

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 5

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. 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.

RECEIVED TO DATE \$6,440.00

Rev. Twyla Turner Preaching This Sunday

We will participate in the fourth annual Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching this Sunday, February 8, by having Twyla Turner preach in the morning worship service. This annual event is sponsored by Baptist Women in Ministry and has grown each year in the number of churches participating. Share this worship time with us and support Twyla and other women whom God has called into ministry.

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.

Unravelings . . . J. Wayne Yawn (2/2/10)

When it comes to understanding what people are saying, I've found it helps to know what has been happening recently in their lives. Likewise, it helps me understand what Jesus is saying if I consider what has been going on with him. This is true for me when I read those pithy saying in Matthew 5:1-12 called the Beatitudes. Without considering Jesus' context for these utterances, I naturally interpret them applying to my current context. When I hear Jesus through my context what I hear from him may be helpful, but may not be what he was saying.

For instance, the second Beatitude says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Usually when I read that—or use that as a pastor—my context is dealing with someone's death. It is good to grieve for that is one way that God comforts me. That is true! But is it the truth Jesus had in mind when he uttered this? When I look at the context of the Beatitudes, Jesus had just finished being tempted to think of his God the way normal people think of gods. That way is to think gods can be placated through worship and obedience to intervene and rescue. Normal thinking about gods causes us to think that if we serve gods correctly, gods will rescue us from starvation—turn stone into bread. Such gods will make us successful over our enemies and keep us from injury, like Jesus jumping off the temple precipice without being injured. Jesus rejected all this about God. Jesus' God spoke "words" about how to create just and merciful relationships to build righteous communities to make people blessings to one another. Jesus' context for the Beatitudes is all about how God has empowered persons to be God's feeding, saving, serving presence to one another. Jesus' context is all about showing people how to take their gifts or powers and use them to serve and enhance other people by using those gifts by intentional, not just emotion-driven love. The context shows Jesus selecting apostles based on their gifts, not their stature as good people. The context shows Jesus reaching out to Gentiles or sinners, and about the excitement of their responding as they sensed they were acceptable to Jesus' God for who they were, for their gifts, their very being, and not just if they were part of God's chosen people or because they had achieved a level of holiness adequate to placate God to bless them.

Then, Jesus looked at the crowds of folks beginning to follow him because of this radical image of God, and he also looked at the excitement on the faces of his new apostles. I think he remembered his own temptations in the wilderness and his excitement generated by crowds that might follow him. What an ego "trip." It was then that Jesus begins to utter the Beatitudes defining his image of God. And so, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn!" Mourn what? Mourn the loss of the view of God colored by the normal view of gods, that needed to be given up, to make room for Jesus' view of God. Until that false image of God is mourned, I find no real "comfort" from the radical image of God that Jesus colored. And, I miss what Jesus was teaching. Until I get what Jesus was teaching about God, Jesus just confirms what I want God to be. No wonder such normal Christianity is so easily ignored by so many, even as it attracts so many. But I find it has no demand or life changing power. It only feels "spiritual" when it is practiced in worship programs full of pomp and energetic excitement; when preaching and music are called "spiritual." Yes, the context of what Jesus said seems to make a difference! And what do you think? Well?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

February

- 3 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalist's 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
- 4 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 6 6:00 p.m. Men's Hobo Dinner
- 7 ***Souper Bowl of Caring***
- 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 10:55 a.m. Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday – Rev. Twyla Turner Preaching, Communion
- 12:15 p.m. February Birthday Fellowship
- 12:30 p.m. Renovation Committee Meeting
- 8-12 *UBC Week to Provide ACCA Transportation*
- 8 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 9 11:15 a.m. Young-at-Heart Gadabouts, Van Leaves at for Longhorn Restaurant in Manassas
- 10 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' 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

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.

Next week is our week to provide **Medical Transportation for ACCA**. If you are able to drive, please contact Gerry Sue Young and let her know of your availability. Thank you!

Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on Feb. 2. 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 This Sunday--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 this year by dropping your donation in a soup pot on **this** 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

Wintery weather doesn't stop young people from coming out and enjoying activities at the church. Sunday afternoon the children had pizza, played in the snow, made some Valentine's crafts for their parents and learned about the story of the Good Samaritan, VeggieTales style. We had a lot of fun throughout the afternoon. We missed those who couldn't attend, but will look forward to seeing you next time we meet for Kid's Club toward the end of February.

Thank You...

Thank You! Thank You! To Reverend Young and Reverend Yawn for the prayers and visits during my surgery and recovery, also thanks to those church members who kept me in their prayers and for the get well cards. And thanks be to God for answered prayer.

Bob and Mickey Farrell

Dear United Baptist Church:

Thank you so much for your continued support of sandwiches. In 2009 you donated 3387 pounds of sandwiches. I wish you could come and see all of the hardworking people that we can help in their time of need because of your generosity.

As you know, the needs of the people in the Northern Virginia area are great as they are everywhere. Because of your compassion and commitment to the community, Food for Others will be able to continue to help meet the needs of the many families who come to us daily for food.

...Together, Food for Others and donors like you made it possible for families to not only survive but to thrive. Please consider continuing your kindness to your struggling community members. Thank you!

Roxanne Rice, Executive Director
Food for Others

**Young-at-Heart Gadabouts
are on the move again.**

First Event of the New Year

Tuesday, February 9

**Van leaves at 11:15 a.m.
Lunch at Longhorn Restaurant
and visit new Super Walmart
in Manassas**

(No certain return time)