



## Special points of interest:

- Intentional Interim Ministry - The Process is Underway
- Ask the Pastor: A Crash Course about Lent
- Special Services during Lent
- Get to Know UPB: Julissa Orta
- Art & Music Camp
- Our Mission and Service Opportunities

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI

### INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY...THE PROCESS IS UNDERWAY

As your Gap Minister, the plan is for me to be with you through the end of April. As your Board and I explore the interim pastor process, the following will occur:

1. At the Board meeting, held February 7, Rev. Dick McFail - Stated Clerk of National Capital Presbytery and Rev. Nancy Clark – a representative from the Committee on Ministry who has previous experience as an interim, discussed the process for calling an interim minister and the role and expectations of an interim minister and the Board during the months ahead before you call someone to be your next head of staff pastor.
2. The Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn, the General Presbyter for National Capital Presbytery, preached on Sunday, February 12. Following the service he was available for questions and answers during your time of food and fellowship.

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In the days and weeks ahead, your Board will identify specific roles and responsibilities for an interim, interview potential candidates, and then call someone who will lead you through the next phase of your journey. In the document "INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTRY GUIDELINES - the introduction to the description of the interim period and process" congregations are reminded:

*The interim period is the "between times" for a congregation bridging the time when their installed pastor has resigned and departed and another pastor is called and installed. This period in the life of a congregation is not a tragedy, rather it is a creative and dynamic moment in their corporate faith journey and history.*

*"Whenever a minister leaves a congregation, for whatever reason (death, retirement, acceptance of a new call, being asked to resign, etc.), the departure always evokes some kind of crisis. It also provides a congregation with an occasion for new opportunity in ministry. It is indeed a time of freedom for you, as lay leaders, to make of this occasion what you will. It is one time in the life of a congregation when everyone expects change, and you have the choice of being victims of change or of taking advantage of the opportunity to share in the planning of that change." - Phillip Porcher, "What You Can Expect from an Interim Pastor and an Interim Consultant," (The Alban Institute), p.2.*

I realize the between times of Dan's departure and the call of an installed pastor can seem like a long time and some may begin to wonder how the church will manage until someone is called. This is a normal reaction to such a situation. But herein lies the hope for the future: *...those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. ~Isaiah 40:3.*

May you claim this promise! And, for those of you who were here on January 29 for the reaffirmation of you baptismal vows: remember the vows of your baptism and share the significance of such with those who were not present in worship. Recall how you are a beloved child of God, loved more than you can even begin to imagine. Know that God loves

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI, *continued*

you too much to leave you the way you are. Take time to share with the world whose you are (not who you are – there is a difference), and to know that the Spirit of God will guide you and direct you in the days ahead.

As a congregation you are blessed with a Board that understands its responsibilities, takes those responsibilities seriously, and will provide you with leadership in the days ahead, just as they have in the days gone by. May you trust and abide with the collective wisdom of the group you elected to represent you. Keep them in your daily prayers. Thank them for their dedication and commitment to serve in this capacity.

Be patient. The call of an interim and a new pastor is a process. This process is part of the journey in which God has called you to build up and support one another, to be creative and try new endeavors – not for the sake of change; but change that is according to God's word and the power and leading of God's Spirit as you continue together in ministry. Know that

God's strength behind you,  
God's concern for you,  
God's love within you,  
And your care and support for one another  
in acts of ministry  
will see you thought this phase of the journey that  
God now calls UPB to embark upon.



Blessings in this journey. Enjoy it! I am excited and humbled to be a part of it.

Pastor Jeri

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Welcome to the UPB Spring 2012 Newsletter. In addition to showcasing many of the good works being done by Committees, Teams and Individuals, we will be highlighting many of the upcoming events for you. Within the Communications and Coordination Committee, we have been working hard with Pastor Jeri Fields to keep the momentum going.



Your website, [www.unitedparishbowie.org](http://www.unitedparishbowie.org), has undergone a significant update including an up-to-date calendar that can be synced with your Google calendar. If you haven't visited lately, please do and give us your feedback.

Working with Membership and Fellowship Committee, the UPB nametags will again make it easier for us to interact with guests and pastors. If you need a nametag, there is a simple signup sheet in the Narthex.

In the coming weeks, you will see the beginning of a series of Seasonal banners in the front corner, where previously we just highlighted special events, like Christmas Eve service or Rally Sunday.

Less noticeable, but equally important, we will continue assisting the other Committees in getting their message out, revamping how the United Parish of Bowie appears in

Internet searches and - just because we haven't been burdened with terrible winter weather so far this season does not mean we won't ever be – working out the internal procedures as well as with media outlets to add our status to their broadcast and web updates.

