

# The Vision

The Primary Weekly Communication Instrument of  
The United Baptist Church of Northern Virginia

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*The United Baptist Church Vision is "to develop an intentional relationship with God, as in Jesus, so that our lives demonstrate the transforming effect and supreme importance of such a relationship for us, our society, and our world."*

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Issue 2

Your Mission Support Team wants you to know about

## GIVE TOGETHER

A Family Volunteer Day  
presented by Volunteer Fairfax

January 18, 2010

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of  
Service

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Dewberry Hall

(located within the Johnson Center on  
the Fairfax Campus of George Mason  
University)

Families from across the county will have the opportunity to come together and volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and the Orphan Foundation of America. Projects are appropriate for elementary school-aged children, but can be completed by younger children with adult supervision.

To register, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

## Quarterly Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 17  
12:30 p.m.

Please submit any reports or items of  
business no later than Wednesday  
evening, January 13, for inclusion in the  
*Book of Reports*.

**REMEMBER TO BRING FINGER FOODS**

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**Men's Hobo Dinner**  
**Saturday, February 6**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

Calling all bums for our annual  
gathering featuring food, fun (chili this  
year!), and fellowship.

## Unravelings . . . J.Wayne Yawn

The Good News according to the Gospel writers for this time of year comes from two stories about Jesus. The first is the story of the Gentile Magi who had a sudden and great revelatory “aha” *epiphany* experience looking at the stars. “Ah, a king has been born! Let’s go pay our respects.” The second is the story of Jewish Joshua (Jesus’ Hebrew name) saying, “Aha, me, too” to his cousin John’s baptism movement, along with “all the people” (according to Luke) including poor, middle class, rich (tax collectors) and Gentile Roman military soldiers. Literally, everybody! Even Hebrew who, it was thought, were naturally God’s people! Baptism was only for Gentile proselytes! But John’s baptism was to show everybody had been wrong or rebellious (sinful) in their behavior and attitude toward God. Religion, the behavior and attitude people practice to influence God (to please, influence, placate, etc) to be friendly and helpful toward people, needed to be purer, according to John.

And so, I think Jesus came to be baptized, to show that indeed his long struggle from at least age 12 to 30, to get God “right” (he was of Isra-el—remember was the name given to Jacob and family after he “struggled (Isra) with God (el),” had led him to baptism not only appropriate for “all Jews and Gentiles” to start over in their relationship with God. But it is to change how they think to get God “right.” John still thought that God was ticked and upset—why else did God not send the messiah to free all people, even Romans, from Roman powerful oppression. John was preaching and baptizing to purify religion which is all about influencing God. But Jesus was about getting people to let God complete God’s work in them began at their birth to be something, when they were created with unique gifts (another word for power) to impact all people, including themselves. The rebellious, sinful approach since Adam and Eve had been to use gifts for personal gain and success and influence. But Jesus had concluded that for him God (a *noun* for the *verb* “love—agape type intentional, servant love) wanted to finish people TO BE SOMETHING, NOT TO DO SOMETHING TO INFLUENCE GOD TO BE BETTER. And that SOMETHING was to apply their innate gifts of power from God, in a divine, Godly manner—with God, or with agape.

So, Jesus’ reason for baptism, I think, was not to influence God to do or not do something, but was to decide to let God work through him to make him fully as God is. And the only way to do that was to BE who God created him to be by applying himself by Godly intentional, servant love, whatever the cost in this “sinful rebellious world.” And to live that way of life out, knowing it would kill him, but not destroy him, just like it had never destroyed, hadn’t even made God give in and please sinful humans by responding to their religious efforts to please God (even though some humans found circumstantial occasional evidence for this) thus making him respond like their dreams (born of their ancestors Adam and Even) constantly fed their longings for God. Jesus’ understanding of God’s love transcended even physical and spiritual death, because it acted through the most costly thing, even for the Divine (and for the Divine in humans), namely, to forgive. Glory Be! What a God! A God more concerned about God’s creation than about being made a human king! Or that is as I am coming to see and experience God. That’s my unravelings! What’s yours?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### January

- 13 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalist’s Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 p.m. Knit & Crochet Club (Parlor)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla’s Office)
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 14 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 17 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:30 p.m. Quarterly Membership Meeting
- 18 11:00 a.m. CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Holiday)
- 20 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla’s Office)
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are several ways you can help the Hypothermia Prevention program this winter. A sheet with ways you can help is available on the table near the Mission Nook and outside the sanctuary. Pick one up and make a difference!

