

SUMMER
2013

UNITED PARISH OF BOWIE

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

2515 Mitchellville Road, Bowie, Maryland 20716 301/249-6411 www.unitedparishbowie.org

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Inside this Issue

A Message from Pastor Jeri	1-2
Christmas in April	2
A Look Back at Spring 2013	3
Communications Committee	4
What I Love about UPB...	4
Mission and Service Committee	5
Joyful to Love by Shirley Klotz Bickel	6
UPB as a POD	6
Spring SEEDS	7
Spiritual Formation	7
A Look Ahead	8
Art and Music Camp	8

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ~Matthew 6:21

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. ~ Luke 12:48



HEART CHECK-UP

So how is your heart? Anxiously you await the results of the medical tests:

Heart rate: good
Cholesterol level: OK but could be better
Blood pressure – keep on taking the same meds; keep the salt consumption down
Stress test, EKG, and heart sonogram are fine
Continue to exercise and watch the weight
Find ways to deal with stressful situations
And continue to avoid smoking and use of tobacco products
Cya in a year for your next physical.

You give a deep sigh of relief. Good to go for another year.

But how is your heart really? What is the condition of your heart from God's perspective? In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says, "Where your treasures are is where your heart will be." Jesus invites you to take a look at your heart. What are the treasures in your life that lead to where and how your heart is functioning from God's perspective? What do you value and why? How might your heart become stronger?

Ultimately, the way in which you direct your energies and resources is a reflection of your values and beliefs. The way you

continued on page 2

Heart Check-up, continued

use your time, talents, and treasures is an outward expression of your inward spirit. Some would contend that the way one uses one's God-given resources is a barometer reading of one's faith at work. Faith at work is heart work: love of God and love of others, serving God and serving others.

You are blessed to be a blessing to others, to be good stewards of all God has given you. The sharing of blessings can be observed through one's levels of commitment and generosity, in the ways one cares for God's good creation and builds relationships with others. How is the flow of commitment and generosity and caring pulsating from your heart? What might be blocking the flow or causing your heart to beat erratically?

May your hearts beat strong for the Lord as you remember Jesus' words: "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."

Soon a group will be assimilated to explore the topic of being good stewards and to identify ways to promote the health and well-being of the church for the years ahead. Would you like to be a part of this group? If so, please contact Kathy Busch, Vice-Moderator of the Board or Pastor Jeri.

Grace and peace for the journey.
~Pastor Jeri, Interim



2013 Christmas in April

by Herb Sheppard

This year marked the 25th year for the PG County Christmas in April program. It's worth noting that UPB has been an annual participant in this program for at least 20 of those 25 years. This annual event brings together volunteers on the last Saturday in April to help needy homeowners who need painting, yard work, and general repairs and upgrades. Each home is a bit different and poses its own unique set of challenges and this year was no different. Located in Landover, this woman's home needed countertops, tile,

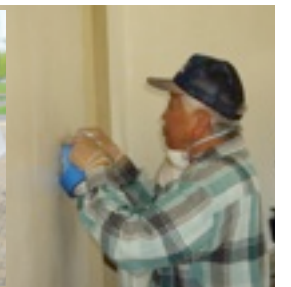
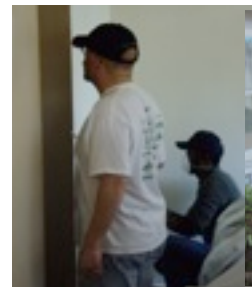
vanities, sinks, plumbing, doors, wall board, and lots and lots of painting. UPB again joined with Trinity Episcopal Church of Upper Marlboro for the third year in a row. The two churches work splendidly together for this worthwhile event. Lending a hand this year beside myself were Gene and Alex Barbato, Alec Burgess, Carlton Igwacho, Ting Chin, Mike Mehl, Judy Farrell, Deepa Hillary, Terry and Josephine Drown and their granddaughter Cecilia Branche. It was a long day but everyone hung in to the end. The homeowner was delighted with the transformation and all of us returned home tired but satisfied with a day well spent. Thanks to all of these generous volunteers for donating a Saturday to make a difference in someone else's life!



