



# THE EVANGEL

## University Baptist Church

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### From Our Pastor . . . The Ties That Bind

Volume 50 Issue 1  
*January*

2011 has the potential to be a very challenging and fulfilling year for our congregation. After gathering a little more information, the church will be ready to make several decisions that will affect the future of University Baptist.

Two critical evaluations of our building will be completed this month. After having the material in our ceilings examined in a lab, we have confirmation that the ceilings throughout our education building are 10% asbestos. The ceilings are safe as long as they are not disturbed, but in some places, wear and tear and water damage have made the ceilings in need of treatment. An asbestos treatment company will give us an estimate on either removing the asbestos or sealing it so that all danger is removed.

An appraisal of our property will also be completed this month. Once we know both the estimate on correcting our ceiling problems and the current value of our property, we will deliberate together on the various options we have to resolve our deteriorating building issues. We should begin implementation of some plan by the late Spring.

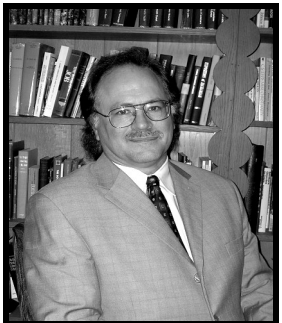
Our visioning process will also move ahead this year. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, thirty members of our congregation will take a survey that will then be sent to the Natural Church Development Ministries for evaluation. The Natural Church Development Ministry will then offer us guidance and consultation on improving the weakest areas of our church life. In addition, we will hold a congregational meeting on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to select a simple mission statement for our church. Finally, we are registered with the American Baptist Churches to be involved in their next Missional Church training experience.

A third challenge we will face together this year is the need to bring our spending in line with our income. The church was very generous at the end of 2010 and is now at a place where we can start afresh in designing a financial plan to support the vision God is giving us. The first phase of this plan will be discussed at our congregational meeting on February 9. By then we will know how much our pledges for 2011 are and a more realistic appraisal of our current resources.

Jeanette Holt has done a great job in guiding us toward the completion of another long overdue task. She, along with input from several members, has revised our Constitution and By-Laws. The revised documents will be available at the meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> for review and discussion. They will not be adopted until a future meeting.

Our communications committee is also making great strides in getting the word out about our church. They have many exciting ideas for connecting with our congregation and community.

All these challenges require the full participation of the church. Please plan to attend the meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> and keep in prayer for God's guidance in all the critical issues of the new year.



**Rev. John P. Burns**  
Pastor



#### Our Mission Statement:

We are seeking to be transformed by God's love so that we may continue the ministry of Jesus in our congregation, community and world.

*Pastor John*

## Music and Christian Education Notes



**W. Mark McIntyre, Associate  
Pastor for Music and Education**

### Did You See the Tree?

During the Advent and Christmas season, the beautifully decorated tree beside the nativity in the Foyer was a Chrismon Tree. Chrismons are symbols from the early Christian church. The inspiration for Christians and churches everywhere to use these symbols as meaningful ornaments during Advent and Christmas came from Mrs. Harry Spencer of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia. The word “Chrismon” is a combination of two words: CHRIS*t* and MON*o*gram. White and gold are the colors used for all Chrismons. White represents our Lord’s purity and perfection and gold our Lord’s majesty and glory. Lights on the tree point to Christ as the Light of the World.

Years ago, many saints from UBC gathered to make the Chrismons using new and old symbols from Christian history referring to Jesus Christ. The Chrismons on our tree are both single symbols and a combination of symbols. They all tell the story of God’s plan for our redemption.

Some of the earliest monograms of our Lord are in Greek letters. The letters that decorated the tree this year were: X (Chi), the first letter of the Greek word for Christ; IHS, the first three letters of Jesus in Greek; and, XP, the first letters for Christ in the Greek alphabet.

