



Bluffton United Methodist Church

Joey McDonald, Pastor

Sunday Worship Services at 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School - Men's Bible Study – Adult Bible Study - Children's Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	2 6:00 p Worship Committee 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts	3 7 p Finance 7:30 p Alanon	4 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	5 5:00 p Stephen Ministry 7:00 p AA	6 4:30 p Baumann/Jeffcoat Wedding Rehearsal	7 7:29 a BUMMs Breakfast 10 a.m. Bluffton Village Festival 5:00 p Baumann/Jeffcoat Wedding
8 MOTHER'S DAY 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group 12:30 p Brunch Bunch @ NEW British Open Pub in Sheridan Center	9 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Trustees	10 7:30 p Alanon	11 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	12 7:00 p Evangelism 7:00 p AA	13	14
15 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	16 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Church Council	17 7:30 p Alanon	18 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 3 – 8:00 p Directory Photo "Make-up" 7:00 p Mission Team 7:00 p Chancel Choir	19 6:00 p Education Committee 7:00 p AA	20	21
22 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	23 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Hannah Ulmer Circle	24 9:45 a Esther Circle 7:30 p Alanon	25 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	26 7:00 p AA	27	28
29) 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	30 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts	31 7:30 p Alanon				



Bluffton United Methodist Church

Joey McDonald, Pastor

Sunday Worship Services at 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School - Men's Bible Study – Adult Bible Study - Children's Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

JUNE 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra	2 5:00 p Stephen Ministry 7:00 p AA	3	4 7:29 a BUMMs Breakfast
5 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	6 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts 6:00 p Worship 7:00 p Trustees	7 7:00 PM Finance 7:30 p Alanon	8 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	9 7:00 p Evangelism 7:00 p AA	10	11
12 12:30 p Brunch Bunch 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	13 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts	14 7:30 p Alanon	15 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Mission Team 7:00 p Chancel Choir	16 6:00 p Education Committee 7:00 p AA	17	18
19 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	20 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts	21 7:30 p Alanon	22 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	23 7:00 p AA	24 3:00 p Rymer/Riecht Wedding Rehearsal	25 4:30 p Rymer/Riecht Wedding
26 6:30 p. LAB Youth Group	27 6 – 8:00 p Cub Scouts	28 7:30 p Alanon	29 10:00 a – 12:00 p Stardust Orchestra 7:00 p Chancel Choir	30 7:00 p AA		



Living For Christ

Bluffton United Methodist Church

A "Stephen Ministry" Church

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2011



A church member asked me the other day, since Easter is over, what's next? That's a good question. I have been so focused on Lent and Easter that now I'm a little lost. The ministry can be, like much of life, going from one big event to another. But it's in the in-between times where we live.

So often I look forward to the "Christmases" and the "Easters" of life. Well, what about Tuesdays? There is a Seinfeld episode where Newman says Tuesdays don't have a feel. In other words, we sort of exist through those days. They are simply fillers until we can get to something better. However, the Scripture says "this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it". What joy, what gift from the Almighty can you find in the "Tuesdays" of your life?

Just the other day, I was worried about something, one of the kids needed something, something needed taking care of (you get the idea), and Mickaylla and I just started chatting. For the next 30 minutes, I remembered why I fell in love with that woman. There was nothing remarkable about the conversation, but it blessed me. Just an ordinary "Tuesday" in the week of life, but I sure am grateful for it. So...what's next?

Your pastor,
Joey

STEPHEN MINISTRY

God's Continual Presence

In his book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, a French monk called Brother Lawrence suggests we pray short conversational prayers throughout the day rather than long complex ones. What great insight! In this day when distractions come at us from every angle, an age-old suggestion to 'keep it simple' still works.



Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray all the time". One way we can do that is to pray short, simple phrases such as "Be with me, Lord", "Help me to trust you, Lord", or "Lord, give me strength". Or maybe you have some favorite short Scriptures that readily come to mind. Any inspirational thought that keeps us close to God provides us with a continual awareness of His Presence.

We all face times in our lives when short prayers or Scriptures could be said over and over again...because we're facing some sort of challenge or concern. How helpful it would be to know that our Lord is with us each step of the way. He is! And while we know that (deep down), sometimes we can also use the support of someone else walking beside us. That's where Stephen Ministry comes in.

