

United Parish of Bowie

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

SPRING 2010
NEWSLETTER

A Lenten Journey

I look outside and it hardly seems like it's time for the spring newsletter. There's snow on the ground; still more than two feet left over from the record setting year. Even though the big storm is over (at least as far as we know), the effects are sure to be with us for a while. Mounds of snow are piled nine or ten feet high just to make the roads passable and lots park-able. It takes longer than it seems like it should to go just about anywhere—I spent about 20 minutes just getting to highway 3 from the BJ's parking lot because roads that used to be four lanes are now only one... and who knows how long they'll be that way. And as I thought about it, maybe there's some sort of faith lesson there for us. After all, Jesus once talked about a narrow road as the way to eternal life.



The gospels are filled with stories of Jesus walking on various roads... he walked the roads around Galilee as his public ministry started, he walked the road to Jerusalem after he predicted his death and was transfigured on the mountaintop, the triumphal entry happened on the road into the city on Palm Sunday and of course on Good Friday he walked the road toward Calvary carrying his cross as far as he could before someone else picked it up and carried it for him.

The roads are different, but we will surely see many roads as we go about our usual business during the season of Lent: the road to the grocery store, the road to work, the road to church. Toward the beginning some may still be covered in snow... certainly the mounds will be around for a while... and as we find ourselves on the road: whether literally narrowed or even after the snow is all gone and they're back to normal, I'd invite you to remember another journey that we're on together. For the road Jesus talked about as the narrow road to eternal life had everything to do with the spiritual journey we're on in the midst of the physical journeys that we take. The Lenten journey is characterized by the discipline of prayer and paying attention to God in your life. It's the journey of listening to God through scripture and through the little nudges of the Spirit, it's the journey of learning beyond a doubt that we are loved and valued by God precisely for who we are, it's the journey of sharing God's love with open hearts and open hands with people who are in need. That's the kind of Lenten journey we're invited to and that's the kind of Lenten journey I pray for us all!

Wishing you a Blessed Lent and a Happy Easter,

Pastor Dan Holland

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Ongoing UPB Lenten Opportunities:

Lenten Worship Services

Sundays at 11 am (2/21 to 3/21)

Lenten Prayer Time

Sundays at 10 am (2/21 to 3/21)

Lenten Dinners

Wednesdays 6 to 7:30 pm (2/24 to 3/24)

Special UPB Lenten Services:

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday February 17th at 7:30 pm

Palm Sunday - Sunday March 28th at 11 am

Maundy Thursday - Thursday April 1st at 7:30 pm

Good Friday - Friday April 2nd at 7:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY - Sunday April 4th at 11 am

Lenten Dinners

Wednesdays 6 to 7:30 pm
2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, & 3/21.

All are invited to share a meal and worship with us on Wednesdays during Lent.

You can sign up at church to bring a part of the meal.

Dinner will be at 6:00pm to 6:45, followed by a brief worship & time of sharing from 6:45 to 7:30.

It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship during the meal and getting to know UPB members.

Please contact Jan Barbato with questions or to sign up to bring part of a dinner!

Lenten Prayer Time

Sundays 10 to 10:45 am
2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, & 3/21.

All are invited to a time of Lenten prayer and reflection on Sundays during Lent.

We will begin with a group prayer time leading into a time of guided individual prayer as we explore the stations of the cross, walking with Jesus toward Easter.

If you have a desire for more time for prayer but find it hard in the craziness of everyday life, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Everyone is welcome. Come as you are able. Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 17th at 7:30 pm. Ash Wednesday is the traditional service of repentance as we enter into the season of Lent. During the service we will worship together, listen to scripture, share in communion, and receive an ash cross on our foreheads.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 1st at 7:30 pm. Maundy Thursday is the traditional celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples during Holy Week and Jesus' commandment to love one another. During the service we will worship, listen to scripture, & share communion.

Good Friday

Friday April 2nd at 7:30 pm. Good Friday is the traditional service to remember the Passion of Christ, Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. During the service we will worship together in scripture, song, and silence.

Board Corner by Herb Sheppard, Vice Moderator of UPB Board

The Nominating Committee is about to announce their nominee to the Congregation to replace the seat on the Board vacated by Robin Burgess. Robin made huge strides to organize the financials of the church while working with Becky DeMeo, Will Busch, and Roy Eades to get our records into an orderly format. They are now in Quicken and are much easier to understand and reconcile. Better understanding of our financial status facilitates better decision making. The Board plans to email the 2010 budget to all UPB members this year prior to the Congregational Meeting to approve. This opportunity to review the budget in advance will be a first. As a part of the 2010 Budget the Board plans to integrate the ongoing consolidation of UPB's Committee structure and create specific budget line items for each committee. Committee Chairs have been solicited by Kathy Busch for their input.

Besides the Budget other items under review by the Board are:

*Youth Mission Trip to West VA in late July (Kathy Busch is leading this).

*Renovation of flower beds around the front entrances to the church and upgrading the central walkway from the parking lot to the front of the church (thanks to Alec and Robin Burgess for spearheading this effort).