Prominent symbols on the tree were: the circle, symbolizing eternity and eternal life with God; the crown, which stands for the Kingship of Jesus; stars, symbolizing the close relationship of the birth and death of our Lord; the fish, one of the most ancient symbols of our Lord and an acrostic in Greek on the first letters of “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”; the butterfly, for our Lord’s resurrection and the resurrection of those who die in Christ; and, of course, the manger for the birth of Jesus.

Many crosses hung on the tree this year. The crosses remind us of our Lord’s suffering and death. Different forms of the cross represent various aspects of Christ’s work. Perhaps you saw the cross crosslet, representing the spread of Christianity to the North, South, East and West; and the Jerusalem Cross, which consists of four Tau (like a capital “T”) crosses that meet in the center to form a larger cross. This cross is a cross accepted by all Christians as a symbol of the unity of our faith.

All these Chrismons adorned the tree. Growing throughout its lifetime, the tree is one of the most powerful symbols of growth. And, our Christian story can be traced from beginning to end symbolically through trees.

According to Genesis, the Tree of Life dwelt in the Garden of Eden. The Oak of Moreh “witnessed” the Lord’s promise to Abram. Isaiah speaks of the root of Jesse and the gospels speak of our Lord hanging on a cross. The Tree of Life returns in Revelation 22 where “on either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

Once lit, the tree shone for everyone to see as they entered the Foyer and remained lit throughout the season, day and night, as a witness to our Savior’s coming into the world. During December, Marcel Jean, our custodian, often remarked how it could be seen from Campus Drive.

May the spirit of the Chrismon tree live in our hearts all year long!

*Pastor Mark*

### January Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Burns
- 4 Rick Anderson  
David Jenkins  
Cheryl Jones
- 7 Samuel Ramsey-Lucas  
David Scott Parsons, Jr.  
Carrie Crawford
- 9 Ellie Anderson  
Renial Parsad  
Tamara Goyea
- 10 Paul Rodgerson  
Cheryl (Cherry) Moore
- 11 Mongah Barnard
- 15 Toye Barnard  
Leonce KoyaKosso
- 16 Cecil Ramsey
- 19 Fred Randall
- 20 Helen Peterman  
Carol Ramsey-Lucas  
Olusegun Goyea
- 21 Savannah Collins
- 22 Genevieve Parreco
- 23 Virginia Kitchen
- 24 Wayne Bristol  
Paul Willis
- 28 Daniel Coon
- 31 Joel Mateer

### Attendance Update

#### December Averages

Worship: 131  
Bible Study: 25

#### *Comedy Corner*

A man put this note under his windshield wiper of his car "I've circled the block to try to find a parking spot for 20 minutes. I'm late for an appointment, and if I don't park here, I'll lose my job. "Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a parking ticket and this note. "I've circled the block for 20 years and if I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. "Lead us not into temptation."

### February Birthdays

- 1 Carolyn Scipio
- 2 Katheen Hellington  
Carol Hurd
- 5 Romain Parsad
- 7 Aaron Burns  
Caroline Adeniji
- 10 Daniel Fopa
- 12 Karen Krueger  
Charles Adeniji  
Grace Chon
- 16 Ellie Tarter
- 19 Richard Spencer
- 20 Toun Oke
- 24 Abiola Oke
- 25 Susan Davis
- 26 Lisa Yancey  
Brent Sare
- 27 Caitlin Stout
- 28 Micah Burns  
Ijeoma Ogbuneka

### Food Pantry Update

For the month of December we packed for 22 families feeding 55 people. We are in need of the following donations: Dried beans, individual packages of hot chocolate and flavored oatmeal; canned peaches, pears and corn; cream soups; red, green and yellow vegetables; 1-lb bags or boxes of rice; corn bread mix and saltines.

*Thanks, Terry*

### New Intern Preaches

Our intern Carmella Jones will preach her first sermon on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please be in prayer for her as she prepares and delivers what God gives to her for us.

