



The Portrait Café will be taking pictures for our New Church Directory. Photo will be taken March 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>.

Photos will be taken on the following dates and times:  
 Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: from 2:00p-8:00p  
 Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2:00p - 8:00p  
 Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10:00a - 8:00p  
 Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: 12:30p - 8:00p  
 Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: 2:00p - 8:00p

We will have online signup first and once that has closed we will start our signups at the church. As soon as the link is available on the website we will notify you by e-mail.

Please do not call the church office; we are not able to schedule your online appointment. You will need to do that yourself.

**CHURCH STAFF**

James Adair	Custodian
Sylvia Beard	Pianist
Suzanne Clegg	Director of Youth Ministry
Diana Foster	Director of Music and the Arts
Heather Hagler	Director of Children and Family Ministry
Debra Hogg	Music Associate
Sondra R. Jones	Senior Pastor
Cindy LaTouf	Office Manager
Leandre Majerus	Interim Director of Preschool Ministry
Hank Morgan	Organist
Susan Rosenthal	Director of Nursery

**Mission of the Month**

**The Souper Bowl Offering is on Feb. 5th.**

Youth all over the nation will take an offering and will generate millions of dollars to feed the poor and homeless. Please plan to drop a dollar in the soup pot as you leave church that morning so someone who is hungry, will have a meal.

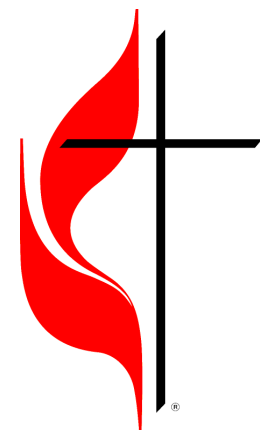
**Blood Drive is Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30p-12:30p.** BFUMC and LifeSouth will team up to help save lives. LifeSouth will have their mobile unit in the church parking lot.

**On Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> we will help Grace UMC feed Homeless Women and Children.**

Please contact Sandra Casper if you can help cook or serve.

**On Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> we will take an offering for the Housing & Homeless Council**

who gives grants to ministries all over the North Georgia Conference to help people in need. It may just seem like a check in the offering plate, but the money you give to the UM Homeless Offering becomes food, rent, emergency shelter, transitional housing, safety from domestic violence, home ownership and jobs.



**The Connection**

*“Connected in Christ’s love, Sent out in Christ’s name”*

**Buford First United Methodist Church**  
 285 East Main Street ~ P.O. Box 329  
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329  
 770-945-7438 (Office) 770-945-3143 (FAX)  
 770-945-4161 (Preschool)  
[www.bufordfirstumc.org](http://www.bufordfirstumc.org)

The Weeks of February 1, 2012 – February 29, 2012

Vol. 24 No. 02

**Confirmation Class Kick-Off Sunday February 12!**

All youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older, are invited to join us in the Confirmation Class.

These sessions are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for 15 weeks. This year we will meet in the Benson House Conference Room. The class will learn about the Christian Faith, and the United Methodist Church. We discuss Baptism, Communion, John Wesley, and so much more!

Each student is assigned a mentor who will support and encourage them throughout the Confirmation Class and beyond! Let Suzanne know if you’d like to be a mentor.

This year’s experience will include a retreat to Junaluska, N.C. for a special Confirmation weekend, April 13-15! Sign up in the fellowship hall, or call Suzanne in the church office, 770-945-7438, or [suzbfumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:suzbfumc@bellsouth.net)

**Sunday School News!**

**New Adult Sunday School Class Begins Feb. 5, 10:00 am Room 203**

Starting **Sunday, February 5**, we are launching a new Sunday School class, geared primarily toward young adults, ages 20’s-40’s. Our College and Career Class will also be merging with the New Spirit Class. Suzanne Best will facilitate the class. The class is discussion oriented with the focus: *Christian Living in Today’s World*. The class will include single and married adults. If you are interested in attending the class or have additional questions, please contact [jsabest@yahoo.com](mailto:jsabest@yahoo.com). We want to have enough materials and chairs for everyone who will be in attendance.

We are also praising God for crowded classrooms due to our growth in the church! Please see the following changes of locations for a few of our adult and youth classes, effective February 12-May 20.

The Confirmation Class will meet on Feb. 12 in the Sanctuary, then in the Conference Room of the Benson House through May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Middle School Youth (6-8) who are not in the confirmation class, will meet in Room 205 of the Education building.

The Cornerstone Class will meet in Heather Hagler’s Office in the Benson House beginning Feb. 12-May 20 and then return to their meeting space in The Conference Room the following Sunday.

