

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of February 16, 2015

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)	
Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration	\$599,996.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal	\$88,642.42
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$11,363.41
Amount given on 02-15-2015	\$10,960.50
Building Fund	
Balance in Building fund	\$4,730,405.09
Amount given on 02-15-2015	\$635.00

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2015 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

2015 Average Attendance

Worship	297
Sunday School	128

March Missions

Prayer Calendar: The Mission Committee has put together a Prayer Calendar for the month of March. The calendar is on the back of the March Calendar, as well as in the narthex at church. Please pray faithfully for these missions.

The One Great Hour of Sharing: Sunday, March 15. Plan to give a donation in church on this date which will help fund the United Methodist Committee on Relief's work this year. UMCOR is a disaster relief ministry and is active in 81 countries.

The Imagine No Malaria Campaign: Sunday, March 29 we will take an offering for this.

5th Sunday Mission Program: Plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am on March 29th. We will share about our Tree of Life Garden and the Appalachia Service Project. There's a pancake breakfast before the program which will help our ASP go and serve this summer. Come between 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. to have some pancakes (donations), then stay for the program at 10:00 a.m.

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 March 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 3

Imagine No Malaria

During Lent we will have a Mission Focus on the *Imagine No Malaria* Campaign of the North Georgia Conference. Look for Facts about this disease and how we can eliminate it from our world in the Sunday Bulletin, Prayer Calendar, and in the Lenten Devotional Book.



Special Offering Sundays March 29 & April 5

Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. But there is hope! Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and together with our partners, our generation can beat malaria once and for all. Help the UM Church reach its goal of 75 million dollars! Sixty-five million has been raised! . Give generously so that others might live.

7 WAYS Jesus CHANGES YOUR Life



Also join us on February 18th:
6:00pm - Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Meal and Program
7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Service and Imposition of Ashes

- Nursery Provided for all Services -

Buford First United Methodist Church
285 E. Main Street, Buford, GA 30518 • 770-945-7438 • www.bufordfirstumc.org

Return Service Requested

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A Word From The Pastor

Lenten Reflections

ΓΕΥΓΕΝ ΚΕΤΙΕΚΤΙΟΥΣ

One of my favorite spiritual mystics is Julian of Norwich. She lived in the late Middle Ages and so beautifully wrote about her experiences with Christ. Julian writes with an intense spiritual reflection that serves to illuminate others about her relationship with God in Christ. She is often known by the phrase, "All will be well." Her outlook was that of peaceful hope in what Christ has done for us on the cross and our eternal destination to be with Him. She embraces the mystery and beauty of God as she reminds us of God's deepest intent of love toward us.

One of Julian's most beautiful quotes remind us in this season of Lent that God's will is directed for our good. It is God's choice to come to us in Christ Jesus. Jesus comes to us and chooses to give His life. Jesus saves us from sin and death. Jesus saves us for life now and life to come. Jesus is God who deeply loves us. We must always remember this as we consider what God has done for us.

*"It is God's will that we have true delight with him in our salvation, and in it he wants us to be greatly comforted...For we are his bliss because he endlessly delights in us: and so with his grace shall we delight in him. All that he does for us and has done, and will do was never expense or labor to him, nor could it be, except only that he died in our humanity, beginning at the sweet Incarnation and lasting until his Blessed Resurrection on Easter Morning. So long did the labor and expense of our redemption last, in which deed he always and endlessly rejoices." **

As we live into the season of Lent, may our repentance be more than apologies to God for our sins and shortcomings, rather, let us receive the love and forgiveness of Christ. May our prayers be more about grateful hearts for the love we are given than the litany of wants we might be so inclined to request from God. May our Lenten sacrifices, those things we "give up" during the 40 days of Lent, be more about responding to God's love than thinking Lent has "cost" us anything of significance. May our faith be an offering of service, of praise and delight in God as God delights in us.

In His Love,
Sondra

* The Wisdom of Julian of Norwich. Compiled and Introduced by Monica Furlong. 1996.



*A donation has been given in memory of Kenneth Hash by: Jim and Meredith Holt.

*A donation has been given in memory of Ella Mae Merritt by: Terry Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Carson Smith III, Pat Pirkle., and Tommie Henley.

*A donation has been given in memory of Gerald and Sara McQuaig by: Mr. and Mrs. Carson Smith III.

*A donation has been given in honor of Bradley and Heather White by: Dan and Beth Edwards..

*A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.



Ladies Book Club - Our March/April book selection is *Sum It Up* by Pat Summit. It is her story of becoming the youngest and

extremely successful basketball coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols. Christi Lenz will lead the discussion. Get your book now and start reading with us! We will meet on March 10 at 7 pm, at Suzanne Best's home.

