

**February Missions**

**On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> we will help Grace UMC feed Homeless Women and Children.** Please contact Sandra Casper at [Finance@BufordFirstumc.org](mailto:Finance@BufordFirstumc.org) if you can help cook or serve.

**The Souper Bowl Offering is on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.** Youth all over the nation will take an offering and will generate millions of dollars to feed the poor and homeless. Please plan to drop a dollar in the soup pot as you leave church that morning so someone who is hungry will have a meal. What we collect will be given to the Women's Community Kitchen in Atlanta.

**On Feb. 28<sup>st</sup> we will take an offering for the Housing & Homeless Council** who gives grants to ministries all over the North Georgia Conference to help people in need. It may just seem like a check in the offering plate, but the money you give to the UM Homeless Offering becomes food, rent, emergency shelter, transitional housing, safety from domestic violence, home ownership and jobs.

**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 February 1, 2016 – February 28, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 2



## Inquire 101

- Are you new to Buford First?
- Are you interested in learning more about the church and how to get involved?
- Do you have questions about the United Methodist Denomination?

Please join us for Inquire 101! Pastor Sondra and Suzanne Clegg will lead this 90 minute session in room 101 on Sunday February 28. We'll begin at 4:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us!

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Call the church office at 770-945-7438, or email Suzanne Clegg at [Adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:Adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org) Child care is available by appointment!

**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*

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**February 10<sup>th</sup> | 6:00 p.m.**  
**Call to Prayer and Self-Denial meal and program**  
(Sponsored by the United Methodist Women)

**February 10<sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m.**  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
(Nursery provided for children 0-2 years old)

**February 24<sup>th</sup> | 10:00 a.m.**  
**24 Hours That Changed the World**  
By Adam Hamilton

Dr. Jones will lead a study that focuses on the final 24 hours of Jesus' life. Participants will discuss the theological significance of Jesus' suffering and death, and reflect on the meaning of these events for our lives. The class will begin on Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> and meet from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Beacon Room for 5 weeks. (The last two sessions will be extended until 12:00 noon). We'll use the video as well as the study guide written by Adam Hamilton.

Let us know if you plan to join us. Email Director of Adult Ministries at [adultministries@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:adultministries@bufordfirstumc.org) or call the office at 770-945-7438 by Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. There is also a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to focus on your faith during the Lenten Season, which will help make your Easter experience more meaningful in every way.

# A Word From The Pastor



With whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry.

**Why ashes?** In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

**Where do the ashes come from?** On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little water (like tears) or oil. It's symbolic.

**What do Christians do with ashes?** At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

**FASTING:** Some people have been known to go without food for days, but that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

**SERVICE:** Some Christians take something on *for* Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend every day of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

**PRAYER:** Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. Please experience Lent as a time of repentance, reflection and renewal in the season of Lent.

(\* notes from General Board of Discipleship Ministries)

Love and Peace,  
Sondra

**So what is LENT?** At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved,

\*A donation has been given in memory of Sue Ann Terry Bullock by: Wayne and Barbara Davis, Eugene and Kathleen Walls, Donnie and Linda McQuaig.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Daryl Studeman by: Michael and Janice Flanagan, Bobby and Estelle Dobbs, Stephen and Leslie Klein, Wayne and Shirley McWard, Mike and Sandra Casper.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Jeff Willis by: Dorothy C. Willis.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Donnie and Linda McQuaig by: Dorothy C., Willis.

\*A donation has been given in honor of our Church Choir by: Bobby and Estelle Dobbs.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Rev. Walter R. Jones and Dr. Sondra R. Jones by: Rev. Travis Woodward and Mrs. Juanita Woodward.

## Effie Wood Circle

The next meeting is on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Beacon Room. All women are invited to come and join us.



## Adult Mission Trip July 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Are you interested in traveling with a team to help with VBS at St. Michael's Methodist Church in Nassau, Bahamas? We will have a 30 minute informational meeting on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss this opportunity! The cost is around \$800.00 each (this includes air fare). Pray about this opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ to share God's love with the children of Nassau!

## Other Youth News



### February 6<sup>th</sup>

Winter Jam 2016! Youth will leave the church at 3:00 PM for the Georgia Dome and will return by 11:00 PM. Bring \$10 to see ten bands with the Youth Group! Chaperones are welcomed!



