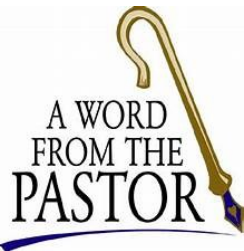


# BUMC's Quarterly NEWSLETTER

A publication of Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton, SC  
Volume 21, Issue 3 July-September 2025



*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*  
Joshua 1:9

Our Vacation Bible School was built around Joshua's assurance of God's presence as he prepared the people to follow him into the land the Lord had prepared for them. It is a good word for anyone starting something new, whether it be a job, a school, a stage in life or a big move. I can just picture Joshua and the thousands of Israelites in the blinding sun, looking across the Jordan river, unsure of what was ahead. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged..."* Joshua knew the people had some apprehension. Perhaps he had a little himself.

In fact, if you turn back just a couple of chapters, to Deuteronomy 31, you will read of Moses commissioning Joshua, and telling him twice to *"Be strong and courageous."* Joshua must have hung onto those words, and claimed them for himself. How often have you looked ahead in your life with some discomfort or fear? What new endeavors are in store for you or a loved one? Perhaps these are words for you, too: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Faithfully,  
Pastor Scarlett

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On Sunday, June 22, we celebrated another year of *Disciple Bible Study*. We had graduates of Disciple I, II, III and IV. It has been intense as we have grown closer to God and to each other!

## Discipleship Recognition



# Upcoming Events



## *Beat the Heat - we're going Tropical!*

We invite all men and women to wear tropical print shirts/dresses/pants **EVERY SUNDAY IN JULY** to celebrate the summer! And to welcome in the start of school and back to "regular" activities, we are going to have a Luau on Sunday, August 3 at 5 PM! We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and all the fixings, you bring a side dish, fruit, salad or dessert!

We hope you will prayerfully consider participating. Please contact Sally LeSage [bluffton.education@gmail.com](mailto:bluffton.education@gmail.com) if you're interested. Let her know your name, how many in your party and what you will bring.

## *Mark Your Calendar*

BUMMs breakfast meeting  
**9 AM - Saturday, September 6, 2025,**  
**Fellowship Hall.**

You likely will see friends, make some new friends and join a group of Methodist men who serve our Church and community.



*American Guild of*  
**ORGANISTS**

**Thursdays, July 10 and August 14 from 12:00-2:00 PM**—the American Guild of Organists will perform a musical concert in the Sanctuary.

All are invited to enjoy this event!

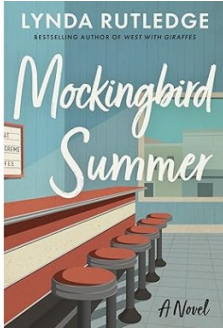
**Seeking 25 Volunteers for BearFootSports**  
**2025 May River Shrimp Festival 5K Run**  
**Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 6:15-9:00 PM**

Libraries for Kids is partnering with BearFootSports for their annual Shrimp Festival 5K run. Volunteers will help for the run and water stations. We will have the opportunity to raise awareness and also have the opportunity to raise donations to directly fund our program. **Adults and children are welcome!** Visit our website for more information [www.libraries4kids.org](http://www.libraries4kids.org)





## Bluffton Methodist Women Reading Program



*Mockingbird Summer* by Lynda Rutledge

This is a powerful and emotional coming-of-age novel amid the turmoil and profound changes of the 1960's. It takes place in a segregated small town in Texas in 1964. The racial divide is clear, but 2 girls shake things up. This book explores the impact of great books, the burden of potential, and the power of friendship.

Ladies, please have your reading lists to me by the end of October IF you have read 6 or more books this year.

Thank you.

Sally Mattingly

[blagoonhh@aol.com](mailto:blagoonhh@aol.com)

23 Middleton Gardens Pl., Bluffton, SC 29910

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## Nurture & Discipleship

Psalm 98:4-9 KJV— **“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp; With the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With the sound of trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise unto the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together. Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.”**



**The world is in such turmoil, lets have a little Christmas in July.**

The hymn "Joy to the World" is inspired by Psalm 98, which speaks of God's power and the joy his presence brings to the world. Specifically, verses 4-9 of Psalm 98 are often cited as the basis for the carol. The hymn also echoes the message of [Luke 2:10](#), where the angel announces to the shepherds the

good news of great joy, the birth of the Messiah. Ultimately, "Joy to the World" celebrates the coming of Christ and the joy that his reign brings to all creation. Some people think it was written about the second coming of Christ, and not his birth.

