



United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ – Our Mission: To Serve

A Message from Pastor Chris...

Summer is almost here. Pools will open. School will be out. Vacations will start. Time will slow down and we will enjoy the long days of summer. It's a time to rest and relax. However, there is still work to be done. Christ calls us to love God and our neighbor and we are called to do this in all seasons. One of the things that drew me to this church was the motto "*United in Christ: Our Mission - To Serve*".

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Pastor Chris1

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This call to service is true in fall, winter, spring, and even summer. As part of our mission to serve, I feel it is important that we continue to grow in the areas of "hands on" mission and reaching and serving our surrounding community. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." We will have several opportunities to serve God and our neighbor this summer.

June 11th – UPB vs SMA Walk -n- Roll On June 11, we will host a one-mile walk –n- roll to raise awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, as well as raise money to help find a cure for this awful disease. After the walk, we will have a celebration including games, a bounce house, face painting, and a Taco Truck! This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved, whether it is raising money to combat SMA or helping out at the celebration.

July 10th – 16th – Mars Hill Mission Trip We will again travel to Mars Hill, North Carolina to work on houses for people in need of aid. Last year, we took 10 people and all 10 would tell you what a great experience it was. We partner with two

other churches, stay in a dorm, and work on an assigned site each day. At night, we gather for meals, fellowship, and worship. Children under 11 stay on campus and participate in a VBS like program. People of all ages and skill levels are needed! If you would like to participate, please let Chris know by June 12th.

June 20th – 24th – Art and Music Camp Many of us grew up singing "Jesus Loves

the Little Children". In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* During Art and Music Camp, we welcome the children of the community to our church to learn art, drama, music, crafts, and games, while teaching them of God's love.

These are just the highlights of the summer. There are other opportunities to love God and neighbor, such as Church in the Park on June 26th. Summer is a time to relax, but it is also full of opportunities to serve God, serve each other, and serve our neighbors.

1 Peter 4:10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.



On Saturday, June 11, our congregation will be hosting the **UPB vs. SMA Walk-n-Roll** to raise money and awareness to help find a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). The one-mile walk through our

local neighborhood will begin at 10:30. Following the walk, there will be a thank you celebration with activities for all ages. Everyone – children, youth, and adults – is encouraged to support this event by raising money as a walker, and by helping with the various activities during the thank you celebration.

Our church teaches that as Christians, we are to love others as Christ loved us. This is an opportunity to put this teaching into action with hands on mission, as well as raise our visibility in the neighborhood as we live out the meaning of our mission statement: **United in Christ – Our Mission: To Serve**



After countless years of relying entirely on Mike Mehl's technical expertise and content creation skills, the UPB website will soon be re-created on a church-tailored Do-it-Yourself (DIY) template builder--Ministry Designs. DIY template builders allow non-technical people to create and publish websites by dragging and dropping text, images, videos, etc. into a user-friendly editor.

The plan to re-create our website on the Ministry Designs platform was driven by two factors: First was the need for a platform that supported responsive design--the ability to clearly view a website regardless of the device used (desktop, laptop, tablet, phone, etc.). The second goal was to alleviate Mike and end the cumbersome process in place for updating website information. Due to the Ministry Designs platform ease of use, all of us with average computer familiarity will be able to make website updates in real time! More to come...

Christian Spiritual Formation (CSF)

Adult Christian Education is using the book, *The Call* by Adam Hamilton. Adam Hamilton’s introduction to *The Call* states: *It could reasonably be argued that no other human, apart from Jesus himself, has had a greater impact on the world than Paul of Tarsus. ...Paul ’s theological reflections have had a profound impact upon every branch of the Christian faith.* The class is studying the three missionary journeys that took the gospel across the Roman world until Paul’s death in Rome.

June 26 Church in the Park Pastor Chris will be leading a worship service at Allen’s Pond beginning at 10:00 A.M. There will be a lunch following the service. Please bring games for activities after lunch.

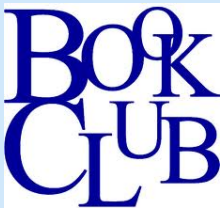


September 11 Rally Day After the church service there will be activities to begin our church year. Please plan to attend.



September 22 Watoto Concert
The Watoto children will once again present a concert of music, video and share stories of personal spiritual growth. Come and join us to enjoy the concert and interact with the Watoto Children’s Choir.

For summer reading, the UPB Book Club will read *American Nations: A History of Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* by Colin Woodward. It is described as a fascinating look at American regionalism and the eleven “nations” that continue to shape North America. It relates how conflicts between them have shaped our past and continue to shape our future, including the composition of the U.S. Congress. Our meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 2 at the Barbato residence.



A Look Back at Spring 2016...



ART & MUSIC CAMP – 2016

Plans are well under way for our SIXTH annual Art & Music Camp that will be held July 25-29 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Diane Eades has emailed information to last year's participants, and flyers and registration forms are available in the Narthex (thank you, Dina Bickel). We have our group names: turtle, seal, lobster, and starfish, and Cathie Lambert is creating amazing decorations!



The theme this year is **Deep Sea Discovery: God is With Me Wherever I Go!**

Everyone will learn that God is always with them, will explore God's presence in their lives, and that God sends them out to serve others. In addition, kids will hear how the daily Bible story ties into God's bigger story – His plan for salvation and what Christ's sacrifice means for them as they are challenged to respond to God's love in real and meaningful ways. The daily theme will be reinforced as children rotate through the different stations of art, music, games, and drama.

