

F A L L 2 0 1 5

United Parish of Bowie

United in Christ – Our Mission: To Serve



It's hard to believe that the summer is over. It seems just yesterday kids were getting out of school and the temperature was starting to rise. Now kids are back in school and you are starting to see advertisements for pumpkin flavored everything!

In Acts, Jesus tells the disciples they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and that they will be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and all the ends of the Earth. As followers of Christ, we are heirs to this declaration. Christ was telling the disciples that they should be his witnesses at home (Jerusalem), in the greater community (Judea), and to the ends of the Earth.

So how do we serve as Christ's witnesses at home, in the greater community, and to the ends of the Earth? This summer, we did a pretty good job. We served as Christ's witnesses through our Art and Music camp, which had 40 different children participate. Through Art and Music, we taught music, drama, crafts, and Bible stories. We also served the local community, by putting together summer fun baskets for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. We closed out the summer by collecting school supplies for the Food Pantry.

We served as Christ's witnesses throughout the greater community through our mission trip to Mars Hill. 12 members of our congregation traveled to Madison County, North Carolina where we worked on rehabbing homes for people.

Finally, we were witnesses for Christ by hosting the Watoto children's Choir from Uganda. This was a wonderful opportunity not only to support Watoto's global mission, but to get to know some wonderful children, hear some wonderful music, and stories of the transformative power of Christ.

The United Parish of Bowie's motto is "Our Mission: To Serve". I can think of no better way of being Christ's witnesses than serving others. After all, Christ is the one who came to serve, not to be served. During the summer we have served our brothers and sisters in "Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the Earth". As summer transitions to fall, we must continue to witness to Christ, both at home and abroad. We must continue to serve.



– Pastor Chris



Bible Study

You are invited to attend a 6-week Bible study on the **Apostle Paul**. The sessions will take place on Thursdays at the United Parish of Bowie from September 24th to October 29th. For each Thursday, two sessions will be offered. Please sign up at the narthex and specify your preferred session (2-3:30 or 7-8:30). Alternatively, you may contact the UPB Office (301-249-6411) or Nikki Hillary (703-941-5522).

Paul, previously called Saul, was a Jew from Tarsus who became known for his high intellect and devoutness to Jewish law. He vehemently opposed Christian faith and sought to eradicate all followers of Christ. While on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians there, Paul met the risen Lord Jesus. He was transformed, and went on to become a passionate Christian servant who preached the gospel throughout the Roman Empire. As Historian Philip Schaff states, *"The conversion of Paul marks not only a turning point in his personal history, but also an important epoch in the history of the apostolic church, and consequently in the history of mankind."*

Trunk-or-Treat

On Saturday, October 24 UPB will host its first ever Trunk-or-Treat! Trunk-or-Treat is a version of Trick-or-Treat where adults park their cars (which can be decorated creatively if you choose) and hand out treats from the trunks of their cars. In addition to Trunk-or-Treat we will have games and pumpkin decorating. This event is designed not only for members of our church but as an outreach to the community. In order to make it a success we will need all hands on deck - - and of course, lots of cars! If you are interested in helping, please let Heather Deacon know (hadeacon@gmail.com). Mark your calendars and watch for more details!





Save the Date!

Rally Day	September 13	Kick-off our church year with food, games and music following the service.
Faith and Film	September 18	Join us for a movie and followed by a discussion. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
CROP Walk	October 4	Walk and support a national anti-hunger event. More information may be found at Rally Day.
Trunk-or-Treat	October 24	Park your decorated (optional) car at UPB and hand out treats from the trunk of your car. Games and pumpkin decorating included too! (see page 2 for more info)
Consecration Sunday	October 25	Celebrate our commitment to serving God with our time, talent, and resources. Luncheon and fellowship after worship
Christmas Caroling	December 6	Share your favorite Christmas carols with neighbors and friends
Christmas Play	December 20	UPB's annual Christmas play starring the youth, children and possibly the "young at heart". Practice will begin Wednesday, November 4.
Mars Hill Mission Trip	July 10-16, 2016	A mission trip for the whole family in Mars Hill, NC
Art & Music Camp	July 25-29, 2016	A fun-filled week of learning about God through stations of art, music, games and drama

Get Linked!

