



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 have sign-up sheets in the church on Sunday or you may call the church office Monday - Friday to schedule your photo appointment, 770-945-7438.

**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**

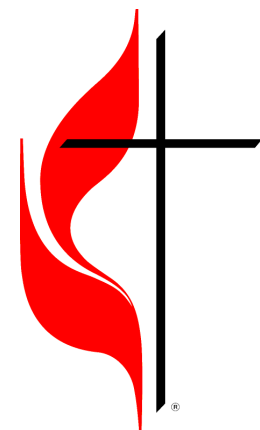
BFUMC will go to The UM Children's Home in Decatur Sat., March 10 to work on a special project! Please plan to go with us. More information is available on the church website.

Sign up with Gerry Mattox ([gmattox@umchildrenshome.org](mailto:gmattox@umchildrenshome.org)) or Suzanne Clegg ([suzbfumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:suzbfumc@bellsouth.net)). Adults, youth, and children can help!

Use the enclosed Prayer Calendar (located on the back of your church calendar) to pray for the Missions of BFUMC every day this month! God will hear our prayers and bless these ministries.



Thanks to everyone who supported the Youth Carnation Sale on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds went to the Central Conference Pension Initiative! As of March 1, Buford First has collected \$4,615.18 toward our pledge of \$10,000.00. We have until June 1 to collect this amount. Please plan to give! Just place your donation in an envelope and clearly mark CCPI. Donations may be placed in the offering plate. Thank You!



**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 March 1, 2012 – March 31, 2012

Vol. 24 No. 03

**Holy Week  
Worship  
Schedule**

**Sunday, April 1  
Palm Sunday**

Worship  
8:45 and 11:00 AM

**Thursday, April 5  
Maundy Thursday**

Worship  
7:00 PM

**Sunday, April 8  
Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service at  
Lake Lanier Islands,  
Presentation Pointe  
6:30 AM

Worship at BFUMC  
9:00 and 11:00 AM



April 7th  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

at the home of  
Charles and Charmet Garrett  
4101 Thompson Mill Road  
Buford, GA 30519

Come and join us for lots of fun! We'll have different hunting areas for various age groups, the Easter story, prizes, a visit with the Easter Bunny, and more!

Please help us by donating the following items:

- Non-chocolate Candy
- Prizes
- Juice Boxes
- Cookies

Please drop off your items in the Easter box in the Fellowship Hall. All donations are due by March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help during the Egg Hunt with prizes or food, please let me know.

For more information, contact Heather Hagler at 770-945-7438, or [bfumcchildren@bellsouth.net](mailto:bfumcchildren@bellsouth.net)

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

My dear church family,

I want to thank you for your love and support during this very difficult time for me and my family. As many of you have already experienced, we are never totally prepared to say goodbye to the people we love, especially our immediate family. My mother-in-law, Louise, who I lovingly called mom, was my last living parent. In the midst of my grief, I turn to God for strength to console my own children who suffer the loss of their last living grandparent. I know that God didn't just take mom from our family. I believe that he grieves with us as we mourn and I find comfort in knowing that God is there to welcome my mom home. Life is precious and each day is a gift. Not only should we make time for our family and loved ones, but we should cherish the moments we have with them.

God promises an abundant life for each of us who choose to follow in the teachings of Jesus. As we continue in our faith journey together I look forward to sharing God's love with you and all those who we are blessed to come in contact with. God gives us opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to do the work in God's kingdom here on earth; to live the teachings of Jesus.

My wonderful church family, through your sharing, working, living and loving in the ways that Jesus has taught us, you are making a difference. I count it a blessing to be part of the family of Buford First United Methodist Church.

May the Love of Christ bless you as you continue in your ministries at Buford First, our local community, and throughout the world!

Love, Sondra



\*A donation has been made in honor of Bob & Hope Gregory by Rick & Marsha Huckaby, Mike & Sandra Casper, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, and Jim & Meredith Holt.

\*A donation has been made in honor of James Adair by Jim & Meredith Holt.

\*A donation has been made in honor of Ray Page by the Strength Training Class Rick & Marsha Huckaby, Mike & Sandra Casper, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, and Jim & Meredith Holt.

