

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 30

Vacation Bible School

Continues Sunday!!!

SonQuest Rainforest

**Three More
Sunday Mornings**

**through August 15
from 9:30 to 12 noon**

**Children ages 5-11 years
welcome**

See program details inside under
the Youth News column

Called Membership Meeting This Sunday

Those who were present Sunday morning will not be surprised to hear that we are having problems with our air conditioning system. The Building and Grounds and Finance Committees are in the process of getting bids for the correction of these problems. They have requested a called business meeting for this Sunday, August 1, following the worship service to hear, discuss, and vote upon their recommendations.

There are two factors that create an urgency in dealing with this situation. NorthStar Church Network had to close their office in our building several days last week because the heat made it impossible to work in their space. We have made temporary arrangements to cool that space, but we have an obligation to provide a satisfactory environment for them. The intensity of the heat itself is the second factor that lends urgency to the situation. Article VIII of our By-Laws provides for a two-week notice for called business meetings *unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical*. The Church Leadership Council believes this situation meets that condition so we will already have church authorization and can move quickly as soon as the bids for repair work come in.

Unravelings J. Wayne Yawn

Jesus taught us to be our full self. (John 10:10) That necessitates denying our incomplete self. The incomplete self is the one we encounter first in life. You see, our self consists of our native abilities and gifts which we find ways to use. These represent our power to impact others and leave our “mark” on the world. Our incomplete self is seen when we apply our gifts selfishly, self-absorbed. The Bible calls it our sinful self as demonstrated by Adam and Eve choosing to determine their own application system for their gifts to decide what was good or evil, rather than using God’s application system. It results in a society of lying, stealing, retaliation at justice and getting even, prejudging people by their ethnicity or nationality, all resulting in chaos and continuous anxiety. Sounds familiar! People developed religions to try and control people and gods to lessen the anxieties of people. Proper religious practice pleased gods to either bless people or keep gods from retaliating against people. This existence results from applying our gifts according to our incomplete self and its wants. Jesus said deny this self.

Rather, Jesus taught that God uses who God is; all God’s gifts and abilities to make humans all we are meant to be. God wants us to be our full selves. So much is this so, that God forgives rather than retaliates for our choosing to settle for our incomplete selves. God doesn’t want to be obeyed to keep God from retaliating. God want to be obeyed so God can help us be our full selves, to finish our creation or our becoming all our gifts permit us to be. Jesus taught that just as God’s application system to continuing creating us is agape type love (love motivated by reason and intention rather than by emotions which motivates physical or brotherly love AND love that devotes God’s gifts/powers to making us and everybody the fullest selves we can be) so our application system should be the same love motivating us to be full selves, not just incomplete selves. It is this full self that is to be affirmed while the incomplete self is to be denied. This incomplete self is what the Apostle Paul referred to as the last in his list of Spiritual Gifts: self-control.

We have to compare the consequences of these two types of existences. The decision to be a Christian is to decide to apply our gifts by God’s type love and become our full selves. Jesus way empowers us to experience completion of God’s original design for each of us. My experience is that I choose Jesus’ love sometimes and reject it sometimes. Recently, a black lady name Shirley Sherrod of the Department of Agriculture was recorded speaking to the NAACP about her personal struggle 24 years ago in Alabama to financially help save small farms of both black and white farmers. She confessed (as I just did) that sometimes she was tempted to more aggressively help black rather than white farmers, because of the injustice she and her family had always experienced, including her father being killed by the Ku Klux Klan, without anyone ever being brought to justice (retaliation). The whole tape of her speech included her remembering Jesus and deciding her job was to help “poor” farmers whether they were black or white. This decision was agape love. This was her denying her incomplete self and becoming her full self over this episode. But one person, Andrew Breitbart, using his gift of writing and editing, broadcast on the internet only the portion of Sharrod’s speech confessing she was tempted to act prejudicially. He did this to “expose” the NAACP as prejudicial and “prove” the desires of his incomplete self correct. Sharrod was fired. Her boss did not apply his gifts, powers with agape to investigate adequately. Neither did the media! As I *unravel* this, isn’t this why Jesus said **deny** your incomplete **self** and follow me to your **full self**? That’s what I think. And you?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