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/basic.ics>

- ✓ Questions? Please send an e-mail to webadmin@unitedparishbowie.org

Board Corner

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:

- The Board approved extending the summer 10:00 am worship time through October and having Sunday School after worship for 45 minutes.
- For the Mars Hill Mission trip, the Board approved covering \$200 of the expenses for adults on the trip and all expenses for children attending. Two Board members participated in the mission trip.
- The Board approved the use of the UPB facility as an evacuation center for the Bowie Children's Center. A formal written agreement is being drafted to address all necessary details.
- The Board approved a heating and air conditioning service and maintenance contract with McCrea HVAC Services for the UPB systems. The Board also approved a proposal from McCrea to repair and improve the ducts servicing the sanctuary.
- The Board approved supporting Heather Deacon's proposed project to develop a system of on-line giving to the church as well as a legacy giving program. This project has been approved by Heather's college program advisor. Board member Gene Barbato will serve as her field supervisor and Board contact.
- The Board is working on getting a new nursery attendant to replace Chantise, who resigned in early August.
- The Board approved having Stewardship/Consecration Sunday on October 25, 2015.
- The Board supported the highly successful Watoto visit and the concert on June 24, 2015. Provisions were made to pay for the hotel rooms used by the Watoto directors and the bus driver.
- Here are reports received from the following committees:
 - Communications – Bowiefest was supported well by church volunteers. The Board received the Website Report and recommended that a Web Administration Team be set up by the Committee.
 - Ministry Support – HVAC service contract is in place and more duct repair is pending.
 - Children, Youth, and Family – Art & Music Camp was highly successful. Summer Fun Buckets for the Bowie Food Pantry were assembled and delivered.
 - Membership and Fellowship – support for the Watoto visit and Worship in the Park was great. The Book Club's summer reading is "Dead Wake" by Eric Larsen.
 - Christian Spiritual Formation – the Watoto concert was very successful; thanks to all the families who were hosts.
 - Mission and Service – The Mars Hill Mission Trip had 12 UPB adults and children participating. Our church group represented UPB well, and everyone benefitted from the experience

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.

A Look Back at Summer 2015



A LOOK AT THE COMMITTEES

As a union Church in the Reformed tradition, we believe that God has called the members of the United Parish of Bowie both to be and to do. That dual calling is represented in our mission statement:

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

We believe the church is the body of Christ in the world. Every member and friend of the church is a vital part of the ministry. We've organized into committees to carry out the ministry of the church. It is important as we move forward to work together to discern the direction of the ministry as we faithfully follow God's call by evaluating what we have done and imagining what we might do to serve God's people locally and globally. Where are you feeling God is calling you to serve?

PARISH BOARD

Purpose: To faithfully represent the practical needs and foster the spiritual growth of the congregation in its mission to serve Christ.

Functions: Provide monthly guidance and oversight of the congregation; delegate duties and powers to committees; recommend an annual budget to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting; organize and conduct an annual ministry evaluation

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY COMMITTEE

Purpose: To provide opportunities for children, youth, and their families to participate in the life of the United Parish; and to provide opportunities for the adults of the church to participate in the lives of the children and youth.

Functions: Coordinate the Christian education program for children, including the recruitment and training of teachers; plan and coordinate Art & Music Camp; plan and organize events that are specifically designed for children, youth, and/or families, including mission trips and service projects; plan and coordinate regularly scheduled Youth Group meetings and activities; coordinate childcare for Sunday morning worship as well as other events as needed; coordinate with the Pastor to conduct Confirmation classes; plan and coordinate periodic retreats with other committees as appropriate

MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

Purpose: To provide opportunities to help others in need through hands-on service and giving to communities outside of the church: locally, regionally, and globally.

Functions: Coordinate a variety of service opportunities such as Bowie Food Pantry, Family Crisis Center meals, back to school backpack and Christmas gifts for children at the Central Union Mission, Warm Nights, and Christmas in April; coordinate opportunities to participate in global financial support activities such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Living Waters International, and Sarojini Orphanage Trust, Inc.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Purpose: To inform and educate church members, friends, and the larger community about the ministry and mission of the United Parish of Bowie.

Functions: Disseminate logistical information for United Parish of Bowie services and events; construct the quarterly newsletter to include articles and highlights from the congregation; prepare Sunday worship and special service bulletins; host church website and calendar and manage content; provide advisory and editorial assistance to other church committees

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Purpose: To provide congregational care and opportunities to connect among members and friends of the United Parish, and to facilitate an atmosphere that is welcoming to newcomers and appreciative of the people who give of themselves in ministry.

