

**FINANCIAL REPORT – As of September 11, 2017**

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

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$421,216.31
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$21,349.97
Amount given on 09-10-2017 .....	\$9,582.75

**Building Fund**

Balance in Building fund.....	\$622,890.19
Amount given on 09-10-2017 .....	\$1,311.00

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>Tyler Garden</b>	<b>Worship Leader &amp; Media Communications Director</b>
<b>Cindy LaTouf</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>
<b>Gary Lenz</b>	<b>Interim Director of Music and the Arts</b>
<b>Leandre Majerus</b>	<b>Director of Preschool Ministry</b>
<b>Hank Morgan</b>	<b>Organist</b>
<b>Susan Rosenthal</b>	<b>Director of Children &amp; Family Ministry</b>
<b>Donna Thomas</b>	<b>Interim Youth Administrator</b>
<b>Bradley Trammell</b>	<b>Accompanist for Children and Youth</b>

**October Missions**

**Sack Kids Hunger**

Sack Kids Hunger needs donations of microwave popcorn this month. Drop your popcorn in the narthex or CLC Lobby!

We will also be holding the annual **coat and blanket drive** to help our Sack Kids Hunger families in October. Donations can be placed in the narthex or in the lobby of the CLC. Just be sure to get your donations to us by October 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Homeless Women and Children** will be fed at the Women's Community Kitchen, at Grace United Methodist, on October 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help prepare the meal, give a donation towards the meal, or go with us to serve, please let Sandra Casper know at 770-271-8008 or sucasper@charter.net. We will leave the Church that morning at 8:45 a.m.

**The Families at the Gwinnett Children's Shelter** will be fed by BFUMC every second Thursday of the month. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we need volunteers to help cook the meal, deliver & serve from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the shelter. Email Pam Billingsley at pamrecep@hotmail.com or Kelie White at kelie.m.white@gmail.com if you can 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 October 1, 2017 – October 31, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 10

**Pumpkin Patch**

**October 5<sup>th</sup>– October 31<sup>st</sup>**



**Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday–Saturday**  
**10:00 a.m.– 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday**  
**12:00– 8:00 p.m.**

**A project of the Buford First Youth**

**Proceeds go to Youth Programs and Trips**

**Sign up to work the Patch by visiting the church website!**



Ever heard the phrase “pearl of wisdom”? It implies a thought so precious and powerful that it’s considered priceless. And you’ve got an entire string of them headed your way.

In coming weeks, we will embark in a church wide event that will help you grow closer to God through a fresh understanding of prayer, church attendance, financial giving, and service. That event is loaded with insight that can take us from where we are to places we never imagined we could be.

But if you’re going to get anything out of it, you’re going to have to put something into it. Let us encourage you to join us over the next several weeks. Along the way, the pastor’s messages will tie in to devotions and questions that you will receive each week. But don’t let the pastor do all the work. There’s plenty to be learned in your own private times of prayer and introspection as you dive into the daily readings.

So get ready. The next several weeks could be a turning point in your life, a chance for you to pick up a string of priceless pearls and wear them for all to see. Pray expectantly, knowing that God will be faithful to meet you wherever you are.

See you right here next week!



**Commitment Sunday**  
**November 12, 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

## "Hurricanes, Grasshoppers, and Fear"

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3*

You probably still remember that Sunday, the day before what was left of Hurricane Irma was to come through Georgia. There was still a lot unknown about what would happen. How much rain would we have? How rough would the winds be? We didn't know. But we had seen the reports of where Irma had been, and that added to the fear. To be honest, I had not thought much about it....until the text.

Sunday was a glorious day. Because of the storm, I didn't know what attendance would be like. However, we had another full service and the worship was great. We had our lunch honoring some of our most senior adults; and, boy, do we enjoy covered dish lunches. I rushed to our Finance Meeting which was wrapping up and I thought how grateful I am to be serving in a church with such talented, very smart, and capable leaders. From there I flew to the funeral home to officiate a service for a US Navy veteran who passed away and the family asked for a Methodist minister. It was there that the text came in saying that school was canceled on Monday. That seemed to set off a chain reaction to fear with several of us. Do we have youth choir and youth that afternoon, or should we cancel? There was discussion covering both sides, then one of the counselors mentioned that the pastor should decide. "Oh great", I thought. Either I give in to the fear many of us had or I make a decision to get us all blown away. So, I went with the weathermen who said it would not be here until Monday and I said youth was on. In reality, I did it for selfish reasons. I wanted to let our kids to have fun at youth and be distracted from the news; and I wanted to take Shawn, my wife, out to dinner. In our household, we were wrestling with whether we should stay or go to Columbia where Shawn's dad lives. And if we needed to go, would I go or just send them. You can imagine how that conversation was going.

In the midst of our "discussion" we needed to fill up with gas for whatever decision we made. As I opened the door to get out at the QT, a grasshopper came flying into the car, landing on the steering wheel before taking aim at Shawn. As it was leaping on her leg and shoulder, I started to laugh (OK, maybe not the best way to react). Then, in the midst of her laughter and screams, she yelled out, "it's the locusts, the plagues are even coming!" The grasshopper seemed to break the tension that we were both feeling. And for me, it was a reminder of how our God delivered His people. God used the plagues to try to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt, to deliver them. God used a simple grasshopper to remind us that He is always with us: to lead us, protect us, and deliver us.

