

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of July 20, 2015**

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration .....	\$599,996.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal .....	\$324,225.43
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$11,990.02
Amount given on 07-19-2015 .....	\$11,810.76

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund .....	\$4,656,217.58
Amount given on 07-19-2015 .....	\$5,895.00

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	302
Sunday School	115

**August Missions**

**Blood Drive August 2<sup>nd</sup>**



LifeSouth will be in the church parking lot from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please give about 30 minutes of your time and a little bit of your blood.

**Meal for Homeless Women and Children:**

We will go to Grace UMC to help serve homeless women & children in Atlanta on August 11. If you would like to make a donation of money or food or would like to go and serve, please contact Sandra Casper at 770-271-8008 or at [sucasper@charter.net](mailto:sucasper@charter.net). We will leave the church at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**5th Sunday Mission Program:**

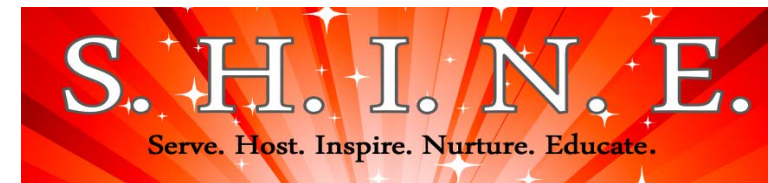
On August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM, the Missions Committee invites everyone to join them for a Missions Fair in the Fellowship Hall. All the missions of BFUMC will be on display with information, schedules, & a chance for you to sign up to serve locally, nationally, & even internationally.

**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 August 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 8



## Worshiping and Celebrating the many Blessings of God

### Time and Talent

August 30<sup>th</sup> is Time and Talent Commitment Sunday. Please be thinking of ways you are willing to serve at Buford First United Methodist Church in 2016. Beginning August 9<sup>th</sup> you will have an opportunity to indicate the areas of mission and ministry that you would like to be considered for by filling out your Time and Talent form. If you are already serving on a committee or participating in a group and wish to serve again, please indicate that on your form. Each person serves for one year at a time. The Nominations Committee does their best to place each person in at least one area that the person is interested in while discerning the best use of each person's talent and how the church will be best served.

We ask that you fill this form out as an individual, not as a couple.

### Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service**

**(Only one Worship Service and no Sunday School)**

**11:30 a.m. ~ Lunch in the Fellowship Hall**

**12:30 p.m. ~ Ceremonial Groundbreaking**

Sunday, August 16, 2015 is going to be an extra special day of worship. Buford First United Methodist Church celebrating 144 years of worshipping God, providing Mission and Ministry opportunities in our local community and around the world. We are celebrating the heart of our people being willing to move forward with our plans to build a new Christian Life Center and make capital improvements to our existing church building.

We will celebrate this day as a church family united in one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Following worship we'll enjoy a covered dish meal where the church will supply the fried chicken, drinks, and cake. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish to share. Once we have all enjoyed lunch we'll go outside for our Ceremonial Groundbreaking Service.

**We look forward to sharing this day with you and may all that we do bring Glory to God!**

### 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](http://www.bufordfirstumc.org)  
 Preschool 770-945-4161

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



# A Word From The Pastor

## To The Glory of God

**"As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit." Ephesians 2:22-12**

With a joyful heart, I celebrate the answered prayers for our church to move forward for the future! God has moved mightily in our midst. God has provided generous financial resources. God has cultivated spiritual maturity among the people, strengthened the unity in the congregation, provided excellent lay leadership and guided people to make sacrificial efforts. God is still moving and will continue to do so. We are also greatly blessed with wonderful support from our city and community. By the grace of God, we are now ready to build a new Christian Life Center and make capital improvements to our existing building. All because of God's love and vision for our church, we are ready to move forward into an amazing future.

On August 19, Buford First United Methodist Church marks 144 years of service for God's work. Methodist pioneers in the faith believed in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. From the first brush arbor church in 1871, a year before Buford was established. Since that time, our church has had four sanctuaries, including the arbor, the log cabin, a church in what is the town square and our current sanctuary built in 1926. Through many years, laughter, tears, sacrifice and transitions, the church has remained a vital part of the community.

With such hope and thankful hearts, now we prepare to celebrate this historic time in the life of church with one special service of worship at 10:00 a.m. on Homecoming Sunday, August 16. We are honored to have our District Superintendent, Rev. Richard Chewing, preaching the service and we will have many special invited guests. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to be part of this amazing time in our church's life. Please bring a side dish and dessert to accompany the chicken the church will provide. Following worship in our sanctuary, we will have lunch in the fellowship hall. After lunch, we will immediately proceed outside to conclude our day with a ceremonial groundbreaking service.

I am deeply thankful to all those who have worked so hard to make this dream come true for Buford. I am honored to serve Christ with you as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I look forward to celebrating on Homecoming Sunday and I praise God for all God has done, is doing, and will do. I praise God that we are "building and growing to the Glory of God."

