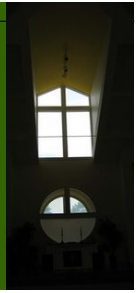


The United Parish of Bowie



Special points of interest:

- Celebrating 35 Years of Ministry
- Art & Music Camp
- Bible Study
- ISO Special Music and A History Buff
- Our Mission and Service Opportunities
- Operation Backpack Program
- "Like" us on Facebook!

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI

CONGRATULATIONS!

Celebrating 35 Years of Ministry

United Parish of Bowie has much to be thankful for as you celebrate 35 years of ministry.

Here's a brief look back before your journey forward to the next 35 years...

In the beginning in the life of United Parish of Bowie – the year was 1968 – four denominations joined together to begin a new church development: the Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopalians, and the Methodists. Initially known by the community as the Belair Village United Parish, in the early 1970's the name was changed to the United Parish of Bowie. Rev. Richard Schellhase served as the new church development pastor from 1970–1972. He was followed by an interim, Rev. Harry Applewhite from 1972-1973.

June 5, 1977 the Presbyterians and the United Church of Christ celebrated the charter of the church under the leadership of Rev. Carl O. Bickel, who nurtured and pastored this congregation from October 1973 to February 2006. Under his thirty-three years of pastoral leadership the congregation grew from a house church to one worshiping in the sanctuary where services are now held. Sadly, the Rev. Dr. Bickel died in February 2006 after battling cancer. Six years later people continue to share stories about Carl and the many ways he touched their lives. An oil painting of him hangs in the Narthex. Carl's wife, Shirley, and their adult children and their families continue to worship at UPB and serve in the church's ministries.

Since February 2006 the following pastors have served the church: Rev. Laura Collins, Temporary Supply Pastor, 2006; Rev. Dr. Michael Parker, Interim Pastor, 2006-2008; Rev. Steve Howell, Temporary Supply, 2008; Rev. Daniel Holland, Pastor, 2008-2011; and Rev. Jeri A. Fields, Gap Pastor and Interim Pastor January 2012-present.

Over the years the congregation met in various places: people's homes, in the Red Lion Inn in Collington Plaza, the fire hall, and later in the Pointer Ridge Elementary School. A gift was received from the Westminster UCC for the purchase of a facility and was used to buy the "church house" at the corner of Philmont and Pennant Lanes in Bowie. In addition to being the site of various church functions the "church house" was used also as a meeting place for various community groups, including Brownie troops and a drop-in center for teens. Play Day was first established as a "Mother's Morning Out" at the "church house" and later became a preschool to provide educational experiences in a loving environment for three and four year old children.

In 1979 the church became self-supporting, and a decision was made to build a permanent facility for the church. The building committee was chaired first by Charles Wheeler and later by Dave Fischvogt. In 1980 with the leadership of Bill Collins the site at the corner of Mt. Oak and Mitchellville Lane was purchased. Before the church building was finished, the builder went bankrupt, and the members finished the church themselves. The building was completed in 1985 at a

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERI, *continued*

cost of \$450,000 for land, building and furnishings. An organ was donated by Jane Timin, and the “church house” on Philmont Lane was sold. The first service held in the church will be remembered for years to come as it was Joey DeMeo's funeral after his tragic car accident.

Over the years UPB has been involved in a number of ecumenical activities and has served in ministry far beyond its walls through Carl Bickel's active involvement with pastoral counseling within the church and the community, with the South Bowie Clergy, certain South Bowie community projects, New Church Development Committees for the National Capitol Presbytery and UCC Central Atlantic Conference, and as a moderator for CCPC when it searched for a pastor. In addition, for many years the church provided a meeting place for Alcoholics Anonymous and Compassionate Friends. Since 1996 the First Community United Church of Christ has been holding afternoon services in the sanctuary of UPB, under the leadership of Pastor Joe Ruffin.