Don't you wish there could be joy all over the world? To all people. And peace. And Hope. No more wars. Every nation in the world was a peaceful place to live and hope for the future was bright for everyone.

Just for one day, pray for that and reflect what that would be like. Does that sound like **Christmas?**

Blessing to all,

*Debbie Kaulig*

Chair of Nurture & Discipleship

## Missions

### Prayer Shawl Ministry



Bluffton UMC has a wonderful prayer shawl ministry. We give prayer shawls to people who are in need of having God's love wrapped around them due to an illness, hardship, or significant time in their life. We are always looking for people willing to knit or crochet prayer shawls or small lap blankets for the church to bless and give to someone in need. If you are someone who already makes shawls for us or you are someone who would like to get involved, could you please send your name and number to Joanne Davies at [oceanbrz622@gmail.com](mailto:oceanbrz622@gmail.com).

I would like to have an active list of those who participate in creating so I may get in touch with you.

If you do not knit or crochet, but would like to help, you can always donate yarn. Two to Three skeins of the same color are always usable. You can leave the yarn at church or get in touch with me and I will put it in the closet for the knitters and crocheters at the church.

Thank you.  
Joanne Davies

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## Stephen Ministry

Did you know that Bluffton United Methodist Church has been a Stephen Ministry church for 20 years? We hope to celebrate this outstanding achievement with the congregation in the near future.

Stephen Ministers are currently using the book, *Be Still My Soul*, as a study guide for learning about how people have dealt with pain, either physically, emotionally or spiritually. The hope is that the Stephen Ministers are even better equipped to support people who are dealing with painful situations. It has met with positive responses from the team. Additionally, Brenda Armstrong has enrolled in the Stephen Leader training course, and we look forward to adding her to the leadership team.

Stephen Ministers will celebrate the 3rd Annual Jubilee in September, where Stephen Ministry churches from Bluffton, Hilton Head and Beaufort all meet together for one big celebration. Stephen Ministers are honored and this year the guest speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Hauck, the creator and founder of Stephen Ministry International. He is coming all the way from St. Louis to present to the Stephen Ministers of the Low Country. We are very excited!!

We are also pleased to announce that a new GriefShare class began this month and will continue through the second week of September. If you know anyone who would benefit from support after losing a loved one, kindly recommend the program to them. The class meets weekly, Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, in the music suite. Contact Bill Stutesman for more information (214) 435-0243.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Ellen Parks

## History Corner

### Notes from Tales from Bluffton's Past: Forensic Architecture at Campbell Chapel AME

Presentation by James McGhee, Preservation Architect & Greg Jacobs, Preservation Contractor told the story of the renovation project currently underway in that historic building was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Earlier this spring, Gary Taylor, Al & Dian Litster and Michael & Diane Ciba attended this presentation at the Campbell Chapel, where we were invited to walk through the old church and view the progress of its restoration.

First a little history: Built in 1853, the Chapel was in the Okatie Mission (which later became The Bluffton Mission) of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. This mission was described in 1855 as "serving the plantations lying in St. Luke's Parish between Grahamville and Bluffton."

In 1858, Rev. Samuel Leard was assigned to the Bluffton Mission. By 1860, he had grown the church to 38 white members, and 211 enslaved persons with a Sunday School that had 5 teachers with 40 white scholars and 400 enslaved scholars.

During the burning of Bluffton in 1863, a fire was set in the chancel, but the building was saved by quick action on the part of a few Confederate soldiers.

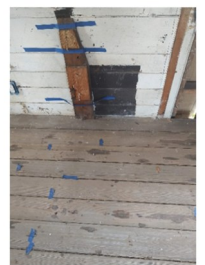
By 1875, many white members from Bluffton had joined with Methodists from Pritchardville to purchase St. Luke's Episcopal Church (currently St. Luke's United Methodist.) The building on Boundary Street was purchased for \$500 by a congregation of freedmen and became part of the Reconstruction Era African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Conference.

