

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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CONSOLIDATED MISSION OFFERING BEING TAKEN

- Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions
- World Hunger through Baptist World Aid
- NorthStar Church Network Missions
- CBF Global Missions Offering

All money given to this Consolidated Missions Offering will be divided equally between these four mission causes. You will still be able to designate your offering to be divided some other way, but you will need to clearly mark that on the envelope. Envelopes for this offering have now been mailed and are available in the pew envelope racks.

NorthStar Church Network is our Consolidated Mission Offering emphasis for November. NorthStar is our local network of churches in the Northern Virginia area. Their primary offices are located in our building. The stated purpose of the NorthStar Church Network is *equipping member churches to maximize their mission, ministry capabilities and potential*. As NorthStar Executive Director says, "You (NorthStar churches) are our mission."

CHURCH-WIDE THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Can you believe it is only 3 Sundays until our annual Thanksgiving dinner? It's time to start planning. Everyone is invited to share a Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 22 at 12:15 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. The church will provide Turkey with Stuffing and Gravy, Ham, and Beverage.

Each single individual should bring one menu item; a family is asked to provide two menu items:

- Potatoes (white or sweet, casserole or plain)*
- Vegetables
- Salad (including cranberries)
- Dessert

(*We need 2-3 people to bring a crock-pot of mashed potatoes (about 5 pounds per pot).

Help is needed for the following tasks:

1. Set up on Saturday, November 2 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Set up beverages and accept food at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, November 22.
3. Serving & assisting with meal.
4. Clean-up after meal.
5. Dishwashing.

Contact Gerry Sue Young if you will help
Reservations are not required, but are requested.
Sign up sheets in Sunday morning bulletins.

Unravelings...J. Wayne Yawn

Something happened to those earliest Jesus' followers that changed their lives from insignificant nobodies to focused, purposeful, fearless people to which other people were drawn. What was it? I think it was what they had experienced relating with Jesus for three years. But what could that mean, practically? I think it means this. Jesus chose ordinary, powerless, even in some instances (Matthew) hated people. The thing I think they had in common is the same thing each of us has in common. They all had gifts with which they were born. Gifts mean interest or tendencies that even as children we find play-ways to use. You've seen children do that and probably projected how they might grow up to use those gifts. ("He'll/she'll argue with a gatepost—going to be a lawyer or politician.")

Another word for gift is power—a desire to do things and leave one's "mark." I think Jesus had those gifts. He was a carpenter before a teacher. A carpenter figures out how to put things together that help people. I imagine Jesus, pondering ordinary life and the existing oppressive social order, asking if this is the best way to put life together or is there a better way? As a devout synagogue kid, he might ask, "Is this the way God intended life to be?" He concluded that there was a better way. That way was not for people to attend synagogue every week or travel to Temple once each year to placate or please God hoping for God to fix things. The way was for people to apply the powers God gave them at birth not to dominate and oppress one another to put life together, but to serve others, like God's true nature. I think he concluded people were God's temple everywhere they lived. They did no need to placate God to get God to fix things. God was already present, starting with the gifts God had placed inside them. But Jesus added one more step in the process of how God was with them. God was the servant type love by which they should use their gifts instead of the dominant oppressive type means that was making a mess of society. This thinking shifted from a "me" to an "us" priority. God was not a dominator, but a distributor of powers and server of humanity to enhance humans and make peace through people treating one another with justice and mercy. The language he spoke called this way of applying powers "hesed" (covenant love—intention driven love) and "his Greek speaking friends called it "agape" (servant love—intention driven, not emotion driven).

Yes, I think this is what the earliest followers experienced (more than just the principles of love) in their relationship with Jesus. I think it was this that began to dawn on them that they continued to experience between one another and with those they applied their gifts with servant love beyond their little band. And the amazing thing for them, I believe, was that they continued to feel more complete, more fully alive, even more "abundantly alive" as Jesus had said was his purpose with them (John 10:10). They continued to experience God, "as in Jesus" (as our church Mission Statement expresses our purpose.) They experienced Jesus as not dead, but still alive, in their experience with one another and with those they lived out Jesus' gifts with agape love. It's so simple, yet so costly to give up old ways. Identify your gifts! Find tasks (paid or volunteer) and apply those gifts with God's agape servant love. You hear us talk about being the "church on the streets." I think this is how! There is nothing that makes me feel more fulfilled and fully alive! Jesus, you were right!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

November

- 4 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study: John 11:32-44
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 5 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 8 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)
- 12:30 p.m. **Church Leadership Council**
- 9 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Veterans Day)
- 9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry
- 10:30 a.m. Instrumentalist's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Missions
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study
- 7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

ACCA CHALLENGE GRANT

The Washington Forrest Foundation has challenged ACCA to raise \$17,500, and two anonymous donors have added \$7,500.00 to the Foundation's challenge – making our 2009-2010 Challenge Grant a total of \$25,000. To maintain ACCA's level of response to requests for assistance from our neighbors, our goal is to raise \$5.00 for each \$1.00 of challenge. The Challenge Grant campaign started on October 1 and ends on January 31, 2010. We need everyone's help to reach our goal.

