

# *The United Parish of Bowie*

United in Christ: Our Mission – To Serve

## **A message from Pastor Chris...**

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A tattoo is one of the most permanent things you can do to your body. For that reason, I hope people give a lot of thought to any tattoo that they might get. There are very few people that want to be in their 80's with a "Tweety Bird" tattoo. There are only two ways to get rid of a tattoo. You can have it removed by laser, or you can have it covered up with another tattoo.



I read an article this week about Southside Tattoo in Brooklyn Park, MD. The owner, Dave Cutlip, has offered free tattoo coverups for anyone with racist or gang tattoos. Some of these coverups can require extensive work that would ordinarily cost over \$500. Some of his clients would not be able to afford the coverups, otherwise. Cutlip started this because sometimes people make bad choices and sometimes people change. Everyone makes mistakes and deserves a second chance.

As we head into Lent and towards Easter, it is important to remember that we all make mistakes, we all sin, we all fall short of God's image for us. Just like a tattoo, sin marks us. Unlike a tattoo, lasers cannot remove sin, and it cannot be covered up. In fact, once we are marked by sin, there is no way that we can remove it.

In Christ, we see God's love and God's grace made human. During Lent, we travel with him to Jerusalem. On Good Friday, he is put on trial and hung on a cross to die. He does this for us. He does this not so that our sin is covered up, but so that our sin is completely removed. On Easter morning, the tomb is empty. Christ has conquered sin on our behalf! We will share in his death, but we will also share in his resurrection and life eternal! Sin no longer has a permanent hold on us.

One of the people who had a tattoo covered up at Southside Tattoo talked about how it would give him a new life. His visible tattoo was keeping him from getting jobs or getting promotions. In Christ, we are given new life. In Christ, we are a new creation! The old has passed away and everything has become new! This is true year round, but during Lent, we remember how dependent we are on God for life and for new life. On Good Friday, we remember Christ's sacrifice for us. On Easter morning, we celebrate that Christ has claimed victory over sin and death! In Christ, we are forgiven and our sin is wiped clean! Alleluia! Amen!

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*



## 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 elected its officers for the 2017 calendar year: Sharon Doughty as Secretary/Clerk, Roy Eades as Treasurer, and Gene Barbato as Vice Moderator.
- The Board, along with committee chairs, participated in the Annual Leadership Retreat/Training on January 28, 2017. The current committee structure was discussed. Committees are being encouraged to increase their committees by at least one this year.
- The Board approved changing the name of the Ministry Support Committee to Stewardship and Finance with Gene Barbato as Chair. Property management and maintenance will be a team within this committee.
- Committee Liaisons for 2017 are: Children, Youth, and Family – Sue Kennedy; Christian Spiritual Formation – Cathie Lambert; Communication – Chris Deacon; Membership and Fellowship – Terry Drown; Mission and Service – Nancy Snyder; and Stewardship and Finance – Gene Barbato.
- The 2017 UPB Budget was approved by the Board and will be submitted to the congregation for approval at the rescheduled Annual Meeting on March 12.
- Approved Terry Drown and Nancy Snyder as Board members for the 2018 Nominating Committee.
- The Board conducted the Annual Pastor Evaluation in December.
- The Board began reading and discussing *Sailboat Church* by Joan S. Gray.
- The Board continues to work on and finalize a Personnel Policy Manual for the church.

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. Board members for 2017 are Gene Barbato, Sharon Doughty, Terry Drown, Roy Eades, Sue Kennedy, Cathie Lambert, and Nancy Snyder.

## Save the Date: Bowiefest – Saturday, June 3, 2017



Bowiefest is a tradition of the City of Bowie bringing their organizations, businesses and entertainers to Allen Pond for one day. It's a great way to share our church with the community but we need your help. We will have a planning meeting on Sunday, April 2 following Sunday School. Hope to see you there!

