

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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Special Events Coming This Sunday, May 16

Preaching in our Sunday morning worship service this Sunday, 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 12, 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.

Following the worship service this Sunday, May 16, there will be a **Forum hosted by the Renovation Committee**. The committee has asked Mr. Neal Roseberry of Lemay Erickson Wilcox Architects to be present, and the initial drawings of potential renovations will be presented. The congregation will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. There will be no votes taken at this time, but on the basis of the 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 architect and looks forward to sharing that work with you.

You are asked to bring finger foods as we do for a quarterly membership meeting.

MAY CONCERTS

UBC Concert Series

May 23, 3:00 p.m.

Jeff Carrick, Tenor

Accompanied by Charles Potter

Northern Virginia Chorale

Concert

May 22, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Chorale will present favorite selections from Broadway, film, pop, and Americana, all accompanied by a jazz combo

(discounted advance tickets are available from Phil Carpenter)

At the called business meeting on May 9, the church unanimously approved the joint recommendation from the Building and Grounds and Finance Committees to replace two air-conditioners at a cost of \$20,000-21,000 to be paid from investment income.

I woke up one morning while on vacation to the now routine news that someone had won the nationwide lottery. This time it was for \$266 million. Nothing **that** unusual! I was watching NBC news and they were proudly stretching their famous “peacock” logo on this news because the winner was one of their overnight employees working in the news room of their affiliate in Los Angeles. A female employee was in the sleepy, lowlight news room when the daily winning numbers flashed on her computer screen. That didn’t mean much, just a bunch of numbers! But then the screen reported that the grand prize winning ticket had been purchased at a Mexican restaurant in L.A. she remembered a discussion with her husband earlier in the evening about what he would bring home for dinner that evening before she left for her evening shift. He wanted one thing, she wanted Kentucky Fried Chicken, so she just said, “You choose!” It was no big deal, just one dinner! He noticed a Mexican restaurant on Alavara Street as he passed, so he stopped in to buy dinner. Checking out, he purchased some lottery tickets. She thought it not likely, but still curious, that the restaurant name on her screen in the darkened newsroom was the same restaurant her husband had said he had stopped at to purchase dinner. She phoned her husband. He answered, sleepily! She said, “Are you sitting down?” “No!” he said, “I’m lying down asleep! It’s the middle of the night!” She told him about the restaurant from which the winning lottery ticket had been purchased. She said, “Check your tickets!” He did! And there was the winning number on one of the tickets! Still, nothing **that** unusual to this story! Many people have held winning Lottery tickets.

But then, the NBC interviewer asked the couple what they were going to do with the money? This was not going to be one of those “rags to riches” stories. Both husband and wife hold good jobs. She said, “I’m going to continue working where I am now. I enjoy work, and work is a big part of who I am.” She indicated she needed to feel productive and helping people, including her employer. Thought he did not share as much detail, he shook his head in approval of that plan of action. Then he said, “The first thing I will probably do is go to church and give thanks. And then we’d like to find people to help with our ‘windfall!’” That would feel good! Now that seemed to me, unusual!

As I heard these two “winners” interview, my interpretation was, these two are real winners! For them winning isn’t about suddenly rising above their contemporaries. But winning is about using who they are (preferring to feel productive using who they are as individual created by God to help other people be able to use who they are to help still other people, not rise above everyone else, but to help other people use who they are created by God to be, with their God given gifts, to be the same kind of “winners.”) That’s holy! Winning is not about defeating, but about challenging our “opponents” by our giving our best gifts to demand their best gifts, so that both of us continue the Divine creative process that is only begun at our birth. I believe it is a process that continues through our physical death, which frees us to become even more than we have become at that point in time—a point of seeming defeat. I believe this point is not defeat when we view it as did Jesus.