Functions: Plan and coordinate ongoing fellowship groups and activities such as Men's Breakfast, Book Club, and bimonthly Chat and Chews; plan and coordinate Consecration Sunday luncheon, Lenten Dinners, Rally Day, and other fellowship and community oriented events throughout the year; coordinate meals/visitations for those in need; coordinate with the Pastor to conduct membership classes; plan and coordinate periodic retreats with other committees as appropriate

MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Purpose: To manage facilities, finances, and church records

Functions: Oversee the maintenance and beautification of the church building, property, and grounds, including organizing the fall and spring work days; manage the church membership and financial records; coordinate the annual Stewardship Pledge Campaign; coordinate the use of the facilities by the community

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CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Purpose: To build a culture and environment that encourages the spiritual growth of everyone who walks through the doors of the United Parish.

Functions: Plan and coordinate meaningful Sunday morning and special worship services to include the choir, special music, children and youth, and members of the congregation where appropriate; coordinate and develop the choir; coordinate adornment of the sanctuary including vestments, flowers for the Communion table, and décor for special seasons and services; coordinate Adult Education programs and recruit leaders/teachers; provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth including Bible Study, prayer group/chain, Lenten and Advent programs; organize and maintain the library; plan and coordinate periodic retreats with other committees as appropriate.

Art & Music Camp

Once again, it was another amazing week at the United Parish of Bowie as we held our 5th annual Art & Music Camp. This year's theme was "Jesus at Work Through Us." Children learned how Jesus works in and through us as they rotated through stations of art, music, games, and drama. Every day opened with our theme song, "Jesus Works Through You and Me" and a visit from camp counselor-in-training, Bucky Bear, who had a special story, game, or activity to introduce the theme and Bible story for the day.

The day's theme was reinforced at each station. Activities included: Jesus Me Courage Camp frame; the songs "God is So Good" and "Oh, How I Love Jesus"; acting out the story of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego; and running relay races while being blindfolded.

At the end of the morning, everyone would come back together to share what had been learned and to sing the Bible Memory Verse for the day.

Each day ended with the song "We Love Because He First Loved Us" reminding everyone that Jesus died for each of us and that we are called to share His love by being His hands, heart, and feet.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this



week a huge success: Jan Barbato, Chrissie Bickel, Kyle Bickel, Dina Bickel, Matt Bickel, Megan Bickel, Stephen Bickel, Mary Bird, Tom Chin, Alex Christopher, Chris Deacon, Heather Deacon, Joey Drown, Terry Drown, Diane Eades, Sue Kennedy, Cathie Lambert, Jenni Monath, Toby Nweke, Sarah O'Callaghan, Janice Sheppard, Chiquita Wingo, Maggie Yates-Gregory, and Carol Zuber.

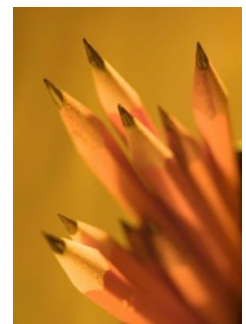
And a special thank you to all the campers who helped fill up a tent with canned goods for the Bowie Food Pantry. Over 180 cans were collected!

Mark your calendars for next year's Art & Music Camp – July 25-29, 2016!

School Supplies

We provided school backpacks and supplies for the Bowie Interfaith Pantry this year. Delivery to the Central Union Mission differed from previous years, where the backpacks were filled with supplies for specific age groups. This year, we merely delivered the collected supplies to a room, where they were packed-to-order for Bowie Pantry families. This was much simpler, although in previous years it was fun to see the stuffed backpacks ready to go.

Thanks to donations of both items and money, we sent seven backpacks--four adult sized and three for younger children. There were three separate deliveries of a variety of paper, pens, pencils, glue sticks, and other items. The Pantry provides packs for about a hundred children each year.



SEEDS

Fall SEEDS begins Wednesday, September 16. This is a great time for families of all ages to come together to share a meal and grow in our faith. After dinner those from fifth grade through high school will meet with Pastor Chris to watch and discuss videos from the NOOMA series by Rob Bell. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Diane and Sue will be using Jeff Slaughter's "Fun Run" and John 4:15 with the younger children to explore who Jesus is. In addition to Bible verses, there will be games, music, crafts, and even snacks!! Maybe even some interesting "walking" discussions! Dinner will be at 6:00 with group activities 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.



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For more information, visit UPB's website – www.unitedparishbowie.org