

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of March 21, 2016

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$129,537.70
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$11,761.56
Amount given on 03-20-2016.....	\$8,751.16

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$3,819,717.48
Amount given on 03-20-2016.....	\$3,021.00

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2016 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

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

April Missions

Gina Carswell Food Drive: On Sundays April 17th and 24th, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the North Gwinnett Food Co-op. You may donate food or make a \$5.00 donation and we'll do the shopping. Drop bags off in the car parked at the side entrance to the church. Also, food donation bins are located in the Fellowship Hall and narthex. The Co-Op has requested the following: PB&J, spaghetti sauce, coffee, canned chicken. (NO tuna, NO cereal).

Feed the Homeless: We will help Grace UMC feed Homeless Women and Children on Tuesday, April 19th. We would love for you to come with us to serve, provide food based on our menu, or make a monetary donation. Please contact Sandra Casper if you would like to help. You may contact her at sucasper@charter.net or at 770-271-8008.

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 April 1, 2016 – April 30, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 4

VBS 2016 "Surf Shack"
 Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love
 June 6th to 10th



All children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome!
 (All children must be potty trained)

Registration is Now Open!!

Register before April 30th for Early Discount fee of \$10 per child. After April 30th regular registration is \$15 per child.

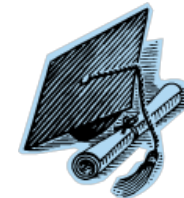
Registration deadline is May 13th
No Walk Up registrations will be accepted.

Registration forms will be available in the Narthex, on the website, and in the Fellowship Hall.

In order to make this the most awesome VBS yet, we need your help to do it! We need volunteers to help with classes in making sure our kids get from place to place safely. We also need donations to help us purchase all the supplies we need to share God's word each day. We would love monetary donations or gift cards to Hobby Lobby and Walmart.

See Susan Rosenthal for more info or email her at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org to sign up to help.

2016 Graduates!



Buford High School

Jonathan Lenz
 Schell Montville
 Grady Rothweiler

Flowery Branch High School

Grayson Saylor

Mountain View High School

Alexis Nauman

Mill Creek High School

Anna Gerald
 Adam Rose

Lanier High School

Ashlan Leazer
 Ashley Sanders

Gwinnett School of Math and Science

Jonathan Jeffrey

Vanderbilt University

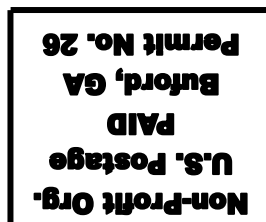
Rachel Gerald

Graduates will be recognized on April 24th at the 11:00 a.m. service. A banquet for our high school grads will be held at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

God Bless our graduates!

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

What United Methodists Believe about Faith

"What's the bedrock of life for Christians? Is it Bible reading? Church participation? Prayer? Is it a belief that Jesus is God's Son?

The foundation of Christian living is faith in Christ. Faith is the central loyalty that gives purpose and direction to our lives. Christian faith is grounding our lives in the living God as revealed especially in Jesus the Christ. This faith does not happen overnight. It's a journey. From birth to death we're growing in faith. There are ups and downs — and sometimes, long flat stretches where we seem to be stalled in our journey. But little by little, most of us deepen our relationship with God. In part, this growth in faith is a *gift*. Through our participation in the community of faith, through our openness to God's love, we receive this marvelous treasure. But faith is also a *choice* we make, an often difficult decision to put God and God's reign first in our lives, no matter what the cost. We cannot say that some people are "ahead" in the journey of faith and others "behind." Faith is not something we possess by degrees. The journey is complex, different for each traveler and involving at least four intertwined pathways:

Trusting: First and foremost, faith is trusting. To be a person of faith is to rely on God, to know that "the Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23). It's to rest confidently in the power and care of the living, loving Lord who's revealed in the Bible and in our own experience. Faith is to give ourselves to the movement of God's Spirit in our lives and in our times, not knowing where it will lead...

Believing: Faith is also believing *in* someone. In the Apostle's Creed, for example, we say, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." This is not the same as saying, "I believe *that* God the Father Almighty exists." Rather, we're confessing our confidence *in* God, our devoted loyalty, and our allegiance. Such belief may involve going beyond what we're sure of and taking a "leap of faith."

Following: There's more to faith than trusting and believing. Faith is more active, a matter of *doing* as well as *being*. So Jesus said to his first disciples, "Follow me." To be faithful is to follow Jesus the Christ. It is to be one of his disciples, seeking to understand his will and his way — and to do it. Such discipleship is not an easy matter. Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25)....

