

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of October 17, 2016**

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

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$415,938.47
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$18,406.15
Amount given on 10-16-2016.....	\$9,104.90

**Building Fund**

Balance in Building fund.....	\$696,418.01
Amount given on 10-16-2016.....	\$1,213.00

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>

**November Missions**

**The Alternative Christmas Program** of BFUMC allows you to purchase a Christmas gift for someone in the form of a contribution to a worthwhile ministry. The ministries supported by this program are: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Heifer Project International, The Gwinnett Children’s Shelter, Wesley Woods Geriatric Care Center, & Murphy Harpst Children’s Home. The ministry’s wish list brochure will be in the Fellowship Hall by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> & shopping begins Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>! When you purchase a gift you will receive a special card to present to your relative or friend.



**Sack Kids Hunger** Donations of peanut butter cracker packs are needed this month. Drop these in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall! We also need volunteers EVERY Saturday to help make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, pack sacks, and hand out lunches. Sign up at [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 at [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 November 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 11



**The Meaning of the Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is typically a circular candle holder that holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Most Advent wreaths use three colors of candles – purple, pink, and white. However, some may use blue in place of the purple.

**1<sup>st</sup> CANDLE**–(purple/blue) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE**–We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. *“And again, Isaiah says, ‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:12-13)

**2<sup>ND</sup> CANDLE** (purple/blue) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PEACE AND PREPARATION**–God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! *“As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’* (Luke 3:4-6)

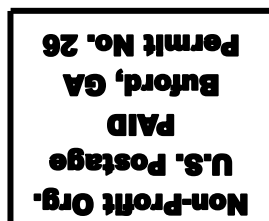
**3<sup>rd</sup> CANDLE**–(pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY**–The angels sang a message of JOY! *“...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”* (Luke 2:7-15)

**4<sup>th</sup> CANDLE**–(purple/blue) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE**–The angels announced the good news of a Savior. *“...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord”* (Luke 2:10b-11). God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* (John 3:16-17)

**5<sup>th</sup> CANDLE**–(white) **CHRIST CANDLE**–The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”* (John 1:29)

**Return Service Requested**

**Byford First United Methodist Church**  
 285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329  
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329  
 770-945-7438 ~ [www.byfordfirstumc.org](http://www.byfordfirstumc.org)  
 Preschool 770-945-4161





# A Word From The Pastor

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100

I don't know about you, but I cannot help but think about Thanksgiving when I think of November. I love getting together with family and eating turkey with all the side dishes. I love watching afternoon football while we doze in and out. And I love Thanksgiving because it serves as a reminder of how fortunate I am and how I have been blessed in so many ways. As you read this, I want you to stop and begin listing some of the ways God has blessed you this year. What are they? For me, a few would be a beautiful wife who has always put up with this crazy pastor life, kids who are discovering what it means to be followers of Jesus for themselves, a great church in Buford First who is living out what it means to be a church, and more friends that I could ever imagine. I am blessed by those I have in my life and a country I am blessed to live in.

By the time Thanksgiving rolls around, we will have elected a new president. Some will be happy with the decision, and some will not. Regardless of who is elected, I hope that we will remember what the Psalmists said, "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." God's faithfulness does not depend on who is elected. Aren't you glad? Nor is it dependent on our present circumstances, what is going on in the world around us, or a culture that seems to be moving away from God. God's faithfulness is based on who God is, not what we have done.

I hope you will be praying for our new president, as well as our other elected officials. But remember that God's promise is that he is faithful and his love endures forever. That is where we find our peace and security. So, take the time to remember how you have been blessed; and remember that our God who has been faithful in the past will also be faithful in the future. So "enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

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 Mary Alice Hash by: Greg and Sue Jones and Jim and Meredith Holt.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Elwin and Gina Carswell and in honor of Case Andrews Roberts by: Dash and Debbie Roberts.

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

\*A donation has been given in honor of Pam Kocher by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby

\*A donation has been given in honor of Mike and Sandra Casper by: Dwight and Sandra Burgess.

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

\*A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper and Martha Wilkins by: Al and Pam Kocher.

