

# 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, Composition Notebooks  
black, red  
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.

## Welcome Vanessa ...

We want to welcome and introduce you to our new church secretary who began working on Monday, August 24. Her name is **Vanessa Giron**. She is a graduate of T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria and has been a receptionist/secretary in the legal field for the last nine years.

We are grateful and fortunate to have Sandy Godwin in the office this week to complete Vanessa's training. Her work will be different here than what she has been doing in the law field, so please be patient as she learns the "UBC way" – or shows us a better way. When you are in the building during office hours, be sure to stop by and introduce yourself so she can get to know us.

## 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.

## **PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young**

Occasionally, I preach a monologue sermon, done “in character.” I did that last Sunday morning and was once more reminded of the power of story. This time it was an anonymous “discipleship dropout” who followed Jesus but *turned back and no longer went about with him* (*John 6:66* – is that chapter and verse just a coincidence?). Since he is anonymous and the circumstances of both his decisions to initially follow Jesus and then to later fall by the wayside are unknown to us, I can be creative in imagining what he might have been like. I imagine he was a lot like me. So there is a lot of my story in the telling of his story. That many of you also identified with him means that there is also much of your story in his story. That is why story is so powerful for us. Why a narrative draws us in and makes us a part of the story line. Sometimes even against our wills. That’s why Jesus taught so often in parables, stories with which we can identify.

The Gospel itself is a story, a narrative. Taken from beginning to end, the Bible is a story of the creating God who invites his creatures into participating in a process of ongoing creative, redemptive activity. It is the story of how this God became known to an ancient people and how they experienced his presence through their journey. How they encounter that presence in the fire at Mount Sinai but lose it in the wilderness wanderings. How they alternate obedience with disobedience. How they make giant leaps forward, only to yield to fear and temptation. Ultimately it is the story of God in Jesus of Nazareth. And Jesus in those whom he left behind to carry on his work and to be his continuing presence in God’s ongoing creative, redemptive activity. And those of us who have come after them and, contemporary Christ-followers.

We might agree that we are to be Christ’s presence, but just how do we go about doing that? Many, it seems to me, think they can do that by demanding purity – of both themselves and others. I must confess that it seems to me that the “others” part gets most of the attention. Others seem to believe that they can be his presence intellectually, convincing others of the truth of their position by the power of their arguments. While I believe that both purity and intelligence have their places, I also believe the most powerful way we can be Christ’s presence is in and through our story. The narrative of our lives. Our journey as we share it with others. That means, of course, being open with others about who we are and what we are about. It means a willingness to become vulnerable and subject to being misunderstood. It means being willing to be human and honest about our struggles and failures as well as our insights. But that’s exactly who Jesus was and what he did. Shouldn’t we?

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### August

- 26 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’s Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 29 6:00 p.m. Choir’s “Christmas in August”
- 30 8:30 p.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:15 p.m. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition for Dr. Young
- 12:30 p.m. Called Business Meeting
- 31 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

### September

- 1 Dr. Yawn’s 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Dr. Young’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 2 8:45 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:00 a.m. Renovation Committee Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists’s Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions

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## **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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. 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. **More items are currently needed for this mission project. Please consider if you are able to help. Monetary donations will be accepted if you would like the youth to do the shopping for you. Please just note on your check that your donation is for "school supplies". Thank you.**

Our August **Children's Faith and Fun Day** will not be held due to many vacations that are scheduled at the end of August/ early September. However, we will have **Children's Faith and Fun Day** in September, so be ready for some fun!! Invite a friend to join you!

The **End-of-Summer pool party** for this year will take place on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. Bring your suit to church and I'll 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.

We completed another year of **VBS** last week. Although our VBS was a small group (which included 5 visitors for the entire VBS program), everyone who attended had a good time and most of the children learned their memory verses and learned how to **Explore and Discover God Everywhere** as they attended Camp E.D.G. E. Thanks go to our Youth—**Kaitlin Matindale, Erin Gallagher, James Sturges, Leigh Whitcraft and Emily Sturges** for their service as they took on major leadership roles this year. Thanks also go to **Bob Lawton, Ed & Shirley Maxwell, Sally Norris, Scott Jones, Billy**, and our Pastors, **Wayne Yawn and Jerry Young** for all of their work and support of this ministry.

## **IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

### **UBC Wednesday Night Activities Resume September 16**

September 16 is a MISSION NIGHT  
Dr. Jim Ailor, NOVA Field Strategist for  
the Baptist General Association of Virginia

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### **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**

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*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!!!

### **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 Friday, September 11.*** Many of you choose to save the church the money by paying for your own subscription, which is greatly appreciated. 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***.