

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of August 17, 2015

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2015)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration	\$599,996.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal	\$371,038.94
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$12,050.37
Amount given on 08-16-2015	\$11,787.25

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund	\$4,670,558.12
Amount given on 08-16-2015	\$9,857.00

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 & Family Ministry</i>
<i>Bradley Trammell</i>	<i>Accompanist for Children and Youth</i>

2015 Average Attendance

Worship	310
Sunday School	116

September Missions

The United Methodist Children's Home serves "the least of these." UMCH helps families and children who don't have access to other help. The people they serve — abused children, troubled teens and struggling families — are often overlooked and underestimated until they come to the Children's Home. Your support will benefit families who have nowhere else to turn. **On September 20, please plan to give during the Work Day Offering.**

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.

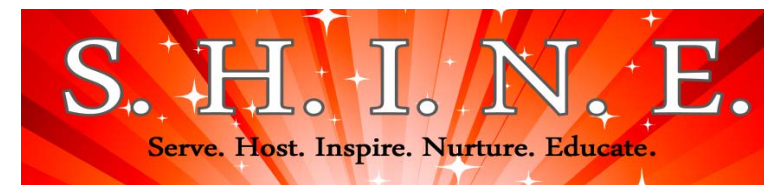
The Appalachia Service Project Team will share about their mission trip at an Ice Cream Social: Sunday September 20. Everyone is invited to come to the fellowship hall from 6:00 to 7:00 PM for ice cream and some slides! We had a great week and want to share it with you.

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 September 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

Vol. 27 / No. 9

September 27, 2015

Older Adult Recognition Day!



Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days
Job 12:12

Join us as we honor our older adults in worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

We will recognize some of Buford First's most distinguished members, and highlight a few of the ministries this group supports with their leadership, time, and energy!

Buford First Announces the 2015 Great Day of Service

Sat. Oct. 3
8:30-3:00

This is a day for serving in the Buford Community and beyond.

Children, youth and adults and are encouraged to participate.

Projects include: sanctuary clean up, Bake and Take, Hall County Humane Society, Buford Aid Project, Sack Kids Hunger, Tree of Life Garden, and more!

Plan to arrive at 8:30 a.m. for a light breakfast. Bring: water, lunch, and any equipment needed (info will be on the registration form).

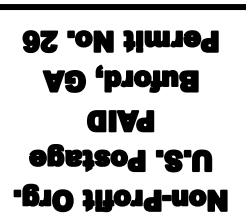
A Great Day of Service t-shirt will be given to every volunteer who registers by September 13th.

Registration Forms are in the narthex and fellowship hall

We are asking every volunteer to bring canned goods for the Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive which benefits the North Gwinnett Co-Op. Also bring gently used coats and blankets for the coat drive!

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 has Called Us for This Hour

"God of Love and God of Power
Grant us in this burning hour
Grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour. "

On August 16, our church celebrated the 144th anniversary and as we held the groundbreaking service, we were truly breaking ground for a new beginning in the life of our church. There were a few lighter moments when we put the first shovel into the ground and each one who followed laughed as we found the ground so hard to break, it was dry and we should have watered it before the service, but as it happened, we were able to enjoy the moment and appreciate the significance of being on holy ground. I thought in that moment, "How hard the church had worked to get to that moment to break the ground." I said to a few folks later, "Why should that day be any different, it has been a long hard road to get to where we are now."

The truth is that ministry is not easy, but always worth the work, the love, the prayers and sacrifice. We need God's power, God's love and courage in us to move into uncharted waters, to break the soil for fertile planting of God's holy life into ground that is sometimes dry and difficult. Yet, we have come so far and God is so very good to us. As a church, we also have been incredibly blessed with such a loving and welcoming congregation. I am thankful to be part of this journey with you

May we continue to call upon God as we consider the words of this hymn as a form of prayer:

"God of Love and God of Power
Grant us in this burning hour
Grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour."

God bless us as we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ, may we continue to "break ground" for the kingdom of God.