## Children, Youth and Family Committee

### SEEDS



The winter session of SEEDS used Luke to learn more about Jesus. There were discussions on what it was like to live and grow up during Jesus' time; how difficult it might have been for the fishermen to leave everything and follow Jesus; and how we are called to welcome and help others as we share God's love. Crafts included building

blocks of faith, a boat with the twelve disciples, welcome posters, praying through colors banner, and a cross showing the life of Jesus. Making our own desserts was especially fun!

Thanks to the following that helped provide food: Jan Barbato, Shirley Bickel, Mary Bird, Linda and Jeff Caler, Joey and Terry Drown, Judy Farrell, Janice Sheppard, and the SEEDS Team.

Spring SEEDS begins on Wednesday, April 26 and will continue through May 24. We are always looking for new and exciting ways to help our children, youth, and families grow in their faith. If you feel God might be calling you to be a part of the SEEDS ministry, please see Diane or Sue.

## ART & MUSIC CAMP – 2017



Save the date! The United Parish of Bowie will hold its seventh annual **Art & Music Camp - July 24-28, 2017** from 9:00 am to noon. The theme this year is **Maker Fun Factory: Created by God – Built for a Purpose.** The daily themes – God Made you, God is for you, God is always with you, God will always love you, and God made you for a reason – will be reinforced as our campers rotate through the different stations of art, music,

games, and drama. During the week, we will see God's love and purpose for each of us come alive, touch lives, and change hearts as we all grow closer to the God who created us.

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 or Sue about volunteering. There is something for everyone! And please plan to attend our first meeting on April 30 at 12:15 pm.

## Spring Clean-up Day

This year's Spring Clean-up Day will be Saturday, March 25 from 9:00-12:00. Some jobs include weeding flower beds, trimming trees, cleaning windows, etc. Bring your garden tools!





# Mission and Service Committee

## Warm Nights

Warm Nights at Village Baptist will take place on March 18th at 6pm. The congregation will help serve and also provide beef stew, salad, bread or dessert to families that are in the P.G. County's Hypothermia Program.

## Bowie Food Pantry

Super Bowl Contest was a huge success with Patriots fans bringing in 61 cans and Falcons fans bringing in 59. Pastor Chris and his wife, Heather, matched the winning count. A total of 181 cans were taken to the Bowie Food Pantry for a welcomed donation.



Please remember to bring in rice for the rice shelf as we continue to support Bowie Food Pantry monthly.

## Family Crisis Center

### Home Cooked Meals

The third Sunday of each month the congregation continues to provide home cooked meals to the Family Crisis Center, a safe home for victims of abuse. The shelter director is most thankful for our efforts and delicious meals. It is very much appreciated also by the single mothers and their children.



### Easter Baskets

We will again be taking them to the Family Crisis Center for the children to enjoy. Please bring in goodies i.e., pencils, games, small balls, crayons, small coloring books, etc. They will be delivered on April 16th.



## Another Opportunity to Serve Our Local Community!

**Christmas in April \* Prince George's County** is a non-denominational volunteer organization that repairs the homes of low-income and/or physically challenged senior citizens. Once again, UPB will be participating in this one day repair effort on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars and look for details soon from Herb Sheppard.



## Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 – 6:00 p.m.

*Lenten Dinner Series*

*Exploring how to experience God through our five senses*

Sunday, April 9 – 10:00 a.m.

*Palm Sunday*

Thursday, April 13 – 6:15 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday Service*

Friday, April 14 – 7:30 p.m.

*Good Friday Worship*

Sunday, April 16 – 10:00 a.m.

*Easter Sunday Service*

### Next Newsletter

Please submit articles, photos and notices for the Summer Newsletter by **Monday, May 15**. You may send your items to Dina at [rundcb02@gmail.com](mailto:rundcb02@gmail.com). Thank you!





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Visit us on the web at [www.unitedparishbowie.org](http://www.unitedparishbowie.org) or on Facebook