

# CHURCH WISE

*The communication link between  
Buford Presbyterian Church and its members*



**April 2024**

## *From the pastor's desk...*



When the Pastor Nominating Committee was interviewing candidates (including myself) for the Head of Staff position here, they asked this question:

*Our committee would like to better understand our potential future. If you were our Senior Pastor looking back on 5 years and 10 years of your successful leadership at Buford Presbyterian Church, what might those years look like? What might have happened during that time?*

This month and next month I would like to give you some of the responses I gave and together let us gauge how I am doing as your pastor and how we are doing together as a church. Now, I will admit that in questions like these, I always shoot for the moon and hope for the best. Yet, I also believe it is good to reflect on these projections to see how things are going--and also to realize that September 2025 will mark 5 years of my leadership here!

### **5- year plan**

- Average 10-15 new families/individuals each year
- Quarterly Community Events held at Buford Presbyterian Church
- Monthly Intergenerational activities for members either in homes or at other locations (movies, bowling, concerts, etc.)
- Increased number of pledging gifts to church and tapping into new resources for giving
- Monthly service projects in the community and yearly intergenerational local/national mission trip with a plan of an international mission every 2-3 years
- Increase online resources for Worship and Christian Education. Have at least 75% of members in a Bible Study and/or Sunday School Class each month whether in-person or online.
- Continue to build relationships/partnerships with BPC Preschool and other local agencies as a form of "soft-evangelism."

Now, to be honest, we are not growing as fast as I would like. We are bringing in new visitors each month and are gaining new members. However, we can always do better together! We have had great success with our Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, and Trunk-or-Treat. We are also devising new ideas and plans for future events. Our finances are doing well, and we continue to decrease our debt while also increasing our endowment for future ministry--and we have plans for this Spring and Fall for continued education on these matters.

Which of these speaks to you? Which one do you want to see us focus more on? Which would you like to talk about with me or our Session?

Thank you BPC for all you do for me, this church, and our community.

Grace and Peace,

RIX

## **Important Upcoming Events**

**APRIL 7**

Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Sanctuary/Online

**APRIL 14**

Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Sanctuary/Online

**APRIL 21**

Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Sanctuary/Online  
Spring Luncheon following 11:00 service

**APRIL 28**

Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Sanctuary/Online

## **In This Issue...**

- **Stephen Ministry**
- **Circle Meetings**
- **Bible Studies**
- **Vacation Bible School**
- **Finance**
- **Missions**
- **Spring Luncheon**
- **Thee Book Club**
- **1 Church 1 Family**
- **Calendars & Directories**
- **From the Editor**



On May 5<sup>th</sup>, our new group of Stephen Ministers will be commissioned at the 11:00 service. We are so grateful for their commitment to this ministry and how they will benefit those who are going through difficult times in their lives.

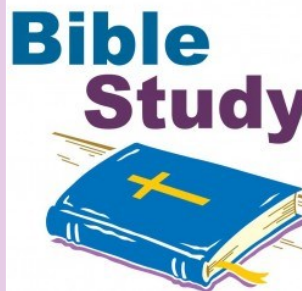
It seems fitting that our Stephen Ministry Training is ending during this Holy Easter season. In the last six months the trainees have learned every aspect of quality care giving but the underlying message each week has been the reminder that we are care givers and God is the Caregiver. They have learned to rely on the Holy Spirit to help them journey with their care receivers to a path of greater wholeness. They are committed to caring for their care receivers with empathy, grace-based acceptance, confidentiality and with a heart that listens. We continue to ask the congregation to pray for them as they become Stephen Ministers.

If you are hurting, please consider having a Stephen Minister walk along with you on your journey. Please call Patti Battle 678-640-8815.

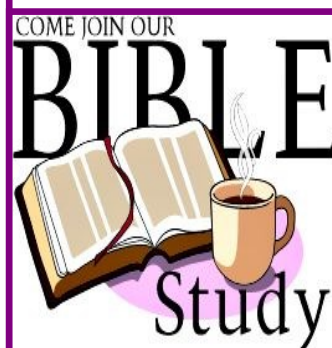


## April 2024 Circle Meetings

- **Florence Settle:** April 8th 10:00- 11:30 a.m. in the Garden View room. This group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month.
- **Circle of Friends:** April 8th 6:00 p.m. at the house of host. This group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month.
- **Coffee Klatch:** April 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Gym. This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



Tuesday Evening Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. You can find the Zoom link in our weekly emails, or email Pastor Carrie at [carrie@bufordpres.com](mailto:carrie@bufordpres.com).



