

# 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.**

## 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**

## With The End of the School Year Nearing...

It is the time when we want to recognize those of the United Baptist Church extended family who will be **graduating**. We want to join in celebrating their achievements! 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*. Please phone the church office as soon as possible. We do not want to leave anyone out!

## Unravelings . . . . J. Wayne Yawn

I got to thinking during my Bible study—I hope that is always true! I got to thinking how I sound when I talk about God—and perhaps how others sound—revealing how we tend to conceive God. And then I began to think of how the Bible sounds and the images of God some folks find there. Then I remembered that words change meaning over the centuries so that what was meant when the words were first used to talk about something may not be exactly what I hear when I read those words, not even in the Hebrew or Aramaic language which Jesus spoke, but then translated first into Greek and then into English. We have all experienced taking the wrong meaning from a family member’s words. What I hear, unless I ask, “Do you mean . . .” may be a lie, half true, or just wrong!

I suspect Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, now running for the U. S. Senate, wishes somebody had broken into a number of speeches he made over the last few years when he said some form of “I served as a Marine in Vietnam” and asked, “Do you mean in Vietnam! Because nobody did stop him and ask him “Do you mean you served in Vietnam or do you mean you served as a Marine, in the Reserves, during the Vietnam era,” (the whole truth) he now sounds like a liar. This image of him is still, now, broadcast nation wide. The question from many folks is, how could he not speak more clearly? Nobody knows for sure, maybe not even he himself. I suspect he knew the difference, but he came to believe that the difference did not make any difference because he served as a Marine, and to him the half truth was enough to be the truth. But that is not the truth in the minds of many of the electorate. That does not make him a bad person, but a flawed person. And that can get a person in lots of trouble. I suspect we have all settled for a lie being the truth or at least a half-truth being the truth. And settling for either can have a devastating effect. I remember from childhood, the saying “Be sure, the truth will find you out!”

This brings me back to my Bible study and my interpretations of the language of the Bible and how it leads me to conceive of God accurately or less than accurately. My words, my ideas about God can never adequately exactly capture God—words can’t! But I tend to think they can. That’s why I need to ask of the Bible, “Do you mean . . .” and ask, as a person who takes Jesus as the correct standard of any concept of God. Are my words and the image they reflect, more accurate or less accurate to Jesus’ image? For instance, what did Jesus’ voluntary death on the cross accomplish? The language of the Bible seems to support what humans call the Substitutionary Theory of the atonement. That is, Jesus died as a substitute for sinful humanity, like an animal sacrifice (as when Abraham thought he needed to sacrifice Isaac) to

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### June

- 2 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Missions
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 10:55 a.m. Communion Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Birthday Fellowship for June
- 12:30 p.m. Called Membership Meeting
- 8 11:00 a.m. Young-at-Heart Gadabouts Event
- 9 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
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla’s Office)
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

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## FATHER’S DAY IS COMING

SUNDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

We will give thanks for them during worship!  
We will have a special gift for each man present!

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### (“Unravelings” continued from previous column)

please or placate God to bless or avoid retaliation. But doesn’t that make God out to be even less than we humans are most of the time? That makes God sound and look like a cruel parent with an ego problem, needing placating not to retaliate for a real or imagined “injury.” Yes, rebellion against what God wants can be conceived of as an injury to God, because that is how we humans feel when disobeyed. But that is not how God acts, according to Jesus! As far as I can determine, God’s action after the crucifixion was not retaliation for that cruel sinful deed, but God’s action was forgiveness, just the opposite of retaliation! God acted just like the father of the Prodigal Son, not as the Elder Son wanted his father to act. There was not one ounce of desire to get “justice” as “get even,” but pounds of evidence to get “justice” as respect for God’s original intention for human. So, maybe the image of God requiring a substitute for my rebellion (sin) keeps God less than God, as in Jesus, in my mind; even less than fully human, and therefore less than Divinely intended? Does this difference matter? I think it does. It can justify us acting like a god who God, as in Jesus, wouldn’t claim! Just look what believing a lie—even a half truth could possibly mean to the situation in which Richard Blumenthal finds himself. Bible study just gets me to thinking! Well?

## Youth News ... Twyla Turner

### Youth Missions

There will be **Youth Missions** in Twyla's office on June 2 at 6:15 pm. We will work on some items to prepare for VBS. If you are available your help is needed. This preparation is for outreach to the community, so your help can count for those 4<sup>th</sup> quarter community service hours. Come and join us and help as we prepare to change lives. I look forward to seeing YOU there!

### Sunday School

We have resumed Youth Sunday School after Twyla's vacation, so try to be present this Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>, as we meet at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and Bible study at 10 a.m. We will continue to look at *Parables from the Back Side*.

### Opportunity for Service—

All Youth are invited and encouraged to help with this year's UBC Yard Sale. It will benefit the Hope Tree Family Services. We will need to be at the church early—at 7 am—to help set-up. This is a very worthy cause and a good opportunity for you to help other students who are not as fortunate as you are. Please join me as we do our best to help serve others in the name of Christ.

### Kid's Club

Thanks go to **Kathi and Larry Crowder** for once again opening their home to us for our Summer Kick-off for our Children's program for Kid's Club. We had fun cooking out and swimming and meeting new friends. Our next Kid's Club event will be at the end of June. Watch this space for more details.

### **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. 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.

### ***Congratulations to Twyla Turner!***

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management recently completed the intensive training of its first class of a new County Chaplain Corps. One of those newly-minted graduates is **Rev. Twyla Turner**. The process for being included in this training and for making it all the way through the process was a competitive one. Not everyone who applied was accepted, and not everyone who started the training completed it. So we are proud of Twyla and her accomplishment. Now comes the work for which she has been trained. Pray for her and the others of this new County Chaplain Corps as they minister during times of crisis.

### **Let us Give Thanks!**

For **Les Norris** and all the many things seen and unseen that he has recently done in and to our facility to keep it pleasant to serve in, not the least is making it possible to have back up hot water in the kitchen.

For **Herb Hicks** handling, securing and letting the contract for the new AC recently approved by the church for the oldest portion of our facility.

For **Eloise Morris** arranging the Memorial Cross and individual memorial flower bouquets to compliment our annual Memorial Sunday Service.

For **Dot Jones** coordinating and **You** as members for all the Pot Luck dishes you provide for the Prime Timer Luncheons for the Adult Day Care participants which we regularly host in our Fellowship Hall.

For **Each of You** who regularly give to the **Local Benevolent Fund Offering** received every Communion Sunday (this coming Sunday) at the sanctuary doors as we leave worship. This expressed Jesus love locally.