

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## January 2017

Upland Baptist Church  
325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015  
610-874-7474

Email: [uplandbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:uplandbaptist@verizon.net)

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## Let's Praise the Lord Together

I have noticed that there is always something to complain about in life. I don't want to be known as a complainer, but it is easy to get caught up in complaining, grumbling and whining about the way things are. Instead, I want to be intentional about offering praise and gratitude. I want to share the joy of my salvation, even when things are dark or difficult. I want to praise God daily. I want to sing the songs of our faith.

This is not new. We have an early song book in the psalms. Though we read them, they were meant to be sung. Within their words we read about God's goodness, his promises of salvation and grace, how he watches over us and so much more. We read the words of our faith.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
Psalm 103:1-5

The hymns and songs we sing in church do the same for us. They proclaim our faith. They challenge to be faithful. They talk to us about who God is and how we can follow him. They aren't just filler so that our worship service is on hour. They allow us to express our faith.

For January and February, each Sunday we will look at a different hymn. Not only will we sing it, but I will share the history of the hymn if I can find it and the sermon will focus on the hymns meaning. We won't be singing words; we will be singing deep and powerful words of faith and praise.

I invite you to offer a suggestion of a hymn you would like us to explore. I won't promise to get to them all, but would love to hear what hymns you would be interested in hearing about during worship. Simply email me a suggestion [brendaabshaw@gmail.com](mailto:brendaabshaw@gmail.com), call the office or hand me a note at the door on Sunday. I look forward to getting some great ideas. Thanks.

*Pastor Brenda*



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Neither the Legal Corporation nor the Ministry Council met in December but we continue to monitor finances and take care of needed repairs. Please take the time to look over the Proposed Budget for 2017 that is included with the *Spire*. As you will see, we have increases in salaries, but most of the other categories have remained the same. We will vote on the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Church and of the Legal Corporation will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, January 22, 2017 after the worship Service. We will hold the Business Meeting first and then have lunch. Lunch will be provided.

### **PLEDGE UPDATE**

The Operating Budget for 2017 is enclosed with this month's *Spire*. The total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2017 budget is \$177,690.00. As of Sunday, December 4, 2016, we have received 31 pledges for a total of \$82,546.00. Thank you to all who have pledged.

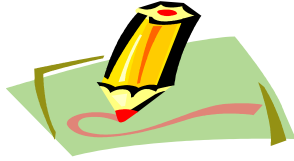
If you haven't turned in your pledge yet, you can place it in the offering basket or mail it to:

Dawn Rafalski, c/o Upland Baptist Church,  
325 Main Street,  
Upland, PA 19015

### **Goodbye...**

With regret this month we say goodbye to Angela Nieves, our Church Secretary for the last 6 1/2 years. She has been helpful in many ways in the office, though only recently has she stopped telling callers that she was new when she didn't know an answer. Angela's friendly personality has been a welcoming presence to visitors in the office. She always had time to chat with someone who stopped by and make them feel welcome. We wish her well with her next adventure and pray that God will continue to bless her.

The Board of Directors is currently conducting a search for a new Church Secretary.



### **PRAISE CARDS**

Due to the holiday season we have not been completing the Praise Cards, but are going to start again in January.

Members of the congregation are being asked to complete a *Praise Card* on the **third Sunday** of every month. We have much to be thankful for at Upland Baptist Church, and it is good to share that with each other and celebrate everything good that is going on in our Church. Think ahead and complete on the third Sunday, "*I have seen God at work at Upland Baptist Church. I give God praise for ...*"

### **WORSHIP ~ Sue Kulp**

The Night of Music was celebrated on December 19, and was a big success. It was enjoyed by many people of all ages. Joyful Noise played many holiday favorites. The congregation was in the mood by singing several Christmas songs. A story about the Three Wise Men was a big hit, too! Many stories were told that night about the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Joy to the world, He has been born!

Be watchful of things to come during worship. Please help when you can. Happy New Year!!



### **ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The All Church Christmas Program, *What's the Good Word?* was held during the worship service on Sunday, December 18, 2016. It highlighted words associated with Christmas and the best word of all was JESUS! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season through scripture, poems, readings, and of course, music.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the program, and did such a terrific job! Thanks to our readers **Linda Cook, Joan Decker, David Geveke, Hans Geveke, Kathy Geveke, Cameron Klimek, Casey Klimek, Courtney Klimek, Frank Kulp, Sue Kulp, Sara Mason, Priscilla Miles, Brenda Shaw, Matthew Shaw, and Stephen Shaw.**

Thanks to those who shared the gift of music – **Connie Bartee, Brigid Culloty, and Sandy Kushner.**

Thanks to the *Joyful Noise* - **John Shaw, John Kofroth, Tom Geveke, Jackie Wright, Diane Ogram, Linda Cook, Brenda Shaw, Denise Fallin Sweeney, Dawn Rafalski, Sara Boyer Mason, Sandy Kushner, Iris Messick, Brigid Culloty,** and our guest member, **Ben Geveke.**