Stephen Ministers are members of Bluffton UMC who are specially trained to minister to people who are experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time. They meet with individuals weekly – privately and confidentially – to listen, encourage, support and remind them of Christ's love and His Presence in their life.

If you or someone you know is facing a challenge, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Ruth Fleming, 757-4296 or Sara Jenkins, 705-2172.

Stephen Ministry visitation schedule:

If you know of someone in the hospital during March, please call:



May 1 - 7, Ruth Fleming, 757-4296

May 8 - 14, Kay Long, 705-7449

May 15 - 21, Lee Templeton, 379-6530

May 22 - 28, Ralph Fleming, 757-4296

May 29 - June 4, Sara Jenkins, 705-2172

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 & 2 May & June Calendars
- 3 From the Pastor, Stephen Ministry
- 4 Missions
- 5 Missions (cont'd), UMW, BUMMs, Brunch, Trustee
- 6 Finance, Evangelism, Announcements
- 7 Music Ministry (Choir Loft Photos)
- 8 Facts about Mother's Day
- 9 & 10 Youth
- 11 Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ministry of Encouragement, Prayer Concerns, Deaths



The mission group meets the **third Wednesday** of each month (unless otherwise specified) at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. Our next meeting is May 18th at 7:00 p.m. We welcome new members and are eager to hear new ideas for raising funds for our various missions. For further information please contact our chairwoman, Jenny Brannen at 706-2289.



(Taken from "The Record – Annual Report Edition")

When I stood up and announced to the children that together we were going to be leading worship for 800 people in our campus gymnasium, I got all sorts of reactions, but Vince's reaction stopped me in my tracks.

Vince came to Epworth in October of 2010. Like the majority of our children, he had never been a part of a worshipping community, and wasn't at all excited to start. I have spent countless Sundays asking him to remove his ear buds or stand and participate in the service. His grades were a mess because school was never a priority for the adults in his life. He didn't act interested in any campus activities, that is, until David arrived at Epworth. David had a very influential Christian in his life and immediately became involved in worship life on campus. He also became involved in church league basketball. Vince soon followed David's lead after they became fast friends. Both put their best into their basketball practices and games, but Vince was still struggling with worship.

One Sunday during UMYF, I told the children that Epworth would be welcoming 800 people to worship in our gym on Sunday, January 30, 2011, for the closing worship of the 35th Annual South Carolina United Methodist Basketball Tournament that Epworth would be hosting this year. I asked them each to think about how they might serve as a worship leader during the service and made suggestions such as usher, greeter, choir member and even lector.

I wasn't surprised when David immediately spoke up, "Pastor Megan, I'll read," but I was shocked beyond belief when Vince said, "Me too!" I gave each of them their assigned readings and asked them to wear black and white like the other children would be doing. They didn't like that idea and instead, promised to dress similarly. Leading up to the big day, I intentionally checked in with Vince each Sunday to ask if he had read over his prayer, and his only response was a nod.

I was running around the morning of the event attending to last minute details when I saw Vince and David arrive dressed alike and as handsome as I had ever seen them. A feeling of great pride flooded over me until I noticed that Vince didn't have his prayer in his hand. I gave him another copy, but when he walked past me toward the microphone he didn't have that one either. I whispered to him, "Where is your paper?" He responded, "I have it memorized." Quite honestly, my heart sank. I was nervous, but then Vince stood up to the microphone with great calm and recited the entire prayer from memory – loud and clear. Tears of pride formed in my eyes from the joy I experienced by seeing how much he had grown over the last several months.

Each day, I am blessed to see the transforming power that time spent at Epworth can have for a child like Vince who has experienced great hurt. Vince didn't care because no one had ever shown him what it means to be CARE'd about. Through team sports like basketball, consistent worship on Sundays, and the building of positive relationships with peers and adults, children like Vince find new hope and direction for life at Epworth Children's Home.

The **Bluffton Village Festival** is **Saturday, May 7th**. The BUMC Mission Team will be hosting a Garden Party on from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the front lawn of the church. If you are at the "Festival" and need a place to have a relaxing, tasty lunch or would like to do something special for your mother a day early come by and enjoy our homemade chicken salad, deviled eggs, fresh fruit, sherbert, cookies, and refreshing drink all for only \$8.00/person. All profits will be donated to UMCOR's "Nothing But Nets" program to prevent the spread of malaria. Reservations available (but not required) by calling 815-2446. Call early, seating is limited.