### Prayer Requests

**Death:** Bill Kennedy, Aaron Woodfork, **Sickness, Surgery and Recovery:** (members): Virginia Kitchen, Carolyn Scipio, Judy Shadrick, Dillon Allison, Tracey Chewing, Anne Berry, Rick Spencer, Joel Mateer, Genevieve Parreco, Nan Allison, (friends/family of members): Debbie Greene, Clare Kosonen, Susan Austin, Andrew Washington, Susan B. Law (Pastor Mark's Friend), Karen Furguson, Lori Watson, Helen Myers, Linda Baldwin, Tom Belcher, Sherelle Gordon, Ronnie Powell, Mildred Felts, Phil Rodgerson, Bernie McManus, Paul Larson, Pearl Scipio, Andy Corrigan, Art Story, Betty Kaley, Nan Helm, Shirley Reid, Sandy Jones, Ronda Lennon, Michelle Flores, Steve Thaxton, Sharon Galankos, Dennis Haeder, Edd Jacobs, Meredith Talley, Hattie Pride, Eric Starkey, Paul Robbins, Stacie Taylor, Anne Clingenpeel, Kathleen McMillan, Bridgett Pickett, Randy Springer, Dr. Dada, Elaine Hoffman, Maxwell Poindexter, Cindy Harold, William Yancey, Brett Sherry, Peggy Scipio, Carol Benjamin, Devin Tyner, Stan Horyna, **Non-medical needs:** Family of Demetria Taylor, Mark Benhemen, Emily Weant, The Foster Family, The People of Haiti, Richard Sullivan, Rice and Watson families, Darfur; **Military:** Erica and Ricky Fields, Elizabeth Gilead, and Iraq and Afghanistan; **Peace Corp:** Anna Cowell, **Homebound:** Gerry Smith, Vida David, Esther Schreiner, Adelaide Norman

## Up Coming Events

### *Sermon Series for January and February*

Biblical scholar Samuel Balentine writes that Leviticus is “the most neglected of the neglected Biblical books.” I’ve been preaching for 35 years and I have never offered a sermon series on the Old Testament treasure . . . until now. Before you yawn, take a look at the topics that will be addressed in this coming series. We won’t spend time with the passages that seem to be only for the ancient generation. Instead we will concentrate on those principles that transfer to our lives today. So don’t judge a book . . . before you read it. Come and worship with us this winter.

### Leviticus Sermon Series

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
January 9	<i>Give Our Best to God</i>	Leviticus 2:1-10
January 16	<i>All Sin is Communal</i>	Leviticus 4:27-31
January 23	<i>Make Restitution</i>	Leviticus 6:1-7
February 6	<i>Provide For Those Who are Poor, Disabled or New to Your Community</i>	Leviticus 19:9-14, 33-34
February 13	<i>Implement Justice</i>	Leviticus 19:15-16, 35-37
February 20	<i>Love Your Family and Your Neighbor</i>	Leviticus 19:17-18, 32
February 27	<i>Observe Holy Convocations</i>	Leviticus 23:1-2

## The Comm Comm is Hard at Work

The new UBC Communications Committee, unofficially shortened to "Comm Comm," has been meeting monthly for some time now. We have a regular meeting time, which is after worship on the second Sunday of each month. The UBC members of the Comm Comm are: Carol Cron, Chair, Justina Blanco, Secretary, Honi Gaines, John Kohl, Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, Roosevelt Daniels, and Kenny Swift.

Here are a few highlights of the work we've been doing:

- We have researched new audio equipment and will be purchasing it in the next month or so. The purpose is to be able to make high-quality recordings of our sermons and special musical presentations so we can post them as digital audio files on our website and Facebook page.
- We are developing a reusable banner and frame that we will use to promote some of our special occasions, such as our Christmas Eve Service, our Easter

Service, Vacation Bible School, and a few other special events to which we want to invite people who drive past our church.

- In the fall we designed an attractive flyer/invitation that was distributed to new students at the University of Maryland who indicated on their college application that they were Baptist, inviting them to visit with us. This was done on our behalf by staff at the Chaplain's Office on campus.

Any ideas or questions about the communications at UBC -- both internal and external -- are welcome. Please feel free to contact any member of the Communications Committee.

Don't forget to visit our website on a regular basis: <http://www.weareubc.org> and our Facebook page: University Baptist Church.

