

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of January 9, 2017

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$21,310.73
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$14,539.32
Amount given on 01-08-2017.....	\$13,052.73

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$138,192.15
Amount given on 01-08-2017.....	\$4,991.00

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2017 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

February Missions

We will help Grace United Methodist Church feed Homeless Women and Children on Thurs. Feb. 9th. We'll leave the church at 8:50 AM. If you can help, contact Sandra Casper at sucasper@charter.net or 770-271-8008.

The Souper Bowl Offering is on Feb. 5th. Youth all over the nation will take an offering and will generate millions of dollars to feed the poor and homeless. Please plan to drop a dollar in the soup pot as you leave church that morning so someone who is hungry will have a meal. What we collect will be given to the Women's Community Kitchen in Atlanta.

Carnations for Compassion. Plan to buy a few red carnations to give to those you love on Sunday, Feb. 12th. The Youth will be selling these in the Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday School, to raise money for their Compassion Child in Ghana!

Offering for the Housing & Homeless Council will be taken on Feb. 26th. This gives grants to ministries all over the North Georgia Conference to help people in need. The money you give to the UM Homeless Offering becomes food, rent, emergency shelter, transitional housing, safety from domestic violence, home ownership & jobs.



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 February 1, 2017 – February 28, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 2

Church-Wide Bahamas Mission Trip

He (Jesus) called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:2-5

July 1-July 8, 2017

This trip is for the church- children, youth, and adults. A child under 14 must have a parent with them!

We will be helping the St. Michael's Methodist Church provide a week of VBS to around 100 children. Plans are to teach in the morning, and have some activities with the St. Michael's youth in the afternoon. There will be opportunities to be on the beach as well!

Please turn in a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit soon to register. There is a detailed flier on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The information is also on the church website. Please join us as we return for our 6th trip to Nassau.

This has been a great trip, and we want everyone to go with us! If you help with 5 fund raisers you can go for around \$640.00 each.



United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

The Buford United Methodist Women (UMW) invites all women in the church to visit one of our three circles this winter, and to join a group that best fits you and your schedule. Effie Wood Circle meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Florence Garner Circle meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., and Carol Scott Circle meets the third Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and the Carol Scott Circle provides childcare at the church free of charge if you should need it.

UMW Circle Meetings in February

Florence Garner Circle will meet on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Beacon Room. For more information please contact Leigh Ouimet, louimet@bellsouth.net

Effie Wood Circle will meet Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Beacon Room. The speaker will be MPO Danielle Bell with the Gwinnett Co. Police. She will talk about what to do in an active shooter situation. Active Shooter events in the US are on a rise and threatening our citizens. With these deadly and tragic incidents on the rise, do you know what to do to protect yourself and your loved ones? Any women interested are invited to join Effie Wood for this meeting.

Carol Scott Circle will meet Friday, February 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Gypsi Alford, gypsibalford@gmail.com.

In addition, the UMW Executive Board is searching for a member to serve as the Co-Leader, or Vice President, for a two-year commitment. Please see Niki Redstrom, Linda McQuaig, or Heather White if you feel God calling you to this position. The Executive Board meets five times a year and works for all circles, our church in missions and service, and is a wonderful way to expand your spiritual life and to meet women of incredible strength, faith, and every age. You do not need to be a past Circle leader to work in this role. Please consider how God can use you for His Kingdom in 2017!

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buford, GA
Permit No. 26

A Word From The Pastor

OPEN HOUSES AND OPEN HEARTS

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

Matthew 17: 3-5

It's been a long journey. Many of our congregation were here when the church first had the vision to build in order to reach more people for Christ. Of course, that vision has taken some different directions since it was first embedded on our hearts. We went from buying land with the plan to move out to where we are now, staying here in the heart of Buford and building our Christian Life Center. Now that the building is complete, what does it mean?

It means that we will be able to do some things that we have not been able to do previously. We will have room to eat together in the Fellowship Hall, and space for our Preschool, Sunday School, and youth to grow. We will be able to offer classes and events for the community. And with the new activity center, we will be able to begin a recreation and leisure ministry as well as an alternative worship service. In fact, our Church Board approved beginning the new service and we are presently looking for a worship leader for that service. Not only do we believe that this service will help us reach more people for Christ, but so does the North Georgia Conference. We have been able to receive a grant from Church Development to help in hiring our worship leader. These are just a few of the things that we have the opportunity to begin, and as we continue to listen to our God, I am sure we will begin more. Perhaps some of you have some ideas. If so, I would love to hear. We will be setting up some listening sessions that will give you the opportunity to share your ideas as well as hearing some of my vision for the church.