Simply, there is always a lot going on and there are always plenty of opportunities where you can share your talents.

- Alec Burgess

## *Ladies' Night Out*



**February 21st**

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper,**

Coordinators: Barbara Trafton & Elsie Carroll

**March 23rd**

**Bowling,** Coordinator: Becky DeMeo

**April 21st**

**Visit Longwood Garden,** Coordinator: Jan Barbato

**May 18th**

**Bocci Ball/Game Night,** Coordinator: Diane Eades

## ASK THE PASTOR: THE LENTEN SEASON – WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO? A CRASH COURSE ABOUT LENT



Ash Wednesday, which is February 22 this year, marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Some of you may be wondering: What is the purpose of Lent in the Reformed tradition? I

counted the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter and there are more than 40 days. Why is that? Why do we in the Reformed tradition participate in Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes? Isn't that for people who are Roman Catholic? Are we supposed to give up something for Lent? What other days are celebrated during the Lenten Season? So many questions. Wish I had some answers.

What follows is a crash course about Lent: *Lent 101 – Part 1*

The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and end at dusk on the Saturday before Easter. There are more than 40 days on the calendar between Ash Wednesday and Easter because the Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter are not counted. Why is that? It's because every Sunday, including the Sundays during Lent, is considered to be an Easter Sunday - that is, a weekly celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Reclaimed by Reformed churches in the last few decades, Ash Wednesday is the entry point for Lenten preparation. It is a service rich in ritual and symbolism. Ashes have a long history in biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Gen. 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jon. 3:6). All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent provide time to explore the mystery at the heart of the gospel that being a Christian means a new life through Christ.

Participants on Ash Wednesday may choose to come forward for a minister to mark their foreheads with the sign of the cross in ashes, saying words such as, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). With these words, disciples are reminded of their mortality and, when combined with the sign of the cross, they are also reminded of the hope in the resurrection. Furthermore, the imposition of ashes serves as reminder of one's baptism when sealed with the mark of Christ on your forehead. What is invisible, becomes visible for a short period of time.

The season of Lent, as a preparation for Easter, is a historical model taken from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community—was used to raise one's spiritual consciousness and empty oneself before God.

Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith, if not adopted as a show of piety, martyrdom, or moral righteousness. Some may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but to do so is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. The spiritual disciple of giving up something or taking on something can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

The season of Lent includes services other than Ash Wednesday. During Holy Week there will be Palm-Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Such services are a powerful reminder of the self-sacrificing love of God in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for the atonement of our sins and was raised from the dead forever proclaiming that it is God who has the last word and that nothing in life or in death can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Sadly, from my perspective, too many Christians move from the Alleluias of Palm Sunday right into Easter without ever facing and realizing the passion of Christ. I believe failure to experience this part of Jesus' journey weakens one's understanding of the story and gift of our salvation.

Therefore, I hope you will plan to attend each Lenten service, the mid-week Lenten programs that will be held on Wednesday evenings, the adult education class being planned, and will use the 40 days of Lent as a time of reflection about who you are as a disciple. In the process of this special, life-changing journey, may you develop a richer, more meaningful understanding of what it means that Christ died for you, Christ was raised, and Christ is alive.

In the days and weeks ahead, I will address other aspects of Lent in my weekly news update. If you would like to discuss this article or other phases of the Lenten journey, please contact me.

In His service,  
Rev. Jeri Fields, Gap Minister

### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Children, Youth and Family Committee (CYF) is celebrating all the wonderful things happening in our ministry! Sunday School is going strong. We are encouraging our UPB families to continue to participate in this wonderful ministry.



On Super Bowl Sunday, our youth had "SOUPER Bowl Sunday." More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of

Caring began with a simple prayer form a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised

across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a



positive difference in the world - as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter

to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Thank you for giving generously on Souper Bowl Sunday and for supporting the youth in their service project.

A Look Ahead:

We will be celebrating Lent at the end of February and March to prepare for Easter Sunday in Sunday School.

If anyone wants to be a part of any, or all, of these wonderful things happening, please let Julissa Orta know. Thank you all and God Bless!

-Julissa Orta, Chair of the CYF Committee

### ADVENT 2011



*Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### Special Services



We invite you to worship with during Lent. We will offer our first special service on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 pm for an **Ash Wednesday**. This service will combine scripture readings, music and the receiving of ashes.



Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** on April 1 at 11:00 am. Come and enjoy the musical offerings involving the Adult Choir, children and chimes!

