

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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Vacation Bible School Is Coming Soon!!!

SonQuest Rainforest

We are planning something different for Vacation Bible School this year. It will be held on five consecutive Sunday mornings.

**July 18 through August 15
from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Children ages 5-11 years
welcome**

See program details inside under
the Youth News column

Keep these dates in mind, and
if you can help please contact
Rev. Twyla Turner

Church Adjusts 2010 Ministry

Budget

Sunday, June 27th

By Unanimous Vote

Adding \$4,000

**To Personnel Budget for
Two Summer**

"Gym Supervisors"

An Eight Week

Weekday, Four Hour/Day

Local Youth Already

Showing Interest

**The Personnel Committee is
actively seeking these personnel**

Phone the Office

If you know of candidates

Must be at least 18 years of age

Unravelings J. Wayne Yawn

The only time I am glad the phone rings at an odd hour is when it turns out to be a wrong number. Otherwise it is bad news. Someone needs God and calls the pastor. I am humbled! My first reaction is panic. How best to represent God in the crisis? Oh how I have wished I had supernatural power to immediately change the bad news or reaction.

Psalmists have been in my position and turned to laments because God had seemingly forgotten them during crises. Many of the laments were written during famines or exiles or defeats by foreign powers that worshiped supposedly weaker gods. Where was the Psalmist's God? And if your experience is like mine and theirs, the answer is silence. I feel the weight of the silence. How I wish I had some button to press that would make it all better. But all I have is silence and to go to the caller and be with them. Well, there is one other thing! I can join them in lamenting how awful whatever it is they called about, actually is! I can just bring my own existence—Being—to sit beside their existence, and hurt and be angry—just BE with the hurting. I am coming to think that is what is eternal and divine—God-like. During times of Hebrew crises theologians often blamed the Hebrews for their bad news because God was angry and punishing them. But this theologian is coming to stand with some of the Psalmist who came to see that lamenting is the way! Laments are not to placate God to get God to reverse the bad. Laments are to change the Psalmist to think like God—called Love (the New Testament agape type)—which is experienced as “abundant” LIFE—life so full and real that people called it divine, when they experienced it personally in Jesus.

I recall a story told by the poet Ann Weems about her worst ever phone call. Her son had been killed less than an hour after his 21st birthday. Ann told her friend Walter Brueggemann (a Hebrew Bible authority who I find insightful) that she just could not get beyond the hurt and anger. He suggested she write the laments of her heart to God in order to hold her son close. She lifted up her hurt and her anger. To her amazement she said that over time by lamenting she began to lose the need to lament. Consolation came, and the pall covering her like a casket covers, began to lift. Did God reach down and intervene? Not as I used to think God is! But yes, in the way I am coming to think God really is, Life's Processes at their fullest and most abundant and real, even as Jesus promised in John 10:10. Maybe God reaches Up from Life more than reaches Down. God (or Life that is so real it is Divine) wants to heal me if I get the “nail in my shoe” image out. Yes, I admit that is a weird phrase to assign to an image of God, even one that I held for so long and mostly hurt and angered me. But, I think humans got our image of God wrong until someone came along, Jesus, and paid the ultimate price for getting it right. God didn't prevent his death, but brought Life Processes out of it. Getting the “nail” out takes admitting what it is, grieving to make room for the more accurate view of how God really heals, as through lamentations, just to name one way. That is really the historical context of Matthew 5's beatitudes—proverbs about how to live divinely. Recall one is about mourning. The context is mourning not the physically dead, but the dead ways of living to make room for the other life enhancing beatitudes to take root and give “abundant” life. I still panic when those calls come at odd hours. But I just go and am as is the caller, hurting, lamenting, and don't rush to calm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

June

30 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:00 p.m. Youth Missions

July

INDEPENDENCE DAY

4 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
10:55 a.m. Communion in Worship Service
12:15 p.m. July Birthday Fellowship
5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
7 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla's Office)
7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Staff News ...

Dr. and Mrs. Young will spend a couple of vacation weeks visiting family in Missouri after delivering their grandchildren, who have been visiting them in Virginia, back home to Missouri. Dr. Young will be back in the office on July 14.

Dr. Yawn will be in Durham, North Carolina to officiate at an infant dedication at Duke University Chapel for their friends the Frasher/Krzyzewski family, the weekend of July 8-11. He will be back in the office July 12.

Rev. Phil Carpenter will preach on Sunday, July 11, while both Dr. Yawn and Dr. Young will be away as indicated in this column. Reverend Carpenter will also be away on Sunday, July 4 and Wednesday, July 7, because of travels related to his full-time job.

Rev. Twyla Turner will be taking her father to a family wedding in Iowa. She will be gone July 8 - July 13.