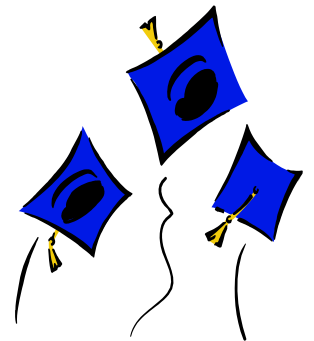
## CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Tom Geveke** continue to play with the *Joyful Noise* and do a wonderful job!
- **Katie Boyer-Mason** enjoyed seeing the Nutcracker Ballet. She helped deliver small Christmas treats around her neighborhood.
- **Katie, Megan, and Sammy DeVecchis** all the made the Dean's List at Widener University for the fall semester.
- **Casey Klimek** danced in the ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia. We hope you saw her in her pink sweatshirt with her braids!
- **Tom Geveke** is playing Ultimate Frisbee at Sun Valley High School.
- **Sara Mason** enjoyed Ice Skating and trips to Bette's Fun Center. She also helped to deliver treats around her neighborhood for Christmas.
- **Sarah Powers** has been nominated for the National Honor Society at Northley Middle School. Good luck, Sarah!
- **Matthew Shaw** received the Gratitude Award for the month of November at Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School. He really enjoyed singing in his Christmas program.
- **Stephen Shaw** had a great first marking period. He has gotten his white and yellow belts for his trumpet. He is also at over 200,000 words of the Million Word Challenge at school.

# Congratulations!

On December 18, 2016, one of our former Sunday School students graduated from West Chester University with a degree in education! Let's give a cheer and a round of applause to . . .



**Stephanie Pysher!**



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **Plan Ahead . . .**

- January 10 Annual Reports Due
- January 16 No VBS Night
- January 22 Annual Business Meeting and Lunch
- February 7 Small Groups Resume
- February 12 Valentine's Brunch
- February 20 No VBS Night
- March 1 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm
- March 12 Sunday Social
- April 9 Church Program
- April 16 Easter Services  
Egg Hunt



### ***LOOKING AHEAD . . .***



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

Our Valentine's Get Together will follow the Worship Service, so we will be having a brunch. The Brunch is FREE and it's a wonderful time to fellowship with other members of the congregation. Look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the Church towards the end of January.

## **MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski**

### **Ministry to Members**

Make sure to pick up your offering envelopes for 2017 in the back of the church. The boxes are in numerical order with some changes to anyone who has a number over fifty.

### **Men's News**

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

## **JOB POSTING!**

**Looking for someone to take turns helping John Kofroth "stream" live broadcast church services on Sunday mornings. If interested, please see, call, or email John Kofroth to schedule a training session. He can be found in the choir loft on Sunday mornings, by telephone @ 610-216-6465 or by email @ [john.kofroth@outlook.com](mailto:john.kofroth@outlook.com) Do not worry about being tech savvy. John is a very good teacher.**

## **DISCIPLESHIP ~ Jane Kofroth**

### **VBS**

VBS volunteers prepare dinner for neighborhood kids on Monday nights at 6:00. After dinner, there's a Bible lesson and a fun group activity from 6:30 to 7:00. We are glad to report that we've been blessed with a big upsurge in attendance--averaging 12-15 kids every Monday.

Thank you to each one of our volunteer cooks and to all who so faithfully help serve and present the lesson every week.

Thank you for keeping this program in your prayers.

There will be no VBS on Monday, January 16.

### **Sunday School**

Our Sunday School class for children meets during worship service. All children are invited to go to the classroom downstairs right after Children's Talk. We are very grateful to each of our volunteer teachers. There is a teacher sign-up sheet for February and March in the back of the church.

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study group meets on Thursdays, at 10 AM. We continue with our study of 1 Samuel. Come and join the group.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups are reading "*Crazy Stories...Sane God*" by John Alan Turner. These stories, taken straight from the Scriptures, *are* crazy! They're full of peculiar details that make you wonder why God included them in His Word!

Mr. Turner's sharp insight into the lives of these characters and the lessons their crazy stories tell us about our God makes for a fascinating "read" and lively discussions! Even if you missed joining a group when we first started reading it, this is the kind of book you can pick up on any time. Consider coming out when we resume meeting in February.

**Tuesdays meeting dates:** February 7 and 21; April 4 and 18; May 2 and 16.

**The day time group meets at 12:00 noon.** Bring your lunch. We'll supply dessert.

**The evening group meets are 7:00 P.M.** Dessert/snacks will be served.

## **OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker**

Monday night dinner program will start up again in January. The program is doing well at the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Our Outreach program for Main Street Elementary for Christmas gifts such as gloves, hats scarfs and pajamas was a great success. The night of music on December 19<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful night. We had a good time with Mr. and Mrs. Santa showing up with refreshments after the program.

This year again Belvedere Nursing Home was chosen to be the recipient of our Christmas "Giving Tree". We received a list for sixty residents of requested gifts that they would like. The Church family came through with the gifts and they were delivered on December 19, 2016. The staff and Santa distributed the gifts on Christmas day. Thanks to all in the congregation for their generosity in donating these gifts, you made their Christmas special.

If someone is interested in running Grocery Bingo please call the church office and leave your phone number with the secretary. I will get back to you with the details.

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.

## **Home and International Missionary birthdays for January**

Rev. Ann Borquist 1/11  
42 Hirpoi St.  
Newtown, Wellington 6021 New Zealand

### **January Birthdays**

2 Jane Kofroth  
6 Casey Klimek  
27 Andrew Harmon  
Herb Osborne

### **January Anniversaries**

28 Doris & John Fraim