The triumph changes to focus on the Last Supper for our **Maunder Thursday** service on April 5 at 7:30 pm.

The sorrow and agony of **Good Friday** include powerful readings and musical presentations as we journey through Christ's last moments on April 6 at 7:30 pm.

Finally, join us to celebrate the miracle of the resurrection of Christ on **Easter** morning! Come and share the joy of the empty tomb and sing the hallelujahs of the risen Lord on Sunday, April 8 at 11:00 am.

These services will hopefully bring greater meaning to you during Holy Week. Please mark them on your calendar.

### Lenten Dinner Devotional Series

Begins Wednesday, February 29 until Wednesday March 28.

This year as we journey through the Lenten season, we will look at the *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. This video journey is combined with discussion and Biblical references. We are in the Lectionary B year and Adam Hamilton has used this as his gospel focus. Please join us as we actually see the places in the Holy Land. The devotional will begin at 6:45 pm to 7:25 pm each of the five Wednesday evenings during Lent. Please also join us for a simple meal, beginning at 6:00 pm. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet for those who would like to attend and for those who would like to provide food.



## SAVE THE DATE- parents and volunteers!



### Art & Music Camp

We will once again be hosting a fun-filled half day faith based camp for preschoolers through 5th grade. This year, the camp will be July 16-20 from 9:00 am to noon. The children will rotate stations of art, music, games and drama. If you have talents in one of these areas and interested in volunteering, please speak with Julissa.



### Flowers!

*Would you like to remember a loved one, or share a celebration with the congregation? Please consider donating Communion table flowers for Sunday services and we'll include your dedication in the bulletin! You may find the sign-up sheet on the narthex table.*



(Meets at the Barbato home, 7:00 pm)

- March 6 *Moneyball: the Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis
- April 13 *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson
- May 4th *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana DeRosnay

## A REPORT FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Our current periodicals include [The Christian Century](#), [Sojourners](#), and [The Presbyterian Outlook](#).

### THE Christian CENTURY

[The Christian Century](#) is a mainstream Protestant biweekly publication whose motto is "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully." Content includes news, reviews, columns, and poetry. The November 29 issue features a short article on Advent with a toddler, and a longer one on music and identity at four congregations. [Sojourners](#) is a progressive, evangelical, monthly

publication whose focus is "faith in action for social justice." It is published in Washington, D.C. by the Sojourners organization led by Jim Wallis. A recent cover story asks what kind of nation are we called to be: arrogantly superior or humbly exemplary. Another



article discusses how Paul wrestled with violent passages in the Hebrew Bible. [The Presbyterian Outlook](#) is a biweekly publication about matters of importance with respect to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Periodicals

can be checked out for two weeks.

Several new books are now on our library shelves. In addition, let me remind you we now have a "browsing"



library where the books are arranged by subject matter.

The priority this year is to purchase CDs, and DVDs, in order to cater to our members who prefer these modalities over books.

Happy reading!  
Doug Snyder, UPB Librarian



### Christmas in April

UPB will again be participating in this year's Prince Georges County sponsored "Christmas In April" alongside the members of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Upper Marlboro as we did last year. Keep the last Saturday of April (the 28th) free on your calendar if you plan to join us this year. Look out for more details and a sign up in early April for this annual event!

## GET TO KNOW UPB: Julissa Orta, Chair of the Children, Youth and Family Committee



Hello, my name is Julissa Orta. I am married to Antonio Orta and have three children; Luis (13 yrs.), Lorena

(10 yrs.), Julian (8 yrs.). I am a Spanish teacher in Prince George's County. This is my 6th year teaching.

I am not officially a member of UPB, but consider myself one because I really feel part of this family.

I am so excited about taking on the CYF Chair position because I feel that being part of a Christian family, it is my duty to serve. I am also a teacher at heart and

shaping children's minds is my passion.

My earliest memory of being at a church comes from when I was around 10 or 11 years old. My grandmother, whom I grew up with, wasn't able to take us to church, but when we did we always got up and shared something with the congregation. I remember when I first accepted Christ into my life and telling the congregation with tears in my eyes how happy I was to have Him in my heart.

My husband was the one in our family who found UPB. I was away in Spain studying for my master's and he called to tell me he had found a wonderful church and we should attend. We

have always been fond of smaller churches and we really wanted to belong to a church. I feel that we are part of this family. I feel we have been accepted with open arms and that has led me to want to stay and make this my family's church.

