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# UNITED PARISH OF BOWIE

*United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve*

## **DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES CAN AND DO HAPPEN WITHOUT WARNING HOW READY ARE YOU?**

On Thursday, May 22, I watched the news as severe thunderstorms rolled through Prince George's County where a tornado warning was issued for Bowie. Some of you have shared with me how you took shelter in your basements upon being notified of the impending storms.

Having grown up in the tornado belt along the Ohio River, memories of a tornado destroying property on either side of the house I grew up in flashed through my mind. More than once we took shelter in the basement and then would wait what seemed like an eternity before we knew everyone in the family was safe.

As I prayed for you, I began to wonder:

- ★ How many of you have a family emergency plan?
- ★ How will contact be made among your family members during and after an emergency?
- ★ Do you have enough non-perishable food and water for five days? This includes one gallon of water per person per day.
- ★ Do you have important documents and papers that are password protected on a flash drive or stored in a cloud?
- ★ Do you have emergency kits for the home, office, and car? If so, do you check the expiration dates of the contents every 6 months? Do you know the recommended content for each kit?
- ★ Do you know how to respond if disaster impacts your home or workplace? Your child(ren)'s school(s)?
- ★ Are you familiar with how to know if the church is impacted? Are you aware that every UPB WEEKLY UPDATE includes information about inclement weather/emergency closings?
- ★ For those of you who live in PG County, are you registered for *Notify Me Prince George's*? "When a major event or emergency occurs, the Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security will alert registered users via *Notify Me Prince George's*. *Notify Me Prince George's* will provide updates on active events and if required, instructions on where to go, what to do, what not to do, who to contact and other important information." To register go to <https://notifyme.princegeorgescountymd.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>

Note: Other jurisdictions have similar programs.

Prince George's County has a brochure that encourages you to Plan-Pack-Prepare: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Resources/EmergencyPreparedness/Documents/PracticePlan-eng.pdf> Those of you who live outside PG County can refer to your locale's website on Disaster Preparedness. I encourage you to do so and follow the recommendations.



As some of you know, I serve as a Chaplain for the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and the Fairfax County Police Department. I am most appreciative for the training I have received in the area of disaster preparedness.

Over the last few years, I have seen the impact on individuals and families when disaster and emergencies have occurred with and without warning; disasters such as:

- ★ House and apartment fires
- ★ Flooding of communities where people had massive cleanups and/or were not permitted to return to their homes for several days
- ★ Earthquake damage
- ★ Snowmageddon
- ★ Threats of terrorism, including 9/11 and the sniper shootings
- ★ Hurricanes and tornadoes – remember La Plata?
- ★ The Navy Yard shooting
- ★ More than one airplane has crashed into the Potomac; and there have been serious bus, train, and Metro-Rail accidents

In the DC Metropolitan area we laugh and run to the store at the threat of the first snowflake, It *might* snow means shelves containing milk, bread, toilet paper, and adult beverages are quickly emptied.

Friends, since we live in an area where natural and humankind disasters occur, the question is not IF a disaster or emergency will occur, the question is WHEN will it occur and will you be ready?

In my times spent on call and working disaster situations, one thing has become very clear to me: one's ability to cope during a disaster or an emergency is related to two very specific areas: one's level of preparation and one's faith and relationship with the Lord.

May you and your family be prepared for the inevitable. May you continue to grow and mature in your faith. God bless you. If you would like to discuss Disaster Preparedness in greater depth, let's do so.

Grace and peace to you in your journey.

Pastor Jeri, Interim Minister

## CROSS WORD SEARCH at Panera Bread

### “God Revealed in the Parables of Jesus”

A 4-week Wednesday morning Bible Study began on June 4 at 10:00 AM at Panera Bread located in the Bowie Towne Center. Come join us, sip a cup of coffee or tea, eat a pastry, enjoy some fellowship as together we explore who God is, as revealed in the parables. Pastor Jeri will be using John Ogilvie's book: *Autobiography of God: God Revealed in the Parables of Jesus*. Knowledge of the Bible is not a prerequisite; a longing to learn about who God is, is preferred.

