

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## October 2017

Upland Baptist Church  
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# Things I Have Learned Along the Way...

17 years! I can't believe it has been 17 years that I have been your pastor. I still remember that first week vividly. I had no idea what I was doing. In fact, the first Monday I was in the office the prayer chain claimed that someone had died, who was really only ill. It was a memorable morning!

There have been many memorable moments since then. As I think about these past years, it is impossible not to think about the saints who have gone before us. There have been so many. It is impossible not to smile as I remember them for their love and faith that are interwoven in the fabric of this place and our lives.

Things have changed a bit over the last 17 years. I did not even have a cell phone when I started my ministry here. My mother insisted that if I was going to live alone that I get a cell phone. I thought it was frivolous and ridiculous, now I never leave home without it. Our sanctuary is not as full as it was all those years ago, but there are some things that remain the same.

We still put God first. We believe that loving God and others is the most important thing we can do with our lives. We continue to work in our community and share the love of Jesus with those we meet. I am glad to be a part of the Upland Baptist Church and its community.

I want to share a couple of things that I have learned over the past 17 years.

- **The best sermons aren't spoken.**

We often use the quote: Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary. I have been reminded over the years that people rarely remember anything I say on a Sunday morning. What they remember are the times I sit with them at the hospital or walk beside them during grief or tragedy. *It isn't always the words that matter, it is being present and faithful.*

- **Getting my hands dirty earns peoples' respect.**

Over the years I have shoveled snow, washed dishes, waited tables, unloaded food deliveries, swept the walk and cleaned the bathroom floor to name a few of the things they never mentioned in Seminary. I try not to ask people to do things I am not willing to do myself. *Working alongside others matters.*

- **No one is perfect; forgiveness matters.**

You don't need to be a pastor to have this be significant in your life, but it has helped me to remember that I am not without sin. No one is perfect and I make mistakes. I have asked for forgiveness and received it from God and from people. *Remembering to be forgiving and seek forgiveness really does change lives, mine included.*

- **Sometimes the to-do list doesn't matter.**

I will admit, I like to cross things off my life. It makes me feel like progress is being made. What I have learned though is being open to the unexpected makes me a better pastor and person. *Often the opportunity to share the love of God is unscheduled.*

- **The most important part of my day is listening.**

Every week I begin on Monday morning by making a to-do list, but the important things that happen during the week rarely are on that list. What is important are the impromptu conversations, the opportunities to share with someone what is happening in their lives, simply listening. *Listening is the best part of pastoring.*

- **I can go a hospital visit in jeans.**

I used to rush home and change clothes before heading to the hospital when someone called on my day off or when I was doing something casual. Then I realized no one cares what I am wearing. So, Labor Day when I received a call that someone was in the hospital, I ran over wearing the same thing I had worn to the picnic. *Loving others is about being present.*

- **No one cares if I preach in pants.**

I think they did. When I started preaching, I think there were several ladies who would have been offended if I had preached in a pair of pants. Times have changed; no one cares if I wear pants. *It is the Word that matters, not what I look like while delivering it.*

- **Pastoral visits sometimes happen by phone, and by text.**

As the years have gone by I have realized that most of us are busy. Gone are the days when the pastor visited every house every year. Instead I try to keep in touch. Often that means a quick phone call or even a text. Of course, this is a two-way street and I need you all to let me in on what is happening in your lives. *Keeping in touch is what really matters.*

- **Seminary really did not prepare me for pastoring.**

When I think back to my classes in seminary, they weren't very practical. No one discussed the need for knowing how to restart the boiler or where the water meter is housed. No one talked about the challenges of upkeep on a building or the daily challenges to keep up with members who are all going in different directions. No one taught us how to balance an individual's needs with the needs of the church. There are so many things that seminary did not prepare me for. *What it did teach me is that a strong foundation will see you through.*

Though I have learned much these past 17 years, there is still much to learn. There is more to learn about who God is and what it means to follow him. There is more to learn about loving God and others. There is more to learn about being a witness in this world. There is more to learn about being a pastor and leading this congregation that God has entrusted me with. There is always more growing to do.

Thank you for walking with me in the past and for today. Thank you for the commitment to keep going towards the future. I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I know that we are stronger, more faithful and better equipped when we go together.

