

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of July 18, 2016**

**Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)**  
 Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration..... \$600,000.00  
 Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal..... \$290,460.63  
 Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal..... \$13,458.23  
 Amount given on 07-17-2016 ..... \$6,339.00

**Building Fund**  
 Balance in Building fund..... \$1,000,285.53  
 Amount given on 07-17-2016 ..... \$14,043.00

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**

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

**August Missions**

**The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden** located at 156 South Hill Street needs volunteers! 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, Wednesday and Friday 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 through Sack Kids Hunger and North Gwinnett Co-Op.

**Sack Kids Hunger:** School Supplies needed to be given out through SKH and Buford School Counselors. Items especially needed by Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> are: Childrens Scissors, ½ inch binders, small pencil boxes or pouches, pencil top erasers, pencils, glue sticks, primary journals, & crayons. A donation box is in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for helping students in our neighborhood!



**Feed the Homeless:** We will help Grace United Methodist feed Homeless Women and Children on August 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help prepare the meal, give a donation towards the meal, or go with us to serve, please let Sandra Casper know at 770-271-8008 or suscasper@charter.net. We will leave the Church that morning at 8:45 a.m.

**Cleaning Supplies for Foster Families!** Help us help families in our community. We will collect all sorts of cleaning supplies in August. Drop these off in the Narthex or the Fellowship Hall.



# 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 August 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 8

## 2017 Time & Talent Commitment Sunday is August 21<sup>st</sup>!

We provided the 2017 Time & Talent form in your Sunday Bulletin on July 10<sup>th</sup> and the form is still available in the church Narthex.

We ask that everyone fill out a Time and Talent form to let us know where you are interested in Shinning at Buford First UMC.

### God calls all of us to

**S**erve  
**H**ost  
**I**nspire  
**N**urture  
**E**ducate

As a church we will make our commitment on August 21<sup>st</sup> during the worship service. However, if you would like you can go ahead and fill out your form and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Please be in prayer about where you want to **S.H.I.N.E.** in 2017.

# Come to Worship God and Join the Celebration!

On August 21, 2016 Buford First United Methodist Church will celebrate her 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For 145 years God’s Word has been proclaimed in this place.

For 145 years the sacraments have been celebrated in this place.

Countless children, parents, grandparents, and people of all walks of life have been part of Buford First United Methodist Church.

Countless prayers of supplication, thanksgiving, and praise have been offered in this place.

Countless witnesses have gone out from Buford First United Methodist Church to spread the gospel in this community and throughout the world.

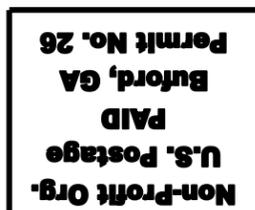
All of our activities, all of our sacraments, and all of our doxologies are offered up in praise to God.

With thanksgiving for the past, with joy in the present, and with hope for the future we celebrate this 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In this time of celebration we would offer special praise. As we think of past and future, vow anew to walk God’s ways. Times of triumph, times of failure—still this song of praise keeps ringing through: Lord, your works cannot be numbered, Buford First United Methodist Church belongs to you!

## 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

## “So Now, Go”

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

### Exodus 3: 7-10 New International Version

How do you respond when you have an encounter with God? I have always loved the story of Moses and his encounter with the burning bush. If you remember, Moses was tending the flock of Jethro and he notices a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. As he went to investigate God called out to him, told him who was speaking to him, and how he was sending Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. I often wondered how I would respond if God spoke to me out of burning bush. How would you? Now, I wish I would respond like Isaiah did when he heard God saying, “Whom shall I send?”, and he answered, “Here Am I. Send Me!” However, I would probably look around to see if my kids, or mischievous staff members, were pranking me.

In reality, I would probably respond much like Moses, because that is how I have responded in the past. If you remember, Moses began looking for excuses in the form of questions. Questions such as:

- ~ Who Am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?;
- ~ Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, “What is his name?” What shall I say?
- ~ What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, “The Lord did not appear to you?”

