

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of March 6, 2017

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$108,711.54
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$15,211.73
Amount given on 03-05-2017	\$19,337.08

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$651,401.53
Amount given on 03-05-2017	\$4,309.00

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
Tyler Garden	Worship Leader & Media Communications Director
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

April Missions

The Blood Drive on April 9th is in memory of Olivia Ouimet. Help us honor the memory of Olivia in helping others! Sign up information will be announced later. We had 40 donors for Olivia's Drive in 2016. Let's have even more give in 2017!

Gina Carswell Food Drive: On Sundays, April 16th and 23rd, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the North Gwinnett Food Co-op. You may donate food or make a \$5.00 donation & we'll do the shopping. Drop bags off in the car parked at the side entrance to the church. Also, food donation bins are located in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex. The Co-Op has requested the following: PB&J, spaghetti sauce, coffee, canned chicken. (NO tuna, NO cereal).

Feed the Homeless: We will feed the Homeless Women and Children at Grace UMC on Wednesday, April 26th. We would love for you to come with us to serve, provide food based on our menu, or make a monetary donation. Please contact Sandra Casper if you would like to help. You may reach her at sucasper@charter.net.

Tree of Life Garden Party: Come out and help us plant the garden! On Saturday, April 22nd there are 2 sessions: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:00–4:00 p.m. Come to part of one, or both! We'll have a hot dog cook-out at noon. Everyone is welcome. Sign up on the Missions Bulletin Board if you can join us!



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 April 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 4

WELCOME Tyler Garden

We welcome Tyler Garden to Buford First UMC as our Worship Leader and Media Communications Director. Tyler and his wife, Katie, come to Buford from West Virginia. His primary responsibilities will be as the Worship Leader for our new worship service, which we are beginning Easter Sunday at 9:45 a.m. This service will be in the Activity Center at 9:45 a.m. and will feature a band, multi-media, and will be more casual. In addition, Tyler will be working with our Communications Team to improve our website and social media presence.

Tyler comes to us fully qualified for this position. He earned his BA degree from Asbury University in Media Communications and Worship Arts. While at Asbury, he led the Praise Band for chapel services, and has led worship at Southland Christian Church and Science Hill Nazarene Church. Besides leading worship, Tyler had the opportunity to work on the broadcasting team covering the 2016 Olympics in Rio. We welcome Tyler and Katie to Buford First UMC. Tyler's email is tcgarden12@gmail.com if you wish to send him a welcome note.



The Easter Season

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 13th

7:00 p.m.

Nursery Provided

Children's Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15th

3:00-5:00 p.m.

At the Garrett Farm

If it rains we will have this event in the Christian Life Center

Easter Celebration Worship Services

Sunday, April 16th

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.

At the Buford Community Center Amphitheater

(Sponsored by the Buford Ministerial Association)

Buford First United Methodist Church Services

8:30 a.m. (Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary)

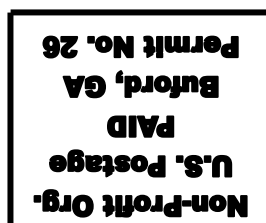
9:45 a.m. (Modern Worship Service in the Worship Center)

11:00 a.m. (Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary)

Nursery Provided

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

Wonder and Amazement

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

Luke 24: 1-8

One of the joys of opening the Christian Life Center was to watch and hear the expressions as people saw the building, especially for the first time. I remember seeing Leandre Majerus, our Preschool Director, in tears as she saw the classrooms, her office, and workroom space. Tears of joy thinking about how many more children we can now serve. I remember seeing the youth on the night the CLC was open, playing ball, running around the gym, enjoying the Youth Lounge with the ping-pong, foosball, and air hockey. I watched my own youth enjoy the space and was thankful to be part of a church that treasures their children and youth, and their willingness to provide a space where youth can encounter the risen Christ, develop relationships and build memories they will have with them the rest of their lives. I recall the tears of joy from many of you who had been on the journey for years. You remembered the joy with the initial vision, the praying and planning, and all the hardships you went through to finally see the doors open on the building.

One would think that would have been the excitement felt by the women when they went to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday. But that is not what happened. They did not remember that Jesus had told them, "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." Because they did not remember the words, they were puzzled and frightened. Even when they were reminded, they were not sure what to do. So they went to tell the disciples what happened.