# Youth Activities

## January-July 2011

### JANUARY

1/16/11 (Sunday) – Youth Group 12:30-2pm.

1/22/11 (Saturday) – Ice skating @ Wells Ice Rink in College Park. Meet at the church at 2pm, session is 2:30-4:30pm, return to the church around 4:45PM. \$10-15 will cover skate rental and snacks. (Only vending machines are available).

**Contact person: Dana Friedeman**

### FEBRUARY

**2/13/11 (Sunday) – Youth Group 12:30-2pm.**

2/26/11 (Saturday) – Snow tubing at Ski WhiteTail. Meet at the church at 8:15am for a prompt 8:30am departure and return to the church around 4pm. The cost is \$25 for 2 hours of tubing, plus money for fast food lunch.

**Contact person: Dana Friedeman**

### MARCH

3/13/11 (Sunday) – Youth Group 12:30-2pm.

3/27/11 (Sunday) – Roller skating at Wheels Skating Center in Odenton. Leave from the church after worship and eat a fast food lunch before skating. The cost is \$6 for 3 hours of skating, plus \$2 for quad skate rental or \$4 for in-line skate rental. Return to the church around 5:45PM.

**Contact person: Kelly Turonis**

### APRIL

4/17/11 (Sunday) – Youth Group 12:30-2pm.

4/29/11 and 4/30/11 (Friday-Saturday) – 30-hour Famine. Details to come.

**Contact person: Craig Warner**

### MAY

5/15/11 (Sunday) Youth Group 12:30-2pm.

5/21/11 (Saturday) Outdoor recreational activity. Details to come.

**Contact person: Ravi Amin**

### JUNE

6/12/11 (Sunday) Youth Group 12:30-2pm.

6/26/11 (Sunday) PASSPORT Information Meeting \*\*This is a *mandatory meeting* for all youth attending PASSPORT and their parents. If you cannot attend, you must see Dana Friedeman *prior* to June 26<sup>th</sup>.

# **PASSPORT**

## **July 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

## **Mercer University**

## **Macon, Georgia**

**Announcements and Other News**

**Meeting Steny Hoyer by Noah Ramsey-Lucas**

On Labor Day my family and I went to a party at a neighbor's house. We knew our Congressman,



Noah with Representative Steny Hoyer

Steny Hoyer, was going to be there so I was prepared to talk with him about the Penny Project.

I brought copies of an article from the Gazette and another from the Associated Baptist Press that tell the story of our church's role in the Penny Project.

But I must admit I was a bit nervous. Rep. Hoyer was interested in what I had to say. He surprised me with a donation of \$10 and asked me how many pennies that was. His question caught me off guard but I answered it correctly – 1000 pennies.

I asked him if he would meet with me and a group of youth from UBC to hear more about the Penny Project and our concerns. He said he would love to. It was great meeting Rep. Hoyer. I look forward to seeing him again soon.

Noah

**Over 50 Families Fed for the Holiday**

We set a church record with our Christmas Share baskets this year. In previous years, we purchased 40 baskets and 40 gift cards from a local grocery store in the amount of \$10 dollars each. This year your response to our call to assist those in need exceeded our expectations, allowing us to provide 50 baskets and 50 gift cards in the amount of \$20 dollars each. 47 baskets were given out to families in need and the remaining 3 baskets were given to our adopted school, Bucklodge Middle to distribute to families at their discretion.

**The following is an excerpt from the Annual Report to the Board of Directors for Help by Phone, Limited**

“In this beginning of our 43rd year, each day we find persons without food, clothing, shelter and other simple needs. Two hundred volunteers work in various ways to hear, arrange for goods and services, and offer encouragement. More than 55,000 people will know that we care by the end of this calendar year. Our budget is small. Our overhead is low. Our labor does not waiver.

The primary need for people in Prince George's county is food. Many people who call in the early part of the day, have food for their evening meal. Eight pantries, scattered throughout the County, are open Monday through Friday. Basic, staple, nutritious foods are packed for several days.