Fear has a way of making us turn inward and focus on what we feel and that which we are afraid of. It is easy to hold on to that fear. God says to look beyond the fear to the God who holds us in the palm of His hand, and hold on to Him. Is there a fear that you are wrestling with? If so, which one are you holding on to, the fear or the God who is holding on to you? Who are we going to trust?

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 Virginia Keller by Bobby and Estelle Dobbs.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Dorothy Cheeley Willis by Phillip and Sylvia Beard, Caroline Googe, and Roland and Shannon Woodard.

\*A donation has been given in memory of Alan Smiley by Richard and Barbara Shelton.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Mike Countess & Kenny and Cindy Karr by Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

\*A donation has been given in honor of Rick Huckaby and Linda McQuaig by Al and Pam Kocher.



### Buford Community Rewards Program

BFUMC has earned over \$500 for the Sack Kids Hunger ministry through this opportunity. If you have not enrolled, please do so now. If you have already been enrolled, you must re-enroll each August to continue earning rewards for our church. Go to this website to register or to update ---[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

### October Community Supper Sponsored by the Bahamas MISSION Team!

Our team of 22 had a great week providing VBS at St. Michael's Methodist Church in Nassau, and doing some home repair at All Saints Camp. Come hear all about it on Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. at the Church Community Supper. The Bahamas Team will provide the meal, and share some about our week. We want everyone to come and hear about our experience!



**Effie Wood Circle** will meet on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. for a covered dish get-together in the Fellowship Hall (Rm. 108).

Circle members along with husbands and/or friends will be meeting at the Church this year instead of the park.

**UMM** meets for breakfast on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Rm. 108).



### BFUMC Charge Conference

**Date Has Changed!**

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 p.m. @ Sugar Hill UMC

We encourage everyone to join us for a time of worship and celebration as we share our mission and ministry with the other churches in our Connection Group.

Music Ministry

Rise Worship Ministry  
Isaiah 60:1

Youth Ministry

Children & Family  
Ministry

## Did You Know that the Lord attends Choir Practice and is with the Choir every Sunday Morning?

The scriptures say that all the earth should sing praises to the Lord.

*"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises." Psalm 98:4 (NRSV)*

**Sure you can sing in the shower or in your car, but the scriptures also say...**

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (NRSV)*

**Come Join The Choir... Our Lord Is There Every Week!**

We in the Rise service would like everyone to know that we are so grateful for everything our volunteers do for us! Thank you to all that help each and every week. For anyone who is interested in volunteering, we would love to have you! Email [tgarten@bufordfirstumc](mailto:tgarten@bufordfirstumc) or fill out a card and put it in the offering plate if you are interested.

We are also very excited for the new Sunday School classes, and encourage everyone who is looking to connect to join a small group. We have Sunday School classes for Adults and Young Adults starting at 11:00 a.m. after the Rise service. We hope to see you there!

## Pumpkins! Pumpkins! Pumpkins!

Come help unload pumpkins on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm  
Sign up to help sell the pumpkins on sign-up genius-link will be available soon.

Youth are going to the Buford Corn Maze  
October 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00pm  
\$15 covers admission to corn maze and gas for van-  
Adult chaperones needed

Youth help needed for the Fall Festival-October 28<sup>th</sup>  
Susan will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers



### Children's Ministry News

**Mark your Calendars! It's almost Fall Festival Time!**

October 28, 2017 3pm to 6pm!

Keep an eye out for informational flyers and ways to volunteer!

### Nursery Volunteers Needed

We would love to build a rotation of volunteers who would come and love on our babies each Sunday. It would only require you helping one Sunday a month and NO changing diapers....

**Please see Susan Rosenthal if interested.**

## OCTOBER PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS



3<sup>RD</sup>: Stay and Play Day

4<sup>th</sup>: Wear **Pink**

9<sup>th</sup>: No School

10<sup>th</sup>: Visit the Pumpkin Patch & Fundraiser Due

11<sup>th</sup>+12<sup>th</sup>: Fall Pictures with Scott Calman

18<sup>th</sup>: Fire Truck visit

23<sup>rd</sup>: **Fire Drill**

24<sup>th</sup>: November Staff Meeting 1:10 PM

26<sup>th</sup>: Petting Zoo/PreK Progress Reports

31<sup>st</sup>: **Halloween Fun**

**HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!**



## YAH to see "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Cumming Playhouse on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Reminder for those who have purchased tickets to the musical--we will load the van at 7:00 p.m. to go to Cumming Playhouse and return after 10:00 p.m.



**Will be held at Twin Rivers  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

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. We are not increasing the cost, due to such a great response! See the registration form in the Narthex and CLC Lobby for more information. There is also a Saturday only option for \$35.00!

## Connection Group Project

Help the Gateway House, a women's shelter, in Gainesville. Some of the 10 churches in our group are all collecting items to be organized into 100 toiletry kits and 50 bedding kits. Our assignment is to collect the following:

**65 12 oz Shampoos / 50 12 oz Body Wash /  
65 12 oz Conditioners / 65 plastic shoe  
boxes**

Please drop off donations in the boxes located in the Narthex and CLC Lobby. We have until October 31<sup>st</sup> to collect these items. We will pack the kits together on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall (Rm. 108). Plan now to come and help.



## New Adult Small Groups at 11:00 a.m.

We now have two Adult Small Groups that meet at 11:00 a.m. in the CLC.

There's a group for young adults which meets in the Youth Room (Rm. 109) and a second group for older adults which meets on the third floor (Rm. 305). Those attending the Rise Service at 9:45 AM can stay for this time of sharing, study, and fellowship.