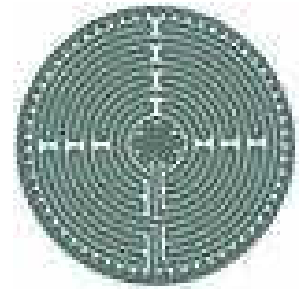


United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ—Our Mission: To Serve
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

FALL 2010
NEWSLETTER



New Year's Resolution

Sometimes I feel like it doesn't really matter what numbers are on the calendar. For most of my life the functional rhythm has the year begin in September. For twenty years or so of my own life, classes of one sort or another started either just before or just after Labor Day... and now, for the foreseeable future it's my kid's turn. (We met Natalie's Preschool teacher last week). Summer is winding down, the pools will all close soon, the earliest of the trees have started to shed their leaves, the temperature has dropped (thank goodness)... and I find myself thinking about New Year's resolutions... I guess they're not *technically* New Year's resolutions but they might as well be... you know the kinds of goals: be diligent with family finances, work out on a regular basis, build quality time into the schedule for my wife and kids each day, learn something new, spend time in prayer; they're the kind of things that would be New Year's resolutions if the calendar cooperated...

Of course, for those of us who make resolutions (whatever time of year) it's often not much more than a couple of months before we abandon them because it seems like the calendar very rarely cooperates... besides the obvious "September Resolution" issue, there's also the unexpected meeting that pops up, or the nearly inevitable fall sniffles, or the water heater quits working or any of a million other things that seem to get in the way of living as we intend to. When we stop to reflect for a few moments we often end up echoing Paul in his letter to the Romans when he says "I don't understand my own actions, I don't do what I want to do and instead I do what I hate." We delay, or justify, or plain old forget, and the intention slips away.

But the Christian life is a life that's marked by intentionality... it happens on purpose... reading scripture, connecting with community, spending time in prayer, reaching out to serve people who are in need, sharing stories of how God is working in your life... it's all part of the Christian life and not much of it happens without intentionality. Unless we make prayer and scripture reading a priority, they won't ever find space in the calendar. Unless we practice noticing and talking about what God is doing in our lives, it's unlikely to come up in conversation. Unless we seek out meaningful ways to connect with people and serve others, it won't happen.

I know this isn't the beginning of the year for everyone, for some people New Year's resolutions may be the furthest thing from your mind, but living intentionally—as Christ would have us live—isn't limited to any particular season or part of the year. The beauty of the Christian life is that there's no bad time. Whenever we turn toward Christ, and from wherever we turn, he's ready to receive us with open arms. There's no need to wait till January first... there's no reason to wait even till tomorrow morning. You can start now. It's never too early to live intentionally.

May God bless you this and every day,

Pastor Dan Holland

United Parish of Bowie - 2515 Mitchellville Road, Bowie 20716
www.unitedparishbowie.org - upbannounce@gmail.com - 301-249-6411



Summer Highlights

Special thanks to all who participated in and helped with our summer programs and events. Thank you to all who helped make our youth mission a huge success. Whether it was attending a Baysox game and building UPB friendships, helping with Operation backpack and serving the local community, or participating in a worship service and growing in faith, it was an amazing summer!



An extra special Men's Night Out



Worship and Picnic in the Park



Get to know UPB!

We will be featuring a few UPB members in each newsletter, starting with our new committee chairs. We will hear from three chairs this Fall and the remaining three in the Winter newsletter. Below are the questions asked of our members. Enjoy!

1. Please give a brief bio of yourself. How long have you been a member at UPB?
2. What makes you excited about taking on the chair position of your ministry area for the coming year?
3. What is your earliest memory of being at a church?
4. How did you find UPB? What led you to become a member? What led you becoming a committee chair?
5. What's something about you that most people don't know?