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Sondra



*A donation has been given in memory of Pat LaTouf by: Charmet Garrett.
*A donation has been given in memory of Austin Grant by: Deanna Pruitt.
*A donation has been given in honor of Building Committee by: Al and Pam Kocher.

Notes of Gratitude...

Buford 1st UMC Family,
The Ouimet family would like to thank our church family for the love, support, and prayers during our most difficult journey.
Sincerely,
The Ouimet family



Ladies Book Club meets September 8th to discuss "*Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*" by Laura Lapins Willis. We will discuss the entire book at this meeting. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Suzanne Best. Sue Jones will lead the discussion. Please bring \$5 for a light supper.

Effie Wood Circle will resume its regular 2015 monthly meetings on September 1st. This will be the planning session for the 2016 calendar year. Come with your thoughts and ideas! We meet in the Beacon Sunday School Classroom at 7:00 p.m. and all church women are invited to attend. Contact Meredith Holt at 770-945-3655 for information.

Ladies Night Out

BFUMC will sponsor another Ladies Night Out on Saturday, September 12th, at 6:00 p.m. We had a great time at the one held in June, and hope you will join us in September! We'll meet 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!

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Why do we have church choirs?

- Choirs support good congregational singing.
- Their visual presence is encouragement to the congregation.
- Choirs make broader repertoire available for a worship service.
 - They can offer more difficult and complex music than is possible for the greater congregation.
- Choirs help singers develop and improve their musical gifts.
 - Participation in choir ministry can be an avenue to introducing outsiders to the church and the Christian faith.
- Choirs teach members how to work together sacrificially for the common good and the church's universal mission.
- A church choir is an open, welcoming, and diverse group.
- They add creative artistry and beauty to a worship service.

Join a choir today!

Contact Mark at music@bufordfirstumc.org

Youth on Wednesdays:

Beginning Wednesday, September 2, we will have Wednesday night programs for both Middle and High School youth.

Club Youth is for all 6th - 8th graders and meets in the fellowship hall.

Senior High Small Group is for high school students and meets in the youth room.

Both groups meet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The senior high group travels to DQ at 8:00 p.m. and parents pick up from there around 8:30 p.m.

Plan to come and learn about the faith while you build friendships with other youth and adult leaders.

Suzanne



It's hard to believe summer is almost over! The kids are back in school and we hope to see everybody back in Sunday School, Children's Church, and Children's Choir programs soon.

We have been hard at work planning the fall and winter activities. Please save these dates on your calendar: September 27th, Fall Festival planning meeting; October 24th, Fall Festival; December 13th, the G.L.O.W. Musical.



Susan



September Preschool Events

- 1st: Open House
- 8th: First Day of School
- 10th: Chapel Begins
- 13th: Teachers Commissioned at 11:00 a.m. Service
- 14th: Morning Drop Off Begins
- 17th: Wear Red to School
- 21st: Mom's Time
- 22nd: Fire Drill
- 23rd & 24th: Early Release Noon
- 28th: Fundraiser Begins
- 29th: Grandparents Day Breakfast 9:00



The Women's Retreat to Twin Rivers Resort will be November 13th-15th

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. Christian fellowship can boost your spirit and strengthen your faith. Cost is \$120.00 for 2 nights. 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!



A set of Double 18 Dominoes is yours for a donation. See the set on the youth table in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will help the youth go on trips. See Suzanne Clegg if you would like a set.

Young At Heart

In September Young At Heart will meet on the third Tuesday, September 15th, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Young At Heart will take a look back in time at NE Georgia! On Sept. 15th YAH will go to NE Georgia History Center at Brenau University. The 26,000 sq. ft. facilities cover 13 counties. We'll have a guided tour through history which includes the White Path cabin and Herrin Black Smith Shop. We will have lunch at Cheddar's and if time permits, we'll stop at Jamore Farms to see if Apples are available. Reservations are due to Debbie Atcheson, djatcheson@gmail.com by September 7th. Cost is \$10.00 for the tour and van gas, and lunch is on your own. We'll load the vans at 9:00 a.m. and be back by 3:00 p.m.