

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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THE SEASON OF EASTER

We have entered into the season of the Christian year known as *Easter* or *Eastertide*. In the Christian church year, there are two major cycles – Christmas and Easter. Each of these is a period of time and not just a single day. Easter is the seven-week season that begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost Sunday. Just as Christmas is preceded by a time of preparation (Advent) and a time of reflection of its significance (Epiphany), Easter also has its preparation (Lent) and reflection (Pentecost).

The intent of these special days and seasons are to shape sacred time and provide believers with a structure to reflect on what it means to be a Christian. During the Easter Season, we do this by celebrating the hope that God has brought into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This emphasis is reflected by Scripture readings from the *Acts of the Apostles* rather than the Old Testament during this season. We look ahead because the resurrection has changed the world and the future. We ask how this hope impacts us and how the early church began to make sense of and proclaim this Mystery.

We hope you will join us as we explore this Mystery and what it means for us.

Quarterly Membership Meeting Sunday, April 18 12:30 p.m.

Remember to bring finger foods.

Inez Fletcher Fund Offering

The Inez Fletcher Fund is a scholarship fund of the NorthStar Church Network which helps members of NorthStar churches prepare for vocational ministry. We have been collecting this offering monthly on our Wednesday Mission Night. In order to get broader participation in this worthy offering, the Mission Support Team has asked that we move this offering to a Sunday morning once a month. The first of those occasions will be **April 18**. We have encouraged those having a birthday or anniversary, or family members having birthdays or anniversaries, to consider using this as an opportunity to remember and recognize those events by giving to this offering. To do so is to invest in the life of vocational ministers and the lives they will touch throughout their careers. There will be a reminder about this offering in the Sunday morning bulletin on Sunday, April 18.

Unravelings J. Wayne Yawn

The NCAA Basketball Tournament ended last evening with Duke against Butler. We Americans like competition and we like to think of ourselves as winners and hate losing. Jesus taught that God's agenda for humans isn't about how we can defeat others. It is about how we can become most human, as He was human—so human he was called divine. Jesus isn't about telling us how we can please or placate God to convince God to help us win. God's agenda is about how to make our lives operate at the fullest, even when we don't win. The NCAA Tournament and a comment by Duke Point Guard Nolan Smith and another comment by Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski following Duke's win over West Virginia to reach the championship game got me to thinking about just how practical, rather than idealistic and religious Jesus' teaching about God's nature and wants.

The first comment came from Nolan Smith. He was asked why he played so "hard" and so inspired? As best I recall he said, "I wanted to win mostly because I didn't want that game to be the last game for seniors John Scheyer, Brian Zoubek and Lance Thomas!" He probably was not intentionally trying to be spiritual. But because my ears are supposed to be sensitive to such things, in his words I heard him defining how Jesus taught us how to be really spiritual and how to experience God. You see, spiritually need not have anything to do with being religious and attending church, which is, all too often I think, to please or placate God for something we want. Real spirituality is about obeying God's agenda for life, not to please and change God to do what we dream, but to change us and our agendas and purpose for life so we can become most fully alive. According to my read of Jesus, real spirituality is to identify who we are. And that means we identify the gifts with which we were born. The next step is to discipline those gifts to improve them to their optimum. And then to use those gifts to enhance the gifts of others, for their good and for the common good, so they, too, can identify, improve and use their gifts to enhance others for the common good. This is what Biblical Faith calls Justice, not as retaliation, but as working for equal opportunity for everyone. Creating this Justice in life is the real meaning and purpose of the noun: God. God is defined by Biblical writers as LOVE. So God is a verb, experienced when using Love to apply human gifts for Justice or common good. This LOVE in the Greek language is not Eros (sexual love) nor is it Philios (brotherly love); both of these are motivated by emotion. The Greek word for this Godly Love is agape (intentional decision) to use our gifts for the good of others and the common good. Such love is motivated by decisions. That is what I heard Nolan Smith say when he said I wanted to win so that it would not be the last game for my fellow team members. With that decision motivating his gifts Nolan also moved to a higher level of humanity himself! In giving we receive! **The second comment** was made by Mike Krzyzewski. He spoke about Duke's defeated of West Virginia. He said they are a very, very good team and played at a very high level. From my knowing and listening to Mike for years, that comment is characteristic. He has decided to never berate an opponent. If you negate your opponent, don't you also lower yourself? Don't you say we didn't have to play at our best? If you lose as a team, but you challenged your opponent to play at its highest, whoever ended up with the most points did so because they used their gifts to challenge the other team to use their gifts to the fullest, and so did the other team challenge you! The purpose of trying to win over others is not to defeat and show one's superiority. The purpose of winning from a spiritual perspective is to give your best gifts to your opponents to challenge them to perform at their best, and they challenge you. That is another form of agape type love. That is what God is always doing and did as Jesus saw God. **Now, only one team will be happy.** But there is a difference between happiness and joy. Unlike happiness, joy is not dependent on the circumstance of winning or losing, but on whether you know you used your gifts with LOVE (or as God is) to bring out the best of the gifts of your opponent. God is as close as your very existence through your gifts or powers, applied to enhance others, whether in winning or when losing. Mike and Nolan made me hear that, again! Thanks guys!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