Our other adult classes will continue in their existing classrooms: Beacon in Beacon Room-Education Building, Friendship Class-Cindy LaTouf’s office- Benson House, Friends and Family-Onstage Fellowship Hall-Education Building. Children and Senior highs have no changes.

With all of our challenges for space, there are always some adjustments and compromises to be made for meeting times and groups. Please be sure to communicate with Cindy LaTouf, our Office Manager, to schedule all meetings, groups and events or to notify her of any changes so she can update the calendar and bulletins. Please join us for coffee and refreshment fellowship times before Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery is provided during the worship and Sunday School hours.

Return Service Requested

**Buford First United Methodist Church**  
 285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329  
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329  
 770-945-7438

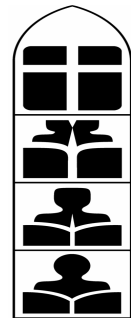
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# A Word From The Pastor



Lent is the season in our Christian calendar for reflection, repentance. We observe 40 days of Lent, not including Sundays, so that we can walk the footsteps of Jesus. We imitate his journey to the wilderness. He spent 40 days reflecting, praying, fasting and resisting the temptations of evil. The Lenten spiritual journey is to help us grow deeper in our walk with Christ.

*Join us this season of Lent for reflection and renewal of our faith.*



Learn & Grow

## Bible Study Begins

The Wednesday evening Bible study begins on Feb. 1, from 6:30-7:30 in the Beacon Room. Nursery is provided. We will study the Book of Acts. The study includes the beginning of the Christian church, stories of Paul and what it means to us to be the church in the 21st century.

## February Sermon Titles and Scripture

Feb. 5	Mark 1:29-39	<i>Healing Jesus</i> <i>Communion ~ White</i>
Feb. 12	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	<i>Loving Jesus</i> <i>Scout Sunday ~ Green</i>
Feb. 19	Mark 9:2-9	<i>Family Reunion</i> <i>Transfiguration ~ White</i>
*Feb. 22	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17	<i>Come Home</i> <i>*Ash Wednesday evening ~ Purple</i>
Feb. 26	Genesis 9:8-17	<i>God's Promise</i> <i>The First Sunday in Lent ~ Purple</i>

May the Love of Christ bless you.

Love, Sondra

\*A donation has been made in honor of Heather White by Jim & Meredith Holt.  
 \*A donation has been made in honor of Donnie & Linda McQuaig by Al and Pam Kocher.  
 A donation has been made in honor of Jim & Meredith Holt by Gary & Carol Ash.  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Milbourne Joye by Jim & Meredith Holt, Pat Stanley, and Phillip & Sylvia Beard.  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Dan Pirkle by Jeff & Dianne Smith, Sue Bullock, Rick & Marsha Huckaby, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, Al & Pam Kocher, Eugene & Kathleen Walls, Beacon Sunday School Class, Jim & Meredith Holt, Dan & Beth Bruno, Harry Wilkes, Dennis & Dianne Fox, Brenda Billiter, Rev. Sondra Jones, Loretta Robinson, Robert & Donnis Bowman, Mary Allen, Vernell Rucker, James & Sheila Reed, Edwin & Mary Whidby, Jim & Mary Dover, Bryan & Susan Kerlin, Jim & Bet Clanahan, Runette Clure, George & Joan Moore, Ruby Mathis, Terry Ellis, Buford UMW, Pat Stanley, Phillip & Sylvia Beard, and Gary & Carol Ash.  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Joy Morgan by Charles & Charmet Garrett,  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Bobby Kerlin by Dennis & Dianne Fox  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Barbara Espy by Shon & Sally Rupert  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Heather Beard Blalock by Phillip & Sylvia Beard.  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Max Samples by Charles & Charmet Garrett.  
 \*A donation has been made in memory of Carolyn Johnson, Ann Smith, and Walter Smith by Frank and Sheron Smith.

*Dear Church Family,*  
*I would like to thank my church family for your prayers, cards, phone calls and food during my recent surgery. I felt the prayers. You are wonderful people and I love you all.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Mike Casper*

**Eat At Famous Joes the first Monday night of each month** and you'll be supporting the BFUMC Missions! Famous Joes is located at the intersection of Hamilton Mill and Ridge Rd. The address is: 3290 Ridge Rd., Buford, 30519. Their phone is 770.271.5637. It's fun to see your church friends, have a great meal, and raise funds for the church! Be sure to drop your receipt in the bucket at the register. The youth are selling gift cards for Famous Joes as well! If you buy a \$20.00 gift card, the youth keep \$10.00 of that for a youth trip! What an awesome deal! You get \$20.00 on the card, and we get \$10.00! Parents, help your own student out by purchasing one today!