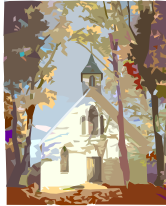
*Pastor Brenda*

## CHAIRPERSON ~ Linda Cook



### SUNDAY

Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>  
Brenda's 17<sup>th</sup>



### PASTOR APPRECIATION

will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will mark Pastor Anniversery as the Pastor of Upland Baptist Church. Then, join us in the Chapel after the Worship Service for some social time and a BAKE SALE. You will be able to personally thank our Pastor for her caring, dedication, and ministry to the congregation of our Church. If you wish to bring a card, there will be baskets available as you walk into Church and also in the chapel.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Plan Ahead . . .

- October 8 Blessing of the Animals
- October 9 **No** VBS Night
- October 15 Pastor Appreciation Sunday  
Bake Sale for ABCOPAD  
Sunday Social
- October 22 Bells Play during Worship
- October 31 Trunk or Treat
- November 12 Pledge Sunday
- November 19 Bells Play during Worship  
Giving Tree
- November 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service
- November 26 Fellowship Lunch and Activity
- December 2 Church Decorating
- December 18 Night of Music

## UNICEF

In 1950, a small group of kids in Philadelphia created Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. They decorated milk cartons and collected \$17 on Halloween to help children left vulnerable by World War II.

Now celebrating its 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has raised more than \$170 million - funds that have made a critical difference in the lives of millions of children and families.

Every day, an estimated 25,000 children die from preventable causes – because they lack simple things like access to clean drinking water, basic childhood medical attention, sufficient nutrition, or immunizations that can protect them against deadly diseases. One in four children in the world are undernourished.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF raises funds to help save children's lives in over 190 countries and territories through immunization, education, health care, nutrition, clean water, and sanitation. UNICEF has always put children first, helping to save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization. UNICEF cares about making the world better for kids. That's why, when you donate to the U. S. Fund for UNICEF, they make sure that 91.2 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to help children.

### **What Your Donation Can Buy**

- \$1 gives a child 40 days of clean, safe water.
- \$5 feeds a malnourished child for 5 days.
- \$10 vaccinates 280 children.
- \$100 protects 100 kids from malaria.

### **What Can You Do To Help?**

Contribute by putting your donation in the box at the back and front of the church and/or putting your extra change in the box a child in your neighborhood might be carrying. When you support UNICEF, you help children throughout the world lead better lives.



## **RECOGNITION**

- **Katie Boyer-Mason** had a great time celebrating fall at the shore. She is enjoying being a senior in high school.
- **Sammy DeVecchis** is a junior in college and has been named to the President's List of Scholars. The criteria to be named to the list is earning a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.
- **Tom Geveke** is on the Sun Valley High School Cross Country Team.
- **Sara Mason** had a ball celebrating fall at the beach. She is off to a great start in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Matthew Shaw** is doing great in first grade. He is busy selling Cub Scout popcorn and playing soccer.
- **Stephen Shaw** is playing soccer. He has made some great plays as goalie. Stephen has almost reached his first million words in the Reading Challenge at school.

News

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **Legal Corporation Highlights**

- Reviewed the finances and investments of the Church. Thank you to everyone who has been fulfilling their pledges.
- Reviewed the repairs that have been completed around the Church during the summer including the soffit and chair lift
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be completed including the Chapel freezer and cemetery headstones.
- Budget Meeting, Thursday, October 12 at 7:00

### **Ministry Council Highlights.**

- Reviewed programs and events that occurred during the summer months – including the Activities for Children and Summer Lunch Program and Home Communion..
- Each Team Leader discussed upcoming events.

## **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – John Kofroth**

I have been giving some thought to the best ways for me to be an effective Communications Team Leader. I have come to the conclusion that my most important asset should be my ability to depend on members of the congregation to *communicate* with me!

I recently discovered that people are having problems with the live broadcast. I was unaware of the difficulties until I heard about it “second handedly”. I’m working on ways to fix the problems, but it would have been more efficient to be able to talk to you directly.

I’d like to get your feedback about our on-line devotionals. People are not commenting on line very much. The give and take conversations we’d hoped for when we started this haven’t materialized. I’m eager to know what you think we can do to encourage more participation. Let’s see if we can figure out a way to get it back on track.

