

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of November 14, 2016

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$454,992.26
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$24,167.96
Amount given on 11-13-2016.....	\$7,804.78

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$705,899.43
Amount given on 11-13-2016.....	\$17,350.00

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
Rev. Jim Buckman	Senior Pastor
Sandra Casper	Financial Secretary
Suzanne Clegg	Director of Adult Ministry
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

December Missions

2016 SKH Christmas Meal -- This year we would like to expand our deliveries to include as many folks as possible in the area, whether they have a financial need or not, but would appreciate a turkey dinner & a friendly visitor. We are also looking for local organizations that could use the meal as well such as the Gwinnett Shelter. If you know of someone – or a charity, organization etc., please tell them about our meal on **Dec 17th**. Sunday bulletins for Dec 4th and 11th will have forms for you to supply specific information on the recipients. If you have any questions or additional information, please contact Tracey Yancey at (770) 653-6131 or tyancey@woodfruitticher.com or Lynne Bryan at lynnebryan@yahoo.com. We will also have sign up information on Sign-up Genius soon, so you can help with preparing the food in advance and packaging and organizing the day of the event.

See the back of your December calendar for more information on some of our other Missions offered by our UMW Circles!



The Connection

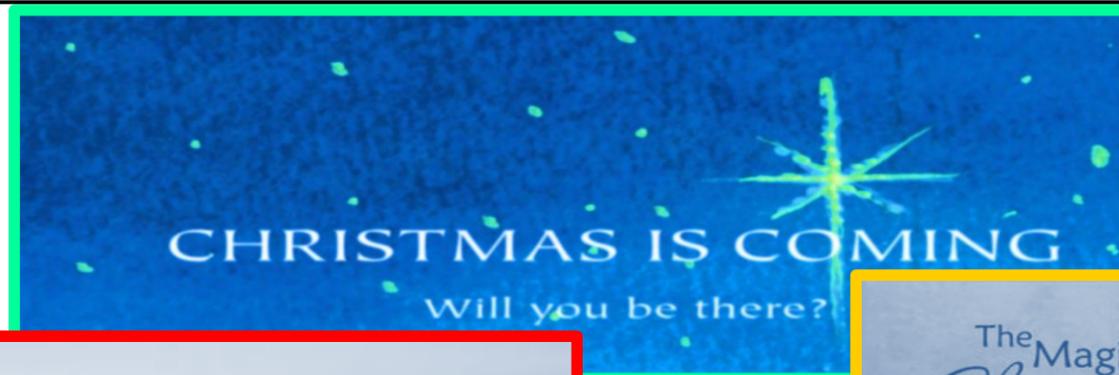
To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



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 December 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 12



For unto **YOU** is **BORN** this*day, in the city of David, a **SAVIOR**, which is **CHRIST** the **LORD**.
Luke 2:11

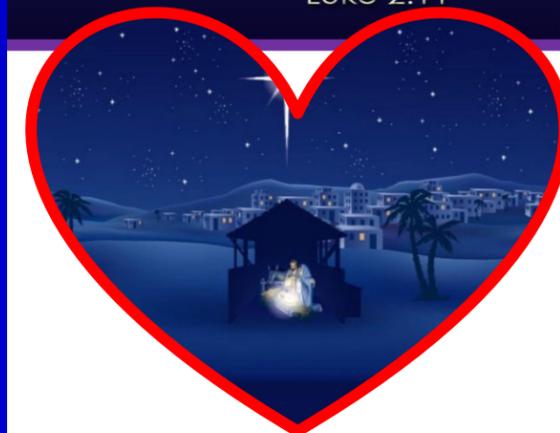
Sunday, December 11th, 5:30 pm
Tone Chimes & G.L.O.W. Program
"Room for Christmas"
A children's Christmas musical by Mark Burrows

Sunday, December 18th, 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

Saturday, December 24th, 5:00, 8:00 & 11:00 pm
"A Not So Simple Night"
Children's Service at 5:00 pm and Christmas Eve Choir at all services

