

BUMC's Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

A publication of Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton, SC

Volume 21, Issue 2

April-June 2025



This is a tractor.

We saw it near the river where Lydia was baptized.
We saw many amazing things, such as

Santorini, which Wayne and I have wanted to see
ever since we saw it in a movie in the early 90s.



We walked among the ruins of Corinth and wondered if we
touched any stone Paul himself may have touched.

We did not dare to put our feet on these 3 marble steps that led to a
synagogue in Berea where Paul preached.

We saw wonders and each of us found our hearts filled to overflowing
at different times. Over the next months, I will share many of our
experiences with you. For today, I am showing you the red tractor,
because it says a lot about my agricultural roots that I took such a
picture. Every trip I take, I find myself looking at the fields, orchards,
and vineyards. What do they grow here? How do they cultivate their
crops? Do they irrigate and if so, how? Will there be a good harvest
this year?



In Greece, we saw rows and rows of olive trees. Our guide said there are approximately 65
million olive trees in Greece. There were fig trees and the grape vineyards were beginning to
put out leaves. There are signs of a harvest to come.

I wonder if these are questions for our church as well. What are we growing? What efforts are
we, as a church and as individuals making to grow and cultivate disciples?

Faithfully,
Pastor Scarlett

Upcoming Events



spiritual
gifts
workshop

This workshop is designed to help you better understand the gifts God has given you. In three short hours, you'll learn more about spiritual gifts in general and complete an individual exercise to identify your personal gifts.

If you aren't sure what gifts you have, or if you think you know but want confirmation, we welcome you to join us. **We have three**

potential dates: Thursday, May 8 from 1-4 PM, Monday, May 19 from 1-4 PM and Monday, June 2 from 1-4 PM. **Watch the bulletin for updates.**

We hope you will prayerfully consider participating. Please contact Sara Jenkins at spjsuncity@aol.com or 843-298-2076 if you're interested.

Mark Your Calendar

MAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 10th

Since the fire in the Annex, there is no merchandise to sell this year. We will be selling baked goods as we did last year. If you have small like-new items (things that can be carried), please let us know. Please bring books, jewelry, crafts, decorations, etc. **NO LARGE ITEMS.** If unsure, please ask.

Please drop off items to be sold on May 7th or 8th during office hours and on May 9th from 9 AM to 12 PM. We will be setting up on Saturday May 10th at 7:30 AM and ending around 4:00 PM.

Contact Nancy Humes if you have any questions Nancyhumes22@gmail.com

A Graduation & Farewell Party for Keeley

**Saturday, June 28th, time TBD
BUMC Fellowship Hall**

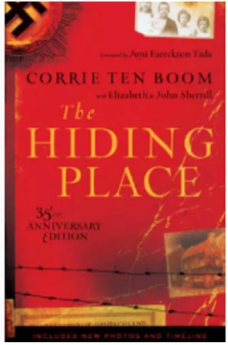
Come congratulate Keeley on her completion of seminary school and best of luck to her and her family on their move to Pennsylvania!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Watch the bulletin for updates.



Bluffton Methodist Women Reading Program



The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie Ten boom was the first licensed female watchmaker in the Netherlands. She became a heroine of the Resistance in WWII, a survivor of a concentration camp and one of the most remarkable ministers of hope in the 20th century. Her true story tells the story of how faith, hope and forgiveness triumphed over unthinkable evil. It declares that God's love will overcome, heal, and restore.

Sally Mattingly

Nurture & Discipleship



John 14 :1-4 (NIV) ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. “You know the way to the place where I am going.”***

I would like to share with you part of an article I read about Billy Graham.

When he was near the end of his life, Billy Graham was asked to speak at a luncheon. He was not going to speak and then he decided to share a brief story. He said Albert Einstein was traveling on a train and when the conductor asked for his ticket to be punched, he could not find it. The conductor said “Mr. Einstein, I know who you are so do not worry about the ticket and he moved on.” Einstein began searching his pockets, the seat,

even got on the floor looking for it. The conductor came back and said “please get up you don’t need the ticket,” at which Einstein said, “I do because I do not know where I am going.” Billy Graham continued his speech by saying he had bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit I will be buried in. So when you hear I’m dead, I don’t want you to immediately remember the suit I am wearing; I want you to remember this: “I not only know who I am, but I know where I am going.”

