

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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Issue 27

"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth.... He has been raised; he is not here.... he is going ahead of you to Galilee...."

We were just following the order of worship, going through the motions (and all so decently and in order), exactly the same as every Sunday, a gathering akin to Kiwanis or the Tuesday afternoon book club. But before we even had the offering, the guest of honor got up and left in a huff. Next thing we know, he's out front haranguing those on the sidewalk, "It's a sin what they've done to Sunday! Anybody want to do Easter?"

We were having General Conference, day five, plodding our way through the agenda, careful that all was in accord with "The Book of Discipline," allowing everyone a say, taking all comments seriously, honoring proper process, tempo slowed to that of a slug. "Microphone one, yes, do you wish to speak to the amendment or to the substitute motion?" "This is boring," everyone heard him say on his way out. "You call this a party? Any of you stuffed shirts want to turn some water into wine?"

We were following helpful spiritual practices, keeping Sabbath, centering, settling in, chilling out, focusing on higher things, breathing more intentionally, enjoying prayer as yoga. Just as everyone finally assumed the lotus position, Christ got up, hit the door with full force and was gone. "Wake up! Be dangerous! Sabbath was made for humanity!" he shouted in a voice loud enough to wake the dead.

We were exercising servant leadership, exerting a positive influence on the community, uplifting the morals of the youth, caring for one another, helping folks make it through the week, affirming family values, embodying entrepreneurial leadership, instilling a positive attitude, pursuing a purpose-filled life. I heard him groan, sigh, fidget with his sandals then arise and shout, "I need some air! Call me if any of you ever get the courage to go crazy!"

We were just wilting, sagging, demographics got us, wearing down, mainline sliding toward the sideline, burdened by buildings, going limp, troubled by the numbers, cutting back, ready to throw in the towel. Christ got up and said with a smirk, "To heck with the institution! Let's make a revolution! Anybody got a match?"

We were just settling in, fluffing the pillows, becoming comfortable, feeling safe with one another, mellow, accustomed to the surrounding, unthreatened. Next thing we know Christ got up and screamed, "I'm better than therapy! To hell with tranquility! I'm the way! The truth! The life! Follow me!"

We were just reading Scripture, extracting important biblical principles from the text, retrieving significant ideas for consideration, setting it in proper historical context, voting on the earliest strata of the tradition, noting historical precedents. Not waiting even until the epiclesis, Christ got up, slammed the big book shut, screaming to the startled senior citizens, "Let's go do it, not talk about it."

We were just sealing him safe and sound in the tomb, just making sure that the gravesite was tidy, just getting adjusted to life without him, just obeying the soldiers, just accommodating ourselves to death and defeat. *(Continued Next Page)*

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

I've spent a lot of time lately on the road driving to, from, and within Missouri. There is always a lot to look at while driving. First and foremost, of course, should be the other cars – although it seems that others do not share my view of the importance of doing that. But there is also opportunity to notice the sights along the way. Some of the things I see get me thinking. For example, there is a little church just off the interstate in Missouri (actually along old Route 66) named Twilight Baptist Church. I don't believe I've ever seen a church with that name and I began to wonder what the name might mean. Perhaps they change the name to reflect the church's stage in life. Maybe it began as New Life Baptist Church then became Get-Your-Kicks-on-Route 66 Baptist Church. Now since the building of the interstate and bypassing of the old Route 66 along with the aging of its members and decline in membership, they have perhaps changed the name to Twilight Baptist Church. Then again, I know some people who would suggest it is appropriate name for the state of the Christian church in general. If I really had to guess, however, I would guess that it is a reference to what they believe to be the imminent end of the age – that we are all living in twilight times.

That leads me to a sign I saw along the same highway. It read: ***U got jesus?*** It was a big, surely expensive billboard, and I would have thought that anyone who could afford the billboard could also afford a proofreader to check for capitalization. What is that question really asking? Have you got your ticket to the prom? Have you got your ticket to the Michael Jackson memorial service? Have you got tickets for the plane trip? Have you got your ticket (Jesus) to get to heaven? At least that's how I interpret the question. And I'm certainly familiar with that mind set, and indeed with that question. I taught witnessing training that began with that question, phrased slightly differently: If you were to die today, do you know for certain that you would go to heaven? In other words, have you got your ticket (Jesus). What I've come to believe is that it is much more important to ask and answer the question: Does Jesus have you (or me)? It's also much more difficult for Jesus to have us than it is for us to get Jesus. It means allowing him to be present in us. So how about it? Jesus got u?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

