

# The Vision

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

**Pastoral Staff:**

Dr. J. Wayne Yawn, Co-Pastor  
Dr. Gerald L. Young, Co-Pastor  
Rev. Phil Carpenter, Music  
Rev. Twyla Turner, Youth  
Email: UBOffice@aol.com

7100 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003-3106  
703-256-5900  
703-256-5262 (FAX)  
www.unitedbaptchurch.org  
www.unitedbaptchurch.org/Blog.html

*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."*

---

Volume 8

February 23, 2010

Issue 8

---

## Sunday, February 28 at UBC

### ***SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY***

The New Orleans Saints may have won Super Bowl XIV on February 7, but they didn't have to deal with Snowmageddon that day. We did. So we postponed the *Super Bowl of Caring* until this Sunday, February 28. You are asked to bring staple food items which will be given to the ACCA food pantry. A table has been set up in the fellowship hall to receive these items. Particularly needed 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.

We are also asking you to bring a monetary donation which will be given to Westlawn Elementary School where it will be used to enable disadvantaged students to participate in some activities they otherwise would be unable to do. At the conclusion of the worship service, our youth will be at the doors collecting your gifts.

Please remember that in these difficult economic times, the needs are greater than usual, and have been made even more difficult by the severity of the weather we have experienced this winter. Your caring and giving can make a big difference.

### ***Rev. Twyla Turner Preaching in Morning Worship Service***

We will be participating in the fourth annual Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching this Sunday, also postponed from February 7. Twyla Turner will again be preaching for this observance recognizing the voices of women in Baptist pulpits. The event is sponsored by Baptist Women in Ministry and is named after an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Separate Baptist preacher. She preached alongside her brother and later joined her husband in ministry (as well as preaching) and in starting churches in the Carolinas and Georgia, including the first Baptist church in Georgia. Join us for this special perspective and to support Twyla..

#### **MISSION EMPHASIS THIS SUNDAY**

The Mission Support Team wants to share the mission emphases of UBC with a larger group than the Wednesday night crowd. They are going to be trying a periodic mission emphasis in the Sunday School opening assembly. The first will be this Sunday when our parish nurse, Gerry Sue Young, brings a health emphasis.

## Unravelings . . . . J. Wayne Yawn

Where is God? As a Christian I find it most helpful to remember the advice of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:22 in the words he uses to define the *Fruit of the Spirit* or the evidence of God's presence in daily life: "love (*agape type*), joy (*not just circumstantial happiness*), peace, patience, kindness, goodness (generosity), faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Remembering these hints about God (particularly the last hint: self-control) helped me unravel behaviors during the recent 100 year snow storms.

I found self-absorption or the lack of self-control blatant. I saw people refuse to move their parked cars on public streets so snow plows could do their work. I saw people dig out their cars and then stake claims like in the days of the Early West to their parking space by placing a chair in the middle of their "stake." Where does it say anybody can do that? I never read that law. I think I will dig out the White House and put my chair there and claim that particular public housing for myself, or to be generous, for a homeless family. Then, I heard a person become irate when somebody came along and parked in the now snowless empty space he had worked to clear out for himself and had left his chair staking out the space as his space on a public street. I asked if he had called the Cops. Both the land "Squatter-by-snow-shovel-and-chair" and the anonymous person who came along and seeing his/her good luck at finding a cleared parking space are, in my estimation persons with the lack of self-control and certainly not exhibiting evidence of God's presence. I hope, if the person feeling lucky looked within they would feel a twinge of guilt and realize they might be happy at their lucky circumstance, but not joyous, one of the other signs of God's nearness. Both are acting like the opposite of God, yet that which our world teaches is *normal* Me-First, Finders-Keepers, The-Play-Ground mentality. Each term reflects the normalcy of civilization's thinking. Yes, the guy who dug out his car covered with snow could rightly make his argument for "rights" to the space based on "normal" thinking. And most of us would probably agree with him. But not if we want to find and experience God where God is! But he missed finding God!