I think we sometimes forget the words Jesus spoke to His disciples. Yes, he would be crucified; but he would also rise again. This is our hope, our joy, our faith. We know why the tomb was empty. We know that Christ has risen. No matter the hardships we face, whatever we may have done in our past, or how far we may feel from God; Easter reminds us that God has not forgotten us nor forsaken us. Christ is risen, and because he is alive, we can have new life. And that is worth getting excited about.

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 Jeanne Cheeley by Dorothy C. Willis.

*A donation has been given in memory of Varnell Rucker by Junior and Sharon Flanigan.

*A donation has been given in honor of Kenny Karr by Mike and Sandra Casper.



United Methodist Men

The Buford First UMM usually meets at 7:30 a.m. the 3rd Sunday of each month for a fellowship breakfast at Golden Corral.

However, we will not meet in April as the third Sunday is Easter. The next fellowship breakfast will be Sunday, May 21st.

Effie Wood Circle

The Effie Wood Circle will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, April 4th, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Room 108). Lyn Bowman from the Buford Museum will be presenting a slideshow showing us and telling about our local history.

All women are welcome to come join us.

New Pictorial Directory

Dates for photography are
April 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th!

A sign up link is on the church website, or see the volunteer in the church Narthex. Sign up soon to get a convenient time!

Photo sessions are - Weekdays 2:00-9:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm and Sunday 12:00-7:00pm

Young at Heart

Trip to Botanical Gardens at Gainesville
on Tuesday, April 18th

The Gainesville location is a new destination for connecting with beauty and the natural world. The nationally recognized collection expands the horticultural palette of Atlanta's Botanical Garden. The Garden has already developed a sophisticated horticultural operation and the largest conservation nursery in the Southeast. We will go to Mellow Mushroom for lunch after the garden tour.

Cost \$10.70 for entrance + \$2.00 gas = \$12.70.

Lunch is at your own cost.

Loading the van at 9:00 A.M. and
returning around 3:00 P.M.

Music Ministry

Youth Ministry

Children and Family Ministry

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 13, 2017 · 7:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

A service of
Holy Communion, Scripture Readings
and Music with the
Chancel Choir, Chancel Ringers
and Organ

Let this service a part of your Holy Week observance.

April 29th **TACKY** For Junior
8:00-11:00pm **PROM** & Senior High

Graduate Banquet and Scholarship Ceremony
April 30th at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

Scholarship Forms are available in the Youth Room

 **BFUMC Annual Egg Hunt**

April 15th 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Garrett's Farm

Volunteers to help with: (Adult and Youth Volunteers)

Parking / Set up/Clean Up / Snack Table / Prize Table

We are in need of some supplies to help with the egg hunt.

Please take a look at our needs list and see how you can help!

Easter Egg Hunt Donations List

Pre-filled and unfilled plastic eggs / Candy to stuff the eggs / Small Prizes: coloring books, crayons, puzzles, toys, etc. / Hobby Lobby Gift Cards / Small water bottles (need 100) / Juice boxes (need 50) / Snacks: apple slices, cheese cubes, cookies, chips

All donations can be placed in storage container underneath the Children's Ministry Bulletin Board.

Snack donations can be brought to the church on April 13th from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Thanks!

For more information contact Susan Rosenthal at
children.director@bufordfirstumc.org

April Preschool Happenings

3rd-7th: Spring Break

11th: Preschool Staff Meeting 1:15 p.m.

12th+13th: Easter Egg Hunts

24th-26th: Parent/Teacher Conferences



Ladies, mark those
2017 Calendars!

Save the dates of November 3rd-5th for the Women's Retreat to Twin Rivers. The Retreat Committee would love to have your input! Let Suzanne Clegg know if you want to be included to help us plan the weekend.

Connection Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 4th - 7:00 p.m.

The Gainesville District of the UM Church has assigned us to a Connection Group. Buford First is in a group of ten churches who celebrate our connection through worship and mission! All BFUMC members are invited to attend this planning session for our two outreach projects. Also at this meeting we will hear about a ministry being offered at each church. Location is TBA. Let Suzanne Clegg know if you want to attend.



BFUMC is a Kroger
Community Rewards
participating organization!

We will receive a percentage of what our members spend at Kroger each quarter. These funds will be used for our mission project, **Sack Kids Hunger**.

Our church members can help by registering online with Kroger as a BFUMC member. The church will receive rewards as our members shop and use their Kroger Plus cards! It just takes a couple of minutes to register your Kroger Plus card online. Register at krogercommunityrewards.com



Community Supper
Wednesday, April 26th

This is a free meal provided by the Buford First United Methodist Men. Everyone is welcome! Plan to join us at 6:00 PM for some good food and warm fellowship.