

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."

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Issue 1

Consolidated Missions Offering Final Report

Since September, we have been receiving a Consolidated Missions Offering, which was to be divided evenly between four of our mission partners: the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, Baptist World Aid, the NorthStar Church Network Missions Offering, and the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. People also had the opportunity to divide their gifts as they chose, so that the final totals are as follows:

Alma Hunt Virginia Mission	\$807.75
World Hunger - Baptist World Aid	1,100.75
NorthStar Church Network Missions	685.75
CBF Global Missions Offering	985.75
TOTAL RECEIVED:	\$3,580.00

In addition, we received \$12.75 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention. All of your gifts have been forwarded to these respective mission partners.

If you would like to take the poinsettias you provided for our sanctuary during Advent, please get them by this Sunday. After that they will be disposed of. Thank you.

News of Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield

Adventures in Learning

Winter 2010 Class Schedule

February 3 – March 17

Wednesday Mornings, 9:30am - 12:30pm
at John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Open House/Registration

Wednesday, January 27, 10am - 12noon

Three New Series:

History/World Affairs

Writing Our Life Stories

Scientific Discoveries from Space

Lunch N' Life

Friday, February 12, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM: What Do One Billion Muslims
Really Think?**

**Presented by Barbara Ferguson,
Washington Bureau Chief of Arab News**
Registration Deadline: February 3

Chicago - A Live Musical

Friday, February 26, 8 p.m.

The Little Theater of Alexandria

Tickets: \$25.00

(Additional information about all these events are on
the bulletin board in News n Do's Hallway)

PONDERINGS ... Gerald L. Young

The future. Stretched out before us and given the name 2010, even though we are not sure how to pronounce it. Is it *two thousand and ten*? *Twenty-ten*? Regardless, we are all wondering what it holds for us. Especially after a year like the recently departed and unmourned 2009! I'm sure you remember ten years ago when we approached the year 2,000 with such fear and trembling. We were told by some that all sorts of horrible events awaited at the stroke of midnight. Y2K became shorthand for a plethora of pending catastrophes. None of those – or at least very few of those, and those minor – actually took place with the arrival of a “new year, decade, century, and millennium.” Now, ten years later, we are again hearing from those who are predicting doom and destruction in the near future. Not this year, but in 2012. Actually, they are even more specific than that. December 21, 2012. The winter solstice. Apocalypse. Fire from the skies! Earthquakes. Continents ripped apart. Mega tsunamis. The whole list from the disaster catalog has been ordered up for planet earth on that date. We know this because the Mayan calendar runs out on that date. That and Nostradamus surely somewhere has a prediction that can be made applicable.

Frankly, I wasn't very concerned about Y2K and I'm not very concerned about 12/21/12. What I am concerned about is the events that will come and will profoundly affect us all. Events that we cannot now foresee and for which are not prepared. September 11, 1991 for example. Or that the recently departed decade would be the worst decade for the stock market in history. That the whole world economy came closer to the brink than any of us probably know or would like to admit. It was a decade that witnessed genocide in Africa, starvation in many places, wars that echo hostilities as old as the Bible, and personal losses for all of us that have forever changed us. Stop for a moment to think what your world was like ten years ago and what it is like today.

And yet it was also a decade of firefighters rushing into buildings from which everyone else was fleeing, of the Hubble telescope giving us awesome pictures of the grandeur of the universe in which we live. It was a decade of births and renewed lives and medical advances. In short, it was a decade like every other. Some pain and disaster. Some joy and wonder. The same as the one we are about to enter. Reinhold Niebuhr, American pastor and theologian, has made a recent resurgence. One of his most famous prayers seems appropriate: God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference. So be it. Let us get on with changing what we can in 2010.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

January

- 6 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalist's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
NO Evening Activities
- 7 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 10 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:30 p.m. Church Leadership Council
- 11 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 13 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 p.m. Knit & Crochet Club (Parlor)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions (Twyla's Office)
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are several ways you can help the Hypothermia Prevention program this winter. A sheet with ways you can help is available on the table near the Mission Nook and outside the sanctuary. Pick one up and make a difference!

NEW YEAR ITEMS

Offering envelopes for 2010 were mailed last week. Some of you received yours prior to last Sunday, which was the first Sunday of 2010. Hopefully, everyone will have received a box of envelopes before this coming Sunday. If not – and if you have left over envelopes from 2009 – you may use any of those envelopes. You can also get a box at church Sunday morning by asking one of the pastors. You can also get additional boxes for other family members by simply requesting them.

Also, please remember not to file your 2009 federal or state income tax returns before receiving your 2009 Record of Contribution from the church. These records are being prepared and will be mailed shortly. The IRS requires that you have these records in your possession *before* filing your tax return if you are going to claim your contributions as deductions on your tax return. When you receive your Record of Contributions statement, please look it over carefully for accuracy and completeness. If there are any problems, please contact Vanessa Giron in the church office in order to resolve the issue and get a correct copy of your statement.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

There will be no **Youth Missions** on Jan. 6. We will resume meeting on Jan. 13.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Our Christmas Card delivery is completed for the Christmas season of 2009. All cards that were not able to be delivered in person, were mailed and should be delivered this week. Many thanks to everyone who participated in this mission activity by sending cards or supporting this activity with their donations.

As we continue this project in January, we will continue to accept donations of bath items and other personal items such as towels, socks, aspirin, shaving cream, umbrellas, washcloths, deodorant, pens, pencils, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, and combs that are needed at the shelter. You may continue to drop off items at Twyla's office or the mission nook. Please be watching *The Vision* for opportunities that the youth will be offering in the coming year to raise funds for 2010's mission projects.

Coming in February

Souper Bowl of Caring—As the youth do each year on Super Bowl Sunday, we will be collecting food for the ACCA food pantry and monetary donations which we donate each year to Westlawn Elementary School. Next week we will provide you with a list of items most needed at the food pantry. Because of the desperate need for food at ACCA due to rising demand, we would like to try to exceed our highest year of giving in the past which was 240 food items. If you start now and pick up 1-2 extra items each week, you will have 4-8 items to donate. If each of us does that, we could easily exceed our best year. It doesn't take too much from any one person, if we all pitch in. Thanks for your consideration.

Coming Youth Events

Ski Trip
Snow Tubing
Winter Retreat
Paintball
Lock-in

If you are interested in any details about any of these events, come on Wednesday night, Jan. 13.

Children's Church resumes this Sunday and our next **Kid's Club** will be Sunday, Jan. 31 after church.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event that inclement weather forces us to cancel Sunday services, we will change the message on the answering machine at the church so that you may call after 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning if you have any questions. If you get the normal message (no mention of services being canceled) it means that the services will be held as scheduled. If services are canceled or altered, there will be a message explaining the change. If we cancel a Wednesday evening or other events, we will make every effort to contact those we think would possibly be present, but we will also put a message on the answering machine. While your presence is always meaningful, the fact that we may be having worship services in inclement weather does **not** mean that *you* have to be here if it is not safe for you to do so. Please be wise – and safe!

Your Mission Support Team wants you to know about

GIVE TOGETHER

A Family Volunteer Day
presented by Volunteer Fairfax

January 18, 2010
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of
Service
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Dewberry Hall
(located within the Johnson Center on
the Fairfax Campus of George Mason
University)

Families from across the county will have the opportunity to come together and volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and the Orphan Foundation of America. Projects are appropriate for elementary school-aged children, but can be completed by younger children with adult supervision.

To register, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.