I know, some of you are already saying, "Yea, the preacher saw only the absence of God. But I saw the presence of God during the snow." I'm glad you did! I did too! I saw neighbors and strangers shoveling snow to clear driveways and sidewalks just because it needed to be done...even for one family who was out of town on vacation in Florida and the neighbor did not want them to return and not be able to get into their house. I saw groups of folks at night, in sub-freezing weather, shoveling an entire street for folks they did not know, since snow plows had not arrived yet. They shoveled just because it was needed! They shoveled to serve, not because somebody told them to do it. They controlled their selfish "Me-First" ego, which always ask what do I get for shoveling what is not mine.

Actually, what do I get is a good question if we have decided that what we want out of doing something is the personal experience of the Fruit of the Spirit. Wanting those Fruits make us more human, helping us become who God intended us to be at our birth. Such a want is selfish as well, but selfish by controlling the "normal" world's wants and replacing those wants with wants that cannot be taken away from you. Making the decision to want most out of life the Fruits of God's Spirit is to decide to become a Christian. Baptism is the personal demonstration to "die" to all other wants and to rise to God's wants/Fruits for us. Just some Unravelings of God seen during the recent 100 year snow storm! Well?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### February

- 24 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
- 25 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 27 10:00 a.m. Bonus Choir Rehearsal
- 28 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 9:30 a.m. Mission Emphasis (Health Ministry)
- 12:30 p.m. Renovation Committee

### March

- 1 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 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

## 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 ....

## Lent Has Begun!

So what? Originally the fasting associated with this Christian season came from the last days of winter when food supplies were growing scarce before the spring harvest. Eating frugally became avoiding physical food to make room for spiritual food. People interested in tying together the two major Christian events (Christmas and Easter) created a season of Epiphany remembering "aha" holy moments in Jesus's life with remembering events that led to Jesus's death during the next season. They made Lent an exact number of days (40) and took the name from the Latin for 40 and eventually from the word for *Spring* in German *Lenz* and in Dutch *lente*. Today, think of what lent does to clothes (distorts, draws attention to the wrong thing) and name some spiritual lent (using your gifts/powers for selfish reasons that keep you from becoming fully alive, distorting your real humanity) and decide every day to deny that use of your gifts and deliberately use your gifts to enhance others.

# Youth News ...Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on Feb. 24. 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 postponed the collections for the Souper Bowl of Caring to the end of the month—Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. That is this Sunday. Our table has been in the Fellowship Hall and we have been doing well on our collections, but we still need your help. Our goal for donations to ACCA's food pantry was 240 food items. As of Monday night (2/22) we have collected 155 food items. Can you help us reach our goal by picking up a few more items this week and bringing them on Sunday? It will only take about 2 items per person, if everyone participates we will exceed our food goal. Any food item that does not have an expired date and is unopened is welcomed. We will deliver them to ACCA early in the week.

We will also be collecting monetary donations, which will go to help needy students at Westlawn Elementary School on Sunday at the end of the worship service. These donations will be 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.

*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.*

## **Mission Madness in Richmond VA--**

If you and your friends are in need of *community service hours for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter*, join me for **Mission Madness Weekend** in Richmond Virginia on April 9-11. You will work hard and have a lot of fun at this first time event in Virginia. Grab a friend and come join in. Knock out your community service hours in one day. I hope to see you and a friend there. Cost is \$44.00 per person for the weekend and a t-shirt.

**Kid's Club**—will be postponed from Feb. 28 to March 7 when we will attend the musical Hula Hoops and Halos presented by the Youth of Burke Presbyterian Church. We will have lunch and then head to the church. We should be back to UBC at approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

## **Thank You ...**

*Friends at United Baptist Church,*

*Betty and I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for all of the cards and expressions of concern on the passing of Lee Demory (Betty's brother) and John Hicks (Herb's brother). It was a shock when both passed away within 8 hours of each other. We especially appreciate the help of Wayne Yawn and Jerry Young in arranging the memorial service here at United.*

*It was a sad occasion for both of us, but your concern and support helped us to see what this fellowship has come to mean in a difficult time in our family's life.*

Betty and Herb Hicks

## **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!

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Next UBC Concert Series  
Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m.  
(Note the change in the usual time!)  
“Women as One”