

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of May 18, 2015**

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration .....	\$599,996.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal .....	\$232,944.43
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$11,470.36
Amount given on 05-17-2015 .....	\$7,617.75

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund .....	\$4,661,227.16
Amount given on 05-17-2015 .....	\$530.00

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**

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

2015 Average Attendance

Worship	317
Sunday School	121

June Missions

**Blood Drive on the first Sunday in June!**  
 We will have a **BLOOD DRIVE** from 9:00a-1:00p on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please be in prayer about taking the time to donate blood. Summer is here and that means vacation travel, lake activities, and the need for more blood donations. Plan to give the gift of life on June 7<sup>th</sup>!

**The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden**  
 (located across Moreno St. from the church) needs volunteers to help! Can you spare an hour one weekend-or maybe one evening during the week? There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall, or see Suzanne Clegg to volunteer! Produce will be given away to those in need through Sack Kids Hunger and North Gwinnett Co-Op.

**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

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

Vol. 27 / No. 06

## Building and Growing to the Glory of God

“As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:20)



Conceptual Rendering provided by  
Breaux & Associates

### Proposed Christian Life Center and the Sanctuary/Education Space

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” Our congregation's vision toward fulfilling the mission is **S.H.I.N.E. Serve. Host. Inspire. Nurture. Educate.** ~ To shine the light of Jesus so that children youth, and adults will grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

First United Methodist Church envisions an expansion of ministries and services through the construction of Christian Life Center and capital improvements as we incorporate a growing membership and changing community landscape. The project’s goal is building a Christian Life Center on our existing campus and to make capital improvements to our existing sanctuary and educational space.

The plans for building and renovation include the construction of a 49,000 square foot Christian Life Center. Included within this project is an activity center, age level classrooms, youth area, pre-school, fellowship hall, commercial kitchen, media center, and additional space for large gatherings and fellowship. Outdoor green space and playgrounds will be part of the design. In addition, our 88 year old sanctuary, a landmark of the Buford community cityscape, will undergo major capital improvements to ensure that it remains the cornerstone of Hill and Main St. You may be asking “why build?” How does this project lend itself to the prosperity and future of our church and the welfare of the Buford community? How does this project fulfill the mission and vision of the church?

1. **We’re building a foundation for future generations.** We are called to lay the groundwork for the future. The legacy we leave to the City of Buford and the surrounding area will live on for our children’s children.
2. **To provide Christian education for children, youth and adults.** We fail the future when we fail to educate. Limited space in an aging facility hinders our ability to reach further in servicing the needs of the Buford community. Educational programs and mission opportunities are critical if we are to make an impact in the future.
3. **To reach out to the community at large.** John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, said, “The world is my parish.” Our vision incorporates being a resource to both the congregation and the community. Increasing our capacity and inviting use by the community provides us with the framework to grow.

**More detailed information and costs will be mailed the first week in June and available on the website, along with financial pledge cards. Commitment Sunday is June 28th.**

**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*

**Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Buford, GA  
 Permit No. 26**

# A Word From The Pastor

**"God has entrusted us... with a portion of worldly goods; with food to eat, raiment to put on, and a place where to lay our head; with not only the necessities, but the conveniences, of life. Above all, he has committed to our charge that precious talent which contains all the rest, -- money: Indeed it is unspeakably precious, if we are wise and faithful stewards of it; if we employ every part of it for such purposes as our blessed Lord has commanded us to do."**

John Wesley's sermon, "The Good Steward"

I love this quote from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. I love how he talks about the community as "we", not as "I". He uses "we" and "our" because we are the body of Christ. He speaks of the power of money as it is a gift from God to use for God's work. God is generous to us. We need to be generous toward God.

As a church, we are seeking God's will for the new Christian Life Center and capital improvements to our existing building. The church members and constituents will be receiving information and pledge cards during the first week of June. You are asked to pray and respond as God leads you.

Our church's future depends on each of us giving generously and sacrificially. It takes each person to pray, to sacrifice, to invest in the future building and renovations. We also need to understand that the capital campaign is for the building fund and does not take the place of our general fund (annual operating budget).

Pray about what God is calling you to do and be "a wise and faithful steward, employ every part of it for such purposes as our blessed Lord has commanded us to do."

Please contact our Finance Chair, Bradley White or our Financial Secretary, Sandra Casper, if you have any questions regarding the capital campaign. Please pray for our church. May we experience the overflow of God's blessings to the glory of God for future generations.

## Important Dates:

**Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** is Commitment Sunday and covered dish lunch, announcement of pledges following lunch.

**Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** is our Executive Committee meeting with the District Committee for approval of final plans and funding plan. (District approval is contingent on our pledges, cash and proposed loans.)

**Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>** is our Called Church Conference to approve final building and funding plans.

**Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** is the 144<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Celebration, covered dish lunch and groundbreaking ceremony.

