

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of December 14, 2014

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2014) | |
| Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration | \$582,986.00 |
| Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal | \$530,967.58 |
| Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal..... | \$26,009.21 |
| Amount given on 12-14-2014 | \$19,611.62 |
| Building Fund | |
| Balance in Building fund | \$4,717,330.39 |
| Amount given on 12-14-2014 | \$1,310.00 |

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2014 should be an aggregate total of our financial needs including Conference Apportionments as well as all other needs.
2. The Amount Received should be the aggregate total of funds received for budgetary purposes.
3. The Consistent Weekly Need to reach the Yearly Goal will change each week depending upon the amount of weeks left as offset by the gifts received.

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| James Adair | Custodian |
| Sylvia Beard | Pianist |
| Sandra Casper | Financial Secretary |
| Suzanne Clegg | Director of Youth Ministry |
| Rev. Dr. Sondra R. Jones | Senior Pastor |
| Cindy LaTouf | Office Manager |
| Leandre Majerus | Director of Preschool Ministry |
| Hank Morgan | Organist |
| Mark Ridings | Director of Music and the Arts |
| Susan Rosenthal | Director of Children & Family Ministry |
| Bradley Trammell | Accompanist for Children and Youth |

2014 Average Attendance

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Worship | 301 |
| Sunday School | 128 |

January Missions

Disposable Diaper Collection

The United Methodist Children’s Home office in Gainesville, GA & North Gwinnett Co-op, in Buford, GA has ministries that give diapers to families in their area. For the month of January the Carol Scott Circle has teamed up with the United Methodist Children’s Home Office and the North Gwinnett Co-op to support their Diaper Mission. All during the month of January we will be collecting disposable diapers. We need all sizes for both boys and girls. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall.

SKH (SACK KIDS HUNGER)

Your donations help feed children! The SKH request for January is Popcorn!

Allergy & Asthma: With respect and concern for persons, who suffer from allergies and asthma, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne on Sunday morning. For those who have allergic reactions to fragrances, this can cause extreme respiratory stress. Thank you for your consideration for the health and wellbeing of others.



The Connection

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

The Weeks of January 1, 2015 – January 31, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 1

2015-2016 Preschool

Registration Information

Winter is in the air and it’s time to think about preschool for the fall!
Buford First UMC Preschool offers a variety of experiences for your child to grow physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually.

Available Class Options:

- Younger Twos: Monday and Wednesday
- Older Twos: Tuesday and Thursday
- Threes: Monday-Thursday Tuesday-Thursday
- Pre-K: Monday-Thursday

Registration Dates:

- January 20:** Currently enrolled students and siblings and BFUMC members
- January 27:** Open to public
- *BFUMC members receive a 10% discount on monthly tuition
- *Siblings receive a 10% discount on monthly tuition
- *10% off yearly tuition if you pay in full in August

Drop by the Preschool office Monday-Thursday, 9-1, for a registration packet or call Leandre Majerus at 770-945-4161 with any questions.

Buford First UMC Preschool

Where little hands come to Play, Pray, and Learn

January Preschool Events

- 6th: Return to School/Staff Meeting
- 8th: Wear Blue to School
- 13th: All God’s Creatures Animal Show
- 14th: Mom’s Time
- 19th: No School

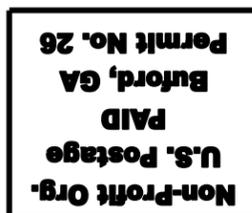
BFUMC Missions in 2015

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January | Disposable Diaper Collection for the UM Children’s Home |
| February | 1 - Souper Bowl Sunday- Collection for Homeless 8 - Blood Drive 17 - Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 22 - Homeless and Housing Offering |
| March | Missions Prayer Calendar 15 - One Great Hour of Sharing 29 - 5 th Sunday Missions Program at 10 a.m. 29 - Special Offering for Imagine No Malaria |
| April | Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive 5 - Special Offering for Imagine No Malaria 12 - Blood Drive 21 - Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta |
| May | Prison Deoderant and card collection 10 - Wesley Wods Offering 10 - Mother’s Day Offering- Murphy Harpst 31 - 5 th Sunday Missions Program at 10 a.m. |
| June | 2 - Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 7 - Conference Special Offering 7 - Blood Drive 21 - Father’s Day Offering- Eagle Ranch |
| July | Tree of Life Garden |
| August | 2 - Blood Drive 11 - Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 30 - Action Ministry Offering 30 - 5 th Sunday Missions Program at 10 a.m. |
| September | 20 - UM Children’s Home Offering 26 - Great Day of Service (Tentative) |
| Ocotber | Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive Prison Christmas Card Collection Coat and Blanket Drive 20 - Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta |
| November | Alternative Christmas 29 - 5 th Sunday Missions Program at 10 a.m. |
| December | Angel Tree Alternative Christmas 19 - Sack Kids Hunger, Christmas Meal Delivery |

