

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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Youth Collecting School Supplies for Westlawn Elementary School

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. Items needed include:

Paper – wide-ruled
Pencils – #2
Pens – blue, black, red
Composition Notebooks
Scissors – safety
Rulers
Pencil sharpener
Elmer's Glue
Glue Sticks
Highlighters
Notebooks
Folders
Hand Sanitizer
Kleenex
Backpacks

These supplies are for children in Kindergarten through Grade Six.

From Ramona Davis ...

The dictionary defines 'family' as "...any group of persons closely related by blood ...," but in a time when there are a myriad of complexities for almost anything, I find that family in the traditional sense of the word, just doesn't do for me.

I have been honored with having the most wonderful 'family' any one person could have; you have sheltered me when I have needed it, welcomed me with open arms, and allowed me to be the best of who I am. Even as I say good-bye, you give me more love than I could ever ask for.

Thank you to the Personnel Committee for hosting my reception on Sunday, Wayne and Jerry for their wonderful love and support over the years, and every family member who has celebrated with me, supported me and made me feel family at its best.

I'm going to miss each and every one of you.

Hugs and Faerie Kisses,
Ramona Davis

Business Meeting on August 30

A business meeting has been called for Sunday, August 30, following the after-worship fellowship to hear and vote on a recommendation from the Building & Grounds Committee concerning replacing a boiler and increasing building insulation, and from the Finance Committee renewing the Day Care Contract as currently operative.

Unravelings...Wayne Yawn

I'm a gadget person. Recently I entered a dark office and the lights came on automatically. Magic! I was captivated with the light switch with the magic eye that made the lights function. I had to have one those for my master bath. Imagine the electric and personal energy saving when half asleep at night!

I installed one! I quickly learned that it had to be adjusted for sensitivity of the width of its "vision," for motion sensitivity to passing bodies, and the time to keep the lights on. I was not adept enough at setting the three sensors. I would set it and then it would not work consistently. I would be in the room with the lights on only to suddenly have the lights turn off and leave me in the dark. That can be a problem in the morning during the early morning when it is still dark outside! Well, I arrived home one day to have my son announce he had experienced a divine epiphany. He entered the room and could not get the motion switch to turn on the lights for him to take a shower. He decided to risk the darkness. While showering, the light suddenly, mysteriously came on. He told me he suddenly felt like God affirmed him saying that he counted! I exist! I am...meaning, I am in my birthday suit, without "accomplishments," and I am fine! He imagined that he felt affirmed and valued enough for the light to shine on him just as he was born. He and I laughed then and every time I think of what happened because of the magic switch.

But I think the message he and I heard from what happened, is as near the truth of God as truth can get! I may laugh at myself and my craziness with the switch and at the circumstances, but I know that we all can use an illuminating, an affirmation, from time to time, maybe especially, when we least expect it, affirming who we are and not just how we dress up with achievements of this world's success. I remember the 1960's popular phrase, "God didn't create any junk!" We all have gifts we are born with that are the "raw" material of our identity, our "I AM." Our "raw" material is our power to be used for holy or unholy purposes, for wholeness or settle for "less than." God urges us toward holiness (Leviticus 11:45). Jesus lived God's holiness using his "raw" identity material with agape type love. Following Jesus' process is what makes us holy, like God, and Christian! Living thusly encourages associates to live the same holy life with their "raw" materials. Why live thusly? Because living thusly, makes you feel that you count, as created, and then feel most fully alive when you use God's basic characteristic—agape-type love to invest your "raw" identity materials in relating with associates. Jesus called it being "the light of the world!" That isn't so complicated is it? It does take, as Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:15: "make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Meaning, we must stop more often, every day, and pray (meaning, listen to God carefully how to use our "raw" material in a given situation by agape and not use the normal worldly or evil ways of relating. Maybe being Christian isn't so complicated, just difficult!

Even gadgets that fail to perform become revelators of God. Even a bathroom can be a temple, if God's first temple (you and me), have eyes to see. Oh, well!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

August

- 19 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 1:00 p.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- 20 1:00 p.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- 21 Ramona Davis' Final Day as Secretary
- 23 8:30 p.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 24 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 26 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

Dr. Young's 20th Anniversary to Be Recognized on August 30

On September 1, 1989, Dr. Young began his ministry as Pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church, which since has consolidated with the First Baptist Church of Annandale to create The United Baptist Church.

On Sunday, August 30, the Personnel Committee will host the After-Worship Fellowship which will include a recognition of Dr. Young's twenty years of ministry among us. You are encouraged to plan on being present to share this significant milestone.

Following the reception, there will be a called business meeting as announced on the front page of this *The Vision*. Your presence and participation is important for both of these events.

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 are in need. We will collect supplies any time during the month of August and early September due to the late start date of school this year. Any school supplies will be helpful, but basic supplies are always needed. This year you might buy wide-ruled paper, pencils, rulers, composition notebooks, glue bottles and glue sticks. Schools are also requiring students to bring hand sanitizer and Kleenex as well in anticipation of a difficult flu season this year. Safety scissors, pens in blue, black and red ink are also needed, as well as crayons, colored pencils and markers. Many stores also carry lists of required supplies for students and those supplies will also be gratefully accepted. We will deliver the filled backpacks 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.

Please complete the reading for week 10 of the **Amazing Bible Race** (Numbers 21-34) for this Sunday, Aug. 23. We will work on the quizzes in Sunday School.

Our August **Children's Faith and Fun Day** is rescheduled for September 6th, due to many vacations that are scheduled at the end of August. Put the new date on your calendar and be ready for some fun!! Invite a friend to join you!

The final pool party of the year will take place on Sunday, September 13th, after church. We will go to Manassas, where we will spend one last day enjoying swim fun in the sun this summer. Do your homework early on this weekend so that you can really enjoy this day. See ya at the pool!!

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.

IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Staying Ahead of the Game with Safety Awareness

*presented by Columbia Baptist Church and NorthStar
Church Network Churches on Mission Group*

October 3, 9am – 12noon

**Columbia Baptist Church
103 W. Columbia St.
Falls Church, VA**

Rotating Exhibits
Emergency Preparedness
Avoiding Scams
... and more

Refreshments Available

NorthStar Church Network

Ministry Conference 2009

**Saturday, September 12
9am – 12noon**

**First Baptist Church of Alexandria
2932 King Street**

Workshops for teachers, deacons, pastors, and leaders of women's ministry, music and worship, missions groups, spiritual development, single adults, youth, children, preschoolers and more!!!

Special Round Table discussions for today's financial times and workshops on recruiting and valuing volunteers.

Paid Registration (\$20) due September 9

NOTICE: Renewals for *Religious Herald* subscriptions are due in early September. Watch next week's *The Vision* for details for renewing, subscribing, or canceling.