

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of May 16, 2016**

**Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)**

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$207,975.89
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$12,250.75
Amount given on 05-15-2016.....	\$7,525.00

**Building Fund**

Balance in Building fund.....	\$3,136,522.84
Amount given on 05-15-2016.....	\$2,523.00

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**

<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>

**June Missions**

**Bahamas Mission Trip- July 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>** Please be in prayer for the Mission Team traveling to Nassau in July to lead a week of VBS at St. Michael's Methodist Church. We are collecting toiletries, snacks, and first aid supplies. Please drop donations in the basket under the Missions Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall, or in the basket in the narthex by July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sack Kids Hunger** needs **grape jelly** in June. Drop donations in the black crates in the Fellowship Hall and narthex! Please help by donating!

**The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden:** needs volunteers to help! We work in the garden on Monday afternoons, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

**Gainesville Aid Project:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at Antioch UMC in Gainesville. We will have 20 from BFUMC participate in helping the elderly with yard work and home repair. Pray for these youth and adult chaperones!



**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 June 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 6



**Welcome to Rev. Jim Buckman and family!**

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Jim Buckman to the pulpit of Buford First United Methodist Church. We want to welcome him and his family to our church and to our community. Here are a few words about Reverend Buckman, his experience and his family.

Lenna Applebee,  
SPRC Chair

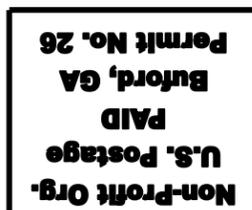
As a pastor in the United Methodist Church, Jim Buckman leads through his passion for people to encounter the grace of Jesus Christ; to experience God's love and mercy; to discover God's vision for their lives and find their place in His Community of Faith; to guide the congregation in discovering the will of God for our church now and in the future. He believes all this is done through loving God and loving people, and having a lot of fun together.

Jim is an ordained elder of the North Georgia Annual Conference. Before being appointed to Buford First UMC, he was the Pastor of Locust Grove UMC (2012-2016). His most recent appointments were as Pastor at Sixes UMC in Canton (2001-2012), and as an Associate at Mt Bethel UMC in Marietta (2000-2001). Growing up in an Air Force family, Jim has lived in New York, Kentucky, and Middle Georgia. He is a graduate of Asbury College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

He is married to Shawn Ouzts Buckman and together they have two children, Caleb and Sarah. Shawn is a native of West Columbia, SC and has a career in surplus lines insurance. Caleb (12 yrs old) and Sarah (10 yrs old) are both going into the 6th grade. The Buckmans are a house divided with Jim and Sarah being avid Bulldog fans, while Shawn and Caleb prefer to cheer for the Clemson Tigers. They also enjoy camping, time at the beach, and enjoying Sadie, their Bichon Frise.

**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

## A "good" Goodbye...God be with you.

The time has come for "goodbye." As a United Methodist pastor, and as part of our itinerant process, I will say goodbye to you on June 5<sup>th</sup>. While I go willingly to my new church appointment as Senior Pastor to Johns Creek United Methodist, Buford First United Methodist will always remain in my prayers and in my heart with gratitude and love. I will miss you and our life together. I thank you for all you mean to my family and me. As you welcome your pastor, Rev. Jim Buckman and his family, I trust that you will welcome them with loving and thankful hearts as you have done with my family and me. They are coming to a great time in the church's life with the building program and expected growth for the future. They come to you excited for this new beginning. I trust you to offer your love, prayers and support as they make this transition, even as I cherish your prayers for my family and me as we make this transition. I want us all to have a good goodbye. Mixed emotions will be a normal part of this process of goodbye. Remember that Jim will be your new pastor. I remain your friend, but no longer in the role of your pastor. He will take care of you and love you as your new pastor.

The very word goodbye is derived from the phrase, "God be with you." Yes, it is hard to say goodbye to people we love and it is hard to say goodbye to all that is familiar as we all step into an unknown future. Claiming the 'good' in good-bye is to know God is with us. Goodbye means we trust that we will all be ok. To say 'God be with you' when change comes is to realize that God is always working for our good.

Please know that I thank God for you and the journey of faith we have shared together. For the past six years, I have had the honor and responsibility, the joy and challenges of being your pastor. I thank you for all your ministry of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." I am deeply thankful to be part of your legacy of faith. We have seen God move mountains. We have seen miracles happen. We have shared life together in so many ways over these years and when the days were hard, we made it with God's grace, when the days were victorious, we knew to give God the glory. As I leave you, I leave you with these words from the Apostle Paul as we move into a new future and with grateful hearts in our goodbye.

