

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."

Volume 8

March 23, 2010

Issue 12

Holy Week Schedule

The Sanctuary Choir Presents
a program of Easter Music

*Living through Faith:
The Easter Story Compilation*

Sunday, March 28
10:55 a.m.

Invite Family and Friends to Join You

Sunday, March 28 *Palm Sunday*
Choir Presents Easter Cantata 10:55 a.m.
Living through Faith – The Easter Story Compilation

Wednesday, March 31 NO Evening Activities

Friday, April 2 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Service
(NO Maundy Thursday Service this year)

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)

Haiti Relief Funds to Be Matched Will Be Sent the End of March

If you wish to give relief funds for Haiti through Baptist World Aid and have those funds matched by UBC as approved in January's quarterly business meeting, those funds need to be received by March 28. After that date we will be adding the matching funds and writing the check to BWA. You can use one of your regular offering envelopes or one of the Pew Envelopes. Please clearly mark your check and envelope for Haiti Relief.

I have recently had cause to drive on toll roads. As I pull up behind cars to pay my toll, I have noticed people pay tolls to the mechanical toll machine plast funnel in one of two ways. Some toss the correct handful of change all at once. Others drop one coin at a time! I suspect the OAAterS have been “taken” by drink coin machines that are slower in operation and have been robbed. I imagine these toll payers don’t want to be honked at by cars behind them because the automatic arm will not raise. Machines do not perform well if you try to argue with one of them that you inserted the right amount of coinage. But I have found that today toll machines are more efficient at counting than are food and drink machines. They have been changed! But it is my experience that many folks have not realized they have changed.

Like these machines, I have noticed that we humans are created to keep being created, to change! We are designed by the Creator to keep becoming more than our current status. Mentally, if you have grandchildren you have surely noticed how much quicker their minds adapt to computers than have yours. Physically, you have surely noticed basketball players are much taller than 30 years ago; most of us are taller than if we had lived at the time of our Founding Fathers.

Spiritually, I think I see evidence in the Biblical texts that Jesus was obviously different than most other spiritual humans of his day. Remember the reactions of Temple teachers to Jesus at age 12. Remember John the Baptist’s reaction to him as different. Remember the two different reactions of the crowds to John and to Jesus. To John people came to be baptized for the repentance of their sin to clean themselves up to better influence their God to intervene in their world to fix their social “mess” and free them from political oppression, as they recalled God having done in Egypt. But Jesus did not baptize! He was baptized, but then he taught God had already forgiven people, not because of anything people had done to earn it, or because they had obeyed God sufficiently, but because that is who God is: forgiving and loving. For Jesus, forgiveness was not a relief for human guilt for having made God angry (as pagan gods were thought), but forgiveness was to announce the past is past. Learn from it, but most of all we can begin again and become more than we are currently. I the Bible illustrates that Jesus taught *repentance* to mean (as the word means in Greek) to change one’s mind! That is, a change of mind about who God is and acts. And therefore how I should believe and act. God is about our existence, not about needing God’s ego massaged. Jesus’ difference included that obedience is not to placate or influence God to change, but obedience is to change us to give God permission to continue the creation process that is never finished—not even with the experience of physical death. I see in the Bible the belief that death is a doorway to still more existence or greater way of being. Jesus was of a “different” humanity and I am beginning to see the difference is why his closest friends and observers came to recognize and call him Divine. He was so much more human than others that he was Divine and was called the Son of *the* Man—ancients imagined gods in the forms of the most superior Man (and the definite article is left implied in the Greek of that Biblical name/phrase). Yes, Jesus was different and it was that difference that got him crucified. Most of the time we humans do not feel comfortable when asked to change what we are used to thinking, especially about our concept of God, as Jesus changed John’s concept, especially if we are religious people like the Temple teachers were. Especially, if we are like Jesus’ contemporaries when he insisted they stop waiting for God to be pleased enough by them to intervene and overthrow the Roman enemy for them. But Jesus said love your enemy into reconciliation with you and into harmonious peaceful relationships. He said serve using your gifts/powers applied with love, the type that helps your enemy affirm his/her own goodness and not just the badness. *Make-um smile rather than frown!* But this means accepting that the toll machines are different than the drink machines and react to us differently. Do you have the *change* to experience the machines—even God—more different than you may think? God is patient, but our time to become more than we are, is wasting! Our world is wasting! Well?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