Amy Fuqua, Children, Youth and Families Committee Chair

I work at Sign*A*Rama Silver Spring as the Customer Loyalty Specialist. Married to Mitch Fuqua, 3 kids, Robbie (15), Megan (12), and Noah (2). I enjoy travelling, reading, and cooking for others. (I also enjoy exploring new foods and wines.) I started coming to UPB about a year ago. I'm very excited about the upcoming year for Children, Youth, and

Families. I hope that as a team we will continue to expand all aspects about the committee- the number of children enjoying Sunday School, the number of youth attending Youth Group, the number of committee members, the amount of involvement that the children and youth have in UPB. I am excited about the new programs that are being set in motion, and the ones that are only seeds of possibilities to come. I grew up attending church regularly, so I'm not sure what my first memory of church is. It was just part of growing up. But I have strong memories of confirmation class, youth group, and church camp. We found UPB after a long 1 year search of local churches. We found it difficult to find a church that the whole family was comfortable. We immediately fell in love with UPB. Being so far from family, we really rely on finding a church family to help keep us sane (or as sane as is normal in our house). One of the things that attracted us to UPB was the direction the children and youth programs were headed. And that is what convinced me to accept the chair on the Children, Youth, and Families Committee. I want to continue with all of the hard work that the committee has put into the programs. Hmm, something most people don't know about me? I'm a shade tree mechanic and a diehard Kansas City Chiefs fan.



Diane Eades, Spiritual Formation Committee Chair

I have been married to Roy for over 36 years. We

have two grown sons. Our older son Ryan is married to Missy Biggart Eades. They live in DC and have one daughter: Payten Chadwick (one year old). Our younger son Kevin lives on Federal Hill in Baltimore.

My passions include:

My job for the last 11 years has been as a Reading Recovery teacher, but now I will be a fulltime ESOL teacher. It is very rewarding to be able to assist children as they learn a second language.

Baseball is one I share with my husband and our extended family. Roy and I have a 21 game package with the Washington Nationals and enjoy visiting other stadiums around the country. Eventually we will get to all of them.

Music is a passion I have had for most of my life. One of my earliest memories of church included being involved with the Wednesday night program of Bible study, dinner, ending with choir rehearsal. I was very surprised when I was asked to

direct the choir in 1989, but it has been one of the most rewarding endeavors I have experienced. The most humbling was being honored by the congregation with the anthem written by Joseph Martin. I was able to personally thank him in August at Music in the Mountains.



We have been attending UPB since 1986 and joined in the summer of 1989. Our family knew of UPB because we were involved with the South Bowie Baseball program. Matt Bickel was a player on one of those teams and a very good pitcher. Roy thought if we got to know Matt's parents, maybe they would let Matt travel to games away from South Bowie. So we began attending UPB, liked what we found there and have been there ever since.

One of the most profound experiences of my life was to be a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee. It required me to reflect, pray and trust God like no other experience. It has been gratifying to see how the congregation has embraced Dan and his family. Dan has expressed and demonstrated some new ways of how the congregation relates with one another. I want to be part of that and when I was asked, the timing was such that I could accept this new and exciting challenge.

I look forward to dialoging with many of you as we seek ways to work toward the three goals we have determined as most important for our congregation. Visioning how we wish to be in the future will help us to take the steps toward these goals.

With a heart tuned for praise, I am excited about this next year!!



Marva Connolly, Membership and Fellowship Committee Chair

I am married to Paul, 31 years this August 25, and have 2 children: Joe, 25, who works for the City of Bowie and Alane, 22, who just got a job teaching Kindergarten in Anne Arundel County. I am beginning my second year as a 2nd grade teacher at St. Andrews United

Methodist School in Edgewater. I have been a member of UPB for 26 years and came to the church originally because of my friends Mr. & Mrs. Freudig. I was very surprised to be asked to take the chair of Membership and Fellowship as I have never been a member of the committee. I'm hoping that, with the help of the experienced members and some "new blood" we will be able to expand the work of the committee. I have no idea how old I was, but my first memories of church are Sunday School. All Sunday School classes met in the big room downstairs to sing before going to class. I remember using those old, worn hymnals to learn "church songs"! Something people don't know about me: I was a Pennsylvania Maple Princess my Senior year in high school! (Hard to imagine me as a princess, isn't it!?!?)

