

## January Missions

**Disposable Diaper Collection:** The United Methodist Children's Home office in Gainesville, GA & North Gwinnett Co-op, in Buford, GA has ministries that give diapers to families in their area. For the month of January the Carol Scott Circle has teamed up with the United Methodist Children's Home Office and the North Gwinnett Co-op to support their Diaper Mission. All during the month of January we will be collecting disposable diapers. We need all sizes for both boys and girls. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** LifeSouth will be in the church parking lot on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are able to donate blood, please plan to donate that morning. The gift of donating blood helps save lives!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Missions Program!** Join us Sunday January 31 in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. for a program by Becky Bocian of the Aldersgate Homes Ministry of the North Georgia Conference. Becky will tell us about the great ministry they have with adults who have developmental disabilities, and how we can participate. We will also take an offering for this important mission. See you on the 31<sup>st</sup>!

### 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 Adult 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>
<i>Micah Wright</i>	<i>Director of Youth Ministry</i>

**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*

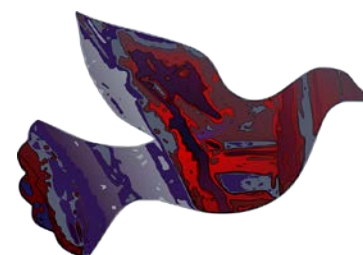


*To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.*

The Weeks of January 1, 2016 – January 31, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 1

## Confirmation Class in 2016!



Confirmation Classes for students in 6th grade and older will begin on February 28. There is a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Confirmation meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, and is taught by Suzanne Clegg, Pastor Jones, and a few other volunteers. Each student will have an adult mentor who meets with us a few times, prays for the student and supports them throughout their experience. The class will go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska April 15-17, 2016. We worship, hear great speakers, and enjoy workshops and activities. This is a great experience for young people, and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own.



## BFUMC Missions in 2016

January	Disposable Diaper Collection - UM Children's Home 10 Blood Drive
February	31 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Program: Aldersgate Homes Ministry 4 Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 7 Souper Bowl Sunday- Collection for Homeless 28 Homeless and Housing Offering
March	Missions Prayer Calendar 6 One Great Hour of Sharing 13 Blood Drive
April	Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive 19 Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta
May	Prison Deoderant and card collection 8 Wesley Woods Offering 8 UMW offering to Murphy Harpst 22 Blood Drive
June	29 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Missions Program at 10 a.m. 7 Conference Special Offering 22-25 Gainesville Aid Project 19 Father's Day Offering- Eagle Ranch
July	24 Blood Drive 31 – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Mission Program
August	16 Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 28 Action Ministry Offering
September	18 UM Children's Home Offering 24 Great Day of Service (Tentative)
October	Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive Prison Christmas Card Collection Coat and Blanket Drive 13 Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta
November	Alternative Christmas
December	Angel Tree 17 Sack Kids Hunger, Christmas Meal Delivery

### 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

## "Look Forward to the Future"

"Looking forward to the future" is a great way to begin the New Year. You rarely hear someone say, "I am looking forward to the past, instead, we say, "I am looking forward to the future." We are looking forward as the church family. These are very exciting days. Renovations will begin on our existing sanctuary as the new Christian Life Center continues to take shape. Depending on the weather, we hope to complete the CLC toward the end of 2016. If there are weather delays, then it will be completed by the first part of 2017. There will be some inconveniences with the building and renovations, but in the long run, we can look forward to the future. We continue to work, pray and raise the needed funds for the capital campaign.

January is also a time to look forward to new spiritual beginnings. As a special way of beginning the New Year, the first two Sundays are about communion and baptism renewal. January 3<sup>rd</sup> is Epiphany Sunday and we will celebrate Holy Communion. January 10<sup>th</sup> is the Sunday in the liturgical calendar to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. We will invite the entire congregation to participate in a service of remembering our baptism and reaffirmation of our faith. This will be done with renewal of our vows, and the congregation will be invited to the altar. Water will be placed in the sign of the cross on your forehead and you will receive a blessing/anointing with unscented oil. If anyone has not yet been baptized, January 10<sup>th</sup> is a great day for the sacrament. If you have not been baptized, please contact me and I will meet with you to schedule your baptism. For any of our visitors on the 10<sup>th</sup> who may not yet be baptized, they may receive the anointing of oil and prayer of blessing so that they do not feel left out of the overall experience of worship.

In looking forward to the future, may we make resolutions for worship attendance, discipleship, service and generosity to be of the high priorities. In looking forward to the future, may we look forward to deepening our relationship with Jesus and growing the church for Him. In looking forward to the future, may all we do be to the Glory of God.

Love and Peace,  
Sondra



\*A donation has been given in memory of Austin Grant by: Gerry and Janet Mattox, and Cindy LaTouf and Mary Alice Beard.  
\*A donation has been given in memory of Olivia Ouimet by: Gerry and Janet Mattox.  
\*A donation has been given in memory of Loyd and Fannie Lou Bullock and John Bullock by: Kathleen Bullock Walls.  
\*A donation has been given in honor of Dr. Sondra Jones and her staff.



