2** ~ *The Great Commandment* (Matthew 22:34-40) by Rev. Tammy Jackson
- **Day 3** ~ *The Great Commission* (Matthew 28:16-20) by Rev. Jeremy Auvil

Our thanks to everyone who helped with this event ~ Rev. Mike Holly for suggesting and spearheading the event, Rosemary Dallam for her presentation on Healthy Cooking Tips, and to our volunteer greeters, Carol McFadden and Connie Wright.



Rev. Clay Farrington



Rev. Tammy Jackson

LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Church of the Reconciler Turning Used Plastics into Useable Items

In their plastics recycling workshop, the Church of the Reconciler (COTR) has been able to produce carabiners, flowerpots, and bookmarks - all from #2 and #5 plastic waste. They are partnering with Community on the Rise to employ community members in the recycling workshop so they can help clean up Birmingham while also earning money and learning new skills.

You Can Help - BPUMC's United Methodist Women are collecting and delivering the requested items to COTR. If you can donate any of the following items, please place them in the box in the office directly across from Rev. Mike Holly's office. Questions? Contact Carol Westbrook at cdwest43@gmail.com.

- Plastic bottle caps or lids (clean)
- Any clean #5 plastics - includes bottle caps and jar lids without metal
- Any clean #2 plastics - includes straws, most store bags, and milk, iced tea and some fruit juice jugs
- Old irons and panini presses (must have flat griddles)
- Plastic safety goggles



August Drive-Thru Pantry on the Bluff Report

In August, 254 households received food from BPUMC's Food Pantry (Pantry on the Bluff). The following were also given out:

- 7,400 children's diapers
- 400 children's pull-up diapers
- 840 adult diapers

Our thanks to the 53 volunteers who prepared for and operated the August Pantry on the Bluff.



Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps members of our church family connect with each other and with our staff. Realm allows you to manage your own personal information, control your giving, make pledges, and keep in touch with the ministry groups that matter to you.

Realm is not like a social network that's open to everyone. It's only made up of the people in our church community. Realm gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

You can access Realm on the web or through a free app on your phone.

If you have not setup your Realm account yet, contact Jason McCrory in the church office and request an invitation to join.

Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- Frank and Jennifer Touchstone, Maya and Judson- 8/1/21

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Marcie Walters on the birth of a daughter, Kinsley Brooke on August 4th.

Congratulations to Sarah and Stephen Copper on the birth of sons, Peter and Lucas on August 7th.

Congratulations to Leslie and Doug Urrea on the birth of a daughter, Allison Marie on August 13th. .

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Pan Cahoon whose husband Bob passed away August 3rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Kathryn Gunter Allen who passed away in Orlando, Florida on August 12th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Robert "Bob" Ivy who passed away on August 14th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Peggy Sisson who passed away on August 18th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