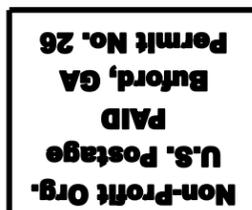
Sunday, December 25th, 10:00 am
"Best Surprise of All"
Only one service on Christmas Day and no Sunday School

Sunday, January 1st, 10:00 am
Only one service on New Years Day and no Sunday School



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

CHRISTMAS ANTICIPATION

Today in the town of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be the sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'

Luke 2: 11-14

I am not sure which I like more, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. I love the anticipation that comes with Christmas Eve. I love Christmas Eve services, when we gather to celebrate the coming birth of Jesus Christ. I love the singing of Christmas Carols, the telling of the Christmas story, the celebrating of Holy Communion, and the lighting of candles as we sing "Silent Night". After a busy evening, I enjoy going home to a quiet house where I usually find a Christmas Eve service on TV to watch while I "get ready" for Santa and the joy of Christmas morning. I like to sit in silence and simply thank God for the love that He has shown us. This year, I am sure part of my night will also involve shifting from Christmas Eve services to a Christmas Day service. But I have fun getting ready for Christmas Day. This year I am sure I will enjoy the anticipation of seeing my kid's joy early in the morning, your joy as we worship together on Christmas, and the joy on children's faces as they tell us what Santa left for them.

But imagine what it must have been like hundreds of years ago. There was an anticipation, not for Santa, but for the Messiah. When parents would sit their children down around the fire and read to them from the Book of Isaiah: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." I can imagine the anticipation people must have felt wondering when the Messiah would come.

That is the type of anticipation I want. Sure, I anticipate things like the opening of our Christian Life Center, time with my family, and the opening of gifts. But I also want to capture some of that anticipation that people had centuries ago. I want to anticipate the Messiah being born again in our hearts and in our city. I want to anticipate the change that will occur when that happens. And I want to anticipate what it will be like this "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" comes to bring peace and joy during a season that can be crazy and difficult for a lot of people. As we anticipate Christmas this year, I invite you to join me in anticipating the coming of the Messiah once again. Will you join me as, together, we ANTICIPATE.

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 Charlie Williams by: Joe, Suzanne, and Alena Best, Mike and Sandra Casper, Donnie and Linda McQuaig, and Al and Pam Kocher.

*A donation has been given in memory of April Cheeley by: Dorothy and Billy Willis.

*A donation has been given in memory of Rebecca Woodard by: Dorothy C. Willis, Pat Stanley, Terry Ellis, and Robert and Mary Phillips.

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

*A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper, Martha Wilkins, and Donnie McQuaig by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

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

*A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper, Martha Wilkins, Pam Kocher, and James Adair by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.

Music Ministry

Christmas Eve Choirs

5:00-8:00-11:00 pm

Come and join in singing

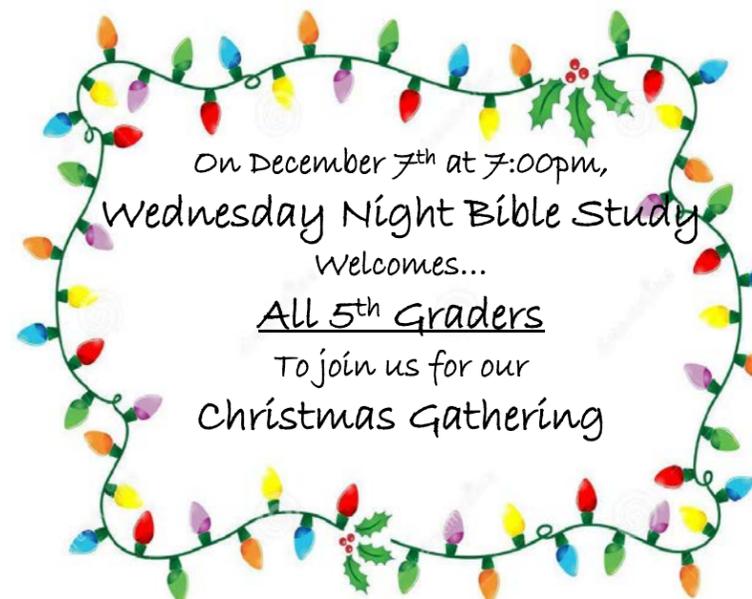
"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"

Rehearsal will be 30 minutes before each service and you will be able to sit with your family and friends

No robes · No Extra Rehearsals · No Commitments

All are welcome!