These are legitimate questions. And we will have legitimate questions when God asks us to do something. And God is asking us. As we fill out our “Time and Talent” for this year, God is asking us to serve our Lord in His church and in our community. We will be tempted to ask questions of our own. “Haven’t I done this long enough?” “I am retired, isn’t it time for someone else to take over?” “We are busy with kids, what if I wait till we have more time? Legitimate questions, at least in our mind. However, I think the same holds true for us as it did for Moses. If God did not want Moses to go, God would not have asked him. And if God does not want me, and you, to serve, God would not ask us. So let me ask you to prayerfully consider where God can use you this year and to hear the same words that God spoke to Moses, “SO NOW, GO”. Will you join me as we Go to make a difference for the Kingdom of God?

In His Grace, Pastor Jim



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 Cindy LaTouf’s mother, Suzi Martinez by: Dorothy Willis, Sandra Casper, Suzanne Clegg, Hank Morgan, Micah Wright, Susan Rosenthal, Leandre Majerus, Mark Ridings, and Rev. Sondra Jones.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Helen Cheeley Berry by: Dorothy, Tom, and Billy Willis.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Patty Wilkins by: Harry and Martha Wilkins.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Pam Kocher by: Butch Ballin, Diane Shepard, Linda Chambers, and Linda McQuaig.

### A Note of Appreciation!

Thank you to all of the people who contributed to the love offering that was given to Rev. Jones as an expression of love and appreciation for the 6 years she shared in ministry with BFUMC.

Sincerely,  
The SPRC for Buford First UMC

### Ladies Book Club

Ladies Book Club will not meet in August but for those of you who like to read ahead, the September selection is *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan. More information will be in the next newsletter.

### Buford First United Methodist Church 145 Years of Ministry

One of our long time church members, Handsel Grady Morgan, has written a book entitled *The Buford First United Methodist Church—a History*. You can buy a copy for \$25.00 from the church office or see Suzanne Clegg to get a copy. The Buford church will turn 145 years old on August 19<sup>th</sup> and we will celebrate her years of ministry on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Celebrate by reading the story of our church’s rich legacy.

### BFUMC Recycles Aluminum Cans!

The money goes to our youth group!

The drop off for the cans is in the downstairs hallway of the church building, near the ice machine. Help us out and bring your cans to church.

### Community Suppers Resume



Community supper is Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>! This is a free meal provided by the Beacon Sunday School Class. Everyone is welcome! Plan to join us at 6:00 PM for some good food and warm fellowship.

## Music Ministry

## Youth Ministry

## Children & Family Ministry

August is upon us and the school bell will be ringing soon! While some are still soaking up the last rays of summer, we are hard at work with our preliminary planning for our fall and winter activities and events.

We have some exciting things in the works but in order to put it all together, we are going to need your help. Many of you already volunteer in so many areas of the children’s ministry and I am so blessed and thankful for each you. Now, if you are new to the church or have found that you have some free time on your hands, love kids and love God, have I got a deal for you!

We are looking to add volunteers in the areas of Children’s Church and Sunshine Church, G.L.O.W., Children’s Work area committee, Nursery, and seasonal activities. If you might be interested in getting involved in any or all of these areas, I would love to hear from you!

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

In His Name, Susan

Confirmation Class for Adults

Would you like to learn more about the United Methodist Church? Would you like to hear about some of the history and beliefs of the faith? Plan to join the Confirmation Class for adults August 14<sup>th</sup>–October 9<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Buckman will lead the class which will meet in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Please let us know if you want to participate by August 7<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or email Suzanne Clegg at [adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org)

United Methodist Women Carol Scott Circle  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Carol Scott Circle meets the third Friday of each month (except June & July) at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The circle starts back after summer break on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Child care will be provided. All of BFUMC circles have similar tasks and goals but each are unique in the way they fellowship and in the way they fulfill the UMW purpose. If you are interested in knowing more about Carol Scott Circle or will need child care in August, please contact Heather White at [bandhwhite@charter.net](mailto:bandhwhite@charter.net). The members would love to meet you. You are also welcomed at the Effie Wood or Florence Garner circles. Each one is special and will openly welcome you.

August is re-enrollment month for Kroger Community Rewards!

BFUMC receives a percentage of what our members spend at Kroger each quarter to use on Sack Kids Hunger. Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy. All you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! (Kroger promises never to share your personal information, and this does not affect the gas points you receive.)

August is re-enrollment month every year. Those of you who have already registered will need to re-enroll online by signing into your account. If you have not registered your Kroger Plus card, please go online to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) and click on "Create An Account" near the upper right hand side or simply sign in if you already have an account.