Return Service Requested

Buford First United Methodist Church
 285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329
 770-945-7438 ~ www.bufordfirstumc.org
 Preschool 770-945-4161



A Word From The Pastor

God knows the plans...

"For I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord, they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 Common English Bible, verse 11.)"

January—this is the month of a calendar year when people think about the New Year and a fresh start to make the upcoming year a better, brighter and happier year. What will the New Year bring for you personally? What will the New Year bring for our church?

Jeremiah, the prophet, understood new beginnings and making plans. He especially understood the importance of God's plans for our lives. We need to think about how God is working in and through us to bring about God's plans here on this earth through each of us and through the church as a whole. What are you planning for God?

As a church, we are in a planning time for a new Christian Life Center and capital improvements to our historical sanctuary and education building. We are very busy with "our" plans. We also need to remember that "our" plans are hopefully God's plans. The reason for our plans is to grow for Jesus Christ and to reach new people so that they may come to know Him. Our plans are to build so that we can invite others to share in our ministries as well as our regular participants, and we also need to do that now while we are making these plans for the future.

As you begin this New Year, take time to reflect on how far you have come, where you have been and where you might be going in your faith journey. Think of how much God loves you and worry less about all the details of the future, rather stay focused on God and live with a love and joy in your lives.

Making resolutions is a popular thing to do in the first of the New Year, so be resolved to grow deeper in your faith and more obedient in your discipleship. Our baptismal vows remind us of a new beginning. We promise to love Jesus and serve by our "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." What if we took these five practices to heart in even greater ways?

Pray constantly for God's will to be done in our lives and in our church. Be present in worship each week and participate in opportunities that we are given. Give generously financially because we need to be thanking God through our giving. All we have belongs to God, share it for His glory. Be available to serve in the church through volunteering time and talent as it takes the entire church to do the work of ministry. Be a positive person when it comes to faith. Radiate His love to the world. Shine His light. For God *does* know the plans He has for us.

Love,
Pastor Sondra



*A donation has been given in memory of Olivia Ouimet by: Mike and Celina Countess and Jim and Meredith Holt.
*A donation has been given in memory of Lula Mae Pirkle by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig and Tommy and Gina Hughes.
*A donation has been given in memory of Lt. Col. William "Bill" Smith by: Mr. & Mrs. George Barnes, Joe and Virginia Avery, Jeff and Carol Craig, Jimmy and Lenora Morris, Robbie and Sylvia B. Neff, and Jane S. Johnston.
*A donation has been given in memory of William "Bump" Smith by: Col. William P. Sewell.
*A donation has been given in memory of Patsy Hudson Ogletree by: Giles and Mary Roberts.
*A donation has been given in memory of Richard Bullock by: Jim and Meredith Holt.
*A donation has been given in honor of Rev. Dr. Sondra Jones by: Steve and Leanna Brown.
*A donation has been given in honor of Bob and Connie Gregory by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.
*A donation has been given in honor of the Beacon Class by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.
*A donation has been given in honor of the children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses, and the great grandchildren by: Bobby and Estelle Dobbs.
A donation has been given in honor of Billy Willis by: Tom and Dorothy C. Willis.

Dear Church members,
Thank you so much for the meals you brought to our home. We really did enjoy every bite and thought of the love you sent. Also thank you for all the cards and calls. I hope to be back in the swing of things soon.
In Christ love, Beth and Frank Langston

Young at Heart visits

Journey into the heart of CNN Worldwide Broadcasting and get an up close look at global news in the making. The inside CNN Studio tour is a 55 min. guided walking tour with an exclusive behind the scene look at Atlanta's CNN studios with exciting glimpse of news and broadcasting in action. You'll learn the ins and outs of television production from inside studio 7.

We will eat at the CNN food court which has a variety of fast food restaurants. Lunch is at your own cost.