MIRACLE JARS – In April the amount you gave for **Backpack Meals** was **\$694.50**. Your **May** donations will be for **UMCOR "Nothing but Nets"**. Again, thanks for your continued support of these important Mission projects!!



What's in the backpack?

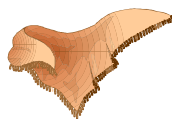


Each three-pound backpack includes two single serving cereals, two protein items, two fruit items and granola bars. They are backpacks with healthy, child-friendly, shelf-sustainable food for about 2,300 of the neediest children in 53 different schools in coastal South Carolina, 12 of those schools are in Beaufort County. About 80,000 children in coastal South Carolina go hungry every day. The Lowcountry Food Bank raises more than \$50,000 a year to run the Backpack Buddies program in Beaufort County.

To volunteer with the Backpack Buddies Program of Hilton Head Island, call 843-342-6126 or 843-342-3386 or e-mail hungerandhomelesscoalitionhhi@gmail.com. Checks can be made out to The Hunger and Homelessness Coalition, indicate on the "memo" line they are for the Backpack Buddies program and send to P.O. Box 22738, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925. For information on the Backpack programs in coastal South Carolina, call Deb Loesel, 843-747-8146, ext. 110; go to www.lowcountryfoodbank.org, or e-mail dloesel@lcfbank.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry continues and to date we have a number of shawls completed and ready for distribution. The prayer shawls are given to shut-in's or ill members. If you do not knit or crochet consider giving a donation of yarn or a monetary donation as these shawls take approximately 4 skeins of yarn. For additional information please contact Paula Kirkland at 706-3644.



FAMILY PROMISE

Our next BUMC **Family Promise** support to our host church (Universal Unitarian Church-Bluffton) will be the week of May 20th.

Enrolled presently are two single mothers with one child each. Since our last Newsletter, Family Promise has assisted four families.

During the week of May 20th BUMC will be responsible for feeding the present families one night and providing supervision as an overnight host. Please contact Russ Rymer if you would like to join our volunteers in serving this need.

The **Second Annual Family Promise Dinner and Auction** date will be **May 19th**. The original date of May 5th was changed since it would have conflicted with Bluffton Self Help annual fund raiser. The price of a ticket is \$35 which includes a buffet dinner, entertainment, and a silent and live auction at Hampton Hall Club House. Last year over \$19,000 was raised for Family Promise. This Year's goal is \$24,000. Last year's event was fun and provided many opportunities for attendees to make very nice and exceptional purchases. One of the many items available during the live auction is a villa in Mexico with full staff accommodating eight (8) persons. This is a \$17,500 to \$14,000 retail package depending on the season. There may be interest for several families in sharing the cost of the awarded bid. If you are interested in purchasing tickets contact Russ Rymer at 298-6566. A dinner table at Hampton Hall will seat 10 persons and it would be nice if we had ten of us at the same table.

Be a Stake-holder

For the last 2 weeks, Pastor Joey has been talking about being a stake-holder for Jesus. There are many ways you can contribute to our church and be a strong stake-

holder. One of those ways is to become a member of the United Methodist Women. Not only do you serve God but you also can build strong relationships with other women in the Church. We need as many women as possible to help with the many activities we want to accomplish so that we can support the charities for women and children. To get more information or to become a member, contact the church office and let us know.

On May 7th we will be participating in the Bluffton Village Festival. We will be selling baked goods, books and will also have a white elephant sale. Volunteers are still needed to help in this effort. We need you to make baked goods, supply books that you are no longer reading and to volunteer your slightly used items for our White Elephant sale. We also need people to man each station. You can volunteer for an hour, 2 hours or all day. It is up to you. Please call Sarah Sweers at 815-2507 to volunteer.

In the coming weeks, we will be doing an update to our cookbook. If you supplied a recipe and you find any errors in what was printed, please let us know as quickly as possible so that we can make the corrections. James 1:22 – "But be doers of the word, and not merely listeners to it".

CRAFTERS

Are you ready to get into the full-blown season of crafting for the Fall and Christmas seasons! **We hope so!**

All women of the church are welcome to come on selected Saturday Mornings to help create products to be sold to support the Bluffton United Methodist Women's projects. You do not have to be skilled –just come and we'll have everything ready for you—including leadership.

