

United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ—Our Mission: To Serve

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

WINTER 2010
NEWSLETTER



Waiting

The Season of Advent in the church calendar always challenges us to look at our relationship with time. As a culture, we aren't very good at waiting. We want things now, if not yesterday. I'm as much to blame as anyone... when a delivery person calls and gives me a 4 hour time window for something to be delivered to my house, I always ask for a more specific timeframe because I can't stand just waiting around. When I go to the store I have this debate in my head about the self-check-out lines – when they work well, it's great; they're a time saver. When they don't I end up waiting who knows how long till someone who works there comes to help. I can hardly think about an amusement park in the middle of Summer without getting tense at the thought of waiting in the lines.

Researchers tell us that if you add it all up, the average person will spend 5 years of his or her life waiting in line, 2 years playing telephone tag, and six months sitting at red lights. That's seven-and-a-half years of waiting in just those three things. If they included trips to the MVA or time spent on hold trying to reach a customer service representative or picking up kids from a friend's house or a million other things that make us wait, it's staggering to think about how much of our lives are spent waiting.

Time management folks tell us that we can increase efficiency while waiting by multi-tasking or cutting out things that may take more time than we want to give. (Things like: "you can eliminate the time waiting for toast to cook by having a 'blender breakfast' instead—banana, fruit juice, granola, honey— If you make it in a large enough batch and pour it into separate glasses to keep in the fridge you can have a week's worth of breakfast ready to grab on the way out the door.") If that suggestion is helpful for you, great, feel free to use it. For me, it's just hard to imagine. And besides, I think there's something valuable that can come with waiting.

On the church calendar Advent is designed to be a time of waiting. It's not the usual "*I wish I was already there*" kind of waiting...although sometimes that's how it manifests before Christmas. But instead it's the kind of waiting that says I know things aren't how they were meant to be, and I wonder how God's going to show up. And God will show up. At Christmas we celebrate that God entered into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. It was a specific act, something that happened in a real time and real place. And it made a real difference. When God showed up everything changed. It's an event so significant that whenever we say what year it is we remember when Jesus was here. In our scriptures we have the promise that one day God will show up again in all sorts of splendor and glory. Until that time, I believe that God is constantly showing up in our lives to transform our minds and hearts. Perhaps when we find ourselves waiting can be the time when we open our eyes to see how.

So my invitation for you, especially during the time of Advent this year is three-fold: first, *wait expectantly* because God is already showing up: within you, and around you, and among your family and friends; second, *pay attention* so that you can see where God is showing up; and third *join in* with what God's doing.

Happy waiting,

Pastor Dan

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Fall 2010



Fall Clean-up



Teacher Dedication



Rally Sunday



Leadership Retreat



Seeds of Worship



40th Anniversary



Children's Sermon

2011 Pledge Summary

The Stewardship season this year focused on seeing financial giving as one part of our overall spiritual growth strategy. The month-long campaign culminated with Consecration Sunday where we celebrated God's faithfulness, shared a meal and returned our pledge cards as an act of worship. Based on the total of the pledges, the United Parish is on solid financial footing to continue our growing ministry.

Below you'll find a composite summary of the 2011 pledges to date.

	2010	2011
No. of Pledges	37	40
No. of Estimates	8	4
Pledged	\$119,570	\$127,680
Estimates	\$8,924	\$6,352
TOTAL	\$128,494	\$134,032
Total Increase		\$5,538
% Increase		4.31%
Increased Pledge		25
Decreased Pledge		6
New Pledges		3



Consecration Sunday



A Shepherd's Night



Faithful light of the night
has marked a path to this safe haven.
Blistered feet throb from the long day's trek.
Cold to the bone I stir the fire,
rub my knees, spank my thighs,
anything to keep awake while
contented sheep take their sleep.

All is quiet. Hurting and lonely
I repeat the words my father taught,
"The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want" when suddenly
the sky is blinding bright.
Is this the end? I've no place to hide.
Like the lambs I pant and bleat.
"Do not be afraid," an angel consoles.
"For there is born to you this day
in the city of David, a Savior who is
Christ the Lord."

I must be dreaming.
What is happening to me?
"And this will be a sign to you.
You will find a Babe wrapped
in swaddling clothes
lying in a manger."
Other angels crowd the sky
with glorious sounds, unearthly praise.