A Look Back at Spring 2013



Robin B: "It is MY church home where I am most comfortable to worship with my 'second' family."



Anonymous: "(I love) the fellowship, the acceptance of all people, and the willingness of helping others by the congregation."



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

So a few days ago it was like 80 degrees, last night it got down to the 30s and this is Summer? It must be, because again I am looking at a blank page and the next newsletter is not only due (but surprisingly) overdue (again!). So welcome to Summer; let's get started. Oh before I forget, if we get hit with a late season Killer Frost, Hot Hail or other weather event, look for updates to be communicated to you via the radio, tv, on the web and, if you signed up for it, the new urgent update via text feature.

So last time, we talked about how BowieFest was an upcoming example of what we mean by a Team



approach. In reality, it takes people from every single committee and many who haven't yet committed to serving the church by taking an active role on a committee to make our UPB Booth such a success. The Communications and Coordination Committee played a role in planning and coordinating our efforts with the City and different vendors, your Membership and Fellowship Committee worked with your Children, Youth and Families Committee to staff and organize the many volunteers who invested their day in helping to spread the good news of all of the things we have going on at the UPB. It was also due to the dedication of the small army of folks who worked behind the scenes to ensure we had shirts and decorations and games and

giveaways and got our tent setup and then, at the end of the day, got our assigned spot torn down, cleaned up and packed away (I am sure I am forgetting something important), and everyone who helped share the UPB story at BowieFest – Thank You. Your hard work was not only noticed, but deeply appreciated.....Hey, you know what the reward for hard work really is? You guessed it, the opportunity to do more of it!

Since the mission of the Communication and Coordination Committee is to serve all the other committees as they serve UPB in their mission areas, we try to incorporate a mixed media approach. Within budgetary constraints, you may see some of these appearing as flyers in local establishments, web pages, direct marketing of trifold brochures with a personal invitation to "Come and See!", seasonal banners, free print and online ads, paid spots in any combination of media outlets, etc. If you have suggestions on how we can better reach our internal and external audiences, we'd love to hear from you. We are wishing You and Yours a Safe and Happy Summer.

–Your ComCom Committee

What I love about The United Parish

Earlier this year, the Communications Committee asked the congregation to write what they love about the United Parish of Bowie. Throughout the newsletter you will find some of the responses. Enjoy!

Jan S: "(I love) the many kind & friendly members!"

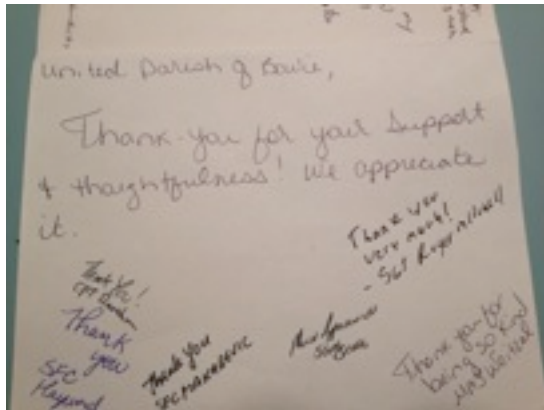
Kathy McI: "As a newcomer, I have found all the members of this congregation to be genuinely welcoming and warm. I feel an immediate connection to everyone."

Carlson I: "I love the small congregation...less is more. My wife and my children like coming here. It trumps all reasons. Thank you UPB!!!"

MISSION AND SERVICE



Easter Baskets for the Family Crisis Center: UPB prepared 24 Easter baskets for the children living at the Family Crisis Center. The baskets were delivered on Palm Sunday. This service opportunity allows children to experience the excitement of receiving an Easter basket and the love from UPB!



Special Thanks to the Ladies Night Out led by Barbara Trafton for assembling 17 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service, putting together 6 large care packages for Any Soldier Project (snacks, foods, slippers, toys, and games) that was sent to a Maryland Army National Guard unit serving in Afghanistan, and tying a beautiful prayer blanket.