To get a sense of what the building was like in the 1860s, the current restoration team pointed out the following architectural details that have been uncovered during their project:



Here the outlines of the original pews show that the seats are about 13 inches from the floor. The present-day presenters suggested that the pews most likely had cushions.

As the building grew and changed, pieces of the original pews were changed and used in



Holes in the chancel flooring indicate where the altar railing was originally placed.

Sections of the original railing are also being preserved.



## History Corner



The chancel was expanded several times. The original space only had the slight platform where the presenter is standing. A raised section was later added, with the choir loft added in a later expansion. Seen in this picture: the presenters, Greg Jacobs and James McGhee.

There were doors beneath a couple of the original windows that would open into the church. When the top “paned” portion of the window was “open”, a person could then walk out through those doors as needed (to visit the necessary...) There was one set of doors on each side of the building.



Notches along the walls indicate that the back of the church had an upper gallery. This may have been where enslaved people stood during worship. There are also marks on a window frame that suggest there was a staircase along the north wall, indicating how folks may have gotten to this balcony/upper gallery.

The height of the original floor was determined by observing the slots on the outside of the building. This image also shows those slots cut into the exterior slats on the north side of the building. This image also shows the window that also acted as a door, from the outside of the building



As I drove by the church today, some of the siding on the exterior north wall has been removed. Watching the restoration process and discovering new information, we hope to learn more about the history of our church and the Bluffton community. If you are interested in stories like this, please contact a member of the History Committee. So much history to explore!

*Diane Ciba and the History Committee*



## **Bluffton United Methodist Church** **Bluffton Methodist Women (BMW)**

### **School Uniforms for Hardeeville Elementary School**

The time is here and for **the month of July**, our annual mission is to help the children at Hardeeville Elementary School by collecting donations of school uniforms this year. We will be collecting shorts and pants for boys and girls in either black, khaki or navy in sizes 4 to 18, including husky, along with school uniform shirts in colors light blue, orange, kelly green, and white in sizes 4- 12. There will be bins in the sanctuary to place your donations. If you would prefer to donate funds for this mission, please make your check to BUMC and put “uniforms” on the memo line. Those funds will be used to purchase additional uniforms. Thank you!

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### **Non-profit and Faith-Based Agencies We Support That Benefit**

#### **LOCAL**

##### **Back Pack Buddies of Bluffton**

<https://backpackbuddiesbluffton.com>

##### **Bluffton Self Help**

<https://blufftonselfhelp.org>

##### **Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen**

<http://blufftoneats.org>

##### **C.A.P.A.**

<https://capabeaufort.org>

##### **Family Promise**

<https://familypromistbeaufortcounty.org>

##### **Fresh Start, Healing Heart**

##### **Hopeful Horizons/Children's Advocacy**

<https://www.hopefulhorizons.org>

##### **Hospice Care of the Low Country**

<https://hospicecareic.org>

##### **Meals on Wheels**

[www.mowblufftonhiltonhead.org](http://www.mowblufftonhiltonhead.org)

##### **Memory Matters Salkehatchie**

<https://www.umcsc.org/salkehatchie/>

##### **Second Helping Volunteers in Medicine (VIM)**

<https://www.vimclinic.org>

#### **STATE**

##### **Killingsworth Home**

[www.killingsworth.org](http://www.killingsworth.org)

##### **Wallace Family Life Center**

[www.wflc.tripod.com](http://www.wflc.tripod.com)

##### **Bethlehem Community Center**

[www.bethlehemcentercsc.org](http://www.bethlehemcentercsc.org)

(Columbia / Spartanburg)



It's summer and the BUMMs are taking our usual summer break with no regular meetings in July and August. As we pause and look back over our year, we see that we had another blessed and successful year in many ways. The BUMMs, through various fund-raising activities, were able to continue to offer financial support to a number of local charities throughout our Bluffton community. We also continued to offer scholarship support to deserving graduates through our Jim Snow Scholarship Program.

The BUMMs also made and executed plans to reach out in our community and bring in speakers to our monthly meetings who could offer information and insight regarding the happenings in our area.