“May your troubles be less, your blessings more and may nothing but happiness come through your door. Life with out God is like an unsharpened pencil... it has no point.” May each of us have lived our lives so that when our ticket is punched, we don’t have to worry about where we are going.

We all wonder what Heaven will be like. As believers, we may not know what it looks like or what we will see, and not even who we will see. But we know it will be the house of the Lord and Jesus will lead us home, for all Eternity.

So we also know where we are going. AMEN.

Blessing to all,

Debbie Kaulig
Chair of Nurture & Discipleship



GriefShare (sponsored by Stephen Ministry) will finish the 13-week cycle on April 23rd. The class, while small, has connected in amazing ways. We thank God for His presence and love during our sessions.

A new class will form in the near future. Contact Bill Stutesman for more information (214) 435-0243.

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry commissioned two new Stephen Ministers, Sharral Ruth and Mark Thomas. They completed 50 hours of training (thanks to Stephen Ministers Bill Stutesman, Brenda Armstrong and Mary Ellen Parks) and are anxious to get started. The current Stephen Minister team consists of six commissioned members who consistently meet for supervision and continuing education.

The commissioning include a promise made by you, the congregation, to: *“Accept their ministry when you need help, to allow these individuals to work with you as you face struggles in your life, that you might receive the support and help from your Christian brothers and sisters.”* We are waiting for you to do that.

If you are brave enough to accept Christ's love through a Stephen Minister, call or text Mary Ellen Parks (843) 368-1852 and she will help you get that support.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY



“Since God acts in human history, historical records are of great significance. They become salvation history because they contain the story of God’s action to save sinful human beings.”

What former pastor rose to the rank of Major in the U. S. Army?

Feltham Samuel James was an active member of Epworth League (the forerunner of the Methodist Youth Fellowship) in his hometown of Sumter. As an only child, he found community in that group of fellow believers and learned valuable leadership skills. He graduated from Sumter HS in 1924, received an A.B. from Wofford in 1928 and an M.A. in 1932 from Duke University. His thesis was entitled *“The Attitude of the Church Toward the Use of Dramatics in Religious Education.”* Perhaps he enjoyed performing in church plays during those early years.

Following a couple of temporary assignments, Pastor James accepted a one-year assignment to Bluffton in 1933, where he was ordained as a deacon. He was unmarried and age 28. What kind of sermons did he preach? Did he add a touch of drama to his messages?

At that time, Bluffton still had oyster-shelled streets. It must have been a different world for him, the sights, the smells, and low-country living. Was he a fan of the local shellfish or did he long for the comfort food of his childhood?

There were about 40 white families living in Bluffton town at that point, with 20 or so high school students, and about 30 elementary students. *Did he focus on the young people, teaching the Gospel and building a strong faith based in action? Was the Epworth League a part of his ministry?

Less than 10 years after leaving Bluffton, at the start of World War II, Rev. James became a Chaplain in the US Army, serving at Walter Reed Hospital. In 1943, he wrote the Chaplain’s Manual for the US Army. As a Methodist minister in Washington D.C., he preached at the first church service Harry Truman attended after taking office. What message did he offer to the President in those fateful days?

Growing in faith, from the young man in Bluffton’s pulpit, Rev. James became the National Chaplain of the American Legion. He went on to gain Freedom Foundation awards, to publish inspiring sermons and addresses, and to lead congregations and organizations within the Methodist Church with a strong sense of faith in action. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Wofford University in 1960. Dr. James published a book of sermons and messages entitled *“For God & Country”* in 1977. These are his words:

“One of our greatest faults is that we too seldom pause to recall the heroic service of those brave men and women of yesterday... Out of our past we should learn the lessons for building the future... All our efforts will fail ... unless at the foundation we put the basic stone of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man... We must take up the torch, hold it high and march under the banner of the kingdom of God.”

The Rev. Dr. Feltham Samuel James died January 19, 1984, at the age of 79, in Greenville, SC. He is buried in the Aiken Memorial Garden in Aiken, SC. His legacy of faith-filled service continues to be an inspiration to current and future generations.

