

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of June 12, 2017

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$268,137.44
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$17,057.88
Amount given on 06-11-2017.....	\$10,027.00

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$620,782.26
Amount given on 06-11-2017.....	\$6,408.00

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

July Missions

Sack Kids Hunger: A BIG thank you to Deloitte employees who packed 1,000 sacks for us June 9th! Thanks to Wendy Lindly for arranging this fantastic donation!! If you are able to support this ministry with a monetary donation this month, please do so! We purchase bread every week to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Checks are made to BFUMC and marked SKH in the memo line. Thanks!



The Missions Committee meets in July and we would love for you to join us! We will be in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, July 16th, to discuss plans for the fall and 2018!

Bahamas Mission Trip -- July 1st-8th: Please be in prayer for the Mission Team traveling to Nassau in July to lead a week of VBS at St. Michael's Methodist Church, and do some painting for the All Saints Camp. There are 22 on the team! The church has rallied to support this group of volunteers and we are so grateful. Thanks to you we raised \$3,400 at the Church Yard Sale last month! Way to go BFUMC!

The Buford UMC Tree of Life Garden, located at 156 South Hill Street, needs volunteers on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Even an hour or two would be a huge help.



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 July 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 7

Tree of Life Garden

Weeding Party!

Sat. July 8th

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

The Tree of Life Garden is growing! And there are lots of weeds to pull.



Can you help? Join us on July 8th. Bring some gloves, a hoe, and we'll provide donuts☺

If you can help other times, please do. Stop by and weed for an hour. Every little bit helps.

This is a huge undertaking, and it really helps families in our community.

We give the vegetables to families who stop by for Sack lunches on Saturdays. If we have extra it goes to the North Gwinnett Co-Op.

The garden address is 156 S. Hill St.

It's diagonally across from the new CLC.

Come Join the Fun!



June 26 - 30 + July 17 - 21

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

K thru 6th Grade
\$100.00 per child*

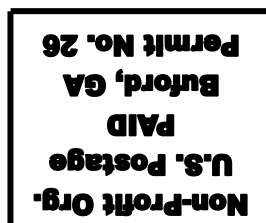
Improve dribbling and shooting skills
Have fun

Registration forms available at church or online
*Scholarships available if needed



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

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.
1 Peter 2: 16-17

“Who’s to say we can’t do this?” Have you ever asked yourself that question, especially when someone says that you can’t do something? I know I have. In fact, it was a family reunion and I was about 11 years old. We had gathered to celebrate the fourth of July, enjoying mutton, being together, fireworks, and creating mischief. My cousins, about my age, and I decided that we wanted to make a boat to go out onto the pond. Of course the adults said no, but what right 11 year old would let that stop them? So, we took an old door and attached it to some 50 gallon barrels before carrying it to the pond where we launched it. As we enjoyed jumping off of it, we were proud of ourselves for having accomplished something that others told us we could not do; that is until water found its way into the barrels and it began to sink. But that was beside the point, we did it.

There have been times throughout my life I have had the same thoughts when I wanted to do something someone said I should not do. “Who are they to say I can’t do it?” If the truth be told, I would consider doing it because I want to do it, without much regard for others. I see that in our society today. People want to do what they want, say what they want, behave as they want; without any regard for others around them. The only problem is that when we have that attitude, someone usually ends up getting hurt and our dreams are sunk. That is because our premise is wrong about what freedom really is. Freedom is not the right to do whatever we want, whenever we want. Real freedom is freedom from the fear, guilt, worry, bitterness, and hurt that usually comes with following our selfish ambitions. Jesus understood that freedom does not come with doing what we want, but with the ability to move past our wants to a life that fulfilling. That is why he said, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

I hope you have a great time celebrating freedom this fourth. Enjoy the pool or lake, the cookouts, and the fireworks. And if you want to build a boat out of stuff you have laying around, let me know and I can tell you what not to do. But also use the day as a reminder that we are free. But true freedom is not used for selfish desires, but as an opportunity to respect others as we love our God. So, use your freedom wisely.

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 Bob Preston by Christina Grimes, Pat Stanley, Mike & Sandra Casper, Dwight & Sandra Burgess, the Amyot Family Trust, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, Al & Pam Kocher, Jim & Meredith Holt, Ann Reichert, Terry Ellis, Rick & Marsha Huckaby, and Bobby & Estelle Dobbs.

*A donation has been given in memory of John Garrard by Terry Ellis, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, and Greg & Sue Jones

*A donation has been given in memory of Ed Rindfusz by Pat Stanley.