Warm Nights: In addition to the wonderful meal UPB provided to "Warm Nights" at Village Baptist Church, we also provided the items leftover from the Ladies Night Out service project so that the participants could select items such as: socks, fingernail clippers, soap, band aid kits, towels, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, etc. to take with them.

The Focused Food Drive for the Bowie Pantry was a great success! Thank you to all who participated. UPB was mentioned in the Bowie Pantry's Newsletter for April/May for our regular contributions and for the focused food drive! We can continue to contribute by remembering to pick up their most needed items: canned fruit/applesauce, rice/pasta sides, pork & beans, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, jelly and drop in the basket in the Narthex.

LATE SUMMER: UPB will support Central Union Mission's annual initiative to provide backpacks to the children in need in our Nation's Capital. UPB will focus on the High School-aged students again this year. Please look for more information on how you can help!

MISSION AND SERVICE

Upcoming Opportunities

Family Crisis Center Themed

Meals: Thank you for supporting this each month! Our meals are a blessing to the women and children at the Crisis Center. The upcoming themes are as follows:

June 16: "American" hot dogs, hamburgers, sides, dessert

July 21: "Main Dish Salad" potato, macaroni, shrimp, green, Antipasto salad

August 18: "Maryland Seafood" fish, crabs, shrimp coleslaw

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.



Traveling this summer or fall?

Don't forget, the Bowie Pantry accepts travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, etc. Please remember the Pantry and don't leave those items behind in the hotel room.

Gene B.: "(We are) friends helping each other grow in faith."



Joyful to Love

Creator of good, I studied and searched
 what You had in mind when You breathed
 this living soul within my mother's womb.
 Born to wander, I didn't know Your fleshly Son.
 I heard about this Savior, His miracles
 And healing words meant for sinners
 not for doubters such as me.
 My groans and complaints clunked of emptiness.
 One pounding night, darkened of hope,
 stripped of purpose, I met your Jesus
 who called me close like a father at night.
 Forgiving my past, He offered me change
 from childlike struggles all tied up with me.
 He promised I could trust Him with my all.
 With newborn steps, infused with love each day,
 He's hoisted me up when I have stumbled
 coaxing me to be joyful as I give His love away.

Shirley Klotz Bickel, C. 2013

Sudha H: "(I love) the gift of Pastor Jeri's spiritual guidance, leadership, support, the many ministries of UPB that affect people in the local, regional areas and all around the world, the special programming, the loyalty and friendliness of congregation year over year, the music, volunteers, committee chairs and their teams."

UPB as a Prince George's Co. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Dispensing Center

On April 24, the first Prince George's County training workshop was held for representatives of emergency dispensing centers, which will distribute treatment drugs for citizens to take during chemical, radioactive and medical emergency events. UPB is registered as a Closed Point of Dispensing (POD), which means that, once an emergency event happens, UPB will be able to get enough drugs to treat all of our members. The County will set up open centers in all of the senior high schools, but they are encouraging as many private (or closed) centers as possible to help get treatment to all as soon as possible. Our next step will be to set up our own plan for UPB. We will be asked to test our plan with the County later this year or early in 2014. Gene Barbato attended the workshop representing UPB. If you have question or would like to participate in UPB's emergency planning, please contact Gene.



Anonymous: "(I love) that you are welcome to worship and embraced to continue on your path of faith through different church activities; Sunday School, study of the Bible, and choir."

Herb S: "(UPB is) low keyed and easy going."

Jan B: "(I love) the warm welcoming people, the brightness of sanctuary (during the) daytime, the blended, varying music, when Passing of Peace is at the end of the service and growing in faith especially through adult education."

Spring SEEDS

In Spring SEEDS we focused on miracles, talking about Jesus healing a paralyzed man, helping a blind man to see, and raising Lazarus from the dead. We also read about how Jesus calmed the waters and walked on water.

I Bible stories came from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The kids helped the choir sing "Miracle Man" and then ended on a high note when they played "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" on the chimes. Several of them also served as liturgists during the service on Mother's Day. We would like to thank all the children who participated in SEEDS this year. A big thanks goes out to all who helped with the meals, especially Pearl who organized all the food. We are looking forward to the fall.



