

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of November 6, 2017

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2017)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$762,815.90
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$515,899.98
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$30,864.49
Amount given on 11-05-2017	\$20,542.22

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$497,311.55
Amount given on 11-05-2017	\$7,808.00

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
 Sylvia Beard
 Jim Buckman
 Sandra Casper
 Suzanne Clegg
 Tyler Garden
 Cindy LaTouf
 Gary Lenz
 Leandre Majerus
 Hank Morgan
 Susan Rosenthal
 Donna Thomas
 Bradley Trammell

Custodian
 Pianist
 Senior Pastor
 Financial Secretary
 Director of Adult Ministry
 Contemporary Worship Director
 Office Manager
 Interim Director of Music and the Arts
 Director of Preschool Ministry
 Organist
 Director of Children & Family Ministry
 Interim Youth Administrator
 Accompanist for Children and Youth

December Missions

The Florence Garner Circle will place the Angel Tree in the CLC Lobby this year. This tree will be full of Angels that describe a gift needed for someone this Christmas! If you know of anyone who needs Christmas gift assistance, please contact Barbara Money at 770-601-8462 after 3:00 p.m. or by e-mail at Barbara_money@yahoo. This year we are asking you to bring an ornament to place on the tree for every Angel you take off. Please bring an ornament you plan to donate. The church will keep these for future Angel Trees. Be sure to attach the Angel you take to the gift you bring back to the tree!



Church Ornament

On the front of the ornament is depicted the Buford First United Methodist Church exterior and on the back is printed the name of our church, the city, and the date our church was established. The cost is \$20 for each ornament. Why not give something special to someone or purchase one for yourself? These can be displayed not just at Christmas but all year round on an ornament stand. These will be available for purchase at the Alternative Christmas Table. Your donation will be used to support various missions of our church.

Return Service Requested

Preschool 770-945-4161
 770-945-7438 ~ www.bufordfirstumc.org
 Buford, Georgia 30515-0329
 285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329
 Buford First United Methodist Church



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 December 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Vol. 29 / No. 12

Jesus is the REASON.....

The Alternative Christmas program of BFUMC allows you to purchase a Christmas gift for someone in the form of a contribution to a worthwhile ministry. The ministries supported by this program are: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Heifer Project International, The Gwinnett Children's Shelter, The North Gwinnett Co-Op, & Murphy Harpst Children's Home. The ministry's wish list brochure is in the Fellowship Hall & shopping ends December 10th! When you purchase a gift you will receive a special card to present to your relative or friend.

2017 SKH Christmas Meal

2017 SKH Christmas Meal -- This year we would like to expand our deliveries to include as many folks as possible in the area, whether they have a financial need or not, but would appreciate a turkey dinner & a friendly visitor. We are also looking for local organizations that could use the meal as well such as the Gwinnett Children's Shelter. If you know of someone – or a charity, organization etc. - please tell them about our meal on **Dec 16th**. Sunday bulletins for Dec 3rd and 10th will have forms for you to supply specific information on the recipients. If you have any questions or additional information, please contact Tracey Yancey at (770) 653-6131 or tyancey@woodfruitticher.com

We will also have sign up information on Sign-up Genius soon, so you can help with preparing the food in advance and packaging and organizing the day of the event.

Unwrap The True Meaning of Christmas This Advent

UMW Christmas Brunch and Program
 Saturday, Dec. 9.....10:00 am

GLOW Christmas Play
 Sunday, Dec. 105:30 pm

Children's PJ and Movie Night
 Friday, Dec. 15 6:00 pm

Lessons and Carols
 Sunday, Dec. 17..... 8:30 & 11:00 am

RISE Christmas
 Saturday, Dec. 23 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services
 Sunday, Dec. 24 8:30 & 11:00 am
 Communion & Candlelight
 5:00, 8:00, & 11:00 pm



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A Word From The Pastor

"What It's Really All About"



All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23

There are many fond memories of childhood Christmases growing up in Kentucky with my grandparents. I can still picture that one particular Christmas tree we had with the big light bulbs and decorations on it. I remember going out into the fields to find that tree, cutting it down, and bringing it back to decorate it. One of the reasons I remember that tree is the ordeal we had cutting it down and bringing it home. It was one of those ordeals that is reminiscent of "Christmas Vacation" with Chevy Chase. What was going to be a family outing ended up with us getting stuck in the snow (and mud), walking home to get the tractor to pull us out, finding out that the tree was a lot bigger than it looked out in the field, and continuous efforts trimming it enough so that it would fit in the house. I remember the particular gifts I received that Christmas; a battery operated car to ride in and a BB gun. And yes, it was a red rider BB Gun. But it was neither the Christmas tree nor the gifts that made this particular Christmas memorable. The difference was that my dad was home from the Air Force. While we were living with my grandparents, he was stationed in Arkansas and did not make it home very often. But he was there that Christmas, and the memories I have are because they were done with him. Dad was there with us.

I have come to realize that Christmas is the most meaningful when we remember who it is that is here with us. Immanuel, "God with us", is a reminder of what Christmas is really all about. While all the trappings are great fun, what makes Christmas most meaningful to me is when I remember that above all God desires for us to know that He is here with us. This Advent season we will be unwrapping the true meaning of Christmas and will be looking at ways that the presence of Christ can affect how we experience Christmas this year. Let me invite you to join us on Sundays during Advent as well as our Christmas Eve services and let's remember "What It's Really All About".