Buford United Methodist Men's Fellowship Dinner and General Meeting

Please join the Buford United Methodist Men (BUMM) on Monday, March 23rd from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will set up from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a meeting following our dinner.

Bring a friend and RSVP to bufordumm@gmail.com.

If you would like more information about the Buford United Methodist Men, please contact Chris Simonson at bufordumm@gmail.com



Calling All Grads!

Please call the church office by **March 9** in order to provide information we need to be able to honor you in the 11:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, April 19**.

The High School Graduates will be honored at a banquet Sunday night, April 19, during our F.L.A.M.E. session (5:15 p.m.)

The One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday March 15

Give so that the United Methodist Committee on Relief can maintain its extensive mission to those suffering from manmade or natural disasters. This offering, taken world-wide, will pay for the operations of UMCOR, so 100% of all other gifts will be used for mission.



Buford Aid Project

We need youth and adults to help!

Saturday, March 7, 9 am – 2 pm

Sign up to help on the Youth Bulletin Board!

We'll be raking and doing yard clean-up for some of our neighbors! Help us serve others. Bring a rake, glove, clippers, and a sack lunch.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Our Chancel Ringers are attending the Methodist Handbell Festival

Saturday, March 14th

Snellville United Methodist Church

with composer/arranger Tim Waugh

8:00am-5:00 pm

Everyone is invited to the free concert at 4:00 pm

Chancel Ringers will not rehearse on Monday, March 16

Pancake Breakfast and Program on Appalachia Service Project Sunday March 29

Come eat pancakes for a donation between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. we'll have a program on the Appalachia Service Project in the fellowship hall. This is our 5th Sunday Mission Program. We will also hear about the Tree of Life Garden!

We have a team of 18 adults and youth planning to serve through ASP this summer. ASP focuses on the poorest section of our nation- Appalachia. They do an incredible amount of home repair every summer. Come and hear about this amazing mission!

Suzanne

We are hopping right along in the Children's Ministry ☺ I have several exciting things to share with you including our BFUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Garrett Farms. We will be hunting eggs, playing games, eating cookies and much more on March 28th, 2014 from 2pm – 4pm. Be on the lookout for flyers with more info!

I am also excited to tell you about our "Children's Church Buddy Program". We are inviting all rising 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who are interested in helping out in Children's Church to let me know. By being a buddy, kids will be paired up with a small group of younger kids to help them with the lesson, craft and games. They will also be helping teach the lesson, gather supplies, and just being a big help to our Children's Ministry. If interested, just have them come down for the Children's moment and follow us up to room 203. This is completely optional as the children are more than welcome to stay with their parents in church if they wish. We are just doing our best to share God's love in all the ways we can!! If you want your child to be a part of this new program, please just email me! (Our adult volunteer schedule will remain the same).

Blessings! Susan

MARCH PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

2ND-5TH: Dr. Seuss Week

11TH-12TH: Spring/Graduation Pics

17TH: Wear Green to School

16TH-19TH: Teacher Appreciation Week

23RD-26TH: Optional Parent Teacher Conferences

25TH: 100TH Day of School Activities



The Lionel Drake Scholarship Application is on the youth table in the Fellowship Hall. This application is for a graduate of Buford High School and the applicant must meet several other criteria. See the application to see if you are eligible! Deadline for applications is Monday, March 23.

The Legacy Scholarship Application is also on the youth table in the Fellowship Hall. Any graduating senior who is active in the life of this church is eligible. A student may be awarded up to \$3,000.00 for this scholarship. See the application for more information, and the deadline to apply is March 23!

The Florence Garner Circle sponsors a scholarship each year. Applications are located in the narthex and on the Youth table. The applicants are scored on several criteria including academic achievement, community/mission involvement, references, written expression, and the applicant's need for scholarship funds. Applicants must be a member of the Church. Completed applications need to be submitted by Sunday, March 15th and should be turned in to the church office or to Barbara Money.

The 2015 BFUMC Business Directory is in the narthex. We'll add new businesses!

Just email Suzanne Clegg at studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org to be included!

BFUMC is a Kroger Community Rewards participating organization! We will receive a percentage of what our members spend at Kroger each quarter. These funds will be used for our mission project, Sack Kids Hunger. Our church members can help by registering online with Kroger as a BFUMC member. The church will receive rewards as our members shop and use their Kroger Plus cards! It just takes a couple of minutes to register your Kroger Plus card online. You must enroll every August to stay in the program! Be sure and do this soon, so the church will receive the funds! Register at krogercommunityrewards.com.