Alec B: "It's big enough to appeal to all ages, yet small enough to create a family atmosphere."

Violet I: "(I love) the fellowship, the warmth I feel from other worshippers, the timely services and Pastor Jeri's sermons. (I also love) the efforts we all make to improve our quality of worship, Sunday School and the mid-week activity."

Spiritual Formation

PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was commissioned on April 28, 2013. They have begun meeting weekly on Thursday evenings. Julia Freeman is the liaison appointed from Presbytery. Members of the PNC include:

Jan Barbato, Dina Bickel, Bill Collins, Diane Eades, Sue Kennedy, Cathie Lambert and Mike Mehl. The process has begun! They are learning more about each other through team building activities. They are reading handbooks from both denominations as they begin to discern who will be the next pastor of our church. They also are starting to work on the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and are planning to post the ad for a new pastor on August 1. Please keep this committee in your thoughts and prayers throughout this long journey.



Anthem Dedications: Has an anthem ever moved you so much you wished you could "own it"? For \$25.00, the CSFC would like to offer the opportunity for you to dedicate an anthem to someone or to something. You can choose an anthem the church already owns or choose a new anthem. If you know of an anthem, we ask that you fill out a form to request the dedication. If you don't know of one, but would like to consider one, you will be able to read through the texts of anthems that are possible purchases for the choir. You may be able to hear what the piece sounds like as well. This opportunity will allow the budget to be expanded to possibly allow for instrumentalists to enhance the music the choir is doing in the next couple of years. For more questions, please contact Diane.

Church in the Park: Please join us on Sunday June 23, 2013 for church in the park at the West Pavilion at Allen Pond. The service will be at 10:45am with a picnic to follow. Please bring drinks, salads or desserts to share. Hot dogs will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet in June. We have put in our order for great weather that weekend!

Summer Music and Adult Choir: The Adult choir will sing on June 16, 2013 and then take a well deserved break for the summer. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

If you sing or play an instrument, we need you this summer to supply special music to enhance the worship service. Please let Shirley know when you are available so she can create a schedule. Remember, the service in the summer is at 10:00am.

THE UNITED PARISH OF BOWIE

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

2515 Mitchellville Road
(Corner of Mt. Oak and Mitchellville Roads)
PO Box 1571
Bowie, Maryland 20716
Phone/Fax: 301/249-6411
Email: pastorjeri.upb@gmail.com

A Look ahead...

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|-----------------|---|
| June 12, 19, 26 | A time for prayer on Wednesday evening from 7:30 – 8:00. |
| June 16 | Choir recognition and the return of the Father's Day All Male for one hymn |
| June 23 | Church in the park – be sure to wear your UPB shirts if you have one. |
| June 30 | Recognition of all who served in ministries throughout the year related to Children, Youth, and Families. Appreciation breakfast at 9:45 AM for all Christian Ed teachers, both children and adult, and everyone who helped with SEEDS this year. |
| July 7 | Worship time change to summer schedule of 10 AM. Meeting after church for anyone who is interested in teaching Sunday School next year. Please see Julissa or Sue if interested. |
| July 22 – 26 | 3 rd Annual Art and Music Camp at United Parish of Bowie |



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 future publications.

United Parish of Bowie's 3rd Annual

Art & Music Camp

July 22 - 26, 2013 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Go Serve Our World in God's Backyard

Where kids have a
blast serving

The United Parish of Bowie is hosting our third annual Art & Music Camp, July 22-26, from 9:00 am to noon. Cost: \$25. Preschoolers through incoming sixth grader are invited to attend. The theme for this year is "Go and Serve Our World in God's Backyard - Where kids have a blast serving Jesus". The children will rotate through stations of art, music, games, and drama and learn how they can serve family, friends, neighbors, the community, and Jesus while having loads of fun! If you have talents in any of these areas, or just want to help children grow in their faith, please talk to either Sue, Diane, or Julissa about helping. We are still looking for volunteers. There is something for everyone to do.

Registration is now open for our camp. A flyer and the registration form may be found in the narthex and online on our website. Please register and also help spread the word about our wonderful camp.



family,
friends,
neighbors,
community
and Jesus!