Meeting dates will be announced in the weekly church bulletin. For information, please call Betty Snyder {837-4064} or e-mail bjsnyder@hargray.com.



BUMMS NEWS

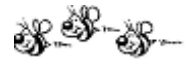


Your BUMM's have been busy lately (as usual). At last month's meeting we happily awarded Bailey Davis our \$500 scholarship. Look for a presentation in church soon. She is a wonderful young lady.

We also want to thank all who donated and participated in the 'Pancake Breakfast.' You made it possible for us to donate \$420.00 to UMCOR for Japan Relief. Thanks again!

Our next event is May 7th - Bluffton Village Festival. Stop by our Hot Dog & Fry booth for a cool drink and hot dog. It's our 26th - I think we are learning. It gets better each year. Again thanks to cooks, toters, sellers and of course those who shop at our booth. It's a great day to enjoy Bluffton...don't miss it. **See ya'll there!! Don't forget**

THE BUSY BEES – meet on Tuesday mornings at 8 AM for breakfast then arrive at the church to do our maintenance tasks. If you are unable to join us on Tuesday, but have an interest in doing maintenance items, please contact Russ Rymer at 298-6566 or at rjrymer@hargray.com.



APPRENTICE FOR JESUS" – is a group that will assist those persons needing assistance with light maintenance tasks around their house. Payment for this service is made to the Bluffton United Methodist Men (BUMM) as you determine. These payments will go to charities that the BUMMs support. If you need assistance contact Russ Rymer at 298-6566 or rjrymer@hargray.com

SUNDAY BRUNCH GROUP – Will meet **May 8th – 12:30 PM at British Open Pub**



in Sheridan Center. This is open to all persons; single/ married/ members/non-members/visitors/ guests. It's a time to meet someone new or get to know other church family members better. Please contact Bob Powell, powchesco@yahoo.com or 757- 0164.

PARKING BEHIND THE EDUCATION WING.

When parking in back of the education wing of the church and around the play area, please pull as close to the sidewalk or play area fence as possible to provide more room for cars to get through. By not doing so makes a narrow drive even more narrow.



Thank you,
—Board of Trustees



FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Our average weekly giving through April 24th is approximately \$7,889. Our budget is based on a weekly average of \$5,613. We continue not to encounter any unexpected expenses. We have reduced our loan for the Parsonage renovations from \$97,777 to \$65,972 with over \$11,000 donated for repaying this loan. Thanks to all for your prayers, services, talents, and offerings.

If you have suggestions, concerns, comments, etc. please call, 298-6566; E-mail rjrymer@hargray.com; or leave a note in the Church Finance mail slot.

—Russ Rymer, Finance Chairperson

EVANGELISM

Church Directory News – Picture Make-Up Day

Right now, we have a make-up day scheduled for ***Wednesday, May 18th from 3:00-8:00 p.m.*** If you did not have your picture made, or had to cancel a session, please sign up to have it taken this time. We want to have as many people participate as possible, so we can get to know one another as we grow. Please email or call Kathy Allen to sign up. The email address is islandfun@hargray.com or phone 757-4006. You will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait, even if you do not buy anything else. Thank you!

Free Portrait Pick Up

If you had your portrait taken, but did not buy any, your free 8 x10 is here. They are in the narthex in alphabetical order. Please pick your portrait up as soon as possible. Thanks!

Activity Page Pictures

If you have pictures of activities, groups, or special events that have taken place in the last few years, we need your help! We need pictures of BUMMs, UMW, Parsonage Renovations, Praise Team, Choir loft renovations, children’s Halloween Trunk or Treat, Nativity Scene, Christmas Parade, Crafters, Bluffton Village Festival, the tea room, Mission visits to Epworth, Prayer Shawls, Pillow ministry, etc., to use in our activity pages. If you have pictures, please email them to Kathy Allen at islandfun@hargray.com.

Benevolent Fund

Please consider making a donation when you can to the Benevolent Fund. These funds are used to help our church members and others in the community who are in need of funds due to a crisis. For example, we have paid electric bills, hospital and medicine bills, gas to get away from an abusive situation, etc. These funds are used at the Pastor’s discretion. During these economic times, more people are in need of help. Please donate. Every dollar is a help, as this is not a budgeted item that your offerings and tithes fund. Thank you!

