

United Parish of Bowie

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

SUMMER 2009
NEWSLETTER

Looking to the Future by Rev. Dan Holland

It is an exciting time to be a part of the United Parish. There is so much going on both in ministry and in discernment for the future. In this newsletter we tried to highlight some of the fellowship opportunities, service projects and Christian education offerings at UPB. When taken together with the Leadership retreat and the

Natural Church Development Survey, it is easy to see that the United Parish is alive and following the Spirit's lead! I wanted to take just a minute to let everyone know where we have been... and where we are headed.

Three priorities emerged from the Leadership retreat that was held in April:

- To be a community of believers who are growing spiritually
- To be committed to community service and worldwide mission
- To increase active participation in the life and ministry of the United Parish

The Natural Church Development Survey helped affirm three strengths for us to build on:

- Gift based ministry—People actively engaged in the work of the church feel their gifts and talents are being used.
- Inspiring worship service—People feel like God is present and active as we gather together to worship in community.
- Loving Relationships—People enjoy being around each other and extend that sense of enjoyment to newcomers.

And, the same survey highlighted two primary opportunities for growth:

- Passionate Spirituality—Are we on fire for God in everything we do?
- Need-oriented Evangelism—Are we reaching out by addressing the needs of those in our community who currently do not have a church home?

The first thing I noticed when I looked at the priorities from the leadership retreat and the results of the NCD survey was, "Good, we're on the right track!" I might have been worried if we said our top priorities were things totally different than the survey results. The UPB Board took the results and discerned a need to look at how we do the work of the church and see how we might be able to establish a structure and a culture that will best enable us to meet our mission—United in Christ—Our Mission: to Serve—with a particular focus in the near future on being a community of believers that is growing spiritually, engaging in community service and worldwide mission and increasing participation in the life and ministry of the United Parish.

A number of efforts are already underway and there's more to come! If you're not receiving the weekly update email highlighting upcoming events, email upbannounce@gmail.com to get on the list. The board has started to define roles and responsibilities of committees in hopes of increased communication, reduced duplication of efforts and making it easy to understand how things are done here at UPB. In September we are going to have a meeting of the board, the committee chairs, and other interested parties to follow up on the leadership retreat, broaden ownership of the ministry of the church, and perhaps most importantly to make it easy and clear for everyone who wants to get involved in the meaningful work of ministry to be able to do so at the United Parish.

It has been about seven months since I started here and I'm continually amazed by the people and the vision of this community of faith. It is good to be here. I'm excited about where we are and I can't wait to see how God's going to continue to work in our midst as we move forward together!

Grace and Peace to all of you!



UPB Church Leadership Retreat

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



Thank you for sharing your gift of teaching...

Children's Sunday School

Tanya Asman

Dina Bickel

Alex Busch

Pearl Donovan

Caitlin Farrel

Casey Farrel

JoAnn Hardesty

Nikki Hillary

Linda Hutchinson

Robby Munnelly

Janice Sheppard

Nancy Snyder

Conor Yates-Gregory

Youth Confirmation

Pastor Dan Holland

Adult Education

Gene Barbato

Marian Coombs

Diane Eades

Merrill Hathaway

Rebecca Holland

Patty Keys

Randy Pausch

Herb Sheppard

Doug Snyder

Nancy Snyder



Adult Christian Education Class

Thank you for sharing your gift of leadership...

Parish Board

Tanya Asman

Robin Burgess

Kathy Busch

Tom Chin

Roy Eades, *Treasurer*

Sudha Hillary, *Secretary*

Dan Holland, *Moderator*

Sue Kennedy

Herb Sheppard, *Vice Moderator*

Penny Simpson

Committee Chairs

Gene Barbato, *Building Maint.*

Jan Barbato, *Fellowship*

Elise Blaker, *Sanctuary Flowers*

Becky DeMeo, *Building Interior*

Diane Eades, *Outreach & Choir*

Roy Eades, *Risk Management*

Merrill Hathaway, *Piano*

Merrill Hathaway, *Out. Flwrs*

Josi Hillary, *Stewardship*

Nikki Hillary, *Children's Ed.*

Patty Keys, *Technology*

Mike Mehl, *Building*

Herb Sheppard, *Men's Bkfst.*

Doug Snyder, *Adult Education*

Nancy Snyder, *Com. Service*

Office Leadership

Tom Chin

Maintenance & Facilities Manager

Becky DeMeo

Assistant Treasurer

Patty Keys

Historian & Outgoing Secretary

Mike Mehl

Webmaster

Doug Snyder

Librarian

Get involved at UPB!
There are opportunities for everyone. Please email upbannounce@gmail.com to find out more!

