

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of February 6, 2017**

**Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)**

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$62,099.88
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$14,908.85
Amount given on 02-05-2017 .....	\$17,612.00

**Building Fund**

Balance in Building fund.....	\$146,998.81
Amount given on 02-05-2017 .....	\$7,140.00

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**

<b>James Adair</b>	<b>Custodian</b>
<b>Sylvia Beard</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>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>

**March Missions**

**Prayer Calendar** -- The Mission Committee has created a Prayer Calendar for the month of March. The calendar is on the back of the March Calendar, as well as in the narthex at church. Please pray faithfully for these missions.

**The One Great Hour of Sharing** is on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> -- Please give so that the United Methodist Committee on Relief can maintain its extensive mission to those suffering from manmade or natural disasters. This offering, taken world-wide, will pay for the operations of UMCOR, so 100% of all other gifts will be used for mission.

**Sack Kids Hunger** needs Capri Sun Juice bags in March! Drop donations in the black crate in the Fellowship Hall! We use over 100 Capri Suns every Saturday, so we need a lot!

**Bahamas Mission Team** meeting- Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 312. All team members MUST attend! We will be making assignments for the summer and planning for several fund raisers.



# 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 March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 3

## The Season of Lent

Please join us for all the special worship opportunities as we journey through the season of Lent.

### Ash Wednesday - March 1<sup>st</sup>

The UMW invite everyone to join them for the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial meal and program that will be held in the Fellowship Hall. As this is the beginning of the Lenten Season, the meal will be soup and bread and PB&J for children. The program focus is Abundant Health for Women and Children.

At the conclusion of the meal and program we will all go to the Sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday Worship Service, "When No One Sees"

### First Sunday of Lent, March 5<sup>th</sup>

"When Temptation Comes"

(Only one service at 10:30 a.m. and no Sunday School)

### Second Sunday of Lent, March 12<sup>th</sup>

"Kindness Reborn"

### Third Sunday of Lent, March 19<sup>th</sup>

"Giving Someone A Drink"

### Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26<sup>th</sup>

"Helping Someone To See"

### Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

"Second Chances"

### Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

"The Death of Kindness"

### Holy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

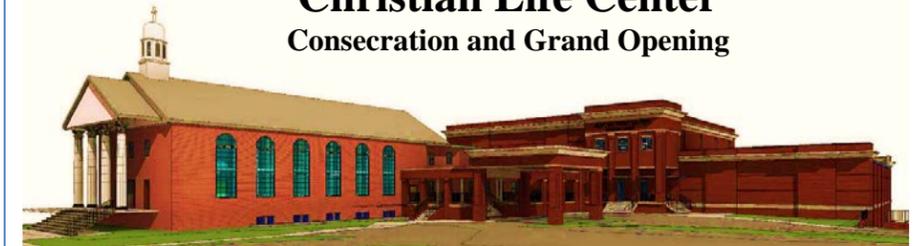
"Maundy Thursday Service"

### Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

"Holding On"

(All Worship Services will have a nursery for children 0-2 years old)

## Christian Life Center Consecration and Grand Opening



*"Now my eyes shall be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."*

2 Chronicles 7:15-16

The time has finally arrived. Starting as just a dream and growing into a vision, people of Buford First United Methodist Church sought our God on how to reach people in this community. With the mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" in front of them we prayed if we should move out of downtown, or stay in the heart of Buford. When the opportunity came to stay and build, a building committee was formed to guide us through that process. We now get to celebrate the hard work and sacrifice of so many people. Our Christian Life Center is complete and we are ready to move in.

On Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our consecration service at 10:30 am. We will be having one service only on this Sunday, with no Sunday School. We will worship in the sanctuary before moving to the front of the CLC for the consecration. Following the consecration, we will open the doors so we can explore and enjoy the building.

The following Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, we will open the doors of the CLC to our community. We will have a Grand Opening from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will be inviting people from the city, local businesses, other churches, and people that you know. We acknowledge that this new building is a gift of God, and we desire to use it to share His love and grace to our community.

Finally, thank you for all that you have done during the building process. You have generously given to the building campaign while also being faithful to our general budget. You have been patient with all the temporary inconveniences while construction was going on. And you have been praying that God will continue to use Buford First United Methodist Church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are excited about all the opportunities the new building will allow us to share that Good News. We look forward to this time of celebration, so come join us. Let's celebrate the goodness and faithfulness of our God.

## 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

## Pancakes, Mardi Gras, and Ash Wednesday

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4: 1-4

I love pancakes. Maybe it is from the memories of my dad preparing banana pancakes on Saturdays growing up, the butter and syrup that I cover them in, or the bacon that I eat with them. Whatever the reason, I really like pancakes. Yet, I do not eat them too often; probably because I could easily overdo how many I eat. That's the problem with things that we will enjoy, it's easy to overdo how much we enjoy them. But that is also why so many people love Mardi Gras, which literally means "Fat Tuesday," because it is known as a day to enjoy things a little too much. In fact, Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is known for its celebrations, parties, and the last day to eat richer, fattier foods while celebrating before the season of Lent, which is marked by simple living, prayer, and fasting. Lent begins the day after Mardi Gras, on Ash Wednesday, and lasts for forty days, not counting Sundays.

I have always been struck with how different these two days were. Two days, one known for its overindulgence and the other for its sacrifice. Of course, Mardi Gras was not always the wild party we think of now. At one time, people used this day to get rid of the sweets, meat, and other items in their house that they did not want to be tempted with during the season of Lent. They would use the sugar and yeast to make sweet breads, and prepare meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast to get ready for an even greater event.