Hoping: Christian faith is also a matter of hoping, of leaning into the future that God has promised. It's living with the assurance that God is bringing in the time of shalom, God's reign here on earth. As Easter people, we have a hope born of the Resurrection: God has already conquered sin and death, and the kingdom of love, righteousness, peace and justice is even now breaking in. To abide in hope is to watch and pray for God's future and to join in the ministries through which it will be realized. Surrounded by the love and encouragement of the community of believers, we persevere on the journey of faith, ever trusting, believing, following and hoping. (Excerpted from *The United Methodist Member's Handbook, Revised and Expanded* by George E. Koehler, pp. 62-63.)"

Love and Peace,
Sondra



Thank you for your donations in memory and in honor of friends and loved ones.

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

*A donation has been given in memory of Olivia Ouimet by: Tommy and Sara Lingerfelt.

*A donation has been given in memory of Sue Ann Terry Bullock by: Dorothy C. Willis.

*A donation has been given in memory of Mike Hause by: George and Barbara Thompson and John Brookshaw.

*A donation has been given in honor of Rebecca Woodard by: Dorothy C. Willis.

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



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the love and concern you shared with us during my recent surgery. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a loving congregation. I thank God for all of you!
Suzanne Clegg

Ladies



We will meet at Sue Jones' home at 7:00 PM on April 12th to discuss the second half of *The Underground Girls of Kabul*. The first half of the book certainly generated some good discussion, so please join us. Call Sue Jones with any questions at 770-932-2202.

Thanks to everyone who registered to give blood and to be on the bone marrow donor list on March 13th in Olivia Ouimet's memory! We had 40 sign up to donate blood and 12 were swabbed to be included on the bone marrow registry! The next blood drive is May 22nd. Plan to give!

Sack Kids Hunger Benefits from your Spending

Buford FUMC is a **Kroger Community Rewards** participating organization! We will receive a percentage of what our members spend at Kroger each quarter to spend on Sack Kids Hunger. Please register your Kroger Plus card online at krogercommunityrewards.com



On **Thursday**, April 7th, the YAH will tour the Martha Berry Museum and her Oak Hill home. The bus leaves the church at 9:30 AM. Cost is \$6 for the tour and \$3 for the gas. This is a group rate so it may cost more if we don't have ten attending. Lunch will be on your own at Jefferson's Restaurant in Rome, GA. Reserve by **Thursday**, March 31st, by contacting Debbie Atcheson at 770-965-3729 or djatcheson@gmail.com. Please give your payment to Pam Kocher.

Music Ministry

G.L.O.W. Children's Choirs & Tone Chimes
presents a Spring program

"It's Cool in the Furnace"

A musical about Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Sunday, April 24, 2016

5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Banquet immediately following In the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Ministry

Welcome to

WAKE Ministries

Romans 13:11-12a

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.
#wakeup

Spring into Worship!

During the month of April, we invite all of our rising 3rd graders and any new church children who are rising 3rd graders or older to join us for "Worship Training". This is a special class that is held during the Children's Church hour where we learn about the different parts of the Methodist worship service and help prepare our kids to begin attending the adult service. Worship class will begin on April 17th.

As part of the class we will go through all the parts of the bulletin and explain the significance of all the different components of the worship service and how the children can be a part of that to include being an acolyte, being a liturgist (Scripture reader), and other special roles as they arise. We will also be learning about how to be a buddy to younger children and/or children with special needs in Children's Church. This a program that was set up to allow the older children to assist others with the craft, lessons, etc.

Once the children have completed this six week study, they will be presented with their Bibles on May 22nd. Promotion Sunday will be on May 29th where all children will move up to the next grade level in Sunday School and our rising kindergarteners will begin attending Children's church.

I am so excited to share God's love with our kids! **Blessings, Susan**

Children & Family Ministry

APRIL PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

4TH-7TH: Spring Break

12TH: Preschool Staff Meeting

18TH-21ST: Parent/Teacher Conferences

27TH: Fire Drill

Effie Wood Circle

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5th, at 7:00 PM in the Beacon Sunday School Classroom. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Carol Scott who will be speaking on what she learned from her trips to the South Pacific and how they changed her life. She was a member here in the 90's and entered seminary while here. All women are invited to come join us.



Attention Ladies! Please join us for the annual United Methodist Women's Spring Tea on April 30th from 10 AM to 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish to share! You don't need to be a circle member to attend this special morning.



Tree of Life Garden Party!

Come out and help us plant the garden on Saturday, April 23rd.

There are two sessions: 9:00am-12 noon and 1:00-4:00pm. Come to **part of one, or both!**

We'll also have a hot dog cook-out at noon. Everyone is welcome! If you can join us, please sign up on the Missions Bulletin Board.