

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of December 12, 2016

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$505,705.84
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$47,147.08
Amount given on 12-11-2016	\$8,858.50

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$422,523.06
Amount given on 12-11-2016	\$12,918.00

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
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



January Missions

DISPOSABLE DIAPER COLLECTION

The United Methodist Children's Home office in Gainesville, GA & North Gwinnett Co-op, in Buford, GA have ministries that give diapers to families in their area. For the month of January, the Carol Scott Circle has teamed up with the United Methodist Children's Home Office and the North Gwinnett Co-op to support their Diaper Mission. All during the month of January we will be collecting disposable diapers. We need all sizes for both **boys** and **girls**. A collection box is located in the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive is on Sunday, January 8th, 9:00 am–1:00 pm in memory of Charlie Williams. Please plan to donate that morning. The gift of donating **blood** helps save lives!



The Connection

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

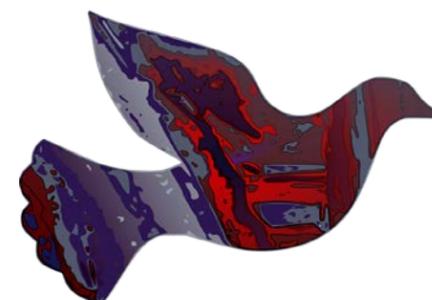


To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

The Weeks of January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2017

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Confirmation Class in 2017!



Begins Sunday, February 5th!

Confirmation Classes for students in 6th grade and older will begin on February 5th. All youth are welcome! Their parents do not have to be members of the church for the student to join the class.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Youth bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or email Suzanne Clegg at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org.

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.

Topics include: Baptism, Communion, Church History, and the Bible. This is a great experience for young people and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own.



BFUMC Missions in 2017

January	Disposable Diaper Collection - UM Children's Home 8 th Blood Drive
February	5 th Souper Bowl Sunday- Collection for Homeless 9 th Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 26 th Homeless and Housing Offering
March	Missions Prayer Calendar 26 th One Great Hour of Sharing
April	Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive Date TBA Tree of Life Garden Party 6 th Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 9 th Blood Drive in memory of Olivia Ouimet
May	Prison Ministry-Deodorant and Card Collection 7 th Wesley Woods Offering 7 th UMW offering to Murphy Harpst
June	4 th Conference Special Offering 11 th Blood Drive 18 th Father's Day Offering- Eagle Ranch 21 st -25 th Gainesville Aid Project
July	1 st -8 th Bahamas Mission Trip Date TBA Youth feed Homeless Women and Children
August	15 th Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta 20 th Blood Drive 27 th Action Ministry Offering
September	17 th UM Children's Home Offering 30 th Great Day of Service (Tentative)
October	Gina Carswell Memorial Food Drive Prison Ministry-Christmas Card Collection Coat and Blanket Drive 17 th Homeless Meal to Grace UMC, Atlanta
November	Alternative Christmas 12 th Blood Drive
December	Angel Tree 16 th Sack Kids Hunger, Christmas Meal Delivery <i>And Sack Kids Hunger hands out lunches to over 120 children every Saturday!</i>

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

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A Word From The Pastor

Step Into The New Year

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." John 1:43

As we step into a new year, I am reminded that Jesus' first invitation to his first disciples was "Follow me" or "Come and see." It wasn't an invitation to any place in particular. Likewise, when Jesus asks us to "Follow Me," he is asking us to step forward in faith. As we begin this new year, I am reminded of Seven Steps Forward of Faith that I once heard Leonard Sweet mention:

- 1) **Step Ahead** even when it means stepping away from the familiar and stepping beyond what we know to be our abilities.
- 2) **Step It Up** knowing that there will be times that a "leap of faith" is required.
- 3) **Step Up** knowing that the victory is won, not when your Goliath-problems come tumbling down, but when you have enough David-faith to step up to the challenge, to step out and pick up some pebbles, and step up to the plate. The victory is won not in falling Goliaths but in raising faith to the level of the challenge. Faith IS the victory.
- 4) **Step In It** because there are times there is no other way forward but through a mess and our faith requires that we "get down and dirty".
- 5) **Step Down** knowing that when we follow Jesus we let go of our will and look toward God's unfolding vision.
- 6) **Step Over The Line** to bring God's grace, Jesus' sacrifice to all people who are separated from God's love, no matter where they stand.
- 7) **Stand Firm** because when we are firmly planted, springing forward is a movement from strength.

Let me encourage you as we begin this new year to Stand Firm in loving the Lord our God with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. From that immovable place our faith can Step Ahead, Step It Up, Step Up, Step In It, Step Down, and Step Over The Line.