Youth Event- Camp Glisson Spiritual Life Retreat for youth is March 16-18, 2012. Sign up with a \$20.00 deposit. **The retreat is \$110.00 each. Siblings get a \$10.00 discount each.** This is a great retreat for Middle School and High School students. Church groups from all across North Georgia will be with us. See the church website for all the details.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

## February Music News

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 is Ash Wednesday.

There will be a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program hosted by the UMW in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Bread, soup and drinks are served during this time.

There will be a worship service at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Pastor Sondra will be preaching on Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.

Please join us for this time of repentance and forgiveness that begins our Lenten Season.

In Christ,  
Diana

**Youth Ski Trip – Rescheduled!**  
**Feb. 3-5 to Lake Junaluska, N.C.**  
**6th - 12th are welcome!**  
**\$185.00 each Siblings discount is \$15.00 each.**  
**A \$50.00 deposit is due NOW.**

Lake Junaluska is a UM retreat center near Maggie Valley, N.C. We stay in hotel accommodations, eat meals in the dining room, and attend a session in the evening with a band and a speaker. We would be with other youth groups from around the southeast. It would be a great time of fellowship. Ski one day at Wolf Ridge. The price includes ski equipment, lift ticket, and a lesson if needed. Renting bibs would be extra (\$10). Tubing is an option- but would be an additional fee- one hour is \$20

Suzanne

Hello BFUMC Friends and Family,

In my first few weeks I have enjoyed so much meeting all the amazing people who make our Children's Ministry wonderful. This small space doesn't allow for all the thanks that need to be given, so the Children's Ministry is dedicating the whole month of February as "Love Our Volunteers" month. As a part of our celebration we will decorate our Children's Ministry bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with notes of appreciation and thanks. Please stop by through the month of February and leave your thoughts. We'll be having fun all month showing appreciation for everyone who is building the foundation of the faith in the lives of our children.

Our Children's Ministry calendar is filling quickly with Coming Soon activities: a Family Fun Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Sabbath, and (can you believe it?) VBS! Please remember our ministry in your prayers, and watch this space for ways you can be in on the action!

*Blessings, Heather Hagler*

**Yard Sale Date is Sat. May 12!** Proceeds will go to the Bahamas Mission Team. Please save your donations for us! We can store some things now at the Adams House. Let Suzanne Clegg or Mike Casper know if you have an item for us to pick up!

### Stephen Ministry

*You may have heard by now that BFUMC has become a Stephen Ministry Congregation! What does this mean? BFUMC has begun a ministry in which we train gifted members to provide quality Christian care to others during difficult or transitional times in life. This is a wonderful extension of the caring ministry our Pastor and staff already provide. At this time we have four trained Stephen Leaders whom are heading this ministry: Ashley Crossett/Stephen Leader Team Coordinator, Suzanne Best/Training Coordinator, Donna Thomas/CE Coordinator, and Gerry Mattox/Supervision Coordinator. We have 11 members whom are training to become our first group of Stephen Ministers at BFUMC! They are: Joe Best, Mike Casper, Priscilla Davis, Connie Hardee, Sue Jones, Beth Langston, John Marbury, Ann Reichert, Deena Rindfusz, Shon Rupert, and Pat Stanley. They are nearly half way through a 50 hour training course where they study areas involving distinctive Christian care, the art of listening, process oriented care, and in-depth study of challenges others may be facing such as depression, loss, grief, divorce, and more. We teach and learn through preclass reading assignments and in-class lecture, discussion, and role playing. This foundational, strong group of trainees is such a blessing to our church and we are excited to see the difference they are & will be making in the lives of others and in the care BFUMC is able to provide. Please pray for each of them daily and for the Stephen Ministry here as a whole. The training will be completed in April and our Stephen Ministers will be Commissioned on April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**BFUMC will go to The UM Children's Home** in Decatur Sat., March 10 to work on a special project! Please plan to go with us. More information is available on the church website. Sign up with Gerry Mattox or Suzanne Clegg. Adults, youth, and children can help!

### Bahamas Mission ~ July 8-14, 2012

Bahamas Habitat in Nassau  
 Stay tuned for ways you can help our team serve the people of Nassau!

Team Members:

Mike Casper	Debra Hogg
Suzanne Clegg	Brianna Eck
Courtney Reaves	Morgan Thomas
Kim Griffin	Katie Clegg
Emily Clegg	Alec Leverett
Sandy Gerald	Anna Gerald
Donna Guy	Beth Ritchie