April

- 7 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
- 8 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 11 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:15 p.m. April Birthday Fellowship
- 12:15 p.m. UBC Foundation Annual Meeting
- 12 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 13 10:45 a.m. Young-at-Heart Gadabouts to Magnolia's
- 14 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

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

A big SHOUT OUT to all who made the excellent Easter breakfast, which we enjoyed this past Sunday, possible. Tom and Carole Martindale, Jill and Dave Sturges, Kris Brook, Melisa Banks were all instrumental in food procurement and preparation. Also, a SHOUTOUT to the children and youth, who set up the tables and decorated them, as well as made the decorations for your Easter enjoyment. They were Leigh and Jack Whitcraft, Emily Sturges, Samantha, Madison and Shane Banks, and Emily, Holly, Lillian and Kelly Martindale. Thanks to our food servers--Samantha and Madison Banks, James Sturges and Kaitlin Martindale. And, final thanks go once again to the adults who completed all of the clean-up. Thank you all for keeping this wonderful tradition alive that we all enjoy so much.

Youth Missions

There will be **Youth Missions** on Apr. 7 at our regular time. We will meet in Twyla's office. Please be on time as we will be looking at a special mission opportunity and how we can help as well as scheduling times that we will be helping. **YOU are** needed to assist with this special project, so please be present for our planning session.

Sunday School

I hope that you all had a Happy Easter and have now made it safely home. I look forward to seeing you in **Sunday School** and catching up on all of your adventures during spring break and letting you share what we who stayed home did during the break. We will also begin a new new study of another issue of the day and what the Bible has to say on the topic. Join us at 9:45 for fellowship, with Bible study set to start at 10 am.

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 11 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)

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF ANNANDALE/SPRINGFIELD

Adventures in Learning Classes Begin April 14

Scientific Discoveries from Outer Space

(Featuring a very impressive and knowledgeable group of speakers)

Writing Your Life Story

(Back by popular demand, taught by Bea Fones)

Lunch N' Life on April 30

Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church
April 30, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Rescheduled from February, Barbara Ferguson will speak on ***What a Billion Muslims Are Thinking***. She is the Washington Bureau Chief for the Arab News. Only a few seats remain. Call the SCAS office as soon as possible to make your reservation.

The **Next SCAS Fundraiser** will be on July 27. Once again it will be held at the Little Theater of Alexandria, and the program will be the musical, *Company*. Mark your calendar to save this date.

Next AARP Safe Driving Class

**Monday & Wednesday
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**

**Next Young-at-Heart Gadabouts
Tuesday, April 13**

Van Leaves at 10:45 a.m.

**Lunch at Magnolia's Restaurant
in Purcellville, Virginia
No Set Return Time**