I jump to my feet. I want to believe.
I wake the shepherds and calm the sheep.
Can it be true? Micah's promised ruler
is born this night in Bethlehem?
We simple, common folk long for the Messiah,
the Comforter, the Prince of Peace.
We ache for something beyond our work,
Restless and weary, we long for more.
Hurry, shepherds, we must go to Bethlehem.
If we do find the Savior there,
life can never be the same.

Shirley Klotz Bickel
C. 2010

Get to know UPB! As promised here are two
more committee chairs. Enjoy!

Mary Jo Munnelly, Mission and Service Committee Chair



I have been married to Pat for 25 years
and we have spent a good portion of our marriage
supporting and shuttling our 3 boys, John (30), Thomas (23),
and Robby (18), with Abby, our German Shepherd, in tow to
and from soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball fields, and
golf courses. Good thing we love sports! For the last 25
years, I have worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs
in Washington, DC and appreciate the service and sacrifices
of our nation's veterans. I have been a member of UPB for
almost 25 years (hmmm seems to be a pattern).

I am excited about being the Chair of the Mission and
Service Committee because I enjoy helping others and the
committee has loyal and dedicated members. This is an area
of the church that all members, regardless of age, can
participate - whether you are picking out items for your
shoe box gift, dropping change in the Water for the World
bottle, purchasing school supplies, cooking part of the meal
for the crisis center, donating items to the Food pantry, or
remembering your one great hour of sharing offering, you
are making a difference.

I am not sure about my earliest memory of being at a church
because we always attended as a family but my favorite
memory is the mother and daughter banquet. It was a
special event that my mom and I did together, leaving my 3
brothers at home with my dad. Pat and I found UPB in the
phone book while planning our wedding. Carl welcomed
us with an open heart and we knew right away we wanted
him to preside over our marriage. Six months after our
marriage my uncle died suddenly and since my aunt had
not attended church since her children left home, she did
not have a church family. I called Carl to ask if he would
officiate the funeral and he agreed and was such a blessing
to my Aunt and her family. That is when my Aunt I started
attending regularly and joined the church together.

Most people probably don't know that I lettered in 3 sports
my sophomore, junior, and senior year of high school but
instead of being voted "most athletic," I was voted "class
clown" by my class!

Get to know UPB! (cont.)

Rebecca Holland, Communications Committee Chair



A Pacific Northwest native, I moved with my family to Maryland because of all that UPB had to offer! We have been here for two years now and, although I miss the mountains, I love the people, places, and beauty of life here. I have been blessed with an amazing husband and three fantastic children, Natalie (4 ½ years old), Michaela (3 years old), and Benjamin (8 months old). I have worked in ministry and as a therapist, with my Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, but I am currently enjoying life as a full time mom. It is a wonderful and challenging job and I am blessed that it allows me time to volunteer in ministry at UPB!

My first memory of church is one of my favorite young childhood memories as it was a

time when the whole family was together AND we would get to have donuts if we behaved during church and Sunday school. It wasn't until I was older that I realized that our church always had donuts out after the service, whether I behaved or not. Mostly church was wonderful because it was a place that I felt loved. That love spoke more to me than anything they could have told me about faith – I knew of God's love because I had already experienced it. I continue to feel that as an adult at UPB. I love helping to share God's love with all who walk through the doors. And, of course, I still love those great treats after the service!

I am excited to take on the role of Communications Chair. I became a member soon after attending UPB and have looked

forward to taking on a leadership role, helping to prayerfully discern the future of our wonderful church. There are so many amazing ministries going on at UPB right now and I think it's important to celebrate those ministries by getting the word out through good communication! The communications committee has already formed and is taking on the challenge of reevaluating all of the current modes of communication over the course of the next year. We are looking at communication both within the church and in the community.

Please let me know if you have ideas or if you would be interested in joining the committee. It's going to be a great year!

Save the Date!

Book Club

Mark your calendars for future Book Club meetings!

Dec. 3th *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*, Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Jan. 7th *Home: a novel*, Marilynne Robinson

Feb. 4th *Still Alice*, Lisa Genova

Mar. 4th *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, Adam Hamilton

Apr. 1st *Too Much Happiness*, Alice Munroe

May 6th *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*, Beth Hoffman

June 3rd *Angelology*, Danielle Trussoni

Additional Recommendations:

The Uncommon Reader, Alan Bennett

Farewell to Alms, Gregory Clark

Pink Slips and Parting Gifts, Deb Hosey White

The Faith of Scientists, Nancy K. Frankinberry

Ongoing Fellowship Opportunities



Chat & Chew

Come and enjoy great food and friends after the worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Please bring something to share on the 2nd Sunday if your last name begins with A to G or on the 4th Sunday if your last name begins with H to Z.