We will begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Prior to the service, we will have our "Prayer and Self-denial" dinner and program at 6:00 p.m. As I think about the season, I am already thinking about what I need to get rid of in my house so that I can use Lent as a time to draw closer to God. Maybe it is the pancakes and the sweets. But it is probably more. It is probably the distractions which take up my time when I could be listening to my God. Things like social media, sports, or HGTV channel. I think we all have those type of distractions. Thomas Merton once wrote, "Lent is not a time for squaring conscious accounts; but for realizing what we had perhaps not seen before." Maybe if I can get rid of some of the distractions I may see something I have not seen before. Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days and saw more of His heavenly Father. Let me encourage you to join me during the season of Lent to discover what more of God we can see. And that begins with getting rid of some of the distractions. So, what will you need to clean out in order to get the most out of Lent?

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: Dick and Debbie Atcheson, Mary Alice Beard and Cindy LaTouf, Maryalice Skiles, Rita Steele, Ruby Mathis, Brenda Billiter, Charles and Carol Cook, and William and Penny Smith.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Heather Beard Blaylock by: Dale and Carla Bradford.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Patricia Adams by: Dale and Carla Bradford.

\*A donation has been given in honor of the Close family by: The Lenz family.

Music Ministry



## CommUnity Supper

Community Supper is Wednesday  
March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in our  
new Fellowship Hall, Rm. 108.

**This is a covered dish meal** so plan  
to bring your favorite dish to share!

Please let Suzanne Clegg know if you  
can help with a meal for the women  
and children at the Gwinnett Shelter,  
[adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org).

Youth Ministry

## Young at Heart

Please join us for our March outing to the *Gone With the Wind Museum* in Marietta, Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>!



In "Scarlett on the Square" you will see sights and sounds through Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler's eyes. Meet to load up at 9:30 AM and return around 3:00 PM. Cost is \$7.00 each, which includes bus transportation. Contact Debbie Atcheson, [satcheson@gmail.com](mailto:satcheson@gmail.com) by March 14<sup>th</sup> to sign up.

Children and Family Ministry

## Choir as a Lenten discipline?

Some Christians are accustomed to giving up something for the season of Lent, items like dessert, fancy coffee or new clothes.

But have you ever made a sacrifice by taking on a project?

You could volunteer at a school, contribute extra money to your favorite charity, or make the sacrifice of time and sing in our Chancel Choir.

Feed your soul, serve your church, sing in a choir!

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm  
Childcare is available.

For more information, please ask any choir member or contact Mark Ridings, [music@bufordfirstumc.org](mailto:music@bufordfirstumc.org).

## A Time of Party and #WakeUpTheCLC

March 5 @ 5:15pm

### Can you believe it is March 2017!

The Children's Ministry has so many exiting things on the horizon. Come and join us-volunteer, donate, pray & play!



**April 15<sup>th</sup> BFUMC Annual Egg Hunt at the Garrett's Farm 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** We need donations

of plastic eggs, prefilled or unfilled and donations of candy and small toys, Easter prizes, coloring books, etc. We want to have enough eggs to do baskets for Sack Kids Hunger as well. The donation box will be in the Fellowship Hall very soon!



**April 30<sup>th</sup> G.L.O.W. Spring Performance of "Jonah and the Whale"**



**June 4<sup>th</sup> Third Grade Bible Presentation and Promotion Sunday!**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 9<sup>th</sup> VBS "Hero Central" "Do good! Seek Peace and Go After It!!"**

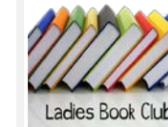
We need volunteers to help in all areas!  
More info coming soon!!



## March Preschool Happenings



- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Seuss Week
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Preschool Staff Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>: Spring/Graduation Pictures
- 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Stay and Play Day
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Wear Green To School
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Fire Drill
- 29<sup>th</sup>: 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Pirate and Princess Day



Ladies Book Club

The Ladies Book Club will be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month this year. The first three dates are as follows:

February 1st, March 21st, and April 18th. This year we will read a combination of books from the UMW Reading Program and other popular Christian Authors. The first three books we have chosen are *Sarah: Women of Genesis* by Orson Scott Card (First 1/2 of the book for February, second 1/2 of the book for March) *Worry Less So You Can Live More* by Jane Rubietta (April) *When Joy Comes To Stay* by Karen Kingsbury (May & June)

For more information about the book club or the UMW Reading Program please contact Christi Lenz at [christi.lenz1@gmail.com](mailto:christi.lenz1@gmail.com).

## CIRCLE NEWS

**Effie Wood Circle** will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, March 7th, at 7:00 PM. We are looking forward to having Pastor Jim as our guest. Any women who would like to join us are welcome.



**Florence Garner Circle** will be selling *Honey Baked Ham Gift Cards* through March 26<sup>th</sup> with delivery of gift cards on April 6<sup>th</sup> for the Easter Holiday.

Please see one of our circle ladies or contact Leigh Ouimet, [louimet@bellsouth.net](mailto:louimet@bellsouth.net) or Barbara Money, [barbara.money@charter.net](mailto:barbara.money@charter.net).

## Meal Ministry Team

We have a Meal Ministry Team. Would you be willing to cook for families in need at short notice? Let Suzanne Clegg know to add you to the list!