I don’t mean to imply that I know all the answers by any stretch of the imagination, but I promise to do my best to find out who does! I will communicate your concerns, suggestions, comments to the Board and do my best to keep you “in the loop”.

## **WORSHIP – Sue Kulp**

"Blessing of the Animals" will be the Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 3:00 pm.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46)

## **MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski**

There will be a Sunday Social on October 15<sup>th</sup> along with a Bake Sale following worship in the lower level of the chapel. The Bake Sale proceeds will go to our Regional Pastors in appreciation for their faithful support of Upland Baptist. Look for the sign-up sheet in the bake of the church to let us know what goodies you will be bringing.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month Pastor Brenda takes a service to Belvedere Nursing Home at 2:30 p.m. It would be nice to have a few more people join us. If you are interested see Pastor Brenda or Dawn Rafalski.

# **MEN'S NEWS**

There will be no Riverside Men's breakfast in October.

The next Riverside Men's breakfast will be in November, watch the Spire for the date.

## **DISCIPLESHIP – Jane Kofroth**

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School class for children meets on Sunday mornings during the worship service. We need volunteers to teach this class. The class is small in number, and full of enthusiasm for Jesus! Please encourage the children in your life to join us. If you would like to volunteer teacher, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Bible Study meets on Thursdays, at 10:00 AM.**

Join us as we continue to study the book of Romans and consider how God's Word can---and does---guide and direct our lives. There's always good company and a lively exchange of ideas.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups starts its' new season on Tuesday, October 3. We will be reading " Why Did This Happen? Learning to trust God when you don't have all the answers" by Bob Yandian. The daytime group gets together from noon till 2PM. Bring your lunch. The evening group meets from 7:00 until 8:30. If you haven't signed up to join one of the groups, it's not too late! There are still copies of the book available. You can count on an inspiring read, an interesting exchange of ideas and good fellowship. Here is the schedule: October 3, 17; November 7, 21; December 5.

### **Monday Night VBS**

There were only two neighborhood kids to welcome back to VBS night on September 11. Two weeks later, we were serving hot dogs and mac and cheese to eleven. We're off to a good start! Dinner is at 6:00 PM. There is a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:30-7:00. Thanks to the volunteer cooks!

We are blessed to be able to offer hospitality and friendship to the kids in our community. Please continue to keep this program in your prayers.



## **Here's how you can help . . .**

- Pray for the program, the children who attend, and our volunteers in the kitchen and those who work for with the children every Monday evening.
- Invite a child to join us on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

**There is no VBS Night on October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## **OUTREACH – Joan Decker**

### **Monday Night VBS**

Monday Night VBS Program is back. Come join us in the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 PM for dinner and a Bible story.

### **Halloween Trunk Or Treat**

Tuesday, October 31 – Halloween Trunk or Treat at 6 PM for the children in the neighborhood in the church parking lot.

### **Food Bank**

Please remember the food bank by donating can goods and staples.

### **Christmas Tree Giving Gifts**

Our Christmas Tree Giving Gifts once again will be with the residents of Belvedere.

### **Worship**

Please join us on Sunday morning for Worship at 10:00 AM.

# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER

Mrs. Patricia Long 10/8  
1374 Los Coches St.  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Email – [patti.long@internationalministries.org](mailto:patti.long@internationalministries.org)

## **October Birthdays**

- 1 Karin Lord
- 2 Parker Ferguson  
Peggy Rhoads
- 7 Aaliyah Harman  
Florence Osborne

## **October Anniversaries**

- 4 Pat & Tony Irace
- 10 John & Jane Kofroth
- 12 Florence & Herbert Osborne



## IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS!

Please use the order form below. The order deadline is **Sunday, November 19, 2017**. Turn in your order by placing this form and payment in the offering plate, or by dropping your order off at the church office. Payment must be received at time of order. Please make all checks payable to Upland Baptist Church.

If you have any questions, call Lori in the church office 610-874-7474. (Note: Miller Greenhouse's prices have not changed in seven years.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Red (6" size, 4 to 6 blooms, \$7.30)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large Red (7" size, 10 to 14 blooms, \$13.25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large White (7" size, 10 to 14 blooms, \$13.25)

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_