



Dear Friends in Christ,

*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds  
blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall...  
(Mt 7:25)*

Welcome back from vacation! Most people it seems took at least some time off this summer to enjoy a little vacation time. I spent much of August in New Haven, a very pleasant college town, and a place quite a bit cooler in August than Maryland.

Now that summer is over, we have to start thinking about the year before us, which promises to be a very interesting one. At very least we are all going to be interested to see how the Pastor Nominating Committee's work comes along. It's not possible, of course, to say when its work will be finished, but I think that we are all hoping that by the end of this year the committee will have selected a candidate. Let's all keep the members of this committee in our prayers, asking God to help them to find the right person to lead the United Parish in the coming years. When the committee makes its selection, this person will be presented to a congregational meeting and a vote will be taken. Ultimately, then, it is the congregation that will accept or reject the committee's nominee.

In the remaining time that I have as your interim pastor, I hope to have the office running more smoothly and have the new year well planned, so that the new pastor can step into his/her new role without any unnecessary difficulties. Also, I've planned this fall to spend much of my time on teaching classes. I will be teaching the Adult Sunday education course, September 16 through October 21, which will be a continuation of the church history series that was started more than a year ago. The subject will be the British Reformation, 1520s – 1680s. It's fortunate – perhaps providential – that this particular

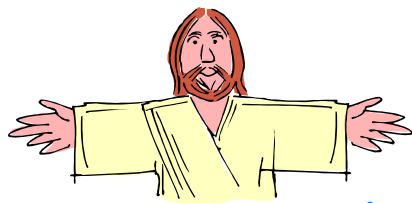
period has come up while I'm with you because this was my minor field of study for my Ph.D. So I'm looking forward to discussing with this group the divorces of Henry VIII, the "Invincible Armada," the Puritan Revolution – and much more.

I'm also going to be teaching a New Members class in November. There are a number of people who have been attending the church for some time without having actually become members. If you are one of these and feel that it is time that you became a member, please let me know and sign up for the course.

Finally, I will be teaching a "Foundations" course on Tuesday evenings for six weeks, September 18 through October 23. This is for people – perhaps most of us – who need a refresher course in the basic theology of the church. We will be looking at the Apostles' Creed, unpacking a different phrase or sentence each week. What is the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Why is it important that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate? Did Jesus really descend into hell? Why do we say that we are a catholic church? These and other questions will be addressed and discussed in an informal setting. It will also be an opportunity for members to bring their own questions to the table, whatever they might be.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable of two men, one who built his house on the rock, and another who built on sand. We all know the message of the story: the foundation of our lives should be built on Jesus Christ and a commitment to sincerely living out our faith in him. What Jesus assumes in the story, though, is also important: we should expect that our houses will be threatened by pelting rain, rising streams, and beating winds. I invite you, then, to set aside time this fall to attend the "Foundations" of your lives.

Yours in Christ,  
Michael Parker



# WELCOME

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE FORMING NOW: JOIN US!

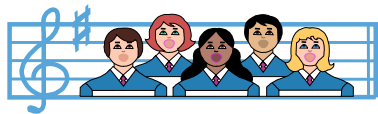
Are you feeling lonely occupying a pew all by yourself and looking at empty pews across from you? Are you concerned about keeping United Parish vibrant and strong? Help us grow ... bring your ideas to the Outreach Committee! Better yet, become a member of the Outreach Committee! We need your ideas AND your participation!

Ideas we are thinking about:

- More ads and stories to be placed in the local newspapers.
- Leaflets or doorknob-hangers to be hand-delivered to neighborhoods near the church, and neighbors near our members, prior to special events.
- Improved brochures available in the narthex for all of us to give to visitors.
- A new sign on the corner, facing diagonally into the intersection to engage the people waiting at the red light, with changeable messages.

And we are looking for lots of new ideas ... maybe yours!

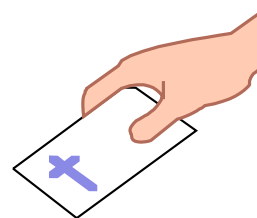
Please call or e-mail Charlotte Melichar and offer your ideas, and consider joining our Outreach Committee, too!  
[cmelichar@yahoo.com](mailto:cmelichar@yahoo.com)



## ADULT CHOIR

Thank you, all the choir members, for your dedication. We will begin choir rehearsals for the fall on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 7:30 in the sanctuary. As always, we are looking for additional singers, so if you know of any one, bring him or her along in August.

Diane Eades



## OUR CONSECRATION SUNDAY October 28, 2007

Our stewardship program will kick off on October 7<sup>th</sup>, culminating in our Consecration luncheon on October 28, 2007. **We are appealing to the members and attendees for their enthusiastic participation in the program.**

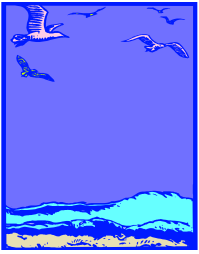
If we as a congregation look at our rear view mirror, we can see how God has guided us through many challenging times. We are now at yet another transition point in our life.