Pastor Jim



Honorariums and Memorials

- *A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper, Pam Kocher, Martha Wilkins, and Ruby Mathis: by Rick and Marsha Huckaby.
- *A donation has been given in honor of Ray Page: by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Ellis.
- *A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper and Martha Wilkins: by Al and Pam Kocher.
- *A donation has been given in honor of Martha Wilkins: by Donnie and Linda McQuaig.
- *A donation has been given in memory of our parents, Bill and Doris Beard and Pat LaTouf and Suzi Martinez: by Mary Alice Beard and Cindy LaTouf.

Making your Final 2017 Donation to Buford First UMC

If you plan to mail your final donation to BFUMC, please mail it to the P.O. Box 329, Buford, GA 30515-0329. Due to the Christmas Season and the mail taking longer to arrive, please mail your donations no later than Friday, December 22nd. Otherwise, we will see you in church on Sunday, December 31st where you can place your final donation in the offering plate.

Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to the Mission and Ministry at Buford First UMC!

Support BFUMC through AmazonSmile, which gives 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to the charitable organization of your choice. Choose Buford First UMC and support our Sack Kids Hunger mission! Visit www.smile.amazon.com to get started!



Decorating the Fellowship Hall for the Ladies' Christmas Brunch

Ladies from all three circles are asked to decorate their tables for the Christmas Brunch on Friday, December 8th, from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

United Methodist Women Christmas Brunch Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



All women, youth, and girls (aged 11 and older) are invited to share in Christmas fun and fellowship at our first UMW Christmas Brunch in our new building. Neighbors, friends, family, and non-UMW members are all invited join in this festive occasion. Bring a potluck dish to share and come hungry! We will also be entertained by the Buford Academy Children's Chorus, under the direction of our own Gary Lenz, in our historic Sanctuary followed by brunch in our new Fellowship Hall.

For more information please contact Niki Redstrom at iswear97@yahoo.com.
Childcare is not available during the Brunch.

Music Ministry

Here's a sneak-peek of the Music coming in December...

- ♫ Dec. 3rd: A Little bit of Handel from the Chancel Choir
- ♫ Dec. 10th: A jazzy tune from the Youth Choir and Men's Quartet, with the evening filled with our children's musical
- ♫ Dec. 17th: Lessons and Carols – featuring all of our ensembles plus brass, percussion, flute, & string bass
- ♫ Dec. 24th: A full day of hymn favorites and special songs

We hope you will join us for a wonderful season of music to celebrate our Savior's birth!

The Rise service needs volunteers for our Advent services! Starting the first week of December, we need people to light the Advent candles and read passages as we do so.

On Sunday the 17th, we will be showing a video in the Rise service starring some of our church members and adorable kids, so be sure not to miss it!

Saturday the 23rd at 7:00PM, the Rise service is having a special Christmas service. Come join us to celebrate Christ's birth in this special service, and be sure to invite someone to worship with us!

If you are interested in being a part of Rise, contact Tyler Garden or fill out the volunteer insert in your bulletin.

Rise Worship Ministry

Isaiah 60:1



5th graders are invited to Wednesday Night Bible study on December 6th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



The Youth Skip Trip is scheduled for January 5th-7th. A signup sheet is in the Youth room. The cost will be around \$150 and deposit of \$30 due Nov. 30th



Progressive Dinner has been changed to Sunday Dec. 3rd. We will leave from the church after Youth Choir- around 5:15pm. Parents pick up around 9:30pm. We will be taking RSVP's for youth this year. Sign-up sheet in youth room also. StudentMinistry@BufordFirstUMC.org

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry



Christmas Pj's, Pizza, and Movie Night!
December 15th
6pm to 8pm

All kids are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a night of fun as we lounge around in our favorite Christmas PJ's, eat pizza and watch classic Christmas movies and cartoons. We will have crafts and desserts as well.

Parents can join in or drop off to get some Christmas shopping done. Contact Susan Rosenthal at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org to RSVP, volunteer to help or for more information.

December Preschool Happenings

- 4th-7th: Scholastic Book Fair
 - 7th: Wear Christmas P.J.'s
 - 13th: Fire Drill
 - 14th: Stay & Play/Wear Christmas P.J.'s
 - 18th: Christmas Program @ Noon
 - 19th: Christmas Movie/Wear Christmas P.J./Pizza Day
 - 20th-Jan. 4th: Preschool Closed for the Christmas Holiday
- MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LADIES AT BFUMC PRESCHOOL

Confirmation Class in 2018!

Confirmation Classes for students in 6th grade and older will begin on February 4th. Confirmation meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, and is taught by Suzanne Clegg, Rev. Buckman, and a few volunteers. The class will also go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska in the spring. We will worship, hear great speakers, and enjoy workshops and activities during this weekend event.

Confirmation Class is a great experience for young people, and helps them to understand the Christian Faith and make it their own. Please sign up to take this course!

Youth who are 6th grade and older should register with Suzanne Clegg at adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org

LADIES BOOK CLUB

Normally the BFUMC-UMW Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall (Rm. 108) in the Christian Life Center. Our book club consists of women from our church as well as friends from the community - all are welcome! Check out our web page and book blog at <http://bfumc-umwbookblog.weebly.com>

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE IN NOVEMBER!

In November we will meet on November 28th at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss "Not Safe for Church Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations" by F. Douglas Powe, Jr. and Jasmine Rose Smothers.



Christmas Party

In December we will meet at 6:30 p.m. on December 5th at Suzanne Best's home for our Christmas Party & Dirty Santa Book Swap. Hope to see you there!