Plus all who serve on the committees and help behind the scenes in big and little ways! Thank you!

Thank you for sharing your gift of music...

Worship Leadership

Diane Eades

Choir Director

Sue Kennedy

Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bickel

Organist

Elise Blaker

Kathy Busch

Alice Collins

Bill Collins

Marva Connolly

Marian Coombs

Michel Dzaringa

Merrill Hathaway

Patty Keys

Karla Roskos

Penny Simpson

Doug Snyder

Donna Tanner

Chicquita Wingo

*Choir will begin rehearsing on
Wednesday, August 26 at 7:30 pm
in the sanctuary. Please come and
join this rewarding ministry.*

Choir Members

Jan Barbato

Chad Bickel

Charissa Bickel

Matt Bickel

Shirley Bickel

Special Music

Gene Barbato – accordion

Betsy Burian – flute

Alissa Barbato – flute

Matt Bickel – trumpet

Thank you for sharing your selves...



Thank you to everyone who has given of their time and talents! You are what make our church so wonderful.

Clean Up Day

Thank you to all who contributed to:

UPB Community Service

Family Crisis Center Meals

Warm Nights

Christmas in April

Backpacks for Kids

Bowie Food Pantry Box

Clothing and Change Drives

UPB Fellowship Events

UPB Chat & Chew's

Pot Luck Dinners

The Family Picnic

Consecration Sunday

Pastor Dan's Ordination

Progressive Dinners

Lenten Dinners

UPB Fund Raisers

Spring Yard Sale

Technology Recycling

UPB Worship

Lay Leaders

Children's Sermon

Flowers

UPB Improvements

Clean Up Days

Painting the Classrooms

Christmas Decorating

Easter Decorating

And so much more! Thank you for everything you do.



Children's Sermon during Worship

Adult Education Program Year Comes to an End by Doug Snyder

Adult Education will begin again on September 20th during the 10 o'clock hour.

We have come to the end of adult education classes until September. Many people have made valuable contributions in a variety of classes. Only two Fall courses were offered because the congregation was focused on calling our new pastor. The first course was a study of the Epistle from James, led by Doug Snyder. The second

was several discussions after viewing "The Last Lecture" by a terminally ill Carnegie Mellon professor, Randy Pausch, which in book form had become a best seller. Our Spring schedule was more ambitious. Our first, team-taught course was a series on "Faith in the White House." Presidents covered included Obama (Doug Snyder), G. W. Bush (Gene Barbato), Carter (Nancy Snyder), Lincoln (Marian Coombs), and Washington and Jefferson (Herb Sheppard). Next, Diane Eades, assisted by Sue

Kennedy, shared her knowledge about the origins of selected Lenten hymns. Then Patty Keys led a two-week workshop on UPB history. Merrill Hathaway followed with an examination of the development and impact of the translation known The King James Bible. In addition, Merrill hosted the showings of three relevant films at his home. Rebecca Holland wrapped up our adult education year with an experiential course on different forms of prayer.

UPB Fellowship: Fun, Food, and More by Jan Barbato



Lunch on the UPB Patio

We have had a great year of UPB Fellowship!

Chat and Chew, our after worship gathering and goodies, on the second and fourth Sundays, has been a

wonderful chance to get to know people better.

Consecration Sunday, pot luck dinners, the family picnic, progressive dinners, and Lenten dinners also gave us a chance to connect as we enjoyed the wonderful cuisine of our many excellent cooks. This year we also had the honor and pleasure to celebrate the ordination and installation of our new pastor, Rev. Dan Holland, and his family.

I'd like to sincerely thank all those who have helped with the many parts of these fellowship events. Our congregation also does a

wonderful job of providing nourishment for families in times of bereavement and illness. The families are always very grateful and I am very thankful that our congregation makes the organization of these events an easy job.

