

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."

Volume 8

May 25, 2010

Issue 21

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.

Memorial Day Monday, May 31

Memorial Day has been set aside nationally as a day to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in defending our country. In keeping with that same spirit, we have also used it as an occasion to remember those of the UBC family who have died since last Memorial Day. That recognition will take place as part of the worship service this Sunday, May 30. It is always a moving time and an opportunity to give thanks for the lives that have been shared with us on our journey together. This year we will remember eight persons: **Jack Chambers, Zella Gabriel, H. Lee Demory, Warren Sharp, Nelma Grimes, Ellison Grimsley, Mike Gillians, and Pat LaRue.**

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

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

An Associated Press story reported that last Saturday, Nicolaus Copernicus was re-interred in a Polish cathedral, almost 500 years after he was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the floor of the cathedral in Frombork, northern Poland. He had once served in that cathedral as a church canon (a cleric ranking just below a priest) and doctor. When Copernicus died, he was buried like any other canon in Frombork – because he *was* like any other canon. At his death, his idea that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system was just beginning to be discussed by a small group of astronomers, astrologers, and mathematicians in Europe. Copernicus' major treatise – *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres* – was published at the very end of his life, and he only received a copy of the printed book on the day he died – May 21, 1543. It was only later that his work was condemned by the church as being heretical because it removed earth and humanity from their central positions in the universe and contradicted Scripture.

Things got worse for Copernicus before they got better. Galileo and others spread his teachings and brought them to the attention of the Church. The full attack would come even later when the Church was waging a massive battle against Martin Luther's Reformation. Only now, 467 years after his death (and 18 years after the Vatican formally acknowledged its mistake in condemning Galileo for espousing Copernican views), has the Church made this symbolic move. The Mass for Copernicus was led by the newly named Primate of Poland. Another bishop said the funeral "has symbolic value in that it is a gesture of reconciliation between science and faith." But it is the Church, not Copernicus or Galileo, that is being restored. Christians have a long history of believing we have a lock on truth, and thereby have nothing more to learn and have the duty to fight any heresy that disagrees with that truth. The treatment Jesus received from the religious authorities of his day is not much different than that received 1500 years later by Copernicus and others.

But truth has a way of surviving even Inquisitions and Crucifixions. That is part of the reason we ought never to be afraid of new insights or understandings that challenge what we believe to be the truth. Truth will ultimately win out, and – as Jesus said – it will set you free. It is said that when offered an opportunity to look through Galileo's telescope and see for himself, a bishop declined saying, "I might see something I'm not supposed to know." I prefer the quote from the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal: "From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the laziness that is contented with half truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver me. Amen!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

May

- 26 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
3:30 p.m. Knit & Crochet Club
5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
6:00 p.m. Youth Missions to Ravensworth Bapt. Ch.
6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 27 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 30 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
10:55 a.m. Memorial Service in Worship
12:30 p.m. Renovation Committee
- 31 OFFICE CLOSED (Memorial Day)

June

- 1 11:00 a.m. Prime Timers (Songmasters)
- 2 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

Dr. Young will leave on May 29 to pick up grandchildren in Missouri. He will be back in the office on June 3.

With the end of the school year nearing, so is the time nearing 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 or phone the office.

PRIME TIMERS

Tuesday, June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Program: Songmasters

You will be asked this Sunday (which is also Memorial Day weekend) to sign up to bring food for Tuesday.

Youth News ... Twyla Turner

Youth Missions

Youth Missions will meet again in Twyla's office on 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 Youth Sunday School on Sunday, May 30th, so be present at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and Bible study at 10 a.m.

Kid's Club--(Youth service opportunity)

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 12—Church-wide Yard Sale for Hope Tree—youth volunteers needed (youth service opportunity)

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

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 next week 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.

Thank You ...

We have recently received the following notes. The complete notes and enclosed materials can be seen on the bulletin board in the News n Do's hallway. Your continuing generosity is noted and appreciated as you continue to make a difference in our world.

I want to thank you for the generous donation of \$16,390 for Baptist World Aid's work in Haiti.

I was in Haiti a few weeks ago working on further plans for the reconstruction work. One of the major projects BWAid will be supporting is with the Haiti Baptist Convention on property they own in the Delmas 19 community of Port au Prince. A complex will be constructed to include a school, an orphanage, a cafeteria and a chapel. It is hoped that not only will the center minister to the orphans and school children, but that it will reach out into the wider community.

BWAid has committed an initial \$30,000 for the construction of 10 homes. These homes will be built to be hurricane and earthquake resistant at a cost of \$3,000 each. BWAid will continue to work with both the Baptist Haiti Mission and the Baptist Convention of Haiti. There is a need for jobs, latrines for sanitation, small grants for families to help provide basic needs, health care, protection for women and children, micro-loans for income generation, etc. We will work with our network of Baptist work being done to improve the lives of those who were affected by the earthquake.

Thank you for your support in these efforts. I am enclosing our latest update on the work in Haiti. Please share it with the congregation and pass along our sincere appreciation. Kindest regards,

*Paul Montacute, Director
Baptist World Aid*

On behalf of Volunteer of America Chesapeake, thank you for your contribution of \$175.00 ... to support Bailey's Crossroad Community Shelter. Your generosity strengthens our efforts to empower individuals in our program to lead productive, fulfilling lives.

Thank you again for continued commitment to our efforts and the people we serve. Sincerely,

*Sylvia Lovelace
Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator
Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter*