

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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SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY **2010 Report**

Number of Food Items Received 246
(for ACCA Food Pantry)
Cash Received \$335.00
(for Westlawn Elementary School)

These will be delivered in the near future. Thank you for your on-going generosity and willingness to help others!

Next UBC Concert Series

Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m.
(Note the change in the usual time!)

"Women as One"

a vocal group from the
First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, VA

Come and bring your friends!

LENT HAS BEGUN! **WHY NOT USE IT?**

For what? The fasting adopted by ancient Christians for Lent came from the last days of winter when food supplies were growing scarce before the spring harvest. This frugal eating became fasting to "make room" for mental and emotional spiritual nourishment. Then, church leaders interested in teaching about Jesus each Sunday gradually began tying together the two major Christian texts of Christmas and Easter using other texts. First they created a season of flexible length called Epiphany during which they remembered "Aha" moments in Jesus' life and then they created a time of exact length (40 days like the 40 days of Jesus' temptations and fasting) to remember Jesus' temptations to be a messiah like people wanted rather than like God wanted, not only during his wilderness period, but throughout his life. People knew those same temptations to be other than the persons whom God wanted and needed them to be in order to live *fully* and *abundantly* (John 10:10). Eventually church leaders chose the German word *Lenz* and the Dutch word *lente*, both meaning *Spring*, as the name for the season. Let us likewise use a common cultural association to effect our Lent observance. Let us use *lent* on clothes and what *lent* does to clothes (distorts, draws attention to the wrong thing, trash). Let us identify some spiritual *lent*, like that which occurs when we use our gifts/powers for self-serving, egotistical reasons, which then keeps us from becoming fully and abundantly alive, as such *lent* distorts our real human development. And let us decide every day to deny such ungodly miss-application of our gifts/powers and deliberately decide each day of this season of Lent to use at least one of our gifts to enhance or serve another. And, in so doing, we will enhance our own level of Christ defined humanity this *Spring time!* (JWY)

PONDERINGS Gerald L. Young

Sidney Crosby is a hero across Canada. In case you missed it, he scored the winning goal in overtime for his Canada Olympic ice hockey team to beat the USA for the gold medal in the 2010 Winter Olympics. But he was far from the only hero. I understand that Norwegians have had the same kind of reaction to their winners in the various Nordic events. Of course, we are not exempt from making heroes out of those Americans who performed well in these Olympic games. You've surely heard at least some of their names. Shaun White. Lindsey Vonn. Apolo Ohno. Shani Davis. Julia Mancuso. Bode Miller. As well as many others who have won medals and have become idols for many who would love to follow their example and be Olympic champions some day. They will discover, however, that the spotlight that shines on those placed upon a pedestal can be both bright and revealing of flaws.

It hasn't been that long since the whole country was praising Mark McGwire as he set new records for home runs. Just a few months ago, Tiger Woods was virtually universally admired, not only for his golf game but for how he conducted himself in the brightest spotlight of all. How's that working out now? Actually, I have been a great admirer of many things about both McGwire and Tiger, including some of the qualities I perceived as human beings. Some of those qualities I still admire. I wish I could hit a golf ball like Tiger Woods. If I could have hit a baseball even a little bit like Mark McGwire I might have had an opportunity to play in the big leagues. I greatly admire the concentration both of these men display. But I don't let myself think that they are anything other than human beings with frailties and failures. They are not perfect, and the same spotlight that lights up their special gifts will also highlight those frailties and failures. And often the same people who put them up on that pedestal will be the first and most furious in pulling them down. I assume that has always been the case.

So imagine, as Twyla reminded us Sunday morning that the Apostle Paul did, telling people to *join in imitating me and live according to the example you have in us (Phil. 3:17)*. Paul was, of course, encouraging the Philippians to imitate him in striving to live like Jesus. It is Jesus, not Paul or you or me or anyone else, that is the model for the life to which we have been called. You can admire and even try to emulate specific qualities in people you admire. But no one has put it together perfectly, and it is setting yourself up for disappointment not to recognize that your heroes—of whatever stripe or accomplishment—have feet of clay. The goal is not achieving but rather progressing toward Christlikeness. For that we need one another. We need to avoid any and all pedestals. Forgive others (and yourself) for the inevitable failures. And never give up.

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

March

- 3 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner (Spaghetti)
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
- 7 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
10:55 a.m. Communion in Worship Service
12:15 p.m. Birthday Fellowship
12:30 p.m. Mission Support Team (Conference Room)
1:00 p.m. Kid's Club
- 8 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
12:00 p.m. ACCA Pastors Lunch
- 9 11:15 a.m. Young-at-Heart Gadabouts Leave for Longhorn Restaurant
- 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 (Enchiladas)
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla's Office)
6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Next Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, March 14
during the after-worship fellowship

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 28 *Palm Sunday*
Choir Presents Easter Cantata 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, March 31 NO Evening Activities

Friday, April 2 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4 *Easter Sunday*
Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m.
Youth Serve Breakfast for All 8:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Easter Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
(NO after-worship fellowship)

Youth News ...Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on Mar. 3. We will be packing the food for delivery to ACCA on Wednesday night with delivery scheduled for Thursday, after school.

Souper Bowl of Caring

A giant thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. As of our final donation we exceeded our goal of 240 food items by 6—collecting 246 items to deliver to the ACCA food pantry. Our students will be working on packing and delivering the items to ACCA this week. Thank each of you for caring enough to continue to bring items until we reached our goal.

We also want to thank everyone for their generous monetary donations. In addition to the food that we collected throughout the month, we also collected \$335.00, which will go to help needy students at Westlawn Elementary School. These donations are administered through 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.

The generosity that you have displayed for our community is just another way that we live out our mission to reflect Christ's attitude and behavior through our lives.

Mission Madness in Richmond VA—

If you and your friends are in need of *community service hours for the 3rd or 4th 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

Kid's Club will be this Sunday, March 7, when we will attend the musical *Hula Hoops and Halos* presented by the Youth of Burke Presbyterian Church. There are 12 tickets available. 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 to cover lunch, a donation for the show and dessert.

News from Shepherd's Center of Annandale/Springfield

Spring Adventures in Learning Classes

April 14 - May 26, 2010

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Walk-in Registration April 7 & 14, 9:15-9:45am

Scientific Discoveries from Space Program

Led by speakers from NASA, Air & Space Museum, and others, learn more about past and future space exploration

9:45 - 10:45 a.m., followed by refreshment break

Writing Your Life Story

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Led by Bea Fones and designed to help participants remember and share your stories, and organize and write about life experiences.

During the break and after the sessions there will be a book swap. Bring your books to swap or just take a book home.

You are also invited to stay for a brown bag lunch from 12:15 - 1:15 pm, drinks provided.

Weather has resulted in the rescheduling of both the February *Lunch n Life* (April, date/location TBA) and the Winter *Adventures in Learning* (February 17 - March 31) to be rescheduled.

A DAY TRIP to President Abraham Lincoln's cottage at the Soldier's Home will depart from Annandale United Methodist Church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 27. The cost is \$17.00 plus lunch on your own. You can register by mailing a check to SCAS at 7610 Newcastle Drive, Annandale, VA 22003