Youth Ministry



Christmas Bells are ringing and the children are singing...What a beautiful joyful noise!! We are so excited to share all the awesome things we have going on this month in the Children's Ministry.

Mark your calendar! On December 4th at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will be having our "Happy Birthday Jesus Party". All children are invited to come have snacks, make some Christmas Crafts and hear the story of our Savior's birth. We will need volunteers to assist with this party so please be on the lookout for more info.

On December 11th we invite you to come experience our G.L.O.W. Choirs "Room for Christmas" musical. Our performance will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a few selections from our Tone Chimes. This year as part of our musical, we will be doing a toy drive. We would love it if you could bring a new unwrapped toy for a child. We will be donating all of the toys the TOYS FOR TOTS program. Help us to spread God's love through music, song, and tons of fun! This year, Pastor Jim will lay a blessing on the toys we have collected before we donate them. We will not be bringing toys to bless on Christmas morning so we can focus on the true gift of Christmas.....Jesus Christ.

Love and Blessings, Susan

Children & Family Ministry

End of Year Charitable Contributions

Though the church office will be closed from Dec. 23rd-Dec. 30th, **Sandra Casper, BFUMC Financial Secretary, will be available in the church office on Friday, Dec. 30th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm** to receive and post your end of year contributions for 2016. **If you plan to mail your end of year contributions, please mail them to P.O. Box 329, Buford, GA 30515 no later than December 23rd.** This will help to insure that your 2016 tax deductible contributions arrive in time to be processed and credited to your 2016 statement of giving. Please contact Sandra if you have any questions, 770-945-7438.



The United Methodist Women of Buford First UMC cordially invite all ladies and girls 12 years and over to attend our Annual Christmas

Brunch on Saturday morning, December 10th from 10:00 AM until noon. Everyone bring a dish to share and bring your favorite Christmas mug to drink from.

We will eat in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM and then will listen to the Buford Academy choir, under the direction of our own Gary Lenz, perform a medley of beautiful Christmas music in our Sanctuary at 11:00 AM.

December Preschool Happenings
 14th: Stay And Play Day/Fire Drill
 15th: Wear **Christmas** Pj's
 19th: Christmas Program At Noon
 20th: Christmas Classic Movie/Pj/Pizza Day/ Last Day Of School!
 21st-January 8th: **Christmas/Winter Break**



The Buford First UMM meet at 7:30 a.m. the 3rd Sunday of each month for a fellowship breakfast at Golden Corral. The next fellowship breakfast is December 18th.

Confirmation Class in 2017!

Confirmation Classes for students in 6th grade and older will begin on February 5th. There is a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Confirmation meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour and is taught by Suzanne Clegg, Pastor Jim, and a few volunteers. The class will go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska in the spring. We worship, hear great speakers, and enjoy workshops and activities during this weekend event. This is a great experience for young people and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own. Please sign up to take this course!

HIGH

High Museum of Art Atlanta



On December 20th the Young At Heart will load the vans at 8:30 AM to head to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and then enjoy lunch at California Dreaming.

Reservations for the museum are due by Dec. 6th & cost is \$13 which includes gas.



Remember, if you want to attend the play, Squirm Burpee, on January 28th in Buford, you must RSVP by December 20th.

For reservations please contact Debbie Atcheson at djatcheson@gmail.com.

The Young At Heart information brochure is available in the Narthex.