In 2002 another Building Committee, led by Mike Mehl, was formed. An architect was selected, and a plan was submitted. According to this plan, two phases of building will be undertaken: the first will provide a fellowship hall behind the existing sanctuary, and the second phase will enlarge the sanctuary itself. These plans have largely been put on hold for the moment. Under the leadership of a new pastor, the church looks forward to rebuilding its membership, maintaining its emphasis on Christian education, deepening its spiritual life, continuing its community service, and eventually expanding its facilities.

Most recently, Rev. Dan Holland was with you for three years before receiving a call to a church in Washington State in December 2011. Saddened by his departure, many understand and respect his decision to answer a call in a location where grandparents will be a vital part of his and Rebecca's children's lives. While pastoring at UPB, Dan believes he 1) helped teach people to connect with God and one another, 2) empowered the congregation to own the ministry of UPB, and 3) encouraged the congregation to continue an outward focus. He also worked with the Board in reworking committee structure in such a way that it would free people to follow where they discern God leading them. Today, as your interim, we are continuing to move in a similar direction.

As I become more attuned to who you are as a congregation, I realize you have much for which to be thankful: the leadership of past pastors, the love and commitment of members and friends to be the church and not just do the church, many gifted people who share their God given gifts and abilities in the life and ministry of UPB, and a growing awareness of who God is calling you to be both individually and as the church.

On June 10 the focus of the worship service will be one of thanksgiving and remembering as we celebrate your 35th anniversary as a congregation. June 10 will also be a time to show appreciation for those who have been a vital part of the children and families ministry team this past year.

June 10th, your rechartering day for remembering the life of UPB, is a special milestone in the life of the congregation as you celebrate who you are as a church. During the service we will commission the generous donation of a new communion set given by Alice and Bill Collins in loving memory of Bill McFarland.

As part of this very special celebration in the life of the congregation, everyone is asked to bring finger foods to share in a “Super Chat and Chew” time following worship.

I am honored and humbled to be a part of your journey. Indeed, you are a congregation that is blessed. Therefore, may you remember that in Luke 12:48 it says:

*From everyone to whom much has been given,
much will be required;
and from the one to whom much has been entrusted,
even more will be demanded.*

In the days and months ahead, until you identify your next installed pastor, may we continue to work together for the glory of God to be a witness within the community and beyond.

Grace and peace for the journey.
Pastor Jeri

NOTE: There are many other exciting facts about the congregation, many stories to share and lots of pictures to reminisce over. Please share them. They are a very important part of your legacy. Much of the information in this article has been taken from a summary of the church history I received when I came to UPB.

SPRING 2012



ART AND MUSIC CAMP



UPB will be hosting its second annual Art and Music Camp for children age three to incoming sixth graders from 9:00-12:00, July 16th-20th. This year's theme is **Living Waters** –

Jesus Christ is living waters for our bodies and our souls. We will be exploring “Clean Water for All God’s Children” while rotating through stations of art/mission, music, Bible stories/drama, and games.

The curriculum is designed to help children understand the importance of clean water for health, and to show different ways to share in the mission of taking clean water to all the children of the world. On Sunday, July 22, camp participants will take part in leading worship and will share some of the week’s activities. Following worship there will be an ice cream social to celebrate. The camp is open to all church families and the community.

Registration forms can be found on our website www.unitedparishbowie.org as well as in the Narthex. Please feel free to share this information with friends and neighbors. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please contact Julissa Orta or Sue Kennedy.

A TALENTED GROUP!

The entertainment came with a bang and filled the sanctuary with smiles, joy, and laughter! Thank you to everyone who participated in the talent show, to those who brought a delicious dish to share, and to those who helped set up and clean up afterwards.



Thank you Tom Chin for taking pictures throughout the event! A big thank you to the fellowship committee; Jan Barbato, Marva Connolly, and Charissa Bickel for all their hard work! We are a congregation of many talents!

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Another newsletter....already? (I know, right?) Your Communication and Coordination Committee has been busy since our last publication. Some of our efforts are visible to you: new outdoor banners – with more on the way, magnetic UPB service project signs, many more nametags, etc.

The good news is we have more projects planned and we have a few openings on the committee for people who have some time to spend in service to others and “Make Stuff Happen, Having Fun While Doing It.” If you are not sure you can commit to the time required for full committee membership, but still want to make a difference – not to worry, we also have a few openings on our Media Liaison Team (sharing press releases, photos, updates, etc.)

