

# *The Vision*

The Primary Weekly Communication Instrument of  
The United Baptist Church of Northern Virginia

**Pastoral Staff:**

Dr. J. Wayne Yawn, Co-Pastor  
Dr. Gerald L. Young, Co-Pastor  
Rev. Phil Carpenter, Music  
Rev. Twyla Turner, Youth  
Email: UBOffice@aol.com

7100 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003-3106  
703-256-5900  
703-256-5262 (FAX)  
www.unitedbaptchurch.org  
www.unitedbaptchurch.org/Blog.html

*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 7

August 11, 2009

Issue 32

*You are invited  
to a reception in honor of*

**RAMONA DAVIS**

**Sunday, August 16  
following the morning worship  
service**

The personnel committee encourages your participation and asks you to **bring FINGER FOODS** to share in the Fellowship Hall as we express our gratitude for and say farewell to our church secretary for the last three years, who is moving to Wisconsin.

## **Youth Collecting School Supplies**

August is the month to purchase and bring in school supplies and backpacks that will be delivered to Westlawn Elementary School when school starts and distributed to needy students. Bring supplies to Mission Nook.

# **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

***August 18 - 20  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.***

***Theme:  
Camp Edge***

In an effort to reach more children, we are going to try a different schedule this year for Vacation Bible School. If you are willing to help, please let Twyla Turner know of your willingness and availability.

Silence. Sometimes it is a pleasant respite from the usual noise of contemporary life. Sometimes it is so loud that it drowns out all the normal sounds of living. It can be renewing and refreshing. It can also be depressing and even devastating. For me, it really isn't about the physical sounds -- the sound waves that move through the air and stimulate our ear drums, which in turn sends electronic signals to the area of the brain designed to and charged with interpreting the meaning of such signals. God (and my wife) know I have enough trouble with those sounds. That's why I wear hearing aids, which do help but which also cannot take the place of the kind of natural hearing I'm losing. Much, but by no means all, of those sounds aren't worth hearing.

The sounds I do miss when they grow silent are those internal voices of mind and spirit. It is Tuesday morning and my week to write a column in this space. For a long time I had written, "There is no," and toyed with the idea of letting each of you who reads this write his or her own column from that beginning. Probably would have been one of my better efforts. Deadline for the column comes, and sometimes there is nothing but silence. Sunday morning is coming and when it's my turn to preach I've got to have something to say. But what? Where are the voices when I need them? Could it be that the voice is actually in the silence and not in words? In such cases, I usually start thinking, talking, writing and see where the process takes me. Like now, in this space. I begin without knowing where I'm going or where I will end up or whether the journey will even be worth while. We'll see.

There is a kind of silence, however, that is actually painful. Noise can be physically painful when it is loud enough, but silence can be emotionally, spiritually painful when it seems to be complete in the face of life's challenges. A parent is abusive toward a child and there is no one there to prevent it. Why not? Where is God? *Silence*. Jesus said that the meek shall inherit the earth, but it seems to me the earth is already firmly in the hands of the greedy and powerful. Who will stop them? *Silence*. I'm asked by people I love and care about why people treat others so mean and with such cruelty. I know the theological answer, but that's not enough. I don't know an answer that can still the *Silence*. Cancer. Alzheimer's. Swine Flu. HIV/Aids. Malnutrition. People suffer. Good people. Praying people. People who make the world a better place. Why? *Silence*. Here is where my journey brings me. In silence is mystery. In mystery is God. Or not. Does that help? Of course not. But it's true. Those times when the silence overwhelms and challenges us can be times when we are thrust deeply into the Mystery that just might give us more than answers. If we can learn to trust the goodness and grace of what we cannot understand -- but have seen in Jesus -- maybe we will have heard much more than we ever thought possible. Just maybe. On not.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday Bible Study -- 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
Worship Service -- 10:55 a.m.