Join Our Team – The Evangelism team meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Please join our team: Dustin Marinucci, Meredith Schroeder, Dave Fryman, Linda and Dave Waugh, Joanne Dahl, Kay Long, Barbara Allen, and Kathy Allen.



MAY – MEETINGS, ETC.

- Sunday’s** – LAB Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday’s** – Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall, 6-8:00 p.m.
- Mon, May 2nd** – WORSHIP COMMITTEE, 6 p.m.
- Tues, May 3rd** – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays in May** – CHANCEL CHOIR, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, May 5th** – STEPHEN MINISTRY, 5 p.m.
- Fri, May 6th** – Baumann/Jeffcoat Wedding Rehearsal, 5 p.m.
- Sat, May 7th** – BUMMs Breakfast, 7:29 a.m.
- Sat, May 7th** – Bluffton Village Festival 10 a.m. - ??
- Sat, May 7th** – Baumann/Jeffcoat Wedding, 5 p.m.
- Sun, May 8th** – BRUNCH BUNCH, 12:30 p.m. @ NEW British Pub in the Sheridan Center
- Tues, May 9th** – TRUSTEES, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, May 12th** – EVANGELISM, 7 p.m.
- Mon, May 16th** – CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 p.m.
- Wed, May 18th** – “Make-up day” DIRECTORY PHOTOS, 3 – 8 p.m.
- Wed, May 18th** – MISSION TEAM MEETING @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, May 19th** – EDUCATION MEETING, 6 p.m.
- Mon, May 23rd** – HANNAH ULMER CIRCLE, 7 p.m.
- Tues, May 24th** – ESTHER CIRCLE, 9:45 a.m.

MUSIC AT NOON – 2nd Friday, May 13th

Featuring organist W. Raymond Ackerman
English, French, and Portuguese organ music.



The Low Country Chapter American Guild of Organists present programs on the 2nd Friday of every month at Holy Family Catholic Church, 24 Pope Avenue, Hilton Head Island.

These programs are free and open to the public and last approximately forty-five minutes.

UPCOMING EVENT VOLUNTEERS!

- Mother’s Day Olympics • Saturday, May 14
- VBS • June 20-24 • 6-8pm
- Father’s Day Olympics • Saturday, June 25

For more information on all events visit:

<http://blufftonumcyouth.shutterfly.com/>

If you would like to help with any children’s events contact
Julie Toirkens 843.290.0307, 843.706.5698 or julie@jbtcdesign.com.



CHOIR LOFT RENOVATION

It's hard to believe that more than three years ago, at the Vision 20/20 meetings, discussions about the renovation of the choir loft began. In subsequent discussions specific problems were addressed:

Choir Loft Challenges

- Multi-levels & safety concerns
- Inadequate space for current and future music ensembles
- Distance between organ and piano
- Inadequate lighting, electrical outlets and audio connections
- Elimination of mold and mildew

It was through the inspiration and zeal of Bob Wilson that the initial choir loft renovation project stayed in the forefront. Through consultation with Pastor Joey, staff, the Trustees (Bob Brannen, chair), William Court (architect) and the approval of Church Council (Doug Dahl, chair), it was decided that Josh Simpson (Trustee) would be assigned the role of Project Manager.

On Monday, March 28, the day after the appearance of Claflin University Concert Choir, the renovation work began. We praise God for providing us with the vision, financial resources and dedicated individuals to work on this project. In addition to the individuals already mentioned, many hours of sweat and toil were provided by: Jenny Brannen, John Clingerman, Ruth Fleming, Dave Fryman, John Kenyon, Al Litster, John White and Bob Wilson.

These photos, taken by Lourri Norris-Waite and Milton Davis, show work in progress and the choir loft at present. In the near future the choir loft renovation project will be completed with installation of cam lighting in the ceiling and a new cabinet to house audio equipment.

For God's glory only,

Ella W. Davis
Director of Music





Did You Know? Facts, Figures, and Folklore about Motherhood and Mother's Day

Did you know that the celebration of motherhood dates back to the ancient Greeks? **Rhea**, the mother of all Greek goddesses, was honored annually at a springtime feast. In ancient Rome, a raucous spring festival was held in honor

of the Roman mother goddess, Cybele, while the Celtic Pagans linked their celebration of the mother goddess Brigid to the coming of spring and the first milking of the ewes.