We are always looking for new ideas and people who enjoy fellowship with our church family. There are a lot of wonderful Fellowship events coming next year and there is a lot to do in preparation. We could use your help. Please email me if you are interested in being involved.
janbarbato@comcast.net

Yard Sale

Despite the threat of rain, the Yard Sale was a success. We raised \$ to help the church while enjoying time with each other and people in the community.



UPB Yard Sale

Save the Date

September 13th is Welcome Back Sunday! We will be celebrating the beginning of the program year with a BBQ, a Ministry Fair (booths by the various UPB committees), and more, following the UPB worship service at 11 am.

Book Club

The newest fellowship group at UPB, the book club is off to a great start. It has been a time of meeting new friends, enjoying good food, and, discussing interesting books! Our next meeting is Friday, September 11th on Outliers.

Chat & Chew: Evaluation Committee Re-forming by Jan Barbato

Our after worship food and fellowship time has been wonderful but I've heard a rumor that **Chat and Chew Standards** may come back into effect with an Evaluation Committee re-forming.

If you'd like to be on that committee, let me know. Remember: 2nd Sunday is provided by those whose last names begin with A to G. 4th Sunday, it's H through Z. I hope that each

half of the alphabet can achieve the A rating by the Evaluation Committee, each Chat and Chew Sunday.

UPB Serving the Community by Nancy Snyder

UPB serves the community with their hearts and hands.

children at last Sunday's delivery.

Thank you to everyone who has given food, time, and more to our many community service projects!

We brought joy through food in our participation in Warm Nights, as we provided our signature pots of chili, with the sides of breads and salads,

Our ongoing food collection for the Bowie Food Pantry has provide countless meals.

Each month we continue to provide a Sunday meal for the Safe Passage home of the Family Crisis Center. I saw several grateful mothers and



Christmas in April Service Project

topped with desserts from our most celebrated chefs.

Our Christmas in April community service project was another day well spent as a team from UPB worked hard to help a family in need.

This summer we will continue our summer community service project, furnishing backpacks for school children through the Central Union Mission. Keep an eye out for sales on pencils, erasers, and rulers!

We want to hear from you!

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

Fall Newsletter deadline: 8/26.

Children's Corner

Sunday School '08 –'09 News

By Nikki Hillary

The Sunday school year 2008 -2009 has been a wonderful year with many progressive developments, far beyond our expectations.

Some of the new developments are as follows:

1. **New Class Started:** We started a new class for the 4-year olds in January 2008. Up until that time, all pre-school children stayed in the play room with the babysitter. Since several of them were nearing or turning 4, we wished that we could start a Sunday school class just for them. Our wish became a reality when Linda Hutchinson offered to start and teach the class. The class has been going great ever since. Linda introduced the "Secret Friends" program which helped the 4-year olds bond with the some of the members of our church.

2. **New Classroom Set-up:** The old nursery was turned into a classroom for the 4-year children. It is an attractive room now, but it was only after much hard work involving clean-up, painting, moving and rearranging furniture, and decorating by Linda Hutchinson and some of the committee members.

3. **Elementary Classroom Make-over:** This classroom was brought up to its present form in September 2008 after many hours of hard work by the Christian Education Committee members and helpers. The room is suitable and well-equipped now after clearing the extra furniture, removing the old fixtures, painting the walls, covering the floors with new rugs, and fitting the walls with bulletin and white boards.

4. **Mission Project:** The children took part in an exciting mission project this year. The mission was to provide financial support to ,collect funds for "Living Waters for the World (LWW)" to bring clean drinking water for the children of Haiti. Initially fund-raising for LWW was exclusively by Sunday school children. After a couple of months, we invited the congregation to help the children in their efforts to raise the funds. And, the response has been very good. LWW is an organization affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is committed to providing clean drinking water to all God's children in poor and developing countries all



Sunday School Class

around the world. You can read more about LWW by visiting their website, WWW.livingwatersfortheworld.org.

5. **Song Time:** Marva Connolly conducted "Song Time" for all children in both classes every second and fourth Sundays. The children loved it. Marva was also responsible for having the children sing songs in front of the congregation on certain Sundays.

6. **Family Fellowship Outings:** Dina Bickel arranged a Bowling afternoon trip after the service on Sunday, April 19th for the children and their families. There was a good turnout. Everyone enjoyed the outing so much that we are convinced that at least four such

activities should be scheduled during the coming year. Plans are already under way for the children to attend Bay Sox games on Saturday July 11th and August 16th at the ballpark.