*(Estimates based on 1930 US Census)

As the History Committee starts to organize, digitize and analyze the wealth of material available in our archives and online, we are hoping to research each of the 50 pastors dating back to 1890 and periodically share their stories with you. If you find any errors, additional information, or fun facts that we’ve missed, please let us know.

Blessings,
Al Litster



Bluffton United Methodist Church Bluffton Methodist Women (BMW)

School Uniforms for Hardeeville Elementary School

The time is coming again, **in July**, for our annual mission to help the children 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!

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

Memory Matters Salkehatchie

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

Second Helping Volunteers in Medicine (VIM)

<https://www.vimclinic.org>

STATE

Killingsworth Home

www.killingsworth.org

Wallace Family Life Center

www.wflc.tripod.com

Bethlehem Community Center

www.bethlehemcentercsc.org

(Columbia / Spartanburg)



As we all enjoy seeing our Bluffton United Methodist family growing, the BUMMs have had the pleasure of adding several new members to our men's group. The regular BUMM meetings are held on the first Saturday morning each month. We start our Saturday meetings with a full breakfast prepared by our famous Bluffton "BUMM Chefs". The BUMM breakfasts have been called by some "the best breakfast on the May River". We invite all men in our Church family to join us on the first Saturday morning each month starting at 9 AM in the Church fellowship hall. We're sure you will enjoy the breakfast, fellowship and meet new friends.

Following our breakfast meeting we have our business meeting. This year we have a great roster of speakers that will address issues and topics of interest for the BUMM members. We also discuss our fundraising activities that offer support to various local charities that the BUMMs support. Coming up soon will be the "Village Festival" (or Mayfest as we have called it in years past). This is a celebration of Spring in Bluffton and offers an opportunity for all to get out and wander around our wonderful town of Bluffton and all it has to offer at this beautiful time of year. The BUMMs will be preparing hot dogs, chicken strips, french fries and soft drinks at our tent just outside the Church grounds. This is one of the BUMMs significant fundraising activities each year. In addition to the fundraising, the BUMMs always have a great time interacting with all the visitors and with each other.

We hope that all men of the Church family will consider joining on the first Saturday each month starting at 9 AM with breakfast and followed by our business meeting and good fellowship.

We hope to see you all at one of our meetings.

Danny W. Jett, Secretary



Music Ministry

Dear Church Family,

It's bittersweet writing my last newsletter article for BUMC. I am hopeful that the next Music Ministry article you read will include an introduction of your new Music Director. I am at peace knowing God has been preparing the person who will guide this Music Ministry into this next season of life. It will be different, but it will be good and I trust that it will glorify God.

As our family prepares to transition back to Pennsylvania, I wanted to give an official thank you to this congregation for welcoming us. Y'all have truly been our family away from home. We could not have thrived these past four years without the love and support of this church.

Thank you for supporting me during my seminary journey. The generosity of this congregation allowed me to attend the World Evangelism conference in Ecuador which impacted the direction of my ministry path. Y'all were patient with me when school had to become my focus. You stepped in to help and prayed for me along the way. You gave me the space to experiment with new creative ideas in worship and graciously allowed me to explore my preaching voice. I have grown tremendously in the last four years because of you.

And now it's time to go home. But I'm not going empty handed. I'm leaving with more confidence, new skills, knowledge, experiences, and many beautiful memories. I hope that I am leaving you with the same. And I know that when my path brings me down to the Lowcountry, I will have a church home to come back to.

With love,
Keeley DiMartino



Music Ministry

Upcoming Events



From the Palms to the Cross

Join us this **Palm Sunday** (April 13) as we travel from the celebration of waving palms to the agony of Jesus' crucifixion. Along the way we will use sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste to experience the events of Jesus' last week before His death and resurrection.

Save the Date: Kids Praise Parables Presentation

Our Kids Praise Club has been working hard learning about Jesus' parables. They will present their creative interpretations in both services on **Sunday, May 4.**



You do not want to miss this!



The results are in!