Not once did the winning couple mention that they thought God was responsible for them winning as so many of us might mention. The husband almost did this when he said he was going to church. Yes, maybe he was going just to “cover his

(Continued in next column)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

May

- 12 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
 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 13 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study (Conference Room)
 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 16 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
 10:55 a.m. Guest: Dr. Stephen Richerson (HopeTree)
 12:30 p.m. Renovation Forum
- 17-21 UBC Provides ACCA Medical Transportation
- 17 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 19 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Staff News ... Rev. Twyla Turner will be on vacation beginning Monday, May 10 through May 22. There will be NO youth missions on May 12 or 19, and NO youth Sunday school on May 15 or 22.

Things You Should Know ...

The worship service on Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend) will include our **annual memorial moment** for those members of our congregation who have died since Memorial Day last year. Family of those to be remembered will receive a contact from the church to invite a family member to participate in the service.

With the end of the school year nearing, so is the time when we will recognize those of the UBC extended family who will be **graduating**. We want to join in celebrating that achievement. Please provide us with the names, schools, and degrees (if applicable) for the graduates in your family so we can include them in an upcoming issue of *The Vision*. See the bulletin insert beginning this Sunday.

(Continued from Unravelings)

“bets” with God by thanking God. If so, in my opinion, he was not thinking correctly, or with the truest image of God and how God, in Jesus, really operates. But I choose to interpret his intention of going to church as demonstrating his humility and the Divine intention of how God operates and who God, as in Jesus, really is. God is about helping us be whole—human as in Jesus, just as our UBC VISION reminds us. By God making this God’s priority, God is also about helping us stay out of hell, the hell that occurs every day for many of us when we refuse to distribute our power—our gifts—to help our contemporaries avoid hell in their lives and in ours. Thank God for being not a false god who makes two people suddenly wealthy because of some merit they had achieved. These two people were already wealthy—wealthy beyond measure—because of how they thought best to live! Now, they just have another means of using their true wealth. “Let it be true.” And that is the meaning of the word: “**Amen!**”

Youth News ... Twyla Turner

Youth Missions

There will be no **Youth Missions** on May 12 or 19 since Twyla will be away. We will meet again in Twyla's office May 26th at 6 pm. We will travel to Ravensworth Baptist Church for a special look at the Islam faith. If you are interested in learning more about the faith of your Muslim friends make plans to join us for this special session of Youth Missions . I look forward to seeing YOU there!

Sunday School

There will be no Youth Sunday School on Sunday, May 16th, but you need to be present for worship at 10:55 a.m.

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.

Keep these dates available on your calendar---

June 13—New Annual Event includes Youth, Children & families

June 19—Christian Music In The Park at Six Flags

June 27—Summer Kick-off Pool Party for Youth

Health Corner ... Gerry Sue Young, RN

May is skin cancer awareness month. Maybe this would be a good time to have a body check with the dermatologist. With the warmer weather approaching nothing is better than basking in the warm glow of the sun, but we also need to remember the risks it brings. Unprotected exposure to the sun is the most common cause of skin cancers. Use a lotion with an SPF over 30 or sun block anytime you're out. Reapply every two hours. Wear a hat.

The most common forms of skin cancer are basal cell and squamous cell. These are easily treated by simply removing them. Malignant melanoma is far more dangerous and can be lethal unless it is detected and treated early. A yearly body check can make all the difference.

Know the ABCD's of moles. A is for asymmetrical. Any asymmetrical skin lesion should be checked by the doctor. B is for borders. Look for ragged or notched borders. C is for color. Your mole should be all one color. One with differing shades should be checked out. D is for diameter. Anything wider than 1/4 inch is suspicious.

Tanning can also cause premature aging of the skin. WRINKLES. The sun can damage the retina, lens, and cornea. It can also cause cataracts. A healthy glow is nice but get it by using SPF lotion or sun block.

Next week, May 17-21, is our week to provide transportation to medical appointments for ACCA clients. If you are able and willing to help with the driving, please let our coordinator, Gerry Sue Young, know of your availability. Thank you.

UBC Spring Yard Sale

Saturday, June 12

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Proceeds will go to HopeTree Family Services (formerly 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