We continued the "Children's Sermons" every third Sunday. These sermons were given by Shirley Bickel, Pastor Steve, Pastor Dan, Betsy Burian, and Walter Trafton this year. These sermons were uplifting and beneficial not only to the children but to all members as well.

The children will attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the Village Baptist church from July 13th to 17th from 6 to 8:30 pm. More information and registration forms can be found on http://www.villagebaptistbowie.org/VBS_2009.html.

This year, the Elementary class was taught/assisted by Janice Sheppard, Tanya Asman, Pearl Donovan, Dina Bickel, Nikki Hillary, JoAnn Hardesty, and Nancy Snyder; and the 4-year class was taught by Linda Hutchinson. The toddlers were looked after by our very good and caring babysitters Lindsay and Cindy. It is true that it takes more effort and personnel to operate the Sunday school programs and classes. We accomplished all this only because of generous help from the church members. We acknowledge all help with thanks and are counting on working with you even more closely in the next year.

Looking back at the Sunday school year 2008 – 2009, we realize that we have much to be thankful to God for. Many of our hopes in September 2008 are accomplishments now. We will continue to improve the Sunday school program trusting in the Lord.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2009

Where did you see God at work in your life this week?... That's the question which began each week's confirmation lesson. After sharing a meal together we dove into topics such as God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, The Bible, Sacraments, and Church History. It was an excellent time of sharing food, faith and fellowship!

We rounded the class out with a trip to the Zoo, a game of basketball, an afternoon of videogames and presenting statements of faith to the United Parish Board!

Well done Guys! We are all proud of you and:
Welcome to the United Parish!

Congratulations: Conor, Robbie, Alex and Thomas!



UPB Confirmation 2009

Welcoming Children and Youth into Worship

The UPB Children and Youth will be participating in our summer worship services. During the 1st Sundays of July and August, the children will be invited to attend a special activity time, but the rest of



The Four Year Old's Class

the Sundays, they will remain in worship: praying, singing, and growing in their faith with the rest of us. (The Nursery is available for infants and toddlers.) Please continue to help to make our worship service a welcoming place for all, a place to feel at home and loved.

Just as we rejoiced in their baptism, promising to help them grow in faith, let us rejoice in their journey as

they become the children and youth sitting in the pews. Most of us can look back and remember the adults who had an influence

on our faith as we grew, whether a mentor, Sunday school teacher, or simply a kind soul. It is our turn to pass on the love of Christ through not just our words, but our actions. Just as Christ welcomed them with open arms, let us welcome the children and youth today.

Here are just a few ways to welcome children and youth into the worshipping community:

- **Learn their NAMES** and use them. Introduce yourself to them at the beginning of worship, greet them during the passing of the peace. Our names help us to feel known and loved.
- **Help and encourage them to participate** in worship by walking them through the service: give them a bulletin, show them how to find the songs in the hymnal, encourage them to sit where they can see. Give them one of the UPB kids bags to explore and play.
- **Be patient and show Christ's love** through all of your actions. Smile and pray for them.



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

Address Correction Requested

Summer 2009

UPB Summer Worship 10 am

Nursery Care Available for Infants and Young Children

July

4th 4th of July Outreach at UPB
5th Worship: Communion Sunday*
*Children's Activity Time
7th Men's Breakfast 7:45am at Bowie Bob Evans
11th UPB to the Baysox Game! (RSVP to UPB)
12th Worship Service
Chat & Chew (A to G treats!)
13-17 Children's Vacation Bible School
19th Worship Service - Guest Preacher
21st Men's Breakfast 7:45 am at Bowie Bob Evans
26th Worship Service - Guest Preacher
Chat & Chew (H to Z treats!)
28th UPB Board Meeting

August

2nd Worship: Communion Sunday*
*Children's Activity Time
4th Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Bowie Bob Evans
6th UPB Youth to Six Flags! (RSVP to UPB)
9th Worship Service
Chat & Chew (A to G treats!)
16th Worship Service
UPB to Baysox Game! (RSVP to UPB)
18th Men's Breakfast 7:45 am at Bowie Bob Evans
23rd Worship Service
Chat & Chew (H to Z treats!)
30th Worship Service
Play Date at the Park for UPB Families

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