

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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CHURCH VOTES TO MATCH GIFTS TO HAITIAN RELIEF

The congregation has approved a joint recommendation from the Finance Committee and Mission Support Team that the church agree to match any gifts by church members to relief for the victims of the Haitian earthquake up to a total of \$25,000 in UBC matching funds. The gifts will be given through Baptist World Aid, an arm of the Baptist World Alliance. BWA already has established relationships with two Baptist unions on Haiti and will work with those on the ground there to make sure the aid goes where it is needed. In order to qualify to be matched by UBC funds (which will come from investment income), *gifts must meet the following conditions:*

- 1. They must be given by a member of UBC*
- 2. They must be given through United Baptist Church and clearly designated for BWAid or Haiti Earthquake Relief.*

Use your regular offering envelope or a Pew Envelope, but please *be sure that both the envelope and your check clearly indicate the amount and that it is for Haitian Relief. It will simplify the process greatly if you will make your check payable to UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH.* Thank you for caring and for giving.

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

Calling all bums (of the male persuasion only) for our annual gathering featuring food, fun (chili this year!), and fellowship. Bring your friends with you and join us.

The evening is free, but an offering will be taken to cover the cost of the food with the balance being given to the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Hunger Offering.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING **Sunday, February 7**

This annual event raises funds for local hunger needs. We ask that you bring staple goods on February 7, which will be distributed to ACCA and used to meet the needs of the hungry in our community. ACCA has been inundated with food requests, and the need is great. Please be generous. We also ask that you bring a monetary gift which will again be given to Westlawn Elementary School to be used by at-need students to participate in school activities they otherwise could not.

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

Perhaps you have seen, **How to Stay Safe:**

**Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.*

**Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.*

**Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.*

**Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.*

**Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.*

You will be pleased to learn, I hope, that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and those deaths are usually related to some pre-existing disorder. Therefore, it is logical and mathematical to conclude that the safest place to be at any time is at church. And Bible study is safe, too. The percentage of deaths while reading the Bible is even less. So, attend church and study your Bible. It could save your life!

I'm a little leery of the statistics here. What would it count if a man driving a car has a heart attack and loses control of his car, running up on a sidewalk killing a pedestrian, and then crashes into a house killing a woman sitting in her living room (perhaps even reading the Bible)? What really got my attention, however, was the idea that we want to be safe and that church and religious exercises help keep us safe. I'm pretty sure those early followers of Jesus didn't find themselves safe when they left everything and followed him. If they did, I'm sure the feeling was quickly dispelled as Jesus warned them of the cost of following him. Or as they faced the anger of their cultural leaders or the power of the Empire that rose up against them in vicious and deadly opposition.

All of us, then and now, would like to be safe and secure. We like the idea of a God who protects us and keeps us safe from suffering and from harm. So we like churches and messages that offer us safety. Security. Now and in the life to come. The problem is, the church isn't supposed to be safe. In fact, the church's calling to live as Christ's presence in a hostile culture is a calling to danger and insecurity. A calling to storm the gates of hell. And to engage the powers and principalities of this world. And to take seriously the teachings of One about whom the response of the culture is, "You've got to be kidding!" If you want to be safe and secure, then perhaps you should just come to church and read your Bible (being very careful, of course, about which parts you read). If you want to make a difference and truly be a Christ-follower, then grab a cross and follow Jesus. You can seek relative safety and security, or you can seek to become a radical disciple. But you cannot do both. You have to choose.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

January

- 27 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 (BBQ)
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla's Office)
6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 28 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 31 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)

February

- 1 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
Phil Carpenter's 4th Anniversary at UBC
- 2 10:30 a.m. NorthStar Minister's Fellowship, Crosspoint
11:00 a.m. Prime Timers (Songmasters)
- 3 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

NEW YEAR ITEMS

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 mailed this week. ***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.

Thank you ...

The staff would like to say "thank you" for the generous love offering that we each received at Christmastide. Your kindness in remembering each of us at this time of year in a special way is humbling. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve God by serving you. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. In Christ, Betty, Charles, Luis, Phil, Twyla, and Vanessa

Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be Youth Missions on Jan. 27. 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—

In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$60 million for people in need. Please help by dropping your donation in a soup pot on Sunday morning, February 7th.

While we are all being asked from many different sources to make donations above and beyond our normal giving to assist with the extraordinary needs that currently exist in Haiti, we also need to remember the very real need in our own community. The Souper Bowl of Caring is one way that we care for those in our community who are in desperate need.

We will be collecting food for the ACCA food pantry. At this time the most needed items are small bags of rice, dried beans black/red, jelly, bars of soap, toilet paper, small bags of flour/sugar, crackers 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 1-2 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 7th.

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 7th. 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.

Kid's Club

The next Kid's Club activity will be this Sunday, Jan. 31 after church. We will make gifts that you can give to your Moms and Dads for Valentine's Day. And we will have a little celebration as well. We will have pizza for lunch. So see you at church and make plans to stay for Kid's Club. We will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

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)

The Mission Support Team wants you to know about the

Interfaith Community Book Discussion

Three Cups of Tea

by Craig Mortenson

sponsored by Interfaith Communities for Dialogue

Sunday, February 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Book Discussion Coordinator: Geneva Pope

Questions: dgpoppe7603@verizon.net

RSVP: 703-324-3453 or

CILUSER@fairfaxcounty.gov