Our clothing center provides clothes for infants, youth and adults. In addition, we are connected to 8 Title 1 schools to provide shoes, warm winter clothes and underwear.

Transportation for medical appointments is available and help with a selective list of prescriptions is capped at \$75 dollars. Of course, we always need more drivers.

A winter shelter for homeless men, (Safe Haven), begins the last Sunday in November and runs for 16 weeks. Breakfast and an evening meal are provided along with overnight lodging in a safe place. Help is provided for those suffering from addictions and for those in need of finding work.

We are glad we could help the 19-year old who called for food for himself and his grandfather..... The 78 year old grandmother for our help for her six grandchildren for whom she is the guardian.

A commitment to look beyond self, resiliency of mind, body, and spirit, and team work are essential for volunteers. We are blessed! Our financial support continues despite this bleak economic year. We will truly be successful when we get out of business because no one is in need. IN the meantime we are ready for another year. “

Lois Jones  
December 16, 2010

## Calendar and Other News

### FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <b>Full Wed. Night Schedule</b>	3	4	5
6	7	8 <b>Community Café</b>	9 <b>Dinner @5:30PM Congregational Meeting @7PM</b>	10	11	12
13 <small>Comm. Committee Meets; Youth Group Meets</small>	14	15	16 <b>Full Wed. Night Schedule</b>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 <b>Full Wed. Night Schedule</b>	24	25	26 <b>Youth Group Snow Tubing</b>
27	28					

### Thank You and Farewell to Our Church Custodian– Marcel Jean

The church voted at our annual meeting to replace our custodian with a cleaning service. Although this decision will help bring our expenses down, it requires that we end a relationship lasting over 20 years with Marcel Jean. We want to express our gratitude to Marcel by giving him a love offering as he leaves our employment on January 31st. You may contribute to that love offering by taking any envelope and marking it “Marcel.” Whatever you give in that offering will go to him. In addition, you may want to bring a card to church on January 30<sup>th</sup> expressing your personal appreciation for his work through these many years.

### Member of the Month

Jeanette Holt has completed a project that has been long overdue and for that, the staff would like to recognize her as our member of the month. With input from a few members, Jeanette has revised our Constitution and By-Laws to reflect the way we currently operate as a church. The revisions include the formation of a “watch care” membership category, an opening of the Diaconate to Associate Members and some changes in commission and committee memberships. The proposed revisions will be distributed at a congregational meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> for further review and discussion. The final revisions will be adopted at a future meeting. This job was not an easy one and the church owes a debt of gratitude to Jeanette. In addition to this work, Jeanette continues to do a masterful job in teaching Sunday School, singing in our Sanctuary Choir and serving as our Moderator. This month, when you see Jeanette, thank her for all she does to make our church a good place to serve and worship.



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

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Kenny Swift, Minister-in-Training  
Desa Foster, Administrative Assistant  
Carly Guirola, Treasurer  
Terry Gilead, Financial Secretary  
Marcel Jean, Custodian

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.WEAREUBC.ORG**

**Upcoming Events at UBC**

**Wednesday Night Service**

January 5 No Services  
January 12 **No Dinner or Children's Choir**  
January 19 **No Dinner or Children's Choir**  
January 26 **No Dinner or Children's Choir**

**January Wednesday  
Night Schedule**

**7:00 pm iAwesome**  
**7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/  
Bible Study**  
**7:10 pm Sanctuary Choir**

**Church Council and Commissions**

January 23 Administrative Commission Meets  
January 24 Education Commission Meets  
January 30 Diaconate Meets

**Youth and Other Events**

January 16 Nursery Meeting @10AM/Youth Group Meets @12:30PM  
January 22 Youth Group Ice Skating @2PM  
January 23 VBS Parents and Workers Meets  
January 25 CUCE Annual Breakfast @8:30AM  
January 30 Carmella Jones Preaches

**Full Wednesday Schedule Will Resume in February**

THE EVANGEL Published monthly by  
University Baptist Church  
3515 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740-3170  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
3515 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740-3170