WE WISH TO

ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK

Dot Jones for coordinating and Mae Smith, Jean Weedon and Sandy Godwin for assisting Dot with the recent vital ministry of providing a Comfort Meal. A meal was provided for the family of Libby Hamner following Libby's funeral service on Saturday, June 19th, at which they gathered to grieve and to comfort one another. Thanks to all who make this ministry possible—all too often!

Youth News...Twyla Turner

Youth Missions-- There will be Youth Missions in Twyla's office on June 30 at 6:15 pm. There will be no dinner served so if you want to eat make sure to bring money to pay for your dinner at Subway.

Sunday School-- We will meet for Youth Sunday School on Sunday, July 4th, at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and Bible study at 10 a.m. We will be beginning a study of the New Testament book of John on Sunday. Please try to read the first 4 chapters of John by Sunday morning to help facilitate our discussion.

Kid's Club--Our mini golf date will be rescheduled soon.

Special Summer Youth Ministry Project This Year-

It is only 5 months until those pesky Christmas card envelopes that you have to address every year. This summer our youth will be offering a special service to you to raise funds for our Christmas in VBS mission projects. We will address your Christmas Cards for you so that you only have to write your notes inside your cards this year. You just give us your list and we will hand address or we will make labels and address your cards (your choice) so that this year you will just have to write your notes inside the cards. We are doing this for donations so that we can purchase items to fill shoe boxes with gifts for children through the Operation Christmas Child Program of the Samaritan's Purse ministry. Gift boxes will be collected in August and in November this year and we will work on this special project (gift boxes) with our children during mission time in VBS this year. If you wish to have your cards addressed, please bring the cards and your list, in whatever format you have it and we will work on your cards during July and August. Please see Twyla if you have questions.

Special Thanks to...Kris Brook, Rob Banks, and Carole Martindale for their help, on very short notice, with the Graduate Recognition Dinner. It would not have been possible without your help. Also, thanks go to **Madison & Samantha Banks**, and to **Emily, Holly, Kelly and Lillian Martindale** for serving as waitresses for our dinner. You all made the evening very special with your help. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended and made this new tradition a very special evening.

Keep these dates available on your calendar---

July and August—Details coming...

Vacation Bible School & Summer Camp & Beach Day

Christmas Fundraiser and Operation Christmas Child gift collections and School Supply Collections—Watch for those school supply sales in July.

SonQuest Rainforest is the theme of our 2010

Vacation Bible School. On Sunday, July 18th, we will kick-off the first of our **5 Sundays** of Vacation Bible School. We will visit the **SonQuest Rainforest** to learn about God. This looks to be a fantastic Bible School and your help is needed. We hope that you will consider inviting children in your neighborhood to join us at VBS on Sunday mornings (while you are in Sunday School and Worship). Perhaps you can provide their transportation! I am challenging our congregation to identify and register **35** children to participate this year. Invitations and registration forms will be available on Sunday, July 4th for you to share in your neighborhood. We will be focusing on students ages **5-11** this year.

The “Church Mouse” observed...

If any “church mouse” observes someone going “above and beyond” and would like to make it known, we have forms available for submission to “The Vision.” They can be found on the shelf next to the mailboxes by the church office and elevator. Turn the completed forms into the church office.

The “Church Mouse” observed...

Mae Smith filling plastic bags with delicious glazed donuts on Father's Day as gifts to adult men on their special day.

Aubrey Jones and Charles Potter adding Sunday flowers to the worship room and checking to assure everything is in its proper place prior to worship. And on communion Sunday, the mouse finds **Aubrey** assuring that there are communion servers available. And **Charles** mysteriously making the “money box” appear on Wednesday evening for the Dinner receipts and hymnals appear on the chairs for the spirited singing to occur.

Phil Carpenter on Sundays assuring that we can all hear by checking the sound system.

An early Monday morning group of 2-3 appearing not to drink free coffee, but to get their hands dirty with “filthy lucre” received on Sundays during worship and counting and taking it to the bank. You know who you are.

Les Norris on any day of the week with tools in tow repairing or improving some “corner of the building” where something is leaking, broken, too old to find replacement parts but he is making do, or painting a room that makes people who enter for the first time in a while, say, “Wow!”

Dot and Aubrey Jones going to Hospice to work in their offices every Monday, followed by going to the Food for Others Warehouse to retrieve boxes of day-old-bread to use to make sandwiches for local street folks who are hungry.

Irene Mills, Venetta Tucker, Phyllis Thompson, Ruby Kingsbury, Ed/Shirley Maxwell, Betty/Herb Hicks, GerrySue Young and Eleanor Brown along with occasional others, making sandwiches early every Wednesday morning for local street folks who are hungry.

John Lewis alone in the sanctuary any day of the week caught refilling the candle holders with fresh candles, pew card holders with cards, and assuring we have ushers.