*"Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord...<sup>4</sup> Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad!<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near.<sup>6</sup> Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.<sup>7</sup> Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.<sup>9</sup> Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4: 1, 4-9 Common English Bible*

Love and Peace, Sondra



*Thank you for your donations given to the Glory of God and in memory and in honor of friends and loved ones.*

\*A donation has been given in memory of Judge Joseph E. Cheeley, Jr. and Jeff Willis by: Dorothy Cheeley Willis.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Ray Page by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Anna, Lily, and Rachel Gerald by: Dr. and Mrs. Larry Corry.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Mike Casper by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig

\*A donation has been given in honor of William Joseph Willis by: Dorothy Cheeley Willis.

*Dear Rev. Dr. Sondra R. Jones and Buford First United Methodist Church,*

*Even in the darkest of moments, kindness shines through. WE want to thank you for the beautiful flowers, for being there with us for visitation, the funeral service, and for your cards of comfort during the death of my brother, Randall Flanigan. We want you to know that your kindness and your generous loving spirit has touched our lives more than you will ever know.*

*May God richly bless you, Junior and Sharon Flanigan and the family of Randall Flanigan.*

*To my wonderful church family thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, visits, and most important your prayers during my recent surgery!*

*In Christian Love, Sandra Burgess*

### Bahamas Mission Trip- July 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Please be in prayer for the Mission Team traveling to Nassau in July to lead a week of VBS at St. Michael's Methodist Church. The Team will lead VBS each morning, and in the afternoons engage in a "cultural" exchange of sorts, traveling the island to learn about its people, history, culture, and faith. We will also visit All Saints Camp to see our friends there. We are collecting toiletries, snacks, and first aid supplies (band aids, antibiotic ointment, antiseptics, etc.) These items are expensive to buy in Nassau, and missionaries Tim and Felicia Ryan use these supplies in ministering to the residents of All Saints.

Please drop donations in the basket under the Missions Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall, or in the basket in the Narthex by July 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Young At Heart is going to the Cumming Playhouse on August 27<sup>th</sup> to see the **Classic Nashville Roadshow**. The two singers that will be performing are Katie Deal and Jason Petty. Tickets are \$29.43 and if you want to ride in the van the cost will be \$31.50. Contact Debbie Atcheson by June 15<sup>th</sup> if you want to go, 770-965-3729 or djatcheson@gmail.com. Give checks to Pam Kocher made out to YAH by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Music Ministry

### MUSIC 101

Wednesdays, June 15, 22 and 29  
6:30-7:00 pm in the choir room

Come and learn...

- Basic Music Reading Skills
- Musical Road Maps
- Beginning Vocal Techniques
- Hymnal Basics

These 3, 30 minute classes are open to ages 8-99

**You will not have to sing a solo and there are no exams!**

## Youth Ministry

**July 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> \$100**



**\$20 Deposit and Paperwork due by June 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Do you remember your first Bible? I bet some people can remember the exact date and time they received their very first Bible. Receiving a Bible is so much more than just "getting another book to read", or another book to put on the shelf, it is your very own personal key to unlock the beautiful story of Jesus Christ. It is also a "How to" guide to the way Jesus wants us to lead our lives.*

*I remember the Bible my grandmother had. Its leather cover worn and tattered. Inside were notes and pictures and reminders of special moments in her life. I remember the way she would read us stories from her Bible and she would randomly just start singing hymns and quoting scripture.*

*We will be presenting Bibles to our rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 a.m. service. I am so proud and honored to be a part of this. If you have a rising 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, please make sure to let me know so we can include them in the special day.*

*Blessings,  
Susan*

## Children & Family Ministry



### Sack Kids Hunger

*We need grape jelly in June! We make 120 sandwiches EVERY Saturday and use a LOT of peanut butter and jelly! Drop donations in the black crates in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex! Please help by donating!*



Join us on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a dish to share and a game to play! Sign up with Suzanne Clegg if you can come!

### Calling All Young Adults

**18 - 26 years old!**

Would you like to gather with other young adults to study and share? Young Adult Sunday School will meet from June 5<sup>th</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup> in room 103 at 10:00 a.m. Lenna Applebee, Holly Moreland, and Suzanne Clegg will team teach "Half-Truths" by Adam Hamilton. Let's look at some sayings which are wrongly attributed to the Bible.

**Spread the word!**



### The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden

We need volunteers to help!

The Garden is located in church member's Pat Pirkle's yard at 156 South Hill Street. We have over 800 plants growing in the garden!

Can you spare an hour one weekend-or maybe one evening during the week? We work in the garden on Monday afternoons, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Stop by and help us weed!

Produce will be given away to those in need.

## LADIES



Our June meeting will be at Suzanne Best's home on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for dessert and beverages. We will discuss the second half of *I Am Malala* but we always welcome new members, even if you haven't read the first half of the book yet. Please call Sue Jones if there are any questions at 770-932-2202. Come join us!

### Home Bound/Assisted Living Volunteers Needed



If you have just an hour a month to visit one of our sweet older members, please contact Sandra Burgess at 770-271-0136 or sibur48@gmail.com.