

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of July 10, 2017

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$320,584.42
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$17,689.26
Amount given on 07-09-2017.....	\$12,540.73

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$610,076.58
Amount given on 07-09-2017.....	\$2,180.00

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

August Missions

Sack Kids Hunger: Please help by bringing School Supplies to be given out through SKH and to the Buford City School Counselors. Items especially needed are: Children's Scissors, and ½ inch binders, small pencil boxes or pouches, and pencil top erasers, pencils, glue sticks, primary journals, crayons. A donation box is in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. **Deadline to donate is August 6th.** Thanks for helping students in our neighborhood!

Feed the Homeless: We will help Grace UMC feed Homeless Women and Children on Tuesday, August 15th. 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 contact her at sucasper@charter.net or at 770-271-8008.

The Buford First UMC Tree of Life Garden needs volunteers to help! We work in the garden on Monday and Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Stop by and help us weed! The Garden is located at 156 South Hill Street. If a weekend is better for you, email Dwight Burgess at burg43@gmail.com.



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 August 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 8

2018 Time & Talent Commitment Sunday is August 20th!

We will provide the 2018 Time & Talent form in your Sunday Bulletin on August 6th & 13th so you will have time to look it over and pray about where God is calling you to ministry in 2018.

We ask that everyone fill out a Time and Talent form to let us know where you are interested in Shining at Buford First UMC.

God calls all of us to

Serve
Host
Inspire
Nurture
Educate

As a church we will make our commitment on August 20st during the worship service. However, if you would like you can go ahead and fill out your form and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Please be in prayer about where you want to **S.H.I.N.E.** in 2018.

Come to Worship God and Join the Celebration!

On August 20, 2017 Buford First United Methodist Church will celebrate her 146th anniversary with our “Invite a Friend Sunday.”

For 146 years God’s Word has been proclaimed in this place.

For 146 years the sacraments have been celebrated in this place.

Countless children, parents, grandparents, and people of all walks of life have been part of Buford First United Methodist Church.

Countless prayers of supplication, thanksgiving, and praise have been offered in this place.

Countless witnesses have gone out from Buford First United Methodist Church to spread the gospel in this community and throughout the world.

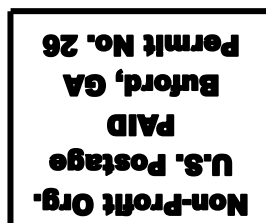
All of our activities, all of our sacraments, and all of our doxologies are offered up in praise to God.

With thanksgiving for the past, with joy in the present, and with hope for the future we celebrate this 146th anniversary.

In this time of celebration we would offer special praise. As we think of past and future, vow anew to walk God’s ways. Times of triumph, times of failure—still this song of praise keeps ringing through: Lord, your works cannot be numbered, Buford First United Methodist Church belongs to you!

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

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2: 46-47

One of the things I love about Buford First UMC is the history we have here in downtown Buford. Starting out on Shadburn Ave., which was then Railroad St., on August 19, 1871, we have always been a welcoming congregation. That spirit of hospitality reached out to our community with the love of Christ, and the church grew. The church went from the first location to Church St, to the city square following a great Methodist revival in 1894, to our present location in 1927. And of course, that spirit of hospitality, led to the construction of our Christian Life Center.

It can be easy for us to be complacent, whether we are a church or in our individual lives. Many churches reach the point where they are okay with what they have, the number of people attending, the programs that exist, as long as they have the programs for them. It's easy to say, "We have enough people coming." Yet the only problem with saying that is that we are failing to see those who need the Church, the body of Christ. But that is not us, and I love our church for that reason. We see that there are people in our community that still do not know Jesus. We see the people that are hurting, isolated, and feel they do not belong. And we say, "Come join us." That has been our history.



This year, we will be celebrating homecoming on August 20th. But it will not be your typical homecoming. We are going back to our roots as a welcoming church by making August 20th an "Invite a Friend" Sunday. We want you to think of family members, neighbors, coworkers, and friends

who may not be active in a church somewhere. Make a list and invite them to join you in church on that Sunday at one of our three worship services. If you think they would enjoy one of our traditional services, tell them you will meet them at either our 8:30 or 11:00 service. If they enjoy more contemporary music, then invite and join them at our 9:45 a.m. Rise Service. To help with offering invitations, we will have some invites around the church that you can take to invite.

But being a homecoming, we will still be having a pot luck dinner following our 11:00 service. So bring your favorite dish early, enjoy worship, and then celebrate with us over lunch. Let's continue the tradition that our church has had for years as we continue to "Invite a Friend" to church.