Love and Blessings,  
Pastor Sondra



*\*A donation has been given in memory of Pat LaTouf by: Tommie Henley, Dorothy Willis, Bobby and Estelle Dobbs, Mike and Sandra Casper, Mary Alice Beard, Larry and Brenda Puckett, Buddy Beard, Harla Samples, Tommy and Gina Hughes, Al and Pam Kocher, Pat Stanley, Jim and Meredith, Holt, Walter and Sondra Jones, and Rick and Marsha Huckaby, Dwight and Sandra Burgess.*

*\*A donation has been given in memory of Austin Grant, Charles Garrett, Roger Kersey, and Max Samples by: Wendell and Darohty Peevy.*

*\*A donation has been given in memory of Norma Preston by: Bob Preston.*

*\*A donation has been given in memory of Roscoe Hartley by: Joan H. Dyar.*

*\*A donation has been given in honor of Rick Braswell by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.*

*\*A donation has been given in honor of Harry and Martha Wilkins by: Mike and Sandra Casper.*

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

*\*A donation has been given in honor of Marsha Huckaby and Harry Wilkins by: Al and Pam Kocher, Donnie and Linda McQuaig.*

*\*A donation has been given in honor of Pat Pirkle by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.*

*\*A donation has been given in honor of Jim and Meredith Holt by: Leanna Brown.*

*\*A donation has been given in Honor of Handsel Morgan, Charmet Garrett, Sondra Jones, Gery and Janet Mattox, Tommy and Donna Grant, Donnie and Linda McQuaig, Joe and Suzanne Best, Patricia Adams, Runette Clure, and Kenny and Cindy Karr. by: Wendell and Darohty Peevy.*

### Notes of Gratitude...

Buford 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Family,  
I wanted to THANK everyone for all the kind words, cards, and food during my father's passing. It really means a lot to know that we have an extended family at Buford 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.

Thanks for everything,  
Scott and Amy Leazer and family  
\*\*\*\*\*

To my dear church family,  
My heart is overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support during this very difficult time of my father's passing. I appreciate so much the prayers, conversations, meals, cards, and memorial gifts to the Building Fund that were received. Also many thanks to the church and staff for the plants sent in memory of my father. Though I continued to work remotely, I want to thank the SPRC for trusting my ability to accomplish my work remotely and I want to express my gratitude to the office volunteers and the church staff for taking care of the hands on tasks while I was away. I am truly rich in my church family.

Sincerely,  
Cindy LaTouf

### Youth BACK TO SCHOOL Lake Party!

Sunday, August 9, at the Fox's Lake House. Meet after church at 12 noon to ride over in the vans. Bring a bathing suit, towel, and \$5.00 for a picnic lunch. Sign up if you can join us.



Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

## EVERYONE IS INVITED

### to sing in the "HOMECOMING CHOIR!"

On Sunday, August 16, the Chancel Choir will welcome former and future members in singing 2 anthems in worship! Please join us for rehearsal and lunch on Saturday, August 15, 11:30-1:00 in the choir room. *This is a great way to give choir a try!*

## CHANCEL CHOIR RETREAT INFORMATION

Saturday, August 15, 9:30-2:00pm, at the church. We will begin learning music for the Fall & Christmas seasons! *Come and join us!*

For additional information on either of these items, contact Mark Ridings at [music@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:music@bufordfirstumc.org)

## The Youth Announce:



## Annual Talent Showcase!

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m.

Sign up to share your talent with us! See the sheet on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Buy tickets from a Youth Group Member! And help them go on trips this year!

Suzanne

Sunday mornings are always a joy for me with coming to church and being in God's house. That joy is always enhanced when I get to spend it with the amazing kids in our church. When I look at their faces and see the light of God in their eyes, I know that I am right where I am supposed to be, doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing.

I am in awe of how the children in our church have grown into such awesome youth and how so many of them have dedicated their lives to sharing God's love. When I think of how many more children we can reach when the Christian Life Center is built and how we can reach out to children with special needs....I actually have to stop and catch my breath. We get so caught up in our day to day lives outside of church we forget to take the time to look around and see what God has *really* done in our lives. I am thankful every day for our kids and I can't wait for all the wonderful things God has planned for us!

In HIS name,  
Susan

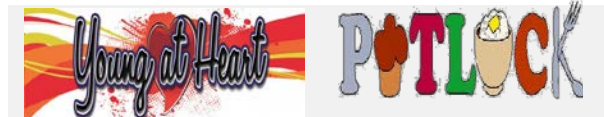
## Ladies Book Club

The Ladies Book Club will not meet in August, but if you want to get a jump on our reading for September, our next book is "Finding God in a Bag of Groceries" by Laura Lapins Willis. We will discuss the entire book in September.



## 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 in beautiful North GA! This year's theme is "Take Me Away-Find Rest in the Lord". Donna Thomas and Beth Ritchie will lead our sessions. We'll have fun, rest, enjoy good food, and experience warm fellowship. This is a great way to get to know other women in the church. 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!



It is the start of a new year and that means POTLUCK dinner! Yea!!! Come to the Atcheson's home for good food, good company, and a look at the coming year. All you need to bring is your favorite dish and a smile.

Where: 3126 Perimeter Circle Buford

Date: Tuesday, August 11

Time: 6:30 P.M. or as soon as you can

Parking is limited so Debbie is working on getting a van from the church (6:00 P.M.) at no cost. If you plan to attend, let Debbie know by August 9th at [djatcheson@gmail.com](mailto:djatcheson@gmail.com)

## Important Information

As of July 31<sup>st</sup> the Church office is being temporarily relocated to 2090 Buford Hwy, Suite A & B (This address is only for location reference and shipping and receiving of UPS and FedEx). This space is located in the Professional Plaza right next door to the Gwinnett County Library in Buford.

## All mail should be sent to

Buford First United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 329

Buford, GA 30515-0329

*If you or if you have your bank mail your contributions to the church, please mail them to the Post Office Box address.*

The 285 E. Main is only for a location reference and shipping and receiving of UPS and FedEx.