Why would anyone want to be a "BUMM"? In considering that question, just look at what "BUMM" means. Three words are key: **"United Methodist Men"**. The BUMMs are a united group of men who come together for worship, friendship and support. Support is to our community and Church through our fund-raising activities and financial contributions, as well as participation in our Church services from time to time. But just as important, that support extends to each other. Our monthly meetings start with a full breakfast that is prepared by BUMMs for BUMMs. BUMMs gather starting around 8:30 AM every first Saturday of each month. As BUMMs come together, we see friends who offer smiles, handshakes and often a hug. BUMMs are friends who know each other and share the positives of each other's lives, as well as offer support when BUMMs experience the inevitable negatives that sometimes come in our lives. Bottom line, BUMMs are men of faith who come together and offer support and friendship to each other, as well as support for our Church and community.

We hope that all men of our Church will consider joining the BUMMs for our next meeting on Saturday, September 6, 2025. We will start with the best breakfast around at 9 AM in the Church fellowship hall. You likely will see friends, make some new friends and join a group of Methodist men who serve our Church and community.

We hope to see you in September!

*Danny W. Jett, Secretary*



## Music Ministry



## Welcome Josh Wall!

*"Hello BUMC!"*

*My name is Josh and I'm excited to be joining this church family as the new Director of Music Ministries! Over the past few years, I've visited BUMC as a member of the congregation, choir member on a few occasions and filled in on the piano and organ benches. Each time I was welcomed with open arms and friendship - so when the opportunity was presented to join the staff...it felt like the right thing to do!*

*July marks my 10th year living the Lowcountry having moved here from Irmo, SC, after teaching high school choir in the Columbia area for four years. Hilton Head High School was my "work home" for 8 years until I transferred to May River High School. In January of 2023, I earned the opportunity to move to a job at the School District Office as the Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts. In this position, I'm fortunate to work with all 32 public schools in our county.*

*I often say I'm a bit of a "denominational mutt" - I was dedicated at First Baptist Church of Newberry, SC; baptized at Clover Presbyterian Church and then joined Clover Methodist Church. In my church work, I've been music director/pianist/organist for Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Associate Reformed Lutheran (ARP), Lutheran, Catholic and served a Synagogue. All these experiences have helped shape me as a person in what I believe and what I feel can be incorporated into worship services here at BUMC!*

*I am looking forward to making music and worshiping with all of you in the coming days! Hope to see you in the choir loft on Wednesdays and Sundays!*

*Best,  
Josh*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome to summer in the Lowcountry! It's Hot and Humid! So, let's beat the heat by going tropical during July – each Sunday dress in your most tropical or floral shirt/pants/dress/skirt. We will conclude our summer fun with a congregational potluck Luau on Sunday, August 3 at 5 pm.

We started out summer in style with our VBS Road trip with God! Thanks to energetic and excited children and dedicated and loving volunteers, we had a successful week! Our verse of the week was **Joshua 1:9: The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.** And that is good news for all of us!



Our Adult Sunday School classes continue with book studies and would welcome new members! The Men's class meets in Conference Room 2 from 9:30 – 10:30 and the Women's class meets in Conference Room 1 from 9:30 – 10:30.

Our Nursery Staff, Millie and Harriet, welcome children 6 weeks up to 5 years old each week at both services. They care for and play with the children and share the love of Christ with each and every one.

Following the Children's Message at the 8:30 AM service, children ages 5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are welcome to go with one of our Kids' Church leaders for a lesson/craft/activity. Currently, we do not offer Kids' Church at the 11 AM service. On Communion Sundays we do not have Kids' Church, and children of all ages are welcome to stay in "big church."

## In August, we'll offer a short 3-week Bible



### Wesley Prayer Challenge Bible Study

Join us for a 3-week study which will inspire us to a new kind of commitment, one that is more authentic, vulnerable and soul shaping! This study connects us to the Wesley Covenant Prayer we recite as a congregation every January.

**Sundays—August 10, 17 and 24**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Music Suite**

Led by Pastor Scarlett Hester  
Cost of study book - \$15 paid to BUMC  
RSVP [blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)



Our Fall Kick Off Sunday for youth and children will be **Sunday, September 7**. Look for details in your bulletins!