*Paving the parking lot at some time in the future.

*Determining how to handle some of the administrative responsibilities currently being handled so efficiently by Rebecca Holland when she gives birth to her third child. Anyone interested in assisting with the weekly bulletin or quarterly newsletter should let Pastor Dan know of your interest.



UPB in the Snow

Good Samaritans A True Story by Doug Snyder

On Friday the fifth, when we landed at JFK, after two weeks in Egypt, we found all flights to BWI were cancelled because of snow. We quickly decided the best alternative to avoid getting marooned in NYC would be the Acela, the fast Amtrak train. We got to Penn Station just in time to catch the 5:30 p.m. train. We arrived at the New Carrollton station around nine only to find out the downstairs taxi stands were deserted as the accumulation of snow was rapidly closing everything down, including the Amtrak Station. Somebody said there might be a taxi upstairs, so away we went. We weren't dressed for the weather—I had only a windbreaker and no gloves. A handful of people were there hoping to get a bus or taxi. One man gave us some numbers to call. As Nancy was dialing but getting no answers, a shuttle van pulled up to pick up the man who was going to a nearby neighborhood. He took a look at our plight, and persuaded the driver, a diminutive lady from Trinidad, to take us too.

In the meantime, I was having a conversation with a man that went like this: "I'm from Wyoming, I can handle this stuff. " I turned to him and said, "I'm from Wyoming!" Then he said, "I'm from Casper." I replied, "I'm from Casper!" He asked me if I was just echoing him and I said no. At that point he pulled off his gloves and said I needed them worse than he did. He then left with a companion, saying they were going to walk to Doctor's Hospital. As we were being driven to Bowie, I realized the two men were homeless and were forced to leave the now closed Amtrak station. After a challenging ride with the skilled driver, we were delivered two blocks from our destination, and made the short trek home with our luggage. Soon I shall be returning to that Amtrak station to return the homeless Samaritan's gloves.

Unlike Any Other

A Poem by UPB's Shirley Klotz Bickel

Only fridge's steady hum breaks night's silence
inside and out. Surrounded by darkness
I trudge to whiteness beyond.
Night and day have melted into one.
Sky still luminous without winter's sun
as far as eye can see.
Snowy crystals whirl with the wind,
swirl and twirl, float downward to coat
the chimney-tops and frost the darkened silhouettes.
What a destiny to blanket earth with beauty,
hush noisy freeways and clogged city's streets,
then whistle-stop the earthlings.

Silently wet whiffs of snow surround me,
waken me to reality.
How can it be that every snowflake is
unlike any other?
O grand Designer of every frozen crystal,
thronging the sky with purity and silence,
unearth my eyes to your guiding hand,
that you alone purposed for me.



Men's Fellowship

As you know some of our male members have been meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month for breakfast at Bob Evans in Bowie. In an effort to accommodate men whose work obligations prohibit their participation at this hour we're adding an alternative. We're planning our initial *evening* fellowship meeting on Tuesday February 23rd at 7 PM at "Glory Days" in Bowie. If there is enough interest we'll make this a permanent fellowship event for the 4th Tuesday of every month. Stay tuned.

Book Club

Please join us for these upcoming dates and books:

February 19th - Killer Angels
(Rescheduled due to Snow)

March 5th - History of the World
in Six Glasses

April 9th - 90 Minutes in Heaven
(2nd Friday due to Holy Week)

May 7th - The Year of Living
Biblically

Please contact Jan Barbato for more information.



The UPB Welcome Snowman

Upcoming UPB Events:

Get excited and mark your calendars:

- Christmas in April: April 24th
- Mom's Day: May 9th
- Leadership Retreat: May 15th
- Pentecost Sunday: May 23rd
- Chartering Sunday and End of Year Celebrations: June 6th
- Appreciation Sunday: June 13th
- Dad's and Grad's: June 20th
- July and Aug: 10 am Worship
- 4th of July Fellowship: July 4th
- Youth Mission: July 18th to 23rd
- Youth Sunday: August 8th

UPB Choir

The UPB Choir is looking for new recruits for the season of Lent and through the end of the year! Please think about joining the fun.

All abilities are welcome.

Rehearsals take place
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the
sanctuary.

Please talk with choir director,
Diane Eades if you are
interested.

Prayer Group

Please join the UPB Prayer Group for a time of prayer on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Holland home. Upcoming dates include: March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th. Please come as you are able!

We want to hear from you!
Please send all announcements,
photos, and articles to
upbannounce@gmail.com .
Summer Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, May 16th..

Christmas in April

Mark you calendars for **Saturday April 24th** for this annual community service day. We will again help those in need in Prince Georges County with home repairs, painting, and general cleanup through this annual PG County sponsored event. For young people 14 and older this is a great way to earn community service hours needed for graduation. Contact Herb Sheppard with any questions (herbshep@aol).

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Greening the Sanctuary

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual greening of the sanctuary in December and the clean up in January. Our Christmas Eve Service and Festival of Carols were even more beautiful as a result of your hard work!