This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends to a Bible study, and hopefully to spark the interest of those passing by as we engage in God's Word. If there is interest beyond 4 weeks, this study or another will continue.

May you prayerfully consider joining this Bible study at Panera Bread.

# A Look Back at Spring 2014...



## Communications Committee

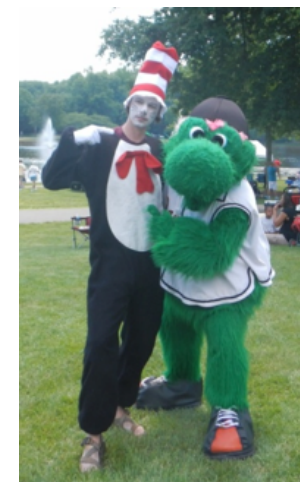
Welcome to our little slice of Summer right here. Everywhere you look, the grass and trees are greening up, the flowers are blooming and everything is pumping out the allergens, until they seem to be knocked back to us by another major rain storm every couple of days. (Yea!)

Speaking of green, our major push this quarter was the UPB foray at BowieFest on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>. The City of Bowie sponsors this one-day event each year, in part, to help non-profits get their word out and showcase the local community. After researching how it was organized, which booths seemed to attract a steady stream of people, which mistakes should be avoided and planning how to introduce UPB to our neighbors; we did our first one last year. We took the same basic approach with improvements based on our experience. We partnered with the City of Bowie in promoting BowieFest (hey, our new banner is Green!) and we were given a triple authorization in space in almost the same ideal spot we were in last year. This is one of those events that really defines what a cross-functional team approach should be, one that requires the talents of the entire congregation in the final planning, preparation, setting up, sharing your infectious UPBness (I know, right?) at the booth and throughout the park, and of course cleaning up.

To all that helped get out the good word about UPB, Thank You!

Wishing You and Yours an Extra Scoop of Shalom and Hello SUMMER!

-Your Communications and Coordination Committee





## Who's Your Hero, America?

Dress the path with flowers and branches  
 long as a bus the limo stretches  
 tinted windows hide the chosen singer  
 love you signs adorn lamp posts and trees  
 grown-ups and children sway to the pounding beat  
 cheering voices stun the ears  
 spirits are high as the water tower  
 she is not the Promised Savior riding a donkey  
 loving the hopeless, pointing to Godly truth  
 this coveted one has won a gorgeous car  
 earned a contract with her trill and holler  
 devotees press closer to touch her waving finger  
 they hum and memorize her every note  
 while internet explodes with Idol tweets.

- Shirley Klotz Bickel. 2014



## Christian Spiritual Formation Committee

Thank you for participating in the Lent and Easter services.

Thank you for the many ways you helped to make the Easter season meaningful.

The Adult Education class read and discussed Adam Hamilton's book, Making Sense of the Bible. The class was divided into two parts. There was a short video of Adam Hamilton presenting his comments on the chapters being discussed. Then, the class leader and class discussed the chapters together.

The Canterbury Ringers presented a program on Sunday, June 8th at the United Parish. They are an accomplished group of bell ringers that enjoy playing music for people. A goodwill offering was collected. Half of the proceeds collected went to the Canterbury Ringers and the other half was divided between SOTI and the Bowie Food Pantry. Thank you to the ringers for sharing their talents.

We hope to see everyone at Church in the Park on Sunday, June 22nd. An easy access spot has been reserved so people can easily get to the place where the service will be held. We are planning to have lunch and fellowship following the service.

The committee will be planning worship services and Adult Education classes for the fall. We would welcome any suggestions that would help us plan these activities.



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet weekly to read and evaluate Presbyterian Personal Information Forms and UCC Profiles, listen to sermons, discuss candidate responses to a set of written questions, interview candidates via Skype, and talk to references. If, after a second Skype interview, both the PNC and candidate want to move forward, a face-to-face interview/neutral pulpit will be scheduled. The process of calling a pastor has many steps. The PNC is being very intentional in evaluating each candidate,

making sure that we are all in agreement as to whether or not we are ready to move to the next step. While this does take time, we know that God is with both the PNC and the candidates in this journey. Please continue to keep all of us in your prayers.

