

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."

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Issue 15

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 this Sunday, *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.

REMINDER:

Potluck Dinner
Wednesday, April 14
Begins at 5:45 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, May 23 – 3:00 p.m.
UBC Concert Series:
Jeff Carrick, Tenor

Saturday, May 22 – 7:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Chorale
Encore & Hors d'Oeuvres
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
(See Phil Carpenter for advanced tickets at a discount)

**More details about these two events will be forthcoming as the time gets closer.
For now, just mark your calendar.**

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

An empty tomb is just that, a tomb that contains no human remains. In and of itself it proves nothing. That Jesus' body was not in the tomb seems clear. If it were there, all the authorities would have had to do when His followers began to proclaim His resurrection would be to produce the body. The Christian faith would have been demonstrably fraudulent in its basic claim of a Risen Jesus. So, the tomb was empty, but what does that prove? Perhaps the Jews took the body so that the disciples could not do so and then make the claim of His resurrection. Or perhaps the Romans took the body for a similar reason. In either event, however, all they would have had to do would be to present the body in order to destroy the infant faith, a faith which both Jews and Romans would try to destroy. Then perhaps the disciples stole His body in order to support their Easter message. The problem with that view is that it would require persons who had clearly demonstrated their cowardice while Jesus was alive to suddenly be willing to suffer persecution and death for what they would know was only a lie. I don't think so!

We've actually taken another direction in denying the full significance of the empty tomb. We acknowledge, at least with our heads, the reality of His resurrection. In our actions, however, we declare that it doesn't really make any difference. How can we do this? How can we acknowledge that death has been destroyed, and then act as though it has no impact on today? How can we acknowledge that this Risen Christ, in the person of His Spirit, has taken up residence in the life of every believer, and then live lives that give little or no evidence of the presence of that Spirit in our attitudes and actions? How can we acknowledge God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ and not be overwhelmed with joy and anxious to share our joy with others who have not yet heard? How can we do this?

First generation Christians couldn't. The wind of God's Spirit caught and filled their lives in such radical ways that they would never again be the same. Overcoming their own inadequacies and lack of resources, at least as the world understands resources, these believers were able to transform a pagan, hostile culture. They had no buildings, no programs, no prestige, indeed none of the things we regard as necessary. What they did have was unity in their commitment to the Lordship of Christ and a willingness to pay whatever price was necessary to be obedient to Him and His Spirit. When – and only when – the contemporary church lives out the same commitment will we begin to impact our culture as they did theirs. Only as UBC does that. Only as I do that. Only as you do that. That is what we must do; who we must become. Easter faith can do no less.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

April

- 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. Potluck Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla's Office)
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 15 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 18 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:30 p.m. Quarterly Membership Meeting
- 19 10:00 a.m. AARP Safe Driving Seminar
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 21 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:00 a.m. AARP Safe Driving Seminar
- 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

2010 Consolidated Missions Offering

The Mission Support Team was pleased with the result of having a Consolidated Mission Offering in 2009 and will continue that offering for 2010. Consolidated Missions Offering Envelopes will be available soon in pews and will remain available throughout the year. (The first envelopes will say "2009," but they will be for 2010.) We will have periodic emphases on our mission partners as we did in 2009: Virginia Missions Offering in September, NorthStar Church Network offering in October, World Hunger in November, and CBF Global Missions Offering in December.

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**

Youth News... Twyla Turner

Youth Missions

There will be **Youth Missions** on Apr. 14 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

Be present Sunday morning as we begin a study on the topic of capital punishment. We will look at 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.

The deadlines for sign up for the following two activities have passed. If you wish to participate please contact Twyla immediately.

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)

Coming Soon...

Watch this spot for news about summer plans and activities for our Youth Group. Email, call or text Twyla if you have an idea to include in the summer plans.

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.

With Sincere Thanks ...

I would like to thank everyone at United Baptist Church for their fellowship. My Hymnal means so much to me. I have read every written word several times and will continue to do so as I remember each and everyone of you.

The closeness of the congregation makes for a togetherness with God that shares our laughs our tears and our lives. You have made a difference in my life!

Miss you all, with love,

Carolyn Buchanan