### Welcome to our newest church members!

Dick and Gwen Aldridge

**Advent Study** (4 Wednesdays)  
Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
in the Beacon Room

Join us as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child with a four week study during Advent. *The Redemption of Scrooge*, by Matt Rawle, explores how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic, *A Christmas Carol*, from the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future. This Advent study will "bless us every one!" The student book is \$11.00.



### November Mission Trip to Aid Flood Victims in Baton Rouge

We are planning a trip to Baton Rouge November 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. We will be working through the ministry of the First UMC helping to clean out, and repair homes in the area. Cost is \$95.00. Sign up with a \$25.00 deposit by Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Construction experience is helpful, but not required. A willingness to do dirty, heavy work with a good attitude is! Contact Suzanne Clegg for information, adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org.



### UMW Ladies Book Club

Meets at Sue Jones' home November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to discuss the second half of "A Waist is a Terrible Thing to Mind." We would love for You to join this great group of ladies. Please call Sue with any questions at 770-932-2202.

## Music Ministry

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm

Tone Chimes & G.L.O.W. Program

### "Room for Christmas"

A children's Christmas musical by Mark Burrows

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:45 & 11:00 am

### "Lessons & Carols"

Adult & Youth choirs with brass quintet, organ, percussion, and handbells, featuring the music of North Carolina composer, Dan Forrest

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

The Youth are Going Big with These Events:

December 3<sup>rd</sup>-Progressive Dinner

December 7<sup>th</sup>-WNBS Christmas Celebration!

December 18<sup>th</sup>-WAKE Christmas Party!



Giving thanks is something we should do year round not only during the holidays. Take a minute to sit down with your children and truly Thank God for all your blessings. No matter how big or small, God has provided them all because HE loves us all so much.

During the next few months there will be opportunities to give thanks and share blessings with others. Be on the lookout for the Alternative Christmas program, The G.L.O.W. sponsored toy drive, the Angel tree, Sack Kids Hunger, Hat, coat, and blanket drive, etc. Help us also to remember to thank those in the Military, Law Enforcement, and First Responders who protect and serve us each day.

Let us all be thankful for an Amazing Loving God, a strong loving Church, and the opportunity to live our lives as Christians.

Blessed to be Blessed, Susan

## Youth Ministry

## Children & Family Ministry

### November Preschool Happenings

1<sup>st</sup>: Staff Meeting 1:15 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Wear Fall Shirt

8<sup>th</sup>: No School-Election Day

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Feasts 11:30 a.m.

21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>: No School-Thanksgiving Break

29<sup>th</sup>: Fire Drill



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 November 20<sup>th</sup>.



The **Effie Wood Circle** will be meeting Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 7PM for our mission project (Ryan's Case for Smiles) to make pillow cases for children in the hospital with cancer. Please join us for the construction of the pillow cases.

The **Florence Garner Circle** will be accepting names for the Angel Tree again this year. If you or someone you know is in need this year, please contact Barbara Money @ 770-601-8462 after 3:00 p.m. or at barbara.money@charter.net. The main Angel Tree will be going up on November 13<sup>th</sup> and will be located in the Fellowship Hall, with a smaller tree in the Narthex. All gifts will need to be returned no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, contact Barbara or Niki Redstrom.

Buford First United Methodist Church Christmas Ornaments are again being sold by the **Carol Scott Circle**. The cost is \$20 per ornament and a check can be made out to Carol Scott Circle with "Ornament" listed at the bottom of your check. Sherry Seabrooke will have these at the 11:00AM service beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>. You can see her after the service or email her at stseabrooke@gmail.com. Ornaments will also be available at the Alternative Christmas table in the Fellowship Hall before and after church beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The women of the **Florence Garner and Carol Scott Circles** will meet on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, after the 11AM service to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. We also will need a couple of men to help that afternoon as well. Children who are supervised by their parents are also welcome to help.



### Young At Heart has two outings in November!

Mayfield Dairy  
November 15<sup>th</sup>

North Winds Holiday Concert  
November 29<sup>th</sup>

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> we will tour the Mayfield Dairy and have a special treat at the end. *Reservations are due by Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.*



On Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> we will enjoy the sounds of the Christmas Season. *Reservations are due by Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

For more information see the Young At Heart schedule located in the Narthex.