July

- 28 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 29 10:00 a.m. Renovation Committee

August

- 1 8:30 a.m. Sunday Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- 10:55 a.m. Communion in Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. August Birthday Fellowship
- 12:30 p.m. Called Business Meeting
- 2 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 4 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

You Are Invited

by the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and local partner nonprofits (including ACCA) to volunteer to help those in need in our Fairfax-Falls Church Community. The Bailey’s Crossroad Homeless Shelter is one of the beneficiaries of this effort.

August 21 ● 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway

Your help is needed to sort and package basic needs items for families and individuals who are moving into housing. In addition to volunteering, enjoy a variety of fun activities designed to educate community members about how to get involved with nonprofits working to end homelessness.

You can also help by purchasing and bringing needed items to the OnTarget event on August 21. A list of items is on the bulletin board in the News n’ Do’s Hallway and will be printed in next week’s edition of *The Vision*.

For more information and to sign up or volunteer, visit www.FacetsCares.org/volunteer/OnTarget.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

Youth Missions-- Youth Missions will meet on Wed., July 28th, 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— Youth Sunday School will again meet on Sunday, Aug. 1st, at 9:15 a.m. **We will be conducting VBS starting at 9:30 a.m.** 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 in August.

Summer Camp—

Please commit yourself to praying for our students and leader who will be attending **Student Life Camp** this summer from August 3-7. This is the most intensive time of focusing on God that we have all year and your prayers are extremely important to this event. Please be in prayer for our spiritual preparation, that **we** will be ready to encounter God in a special way at camp this summer. We are in our final period of preparation for this event and your support is crucial to this event. The theme this summer is "Re" and the foundation Bible verse this year is Micah 6:8—"...what does the Lord require of you? That you act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." The students who will be attending camp this summer are Emily Sturges, Erin Gallagher, and James Sturges with leader Twyla Turner. Please keep us wrapped in your prayers through our return from camp on August 7. Thank you.

School Supply Drive for needy students-- Watch your newspapers for Back-to-School sales these days and scoop up those bargains. Our Youth will once again be collecting school supplies starting this Sunday, August 1st and continuing for the entire month, for needy students at Westlawn School. Now is the time that many stores run **fantastic** sales on school supplies at great prices. Pick up items at the bargain sale prices and you will have them ready for the August collection dates.

SonQuest Rainforest is the theme of our 2010

Vacation Bible School—which continues this

Sunday, Aug. 1st.

On Sunday, we will continue our **5 Sundays** of Vacation Bible School. We are visiting the **SonQuest Rainforest** to learn about God. This is a wonderful Bible School focusing on some of the parables that Jesus taught. Your help is still needed. We need help in getting more students involved. Please look around your neighborhood and invite children to come to our program. You might even offer to drive them. We have scheduled VBS to coincide with the hours that you are in Sunday School and Worship. We will be focusing on students ages **5-11** this year. I look forward to seeing you with some children this Sunday morning.

The ACCA Food Pantry

The ACCA Food Pantry is low on jelly, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, Jell-O, pudding, coffee, medium size bags of rice and paper products. Please donate ASAP by dropping these items in the Fellowship Hall Mission Nook. Thank you! Your Mission Support Team.

Church Conducts

Eight Week Supervised Open Gym Ministry for Local Youth!

Kids are Playing Daily!

Supervised Play from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday through August

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO Robyn Steele and Gareth Shepherd

who were married in the United Kingdom on Saturday, July 24. Robyn is a former member of our congregation who has been doing graduate study for the last two years at Cardiff University. Her new husband is a pastor. We wish them both the best in their life together.