Festival of Carols

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy, and heart to making our Festival of Carols a huge success! DVDs are available of the service. Talk to Pastor Dan.

Chat & Chew

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in treats to share

for our 2nd and 4th Sunday Chat & Chew after worship. Thank you!

Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who gives their time and talents in making UPB a wonderful place to be. Whether you serve in leadership, sing in the choir, teach adult ed or Sunday School, work behind the scenes, or pray for the ministries, you are appreciated! Thank you also to everyone who helped clean up all the snow!



UPB Festival of Carols

Want to Get Involved?

There are a variety of ways to get involved at UPB! Talk with Pastor Dan Holland to find out more!

Our Support of Living Waters for the World Helps in Haiti

The UPB Children continue to support the Living Waters for the World ministry through their offerings and encouraging congregational offerings in their "water jug." Our giving has helped in Haiti both before and after the earthquake. Here is an update from Living Waters from the World in Haiti:

1. *All of our Haitian partners and their families are unhurt!*
2. *Six of nineteen clean water systems were destroyed.*

3. *Living Waters for the World system sites that were unharmed are continuing to produce water to the best of their abilities.*
4. *Following the Priority Plan of Action for Haiti, destroyed systems will be rebuilt as soon as possible, with first priority given to reconstructing the building and system at the orphanage in Leogane, where presently 100 orphans are now homeless.*

We thank you for your prayers and financial support thus far. We continue to need your help. Please:

1. *Pray for all involved.*
2. *Donate to Living Waters for the World.*
3. *Spread the Word to others.*

Please add your contributions to the UPB children's Living Waters for the World water jug located in the Narthex. Your support makes a difference!

UPB Children's Ministry: A Great Place to be this Spring!

Nursery

Our wonderful nursery provides care for young children, from birth to preschool age, during the 10 am Adult Education Hour as well as during the 11 am worship service.

The nursery will continue to provide our infants and toddlers with a loving environment to play and grow this Spring.

Younger Kids Class

Our younger kids Sunday school class, with kids from preschool to kindergarten, attends the beginning of the worship service before heading to their classroom where they participate in an interactive lesson from the Presbyterian Church Wee Believe curriculum.

The Younger Kids Spring classes will journey through the Bible with the church lectionary as we head into the time of Lent. Students will enjoy Bible stories, drama, art, play time, and more as they explore the stories of scripture. We are in need of more people to volunteer with these amazing students. Please talk with Nikki Hillary if you are interested in serving as a teacher or a shepherd (teacher's helper).



Younger Kids Sunday School Class

Older Kids Class

Our elementary kids Sunday school class attends the beginning of the worship service before heading to their classroom where they participate in the exciting Power Express curriculum.

The Older Kids Spring Class will be exploring the Shema and the Beatitudes.

The Old Testament passage (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) known as the Shema, calls us to "love God with all our heart, soul, and might." In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus repeated the Shema, as being the most important commandment, and

then added the second commandment, "to love your neighbor as yourself."

The Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5, are not commandments but rather a description of what is good, or "blessed" in God's eyes.

We are in need of more people to volunteer with these amazing students. Please talk with Nikki Hillary if you are interested in teaching a class or serving as a shepherd (a teacher's helper).

Please keep our children and children's ministry in your prayers!

Thank you Linda Hutchinson! We will miss you Mrs. H!

A big thank you goes out to Linda Hutchinson from the children, children's ministry, and UPB congregation for her amazing ministry to the UPB children. "Mrs. H" (as the children call her) put

countless hours and endless love into creating the younger kids classroom into an inviting space and then ministering to the children as the younger kids Sunday School teacher.

We will miss her as she moves down south and look forward to seeing her when she comes to visit. Please continue to thank her for the important work she has done for UPB!

Cookies for UPB

The UPB children had a wonderful time frosting cookies and then giving them to the congregation following the Christmas Eve worship service on December 24th.

The children and those receiving cookies were excited! Thank you to everyone who helped the children spread the Christmas spirit again this year!



Older Kids Class Frosting Cookies

Youth Summer Mission by Kathy Busch, Youth Mission Coordinator

The United Parish Youth Group will be participating in a mission trip to McDowell County, West Virginia from July 18 – 23, 2010. McDowell County is one of the poorest communities in the U.S.



Coal was a leading industry in the area until its decline in the 1950s. Much of the population left the area in search of better opportunities. Today only 50% of adults in the county have received a high school diploma and the median income in the area is around \$17,000. General home repair for families living below the poverty level is often overlooked. Accordingly, the projects for the youth will consist of work/construction oriented physical labor, focusing on home repair and community restoration. The youth will work alongside the families they are serving, providing all with

the opportunity to be shaped and transformed by the experience. The cost of the trip is \$400 per person plus additional traveling expenses. Over the next few months, the youth will be working on various fundraising activities to help with these expenses. Please support their efforts as you are able. Adult leadership/participation for this trip is still needed and registration is open until all spaces are filled, so if you are interested, please call Pastor Dan, or Kathy Busch.

Spring 2010

UPB Worship 11 am

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

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The United Parish of Bowie

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Address Correction Requested