

United Parish of Bowie - Board Corner - December, 2024

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 of Bowie. Minutes of the board meetings, along with agendas, monthly financial statement and the pastors report, are kept in a binder in the church library.

A new welcome banner was hung outside the church this fall to let the community know that all are welcome.

Trunk or Treat was held on the last Saturday of October. It is believed that about 60 children attended with several stating they heard about it through signage outside the church.

The congregation continues to make regular food donations to the Bowie Food Pantry and sponsors the rice shelf.

Northview Elementary has requested our assistance in providing supplies for the teachers to use in their classrooms. The supplies are delivered and the list of requested supplies is updated as needed.

UPB submitted a grant request through the UCC for financial help to replace the roof of the church. A \$5000 grant has been awarded to UPB and will be paid out quarterly in 2025. Special thanks to Mary Bird, Gene Barbato and Russ Doughty for working on this grant proposal.

A Bible Study for advent has started and will meet on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Choir continues to sing on Sundays and special musicians will be participating on Christmas Eve.

Rev. Caroline Wilson will be on vacation 12/25-1/1.

Marlene Loor has been elected to the board and will replace outgoing Board Member Linda Rawlings.

Board officers for 2025: Sue Kennedy has agreed to continue as Vice-Moderator and Mary Jo Munnelly has agreed to continue as Secretary.

A tree from UPB property recently fell on the fence of the neighbor's next door. The board agreed to pay the deductible for the neighbor to have the tree removed and fence repaired. The board also has agreed to have 6 other trees on the church property cut down as they continue to pose a risk to the church and the neighbor's property.

Upcoming events:

Christmas Eve Service - 12/24 at 7 p.m.

Women's Luncheon is held on the first Wednesday of the month at First Watch in Bowie at 11:30 a.m. (1/8 - due to New Year's Day holiday)

UPB Women's Circle meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month (12/14 and 1/11)

Chat and Chew is held the last Sunday of each month (12/29)

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

current board members are: Sue Kennedy (Vice Moderator), Mary Jo Munnely (secretary), Marlene Loor, Sherita Williams, Jan Barbato, Judy Farrell, Russ Doughty. Cathie Lambert (although not on board) will continue as treasurer.