### February 7<sup>th</sup>

Youth Lenten Devotionals will be available Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a Devotional Guide written by youth and adults of BFUMC and make Lent a more meaningful experience!



### February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Carnations for Compassion** -- The youth will be in the Fellowship Hall selling **red** Carnations before and after the 10:00 AM Sunday School hour. Purchase one for \$3 or two for \$5. Proceeds will help us sponsor our Compassion Child, Abigail Anokye, in Ghana Africa.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** The Youth Committee will meet at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

## Music Ministry

### Singing in church is...

cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed.

- Singing exercises our lungs. It tones up our intercostal muscles, diaphragm and facial muscles.
- It releases pain relieving endorphins that can help reduce anger, depression and anxiety.
- Singing boosts our immune system enabling us to fight disease.
- Singing brings people together and encourages a sense of community and purpose.
- Singing increases self-esteem, confidence, is spiritually uplifting and emotionally healing.

Whether singing in a choir or congregation, singing is good for your mind, body and spirit, *and it's FREE!*

### Chili Cook-Off

#### Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM

Anyone may enter a pot of chili for our panel of experts to taste and judge in a number of categories including: **Best Tasting, Best Texture, Best Aroma, Best Looking, Hottest**, and more! Simply sign up on the bulletin board to enter. Bring your chili in a crock-pot Sunday morning and check it in with the volunteer in the Fellowship Hall. We eat at 12:00 p.m. and our judges will present certificates to the winners at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy all the chili, cornbread, and dessert you can eat!

Plan to eat Buford's best chili for only \$6.00 (adults) and \$2.50 (children under 12) Children under 3 and chili cooks eat free! **No family pays over \$20.00!** The youth will use the funds raised for Camp Glisson Spiritual Life Retreat! Youth can help by volunteering to bring drinks, desserts, etc. See the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to sign up.



*February is the month of love, and can I just tell you how much I love the kids at Buford First?! They amaze me every Sunday with the love they show one another and our church. This month we will be thinking of ways we can share God's love in even more special ways!*

*We have some very exciting activities coming up in the next few months so please mark your calendars.*

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

*We are always looking for volunteers in the children's ministry. How about sharing some love with our kids? ☺ If you are interesting in helping, please just let me know. In HIS name, Susan*

## Youth Ministry

## Children & Family Ministry

### February Preschool Happenings:



2<sup>nd</sup>: Staff Meeting 1:15

3<sup>rd</sup>: Donuts with Dad

11<sup>th</sup>: Wear Pink Or Red To School/Valentine's Day Swap and Treat

15<sup>th</sup>: No School

19<sup>th</sup>: Mom's Day Out 9-1

23<sup>rd</sup>: Fire Drill

24+25<sup>th</sup>: Early Release at Noon

29<sup>th</sup>: Start of Dr. Seuss Week



Ladies, please join us for a clothing sale, benefiting the Wesley Woods Foundation's Capital Campaign, to be held Saturday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM. in the Fellowship Hall. We need donations of ladies clothing, shoes, handbags, and accessories for the swap. It is \$2 at the door and \$2 for each item you take home. Light refreshments will be served.

So please join us for fun-fellowship and fund-raising. Handouts with details are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship hall, or you may reach Gypsi Alford at gypsibalford@gmail.com.

### Book Club



We will meet at Panera Bread by the Mall on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM 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 second half of "I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Please call Sue Jones at 770-932-2202 with any questions. Hope to see you there.

### Young At Heart - February 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Tour of Chick-fil-A Museum

Let's take a home office Backstage Tour of Chick-Fil-A. Come and enjoy a fun, storytelling experience about the fascinating history, culture, and values of founder S. Truett Cathy. Learn about their unique business, the "Eat Mor Chikin" cows and so much more.



We will load the bus at 9:15 AM sharp. Cost is \$3.00 for gas (tour is free). We will eat lunch at the Dwarf House, the original restaurant. Your meal is on your own. Reserve a space by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> by contacting Debbie Atcheson at 770-965-3729 or

djatcheson@gmail.com. Please give your payment to Pam Kocher.