

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 FORUM LEADS TO CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

Following the worship service last Sunday, the Renovation Committee hosted a Forum during which the preliminary concept for the renovation of the sanctuary was presented by Neal Roseberry of the architect firm. Based on questions and comments that followed the presentation, there seemed to be a positive reaction to the concept. The next step would be the approval of the basic concept and the authorization to take the next step and have further and more detailed engineering studies done and more specific plans drawn. Therefore, pending the scheduled meeting of the Renovation Committee in the next week, a **Special Membership Meeting has been called following the worship service on Sunday, June 6, in the fellowship hall.**

There will be two items of business at that meeting:

1. Any recommendation coming out of the pending meeting of the Renovation Committee regarding proceeding with the sanctuary renovation, and
2. A recommendation from the Finance Committee concerning modifying the terms of our loan agreement with The John Leland Center for Theological Studies.

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)

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

The final track meet of the year had come down to the final event. That event had come down to a single pole vaulter. If she had the first or second highest vault, her team would win the meet and the league championship. Both teams gathered around the pole vault pit. She was her team's best vaulter, so she was expected to perform. The teams gathering and cheering only increased the pressure she was surely feeling. A senior, it was her last league meet. And now it all came down to her. That's a lot of pressure for anyone, let alone a 17-year-old. After one aborted start (she would say later, "because the whole league championship was on the line"), she started her sprint down the runway, planted her pole, rode it into the air – and over the bar! Her teammates erupted into celebration. The meet and league championship were theirs! But wait. This isn't a feel-good story.

Among those surrounding the pit was the coach of the opposing team, and he was pointing to his wrist and to the young lady's wrist, on which she had a friendship bracelet made of thin colorful string. He would later say, *I know a lot of rules and regulations*. In this case, Section 3, Article 3 of the National Federation of State High School Associations: "Jewelry shall not be worn by contestants." The penalty is disqualification, which meant the girl's team's celebration was premature. She was disqualified. Her team lost. The rule and the penalty are both simple and clear, unless you want to argue about the definition of jewelry (which the rule does not define). The coach would later say, "It's unfortunate for the young lady. But you've got to teach the kids that rules are rules.... I feel bad for what happened, but I guarantee you she'll never wear jewelry during a track meet again" (which certainly makes the world a better place!).

Since this coach is interested in teaching kids – he is, after all, an "educator" – let's see what he is really teaching. Not in his self-serving words, but in his actions. He's teaching that winning is all that matters. No matter the price. No matter the means. He's teaching that the letter of the rules is more important than the spirit of the rule. He's teaching that sportsmanship matters not at all. He's also teaching that the truth also doesn't matter. He was quoted as saying that when he saw the bracelet (which he claims to have seen only after the celebration began) he had "a sinking feeling for her. I didn't want to have to do it. But it's a real rule – it's in the book." And "the book" is more important than the kids, than the competition, than the sport itself, than sportsmanship, than anything else. I'm sure he'll now be checking out his own girls for any hidden body jewelry they might have. Rules are rules, you know. The Pharisees would have loved this guy. Not so much Jesus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

May

- 19 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
 - 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 - 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
 - 6:15 p.m. NO Youth Missions
 - 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
 - 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
 - 20 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
 - 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
 - 23 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
 - 10:55 a.m. Pentecost Sunday
 - 3:00 p.m. UBC Concert Series: Jeff Carrick, Tenor
 - 24 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 - 26 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
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Staff News

... **Rev. Twyla Turner** will be on vacation through May 22. There will be NO youth missions on May 19. She will be back for Sunday School and worship this Sunday, May 23.

... **Dr. Young** will be on vacation May 29 - June 2, making a quick trip to Missouri to pick up grandchildren.

Things You Should Know ...

The worship service on **Sunday, May 30** – *note corrected date* – 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 have received 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 each Sunday.

Youth News ... Twyla Turner

Youth Missions

There will be no **Youth Missions** on May 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! There will be **Youth Sunday School** on Sunday, May 23th, so be present at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and Bible study at 10 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 on Sunday, May 30th. We will go to Miss Kathi and Mr. Larry's pool in Manassas. 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 a side dish or dessert to share that will go along with hamburgers and hotdogs, and also 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

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.

BRING YOUR ITEMS NOW

Pentecost: A Sunday, A Season

This Sunday, May 23, is Pentecost Sunday on which we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers. It is also a celebration that has deep Jewish roots, corresponding to the Jewish festival of Weeks or Pentecost in the same way that Easter corresponds to the Jewish festival of Passover. Pentecost also has a significant connection to Moses receiving the Law at the beginning of Israel's journey together as a people of God. Pentecost has probably been celebrated by Christians longer than any other Christian festival except Easter.

Pentecost Sunday also marks the beginning of the second half of the Christian calendar, the *season* of Pentecost. Beginning with Advent, the first half of the calendar has celebrated the events of the life of Jesus on earth – the incarnate Christ. With the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the indwelling Spirit, the focus of the second half of the year becomes the practical life of those who chosen to become followers of this Jesus of Nazareth. The great truths embodied in and taught by Jesus are recalled and examined for how they affect the lives of believers living in the early part of the 21st Century. Jesus promised that the *paraclete* whom God would send would “teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you” (*John 14:26*). This, appropriately, is the focus of the season of Pentecost – the celebration of the Spirit in us and