### Lenten Devotional Project 2016

The youth published over 100 Lenten Devotional Books for church members and friends in 2015. We plan to do the same thing in 2016, and would like to invite you to contribute a devotion, a drawing, or photograph for the book. The book contains a devotion for each day during Lent, as well as a list of Lenten Deeds for each week. Entries need to be submitted by Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Give items to Suzanne Clegg (adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org) or Sydney Yancey (fluffysy4@gmail.com).

Those youth helping with this project will meet Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the church office to work on finalizing the booklet. We need a lot of help to create these books! Look to pick up your book at church on February 7<sup>th</sup> or on Ash Wednesday, February, 10<sup>th</sup>. (Donations to help pay for the cost of printing the booklets would be great! See Suzanne Clegg to donate.)

### SACK KIDS HUNGER NEWS

We have Team Leaders assigned to each Saturday in 2016!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. – Mike and Sandra Casper
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. –Jack and Deena Rindfus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. –Joe, Suzanne, Alena Best
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. –Tracey Yancey and family
- 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays will be covered by one of the leaders above.



Volunteers are needed to help with sandwiches, packing, and give away every Saturday. Please go to sign up genius and sign up for the date and the time you can help. There are three shifts available for sign ups.

To use Sign Up Genius just: (1) Go to: [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com).

- (2) Go to the tab at the top marked "FIND A SIGN-UP."
- (3) Once you click on that tab, type in Suzanne Best's email: jsabest@yahoo.com

And don't forget the Tree of Life Garden, which needs volunteers to help pick turnip greens on Friday afternoons, for Saturday morning give away! If you can help, let Suzanne Clegg know.

**Care Group News:** Did you know Buford First UMC has 13 Care Groups? These groups each have a leader who keeps in touch with its members through email and phone calls. We strive to care for one another through these small group connections. See Beth Langston or Linda Hummer for more information. Care Group Leaders will meet Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will go over some of the new procedures for leaders, and welcome a few new leaders! Everyone should bring a finger food snack to share.

## Music Ministry

### New Year's Musical Resolution!

Join a choir as part of the New Year!  
There's never an audition -  
Come to a rehearsal and give choir a try

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm  
*Childcare available*

Chancel Ringers - Mondays from 7:00-8:00 pm

Youth Choir - Sundays from 4:30-5:15 pm

God Lights Our World (G.L.O.W.)

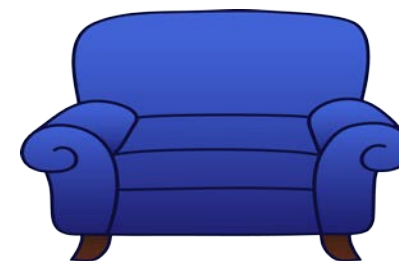
*Music program for children*

Sundays from 5:30-6:30 pm

*Please contact Mark Ridings for additional information*

### Our Stories

Beginning with the New Year, the Youth Group will be exploring the concept of "stories" and how we all have one. We will be sharing testimonies, telling embarrassing and uplifting tales, and hearing the good, the bad, the ugly, and the funny! So, come take a seat in the Share Chair! Tell a story and hear ten more! Know and be known!



Micah



Can it really be 2016 already?? We had amazing year in 2015 and we have some exciting things on the horizon for 2016. Please save the date on these upcoming events.

- January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – G.L.O.W. begins again
- January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Acolyte training
- February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – G.L.O.W. Valentines Party
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Annual Egg Hunt
- April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – G.L.O.W. Spring Choral Concert
- June 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Vacation Bible School.

Please note that as we progress with the construction of our new Christian Life Center, some of our children's events may be adjusted based on our space availability.

I am looking forward to an awesome New Year!

*Blessings, Susan*

## Youth Ministry

## Children & Family Ministry



### January Preschool Happenings

Happy New Year 2016!

- 6<sup>th</sup>: Return To School/Staff Meeting 1:15
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Wear Blue to School
- 12<sup>th</sup>: All God's Creatures Animal Show
- 18<sup>th</sup>: No School
- 20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>: Registration For 2016-2017 School Year For Currently Enrolled Students, Siblings and Church Members
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Registration Opens to Public
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Fire Drill



Effie Wood Circle will hold its first meeting for 2016 on January 5<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 p.m. in the Beacon Sunday School Classroom. Our program guest, Mark Ridings, BFUMC Director of Music and the Arts will speak on "A Year with the Hymnal". Come and join us!

Carol Scott Circle will hold its first meeting for 2016 on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. A nursery will be provided.



### Ladies Book Club

We will meet at the home of Sue Jones on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for some great discussion and a light supper. We welcome all new members so please feel free to join us. We will be reading the first half of *I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Please see the Buford First website for a listing of the books we will be reading in 2016 and call Sue Jones at 770-932-2202 with any questions.

### Young At Heart - January, 10<sup>th</sup>



Join on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for The Man Who Came to Dinner. This play, presented by the Buford High School Drama Department, is a comedy. Sheridan Whiteside an acerbic critic slips on ice and becomes a guest of a provincial Ohio businessman and family. What problems can one man create?? Tickets will be purchased in advance at the cost of \$7.00. Showtime is 2:00 p.m. and transportation is on your own to the Fine Arts Center 2705 Robert Bell Parkway, Buford Ga. near the Buford Academy.  
Reserve by January 3<sup>rd</sup>