

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."

Volume 8

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Issue 32

Vacation Bible School Extended One Sunday

(Through August 22)

SonQuest Rainforest

from 9:30 to 12 noon

Children ages 5-11 years
welcome

(Because so many of the children were out of town this past Sunday, we will extend VBS one Sunday in order to give all of them a chance to complete the study.)

Time to Renew *Religious Herald* Subscriptions

The church will provide the *Religious Herald*, our state Baptist paper, for those who wish to receive a subscription. Our annual subscriptions are due for renewal in September. We will renew current subscriptions unless you call the office to cancel your current subscription or add your name to the list of subscribers. ***The deadline for making these changes is Sunday, September 12.*** Many of you choose to save the church the money by paying for your own subscription, which is greatly appreciated and most helpful. The annual cost of a subscription under the Group Rate is \$13.50. Make your check payable to UBC and clearly mark it and the envelope ***Religious Herald.***

Inez Fletcher Fund Offering to Be Taken This Sunday

The third Sunday of each month we promote giving to the Inez Fletcher Fund, a NorthStar scholarship fund for ministerial students. You can make use your regular offering envelope of a pew envelope, but clearly mark either as Inez Fletcher Offering. Your gift makes a difference, now and in the future!

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

August

- 11 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- NO Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in August
- 15 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
- 16 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 18 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- NO Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in August

On a recent Sunday the sermon text was from Luke 12, where Jesus is recorded as saying, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” I have read and preached and heard that preached on more times than I can count. But this time “unraveling” the text my understanding of treasure was even more personal to me than just the treasure to which Jesus refers. The possessions that he says to sell and give to the poor. Indeed, possessions became not just things and money, but something even more personal. It occurred to me that my treasure is what God gave me, namely my abilities, talents or gifts. Those things with which I am born that I began finding some way of using, even unconsciously at first. Very early I was driven to figure out how things worked, so I would take my toys apart and put them back together. I was and am tinkerer with things!

So, for a long time I wondered why I was interested in Jesus and why God called me to be a minister of Jesus’ way of living: the Gospel? Eventually, it occurred to me the driving interest for me was to figure out why Jesus obviously thought his way of life worked best, to the point of dying for it. That event certainly didn’t make his way seem like it worked best. It seemed like the normal way of the imperial, dominant world worked best! It was more powerful! But then, why couldn’t I just reject Jesus’ way. It was not even because I was taught that believing in him promised life after death. He spent most of his time talking about life before death! How could he say his way of living worked best! I “took his way apart” again and again preparing to preach and to teach to fulfill my chosen career. I unraveled text in ways they had been understood and did it again and again, to figure out why Jesus could believe his way worked best. I was driven by my treasure, my gift, (at times I thought it my curse). But I could not let it rest! Maybe I did not have enough faith just to accept it? But again, my ability, talent, gift, treasure would and does to this day not let me do that. I need to know why it works, how it works, just like I was driven to do that with a toy!

And that is what I have concluded Jesus meant with the last part of “where your treasure is, your heart will be also. My heart is the drive, the passion, to use my treasure, in my case it is in part curiosity to understand why something works, tinkering! My heart is what drove me to tinker with my toys. So, I think Jesus was illustrating this with possessions, that which his normal and our normal society spend most of our time thinking about and trying to make work to give us the abundant life. And after tinkering with this, I think he was saying possessions are not your treasure. They are mortal and material. My treasure is using my gifts or abilities to help make everybody’s life just and abundant. That means sell or use my possessions to turn it into something that I can use by applying my gifts to help people use their gifts and abilities to help people. And I do that by “selling” my treasure or gifts to those who need them, the poor. But, the poor is everybody, the poor materially and poor in spirit! Let me illustrate.

Anna Timmins told me she was driving on Backlick road in Springfield where the road is split by houses and becomes one way each way. She noticed a woman with a child trying to cross the street, but traffic would not stop. So she decided to stop. However, drivers to her left kept whizzing by in their cars. Finally, a truck driver who had stopped behind Anna pulled around Anna and stopped beside her, blocking both lanes of traffic, allowing the woman and child to pass safely. If you know Anna as I know Anna, one of Anna’s gifts/treasures is compassion, another is justice for all. She stopped in the middle of traffic, used that to changed others to stop, and as I unravel what happened, Jesus’ way of living worked to “adjust” the way normal driving works: dominantly! Thank you Anna for listening to your heart and using your gift, also your car, to change the way the world operates and show that Jesus’ way works best, even over imperial dominant power of other automobile drivers.

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, placing items in a sturdy bag or new laundry basket, and bringing needed items to the OnTarget event on August 21. The following items are needed:

PERSONAL

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Lg Bottle of Shampoo
- Lg Bottle of Conditioner
- Pkg of Soap
- Generic Deodorant
- Pkg of Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Towel & Wash Cloth

HOUSEHOLD

- Lg Box of Trash Bags
- Laundry Detergent
- Lysol All-Purpose Cleaner
- Antibacterial wipes
- Lg Plastic Laundry Basket
- Cleaning Scrub Brush
- 8-Pack of Paper Towels
- 12-Pack of Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
- Kitchen Sponges

For more information and to sign up or volunteer, visit

www.FacetsCares.org/volunteer/OnTarget.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

Summer Camp—

Thank you for your prayers last week as we attended **Student Life Summer Camp**. We had a great week with some surprises and some challenges to live our lives in a bigger way for God. Next week's column will have reports from Emily and Erin on their experiences at camp. And we will share with you what "Re" was all about. Thank you again for your support with your prayers. They were most assuredly felt as we spent a special week with God.

Youth Missions

There will be **Youth Missions** this Wednesday, Aug. 11th and also next week, Wednesday, August 18th. We will work on some special VBS projects as well as our August mission project.

Sunday School— Youth Sunday School will again meet on Sunday, Aug. 15th at 9:15 am. **We will be conducting VBS starting at 9:30 a.m.** All Youth who are in town are needed to help with our program this year. Please 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 on Sunday, August 29th after church. More details coming soon.

School Supply Drive for needy students--Watch your newspapers for Back-to-School sales these days and scoop up those bargains. Our Youth have once again begun collecting school supplies for needy students at **Westlawn Elementary School** for the coming school year. We will continue to collect the supplies through September 5. Some of the supplies we need are pencils, blue and black pens, crayons, paper, composition notebooks, Kleenex, rulers, glue sticks, pencil boxes, erasers, individual pencil sharpeners and assignment/report folders and covers. This is not a complete list, so if you have purchased other school supplies, we will gladly accept them as well. If you are unable to purchase items, we will accept your monetary donations and make the purchases for you. Thank you for your continuing support of this annual project.

SonQuest Rainforest is the theme of our 2010 Vacation Bible School—which continues this Sunday, Aug. 15th.

Last Sunday we had a special Mission emphasis for our VBS. The students who attended worked on our mission project for the **Operation Christmas Child** program. We will return to our regular VBS schedule this week, starting at our regular time of 9:30 am. We look forward to sharing some of the things we are learning with you when school starts again. Please feel free to invite any students you know to be a part of our program. Thank you.

The ACCA Food Pantry (Updated List)

The ACCA Food Pantry is low on jelly, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, bags of rice, cake mixes, crackers, tea, coffee, canned meats, 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

Mr. Ponce will be in El Salvador visiting his frail and ill father August 5-20 (12 work days). Mr. Steve Young, Dr/Mrs Young's son, who has substituted before, will substitute 4 hours/day.

August 23-27 is our week to provide **medical transportation for ACCA clients**. If you are able and willing to drive, please notify our coordinator, Gerry Sue Young. Thank you.