We are looking forward to a lot of great things coming up in the life of UPB, as you will read about right here in the newsletter. Also, we will share other happenings with you via our Facebook page as they arise. Please “like” us, and share your happenings and photos as well! If you are in charge of an event or gathering, please feel free to post it on the page; it is the UPB page, which means it is yours!



Got 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.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Bible Study: Ten Keys for Unlocking the Bible by Colin S. Smith continues on Mondays through June.

You can join this unique study of the Bible at 4:00 – 5:30pm or from 7:00 – 8:30pm.

This video series will help you to understand who you are what gives your life meaning and significance. The ten keys will introduce you to Jesus Christ, showing His life, death, and resurrection and can give you hope, purpose, and power for today.

Choir: The Adult Choir had their last rehearsal on May 30. They celebrated all those with birthdays in the months of May, June, and July! Thank you choir for the joyful noise you provide every Sunday!

Choir will begin rehearsals again on August 22, 2012 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Looking for Summer Relief: Can you sing or play an instrument? Great!! How would you like to be part of the Sunday Special Music during the summer? We would love to have you share your talents while the choir takes a deserved rest. Contact Shirley, Diane or Sue to pick your date!

History Buffs: UPB is looking for someone who loves history! We would like to add a UPB history team to the Spiritual Formation Committee. Help us keep our past in order through words and pictures. Please let Diane know if you can help in this special way.

Celebrating our 35th Anniversary!! United Parish of Bowie will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary on June 10, 2012. Come and enjoy the music, the stories and pictures from the past. It will be a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving. We will be dedicating a new Communion set in remembrance of Bill McFarland. The Collins family has generously donated this in Bill's name and it will be used for the first time on this special day. There will be Charter members to recant stories of the past. There will be a Super Chat and Chew!! So everyone is encouraged to bring something special to share for this occasion. Please invite all your friends and former members to help us remember this special time in the history of United Parish of Bowie.



Here's a game for you..."Name that Child"

Prayer Chain: We would like to include names in the bulletin of people you would like to have prayers for during the week. There will be a form for you to complete available in the Narthex.

BOARD CORNER

Why is governance important? There are countless ways that exist to organize, govern and manage a church. With that in mind, in late 2011 Pastor Dan Holland suggested we read Governance and Ministry-Rethinking Board Leadership by Dan Hotchkiss. Mr. Hotchkiss book offers congregational leaders a roadmap and tools for changing the way Boards and Clergy work together to lead Congregations.

Recently, we finished reading the book and conducting a series of discussions regarding next steps. Soon, we will attempt to develop a strategic plan that will incorporate the right governance model that best enables our congregation to fulfill its mission – to achieve both the outward results and the inward quality of life to which it is called. A timely, exciting challenge to say the least!

Reviewing our By-laws has become a priority. Possible changes to the By-laws have been discussed. We hope to review and revise some of our By-laws by the end of 2012.

Do we have a working Operations, Policy and Procedure Manual? Well, sort of. Work has begun on writing a more comprehensive policy manual using Governance and Ministry – Rethinking Board Leadership as a resource. More information 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.

THE SPRING PROJECTS

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).

Warm Nights UPB participated in "Warm Nights," hosted by Village Baptist Church on Saturday, March 10, 2012, by preparing the meal and delivering it for the homeless residents seeking shelter as part of the warm nights program.

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Easter Baskets for the Family Crisis Center Children We collected goodies and prepared 25 Easter baskets for the children living in the Crisis Center. *Thank you Judy*

for



Farrell

coordinating and delivering the baskets!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Back-to-School Backpacks

(Please see page 7)

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Family Crisis Center-3rd Sunday of the month We will continue with our "themed" meals for the Family Crisis Center. Please look for the sign-ups and remember what a blessing our meals are to the women and children at the Crisis Center! *Thank you Pearl Donovan for making the reminder calls each month!*

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 and Emergency Aid Fund Please continue to bring non-perishable food donations for the pantry and drop in basket in the Narthex. The Bowie Pantry is a community-based social services program providing emergency food and financial assistance to those in Bowie and Prince George's County, who are experiencing need-without regard to race, creed or gender.