We've tabulated all of your votes and have come up with a list of your 11 favorite hymns. Each hymn will be featured in our spring Choir Cantata for both services on **Sunday, May 11.**



Keeley DiMartino
Director of Music Ministry
MusicMinistry@BlufftonUMC.org

Michael Cole
Organist

Nancy Osgood
Director of Wesley Ringers
njcosgood@gmail.com



A Lenten Experience for All Ages Concluding with a Children's Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 13

4 - 5:30 PM

Beginning in Fellowship Hall

Please bring 12+ filled plastic eggs

Join us to experience the events of Holy Week like never before. Our journey will take us to five interactive stations where we'll experience Foot Washing, the Last Supper, Prayers in the Garden, the symbols of Lent, and the Tomb. Next, we'll gather in the Sanctuary to talk about the Good News of Easter (while our special helpers hide the eggs!) Finally, children will be invited to celebrate Easter with an outdoor egg hunt (divided by age groups.)

All are welcome . . . you do not want to miss this!

Please email Sally LeSage at blufftonumc.education@gmail.com

With the number attending so we can have enough elements prepared for each station and enough eggs for the kids!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Since our last newsletter, we have enjoyed Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and a fabulous adult ministries trip to St. Simons Island, GA where we visited the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum and Christ Church Episcopal – learning history of Methodism in America from both.



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 have a minister friend, Shannon Karafanda, who started a movement years ago called Holy Mischief! You can find her at shannonkarafanda.com

Here's a blurb from her website: *Imagine if we lived in a world where kindness is the norm. Where we truly love our neighbor. A world where love is the default. Imagine a movement that is not so much about a place or a program, but about people and a purpose.*

Imagine a movement where faith was not dictated by a calendar. Imagine a movement where people engaged in fun acts of kindness that also renewed their hearts and minds. This is what happens when we engage in [#HolyMischief](https://www.instagram.com/holymischief). Holy Mischief is the moment when love mysteriously disrupts someone's day. This disruption leaves us curious about how to experience more of the excitement that happens when God shows up in simple acts of kindness.

I believe that God created each of us to share His love in unique and creative ways that transform the world and makes meaning of our lives.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

It's hard to believe it's already April! Welcome Spring! Welcome Pollen – not so much! And as we wind down our Lenten season, we can look forward to a glorious Easter morning.

Our Youth Fellowship has been meeting on Wednesdays in the Christian Education office/kids' Sunday School room. We've had lessons on Kindness and Social Media. We have made fabric bookmarks and written notes for new members as a service project. We are planning our activity/service for Earth Day, and we've played games, built towers out of Marshmallows and spaghetti and performed banana surgery! All of our activities are planned with love for God and each other in mind. We meet from 5-6 pm and all 6th – 12th grade youth are welcome!

Our high school graduates will be recognized at both May 4 services. **Audrey Atkins, Aiden Bryant, and Phillip Court** are our graduates this year. If you wish to bring a card or small gift that day, we will have some sort of basket to collect them.

Brenda Armstrong has been leading our Kids' Church at the 8:30 AM service each week. The children are making each piece of the Armor of God and will do a short presentation the end of April. Look for more details in your weekly bulletin!

Our Adult Sunday School classes are both doing book studies and would welcome new members! The men's class meets in Conference Room 2 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM and the women's class meets in Conference Room 1 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM.

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.



BUMC's 2025 REPORT OF NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

Position	Name
Chair Church Council	Doug Oblander
Lay Leader	Sara Jenkins
Lay Leader	Linda Hall
Chair PPRC	Kathy Stutesman (Vice Chair – Annette Fields)
Chair Finance	William Court
Chair Trustees	Mark Flugel
Church Treasurer	Ron Davies
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Ron Davies
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mark Thomas
Lay Member to Annual Conference (alternate)	Joanne Davies
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Gary Taylor
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Patti Taylor
President UMM (BUMMs)	Al Litster
UMYF Representative	Audrey Atkins
Chair Nurture/Discipleship	Debbie Kaulig
Co-Chair Worship	Donna Kozlowski
Co-Chair Worship	Gary Taylor
Chair Education	Mikey Hervochon
Children Ministry	Jo Parrott
Youth Ministry	Christina Bryant
Supervisor Church School	Sally LeSage
Epworth Local Church Representative	Cheri O'Rourke
Native American Coordinator	Melanie Hyler
District Relief Coordinator	Trustees
Prayer Coordinator	Jen Smith
Recording Secretary	Patti Taylor
Church Historian	Al Litster
Church Historian	Dian Litster
Music Director	Keeley DiMartino

