

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of March 16, 2015

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)
 Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration \$599,996.00
 Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal \$136,263.88
 Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal..... \$11,310.54
 Amount given on 03-15-2015 \$10,660.82

Building Fund
 Balance in Building fund \$4,719,998.09
 Amount given on 03-15-2015 \$728.00

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	301
Sunday School	132

April Missions

Gina Carswell Food Drive: All during the month of April we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the North Gwinnett Food Co-op. You may donate food or make a \$10.00 donation and we'll do the shopping. Drop bags off in the car parked at the side entrance to the church during April. Also, food donation bins are located in the fellowship hall.

Imagine No Malaria:- A special offering will be taken Easter Sunday, April 5th. Plan to give to eliminate this disease in Africa!

Feed the Homeless: We will feed the Homeless Women and Children at Grace UMC on Tuesday, April 21st. We would love for you to come with us to serve, provide food based on our menu, or make a monetary donation. Please contact Sandra Casper if you would like to help, sucasper@charter.net.

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

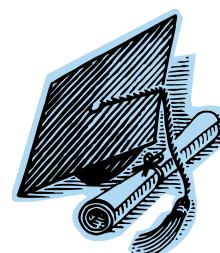


To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

The Weeks of April 1, 2015 – April 30, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 4

Congratulations to our
2015 Graduates!



College Graduates

Georgia Gwinnett College

Jennifer Mattox
BS in Special Education

High School Graduates

Buford High School

Jase Adams
Corbin Farr
Ryan Dobbs
Mimi Loftus

North Gwinnett High School

Morgan Thomas
Jacob Yang

Mill Creek High School

William Jeffrey
Lanier High School

Timothy Leazer

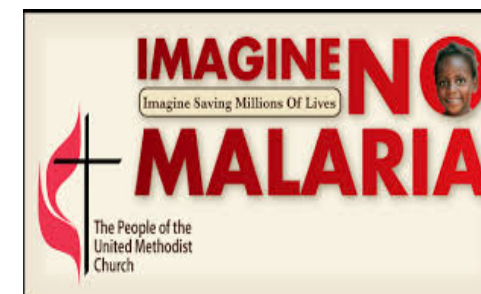
Be sure to join us Sunday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. to honor these students!

God Bless our graduates!

Easter Worship Schedule
April 5, 2015

6:30 a.m.
Sunrise Service at Buford Community Center

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Easter Worship and Celebration Service
Buford First United Methodist Church
No Sunday School Today



The latest figures show that United Methodists have given almost \$67 million to Imagine No Malaria. Our Conference hopes to raise \$1,000,000 in order to save 1,000,000 lives.

In addition to your offering to the General Fund, Buford First UMC will take a special offering for this Campaign on Easter Sunday! **Please give generously so that others may live!**

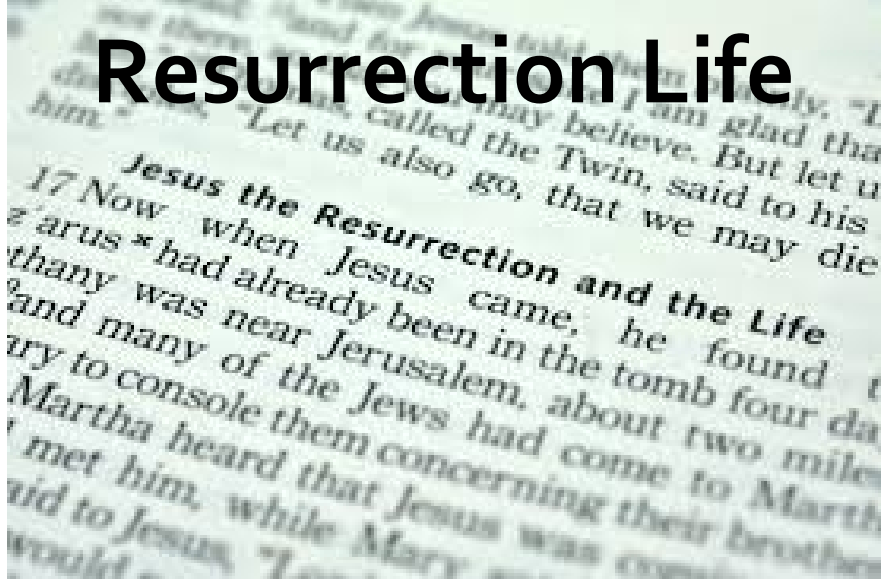
Return Service Requested

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

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A Word From The Pastor

Resurrection Life



"Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes: he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Laurence Hull Stookey wrote these words as the chorus, from the hymn, "Up from the Grave He Arose." These words are a powerful witness for Christians celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As Jesus conquers sin and death, He gives us new life. This Easter is a celebration of His love and the victory is not only eternal life, it is also our quality of our life on this earth. We can face all our circumstances with a sense of great hopefulness and peace. We can be joyful even in the midst of difficulties.