Men's Breakfast

Join this great men's fellowship opportunity the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am at the Bowie Bob Evans.

Men's Night Out

7 pm at Glory Days. Be there on the last Tuesday of the month.

Book Club

The next discussion will take place on Dec. 3rd, 7pm at The Barbatos. *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows:

As London is emerging from the shadow of World War II, writer Juliet Ashton discovers her next subject in a book club on Guernsey--a club born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi after its members are discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island.

See "Save the Date!" for more Book Club discussion dates.

Women's Night Out

The ladies are off to a roaring start! Come and join the fun, typically on the third Friday of every month at 7pm. If you would like to host, we have a few dates open. See Jan B. for more

details. The next one will be Dec. 10th at Diane E's house. You don't want to miss this one! The men of the church are invited for a Christmas Celebration.



Brunch Bunch

A new fellowship opportunity this year! Pastor Dan and his family will be hosting a monthly Saturday "Brunch Bunch" in their home from 9 to 11 am. It will be a time for four UPB households (different every month) to get to know each other better as they enjoy a potluck brunch. The hope is that every UPB household will get an opportunity to sign up for one Brunch Bunch during the course of the year. Brunch Bunch dates include: December 18th, January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, and May 14th. Please look at your calendars and sign up on the Brunch Bunch clipboard in the Narthex.

We want to hear from you!

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

Spring Newsletter Deadline: Feb. 9th

Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Adult Education

Beginning on Nov. 28th, Adult Education is offering: An Advent Bible Study on the Christmas Story. We'll take an in-depth look at the birth of Jesus according to Matthew and Luke. Where are they the same, where do they differ? How does that affect our faith and understanding of the coming of the Lord at Christmas? We will meet at 9:45 am on Nov. 28th, Dec. 5th and Dec. 12. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Childcare available.

Prayer Group

Please join us for an evening of prayer at 7 pm in the Holland home on Tuesday, November 30th. Please contact Rebecca Holland if you would like to join or if you have any prayer requests.

"Shout for joy to the Lord,
all the earth. Worship the
Lord with gladness; come
before the Lord with
joyful songs."

Psalm 100: 1-2



Choir

Advent and Christmas are coming soon!! The Adult choir is already rehearsing for the Christmas Eve service and the children will begin to practice on Wednesday Dec. 1st for their presentation of *The Christmas Present* on Dec. 19th.

The Christmas Eve service will include instrumentalists such as flutes, brass and an accordion!! There will also be many familiar carols sung during the service. Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There is still time to join the choir to sing on this special night!! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.



Children, Youth, and Families

Sunday School is in full swing during the 11 am worship service. Children will begin in the service and then head to Sunday School for fun and faith building.

The Nursery (Birth to Toddler)

The Nursery has been relocated to the "new" Nursery room (formerly the preschool room) so that we can make way for our preschool Sunday school class and have only baby-safe toys for our littlest ones (the former nursery was also used by the day care). Please talk with Erica Swanson if you are interested in signing up as a volunteer nursery caregiver.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities, cont.



The Preschool Sunday School Class (Ages 3 to 5)

The Preschool Sunday School Class starts during worship on Sunday November 28th. They have a wonderful team of teachers who will be using the Presbyterian Church's Wee Believe Curriculum designed for preschoolers, with stories, activities, playtime, and more. They will be meeting in the "new" preschool room (formerly known as the nursery – which has now been relocated to the smaller room). As with the other Sunday School classes, the children will start in worship and then be invited to Sunday School during the service. The preschoolers will be encouraged to sit either with their families or in the front of the sanctuary so that they can see and participate in the worship service. Please help to welcome them!

The Elementary Aged Sunday School Class (Ages 6-12)

The elementary aged children have just finished the last quarter on the Images of God (PowerXpress). I'm pretty sure that more than one mom found a rock in their child's pocket. Ask one of them how a pepperoni pizza reminds them of the Images of God. Now we are starting the Advent series on Christmas Messenger (PowerXpress). We will be learning about the Christmas story with an emphasis on the angels as God's messengers. We will also be talking about how we can be God's messengers, too.

