

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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RENOVATION COMMITTEE TO HOST FORUM FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MAY 16

The Renovation Committee was created following the church's decision in September, 2008, to remain in our current location and renovate the building as necessary. The Committee was charged by the church with studying the building to determine needs in light of our mission, to prioritize those needs, and to recommend to the church a plan for addressing those needs. They began their work by requesting, receiving, and reviewing suggestions from members of the congregation. They took a tour of the entire facility in order to become personally familiar with its condition. The committee early on agreed to four guidelines for their work:

1. A reaffirmation of the vision to keep as much of our resources as possible from being tied up in brick and mortar (buildings) so they can be available for ministry and mission. The goal is to make necessary renovations in ways that will preserve the most resources.
2. To focus on renovations that enhance our mission, not our comfort.
3. To focus on renovations that make the building safer, more energy efficient, and less maintenance-intensive. This will preserve future resources for ministry and mission.

These guidelines were shared with and affirmed by the congregation and continue to guide the committee's work. The decision was also made to make the renovation of the sanctuary the top priority because it is where we meet God in worship and is also the "public face" of the church.

The committee has chosen to work with Lemay Erickson Wilcox Architects, specifically Neal Roseberry with whom the committee has met over the last months. That process is now at the point where there are preliminary drawings available related to the renovation of the sanctuary. On **Sunday, May 16**, following the worship service, there will be a UBC Forum in the Fellowship Hall. Mr. Roseberry will be present and the preliminary drawings will be presented. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments. This is an initial presentation and no vote will be taken. On the basis of this discussion, the Committee and architects will continue to refine the plans in preparation for making a formal recommendation at some time in the future. The Committee is pleased with the work of the architects and looks forward to sharing it with you.

Please bring finger foods of the Forum on May 16.

PONDERINGS.... . Gerald L. Young

Last week, National Security Adviser Gen. James Jones (Ret.) Gave a speech to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He began that speech with a joke about the meeting of a Taliban warrior and a “Jewish merchant.” While the joke “drew many laughs from the mostly Jewish audience,” it has since drawn much criticism from those who called the joke inappropriate, stereotypical, and “wrong in so many levels.” Recently, a jihadist, radical Islamic web site has threatened to kill the creators of *South Park*, an animated television show which I confess I have never seen, claiming that an episode had offended their concept of the prophet Muhammad. But it’s not just Jews and Muslims. Christians often complain that others are portraying Jesus in ways that are offensive are even obscene. The Internet has certainly expanded the reach of such portrayals, but they have been around for a very long time. You’ve heard – and probably even told – stories or jokes that would be offensive to another religious group.

We Baptists don’t even need other religious groups with whom to enter into such confrontations. We do it among ourselves.”They” are Fundamentalists. Or liberals. But they are evil liars not worthy of the name of Christ. It has been said that truth is the first casualty of conflict. One of the ways that is expressed is by demonizing those on the other side of the conflict. It does not take long for those on both sides to believe the demonization is reality. After all, it fits what we want to believe about “them.”

There is probably not much we can do about this at a cultural level, though many would seemingly be willing to have laws making it a crime to “blaspheme” the God they worship. I believe (not naively, I hope) that most of us realize we cannot legislate behavioral “good taste.”

Is there anything we *can* do? Yes. We can control the behavior of the only person on the planet over whom we have any control whatsoever. Me. That means you. I can decide that I will not demean another person’s cherished beliefs, no matter how misguided I may believe them to be. I will remember that someone saying something mean or nasty or critical about God or Jesus as I experience them to be does not make it so. I can refuse to give others the power to make me behave in ways that are not like Jesus. I can remind myself that no one becomes a true Christ-follower by force or coercion. In short, I can chose to behave like Jesus regardless of how anyone else chooses to behave or chooses to say about me or my faith. I follow one who told me to love and pray for my enemies, not demean or threaten them. Reconciliation, not revenge. All this I can do. But *will* I? I want to answer, Yes! But will I? How about you?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

April

- 28 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:00 a.m. AARP Safe Driving Seminar
- 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
- 29 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry

May

- 2 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 10:55 a.m. Communion in Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. May Birthdays Fellowship
- 3 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5 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

Staff News ...

Dr. Yawn will be on vacation beginning Friday, April 30. He will be back in the office on Monday, May 3.

Rev. Turner will be on vacation beginning Monday, May 10 through May 22.

Aida Betancourt, our Wednesday evening cook, will be visiting her very ill mother in Bolivia for the months of May and June. We will have a substitute cook for those months and then will take our usual break from all Wednesday night activities during the months of July and August.

CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

A Special Membership Meeting has been called for Sunday, May 9, following the morning worship service for the purpose of hearing and voting on a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee concerning replacing air conditioning units in the oldest of our buildings. A written proposal will be available this Sunday for you to pick up and read. May 9 is Mother’s Day, and there will be no After-Worship Fellowship following this brief business meeting.

Youth News... Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on Apr. 28 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.

Sunday School

Join us at 9:45 for fellowship, with Bible study set to start at 10 am.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...

is coming in July. This summer we will be visiting the **SonQuest Rainforest** to learn about God. We will be announcing the dates and times of VBS shortly so keep an eye on this spot. This looks to be a fantastic Bible School and your help is needed in many ways. The most important way that you can help this year is by helping to identify children that we can invite to attend our Bible School. I would like to challenge our congregation to identify and register **35** children to participate this year. We will be focusing on students ages 5-11. Of course, your help will also be needed to present our Bible School, but at this point please be focusing on identifying children we can invite this year.

Kid's Club

(another service opportunity for youth)

Our next Kid's Club event will be a Summer Splashdown to kick off the summer. We will go to Miss Kathi and Mr. Larry's pool in Manassas for a special "Welcome Summer" party. We will have a snack on the way to Manassas and a cookout when we get there. All parents are welcome to join us for this special event and youth are encouraged to attend as helpers. (Our regular youth summer kickoff will take place after school ends.)

Everyone is asked to bring something to share to go along with hamburgers and hotdogs and a beverage. The burgers and dogs will be provided, but we will need to know who is planning on attending to make sure there is enough food

Guest Speaker in Worship Service on Sunday, May 16

Preaching in our Sunday morning worship service on May 16 will be **Dr. Stephen Richerson**, President and Executive Director of the HopeTree Family Services (formerly Virginia Baptist Children's Home). The HopeTree will be the recipient of the proceeds from our Yard Sale on June 9, with the funds being used toward a new facility in Northern Virginia for special needs adults. Diane Yawn serves as one of the HopeTree trustees elected by the Baptist General Association of Virginia..

Your **Mission Support Team** wants you to know about an Art Show sponsored by *Art for Humanity* on Sunday, May 2 at Lincolnia United Methodist Church from 12:30-4:00 p.m. Art for Humanity is helping to slow the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States by assisting Honduran families start a business in Honduras rather than attempting an illegal entry. The paintings at the Art Show are all by Honduran artists, and 100% of sale proceeds are used to help those in need. The church is located at 6335 Little River Turnpike in Alexandria, VA.

UBC Spring Yard Sale
Saturday, June 12
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Proceeds will go to HopeTree Family Services (formerly the Virginia Baptist Children's Home) for the construction in Northern Virginia of a new facility for special needs adults.

BEGIN TO BRING YOUR ITEMS NOW