August

- 12 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
- 13 6:00 a.m. Youth Beach Trip to Ocean City, MD
- 16 8:30 p.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)  
12:15 p.m. Reception for Ramona Davis  
12:30 p.m. Renovation Committee (Conference Room)
- 17 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 18-20 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (1-4 p.m.)
- 18 5:00 p.m. Worship Support Team
- 19 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

*AN INVITATION TO*

**“LUNCH N’ LIFE”**

sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of  
Annandale/Springfield

**Thursday, August 20**

**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church  
3435 Sleepy Hollow RD  
Falls Church, VA, 22044

The program, ***“LIFE’S FINAL CHOICES – PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL.”*** The cost for the meal is \$9.00 per person (\$8.00 for members). Registration needs to be made by calling the office and then sending your check in advance payable to “SCAS” and mailed to SCAS at 7610 Newcastle Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.

---

**2010 Budget Request Forms**

**Now Available**

**Next to the Information Center  
by the Lower Elevator Entrance  
Support Team and Committee Members  
should submit projected 2010 Expenditures  
for church actions on these forms, by  
returning these forms to the Finance  
Committee's Communication Center Box  
by September 12, 2009**

# Vacation Bible School...

is just about here. We are in the final stages of preparation for "**CAMP EDGE**" which will take place on Tuesday-Thursday, August 18-20, from 1-4 p.m.

This year we will be studying about God being with us and seeking to be close to God. We will also learn about God as our teacher and how we can learn from God. On our last day we will learn about God telling us to share with others about Him, and how we can help spread the Good News.

We have three fun filled afternoons planned. Vacation Bible School is for all children and youth ages 4-18. Do you know a child who could benefit from coming to VBS? Why not invite them to join us?

## Youth News... Twyla Turner

August is **School Supply Month**. As usual our youth will be collecting school supplies and backpacks during August for students who in need. We will collect supplies any time during the month of August and deliver them during the first week of school to Westlawn Elementary School in Falls Church. We have provided supply filled backpacks to Westlawn for many years and they are well received and used each year.

All youth are requested to attend **Youth Missions** on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. We will be talking about VBS which will be held next week (Aug. 18-20). If you would like to eat together, please arrive at 5 p.m. and we will go to Subway for dinner. See you at 5!!

Our next **beach trip** will be on Thursday, August 13 as originally scheduled. We will go to **Ocean City** Maryland again this time. The cost of the trip is \$20.00. We will depart from the church at 6 am and will return approximately 11 p.m. Please make a reservation for this trip with a deposit of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the trip cost (\$10.00) ASAP.

Please complete the reading for week 10 of the **Amazing Bible Race** (Numbers 21-34) for this Sunday, Aug. 16. We will work on the quizzes in Sunday School.

Our August **Children's Faith and Fun Day** is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Put it on your calendar now!! Invite a friend to join you!

For inquiring minds that want to know, plans are currently in the process of being made for a **canoe or canoe and camp trip** in September. Part of this activity will include some items for the Amazing Bible Race. As the details are worked out they will be announced here.

## ACCA Food Donations Still Needed

From Norm Hicks, ACCA President:

*I want to thank all of the churches, groups and individuals who have answered the call for increased food donations, particularly during our spring food drive.*

*The good news is that food donations are up; the bad news is that food requests continue to climb. As our food chair states, "as soon as the food comes in, the food goes out." Last week we delivered to 18 families. On Monday of this week, we made 8 deliveries in just one day.*

*I want to reinforce the need for continuing the effort for food contributions, even during the "summer doldrums" when everyone is focused on beach, pool and vacation. Please let your congregations know of our continuing need, both for food and for volunteers to deliver food.*

*Food donations and volunteers can be coordinated through Jean Rackowski: 703-914-8066. Thank you and God bless.*

## "Thank You" from Shepherd Center

*We certainly enjoyed our trip to the Washington National Cathedral! On behalf of the Shepherd's Center of Annandale Springfield we want to thank you for your generous response providing a bus for the trip last Tuesday. We also were particularly pleased with many special efforts our driver, Les, made to make the trip more interesting.*

*Your Church continues to express great support that helps our Shepherd's Center fulfill its senior citizens program. With much appreciation!*

*Lucylle and Bill Dubbert  
Shepherd's Center Annandale Springfield*

*With much regret, I will not be leading the Women's Bible Study Group which meets every Thursday from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Each member has been contacted by telephone and I am deeply grateful for their love, support and understanding. Love to ALL,*

*Norma Meadows*