

# 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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**Fairfax County Health Department**  
**Free H1N1 Vaccine Clinics Open Daily**  
(for office hours, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu))

**Falls Church District Office**

6245 Leesburg Pike, #500  
Falls Church, VA 22044  
703-534-8343

**Joseph Willard Health Center**

3750 Old Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
703-246-7100

**Springfield District Office**

Cary Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Suite A-100  
8136 Old Keene Mill Rd  
Springfield, VA 22152  
703-569-1031

**Herndon/Reston District Office**

1850 Cameron Glen Drive, #100  
Reston, VA 20190  
703-481-4242

**Mount Vernon District Office**

8350 Richmond Highway, #233  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
703-704-6100

*It's not too late to get vaccinated!*

## Storm Postponements

As a result of the recent storms, we have rescheduled the following events:

**Postponed to Saturday, February 20:**

Men's Hobo Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**Postponed to Sunday, February 28:**

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching will be observed with Rev. Twyla Turner preaching.

The *Souper Bowl of Caring* will be observed the rest of the month of February. A table is set up in the fellowship hall where you can bring your food items. We will use our regular Benevolence Offering on March 7 for the cash portion of the Souper Bowl.

### UBC Impacted by Storms

Like everyone else in the area, UBC has been impacted by the weather this winter in many ways. We have canceled Sunday services on two occasions and had two other Sunday attendances heavily impacted by snow. This has hindered us in keeping in touch with one another. If you know of any needs, please let us know. This has also drastically impacted our finances. If you have fallen behind in your giving or if you can just help with "over-and-above" gifts, it would be most helpful and appreciated. Hopefully, this Sunday ....

## **PONDERINGS** ... Gerald L. Young

I surrender. Enough already. No more snow! In about six weeks time we have experienced two of the ten largest snowfalls in DC recorded history. And that doesn't count the little 4-6" we pick up in the middle of the week. In the days leading up to the recent *snowcocalypse*, one of the local weatherpersons (who, by the way, is far too delighted when he is able to use his electronic playthings to demonstrate just why we are going to have snow a mile deep followed by temperatures approaching absolute zero and winds the equivalent of a category 5 hurricane) asked how many of the ten largest local snowfalls on record began on a Friday or a Saturday. The answer? Nine. Nine out of ten of the largest recorded snowfalls here came on a weekend. And the tenth began on a Sunday! And all that before this last storm began on a – what else? – Friday. That incredible statistic raised the immediate question, doesn't God know that we have worship services on Sunday? I'll return to that thought below.

Difficult times bring out both the best and the worst in people, and we have seen both over these last few days. When I've ventured out, I've encountered people who seemingly have no concern beyond their own needs or what they want to do. Their number is legion, as are the expressions of their self-centeredness. But I've also seen strangers stop their cars to help others who were stuck and people go out of their way to be of assistance to someone in trouble. At home, I've seen our two sons clean sidewalks and the driveway without being asked and without me every having to lift a single shovel full. This in spite of John just being able to work again after months of recovering from back surgery, and Steve with a shoulder injury that needs an MRI and causes him considerable pain. All without – as far as I know – fighting about anything. It all goes to show that there is good in the midst of even this.

Returning to the connection between God and the snow, I think God must be confused. He has children praying for snow, misguided though they may be. He has children praying for no snow, or at least for it to stop. Or maybe God is just geographically challenged. They are having to truck snow in for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Maybe our snow was meant for them and God just missed by a few thousand miles. I'm really not trying to be flippant, but rather to suggest that I don't think God is involved in the decision of where and how much snow (or hurricane, or tornado, or drought). These are natural occurrences that are part of the created order. Maybe what God is trying to help us do is shovel someone's snow when it falls. But, whoever has been praying for snow should start praying for world peace and the people of Haiti. You are doing something right. See you Sunday?

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### **February**

- 17 *Ash Wednesday*  
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
- 18 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)  
2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 20 6:00 p.m. Men's Hobo Dinner
- 21 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 22 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 24 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
3:30 p.m. Knit & Crochet Club  
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

### **UBC Continues to Match Gifts to Haitian Relief through Baptist World Aid**

We continue to match funds given through UBC to Haitian relief. 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.*

**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                      \$6,890.00

## **Mission Night Change**

In an effort to reach more people, the Mission Support Team is going to experiment with moving the monthly mission emphasis from a Wednesday night to Sunday morning during the opening Sunday School assembly. The first of these will be Sunday, February 28, and parish nurse, Gerry Sue Young, will present a health-related program. Other mission programs will also be presented on Sunday morning. Watch for them and be present to learn more about the many ways we are being the presence of Christ.

## Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be Youth Missions on Feb. 17. We will 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.

### Postponed to Feb. 28--Souper Bowl of Caring

Due to the inclement weather on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be postponing the collections for the Souper Bowl of Caring to the end of the month—Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully these additional couple of weeks will allow you to pick up 2-4 additional items at the grocery store when you are doing your shopping. Because we have been asking you to collect a few items each week for several weeks, we will happily accept your donations for the ACCA Food Pantry at any time throughout the month. There is a table set up in Fellowship Hall that is marked for the Souper Bowl of Caring and you are welcome to place your food donations there. 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. It doesn't take too much from any one person, if we all pitch in. We will deliver them after the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> worship service.

We will collect monetary donations, which will go to help needy students at Westlawn Elementary School on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the end of the worship service. 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.

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.

*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*

## Thank You ...

To All,

*Thank you for my beautiful pillow. I don't know what I would do without it.*

*Your out pouring of love is so appreciated. Thank you –*

Mary Ann Waln

(A note from one of the recipients of the pillows made by Mended Hearts Ministry for heart surgery patients.)

Rev. Dr. Yawn & Rev. Dr. Young,

*Thank you so much for the wonderful funeral service you did for my grandpa. He was a caring, Godly man who will be missed, but we know we will surely see him again in heaven!*

*Also, thank you to Mrs. Hicks for giving of her talents for the service and the women of the church for the delicious meal afterwards. (Being a former deaconess I know how much work goes into planning a meal.)*

*You all are a wonderful reflection of God's special love! In His love,*

Lisa, Denny Brinkman & family

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

A reminder: in the event that inclement weather forces us to cancel Sunday services (if you can imagine such an occurrence), we will change the message on the answering machine at the church so that you may call after 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning if you have any questions. If you get the normal message (no mention of services being canceled) it means that the services will be held as scheduled. ***If services are canceled or altered, there will be a message explaining the change.*** If we cancel a Wednesday evening or other events, we will make every effort to contact those we think would possibly be present, but we will also put a message on the answering machine. While your presence is always meaningful, the fact that we may be having worship services in inclement weather does ***not*** mean that *you* have to be here if it is not safe for you to do so. Please be wise – and safe!

**This edition of *The Vision*** is a slightly edited version of last week's edition *which was sent only to those who receive the electronic version*. There was no printed version mailed last week. If that includes you, then you will find this an almost identical version of what you received last week. Information on the back page has been updated.