I happened to fall into the role of a committee chair. I was asked to be a Co-Chair, and when Rebecca Holland left I was left in the position of Chair. I was very afraid in the beginning. I still am a little, but I am finding that I really enjoy being in a position of leadership; especially with children.

Something about me that not a whole lot of people know is that I am a kid at

heart. I still like to color in coloring books with big crayons! :)



### Talent Show

Do you or your child have a special talent you would like to share? Are you a juggler, comedian, magician, or musician? Mark your calendar for UPB's Talent Show on April 29! More details to follow:

## MISSION AND SERVICE

The Mission and Service Committee would like to thank the congregation for their very generous giving (time, talents, and monetary) to all of the mission and service opportunities! As Chair, I would like to thank Judy Farrell and Doug and Nancy Snyder for their faithful dedication to many of our ongoing service projects.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Warm Nights

Community Crisis Services, Inc. operates the Prince George's County Hypothermia Program, Warm Nights. Warm Nights operates during the winter months (mid November to March) to provide overnight shelter to individuals needing to escape the cold temperatures. Individuals stay at area churches and are provided meals.

UPB will participate in Warm nights hosted by Village Baptist Church. On Saturday, March 10, UPB will provide our most requested meal (chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert).

### Easter Baskets for the Family Crisis Center Children

UPB will once again be collecting items to prepare baskets for the children living in the Crisis Center.

Also, Pastor Jeri has some great ideas for youth/children projects for Easter.

## Ongoing Opportunities

### Family Crisis Center-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

We have received positive comments about the "themed" meals for the Family Crisis Center and will continue offering a theme and providing suggestions for the main dish and sides. March's theme is March Madness! I am taking suggestions for April, May, and June's theme and would love to hear from you! Please see me

after church or email me your suggestions! Please look for the sign-ups and remember what a blessing our meals are to the women and children at the Crisis Center!

### Family Crisis Center-Donated Phones:

Donate your used or broken cell phones and chargers (box on table in Narthex). Through its partnership with the Verizon HopeLine, the Family Crisis Center can turn these items into cash to support their program.

### Bowie Interfaith Pantry

Please continue to bring non-perishable food donations for the pantry and drop in basket in the Narthex. With input from the Bowie Pantry and to help restock the most needed items after the holidays, our 2nd annual "focused" food drive is underway. From January 22-March 4, 2012, we will focus on a particular nonperishable item each week. At the end of this 7-week period, we will have collected the following: canned fruit, applesauce, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat such as beef stew, chicken breast meat, chicken and dumplings, canned beans, toilet paper, fresh fruit/fresh vegetables.

### Living Waters for the World (LWW)-

Please help the children's Christian Education program with its service project to support the effort of LWW to bring clean drinking water to all God's Children in poor and developing countries all around the world. Join the children in this worthwhile service project by depositing whatever amount (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or currency) you want to donate in the large water bottle in the area outside the sanctuary.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Donate to this special offering taken the first Sunday of each month.

If you have ideas or are interested in serving on the Mission and Service Committee, please contact Mary Jo Munnely.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The Morning Men's Group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 am of every month at Bob Evans in Bowie to share Breakfast and fellowship. The Men's Evening Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at various restaurants of their choosing. The most recent gathering was at On The Border Mexican Restaurant in Bowie.

Please feel free to join us. See Herb Sheppard for details.



Thank you to the SEEDS team and families for another successful fun-filled Wednesday evening of food, music, fellowship and the newly introduced, skits! The next SEEDS starts April 18th, 6 pm. See you then!

Save the Date -  
Spring Cleaning!



The UPB spring clean-up day is  
Saturday,  
March 24, 9 am.

## *The United Parish of Bowie*

**United in Christ Our Mission: To Serve**

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E-mail: pastorjeri.upb@gmail.com

Visit us on the web!

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

Opt-Out: UPB's Use of Names and Images - While we never publish individual children's names without expressed parental consent, we do publish images of groups of children. In addition, at times we publish both names and images of individual adults, as well as groups. If you wish to not have any names or images for members of your family published, please contact Dina Bickel to opt-out of further publications.



Remember - Daylight Savings begins Sunday at 2 am on March 11!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER...**

*You are welcome here. Invite your friends and family to join in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!*



Ash Wednesday	February 22 at 7:30 pm
Lenten Dinner Devotional Series	Every Wed. beginning Feb.29 through March 28
Palm-Passion Sunday	April 1 at 11:00 am
Maundy Thursday	April 4 at 7:30 pm
Good Friday	April 5 at 7:30 pm
Easter	April 7 at 11:00 am



**United in Christ  
Our Mission: To Serve**

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

Address Correction Requested