Seeds of Worship

Look out for Seeds in the new year! We invite children and their families to have fun as they connect, eat dinner, play games & celebrate faith through music on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm at UPB. Don't miss this amazing opportunity for the whole family to enjoy! Seeds Winter 2011 begins January 12th and will run through March 2nd. Please talk with Rebecca Holland if you are interested in participating, volunteering, or providing a meal.



Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, after Chat & Chew, for a time of fellowship and faith building. Don't miss the youth group monthly outings – either a fun event or service project (also fun!).

Mission and Service Committee

The Mission and Service Committee is active all year long and there are plenty of ways you can get involved, including joining the committee!

Past Events

Central Union Mission

In August, UPB supported *Central Union Mission* by providing backpacks filled with school supplies so children in need located in the Washington metropolitan area could return to school confident and better prepared to learn and succeed.



Operation Christmas Child

We recently "wrapped up" the *Operation Christmas Child* mission project to spread the love of God and his Word

with a simple gift. We exceeded our goal by filling 34 shoeboxes with gift items that will bring smiles to children in desperate situations around the world. Thank you to all who supported this project and a special thanks to the Seeds of Worship and Youth Group for your support. While the boxes are packed and on their way, continue to pray for those delivering the gifts and pray that the boxes will arrive at their destination in a timely manner.

Ongoing opportunities

Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry

Support the *Bowie Interfaith*

Food Pantry by donating non-perishable food donations, paper goods, baby items, and toiletries to the basket in the Narthex.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Contribute to *One Great Hour of Sharing*, an offering taken the first Sunday of each month.



Living Waters for the World (LWW)

Living Waters for the World, our children's Christian Education program's service project, trains and equips mission teams to share the gift of clean sustainable water with communities in need. Support this project by donating your change to the large water bottle in the Narthex.

Mission and Service Committee, cont.

Family Crisis Center

The 3rd Sunday of each month UPB provides a meal to the *Family Crisis Center*, a safe passage emergency shelter. Please look for the sign-up sheet during worship on the second Sunday of the month. Prepare the meal at home and bring with you to church on the 3rd Sunday.

Also, bring your old or broken cell phones and chargers and drop in the box in the narthex. Through its partnership with the Verizon HopeLine Program, the family crisis center can turn these items into cash to support their program.



Sarojini Orphanage Trust, Inc. (SOTI)

Provide financial support to *SOTI* whose mission is to touch the lives of the disadvantaged high school graduates from remote parts of India and Indonesia by empowering them with a university education.

United Campus Ministry (UCM)

Provide financial support to *United Campus Ministry (UCM)*. UCM is one of 14 recognized chaplaincies at the University of Maryland, College Park and provides students with a safe place to nurture and explore their faith in God.

Upcoming events

Warm Nights

UPB will participate in *Warm Nights* hosted by All Saints Lutheran Church. We will provide the meal (chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert) on Monday, November 29 and share fellowship with the guests. Please look for the sign-up sheet.

Future Opportunities

Other opportunities you will hear more about in the upcoming months: *Heifer International, Food Drive, Christmas in April, Easter Baskets for the Family Crisis Center*, and the Youth mission trip.



To: The UPB Congregation
From: The UPB Children & Youth

"The Christmas Present"

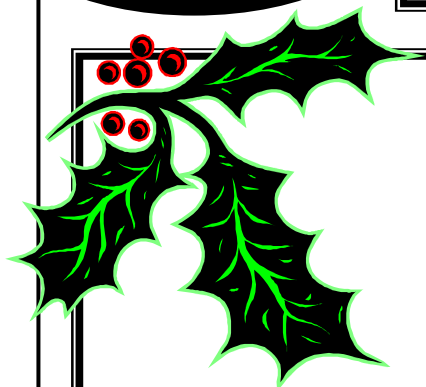
A Christmas Play and Songs
Sunday December 19th, 2010

Calling all Children and Youth! Participate in this year's Christmas play *The Christmas Present!* There's a role for everyone. We ask that those participating commit to arriving at 9:30 am on Sunday December 19th (the day of the play) and also to attending the following Wednesday "Present Practices" with dinner at 6 pm (Seeds family-style) and practice from 6:20 to 7 pm on Dec. 1st, Dec. 8th and Dec. 15th. If interested, please sign up with Rebecca Holland!

Winter 2010

UPB Worship 11 am

Nursery Care Available for Infants and Young Children
Sunday School Available for Preschool to Elementary Children



"The Christmas Present"

December 19th, 11am

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 7pm

All are welcome! Invite your friends and family to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

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Address Correction Requested