## SEEDS

We all had a great time in SEEDS this year. Activities included: talking about how we can use the gifts God has given us to serve; exploring different ways to praise God; finding verses in the Bible that remind us how God is always with us, even on those bad days; discussing what we can do when we make mistakes; and experiencing the prayer practice of *lectio divina*. We read Bible verses from Colossians, Galatians, Matthew, John, Proverbs, and Psalms. We also read the story of the Prodigal Son and the book *Goggles* by Jack Ezra Keats. The congregation got



to enjoy our music when chimes were played on "How Great is Our God" and "O How I Love Jesus". The kids also joined the choir in singing "One Step He Leads".

Hopefully there are some future choir members!

The SEEDS team would like to thank all those who participated this year: children, youth, parents, leaders, everyone who helped with food, especially Joey and Terry who coordinated the meals each week, and those who helped clean up. 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, Julissa, or Sue.

## Family Crisis Center

UPB provides a home-cooked or prepared meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month for the Family Crisis Center (safe house for victims of abuse, and the primary service provider to families experiencing domestic violence in Prince George's County). Sign up on table in Narthex.

**June 15** - Theme: American Dinner (burgers, BBQ, potato salad, mac n Cheese, apple pie)

**July 20** - Theme: Chef's Choice (favorite summer meal)

**August 17** - Theme: Main Course Salad (pasta, potato, shrimp, tuna, fruit salad, corn, dessert)

## Living Waters for the World (LWW)

Please continue to help the children's Christian Education program with its service project to support the effort of LWW in bringing clean drinking water to all God's children in poor and developing countries all around the world. You may find the large water bottle in the narthex to deposit any amount you wish.



## Art & Music Camp - 2014



Plans are being made for the United Parish of Bowie's fourth annual Art & Music Camp, a half day fun-filled faith based camp for preschoolers through fifth grade. This year camp will be

**July 14-18** and our theme is **"Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love is**

**One-of-a-Kind"**. Weird is defined as special . . . unique . . . rare . . . never been seen before . . . one of a kind! Children will explore Jesus' unconditional and one-of-a kind love as they rotate through stations of art, music, games, and drama. We'll make some weird animals, sing about Jesus' love, play lots of fun games, and use drama as we explore some Bible stories. We'll also watch for God sightings each

day. If you would like to be part of helping children grow in their faith, please talk to either Diane or Sue about helping. We are still looking for volunteers. There is something for everyone to do!!! Also SPREAD the WORD! Please take a flyer and pass it along to a family member, friend, neighbor or direct them to our website. In addition, please plan to attend worship on July 20 when children will share some of what they learned.



## Mortar Boards are Flying...

**Thomas Clyde** graduated from Oakland Mills High School on May 27th. He plans to attend Temple University in the fall. Congratulations to Thomas and his family!

**Connor Farrell** graduated on May 30th from Queen Anne's County High School. He will attend Towson University in the fall where he will be pursuing a degree in Education. Congratulations to Connor and his family!

**Ericka Swanson** just graduated from Hawaii Pacific University. Congratulations to Ericka and her family!

Former member **Robbie Fuqua** just graduated from Goddard Academy High School. Congratulations to Robbie and his family!

**Conor Yates-Gregory** graduated from Bowie High School. Way to go!

**Kate Bickel** graduated from Chevy Chase United Methodist Preschool and will be attending kindergarten at Rosemary Hills Primary School. Congratulations, Kate!

Are there other graduates yet to be recognized? If so, please contact Pastor Jeri at [pastorjeri.upb@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjeri.upb@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events at UPB!

Bible Study at Panera	June 11, 18, 25
Appreciation Breakfast for CYF and Adult Ed teachers	June 15
Worship in the Park	June 22
SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS	July 6 Worship begins at 10 A.M.
Art & Music Camp	July 14-18, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Stop Hunger Now	September 20
International Heritage Potluck Dinner	October 5



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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.