The Wednesday morning Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Garden View Room.



<div> <div>\$</div> <div>February 2024</div> </div>	
Financial Status	
February Receipts:	\$83,628
February Expenses	\$55,204
February Balance:	\$28,424
Y-T-D Receipts:	\$127,243
Y-T-D Expenses:	\$117,041
Y-T-D Balance:	\$10,202



The Buford Presbyterian Church (BPC) Tree of Life sculpture, carved in mahogany with brass and copper leaves depicting a living and growing tree, provides a unique opportunity for persons and groups who believe in the mission and ministry of Buford Presbyterian Church to help assure the continuation of this mission and ministry in the future. Throughout the ages trees have symbolized life and growth; each contribution becomes a gift that lives, and one that will continue to grow.

## Per Capita Assessment

This assessment is a maintenance fee per confirmed member that helps fund national and regional offices, which in turn support affiliated churches, such as ours. If you are able to do so, please pay your per capita assessment of \$28.80 for each confirmed family member. Please mark your check "Per Capita." Thank you in advance for helping your church.



## Clean Start Closet

Clean Start Closet's next collection date is April 28th . ***Leave your donation in the Acolyte Room. The Acolyte Room is the closet on the left as you walk upstairs to the balcony.*** If you would like a tax donation letter for your donation, or if you have any questions email Robin Whitworth at [robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net](mailto:robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net)

## Most needed items:

Casual clothing for men and women  
( mainly jeans)

Men's medium, large, x- large, & 2 x-  
large boxer brief underwear

Tennis shoes, running shoes, casual  
shoes, and boots

Blankets

tarps

cloth grocery bags

## Toiletries:

disposable razors

toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste





**Prison Alliance**  
MAKING DISCIPLES WORLDWIDE

Thanks to everyone who made our Prison Alliance fundraiser a huge success. We collected enough money to buy 80 Bibles!!! This will be such a blessing to so many inmates. Thank you for showing the love of Jesus Christ.



## Spring Luncheon

**Sunday April 21st following the  
11:00 a.m. service**

**Menu is ham, chicken and  
potatoes**

A side dish of your choice is welcome -  
salad, vegetable or dessert

Sign-ups in the Narthex or on sign-up  
genius in the weekly announcements  
and bulletin

Please join us for good food and  
fellowship! Bring a friend!



## Willowwood Rehabilitation &

**Healthcare** in Flowery Branch needs items for prizes for games they play like Bingo. They also need other items for everyday use. Items do not have to be new, just in good condition. If you have any questions, email Dana Kessler at [dana@kessler3.net](mailto:dana@kessler3.net) or Robin Whitworth at [robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net](mailto:robinluvsdogs@bellsouth.net). You can leave items anytime in the **Alcolyte Room (new drop off location)** with "Willowwood" marked on it. Thank you!

Needed items:

Costume jewelry, lotion, nail polish and nail polish remover, make-up ( unused), make-up cases, beanie babies, small stuffed animals, colored pencils, coloring books, word search games, hats, scarves, knick knacks, small holiday decorations, chocolate ( sugar and sugar free), peanut butter crackers