A continuing theme of our program is the emphasis that we as Christians, need to make contributions of our time and money as part of our spiritual growth. The United Parish of Bowie does have some urgent material needs but our focus is on how God wants us to carry out our mission and ministry.

We want to act like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. During the worship on Consecration Sunday we will ask our attendees and members to make their financial commitment to our church's ministries in our community and around the world. This commitment is entirely voluntary.

After worship every attendee and member will be given the opportunity to complete an Estimate of Giving Card. Even if you feel strongly opposed to completing a card, we encourage your attendance. We will **do no home solicitation** to ask people to complete the cards.

We look forward to seeing you at Worship and at the Celebration Luncheon on October 28, 2007.  
Josi Hillary, Stewardship Chairman



## The Milk of Life

Lunging forward upside-down,  
Who and what propels him  
Forward and down, down, down  
A newborn cries,  
Strains against the strangeness.

Eyes hide from the barrage of lights;  
Rubbered hands restrain his torso.  
Legs thrust back and forth like scissors  
Moving nowhere.  
Cool liquid drops into each eye.  
What is he meant to see?  
Warm water scrubs his slippery skin clean.  
Why must he be clean?  
Once secure before the journey  
Now he's measured and weighed.  
Bundled, handled, jiggled and rocked  
Nothing makes sense  
Until he turns to the Mother's breast  
Offering him the milk of life.

Shirley Klotz Bickel  
c. 2007

Can we identify with this newborn who flails against the unfamiliar? At first freedom blinds us. We like the comforting warmth of the way things were. Who propels us forward? Where is this milk of life?

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Schedule: The classes start on September 9, 2007 and go on till June 22, 2008. We are looking forward to a very rewarding year.

Curriculum: "One Room Sunday School" by Cokesbury will be used. This quarter, the lessons are taken from the Old Testament and deal with historical events before and after the establishment of the nation of Israel in 1050 B.C. The children will learn about people who lived during those days such as Ruth, Naomi, Hannah, Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon. Impressive – Isn't it?

Teaching Team: We are thankful for our dedicated teachers and helpers for the year: Teachers - Linda Hutchinson, Becky DeMeo, Tanya Asman, Dina Bickel, Janice Sheppard, Kelley Hutchinson, and Nikki Hillary; Teacher's Helpers - Chicquita Wingo, Mary Jo

Munnely; Substitute teachers - Nancy Snyder and Penny Nye

Sunday school Guest Program: We are filled with excitement about this new program in which a "Sunday School Guest" (member of the church) visits with the children for the last ten minutes of their Sunday class. We believe that the children and guests will get better acquainted with one another thus greatly strengthening the bonds within our church family.

Besides being a time of joy and excitement, these guest visits will also drive home the truth that the church is really a gathering of people - people who follow Jesus, people with "many kinds of faces, all colors, and all ages, from all times and places". This was proclaimed emphatically and repeatedly in the early days of United Parish of Bowie as illustrated by the emblem below (which was part of the church's logo) and the favorite children's song that was sung very often.

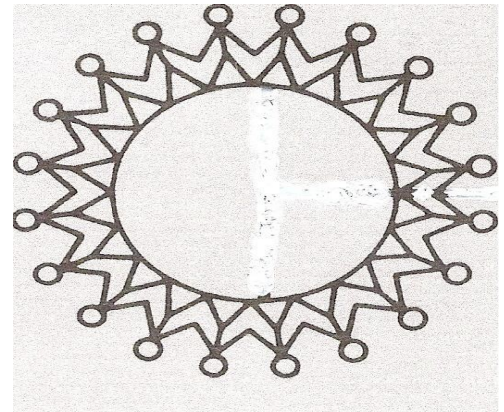
*"I am the Church, you are the Church, and we are the Church together.  
All who follow Jesus all around the world, yes, we're the Church together.*

*The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.*

*We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places."*

So, when you get the call from the teacher, asking you to be the "Sunday School Guest", we hope that your response will be a resounding "Yes!"

Nikki Hillary, Director  
**Christian Education Committee**



## OUTSIDE FLOWERS



Recently the Outside Flowers Committee placed four containers with tropical plants on the patio and planted two trees in the island in the parking lot and nine bushes in the patio flower beds, in the front of the church. The two largest containers have Adonidia (Christmas) palms underlaid with Crotons and the two smaller containers have Majesty palms with trailing variegated Ivy, joining the two containers with Boxwood plants by the front door. The new trees for the island are Crape Myrtles, "Pink Velour," a variety marked by spring and fall leaf color, bright pink blossoms in the summer and exfoliating bark in the winter; these trees will grow to a height of about 10 feet. The new plantings on the sunny side of the patio were placed between the existing Ilex and Azalea bushes and consist of shrub roses with repeat blooms of white and pink, variety "Rainbow Knock Out." On the shady side are large yellow-flowering tropicals, Thryallis (Galphimia). We hope all members of and visitors to the church enjoy the new plants. Later in the fall, in cooperation with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, we plan a Cleanup Day, on a Saturday morning to be announced.