September 1

Mark 7:9-23 | Psalm 31

September 2

Proverbs 1:1-19 | Psalm 35

September 3

Proverbs 4:10-27 | Psalm 38

September 4

Proverbs 8:1-31 | Psalm 32

September 5

James 2:1-17 | Psalm 41

September 6

James 2:17-26 | Psalm 42

September 7

Joshua 2:1-14 | Psalm 45

September 8

Joshua 6:1-21 | Psalm 49

September 9

Hebrews 12:3-13 | Psalm 50

September 10

Matthew 21:23-32 | Psalm 51

September 11

James 3:1-12 | Psalm 55

September 12

Mark 8:27-38 | Psalm 8

September 13

John 7:25-36 | Psalm 46

September 14

Colossians 3:1-11 | Psalm 66

September 15

Proverbs 22:1-21 | Psalm 72

September 16

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 | Psalm 75

September 17

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 | Psalm 76

September 18

Romans 11:25-32 | Psalm 93

September 19

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a | Psalm 96

September 20

James 4:8-17 | Psalm 80

September 21

James 5:1-6 | Psalm 81

September 22

John 8:21-38 | Psalm 82

September 23

Acts 4:13-31 | Psalm 83

September 24

Acts 12:20-25 | Psalm 88

September 25

Matthew 5:13-20 | Psalm 87

September 26

James 5:13-20 | Psalm 67

September 27

1 Peter 1:3-9 | Psalm 97

September 28

Zechariah 8:18-23 | Psalm 99

September 29

Matthew 18:6-9 | Psalm 100

September 30

Galatians 3:23-29 | Psalm 148

Monthly Calendar for September 2021

Wednesday, September 1	6:00 pm	Student Ministry	Thursday, September 23
7:00 am	6:00 pm	Men's Chorus	9:30 am
5:30 pm	6:30 pm	Choir	Quilting Group
6:00 pm	Thursday, September 16		6:30 pm
6:00 pm	9:30 am	Quilting Group	Friday, September 24
6:30 pm	7:00 pm	Book Club	5:00 pm
Thursday, September 2	Sunday, September 19		Sunday, September 26
9:30 am	9:00 am	Sunday School	9:00 am
Sunday, September 5	9:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am
9:00 am	10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	11:00 am
10:00 am	11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	4:00 pm
10:00 am	4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group	5:00 pm
11:00 am	5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group	6:00 pm
Monday, September 6—Labor Day			Student Ministry
Office Closed	6:00 pm	Student Ministry	Monday, September 27
Wednesday, September 8	Monday, September 20		10:00 am
5:30 pm	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	10:00 am
6:00 pm	Tuesday, September 14		Joy Circle
6:00 pm	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	Tuesday, September 28
6:30 pm	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	9:30 am
Thursday, September 9	Wednesday, September 22		Becky Walker Bible Study
9:30 am	5:30 pm	Children's Midweek	Wednesday, September 29
Sunday, September 12	6:00 pm	Student Ministry	5:30 pm
9:00 am	6:00 pm	Men's Chorus	6:00 pm
10:00 am	6:30 pm	Choir	6:00 pm
10:00 am	Thursday, September 30		6:30 pm
11:00 am	9:30 am	Quilting Group	9:30 am
4:00 pm			
5:00 pm			
6:00 pm			
Monday, September 13			
10:00 am			
Tuesday, September 14			
8:30 am			
9:30 am			
6:00 pm			
Wednesday, September 15			
5:30 pm			



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

CHRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Cahoon, by Harry Hill

FOOD PANTRY

Bob Cahoon, by John and Sylvia Sumners

MUSIC FUND

Bob Cahoon, by D.C. and Suzanne Scivley

OPERATING FUND

Bill Adair, by Dale and Karen Tucker and family

Carolyn Arthur, by Canterbury Clasws

Bob Cahoon, by James and Sara Perry, Molly Taylor and Family

Bob Moore, by Mike and Sandy Miller

Dianne Neilson, by Wayne and Sherry Dickerson, Sandra Stephens, Bobbie Tohill

Butch Powell, by Joan Davis

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bob Cahoon, by Karryl and Becky Anderson, John and Cathy Brown, Steve Fleming, Bob and Linda Jones, David and Sharon Perry, Alice Singleton, Mildred Stokes, Dale Whatley

Ella Mae Henderson, by Fishermen Class

Bob Moore, by Laurel Burns

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Bob Moore, by Elizabeth Sheetz

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Bob Cahoon, by Pan Cahoon

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Cahoon, by Randy and Michele Patterson

In Honor of...

OPERATING FUND

Julie Adams, by Becky Walker

Carol Cater, by Becky Walker

Bill Garwick, by Becky Walker

Priscilla Haynes, by Becky Walker

Andy and Ann Holder, by Becky Walker

Sally Holland, by Becky Walker

Barb Lee, by Becky Walker

Pam Phagan, by Becky Walker

Joy Shultz, by Becky Walker

Debi Whitcomb, by Becky Walker

Audrey Ann Wilson, by Becky Walker

Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

X



Bluff Park
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
— Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace —

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

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Believe, Belong, Grow, Serve!

Our Purpose

Bluff Park United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around us.

Our Vision

Bluff Park United Methodist Church seeks to be a community creating relational experiences to help all people find life and know through a relationship with God: who they are, why they matter, and how they can serve the world in love.