Committee Reformation Timeline

Steps Along The Way

Early 2009 - Interviews with leadership of the church pointed to a need for better communication.

April 2009 - Church Leadership Retreat with a consultant who gave feedback that moving toward health and growth for the church would involve clarifying responsibilities and lines of communication.

June 2009 - Natural Church Development Survey taken by the congregation identified church structure as one of our potential growth areas.

Sept. 2009 - Proposal for a new way of doing committees discussed by the Parish Board

Sept. 2009 - The second draft of the proposal was presented at the Church Leadership Retreat for feedback and questions.

Sept.-March 2010 - The concept was refined by the Board and other interested parties.

March 2010 - The Committee Purpose Statement document was presented to congregation and endorsed at a congregation meeting as a guide moving forward.

May 2010 - Roles and responsibilities of the new committee chairs were discussed and agreed upon at the Church Leadership Retreat.

June 2010 - The Board established a team to search out people called to be Committee Chairs (a one year term renewable twice).

Sept. 2010 - Committee Chairs in place Where We're Headed

Fall 2010 - New Committees calling members, forming, establishing goals and budget requests for 2011 calendar year.

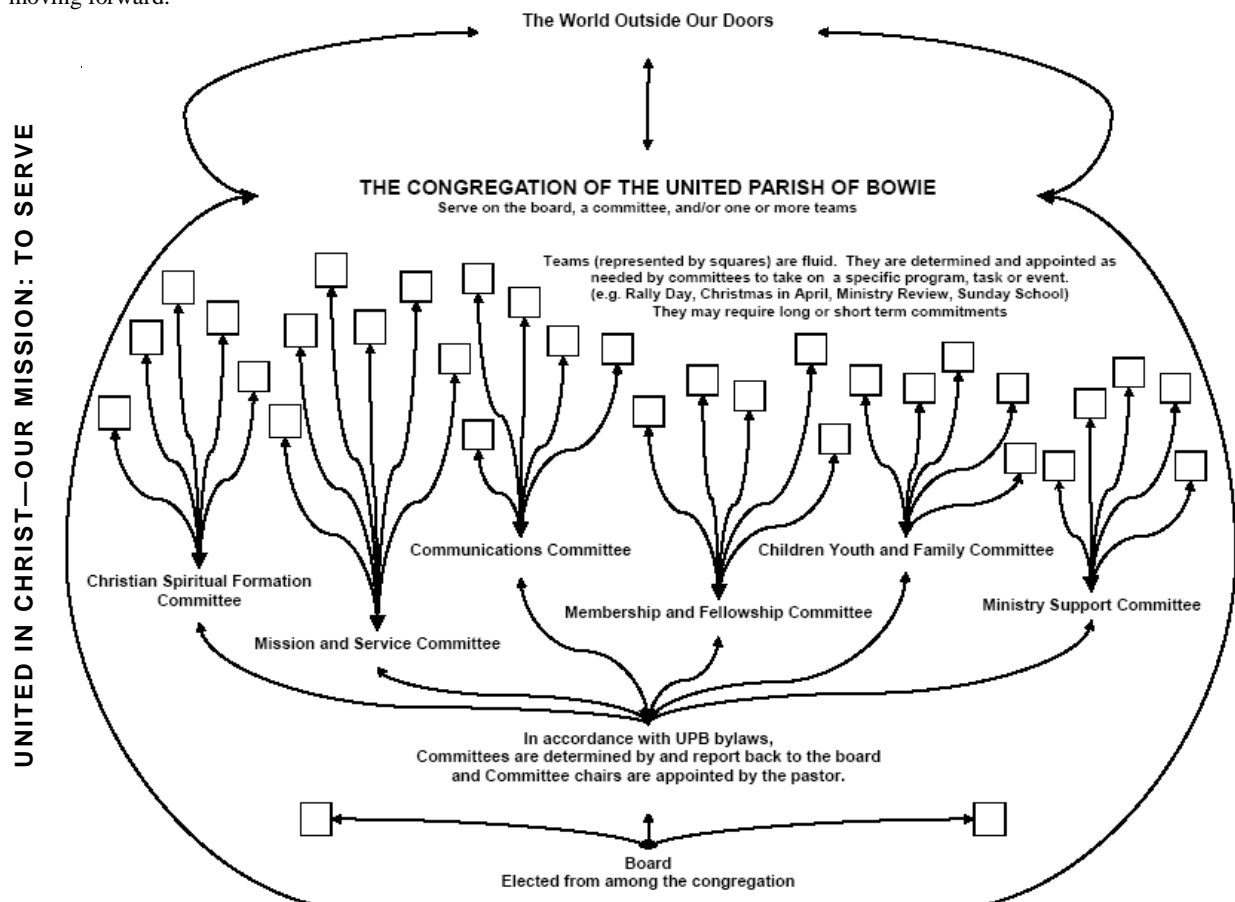
Winter 2010/11 - Committees discerning God's call for their ministry area, visioning for the future, evaluating what's going on, and establishing teams as necessary to take on specific programs, tasks and events