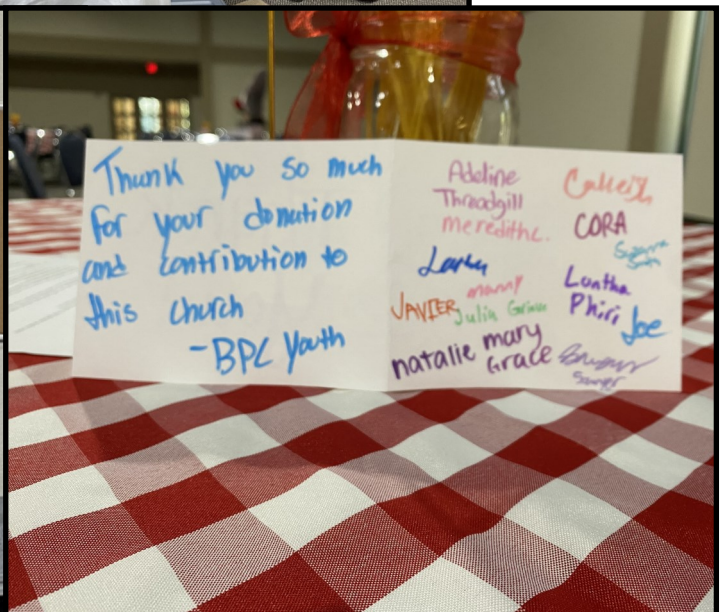
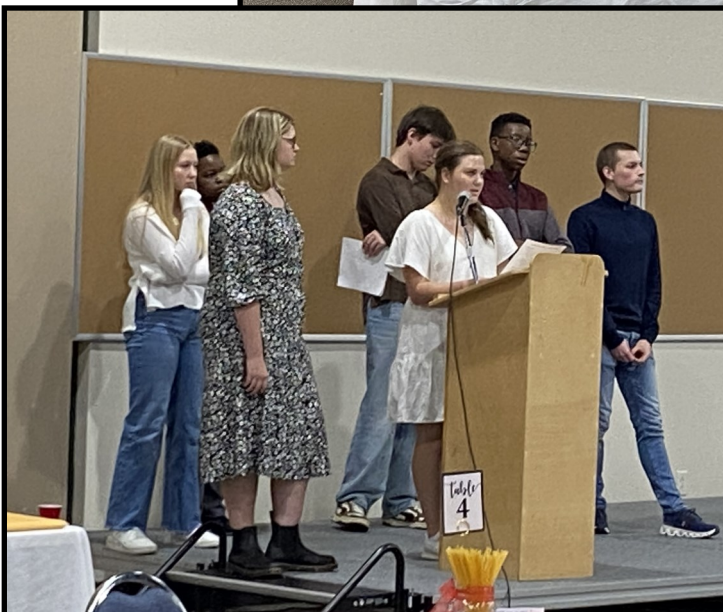
A round glass  
tray/plate that  
was brought  
for a February  
event is  
missing. If

you find it, please return it to  
the church.

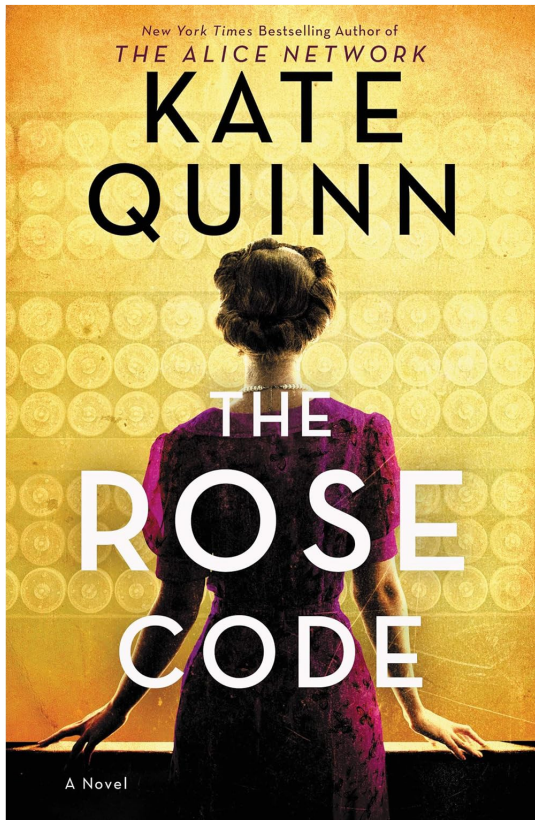
# THANKS BPC FAMILY!!!

Our BPC Youth Group is working hard to raise funds for their 2024 summer trips. They're extremely grateful for their church family's support of their spaghetti luncheon last Sunday. They had a lot of fun planning and preparing the food, as well as organizing the entertainment.

Their next fundraiser will be a Parents Night Out, held on Saturday, April 13, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Be sure to watch for more information about it in the weekly announcements, and check out next month's newsletter for more pictures from the spaghetti luncheon.