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 Hummer by Cindy LaTouf and Mary Alice Beard, Mike and Sandra Casper, Harry and Martha Wilkins, The Beacon Sunday School Class, Harla Samples, Pat Stanley, Terry Ellis, Al and Pam Kocher, Clark County High School-Class of 1962, and Dwight and Sandra Burgess.

*A donation has been given in memory of Bob Preston by Rev. Dr. Sondra R. Jones, The Beacon Sunday School Class, David and Nancy Hailey, Harry and Martha Wilkins, and Betty Lou Young.

*A donation has been given in memory of John Garrard by the Beacon Sunday School Class, Al and Pam Kocher

*A donation has been given in honor of Marsha Huckaby by Joshua and Michelle Huckaby, Cathy Smith, and Kelly Huckaby.

*A donation has been given in memory of Nancy Chandler by Phillip and Sylvia Beard.



CommUnity Supper

Community supper is Wednesday, August 30th! This is a free meal sponsored by the Beacon Sunday School Class. Everyone is welcome! Plan to join us at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for some good food and warm fellowship!

Connection Group Worship

Would you like to connect with other congregations in our area? We are a part of a ten church group designed by the District Superintendent of the Gainesville District. We come together for Worship and Mission. Our fall worship service will be Sunday, August 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem UMC on Holiday Rd.

Won't you join us as we gather to praise God and enjoy fellowship? Suzanne Clegg will drive the van over from BFUMC. Meet her at 6:00 p.m. on August 13th if you want to ride over with us.



Join the UMW Book Club

If you do, you will learn more about yourself, your faith, and the world. The UMW Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the CLC. Our August book is "It's Your Move: Life Lessons from the Game of Checkers" by Jim Ellison. Suzanne Clegg has extra copies of this book if you like a copy. These books were a gift from the author, who will lead our discussion on Tuesday August 15th. For more information about the UMW Book Club, contact Christi Lenz at Christi.lenz1@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

TOP TEN REASONS FOR SINGING IN A CHOIR!

Singing in my church choir...

1. ...gives me an opportunity to express my love for the Lord.
2. ...is more than just a hobby or an activity. *It is a calling.*
3. ...allows me to participate in the overall ministry of leading worship, which is a joy and a privilege.
4. ...allows for a type of expression of praise to the Lord that could not be accomplished in any other way.
5. ...has given me many opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.
6. ...has implanted incredibly profound messages in my heart through the lyrics that we sing.
7. ...has allowed me to get to know so many wonderful people who love the Lord and have a heart for service.
8. ...allows me to participate in something bigger than myself.
9. ...is the closest thing to Heaven that I can experience on earth.
10. ...enriches my spiritual journey.

Join a choir today!

August 6th @ 5:15pm

BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

WAKE Up, it's time for school



G.L.O.W. begins on August 13, 2017
Come and make a Joyful noise with our Children's Choirs.

Pre K-5th grade

If you are interested in volunteering to help, please email Susan Rosenthal at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

Disciple Bible Study

This fall we hope to offer Disciple I and Disciple II Fast Track, a 24 week study of the scriptures. Disciple I takes you through the entire Bible, and anyone is eligible to participate. Disciple II focuses on Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. Having completed a Disciple I Class is helpful, but not a requirement for Disciple II. Cost for the study guide is \$35.00.

Disciple groups will meet for 90 minutes once a week. Class begins the week after Labor Day, and will finish up in late March. Disciple II is planning to meet Monday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. with Teresa Fowler and Lynne Farr as Co-Leaders. Meetings for Disciple I have not been determined yet. As soon as we know how many are interested in taking Disciple I, we will set a day and time for the sessions.

We hope you will consider taking one of these excellent studies. Sign up with the form that is in the Narthex, or email Suzanne Clegg at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org.

Women's Retreat to Twin Rivers November 3-5

Turn in a \$55.00 nonrefundable deposit to save your spot. This is a great time of building friendships and faith. The two sessions will be led by someone we admire, our own Heather White! We are so blessed to have her leading our retreat!

The retreat costs range from \$110.00 to \$155.00, depending on your preferences. See the registration form in the Narthex and CLC Lobby for more information. There is also a Saturday only option for \$35.00!

Come One, Come All if you are Young At Heart

Potluck

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

The Young at Heart year is starting again. Please come with your favorite dish to the Atchesons' home (3126 Perimeter Circle, Buford) on August 15th at 6:30 PM. We will enjoy fellowship over a potluck dinner. Debbie will also share the coming year's events and, as always, ask for input for the coming year. Please RSVP to Debbie by August 13th, 770-965-3729 or djatcheson@gmail.com.

Suzanne Clegg will drive a bus from the church if you would like a ride. Please let her know if you want to ride, adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org. The bus leaves at 6:00 p.m. and there's no cost for the bus ride.