*A donation has been given in memory of Alan Smiley by the members of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter A.W.

*A donation has been given in memory of Austin Grant by Tommy, Donna, and Ali Grant.

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

*A donation has been given in honor of Beacon SS class, Tracey Yancey and family, Jim & Meredith Holt, Donnie & Linda McQuaig and Dwight & Sandra Burgess by the family of William R. Preston.

*A donation has been given in honor of Celina Countess, Scott Leazer, and Suzanne Clegg by Cynthia Hassell.

*A donation has been given in honor of Mark Ridings by Jim and Meredith Holt.

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

*A donation has been given in honor of Harry Wilkins and Bill Hoffman by Rick & Marsha Huckaby.

*A donation has been given in honor of Marsha Huckaby by Jeremy, Kelly, Mason, and Kylie, Mike & Sandra Casper, Donnie & Linda McQuaig, Al & Pam Kocher, and Rick Huckaby.

*A donation has been given in honor of Ray Page by Tommy, Donna, and Ali Grant.

*A donation has been given in honor of Dorothy C. Willis by Mary Alice Beard and Cindy LaTouf.

Fall Bible Study
Sign up now for Fall 2017

We are planning now for small Group Bible Studies to start this fall. Would you like to be a part of a Bible Study? Email Suzanne Clegg if you are interested in participating at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org.

BFUMC Ladies Book Club

Ladies, do you enjoy reading? If you do, please join us on July 16th in the Fellowship Hall as we discuss *Broken and Blessed God Changes the World One Person and One Family at a Time:* by Jessica LaGrone. (Whew, that is a long title.) We meet at 7:00 PM and would love to have you join the discussion. Contact Christi Lenz for more information at christi.lenz1@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

Rise Worship Ministry
Isaiah 60:1

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Come and Join a Choir!

Start dates for the fall season are...

Chancel Choir – Wednesday, August 9th
7:00-8:00 pm in the new choir room (Room 23)

Chancel Ringers – Monday, August 7th
7:00-8:00 pm in the new handbell area (old fellowship hall stage)

Youth Choir – Sunday, August 13th
4:30-5:15 pm in the new choir room (Room 23)

Children’s Tone Chimes – Sunday, August 13th
4:30-5:15 pm in the new handbell area (old fellowship hall stage)

G.L.O.W. Children’s Choirs – Sunday, August 13th
5:30-6:30 pm meeting in the sanctuary

For additional information, please contact Mark in the church office
770-945-7438 or email music@bufordfirstumc.org



The Rise service is always looking for more volunteers and musicians to help with Sunday services! If you can play an instrument, sing, or are interested in serving on the media team or any other area, please fill out a connection card during the service or contact Tyler Garden at tgarden@bufordfirstumc.org.

Find out more under the BAP
tab at wakeministries.com

July 9th-12th

BAP

Buford Aid Project

Beginning Sunday with WAKE,
Ending Wednesday with a party!

Children
are
a
gift
FROM THE
Lord.
THEY are
a
reward
from Him.
PSALMS 127:3

The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden

The garden needs volunteers to help! The Garden is located in church member Pat Pirkle’s yard which is practically across the street from the church at 156 South Hill Street. We have over 800 plants growing in the garden!



Can you spare an hour one weekend-or maybe one evening during the week? We work in the garden on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Stop by and help us weed! We need a few more helpers to get the job done.

Special thanks to our faithful volunteers: Dwight Burgess, Suzanne Best, Teresa Fowler, and Pat Stanley.

Calling all Ladies!

Be sure to put our 2017 women's retreat on your calendar **NOW**. It will be November 3rd through the 5th. We will retreat to Twin Rivers in Demorest, GA. This is a lovely spot in the north Georgia mountains. More information will be posted soon.

United Methodist Men

Please join the Buford First UMM at 7:30 AM on Sunday, July 16th, for the men's breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Effie Wood Circle

The Effie Wood Circle will have its summer get-together at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, July 18th, at Maynard's at the Corner in Flowery Branch at 7435 Spout Springs Rd. A van will be leaving the Church at 5:30 PM for those interested.

History of Buford First United Methodist Church

Church member, Handsel Morgan, has written a book on the History of Buford First UMC. You can buy a copy for \$25.00 from the church office, or see Suzanne Clegg to get a copy. The church will celebrate 146 years of ministry on August 20th. Celebrate by reading the story of her rich legacy.