Did you know that the first official celebration of mothers in the United States took place in 1858? **Anna Reeves Jarvis** campaigned for a Mothers' Work Day in her home state of West Virginia to raise awareness about local sanitation issues. When Jarvis passed away in 1905, her daughter Anna pursued a national mother's day in honor of her own activist mom. Anna's efforts paid off when in 1914, Mother's Day was recognized as a national holiday by Presidential proclamation.

Did you know that **motherhood is commemorated in national celebrations around the globe**? From Australia to Zimbabwe, more than sixty countries celebrate Mother's Day together with Americans on the second Sunday in May. In the United Kingdom, Mothering Sunday is held on the fourth Sunday of the Lenten Season.

Did you know that every September, Americans honor military mothers who have lost a son or daughter during active duty? Known as **Gold Star Mother's Day**, the holiday has been set by Presidential proclamation since 1936 for the last Sunday in September. Gold Star Mothers is the name of a bereavement support group started by Grace Darling Seibold, whose son was killed in combat over France during World War I.

Did you know that on Mother's Day, **the President of the United States issues an annual proclamation** reaffirming the national significance of mothers to the American people? In 2004, for example, then President George W. Bush declared that, "Mothers who protect, teach, and nurture their children with all their hearts strengthen their families and help build a better future for our country."

Did you know that **stepmoms in America have their own special holiday on May 1st**? Of course, you are welcome to honor your stepmom on Mother's Day, too!

Did you know that more than 83 million mothers are living today in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau? There are approximately 2 billion mothers living worldwide.

Did you know that in the United States, 56% of all women between the ages of 15 and 44 are mothers? The percentage spikes to 82% for women between the ages of 40 and 44.

Did you know that the average age at which a woman becomes a mom for the first time is 25.1 years? That's up from 21 years of age in 1970. Every year, about 4.3 million American women give birth to a new baby.

Did you know that modern moms have an average family size of two children, while mothers in the 1950s had an average of 3.5 kids? In the 1700s, women gave birth to seven to ten children each.

Did you know that there are 10.4 million single moms in America living with children under the age of 18? This is up from 3.4 million single moms in 1970.

Did you know that seven out of 10 moms with a child over the age of one work outside the home? In 1976, 39% of moms worked full-time. For those moms with a child under the age of one, 55% work outside the home, as compared to 31% in 1976.

Did you know that 81% of American children younger than 6 eat dinner with their mothers most evenings? 66% of the 6-and-under-set eat dinner regularly with their dads, too.

Did you know that the founder of Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, was vehemently opposed to the commercialization of the holiday? "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit," she once said. Despite Jarvis' opposition, Mother's Day is the second biggest gift-giving holiday in America, preceded only by Christmas. The National Retail Foundation estimates that Americans will spend more than \$14 billion a year on Mother's Day.

Did you know that having children later in life may help moms to live longer? The oldest "new" mom on the books is Indian schoolteacher Satyabhama Mahapatra, who gave birth in 2003 at the age of 65 to a baby boy. Mahapatra just outpaced Italian Rosanna Dalla Corte, who, in 1994, had a baby boy at the age of 63. Both children were conceived through artificial insemination with the eggs of younger relatives.

Did you know that Mr. Roger's mom knit him many of the sweaters he donned on the set of his popular children's television show?

Did you know that elephant moms gestate their calves for 22 months? Most human babies are born after 37 to 42 weeks of gestation. (Thankfully!)

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word "Mother" - **Unknown**



Bluffton UMC Youth & Children's Ministries

A LETTER FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By the time you read this, May will be here. This spring and summer, the education committee is looking forward to lots of unique events. These programs are intended to help foster new friendships within the Bluffton UMC congregation and provide educational opportunities for spiritual growth.

On May 14th, Bluffton UMC will host the first half of a two part family olympic event. The 1st ever Mother's Day Olympics is not to be missed. It is sure to provide many cherished moments and probably some priceless photo opportunities as well.

On June 25th, it will be dad's turn to participate. The 1st Father's Day Olympics is being designed to test the mettle and determination of each and every athlete and couch potato alike.

Also, do not forget Vacation Bible School. From **June 20th to June 24th**, the children of Bluffton UMC will take to the "High Seas" for a summer expedition unlike any other.