March

- 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
- 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 **PALM SUNDAY**
- 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 10:55 p.m. Choir Presents Easter Cantata
- 29 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 31 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- NO Evening Activities

**Next AARP Safe Driving Class
Postponed until
Monday & Tuesday, April 19 & 21
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Led by Tom Gehr
Sign Up on the Bulletin Board in the
News n Do’s Hallway or Call the
Church Office**

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

THE YEAR 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UBC FOUNDATION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010, AT APPROXIMATELY 12:15 P.M. (Immediately following the 11 O’clock worship service). THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009 AND THE ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Kyle Jones, President

Any member of The United Baptist Church can become a member of the UBC Foundation simply by signing an enrollment card. Cards for that purpose will be available at the annual meeting.

Youth News ...Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on Mar. 24. We will meet in Twyla's office at 6:30 for our project.

Sunday School

It was good to meet and to wind up our current study. Many of you will be traveling this weekend, but for those of you who are in town, we will meet on Sunday morning for Bible study at 9:45. Snacks and beverages will be available. Hope to see you there.

Spring Break Youth Lock-in

We will have a lock-in during Spring Break on Wednesday night, March. 31. We will meet at the church at 7 pm and have a night of fun. If you would like to help plan the lock-in activities, please contact Twyla immediately. Make plans to be there and to bring a friend. This will be unlike any lock-in you have attended in the past.

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.

Deadline for sign-up is April 1.

1 by Youth

1 by Youth is a one day mission activity that will also allow you to earn all of your community service hours in one day. It will take place on Saturday, April 24 and will be an all day event ending with a block party. Come out and join in the fun. We will work hard and then play hard. There are only 5 slots available so if you would like to join in sign up early with Twyla. **Deadline for sign-up is April 10.**

CALLING ALL STUDENTS...

For SUMMER CAMP

It's that time of year already, when we need to make our summer camp plans. We will return to Student Life Camp at Tuscarora on the Delaware River this year. The dates of camp are Aug 3-7 and the cost will be \$200.00 per camper. **A deposit of \$50.00 will be due by April 4 if you would like to attend camp.** The theme this year is Re and the theme verse is Micah 6:8 - The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God. (GNB)

Report on Special Education Sunday

On March 14, 2010, The Special Education class traveled to Groveton Baptist Church for Special Education Sunday, with our professional driver Martha Lowe. Our second professional driver Bob Lawton wasn't needed because with four students absent we only needed one bus. The students were Elliott Benham, James Fisher, Robin Wright, Jenny Thompson, Tina Bennison, Ann Pace, Stephanie Randall, Martha Rivdnbark, and Karen Karnanik. The others in our group were our director Norma Meadows, Erma and Charles Rockholt, and Rev. Bobby Joe Small who played the banjo when our group sang. Elliott Benham was the featured soloist.

The message for worship was by Rev. Carlton McDaniel, Jr., Consultant for Special Education with LifeWay in Nashville. Lunch was enjoyed by everyone.

Norma Meadows has moved to North Carolina, and this was her last Sunday with us. She was always a wonderful teacher, always prepared with the lesson, and had great love and compassion for the students. We will miss her.

Erma Rockholt

ORDER SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The Sanctuary Decorating Committee will be adorning the sanctuary with Tulips, Hyacinths, and Lilies *for Easter Sunday only* this year. Available flowers are tulips, hyacinths, and lilies. **Clearly mark envelope & check: "Spring Flowers."**

Person ordering: _____

of Hyacinths (\$7 ea.) _____

of Tulips (\$7 ea.) _____

of Lilies (\$7 ea.) _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

In memory/honor of _____