Date: Tuesday, January 20th

Time: 9:00 A.M. load van

Cost: \$15.00 for the tour + \$4.00 gas/parking = \$19

Reserve by: January 12th to Debbie Atcheson at djatcheson@gmail.com or 770-965-3729.

Join the Ladies Book Club!

Ladies Book Club: Our book selection for January/February is "Good God, Lousy World and Me" by Holly Burkhalter. It is the story of a journey of a human rights activist from unbelief to faith and is available at Amazon.com and probably most book stores. Suzanne Best will lead our discussions and we will meet on January 13 at 7pm at Suzanne's home. Please bring \$5 for a snack supper. This is a great time of year to begin to participate in our club and read books you may not normally read. Please come join us. Husbands – for a Stocking Stuffer idea, see above! Call Sue Jones at 770-932-2202 with any questions.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL

featuring clinician
Dr. Mark A. Miller

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Where: First Baptist Church, Gainesville, GA

Who: All 6th-12th Grade Youth

What: A GREAT day of singing & fellowship

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Our youth will experience the fun of singing in a large group, meeting other kids who love to sing and working with a great clinician!

MORE INFO TO COME!

Confirmation Class in 2015!

Confirmation Classes for students in 6th grade and older will begin on February 8. There is a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, and is taught by Suzanne Clegg, Pastor Jones, and Heather White.

The class will go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska April 24-26, 2015. We worship, hear great speakers, and enjoy workshops and activities.

This is a great experience for young people, and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own. Please sign up to take this course!
Suzanne

2015 is going to be an exciting year for the Children's Ministry! We are growing and changing and getting better and better!

As we move further into our building process, our regularly scheduled Children's Ministry events will be adjusted and changed a bit so I wanted to go ahead and give you a heads up for your long term planning.

We will proceed with our Love Our Volunteers in the month of February and we will come up with special ways to thank all the BFUMC Volunteers that help us make all of our wonderful programming possible. In the Spring, we will have our Egg Hunt and celebrate the Easter Season. The one area that will change for 2015 will be Vacation Bible School. With the demolition and new construction planned for the new Christian Life Center slated to start in the Spring, we have decided to not do VBS this year but to focus our efforts on an AMAZING VBS in 2016 in our new Christian Life Center. I know that this may be disappointing to some of you but I promise you it will be worth the wait for VBS 2016!

I hope that you will all be supportive and understanding as we go through changes and transitions this year to make our Children's Ministry and all of our programs be the best that they can be.

Thanks and God Bless!! Susan



The UMW Executive Board Meeting will be held Sunday, January 4, in the Beacon Room at 12:15 PM.

UMW Circle News

Effie Wood Circle will meet January 6, 2015, at 7 PM in the Beacon Sunday School Class room. The guest will be Attorney Joy Melton of the Hindson/Melton Law Firm, speaking on basic estate documents---"what everybody needs in their glove compartment."

All women are invited to attend.

Carol Scott Circle meets the third Friday of each month at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. (January 16 is the next date.) Child care will be provided. All of BFUMC circles have similar tasks and goals, but are each unique in the way we fellowship and in the way we fulfill the UMW purpose. If you are interested in knowing more about Carol Scott or will need child care in January, please contact Sherry Seabrooke 770-886-2922 or at stseabrooke@gmail.com

Care Group News

Did you know that Buford First UMC has 15 Care Groups? These groups each have a leader who keeps in touch with its members through email and phone calls. We strive to care for one another through these small group connections. See Beth Langston or Linda Hummer for more information. Care Group Leaders will meet Sunday, January 4th, at 12:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will go over some of the new procedures for leaders, and welcome a few new leaders! Everyone should bring a finger food snack to share.

Youth Lenten Devotional Book

The youth will publish a Lenten Devotional Guide again in 2015. Anyone interested is welcome to contribute a devotion, photo, or drawing. The deadline for contributions is Sunday January 25th! See Sydney Yancey for more information.

Home Bound Help Needed!

Are you willing to call or visit one of our home bound members every month? We need people to volunteer for this important ministry! See Sandra Burgess for more information, or email her at slburg48@gmail.com.

The youth are selling gift cards for Famous Joe's! 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!

Join the Meal Ministry Team!

If you are willing to help provide food for families when the need arises, let Suzanne Clegg know. Call the church office, 770-945-7438, or email Suzanne at studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org