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You might remember I designated 2025 as the Year of Kindness! So far, I'm trying to be kind to everyone I meet and do small acts of kindness every day. How's it going for you?

I recently came across this definition of Kindness I would like to share with you:

*Kindness truly is a selfless act when one helps others without expecting anything in return. When you are kind, you lead a peaceful, happy life and you sleep better at night. A kind act is truly magical when you are kind to someone, they forget all about their problems and even a bad day becomes a good one!*

Kindness is healthy! I hope you experience as much kindness in your life as you give to others!

Hugs, Sally

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## ***Annex Update***

I am happy to report that James Atkins has wrapped up some minor design modifications that were suggested during a prior Church Council meeting. A set of construction drawings has been provided to a number of local general contractors and pricing is now in progress. We expect pricing to be completed by the end of July. James will be evaluating proposals in August and making any necessary scope adjustments. He will be ready to report back to Church Council on September 8<sup>th</sup> with a proposed plan and timeline for Town of Bluffton approvals and construction.

William Court

# BUMC Treasurer's Report

As of June 30, 2025  
Budget Target is 26 of 52 Sundays or 50%

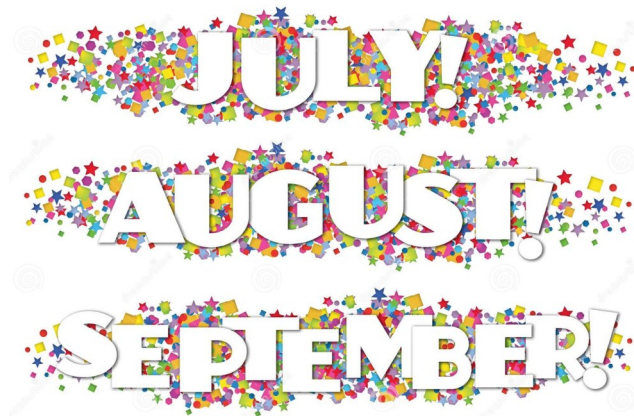
			YTD Income/ Expense	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget
Worship Offerings:					
Plate			169,664	-	-
Online			91,703	-	-
Total Worship Offerings			261,367	615,500	42.5%
Other Revenue:					
Unrestricted Memorial Donation			-	-	
Altar Flowers, Facility Rental, Interest, Etc.			4,323	8,500	50.9%
UMC Grant			21,855		
Roof/HVAC Donations			-	-	
Annex Fire Donations			5,000		
Total Other Revenue			31,178	8,500	
Total Revenue			292,545	624,000	46.9%
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Pastoral			84,314	173,402	48.6%
Worship			49,261	98,589	50.0%
Ministry & Education			29,840	74,700	39.9%
Missions			9,634	28,350	34.0%
UMC Apportionments			29,798	59,055	50.5%
Administration & Finance			37,964	84,835	44.8%
Property			55,735	79,215	70.4%
Total Expense			296,546	598,146	49.6%
<b>Surplus YTD</b>			(4,001)	25,854	
<b>Notes:</b>					
Annex Fire Insurance Payment			292,269		
*Annual Property Insurance paid in full					

**Visit [Blufftonumc.org](http://Blufftonumc.org) to establish your recurring online giving at the "select page prompt/donate!"**

BLUFFTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P. O. BOX 368  
BLUFFTON, SC 29910

## July-September 2025

TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST,  
PLEASE CALL: 843.757.3351 OR EMAIL  
THE CHURCH AT: [blufftonumc@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc@gmail.com)



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM – Online and In-Person

Pastor Scarlett's Email: [pastor@blufftonumc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonumc.org)

Director of Music Ministry — Joshua Wall

Director of Christian Education — Sally LeSage – Email: [blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)

Organist — Michael Cole

Church Office — Laurie Palmer—Email: [blufftonumc@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc@gmail.com)

Financial Secretary—Joann Garner—Email: [financeatbumc@gmail.com](mailto:financeatbumc@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.blufftonumc.org>

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
(843) 757-3351

### MAILING ADDRESS

Bluffton UMC  
P.O. Box 368  
Bluffton, SC 29910