## NEW YEAR ITEMS

Offering envelopes for 2010 have been mailed. Many of you have received your envelopes, but many have not. If you are among those who have not yet received your envelopes, you can stop by the church office and get a box(es). You can also get a box at church Sunday morning by asking one of the pastors as well as additional boxes for other family members by simply requesting them.

Also, please remember not to file your 2009 federal or state income tax returns before receiving your 2009 Record of Contribution from the church. These records are being prepared and will be mailed shortly. ***The IRS requires that you have these records in your possession before filing your tax return if you are going to claim your contributions as deductions on your tax return.*** When you receive your Record of Contributions statement, please look it over carefully for accuracy and completeness. If there are any problems, please contact Vanessa Giron in the church office in order to resolve the issue and get a correct copy of your statement.

## Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be no Youth Missions on Jan. 13. We will be planning the work that we will be doing with the Hypothermia Center at Bailey's Crossroads for the Homeless. This activity will be a great opportunity to complete community service hours. We will also be discussing the other community service/mission projects that we will work on this year as well as upcoming youth activities. Be present so that you can help with the planning.

### Coming in February

**Souper Bowl of Caring**—On Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join our young people as they join other students around the country when they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. We will be collecting food for the ACCA food pantry. At this time the most needed items are small bags of rice, dried beans, jelly and bars of soap, but any food items will be accepted. Because of the desperate need for food at ACCA due to rising demand, we would like to try to exceed our highest year of giving in the past which was 240 food items. If you start now and pick up 1-2 extra items each week, you will have 3-6 items to donate. If each of us does that, we could easily exceed our best year. It doesn't take too much from any one person, if we all pitch in. These donations can be left on a specially marked table that will be set up in the fellowship hall on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be collecting monetary donations which we donate each year to Westlawn Elementary School. These donations are used by the school to help students-in-need to be able to participate in school activities that they would not otherwise be able to join in on, by defraying some or all of the cost for the student. Drop your donation in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

### Coming Youth Events

Ski Trip  
Snow Tubing  
Winter Retreat  
Paintball  
Lock-in  
Senior High Retreat  
Summer camp

If you are interested or would like to give any input into any of these events, come on Wednesday night, Jan. 13. The next **Kid's Club** activity will be on Sunday, Jan. 31 after church. We will make presents that you can give to your Moms and Dads for Valentine's Day.

## *News of Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield*

### Adventures in Learning

Winter 2010 Class Schedule

February 3 – March 17

Wednesday Mornings, 9:30am - 12:30pm

at John Calvin Presbyterian Church

### **Open House/Registration**

**Wednesday, January 27, 10am - 12noon**

Three New Series:

History/World Affairs

Writing Our Life Stories

Scientific Discoveries from Space

### Lunch N' Life

**Friday, February 12, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**PROGRAM: What Do One Billion Muslims  
Really Think?**

**Presented by Barbara Ferguson,  
Washington Bureau Chief of Arab News**  
Registration Deadline: February 3

### Chicago - A Live Musical

Friday, February 26, 8 p.m.

The Little Theater of Alexandria

Tickets: \$25.00

(Additional information about all these events are on  
the bulletin board in News n Do's Hallway)

### ***Thank You ...***

*Dear Jerry and Wayne,*

*The monthly check from the United Baptist Church arrived today and it reminded me of your regular and ongoing support. Thank you both for encouraging your church to support Leland. We've had a great year so far and I appreciate all you have done to help us!*

*In Christ,  
Mark*

(Dr. Mark Olson, President)