Pastor Jim



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

**A donation has been given in memory of Charlie Williams by: Terry Ellis and Pat Stanley.*

**A donation has been given in memory of Elwin and Gina Carswell, Suzi LaTouf Martinez, Austin Grant, Denver Mathis, Dale Mathis, Jeff Willis, and Ginger Pirkle by: Tommy and Donna Grant.*

**A donation has been given in honor of Suzanne Clegg, Sylvia Beard, and Melinda Kersey by: Tommy and Donna Grant.*

**A donation has been given in honor of Lynne Bryan and Tracey Yancey by: Jim and Meredith Holt.*

Care Group News: Did you know Buford First UMC has 13 Care Groups? These groups each have a leader who keeps in touch with its members through email and phone calls. We strive to care for one another through these small group connections. See Beth Langston or Linda Hummer for more information.

Lenten Devotional Project 2017

The youth published over 100 Lenten Devotional Books for church members and friends in 2015 & 2016. We plan to do the same thing in 2017 and would like to invite you to contribute a devotion, a drawing, or photograph for the book. The book contains a devotion for each day during Lent, as well as a list of Lenten Deeds for each week. Entries need to be submitted by Sunday, February 5th. Give items to Suzanne Clegg (adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org) or Sydney Yancey (fluffysy4@gmail.com). Donations to help pay for the cost of printing the booklets would be great. See Suzanne Clegg to donate.

Effie Wood Circle



The Effie Wood Circle will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd, at 7:00 PM in the Beacon Sunday School Classroom. A spokesperson from Canine Assistants will be bringing a service dog and presenting the program. Any women interested are invited to come join us.

Our January Community Supper

will be held in the brand new Fellowship Hall, located in the Christian Life Center! Plan now to join us Wednesday, January 25th, at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish meal. Bring a dish to share and enjoy some great fellowship. If you are willing to help provide the meal for the Children's Shelter that night, please contact Suzanne Clegg by email at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

The Four Functions of a Church Choir

1. The church choir leads and enlivens the congregation's song
2. The church choir sings music the congregation cannot
3. The church choir serves as a small-group within the church for faith formation
4. The church choir sings beautiful and challenging music to praise God and edify the congregation

Join a choir today!

For more information, please ask any choir member or contact Mark Ridings in the church office
music@bufordfirstumc.org

~~WAKE
Worship
Romans 01/22/17
13:11-12 @ 5:15pm
Our First
WAKE in
the CLC~~

Oh 2017, what will you bring?

New opportunities, new challenges, and so many wonderful new things....

As we build and as we grow...What more can we do for God's Kingdom? Nobody knows...With a new building, new classrooms and oh so much more....It is going to be awesome that is for sure...

The Children's Ministry has wonderful, exciting, "can't wait to tell you about" plans, all being blessed by GOD's amazing hand.

Come to church, come to Sunday School, come to Youth, and come to G.L.O.W...Read your bulletin, newsletters, and emails so you are sure to know....

Come to BFUMC and be a part. Open Doors...Open Minds.. And open Hearts....
In HIS name, Susan

January Preschool Happenings



Happy New Year 2017!

9th: Return to School

10th: Preschool Staff Meeting

12th: Wear **Blue** to School

16th: No School-MLK Day

23rd- 26th: Registration for 2017-2018

School Year for Currently Enrolled Students, Siblings, and Church Members.

SACK KIDS HUNGER NEWS

Thanks so much to DeeAnna Page and her family for their leadership in the Sack Kids Hunger Ministry! We are so blessed that they plan to continue as the Coordinators of this program. We have Team Leaders assigned to each Saturday in 2017!

1st Sat. - Mike and Sandra Casper

2nd Sat. -Linda Chambers and Donna Agee

3rd Sat. -Joe, Suzanne, Alena Best and Al and Pam Kocher

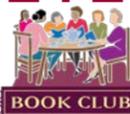
4th Sat. -Tracey Yancey and family

5th Saturdays will be covered by DeeAnna Page and family

Volunteers are needed to help with sandwiches, packing, and give away every Saturday. Please go to sign up genius and sign up for the date, and the time you can help. There's a 10:30-11:30 shift, then an 11:30-2:15 p.m. shift. Go to this link www.SignUpGenius.com and use the following jsabest@yahoo.com to find the Sack Kids Hunger page.

And thanks to Keller Williams Realty of Buford for a generous cash donation in November! This is in addition to a huge food donation given earlier in 2016. We appreciate the Keller Williams support so much!

Ladies Book Club



The ladies book club will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 7 pm to select books and make plans for 2017. (The location is TBD). For more information contact Christi Lenz by emailing her at (Christi.lenz1@gmail.com).

Young At Heart

The YAH will tour the Fox Theatre on Thursday, February 9th!

Reservations are due by Saturday, January 28th.

This historically filled 60 minute tour will bring light to who's behind the Fox along with the why's of the unique decoration. The trip is \$20.00 and then we will go to lunch at Mary Macs which is at your own expense. Email Debbie to get on the list at (djatcheson@gmail.com).