Donations for the Challenge Grant may be sent to ACCA, Inc. at 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. On the check's memo line, note "Challenge Grant." Help ACCA continue to provide a safety net for our needy neighbors in this time of economic recession.

Youth News...Twyla Turner

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their kind words of support and encouragement on the 5th anniversary of my service on staff at United. I have learned so much and I believe and hope that I have grown in my ministry and my faith during this time. Many of you continue to mentor me as you did when I was growing up and I thank you for that also. You all, **the church** that meets at The United Baptist building, have been a wonderful blessing in my life. Thank you for your love and care. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in ministry with you. I look forward to continuing to serve on this journey with you as we seek to follow God's direction.

Youth Missions will meet on Wednesday night, Nov. 4. We will meet at the Youth office at 6:15 p.m. We will be working in the library and on decorating new chrismons for our Sanctuary Christmas tree. There will be NO Youth Missions on Nov. 11, while Twyla is attending training. We will meet again on Nov. 18 for Youth Missions to work on our Thanksgiving mission project. Call or email Twyla by Wednesday, at noon, if you need a ride. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

This Sunday in **Youth Sunday School** we will work on the fast forward and weekly challenge of week one of leg 2 of the Amazing Bible Race. Read the book of **Joshua** in the Bible this week to be up to date with your reading. If you were not present last week, you will also receive the first and second quiz of Leg 2 on Sunday morning. Leg 1 of our journey through the Bible (The Law) is completed. We now start on History. This will be an exciting adventure as we start on this new leg of our Bible study. The race is on—join us!

Our next Kid's Club event will be on Nov. 15 after church. Put it on your calendar so you can join in the fun. All of the details will be right here next week!!

Major Fall Student Ministry Events---

Mark these events on your calendar now so that you can participate:

2. November 14—Youth Paintball
4. November 15—Children's Faith & Fun Day (Kid's Club)
6. November 24—Thanksgiving Mission Project
8. November 27-28—Youth Lock-in/Deck the Worship Hall
10. December 12—Youth Paintball
12. Dec. 13—Kid's Club Christmas Event
14. Dec. Christmas Mission Project
16. Dec. 20—Youth Christmas Event

You can Help...

On Sunday morning, November 8, Jill Sturges, a nurse in our congregation, who is working on her advanced degree, will ask for our help with a project related to her degree work. Jill will explain briefly on Sunday morning during the announcement period prior to worship how we can help. Jill's degree project is related to our Parish Nursing Ministry. Our participation is critical to her completing her degree. Then, on Sunday, November 15, Jill will make a longer (different) presentation related to her project during the Sunday School Assembly announcement period. Please make every effort to be present during these two times, to support Jill in her studies and as she seeks to use her special gift as a nurse to serve God in our church and community. You will likely find her project will help you and your family personally.

MISSION NIGHT CANCELLED FOR NOVEMBER 4TH

The Missions Support Team, meeting last Sunday, decided to cancel the November Mission Night scheduled for November 4th due to the recognition that many of our folks who usually attend Wednesday evening programs are out of town due to the Myrtle Beach Senior Adult trip. They made the judgement that having Reverend Stephen Welch, who had been invited representing the NorthStar Network of Baptist Church, the November Mission Emphasis, would not give him a large enough audience to be beneficial.

Dr. Yawn will lead the group in the usual discussion, including questions and answers session of last Sunday's Sermon text: John 11:32-44, the death of Lazarus.

PLAN AHEAD!

Mark your calendar to attend the next Church Concert scheduled by Phil Carpenter. Sunday, November 29, 6 p.m. in the main sanctuary. It will feature vocalist Isora Heckel, pianist Charles Potter and a yet to be named string instrumentalist. Save this time for letting these talented musicians serve you. Invite friends and family to share this experience with you. Thank you for giving yourself a gift of music.