A Word On Committees And Teams

Committees: will focus on discerning God's direction, visioning for the future, evaluating their ministry area and planning who will take charge of which specific tasks, events and/or programs. They will meet at least 4 times throughout the year. They will be

responsible to make budget requests and keep a record of their meeting. They will report back to the Board a couple of times a year and be in communication with other committees as needed (for instance: to let the communications committee know what's up so it can be publicized.)

Teams: will be commissioned for tasks, events or programs by committees. Some will be a long term commitment with regular, more formalized meetings (e.g. choir, youth mission planning, Seeds) others will be a short term commitment without any formal meetings (e.g. warm nights, Christmas in April, Rally Day) and still others will be somewhere in-between. The teams will be made up of anyone who wants to participate in that specific ministry, including but not limited to committee members. Teams should report back to their committee to share how things are going (and after the fact, how things went!).



Ongoing Fellowship Opportunities

Chat & Chew

Come and enjoy great food and friends after the worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please bring something to share on the 2nd Sunday if your last name begins with A to G or on the 4th Sunday if your last name begins with H to Z.

Men's Breakfast

Join this great men's fellowship opportunity the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am at the Bowie Bob Evans.

Men's Night Out

7 pm at Glory Days. Be there on the last Tuesday of the month.

Women's Night Out

The fall Women's Night Out is coming! Watch for more information soon.

Book Club

The first Friday of each month at 7 pm. The September meeting will take place on Friday, September 10th (due to Labor Day weekend) where we will discuss *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay.

Brunch Bunch

A new fellowship opportunity this year! Pastor Dan and his family will be hosting a monthly Saturday "Brunch Bunch" in their home from 9 to 11 am. It will be a time for four, different every month, UPB households to get to



know each other better as they enjoy a potluck brunch. The hope is that every UPB household will get an opportunity to sign up for one Brunch Bunch during the course of the year. Brunch Bunch dates include: October 30th, November 20th, December 18th, January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, and May 14th. Please look at your calendars and sign up on the Brunch Bunch clipboard in the Narthex.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Adult Education

Adult Education will meet Sunday mornings from 10 to 10:45 am starting September 19th. This Fall, Pastor Dan Holland will be guiding us as we take a deeper look into real life evangelism. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Childcare available.

Children, Youth, and Families

Sunday School kicks off on September 19th during the 11 am worship service. Children will begin in the service and then head to Sunday School for fun and faith building.