# THEE BPC BOOK CLUB



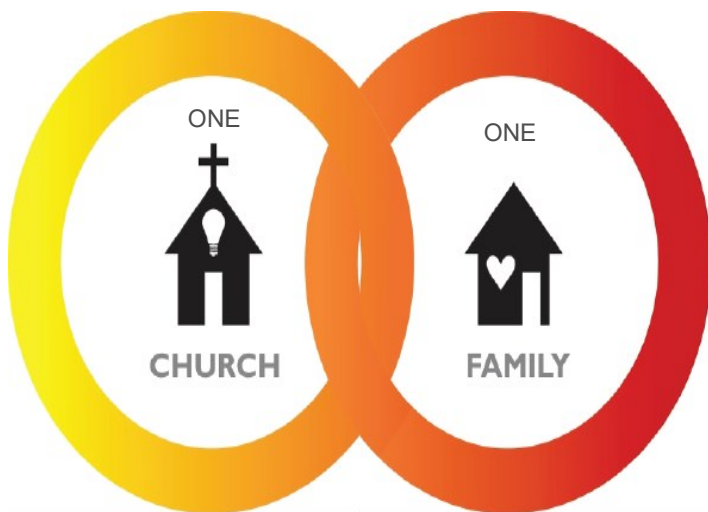
The *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network* returns with another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.

1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to mysterious country estate Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Vivacious debutante Osla is the girl who has everything—beauty, wealth, and the dashing Prince Philip of Greece sending her roses—but she burns to prove herself as more than a society girl, and puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets. Imperious self-made Mab, product of east-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous

husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles, and soon Beth spreads her wings as one of the Park's few female cryptanalysts. But war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart.

1947. As the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, three friends-turned-enemies are reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter--the key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum. A mysterious traitor has emerged from the shadows of their Bletchley Park past, and now Osla, Mab, and Beth must resurrect their old alliance and crack one last code together. But each petal they remove from the rose code brings danger--and their true enemy--closer...

Thee BPC Book Club meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. We gather and have some food and discuss the chosen book. It is a fellowship of books. All are invited (even if you haven't read the book) you will have a great time. For more information contact Scott Hawkins at 770-945-9080



A love of books brings them together, but fellowship is the reason Thee BPC Book Club exists. It's one of the many opportunities BPC offers our congregation to connect with those who have a mutual interest and forge new friendships.

Scott and Diana Hawkins joined the book club in 1994. Scott assumed the role of coordinator in 2009. He wanted the club to have a name that would attract more members and started calling it Thee BPC Book Club. The clever play on words stuck and became the official title.

The book club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:30 p.m. The meetings usually last about an hour and a half, but it depends on the book and level of interest.

Scott describes the book club as democratic. Members volunteer their homes; and provide snacks for upcoming meetings. Books are nominated and voted on as to whether they'll be selected. The only rule is that the person who nominates a book must have read it and be willing to act as the discussion leader for the book.

The goal of Thee BPC Book Club is to have fellowship, and learn through reading. Scott looks forward to the meetings all month and says that he reads books he wouldn't normally read. His favorite genre is science fiction, and his favorite author is Stephen King. Being aware that he's the only person of that persuasion in the club, he looks for books that will broaden his outlook on reading.

Scott and Diana enjoy the fellowship, as well as the chance to learn. The fellowship is so meaningful to them that Scott always emphasizes it when he gets calls from those interested in joining the club. He's delighted to answer questions, and champion the cause of reading. If you're a book lover and people lover, Thee BPC Book

## A LOVE OF BOOKS

Club is a perfect fit for you. Feel free to reach out to Scott for more information at 770-945-9080 or [dshawkins1945@att.net](mailto:dshawkins1945@att.net).



Thee BPC Book Club



Not even a pandemic could prevent the book club from meeting.

## April Birthdays

1	Barnes, Carrie
2	Achu, Kobe
3	Lawson, Eleanor
4	Miles, Mary
4	Vickery, Brittany
4	Zahner, Lynn
6	Magnuson, Lee
6	McKay, Carolyn (Cookie)
7	Bedillion, Judy
7	Conte, Daniel
8	Bowers, Randy
9	Bolick, Michael
9	Findley, Nancy
10	Elder, Therese
10	Walsh, Suzanne
11	Mays, Natalie
12	Burpee, Mary
12	Taylor, Betty Sue
13	Marietta, Madeline
13	Riedesel, Clem
14	Manotas, Dea
15	Atekem, Pekengne (Franklin)
15	Isaac, Tim (Tim)
16	Baillie, Colin

16	Gardner, Ty
18	Phiri, Luntha
19	Rutledge, Courtney
19	Smith, David
19	Snowden, Martha (Marty)
20	Achu, Odilia
20	Smith, Ashley
21	Fletcher, Tom
21	Mapes, Creston (Cres)
21	Threadgill, Leigh
22	Williams, Chase
22	Williams, Connor
23	McKay, Linda
24	Fox, Lisa
24	Kim, Ethan
24	Sanders, David
25	Henderson, Sandra
26	Dunbar, Sue
26	Lawson, David
26	Vickery, Russell
29	Preston, Edward (Ed)
30	Gehle, Aubrey
30	Hibbard, Diane

## April Anniversaries

6	Gary & Diane Humphries
9	David & Eleanor Lawson
16	Chris & Jenny Baker
18	David & Carol Sanders
23	Steve & Lisa McCrae
24	Ty & Susan Gardner
27	Jason & Tracy Ashfield

## Facebook Users

### We need your help.

Please “like” the BPC page on Facebook to stay up to date on everything that is happening (just search for Buford Presbyterian).