\*A donation has been made in memory of Dan Pirkle by Michael & Rebekah Nash, Lee & Mary Carter, Dr. & Mrs. Joe Souther, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Souther, and Katie, Ryan & Charlotte, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Brandstetter, and Adam & Tyler, Bruce & Judy Purdy, Mr. & Mrs. Jere Greer, Carson and Michael Smith, and Tommy & Gina Hughes.

\*A donation has been made in memory of Bobby Kerlin by Carson & Michael Smith



**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!

## Young at Heart

*For those 50 and older ☺*

**March Activity** - A lot of you wanted to do a service activity. Come join the YAH on March 22 when we will go to MedShare to sort, count and pack medical supplies to be sent to 3rd world countries. We will leave the church at 10:30 AM go to lunch at the Old Hickory House (BBQ) and then start working. We will return by 4:30PM. Cost is \$4.00 for the gas and lunch on your own.

**April Outing with a March deadline!**

Come see the Senior Follies at the Cumming Playhouse on Friday April 27th at 8:00 P.M.

This year's theme is Country Jamboree. Persons that have attended the Senior Follies in the past really recommend the show. The cost will be \$25.00 per ticket and \$2.00 for the van cost. This performance fills quickly so I am asking for all interested YAH to send their checks to Pam Kocher (5776

**Amberside Lane, Sugar Hill, GA 30518**) by March 1, 2012. We will leave the church at 7:00 and won't be home until late.

But you can sleep in, in the morning!

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

## March Music News

**Are We There Yet?**

March 25, 2012

6:00 PM

BFUMC Sanctuary

ALL INVITED!

Come and enjoy an evening of contemporary worship music, scripture, and monologue focused on evangelism and missions.

The youth choir proudly invites all of you to come share this experience and invite your friends!

In Christ, Diana

## Senior High Beach Trip

Rising 9<sup>th</sup> through grads!

May 26-28

**Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island**

\$109.00 each. (2 in one family - pay \$99.00)

A \$30.00 deposit is due by March 28.

Epworth By The Sea is a beautiful United Methodist Retreat Center on St. Simons Island, about a 5-hour trip from Buford. We stay in cabins and eat most of our meals in the dining room- YUM! There's a pool, lighted tennis courts, and lighted basketball courts.

We go to the beach, play some beach volleyball, see some United Methodist History, experience some discussion time, and have a BLAST! I hope all the Senior Highs will go with us!

Suzanne

## BFUMC Kids By the Numbers

Our membership: **42 families** with children who are eligible for our children's programs

Total children: **65**

Number of Children who participate in our Children's Ministry: **approximately 40**

Families who have one or more parents serving in our Children's Ministry: **20**

Volunteers needed each month: **60**

The servant hearts of our families is amazing! Almost half of our families have one or more parents ministering with and to our children. Most families serve in many areas. Thank you so much! Without your help, our children's ministry cannot be outstanding.

Ready to join the fun? Call me at the church office or email me [bfumcchildren@bellsouth.net](mailto:bfumcchildren@bellsouth.net). Ready...set...go!

Blessings, Heather

**Our Older Adult Ministry is busy reaching out to the community and world! Join us as we seek to serve others through Christ!**

**\*\*\* Interested in knowing more about Meals on Wheels? Meals on Wheels is a great way to help right here in the Buford Community. Volunteers are needed! See what is involved by riding with Cricket Marbury on her route. Cricket delivers meals on a Thursday each month, leaving the Sawnee Ave. Senior Center about 10:00a. To reserve a ride-along time call either Cricket or John (770-945-7457). If Thursdays are not convenient for you, you may call them to ask for information.**

**\*\*\* The Homebound Visitation Ministry is looking for a few more volunteers to help! If you would be willing to visit a homebound member once a month, please call Sandra Burgess at 770-271-0136. We have some wonderful people we would love for you to meet!**

**\*\*\* The Helping Hands Ministry is ready to help those who need some minor home repair or maintenance done. If you need the help, or if you can volunteer to serve, call Hope Gregory at 770 314 1437 or email her at [gloriahope0116@gmail.com](mailto:gloriahope0116@gmail.com)**



**Eat At Famous Joe's the first Monday night of each month and you'll be supporting the BFUMC Missions!** Famous Joe's 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 Joe's 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!**