Seeds of Worship

Spread the word about the new Seeds of Worship mid-week program for children and their families on Wednesdays from

6 to 7 pm at UPB. We will eat dinner, play games, and explore music as we worship together. The fall session will go from September 15th through



November 17th. Please talk with Rebecca Holland if you are interested in participating, volunteering, or providing a meal.

Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every

month, after Chat & Chew, for a time of fellowship and faith building. Don't miss the youth group monthly outings – either a fun event or service project (also fun!).

Prayer Group

Please join us for an evening of prayer at 7 pm in the Holland home on Tuesday September 21st, Tuesday October 19th, and Tuesday November 30th. Please contact Rebecca Holland if you would like to join or if you have any prayer requests.

Choir

The UPB Choir has already begun but it is not too late to join! Please consider becoming a part of this meaningful ministry. Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. Please contact Diane Eades to find out how you can get involved.

What is God's Game Plan for My Life?

by Shirley Klotz Bickel

One summer when our four children were growing up, our family planned a "big deal" trip to visit relatives in Arizona and then to Los Angeles to be wowed by its popular attractions. Our kids were so excited because we usually had spent our vacations visiting family in Ohio and Illinois. In addition, this was the first time all six of us had ever flown anywhere together. What an adventure and a shock to our budget!

Well, my sister and her husband took us to see Mount Lemon and the other tourist sites, but one of our family members became ill. Oh well, he'll get better, certainly. So we excitedly boarded the plane in Tucson for LA. We walked around the LA airport and realized we could not continue with our plan. One of us was very ill. We looked longingly out of the airport windows wondering what it would've been like if we could've fulfilled our plans. Now we were

just passing time waiting to catch a plane back to Maryland. Oh yes, we bought one of our kids a blue "California" t-shirt to suggest he'd been to California. I kept that memento for years.

Was that vacation a disaster? Not really. I wouldn't want to repeat the disappointment or the suffering part, but some good things happened. We were able to realize part of our purpose in going on this adventure. You and I know that when the unexpected or when sickness tries to dominate our lives, we can carry on with courage and accomplish lesser goals—being together, supporting one another, seeing the humorous and the good in a painful or disappointing situation. If we turn to our Maker, God will provide a reason for continuing in the midst of whatever unanticipated event threatens to thwart our thoughts and efforts.

The trip reminds me that it's very

important we have a game plan for our lives. We can't just let life happen without our plan for today and tomorrow. When our vision of what life should be doesn't seem to be working out, we need to try with more diligence to find the next step God has visualized for us. God knew each of us while we were still in our mother's womb. In Psalm 139 the Psalmist declares that God knows the number of our days before any of them existed. It's left to us to seek God's input as we make a plan for our lives. When our plan seems to fall apart, it's then that we turn to God again seeking new courage, insight and wisdom for the day.

Shirley Klotz Bickel C.2010

I borrowed from former Redskins coach, Joe Gibbs, the phrase "game plan for life." I recently finished the audio version of his book, Game Plan for Life, and recommend it to others.

Upcoming Special Events

Rally Sunday Sept. 12th

It is time to rally together and begin the program year! Rally Sunday will take place on Sunday September 12th. We will worship together at 11 am, followed by an all church picnic, ministry fair, and more! Come enjoy good food, friends, fellowship, and find out what's in store for the 2010-2011 program year at UPB!

Fall Clean Up Day Sept. 25th

Please volunteer your time and talents to help make UPB beautiful on Saturday September 25th! There will be a variety of tasks from fixing, organizing, cleaning, painting, gardening,

and more. All help is appreciated. We will be both inside and outside so please come rain or shine. See you at 9 am.

UPB Fall Leadership Retreat Oct. 16th

Please join us from 9 to noon on Saturday, October 16th as we grow through prayer, team building activities, and looking toward the future at UPB.

Annual Stewardship Campaign and Consecration Sunday Oct. 17th to Nov. 7th

The Annual UPB Stewardship Campaign will happen during the worship services on October 17th, 24th, 31st, and will

We want to hear from you!

