

# 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 9:30 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 Begins**

**Eight Week Supervised**

**Gym Ministry**

**for Local Youth**

**Already Showing Interest**

**The Personnel Committee**

**has employed two**

**Gym Supervisors**

**beginning July 6,**

**from 1-4 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday.**

**Mr. Derek Highsmith (Full  
time employee of Leary  
School) and Mr. Ryan Gehr  
(grandson of Tom and  
Helen Gehr) are our  
Gym Supervisors**

## Unravelings . . . J. Wayne Yawn

Its July 4<sup>th</sup> week! My thoughts run toward liberation and freedom from oppression, as did those of our American forefathers! Well, not all of our forefathers. There were loyalist to King George of England and there were rebels. Some were eager for liberation and some were not. People have always been so split. Exodus says the Hebrew people were in Egypt for 400 years and grew in number like the Pharaoh who ruled when Moses was born feared to be able to overthrow him. Why didn't they? Slavery was legal in our country for centuries and "good" people were split over its being just or unjust. Why? We have been bound to oil energy for well over 150 years with all of its benefits, limitations (we've known the supply is limited) and injuries to health and the environment without serious efforts to seek liberation to other forms of energy. Why?

Even in religions that talk about liberations one finds people split over liberation. Research shows that when our earliest ancestors became conscious of their vulnerability (that they would die) they started assuming that there must be a stronger power that could, if that power wanted to, save them from death and harm. Soon, our ancestors assumed that proper obedience to the higher powers, which they called gods, might convince those powers to protect them. But few questioned why that did not always work. The typical response from those who did question why bad things occurred was those things were punishment by the gods for improper obedience. The rise of critical analytical thinking caused some people to quietly wonder (until recently) why even good people, obedient people, have bad things happen. Maybe, just maybe, we need to humble ourselves and consider that our ancestor's conception of God was incorrect when they assumed proper obedience would lead to God's rescue or greater blessings.

Life is risky! Life includes death. We assume death is the worst of all things. And it really ranks high up there! But don't we all know that it is natural, and out of death comes new life. Things die so other things can be born. Life is everlasting, but not only in the forms with which we are familiar. The writer of 1 John (3:2-3) said, "*We are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he (Jesus) appears, we shall be like him* (certainly this could not mean his twin physical form) *for we shall see him as he is* (his depiction of true humanity, the second Adam, so human as to be called Divine). *Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself* (gets rid of all false ways of being human and adopts only Jesus' ways), *just as he is pure* (true)." The "*way, truth and life*" (John 14:6) Jesus lived is everlasting, but it does not yet appear the form it will take, only we know whatever form it takes, we will recognize it as expressing Jesus' "*way, truth and life.*"

Maybe we need to change our assumptions about how God uses Divine power. Maybe Divine power is not used to intervene to dominate situations, but maybe Divine power is distributed to each human at birth in the form of unique gifts, passions, interests. And God shows us in the very way Life changes forms over the eons of time that the way to liberation and freedom isn't for God to intervene, but for each of us to have the dream that what is at any one moment may be good or bad, but certainly isn't all it can be. And the only way it can be more, even better, is to choose risking what is, to move to what can be. I suspect that not being willing to risk was a major part of the reason why the Hebrews stayed 400 years, slavery was legal, oil continues to dominate as energy and religions continued to be dominated by the image of God being dominant, with all the injustice that justifies. But Jesus said he was come to set us free. And the way to freedom was to see that God distributed power to Jesus (John 3:16) and through him to each of us, to be distributed Jesus' way. That way he labeled LOVE: agape type love. Love that says here are my gifts/powers to serve you to use your gifts/powers to serve still others, (and on and on and on) all for the common good as Jesus' depicted that good. This is done, just because it is just and merciful. But we people are generally not eager to be liberated from bondages, because those bondages are too familiar and generally are not painful enough for enough people, to motivate us to seek liberation by abandoning the familiar way—yet less than it ought to be. Some, not all, of our forefathers were so motivated to take risks to use distributive power instead of dominant power to rule them. They rejected a king. They adopted distributive power which they distributed equally between President, Legislature and Court. Liberation is a good idea, but it has to be lived to be like God. And maybe we only embrace it if we accept that it is up to us and not up to God to make it happen. But that's just what I think. Well?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### July

- 7 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 11 8:30 a.m. Sunday Prayer Group (Conference Room)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:55 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Carpenter preaching  
12:15 p.m. After Worship Fellowship
- 12 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 14 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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## 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 9-11. 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 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.

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### Note from Norma Meadows

Thank you so much for the signed hymnal originally donated in honor of Special Education. This group of people have a big heart for music, laughter, Bible study, retreats and picnics. Thanks to Erma and her helpers for continuing this ministry.

The messages written on various pages and songs tell me of God's love through your words of kindness and best wishes. They will always be cherished. In the front of the hymnal was printed the benediction which Dr. Yawn uses. It will mean even more to me now. It speaks of life, God's goodness, God's grace and God's love, no matter what life brings our way. Thank you pastors Yawn and Young.

God's blessings to all,

Norma Meadows

## Youth News...Twyla Turner

**Youth Missions**-- There will be **NO Youth Missions** on Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup>. We will resume Youth Missions on Wed., July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 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**—There will be **NO Youth Sunday School** on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet again on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 a.m.. We will be conducting VBS starting at 9:30 a.m. and all Youth are needed to help with our program this year. Please make sure to be present so that you can assist the students who attend VBS with our stories, music, games, crafts and snacks.

**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, 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...

I ate too much cheese last week when writing my observations. My mind was sluggish. My apologies to **Jean Weedon**. Actually, I observe her week after weeks helping make sandwiches for the homeless on Wednesday mornings, but the excess cheese left over from the Sandwich Ministry that I nibbled on got into and clogged my veins and slowed the movement of my tiny little fingers on the keyboard and it made me omit typing Jean's name in this column. That darn cheese is soooooo good but it can make even mice embarrass themselves.

**Geri Campbell** is observed arranging for flowers and arranging flowers for Sunday worship behind the scene. I love munching on the pedals she abandons in the trash.

**Sandy Potter** is observed for her good work keeping minutes of all your church membership meetings. I wish she kept the old way, on actual paper to be xeroxed so I could eat them between meetings. But she uses that gosh darn computer and it's narrow slots are just too tiny even for me.

**Sally and Les Norris** have been observed giving Emily Duncan a ride home from Sunday morning worship every Sunday. I think that is nice, don't you?

**Bobby Joe Small** has been observed arriving early on Sunday morning pouring juice in cute little glasses and putting just my size morsels of bread in those glasses for communion. I want to thank him for serving mice size!

**Dave Sturges and Lew Norris** have been observed repairing the window sills in Dr. Young's office where my mince meat, the termites, wrecked havoc. I'm frankly not too happy with the termites gone. At least I have not been able to find where they went.

**Debbie Caffrey** has been observed scheduling musical groups for the PrimeTimers ministry to the Adult Day Care. I love those delicious Potluck leftovers from those meals.