July

- 8 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
- 9 8:00 a.m. Youth Leave for *Kingsfest* at King's Dominion (Returning approx. Midnight)
- 12 8:30 p.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:30 p.m. Church Leadership Council
- 1:00 p.m. Children's Faith And Fun Day
- 13 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 15 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

BUS TRIP TO THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

**Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of
Annandale-Springfield**

- WHEN: Tuesday, July 28, board bus at 10:00 a.m.
- WHERE: Meet at Annandale United Methodist
- WHAT: Tour of Washington National Cathedral
- COST: \$20, paid in advance
Includes bus and tour of Cathedral
- DEADLINE: ***Extended to July 17***
- MAIL: To SCAS, 7610 Newcastle Dr.,
Annandale, VA. 22003 Include your
name and phone number
- INFORMATION: Call 730-941-1419 or email
Shepherscas@vacoxmail.com

(Continued from Front Page) Not waiting for dawn, Christ got up, rolled away the stone, strode forth shining before our fearful faces and commanded, "Get up!"

The above, entitled *Christ Got Up*, was penned by William Willimon and part of it was used in a recent sermon by Dr. Young. Somehow it seems an appropriate word in the middle of July for God's people to hear and heed.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be **Youth Missions** on July 8. We will begin work on our special focus **Mission Project** on Wednesday. We will meet at the usual time of 6:15 p.m. to find out more about our location and to plan the activities that we will do with the young homeless children we will be ministering to during the summer.

This week, in **Sunday School** class, we will complete the Amazing Bible Race quizzes through week 7. Please try to complete some material at home this week and bring it to Sunday School on Sunday morning so that you can contribute to the group effort. Please bring your runner's log and Bible so that you will have the information you need for the quizzes. Everyone will be updated with any quizzes that they have not yet turned in and we will look for a date to reschedule our lock-in since swim and work schedules made it impossible to meet this week. Please bring your schedule so that we can figure out a good date and put it on our calendars.

Don't forget we will be going to **Kings Dominion** for **KINGSFEST** this year. We will go on Thursday, July 9th, the day that RELIANT K will be performing. We will leave the church at 8 am and will return to the church approximately 12 midnight. If you have not contacted Twyla but would like to go, send an email immediately to tbeachlover@gmail.com. If I do not hear from you, I will not wait for you at the church. As soon as everyone on the list has met, we will leave for the park. Friends are welcome to attend.

Children's Faith and Fun Day for the month of July will be on July 12th. Put it on your calendar now!! We will have pizza and work on a special project to learn more about Jesus and then, weather permitting we will go swimming. Bring your bathing suit, your towel, and sunscreen and come for the fun. Invite a friend to join you!

Our next **beach trip** will be on Thursday, July 16th. We will go to **Ocean City** Maryland this time. The cost of the trip is \$20.00. We will depart from the church at 6 am and will return approximately 10 p.m. Please make a reservation for this trip with a deposit of 1/2 of the trip cost (\$10.00) by July 12th. July **paintball** will be on Saturday, July 25th. It's the "Independence Day Big Game" at Skyline so advance reservations are required. Cost will depend on when you make your reservation. If you contact Twyla with a firm reservation (including deposit of \$20.00) by July 10, your total cost will be \$40.00. After July 10 the price increases for registration and paint. This game is a special game and costs a bit more than a regular day of paintball. You will need to bring your lunch for this game as there will be no time to leave the field and go out for food. Email Twyla if you have questions.

There are still opportunities to earn **Disciple Dollars or need service hours for school**. Please contact Twyla if you are interested.

Vacation Bible School is coming this summer. If you have **any** interest in helping or attending, and have not yet spoken with Twyla, please do so immediately. Meeting dates for planning and preparation will be announced next week. Feedback from potential attendees and workers show that mid to late August will be a better time for our VBS this year, so we will be working toward that.

Young-at-Heart Gadabouts
are on the go (again)

Longhorn's Restaurant
Chantilly, Va
for lunch

Tuesday, July 14

Bus leaves at 11:20 a.m.
(No confirmed return time)

Sign up on bulletin board in the
News n Do's Hallway

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Annandale Neighborhood Center and Food for Others have partnered with the local Annandale Faith-Based community to provide food for the Annandale community!!

WHEN: Thursday Evenings
WHERE: Annandale Neighborhood Center
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

First Come, First Serve!

Number Lottery will be used to keep order

Call 703-642-7400 for more information about the program and how you can volunteer.

Dr. and Mrs. Yawn have canceled their vacation plans and have gone to Newport News to be with Diane's sister and family in the death of her sister's husband. Dr. Yawn will be back in the office on Monday, July 13. Keep them in your prayers.