In order to accomplish these wonderful programs, along with all of our other ongoing activities, we really need to **GROW OUR VOLUNTEER BASE**. There are many different ways you can help, and here are just a few:

Volunteer to teach children's Sunday school classes

Volunteer to help out in the Nursery

Volunteer to be available for Parent's Night Out

Volunteer to assist with Vacation Bible School

Volunteer for special events

Volunteer to provide snacks for events

Volunteers contact information is being circulated in the weekly church bulletins. You can also sign up to participate in one or all events offered to our youth and children at blufftonumcyouth.shutterfly.com.

in²⁵B₄₅-tweens SCENE

The "in-B-tweens" group is designed for church members "in-B-tween" the ages of 25-45 & their families. We will be meeting monthly for a themed pot luck dinner called the "in-B-tweens SCENE". The purpose of these nights is to socialize, have fun and get to know members from our church family! The first in-B-tweens SCENE will be hosted by the Metz Family at the Baynard Park Pavilion on Friday, May 13th at 6:00 pm. (Theme: TO BE ANNOUNCED) Please contact Beth Simpson at lloydbeth@hotmail.com or 843-263-0313 if you have any questions about the group or to RSVP for in-B-tweens SCENE.



The LAB (Living as Believers)
 Sunday nights 6:30pm • Youth Room
 BUMC's LAB is exclusively for youth members, guests, & friends **6th to 12th grade**. The youth group, led by James Atkins, is focusing on everyday topics to help teenagers "own their faith". Instead of just talking about their faith, they are encouraged to put it into action at school, in their families, and in their community. They are using the LIVE curriculum from Simply Youth Ministries.

* * * * *
Parent's Night Out

Courtesy of Youth and Children's Ministry
 The Third Saturday of each month from 6:30-9:30
 • **May 21** •

Drop off your children, birth-5th grade, in the hands of caring, capable Children's Ministry Volunteers for a fun filled night, while you enjoy an evening to yourself. Snack will be provided.

A recommended donation of \$10 a family will fund future children's activities & events.

For childcare, please contact Julie Toirkens:
 843.706.5698 / julie@jbtcdesign.com

To volunteer, please contact Donna Evans:
 304.646.9230 / devans30@gmail.com

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 16



NEW GROUP

the in²⁵-B₄₅-tweens!

We are really excited about this new group being formed at BUMC! "the in-B-tweens" is designed for church members "in-B-tween" the ages of 25-45 & their families. Events will be starting in May!

 in²⁵-B₄₅-tweens
SCENE
 MAY 13 • 6pm

Mother's Day OLYMPICS
 MAY 14 • 2-4



Sunday @ 6:30

MAY 16

Deadline to sign-up for childcare or to volunteer for Parent's Night Out.

Mother's Day
OLYMPICS

SATURDAY, MAY 14 • 2-4

Join us for the first Mother's Day Olympics to celebrate this special day for your MOM! The afternoon will be filled with fun games and crazy activities designed just for you and your mom. So bring your family and get ready to laugh and play while you create memories that will last.

An evite will be coming soon!



LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- ↳ in-B-tweens SCENE May 13
- ↳ Mother's Day Olympics May 14
- ↳ Vacation Bible School June 20-24
- ↳ Father's Day Olympics June 25



MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 03 – Mackenzie Bethea, Jen Smith
04 – Robin Boyleston, Jody Snow
06 – C.T. Davis, Jr. (teen)
08 – Benjamin Atkins (child)
08 – Joan Dixon, Matt Epps
09 – Jeff Hawks
12 – Skip Brown
13 – Wallace King
14 – Frank Battaglia, Dian Gamble, Mary Wessels (child)
15 – Kathy Allen, Marsha Davis, Elaine Jones Bette Kalmbach
16 – Sandi Campbell
17 – Kenny Burr, Sr.
18 – Noah Ratliff-Lowman (child)
19 – Tom Story
21 – Bob Powell
22 – Joey Bennett, Donna Clingerman, Roni Novicki
24 – Lois Barton, Stacie Sapochak
26 – Andrew Jones (child), Cathy Kenyon Sarah Sapochak (child)
27 – Merrill Ramsey, Marty Smith, Hugh Parker Snow (child)
28 – Lee Templeton
29 – Elizabeth Duncan, Bobby McKibben
30 – Tamara Davis, Ralph Fleming Lourri Norris-Waite, Trey Snow, III
31 – Charles Johnson, Sr., Jane Johnson, Mark Phillips