Members at Large of Church Council: Nancy Humes, Tom McCann, Shirley Mingledorff, Bud Mingledorff, Mary Ellen Parks, Sarah Snow

Committee of Nominations & Leadership Development:

Previously Elected, Class of 2025: Casmere Kistner, Ralph Lemmon, Debbie Nelson.

Class of 2026: Nancy Osgood. Class of 2027: Jimmy Gainey, Fran Oblander, Sharral Ruth

Committee on Finance (Members at Large): Tom McCann, John Westervelt, William Court, Ron Davies, representative from Trustees and representative from SPPRC.

Charge Committee on Staff/Pastor Parish Relations: Previously Elected, Class of 2025: Ayers Baughman, John Clingerman, Stan Kozlowski. Class of 2026: Annette Fields, Judy Hardie, Kathy Stutesman. Class of 2027: Roy Austin, Jenny Gniech, Beth Newmarker

Trustees: Previously Elected, Class of 2025: Joanne Davies, Janet LaMartina, Jerry LeSage
Class of 2026: Ann Ansel, Brian Osgood. Class of 2027: Mark Flugel, Bruce Hardie, Pat Kirkland

BUMC's 2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Missions & Ministries	
Men's Adult Sunday School	Jimmy Gainey
Women's Adult Sunday School	Sharral Ruth
Altar Flower Coordinator	Debbie Kaulig
Bereavement	Kathy Griebel & Sally LeSage
BMW (Bluffton Methodist Women) Ruth Circle, Joyce Atwood Hannah Ulmer Circle, Jo Parrot & Sarah Snow Esther circle, Debbie Kaulig Anna Circle, Paula Johnson	Nancy Humes
Blessing Bags	Charlie Fields & Alan Edwards
Busy Bees (Maintenance)	Contact Church Office
Landscaping Committee	Tom McCann
Prayer Shawls	Joanne Davies
Safety Team	Tom McCann
Stephen Ministry	Mary Ellen Parks, Bill Stutesman & Janet LaMartina

BUMC Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, 2025
Budget Target is 13 of 52 Sundays or 25%

			YTD Income/ Expense	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget
Worship Offerings:					
Plate			87,235	-	-
Online			45,010	-	-
Total Worship Offerings			<u>132,245</u>	<u>615,500</u>	21.5%
Other Revenue:					
Unrestricted Memorial Donation			-	-	
Altar Flowers, Facility Rental, Interest, Etc.			1,959	8,500	23.0%
UMC Grant			21,855		
Roof/HVAC Donations			-	-	
Total Other Revenue			<u>23,814</u>	<u>8,500</u>	
Total Revenue			<u>156,059</u>	<u>624,000</u>	25.0%
EXPENSE					
Pastoral			40,779	173,402	23.5%
Worship			23,455	98,589	23.8%
Ministry & Education			14,107	74,700	18.9%
Missions			3,523	28,350	12.4%
UMC Apportionments			14,899	59,055	25.2%
Administration & Finance			19,421	84,835	22.9%
Property			43,418	79,215	54.8%
Total Expense			<u>159,602</u>	<u>598,146</u>	26.7%
Surplus YTD			<u>(3,543)</u>	<u>25,854</u>	
Notes:					
Annex Fire Insurance Payment			292,269		
*Annual Property Insurance paid in full					

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

April-June 2025

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

Pastor Scarlett's Email: pastor@blufftonumc.org

Director of Music Ministry — Keeley DiMartino—Email: musicministry@blufftonumc.org

Director of Christian Education — Sally LeSage – Email: blufftonumc.education@gmail.com

Organist — Michael Cole

Church Office — Laurie Palmer—Email: blufftonumc@gmail.com

Financial Secretary—Joann Garner—Email: financeatbumc@gmail.com

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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