

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of September 19, 2016**

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

|                                                                          |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....                      | \$600,000.00 |
| Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal..... | \$375,743.43 |
| Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....                     | \$16,018.33  |
| Amount given on 09-18-2016.....                                          | \$6,660.51   |

**Building Fund**

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance in Building fund.....   | \$715,539.20 |
| Amount given on 09-18-2016..... | \$1,144.00   |

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>                 |

**October Missions**

**The Great Day of Service**

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

**The Gina Carswell Memorial Food**

**Drive**

**Coat and Blanket Drive**

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Sundays October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

**Feed the Homeless**

8:45 a.m. October 13<sup>th</sup>

Sandra Casper 770-271-8008 or

sucasper@charter.net.

**Sunday School Assembly**

10:00 a.m. October 30<sup>th</sup>!

The Good Samaritan Clinic of Gwinnett

**Sack Kids Hunger**

Donate microwave popcorn

Sign up at to help us on a Saturday

[www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) and click on "Find

A Sign Up". Then use Suzanne Best's

email address to find the SKH Sign Up :

[jsabest@yahoo.com](mailto:jsabest@yahoo.com)



# The Connection

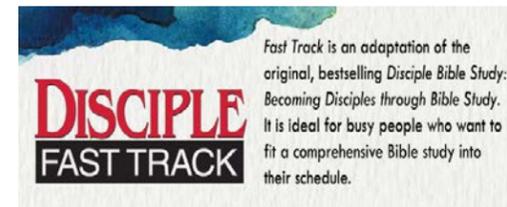
**To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World**



*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 October 1, 2016 – October 31, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 10



**Join us for the Disciple Fast Track Study Begins November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Disciple Fast Track is a study that takes you through the Old and New Testaments in 24 weeks. Class meets for 90 minutes each week, and participants have about 20 minutes of homework to do 6 days a week. Cost for the Student Manual is \$32.00

Sign up with Suzanne Clegg by calling 770-945-7438, or email her at [adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org). Even if you have taken Disciple I, you may want to join us. Every new group brings its own ideas and insight into the scriptures. Classes will be held Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Beacon Room. Rev. Margaret Adams will be the class leader.

Sign up by October 15<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to be a part of this group. Your \$32.00 payment may be made at the first class.



The Pumpkin Patch will be open October 6<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.  
Monday-Saturday:  
10:00 AM-8:00 PM  
Sunday: 12:00-8:00 PM



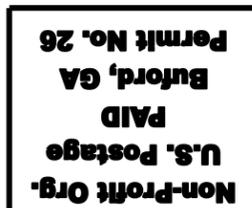
**Commitment Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Realigning your Finances to God's Will is an Act of Giving that will Change Lives.**

This year Commitment Sunday will be a Tailgate Party! On Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> each of you will have an opportunity to make your commitment to the 2017 General Fund. The General Fund is where just about everything in the life of the church is funded: Worship, Missions, Programs for Infants, Children, Youth, and Adults, Music, Heating and Air Conditioning, Lights, Building and Van Maintenance, Paper Towels, Cleaning Services, Sunday Bulletins, Bible Study, Newsletter, Website, Phones, Insurance, Staff, and the list goes on! Please be in prayer about how you will make a difference through your tithes and offerings to the Buford First UMC General Fund.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy a cookout tailgate party. The United Methodist Men will provide a meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and cookies. Come join the fun and fellowship and be sure to wear your favorite team colors!

**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*



# A Word From The Pastor

## “B2B: Blessed to Bless”

**So I will save you, and you will be a blessing.**

**Zechariah 8:13 NIV**

Second Kings 7 tells a fascinating story of four lepers who sat at the gate of Samaria at a time when the city was under siege. Things had gotten so bad inside the city that women were eating their own children to survive. But Elisha the prophet had predicted something that seemed utterly impossible, that the next day food would be plentiful and affordable in Samaria.

Meanwhile, the four lepers evaluated their dismal situation. If they stayed at the gate of Samaria, they would starve. If they went over to the enemy camp, they may be killed, which would be no worse than starving. But there was the outside chance that the enemy would take pity on them and give them some scraps of food. So they took their chances and went over to the enemy camp.

When they got there, they were shocked to find the camp deserted. The Lord had caused the enemy to hear the sound of a great army of chariots and horses so that they fled in a panic, leaving all of their supplies behind. The four beggars ate all that they could eat. They hauled away and hid several loads of silver and gold and clothes.

But then their consciences began to gnaw at them. They said, “We’re not doing right. This is a day of good news, but we are keeping it to ourselves” (2 Kings 7:9). So they went and told the starving city where they could find abundant supplies to satisfy their needs.

When you stop to think about it, we are an incredible blessed people, and a blessed church. I know I am blessed to be your pastor. I have what I need, and more if I am to be honest with myself. Yet, it is easy to keep it to myself and reluctant to share those blessings with others, just like the lepers did. I bet some of you may have to plead guilty to that also. But I am incredibly thankful for all the ways I see many people respond to the blessings they have. I see it in the way people serve, make and pass out lunches on Saturdays, show up to answer phones and help in the office, place money in the offering plate, invite their unchurched friends to come worship with them, and all the other things you do.