Also, sharing BPC posts that you receive on your FB feed will expand the audience who can learn about BPC.



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ALL IN ONE PLACE:** We are excited to see that the updated BPC web site is being viewed by increasing numbers. Visitors and new members are telling us that they learned about BPC from the web site. We encourage members and regular attendees to visit the site [bufordpres.com](http://bufordpres.com) often to stay informed about church activities.

# You Tube

## YouTube channel:

We're on YouTube! Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/bufordpres](http://youtube.com/bufordpres) to watch our worship services.

Senior Pastor	Rev. Rix Threadgill	<a href="mailto:rix@bufordpres.com">rix@bufordpres.com</a>
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Carrie Barnes	<a href="mailto:carrie@bufordpres.com">carrie@bufordpres.com</a>
Director of Music Ministries:	Dr. Lee Barrow	<a href="mailto:lee@bufordpres.com">lee@bufordpres.com</a>
Children's Choir Director:	JoAnna Johnson	<a href="mailto:joanna@bufordpres.com">joanna@bufordpres.com</a>
Organist: & Youth Choir Dir.	Melissa Espy	<a href="mailto:melissa@bufordpres.com">melissa@bufordpres.com</a>
Financial Administrator:	Chris Latona	<a href="mailto:finance@bufordpres.com">finance@bufordpres.com</a>
Administrative Assistant:	JoAnna Johnson	<a href="mailto:joanna@bufordpres.com">joanna@bufordpres.com</a>
Buford Presbyterian Weekday School	Suzanne Uebelacker	<a href="mailto:bufordpws@gmail.com">bufordpws@gmail.com</a>
Church Office:		770-945-6711

## Elders Currently Serving on Session

**Jenny Baker, Clerk**  
**Tim Leimkuehler, Treasurer**

### Class 2024

Chris Baker: Worship  
Lenore Gregory: Congregational Life  
Lynette Grimaldi: Personnel  
Jim Horn: Finance  
Will Mackay: Property  
Dea Manotas: Missions  
Natalie Mays: Youth session member

### Class 2025

Malena Conte: Christian Education  
Billy Elsberry: Property  
Megan Pepperdine: Christian Education  
Charlie Rimmel: Missions  
David Sanders: Worship  
Michelle Smith: Finance

### Class 2026

Tim Leimkuehler: **Finance**  
Sonnie Hardy: **Congregational Life**  
Carolyn Barr: **Congregational Life**  
Sherry Rutledge: **Finance**  
Brenda Pruitt: **Membership**  
Dave Owenby: **Personnel**

## From the Editor

If you would like to submit an article for publication in the BPC Church Wise Newsletter, please e-mail the article to Jean Collion, [jcollion@outlook.com](mailto:jcollion@outlook.com), by the 21st of each month. Phone: 678.773.8980.

## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the May 2024 issue of the BPC newsletter are due by April 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Contact Us

Buford Presbyterian  
Church  
P.O. Box 1358  
Buford, GA 30515

(770) 945-6711

Visit us on the web at  
[www.bufordpres.com](http://www.bufordpres.com)

### **Buford Presbyterian Church**

**Senior Minister**  
*Rev. Rix Threadgill*

**Associate Minister**  
*Rev. Carrie Barnes*

**Director of  
Music Ministries**  
*Dr. Lee Barrow*

**Organist and  
Youth Choir Director**  
*Melissa Espy*

**Director of  
Children's Music**  
*JoAnna Johnson*

**Administrative Assistant**  
*JoAnna Johnson*

**Financial Administrator**  
*Chris Latona*

**Buford Presbyterian Church**  
1242 Buford Highway  
Sugar Hill, Georgia 30518  
770/945-6711  
[www.bufordpresbyterian.com](http://www.bufordpresbyterian.com)

*Postmaster: Address Service Requested*



*Have you remembered the church in your will?*