The triumph over sin, death, and darkness is God's promise fulfilled. Because Jesus lives forever, we live forever. God's promise fulfilled is real Easter joy and Christ gives us the Resurrection Life.

We are saved by His grace. We are recipients of His gift of faith. We are given courage to be His followers. We are loved to love and serve others. We are forgiven to forgive. We have this beautiful hope of eternal life because "Hallelujah! Christ Arose!"

Wishing you Love and Easter Joy,
Sondra



*A donation has been given in memory of Jeff Willis by: Dorothy Cheeley Willis.
*A donation has been given in honor of Jeffrey, Emily, and Caroline Willis by: Dorothy Cheeley Willis.
*A donation has been given in honor of Dwight and Sandra Burgess by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

Thanks

Thanks so much church family! We really appreciate the cards, flowers, delicious food, and prayers. We are very blessed to be a part of the BFUMC church family. Thanks again! *The Yancey's*




Women's Retreat
Twin Rivers RESORT

The Women's Retreat is a wonderful experience for ladies of all ages. We relax, learn, laugh, and eat good food. The Committee invites all women to come and help us plan for the November 13-15, 2015 retreat to Twin Rivers Resort. Join us Monday, April 13 at Vinny's Restaurant on Friendship Rd. at 6:00 p.m.
Let Suzanne Clegg know if you plan to attend. Email her at studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org.



Yard Sale for Missions
Saturday, June 13th
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Church member Pat Pirkle's home
156 South Hill St.
(Across Moreno Street from the church)
Donations are welcome, but must be dropped off Friday, June 12th between 5:00-7:00 p.m. or Saturday morning between 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
We have nowhere to store anything, so help us if you can!
Proceeds will help the Appalachia Team do mission work this summer.
See Kenny Karr or Mike Casper for more information.



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.


Music Ministry
Youth Ministry
Children & Family Ministry

SOME OF THE REASONS THAT PEOPLE SING IN OUR CHURCH CHOIRS
*...Singing in the shower just isn't enough
...It is a way of sharing my talents and gifts
...Choir is a way for me to belong and participate
...I sing because I'm happy
...It quiets my soul*

No matter what your age, stage, or ability, there are many opportunities for you to participate in the music ministry of our church. From all of the children's choirs, to Youth Choir, Family Choir, Men's Chorus, Chancel Choir, Handbells, and Tone Chimes... there is a place for you!

For information, please contact Mark Ridings, in the church office, or ask any choir member.

Epworth Sign Ups!



Epworth By The Sea is a beautiful UM retreat center on St. Simons Island. The senior high youth (rising 9th and older) will have retreat to Epworth May 28-13. We enjoy the beach, and have several Bible Study sessions as well.

The trip is \$175.00 for a 3 night stay, and a \$35.00 non-refundable deposit saves your spot. Please turn in the deposit by April 19 if you plan to go with us.
Suzanne

**Force – God's Love in Action >>>
Move! Act! Care! Follow! Share!!**

VBS 2015 is coming!!!!
June 1st – 5th 9:00 – 12:30.


Registration is now open! Log on to www.bufordfirstumc.org to download the registration form or pick one up in the Narthex. Children ages 3 to 5th grade are welcome. Early Registration is 10.00 per child by May 1st, 15.00 per child after May 10th. Registration closes on May 10th. (No late or walk up registrations) If you are interested in volunteering, email Susan Rosenthal children.director@bufordfirstumc.org.

Be on the lookout for a donation list in the very near future.
It's time to put YOUR faith in action!!



Carol Scott Circle
Please join the Carol Scott ladies who meet every third Friday except June and July. The April meeting is on Friday, April 17, at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided. Please contact Sherry Seabrooke by April 12 at stseabrooke@gmail.com if you will need childcare.

Effie Wood Circle
Will meet in the Beacon Sunday School Class Room on April 7, 2015 at 7 PM. Officer Aaren Dieffenbacher, Gwinnett County Crime Prevention Coordinator, will speak about Senior Safety, Identity Theft and Neighborhood Watch Awareness. All church women are invited and may bring a friend.

Ladies Book Club 

April book selection is the second half of *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. It's not too late to start reading with us! We will meet on April 14 at 7 PM, at Sue Jones' home. Call Sue at 770-932-2202 with any questions or if you need directions.

Appalachia Service Project Team

The Appalachia Service Project Team is looking for Team Sponsors. Purchase "stock" in this venture and see how your investment pays off! We have 18 youth and adult volunteers planning to spend a week working in Tennessee on homes that need repair. Each volunteer pays \$310.00 to go and serve. These funds pay for food, lodging, and building supplies. Help us help others. Turn in a stock form with a donation by May 31. Forms are in the narthex and on the youth table in the fellowship hall. Prayers for the team are needed as well. See the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to see who is on the team