*Please send all announcements, photos,
and articles to upbannounce@gmail.com.*

Winter Newsletter Deadline: 11/15

culminate with the Consecration Sunday Worship Service and Luncheon on November 7th. It is an important time as we come together to discern the giving of our time, talents, and offerings for the coming year.

Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday Nov. 21st

Please plan to attend the UPB Service of Thanksgiving during worship on Sunday, November 21st. Invite friends and family!

UPB Youth Mission Trip



provided little more than the essentials.

Life in the town seemed slow, due to the small population and a lack of things we take for granted. Most of the cars we saw were run down, as were the

In July, a group of 17 youth and 4 adults from UPB and All Saints embarked on a mission trip to Gary, WV to do repair work on houses of people in need. The area was rural and mountainous and very green. The houses were scattered throughout the town. The hardware store, and the grocery store are far away. Even the Walmart is far away. Indeed we never even saw a grocery store as I drove through the area.

People lived very simply and could not afford many luxuries, as jobs were hard to come by. One of the houses our group worked on was owned by a woman who worked at pizza hut and her brother, who was unemployed. The woman said that she was one of the lucky people in the town to have a job, because, as the experience mission people told us, the mostly abandoned coal industry in the town was the main source of work. Their house consisted of one floor, with four rooms. These rooms were a bathroom, bedroom, living room and kitchen. They were small, and

houses. Any luxuries people did have were old, and worn. The roads in the neighborhoods were very narrow, such that two cars could not easily pass, and no one parked on the street. If someone did own a car, they did not own a second.

Before we worked with the people of the town, the experience mission leaders told us not to act like we were above them, and described the people as champions. This I found to be true after meeting several



members of the town. Despite living in difficult conditions, the people of the town were good natured and friendly to each other and to us. People we had never met would wave as we drove by. They, of course, knew we were not locals and they waved anyway.

A Tribute to Diane and Sue

On June 6, 2010, United Parish of Bowie and friends presented an anthem to honor Diane Eades, choir director, and Sue Kennedy, accompanist, for faithfully sharing their gifts of music with UPB. The anthem, "A Heart To Praise My God", was written by Joseph Martin/Charles Wesley. We are truly blessed to have these wonderful ladies leading our choir and for their dedication to God.



Our home for the week was an abandoned school, used as a boarding house for mission teams. The boys slept in one room and the girls in another, but we had to use a coed bathroom. The rooms were filled with bunk beds, and had no air conditioning. With no electronic devices like computers or televisions, we had little to do but socialize with our team when not on the job site. Perhaps this explains why the people of the town communicate so easily. Despite the fact that we always knew where our next meal was coming from, our living conditions gave us a taste of summertime in Gary.

Most of the repair work our teams did involved taping, "mudding" and then sanding drywall seams on walls and ceilings. It was uncomfortable and labor intensive work. At the end of the day we would go back to our abandoned school, tired and covered in dust from sanding. Meals were basic and communal and we were hungry.

By the end of the week when we put a coat of primer on the wall and saw a more finished project, it was very satisfying. It was also good to work among friends and talk and joke while we worked. Sometimes in the evening we would share stories with other groups about our experiences during the week. Being in the presence of so many people who have a heart for this kind of service is very inspiring!

Fall 2010

UPB Worship 11 am

Nursery Care Available for Infants and Young Children
Sunday School Available for Preschool to Elementary Children

RALLY SUNDAY - September 12th

Special Worship Service 11 am

All Church Picnic and Ministry Fair following

All are welcome! Come experience meaningful worship, friendly fellowship, good food, games, and more as the United Parish kicks off its program year. Invite your friends and family to join in the fun!

United Parish of Bowie - 2515 Mitchellville Road, Bowie 20716

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The United Parish of Bowie
PO Box 1571
Bowie, MD 20717

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