Merrill Hathaway

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## **UPB Historical Society**

During the next year, I would like to proceed with writing and documenting a more complete and illustrated history of United Parish of Bowie. I have collected hundreds of pictures so far and have organized them into time periods and categories. I also have many versions of brief histories as well as letters, articles, and stories from various members, past and present. But now I need some help identifying some of these pictures and events. Beginning this fall, I will be posting pictures in the Narthex and on our web page with questions I have not been able to answer. Sometimes there will be incentives and fun projects involved with this puzzle solving. Please take part in this research by identifying those you recognize or adding your own articles and pictures to the collection. I think we can produce a wonderful book about the rich history at United Parish. There have been a lot of people helped along the way as well as those

who have been privileged to help others. For a small church, we have made a BIG footprint!

Additional pictures and written articles and stories can be sent to me: [pkeys1@comcast.net](mailto:pkeys1@comcast.net) or by snail mail: 4419 Olando Lane, Bowie, MD 20715

If you want your items returned, please include a note indicating where to return them and I will scan and return. Thanks!

*Patty Keys*

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## **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SOTI**



Sunday, Sept. 30, we will be taking a special offering to assist the Sarojini Orphanage Trust Inc. in educating poor children in India and Indonesia. SOTI is a non-profit organization formed by Nikki and Josi Hillary. SOTI provides tuition grants to six poor High School graduates for Nursing and Teaching training. One beneficiary will graduate this year from a Nursing College in Bangalore, India.

Despite being born in poverty, these children have managed to get High School educations through support from organizations. Few children can afford a university education, which costs a minimum of \$2,500 per year to pay for tuition, food, books etc. With university training, they will return to their communities to help others.

During 2006, SOTI provided tuition and other grants totaling \$13,000. Our Parish was a generous contributor. SOTI has recently undertaken a major campaign to sponsor four more Indonesian students to train as nurses. If this campaign is successful, these students will enroll in 2008.

**Remember us on Sunday, September 30.**

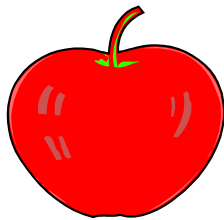


The statement below will shortly be put on the website for the United Parish of Bowie as a confession of our faith. It will be in addition to The Spirit of The United Parish of Bowie currently on the website.

### What We Believe

We believe in the one God in three: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that all human beings are made in the divine image. We believe that this loving and holy God inspired the prophets and apostles to write the authoritative word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments. We believe that we live in a fallen world and that we are fallen people in need of God's grace for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. We affirm our commitment to serve God by living holy and joyful lives. We embrace our Reformed tradition, but we also seek to create a nurturing Christian community where all will be encouraged to search, explore and grow in their faith as they are led by God. As a community of faith, we seek to engage in concrete acts of service to others and to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world.

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### UPB Play Day

UPB Play Day Pre-School is registering for the 2007-08 school year. We have half-day classes for 3 and 4 year old children. Three year olds meet Monday and Thursday from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon. Four year olds meet Tuesday and Friday mornings at the same hours. Wednesday morning is our Exploration and Curious Learning Class with mixed ages. We have small classes and invite parent participation.

For more information, please call Blanche Nash at 301-249-7337 or visit: <http://www.unitedparishbowie.org/playday.html>.



### *Nutrition Workshop:* Diet, Food, and Wellness

We have heard from several of our class members during the summer and it appears that many are still utilizing what they learned in May and June. We wish you well with your goals! And on that note, we want to let everyone know what is coming out soon. We will be returning your last assignment with suggested improvements, if needed, to make the recipes healthier. We will also be placing a book containing articles relating to the subject matter covered in the course in the church library. Patty is currently working on the long promised recipes and some should be available within the next few weeks. We hope to eventually turn these recipes into a new style of the UPB cook book.

A reunion dinner is being planned at our house in the fall. More details to follow. We also would like to continue the flow of information and send out a newsletter if this would be welcomed. Other support and activities are possible as we receive feedback from members and interested parishioners who were not able to attend the classes.

All are welcome to become a part of our group, just contact either of us and we will put you on our list. We are just a group of people who are striving to take better care of one of the best gifts God gave us---our bodies!

***Merrill Hathaway & Patty Keys***

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

On Sunday, Sept. 16, the first fall Adult Education Class will begin. Our study will be on the British Reformation.



The class will be taught by Mike Parker, and all are welcome to come be a part of this study.