We are still in need of volunteers, so if you have any talents in any of these areas, or just want to be a part of helping children grow in their faith, please talk to either Diane Eades or Sue Kennedy. There is something for everyone to do!

CONGRATS
CLASS OF
2016



Congratulations to Luis Orta who graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and to Violet Tebi-Igwachio who earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy! Way to go!



Board Corner: Spring 2016

It is important to the Board that our congregation is kept informed on discussions that are taking place and decisions that are being made for the good of the United Parish. Minutes of Board meetings, along with agendas, monthly financial statements, and the pastor's report, are kept in a binder in the church library.

In the past few months, the Board has been at work in several different areas including:

- Extended their gratitude to Walter Trafton for his excellent record keeping that enabled UPB to pass the National Capital Presbytery Records Review without exception (no mistakes!!).
- Continued to work on and finalize a Personnel Policy Manual for the church. The Board will review the current Child Protection Policy and will begin working on a Sexual Misconduct Policy as required by the Presbytery.
- Finalized the 2016 Nominating Committee with the approval of Board members Gene Barbato and Sharon Doughty. At-large members, Alec Burgess, Marva Connolly, and Janice Sheppard were elected by the congregation in February.
- Set up and approved a financial audit committee consisting of Gene Barbato, Terry Drown, and Nancy Snyder.
- Discussed the need for new carpet in both the day care area and the nursery. Roy Eades will get estimates. The target date for completion is August, 2016.
- Gene Barbato reported that UPB is now ready to start the process of setting up Pay Pal for electronic giving.
- Began a four-month discernment process with a discussion of who we are as a congregation and what we value. The Board will use the information that comes from these discussions in formulating a strategic plan for UPB.
- Approved sending the proceeds from One Great Hour of Sharing in May to the United Church of Christ for their fund to help the citizens of Flint, Michigan.
- Approved making a \$100 donation to Stephen Ministry in memory of Fred Feldner.
- Approved a \$500 budget for the UPB vs. SMA Walk-n-Roll.
- Approved Chris Deacon's request to do major capital improvements on his house, as required by the Equity Share Agreement.



The Board represents the membership of the United Parish. Please feel free to contact any Board member or Pastor Chris with your ideas, suggestions and/or concerns.



Spring SEEDS was filled with a variety of activities as we used Cokesbury's G-Force to explore God's love in action. Our overall theme was **"In God, we live, move, and exist"** from Acts 17:28a. Each week we focused on a different action word and verse:

Move! ***"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*** (Micah 6:8b)

Act! ***"I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action."*** (James 1:1B)

Care! ***"Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."*** (Galatians 6:2)

Follow! ***"Come, follow me."*** (Matthew 4:19a)

Share! ***"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations."*** (Matthew 28:19a)

There were amazing discussion on what it means to do justice, how we can put our faith into faithful action, what it means to follow Jesus, how we can carry someone's burden, and what it means to be a disciple.

Bible stories included: Moses and the Red Sea, Solomon building the temple, the healing of Bartimaeus, four men taking their paralyzed friend to see Jesus, and the women finding the empty tomb.

We made a canvas wall hanging to remind us that God wants us to show our faith by our actions, traffic light photo frames to help us follow Jesus, and butterflies to hand out to all the women on Mother's Day. Everyone also enjoyed playing **Move with Moses**, singing songs and making different desserts.

The SEEDS team would like to thank all those who participated this year: children, youth, parents, and leaders. Thanks also to Roy Eades, along with our parents, for helping with clean up. We especially want to thank all those who provided meals: Shirley Bickel, Mary Bird, the Christophers, the Deacons, the Drowns, Tanya Settles, Janice Sheppard, Nancy Snyder, and Barbara Trafton. All of you are an important part of this ministry!

We are looking forward to the fall, and finding new and exciting ways to help our children, youth, and families grow in their faith. If you have any great ideas, or feel called to be a part of this powerful ministry, please see Diane Eades or Sue Kennedy.

Ongoing Ministries

Worship and Christian Education

Worship Service- Worship will be at 10:00 a.m. with nursery available
 + 1st Sunday Communion
 + 3rd Sunday (*usually*) Children's Sermon w/ Puppets;
 Time with Children all other Sundays
 Choir Wed. 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Education- Sundays 11:15 -12:00 p.m.
 Sunday School- Sundays 11:15- 12:00 p.m.
 Seeds of Worship Family mid-week ministry program at UPB.
 Wednesday 6:00—7:15 p.m.

Mission and Service

Crisis Center Meal UPB provides Family Crisis Center dinner. Sign up to bring a part of the meal 3rd Sunday bring your donation to UPB.
 Bowie Food Pantry Please bring your non-perishable food donation, paper goods, baby items (diapers/wipes), and toiletries to the basket in the Narthex. Thanks for your generous giving.

Fellowship

Chat & Chew Food and fellowship time: after worship. 2nd & 4th Sundays in the Narthex
 Men's Breakfast: 2nd and 4th Thursday 7:45 a.m. Nautilus Diner, Crofton
 Men's Night Out: 3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m. (Location TBA)
 Book Club: 1st Friday night of the month at the Barbato home
 Ladies Luncheon: 2nd Friday 11:30 a.m. Olive Garden
 Ladies Night Out: 4th Thursday 6:30 p.m. Old Bowie Town Grille



Upcoming Events and Services: Summer 2016 and Beyond...

June 11	UPB vs SMA Walk -n- Roll
June 26	Church in the Park
July 10-16	Mars Hill Mission Trip
July 25 -29	Art and Music Camp – <i>Deep Sea Discovery</i>
Sept 11	Rally Day
Sept 22	Watoto Children's Choir



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