

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

February 2017

Upland Baptist Church
325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015
610-874-7474
Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net
Website: www.uplandbaptist.org

I recently read an article that I found to be very profound. I want to share it with you in its entirety. I hope you find it as significant as I did.

Pastor Brenda

Phil Vischer Says It's Not About the Show¹

childrensministry.com/articles/its-not-about-the-show/

By Children's Ministry Magazine 12/27/2016

My church celebrated its 50th birthday recently, and it got me thinking. Thinking about a junior high boy who first walked through those doors on Easter Sunday in 1980. It was a smallish church in a dorky building in the middle of cornfields. We were new in town, and we were looking for a church home. A smashed marriage had driven us out of Iowa to Illinois, and now we were looking for warm faces and open arms—refugees fleeing a war no one else had witnessed, bearing deep wounds no one else could see.

We settled on that place. And those people. And 36 years later, we're still there. Thirty-six years in the same place, with the same people. It's so countercultural it's practically un-American. But there we are still to this day.

Why?

Well, the only thing I can say is that this smallish church in the middle of cornfields played a huge role in my life. I was a needy kid when I walked in the door, still bearing shrapnel from the explosion of my family in Iowa. Deep wounds left me walking with a metaphorical limp. But I found community in the tiny kids' group. I found warmth in the faces of volunteers who cared. I found lively conversations that helped me secure my faith in those crucial moments when a young man or woman must either own or reject his or her inherited beliefs.

I made films with the other kids in the youth group. We showed them to the whole church. After my first year of college a church friend, knowing my interest in filmmaking, mentioned an internship opportunity at a local video production company. That internship turned into my first job, as well as the laboratory for my early experiments in filmmaking and computer animation, effectively changing the course of my life.

What's my point?

By the late 1990s, the cornfields around our little church had been replaced with subdivisions and shopping malls, Starbucks, and Whole Foods. The church expanded its building multiple times as the surrounding population grew larger and wealthier. But none of that was the case during my formative years. There was no paid children's or youth minister. No video screens or highly produced

worship. The basement leaked. The building was odd. There was no “show.” There was nothing that would attract a crowd or impress a stranger.

So what changed my life? Well, God, in a nutshell. But that’s not the whole answer. God changed my life—through relationships, my peers in the ministry group, and the volunteers (some barely older than we were). And he changed my life through the older folks in the church who encouraged us and applauded our films when we showed them. They pointed us toward God and knew us well enough to think of us when they heard about internships in our areas of interest.

As I look back, I realize none of the things that actually changed my life at my church cost anything at all. They required no money. No resources. No fancy buildings, fancy equipment, or fancy intentions. They simply required people showing up and being the body of Christ. Loving on a young boy with a limp.

It’s not about the show. It’s about you and me and God’s amazing ability to show up whenever we gather together in love.

Phil Vischer created VeggieTales to teach Christian values to kids in 1990 when he was 24, and he sold more than 50 million videos. Today, Vischer pursues innovative ways to integrate faith and storytelling through series such as Buck Denver Asks...What’s in the Bible? and the all-new Galaxy Buck (philvischer.com).

Pastor Brenda



CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

LEGAL CORPORATION/MINISTRY COUNCIL

At the January 24th Meeting, the Legal Corporation . . .

- Discussed the Mission Report section in the Treasurer’s Annual Report and the need to correct the figures. A corrected copy will be sent with the *March Spire*.
- Began a discussion of the financial picture of the Church and will continue the discussion at our March meeting.
- Discussed the Cemetery and Property Fund;
- Voted on the Lenten Offering;
- Discussed personnel issues;
- Discussed painting the inside of the Church, including the windows, and will be contacting Williamson College of the Trades; and
- Discussed contacting Upland Fire Co. to clean the ceiling fans.

The Ministry Council . . .

- Discussed upcoming programs for February and March.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE


March 1st from 7:30pm – 8:00pm Ashes will be distributed

LENTEN ENVELOPES

The Lenten Offering will go to our children's programs which are for the children in the congregation and the community. This includes Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS program, and the Summer Activity program. The offering will help pay for materials, craft supplies, books, and games.