Love and Blessings,  
Sondra



\*A donation has been given in memory of Austin Grant by: Dorothy Willis.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Jay Giddens by: Al and Pam Kocher, Dorothy Willis, Karen Nix, Rita Steele, Estelle Dobbs, Melinda Kersey, Meredith Holt, Carol Ash, Judy Franklin, Mary Van Strasser, and Beth Langston

\*A donation has been given in honor of Mike Casper by: Al and Pam Kocher.

Dear BFUMC family,  
Thank you for your love and support during my recent illness and recovery. I have been blessed by all of your prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, visits, and food.  
Sincerely, Louise Gilbert

## Ladies Night Out

**BFUMC will sponsor a Ladies Night Out on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:00 p.m. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish dinner and fun games. Bring a dish to share, and a game to play. All women are welcome! See the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall to see who will be there.

### Buford First UMC Care Groups are busy!

Did you know we have 13 Care Groups in our church? Each group is comprised of 10 to 20 families, who live in the same area. These groups are organized to keep open the lines of communication in our church with regard to any joys or needs families might experience. We hope to be there for you if you ever need anything! Each group has a leader or two, who email or telephone group members when there is a need. If you have questions about Care Groups, or would like to be more involved, see Beth Langston or Linda Hummer

### Ladies Book Club

Our June and July book selection is "A New Dawn in Beloved Community" by Linda Lee and we would love to have you join this wonderful group of ladies. Sue Jones will lead the discussion with dinner provided. Please bring \$5 to help cover the cost. We will meet on June 9 at 7:00 p.m., at Sue Jones' home. Call Sue at 770-932-2202 with any questions or if you need directions.

## Music Ministry

### PRAYERS FOR YOUTH CHOIR TOUR

Please pray for our youth choir members, leaders and parents as they travel to North Carolina and Virginia, June 6-9.

#### TOUR MEMBERS

Mary Countess · Sarah Farr · Olivia Leazer · Ruby Leazer  
Charlie Lynskey · Sara Jane Lynskey · Jacob Lenz  
Jonathan Lenz · Ashlyn Moody · Morgan Moody  
Adam Rose · Annabelle Rose · Devon Thomas  
Morgan Thomas · Grace Yancey · Sydney Yancey

#### LEADERS

Mark Ridings, Director · Bradley Trammell, Accompanist  
Susan Lynskey · Celina Countess

Mark

### Yard Sale for Missions

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

8 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At Church member, Pat Pirkle's home

156 South Hill St.

(Across Moreno Street and on the left)

**Donations are welcome, but must be dropped off**

**Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> between 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Or Saturday morning between 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**We have nowhere to store anything!**

**Come get some great stuff for a bargain price!**

**Proceeds will help the Appalachia Team do mission work this summer.**

See Kenny Karr or Celina Countess for more information

Suzanne

Life in the Children's Ministry is crazy busy right now! We have so many awesome things going on and I am so excited about them all!

On May 3, our G.L.O.W. choirs made a truly joyful noise as we rounded out our spring G.L.O.W. with a beautiful choral and tone chimes concert. The kids did an amazing job! Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped make it happen!

VBS preparation is at a frenzied pace as 70 volunteers get ready to welcome about 90 kids for a week of fun, fellowship and fantastic worship on June 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. We are so excited to be sharing God's love with so many kids!

Our rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are in the midst of their worship training class and are learning all the ins and outs of our worship service. I am so proud and honored to award their bibles to them on May 31<sup>st</sup>. They will also be joining the Children's Church Buddy Program.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate promotion Sunday where the children will move up to the next grade level in Sunday School and our rising Kindergarteners will be joining us in Children's Church. We are so proud of all of our BFUMC Kids !!!

In HIS Name, Susan

## ♥ Missions ♥

Mission Committee Meeting! Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. the Missions Committee will meet in the Benson House. Anyone interested in helping with the many Missions of our church is invited to join us. See Co-chairs: Wendy Lindly or Deena Rindfuz for more information. One item open for discussion is an adult mission trip in 2016. Would you be interested in traveling to serve in the Bahamas or in Tennessee at Mountain T.O.P.? Let us know!



**The Women's Retreat to Twin Rivers Resort will be November 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.**

Come enjoy some time with a great group of ladies! This year's theme is "Take Me Away-Find Rest in the Lord". Donna Thomas and Beth Ritchie will lead our sessions. Cost is \$110.00 for 2 nights, if you register before August 16<sup>th</sup>. After August 16<sup>th</sup> the cost goes up to \$120.00. Turn in a \$55.00 deposit to Louise Nauman or Suzanne Clegg to register. There's information in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Hope you can join us!

## Summer Fun for Youth



Youth (Rising 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>) can sign up to participate in lots of fun and meaningful activities this summer! In June we'll play a laser tag, visit the local Nursing Home, and spend a day at Six Flags! In July we plan to tube in Helen, feed the homeless in Atlanta, and visit Sims Park in Suwanee for a picnic! Be sure to get the info you need off the youth table in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to contact Suzanne Clegg at [Studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:Studentministry@bufordfirstumc.org) if you have any questions.