



# United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ – Our Mission: To Serve



## A Message from Pastor Chris...

Stories are important. We emphasized this on re-chartering Sunday when we shared stories of our faith and of our church. We heard and drew select passages telling one of the overarching themes of scripture when we worshiped in the park. Stories are important because they help us to connect with each other. They help us to communicate what we believe. Stories give us hope in a way that facts can't. Stories tend to move us to action. What happens, though, when we lose our story?

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This September, I will celebrate eight years being ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. For the majority of those eight years, I have preached from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The RCL is a three-year cycle of Biblical texts. Each week, it gives an Old Testament text, a Psalm, a Gospel, and an Epistle to use as options for text. Each year, the Gospel focuses on either Matthew, Mark, or Luke and the other texts are chosen to compliment the Gospel text. This leads to little continuity outside of the Gospel lessons, and even those sometimes jump out about. There is a lot of good with RCL, but it has problems, too. One of the biggest problems is that it assumes familiarity with the Biblical story. This isn't something we can assume in our society and it is an assumption that could drive the increasing pool of people who don't have Biblical knowledge.

A few years ago, I heard about a new alternative. The Narrative Lectionary is a new lectionary that came out of the Luther Seminary in 2010. It is a four-year cycle with each year telling the overarching story of the Bible. It begins in the Fall with Genesis and works through parts of the Old Testament concluding with the Birth of Christ at Christmas. After Christmas, the focus shifts to the life, mission, and ministry of Christ. After Easter, the focus again shifts to the

Epistles and the early church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. This lectionary is designed to not only enrich our worship, but to help us to engage scripture as a whole. This will enhance our spiritual lives and help us grow closer to God.

We will be starting the Narrative lectionary on our Kick-off Sunday, September 11. This fall we will look at the stories of creation, God's promise to Abraham, the Passover, the Israelites and the Golden Calf, the prophets Jonah, Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. We won't be able to cover all the stories this year, but we will learn the overarching story of God's people. Our Pre-K, Elementary, and youth Sunday Schools will also be following this lectionary.

These are my hopes. I hope that this increases our knowledge of scripture. I hope it builds our faith. I hope it draws us closer to God. I hope it allows us to grow into a better follower of Christ. Finally, I hope you are excited about this adventure as I am!

*Psalm 66:5 "Come and see what God has done: The Lord is awesome in God's deeds among mortals."*

Faithfully,  
Rev. Chris Deacon

## Prayers for the family of Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback

Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback, the long-time Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic region, has died at age sixty-nine. A Service of Celebration for his many years of ministry will take place on Saturday, September 17, 11 a.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ, 1000 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland. The Acting Conference Minister will be Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, who recently retired from her duties as the conference minister for another region.



### Get Connected!

Link to the church calendar to stay apprised of all United Parish of Bowie events and activities:

- ✓ Use your smartphone calendar program (Microsoft, Google, Apple, etc.) to link to the UPB calendar
- ✓ Import iCal file via this address:  
<http://www.google.com/calendar/ical/upbannounce@gmail.com/public/basics.ics>
- ✓ Questions? Please send an e-mail to [webadmin@unitedparishbowie.org](mailto:webadmin@unitedparishbowie.org)



### Take Off My Shoes?

No excuse, remove your shoes  
in the screening line.  
Rocks may fall, no sandals allowed.  
Which shoes are approved for  
this costly school?  
Two for one, back to school shoes.  
Dazzle them with the latest sneakers.  
Soccer boy likes his cleats so much  
he wears them to bed.  
Bubbly little ballerina turns a  
dizzy twirl in her new slippers.  
Everybody wants to shine in  
their new shoes.  
Where will our shoes take us?

In ancient times Moses led sheep  
across the blistering desert  
wearing his rugged sandals.  
Stunned by burning bush not  
consumed  
he hid his face when God spoke,  
“Take your sandals off your feet,  
for the place where you stand  
is holy ground.”

Shirley Klotz Bickel, c. 2016

### Christian Education for All Ages

This year, children, youth, and adults will be using the Narrative Lectionary Curriculum, "Living the Truth" in Sunday School. The scripture passages and lessons will correspond with Pastor Chris' sermons, which opens up endless possibilities for discussion as we all learn more about the Bible.

The year is divided into different sections or themes. The first two themes are Promises Made, Promises Broken, and God Sightings. Scriptures include passages from Genesis, Exodus, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, Jonah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

Classes begin on September 18. We hope that everyone will plan on participating in Sunday School and this exciting opportunity to learn together.



### HOUSEKEEPING

For families, the month of August is the time to get together to head away for their favorite destinations before the start of the new worship and school year. It is a time and opportunity for the United Parish of Bowie to repair and replace a few long overlooked items.

A few hands joined together to move furnishings from the day care area, and the nursery to another wing for the new carpet installation. Baseboard molding and windowsills were freshened with a new coat of paint. Many more hands came together a few days later to “selectively” restore the rooms in time for the next day care session.

Many window panes are fogged; a sign their seals have failed. Six unsightly ones were measured and replaced by a local contractor.

As Fall approaches we look forward to volunteers to come with tools and brushes in hand to help repair the shed and apply some paint where needed.



Come to Sunday worship at 10:00 and a celebration to kick-off the school year following worship. The festivities include: face painting, a bounce house, balloon animals, karaoke, games in addition to Anabel's Mobile Kitchen and John's South Philly Water Ice. Admission: A non-perishable food item to support the Bowie Food Pantry. Invite a friend and/or neighbor!