MEET OUR CHURCH SECRETARY



Linda Durieux has been hired as our new Church secretary. Linda lives in Havertown and is a graduate of Drexel University with a degree in English Literature and minor in Journalism. She received her master's degree from Eastern University in Multicultural Education. She has recently worked as a care giver, served as a missionary, and taught English and other subjects in schools in Philadelphia, Chester, and the Netherlands. Linda has also worked as an Office Manager/Administrative Assistant at Eastern University in St. David's, PA.

Linda will be working four days a week from 9 AM– 1 PM, Mondays through Thursdays. We look forward to Linda's employment with our Church and hope that you will stop by and say hello and welcome to Linda.



CHILDREN, TEEN, and YOUNG ADULTS NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** is doing well with her electric guitar lessons.
- **Katelyn DeVecchis** is in her last semester at Widener University. She has started her capstone nursing clinical at a Trauma ICU in Philadelphia. Katelyn is still working at DuPont Children's Hospital.
- **Megan DeVecchis** is in her last semester at Widener University. She started a new marketing/public relations internship at a chiropractic firm. She is also working with the Costco Corporation.
- **Sammy DeVecchis**, a sophomore at Widener University, is now a Resident Assistant at school in a dorm with approximately 40 freshmen.
- **Cameron Klimek** is selling Girl Scout Cookies.
- **Sue Kulp**, along with her sister, marched in the Women's March on Washington on Saturday, January 21st.
- **Sara Mason** is really enjoying her crochet/loom projects.
- **Matthew Shaw** is very proud that he can tie his own shoe laces.
- **Stephen Shaw** is loving long division.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- February 12 Valentine's Brunch
- February 20 No VBS Night
- March 1 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 pm
- March 12 Sunday Social
- April 9 Church Program
- April 16 Easter Services and Egg Hunt



JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

*Plan to attend the February Brunch
on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 11:15 AM.
Snow Date is February 19, 2017*



Since our **Valentine's Get Together** will follow the Worship Service, we will be having a brunch. The Brunch is FREE and it's a wonderful time to fellowship with other members of the congregation. There are sign-up sheets in the front and the back of the Church. Hope to see you there!

MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski

Men's News

There will be a Riverside Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 8:15 am at Upland Baptist.

Ministry to Members

Save the date - March 12th following worship we will be having another "Souper Social". This time we are going to play some games after we have a little soup and a little bread (maybe dessert also).

DISCIPLESHIP ~ Jane Kofroth

Small Groups begin again on Tuesday, February 7. We look forward to seeing you return, or having you join for the first time. We will be reading, Crazy Stories Sane God. If you need a book, please let Pastor Brenda or Jane Kofroth know. We will be reading the chapters entitled, Book of Ruth - Meat and Potatoes, 1 Samuel 4-6 - God in a Box and 2 Samuel 11 - How Stuff Happens.

Small Group Dates and Times

Noon – 2pm

Bring a sandwich for lunch

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Snacks provided

February 7 & 21

March 7 & 21

April 4 & 18

OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker

Our Outreach program for Main Street Elementary for the month of February will be non-perishable grocery food items. Anyone willing to donate the items please bring to church. There will be a box in the back of the church to put the items in. These items will be made up in a basket and donated for a prize for a fund raiser at the school.



Food Bank

Remember the Food Bank with canned goods. Also if anyone is interested in helping out at the Food Bank please call the church office at 610-874-7474. Please join us on Sunday morning for worship at 10:00AM.

Home and International Missionary birthdays for February

Home and International Missionary birthdays for February:

Mrs. Nancy James 2/17
C/O ACAPE Flights, Cap #1369
100 Airport Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

Rev. Paul Sandusky 2/24
Rankin Christian Center
230 Third Ave.
Braddock, PA 15104

Mrs. Barbara Bolick 2/29
1321 Upland Dr. #3373
Houston, TX 77043-4718



February Birthdays

11 Frank Kulp
13 Stephanie Pysher
14 Katelyn DeVecchis
Megan DeVecchis
16 Ray Leber
20 Joan Decker
Mary Lowe
21 Janet Peterson
24 Iris Messick
27 Sue Kulp

February Anniversary

17 Dave & Kathy Geveke