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Vera Ulmer, medical concerns
Don McKelvey, medical concerns
Kay Battaglia, medical concerns
Jim Hegg, 47 years old, undergoing intense rehabilitation; and doing very well. (Jim & Jay George's nephew)
Johnny Ussery, pancreatic cancer (friend of Althea Hicks and Linda Shettel)
Sarah Sweers, has finished the chemo and will be starting radiation treatments soon.
Greg Shader, returned home after suffering stroke on left side. Continues to recover slowly. (BJ Jenkins' brother)
Joni Peal, serious medical problems. (Grandmother of Cherub Alexis Vaughn)
Brenton Green, suffering from depression associated with severe eye disease. (son-in-law of Lourri Norris-Waite)
Daniel Alba, undergoing drug rehabilitation (Gloria Taylor's son)
Neva Latham, medical concerns.
Harry Mangleburg, undergoing radiation for lung cancer. (Allana Metz' uncle)
Darrell David, severe liver problems. (Allana Metz' uncle)
Brennen Reeves, recovering from double lung transplant at Duke. He has required additional surgeries and continues to need our prayers! (Brennen is the son of a co-worker of Althea Hicks and Nancy Phillips).
John Campbell, recovering at home and doing better. He also suffers from Parkinson's. (Bill Campbell's brother)
William W. Baker, Jr. medical concerns (92 yr-old father of Jen Smith)
Barbara Badeau, receiving chemo & radiation in Boston for her brain tumor. (friend of Dian & Al Litster)
John Whalen, continuing medical concerns.
Marshall Kremers, recovering from oral surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.
Marty Benzlé, medical concerns
Carolina Bell, two year old with Cystic Fibrous. She is now back home and doing better. Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers (Great niece of Nancy Epps)
Margaret Elsner, is being treated for liver cancer (neighborhood friend of Diane & John Craig)
Barbara Edwards, hospitalized with kidney stones.
Michelle Oliver (46) will be undergoing a double mastectomy on May 3rd. Please pray for her. (Melanie Hylers niece)
Lois Rogers, medical concerns (Sarah Atkins' grandmother)
Betty Bergman, was in a serious car accident (James Atkins' grandmother)

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 01 – Jackie & Spike Kammerer
06 – Paula & Marshall Kremers
08 – Lourri Norris & Tony Waite
11 – Kay Long & Doug Lancaster
15 – Jackie & Alan Ulmer, Jr.
16 – Meredith & Scott Schroeder
18 – Sarah & Ed Sweers
19 – Traci & Mike Chapman
19 – Gloria & Charles Johnson, Sr.
22 – Angela & William Court
23 – Sonya & Harvey Bethea, Jr.
25 – Rita & Robert Bobko
25 – Jeannine & Art Olson
27 – Mary & Bob Powell
29 – Janine & Michael Schmitt
30 – Sara & BJ Jenkins

Ministry of Encouragement List

Elouise Goodman, 10 Buckpoint Rd., Bluffton, 29910

- Abram (Abe) Hallman, Room 132, Broad Creek Care Center, 801 Lemon Grass Ct., HHI 29928 (Joanne Dahl's father)
Daisy Hodge, PO Box 123, Bluffton, 29910
Essie Sanders, 12 Sulgrave Rd., Savannah, GA 31406
Catherine Szalay, 4921 Bluffton Parkway Apt. 812, Bluffton, 29910

Please continue to pray for our young women and men who serve to protect our freedom in this country and around the world.



- Cpl. Michael Fryman, USMC, serving in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (Nancy & Dave's grandson)
Major Shannan Fortner, deployed to Afghanistan in charge of communications for NATO. (Judy Kerr's granddaughter)
A.D. McElroy, after Thanksgiving he was deployed to Kuwait with the Army Reserve.
S. Sgt. C.B. Patterson deployed to Qatar (David Hoffman's stepson)
Logan Corson, PFC, now stationed in Afghanistan. (Carlton Corson's son, Rich Corson's nephew)



Christian sympathy and prayers of the pastor and congregation are extended to: Jen & Dick Smith on the death, April 24th, of his mother, Elizabeth Goodwin Smith (97 yrs.) and Jeanne & Brent VanBuskirk on the death of his sister also to Taylor Johnson and family on the death of his mother, Tavia Michelle Johnson, April 28th.