With all the new opportunities that we have, there are also some things that will not be changing. Primarily, we will continue our mission, "To make disciples for the transformation of the world". That will not change, though we will have the ability to do more to accomplish our mission. You will hear me use the phrase, "Diversity in worship, Unity in mission." We will still have our traditional worship service in the Sanctuary. And we will begin to vision other forms of worship and outreach events to share the good news of Jesus' Church with our community. As we listen to the Son of God, we will continue to be a light to Buford and Gwinnett County, we will love each other, and we will love those that we struggle to love. As we celebrate the opening of our Christian Life Center, let me encourage you to continue to open your heart as we listen to what Christ is asking of us and where He is leading us next. Thank you for all you are doing to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Your faithfulness and generosity is helping to make a difference.

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 family.

*A donation has been given in memory of Helen Engle by: Mike and Sandra Casper, Al and Pam Kocher, and Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

*A donation has been given in memory of Heather Beard Blalock by: Phillip and Sylvia Beard.

*A donation has been given in memory of Jeanne Cheeley by: Phillip and Sylvia Beard.

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

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

*A donation has been given in honor of William "Billy" J. Willis by: Dorothy Willis.

*A donation has been given in memory of Gerald and Sara McQuaig by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig

*A donation has been given in memory of the parents and sister of Estelle Dobbs by: Estelle Dobbs.

*A donation has been given in memory of Norma Preston by: Lee and Sherry Smith.

*A donation has been given in honor of Jim and Shawn Buckman, Mike and Sandra Casper, Rick and Marsha Huckaby, Kenny and Cindy Karr, Al and Pam Kocher, Harry and Martha Wilkins, the Beacon SS Class, and the Ladies Strength Training Class by: Donnie and Linda McQuaig.

*A donation has been given in honor of Donnie and Linda McQuaig by: Dorothy C. Willis.

*A donation has been given in honor of The Lenz Family by: Leanna Brown.

*A donation has been given in honor of Hank Morgan by: Jim and Meredith Holt.

Help Grace United Methodist Church feed Homeless Women and Children

We would love to have you come along with us on Feb. 9th to help serve. If you would like to go with us, help towards the preparation of the meal, or donate to the cost of the meal, just let Sandra Casper know. You may reach her at sucasper@charter.net or 770-271-8008. Van leaves the church at 8:50 AM. on February 9th.

Covered Dish Supper



Our **February Community Supper** will be held in the brand new Fellowship Hall (Rm. 108) located in the Christian Life Center!

Plan now to join us on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish supper. Bring a dish to share and enjoy some great fellowship.

Please contact Suzanne Clegg at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org if you are willing to help provide the meal for the Children's Shelter that night.

Special Invitation

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Lenten Devotional Project 2017

The youth published over 100 Lenten Devotional Books for church members and friends in 2015 and 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).

The books will be available on Sunday February 26th. Lent begins Wednesday, March 1st.

Everyone Is Invited!

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, the new Bishop for the North Georgia Conference, welcomes everyone to join her at Gainesville First UMC (2780 Thompson Bridge Rd, Gainesville, GA) on March 5th from 2:30-5:30 p.m. where she will share her story and vision for the North Georgia Conference.

Please RSVP to Cindy LaTouf (office@bufordfirstumc.org or 770-945-7438) by Feb. 19th.

To be Safe Sanctuary compliant, let us know if your children, 5th grade and younger will attend this event with you.



Only \$10
February 4, Leaving at 2:00pm!
Come witness one of the world's largest Christian Concerts!



February Preschool Happenings

- 2nd: Wear your Favorite Football Shirt or Jersey
- 7th: Preschool Staff Meeting 1:15
- 9th: Doughnuts with Dad
- 14th: Valentine's Day Treat Swap
Wear **Pink, Purple or Red**
- 20th: No School - Presidents' Day
- 22nd + 23rd: Early Release Noon
- 27th: Fire Drill
- Start of Dr. Seuss Week



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 Buckman, and a few other volunteers. Each student will have an adult mentor who meets with us a few times, prays for the student and supports them throughout their experience. The class will go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska April 21st-23rd. We worship, hear great speakers, and enjoy workshops and activities. This is a great experience for young people, and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own. For more information, see Suzanne Clegg.

Young at Heart is for anyone 50 years or older, who enjoys having wonderful fellowship and participating in interesting and fun outings!

February: Fox Theatre Tour Feb. 9th--Reserve by January 28th to Debbie Atcheson, **770-965-3729** or email djatcheson@gmail.com. Total Cost is \$20 plus lunch on your own at Mary Macs. Van leaves church at 9:30 AM and returns around 3:00 PM.
Sneak Peek March: Visit *The Gone With the Wind Museum* in Marietta, Tuesday, March 21st! Cost is \$7.00. Lunch cost will be on your own. More info will be in the next newsletter.

March 1st | 6:00 p.m.
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial meal and program
(Sponsored by the United Methodist Women)
March 1st | 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service
(Nursery provided for children 0-2 years old)