If you don’t think you do enough to be a blessing, during the month of October we will have the opportunity to bless others in a variety of ways. We have our Great Day of Service on October 1st, our Sack Kids Hunger continues every Saturday, I will be preaching on what it means to be “Blessed to Bless”, and we will have our stewardship commitment Sunday on October 16th. Commitment Sunday will be a chance to commit to God what we hope to give this next year. It is also a wonderful opportunity to catch up if you got behind on your giving for this year. It will be a wonderful morning with inspiring worship, special music, and even a time of celebration after our 11:00 worship. (So wear your favorite team colors.) But more than anything else, I hope this will be a time in which we all realize how blessed we are, and also look for ways that we can bless others. Be sure to join us, because you will be blessed.

See you in church.



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 Rev. Eugene Holmes by: Pat Stanley.

\*A donation has been given in honor of George and Barbara Thompson by: George and Barbara Thompson.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Kenny and Cindy Karr and Rick Huckaby by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Linda McQuaig, Rick Huckaby, and Kenny and Cindy Karr by: Mike and Sandra Casper.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Rick Huckaby and Donnie and Linda McQuaig by: Al and Pam Kocher.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Linda McQuaig and Kenny and Cindy Karr by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

### Welcome to our newest church members!

Wayne Ray, Gala Reznick, Keren Ray, and Naomi Ray, Debbie Mervis, and Shawn, Caleb, and Sarah Buckman!



**Buford First UMC will  
Worship in Pink on Sunday,  
October 2, 2016!**

**In support of Cancer Awareness we  
will be Worshiping in Pink! Everyone  
should plan to wear “PINK” to worship  
on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>!**



We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Sue Jones’ home to discuss “A Waist is a Terrible Thing to Mind”.

The title is intriguing, don’t you think? Please pick up a copy and join us. We will discuss the first half of the book in October and finish it in November, just before holiday overeating time maybe? Please call Sue with any questions at 770-932-2202.

### Community Supper



**Community supper is Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>!**  
**This is a free meal sponsored by BFUMC Youth.**  
**Everyone is welcome! Plan to join us at 6:00 PM**  
**in the Fellowship Hall for some good food and**  
**warm fellowship!**

## 2017 Mission

### MISSION for 2017!



In 2016 our team of 5 had a great week offering VBS at St. Michael’s Methodist Church in Nassau. See some of the photos on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

Are you interested in traveling with a team to help with VBS at St. Michael’s Methodist Church in Nassau, Bahamas next summer? Or maybe you’d like to help repair homes at All Saints Camp? We may take a team for both projects. Youth going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older are eligible, younger youth can go if a parent accompanies them. Approximate cost will be \$1,100.00 (this includes air fare). Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested! We will have an informational meeting Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m.

## Youth Ministry

**#WakeUpTheSlopes  
2017 Youth Ski Trip  
Jan 6 - 8  
only \$140**

**Open to All Youth and Chaperones**

## Children & Family Ministry



Pumpkin season is almost here!! We are excited to share that this year we will be doing something a little different to celebrate the Fall Season. As the construction of the CLC continues, we will be hosting the 2016 BFUMC Fall Bash for our church children on October 29, 2016 from 2pm to 4p In the Fellowship Hall.

We will have snacks, crafts, music, photo booth and more. Parents, youth and kids are encouraged to come in costume and enjoy a time of fellowship and fun. As space is limited, we will not be doing our traditional trunk or treat but there will still be some yummy goodies available.

In order to make this an awesome event, we will need your help. Please be on the lookout for the Fall Bash Sign up Genius to see where you can help!

**Happy Fall Y’all!!!!**

### October Preschool Happenings:



- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Wear **Pink** To School
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Preschool Staff Meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup>: **Fire** Truck Visit
- 10<sup>th</sup>: No School-Columbus Day
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Fundraiser Due Visit **Pumpkin** Patch
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: Fall Pictures
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Stay And Play Day
- 25<sup>th</sup>: **Fire** Drill
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Petting Zoo
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Progress Reports Go Home
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Halloween Fun



The Buford First UMM meet at 7:30 a.m. the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month for a fellowship breakfast at Golden Corral. The next fellowship breakfast is October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Other October Activities:

- The Buford First UMM welcomes all men to join them for dinner on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- The UMM invite both men and women to participate in the Max Samples Memorial Golf Tournament at Reunion Country Club on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are in the Narthex.

### Young at Heart to Brasstown Bald Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

*(Reservations are due by October 4<sup>th</sup>)*



Where can you see 4 states at the same time? You guessed it! On the top of Brasstown Bald Mountain. This is the state’s highest peak at 4,784 feet above sea level. Don’t worry there is a shuttle that completes the last ½ mile trek to the top from the parking lot. On our way north we will hopefully see some beautiful foliage. We will lunch at the Hole in the Wall restaurant in Blairsville. Then we can make a quick apple stop on the way back.

**Cost \$5.00 for entrance fee including shuttle + \$3.00 for gas = \$8.00 / Lunch is at your own cost.**  
**Load the van at 9:00a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m.**

**Effie Wood Circle**—Our next meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Lake Lanier West Bank Pavilion. For those needing a ride, a bus will be provided. Contact Ann (770-904-0738) to reserve a spot. Spouses are welcome. Bring a dish to share and come join us!