Items to Donate:

Nonperishable food items canned beef stew, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits, canned soup, cereal.

Personal Care Items - travel size items as well as regular size shampoo, lotion, soap, deodorant.

Thank you Doug and Nancy Snyder for delivering our non-perishable donations to the Bowie Pantry.

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. *Thank you Pastor Jeri for the awesome children's sermon and thank you to the children and youth who filled their heart-shaped bottles.*

One Great Hour of Sharing

Donate to this special offering taken the first Sunday of each month. One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

If you have ideas or are interested in serving on the Mission and Service Committee, please contact Mary Jo Munnelly by email @ mjmunnelly@msn.com or phone @ 301-464-8430.

MISSION AND SERVICE

OPERATION BACKPACK PROGRAM

"Love your neighbor as yourself"



UPB will once again support Central Union Mission's Operation Backpack Program, by donating 10 backpacks for High School students. We plan to collect supplies and backpacks over a two-month period and will focus on a few items from the supply list each week. Our support enables underprivileged children in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to return to school confident and better prepared to learn and succeed!

High School

10 Backpacks (1 per student)

June 3

pack of pencils, pencil case, erasers (2 pack), pencil sharpener, pack of colored pencils

June 10

pack of black pens, pack of blue pens, pack of red pens

June 17

pair of scissors, 12-in ruler (with centimeters), geometry set

June 24

glue sticks (2 per student), highlighters (3 per student)

July 1

pack of 8 subject dividers, 3x5 note cards (2 packs per student), pocket folders (10 per student)

July 8

notebooks (4 per student), packs of loose-leaf paper, college ruled (3 packs per student), graph paper (1 pkg per student), three-ring binder (1 inch) (2 per student)

July 15

Book Covers, Stretchable, Asst Colors (5 per student) stapler and staple remover, bottle of correction fluid

July 22

agenda book/student planner, pocket dictionary pocket thesaurus

July 29

1 USB flash drives 4 GB or lower, 1 scientific calculator

If you have questions, please contact Judy Farrell @ grandmasgang6@yahoo.com or Mary Jo Munnelly @ mjmunnelly@msn.com.

Thank you, Alex!



For his Eagle Scout Community Service Project on Saturday, May 5 2012, Alex Busch planned, developed and led an exhaustive effort to replace an outdated flagstone path with an integrated paver walkway at our church.

All of the weeks Alex spent planning, designing and coordinating the project paid off on a day that threatened rain but remained bright and clear. Marshaling the volunteer efforts of other members of his Boy Scout Troop 403 as well as adults from the community and church, he was directly involved in every aspect, checking measurements and offering encouragement. Definitely a hands on leader, after the preparation was completed, Alex personally set each brick in a pathway that extends more than forty feet that is now wide enough for couples and families with small children to walk together. Alex was observed all day by a senior Scouting representative to ensure his project met the requirements and represented his work.

Thank you Alex for your service to the church and the community. Come and See UPB and experience the new walkway!

The United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ Our Mission: To Serve

2515 Mitchellville Road
(Corner of Mt. Oak and Mitchellville Roads)
PO Box 1570
Bowie, Maryland 20716
Phone/Fax: 301-249-6411
E-mail: pastorjeri.upb@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET...

Worship during July and August
will start at 10 a.m.



Visit us on the web!

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.



Celebrating 35 Years of Ministry

June 10 at 11 a.m.



ART & MUSIC CAMP

July 16- July 20, 2012

9am - 12 pm



A week of fun, faith, and fellowship for children 3 years old through incoming 6th graders.

We will explore "Clean Water for All God's Children" through art, music, drama, and games. Cost: \$25.

Questions? Call UPB at (301) 249-6411 or e-mail artandmusiccamp@unitedparishbowie.org. To register- visit www.unitedparishbowie.org



**Register
TODAY!
Space is
limited.**