## **ART & MUSIC CAMP – 2016**

The United Parish of Bowie once again came alive the week of July 25 as we held our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Art & Music Camp. This year's theme was "God is With Me Wherever I Go." Our 37 energetic campers rotated through stations of art, drama, games, and music and learned that God knows, hears, strengthens, loves, and sends us. Every day opened with a visit from Snorkeling Steve, who had a special story, game or activity to introduce the theme and Bible story for the day. Campers then sang "Friend of God" before going to their first station.

The day's theme was reinforced at each station. Activities included: tie-dyeing camp shirts, making "God Sends Me" pennants, being swallowed by a whale, walking on water, using different instruments to keep the beat and create a rhythmic accompaniment, and playing a variety of water games!

Even our snacks reflected the day's theme as we enjoyed rainbow popsicles, jellyfish jigglers, and casting nets!



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this week a huge success: Jan Barbato, Dina Bickel, Chrissie Bickel, Kyle Bickel, Matt Bickel, Megan Bickel, Mary Bird, Ashley Borris, Alexis Borris, Darby Chilcote, Erin Chilcote, Haily Chilcote, Tom Chin, Chris Deacon, Joey Drown, Terry Drown, Diane Eades, Roy Eades, Gabriela Houser, Sue Kennedy, Cathie Lambert, Katie Lambert, Lydia Liu, Natalie Nguyen, Angel Nweke, Toby Nweke, Janice Sheppard, Carol Zuber.

And a special thank you to all the campers who helped fill up a pool with canned goods to support the Bowie Food Pantry.

## Board Corner – Fall 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:

- Continued to work on and finalize a Personnel Policy Manual for the church with work on both the Child Protection Policy and a Sexual Misconduct Policy as required by the Presbytery.
- Approved the installation of new carpet in both the day care area and the nursery.
- Gene Barbato reported that electronic giving should be up and running in time for stewardship.
- Continued a four-month discernment process with a discussion of who God is calling us to be and how we are changing as a congregation. 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 June to SMA.
- Approved a plaque in memory of Barbara Lazur to be placed in the Memorial Garden.
- Approved UPB's participation in the Bowie Houses of Worship Tour on Saturday, September 17.
- Summary of committee reports:
  - Mission and Service – Continues to support Family Crises Center with monthly meals; canned goods and school back packs for the Bowie Food Pantry; had a total of 7 adults and children participate in the Mars Hill Mission Trip; new chair will be appointed at the next meeting.
  - Communications – Supported various UPB events, including Bowie Fest, Art & Music Camp, and CureSMA Walk-n-Roll; continues to work on updating our website.
  - Ministry Support – Repaired leak in pastor's closet; coordinated carpet replacement in both day care room and nursery.
  - Mission and Fellowship – Continues to support fellowship opportunities including Ladies' Lunch and Ladies' Night Out, Men's Breakfast and Men's Night Out, and Book Club; coordinated food for Church in the Park.

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## Board Corner – Fall 2016 (continued)

- Children, Youth, and Family – CureSMA Walk-n-Roll raised around \$5500; set Saturday, June 18, as tentative date for next year; Art & Music camp had 37 participants and 28 volunteers; 2016-2017 Sunday School classes will be using the Narrative Lectionary Curriculum, “Living the Word”; hope to have preschool class this year.

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

### Trunk-or-Treat - Saturday, October 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Our second annual UPB Trunk-or-Treat is coming up and we need your help! Trunk-or-Treat is a version of Trick-or-Treat where adults park their cars (which can be decorated creatively if you chose) and hand out treats from the trunks of their cars. In addition to Trunk-or-Treat, we will have games and pumpkin painting. This event is designed not only for members of our church but as an outreach to the community. We need all hands on deck and of course, lots of cars to make this event a success. New this year will be a contest for the best decorated car! If you are interested in helping, please let Heather Deacon know ([hadeacon@gmail.com](mailto:hadeacon@gmail.com)). Mark your calendars and watch for more details!



### Fall SEEDS

Fall SEEDS begins Wednesday, September 21 and runs through October 26. This is a great time for families of all ages to come together as we share a meal and grow in our faith. Dinner will be at 6:00 with group activities from 6:25-7:15. Please support this meaningful ministry by helping to provide meals. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. The SEEDS team is also looking for help to set up and clean up. Please see Diane or Sue if you can help, have questions, or would like to join the team.



### CHRISTMAS PLAY – SAVE THE DATE!



While school has just started and many of us are thinking about fall and football, it is not too early to be making plans for Christmas. UPB's annual Christmas play starring our children and youth – and possibly other “young at heart” individuals – will be during worship on December 18. Practice will begin Wednesday, November 2 during SEEDS time. More information will be coming as plans are finalized, but mark your calendars now so that all our children and youth will be able to participate.

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



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

Sept 11	Kick-off Sunday
Sept 17	Houses of Worship Tour
Sept 21	SEEDS begins
Oct 22	Trunk – or - Treat
Nov 2	Christmas Play rehearsals begin (Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.)
Dec 18	Christmas Play



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2515 Mitchellville Road

Bowie, Maryland 20716

Visit us on the web at [www.unitedparishbowie.org](http://www.unitedparishbowie.org) or on Facebook  
or contact UPB at 301-249-6411 or [ckdeacon@yahoo.com](mailto:ckdeacon@yahoo.com).