

# 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."

**TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:      \$2,572.00**

## 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 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 21 at 12:30 p.m.  
(*Note change of time*)
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.*

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

Sometimes the road is easy. Sometimes it's not. That is true in a literal sense as anyone who has done any highway driving recently can attest. So we have signs along the roads to alert us to what is ahead. Sometimes, however, those signs cause more confusion than awareness. As we were returning from Myrtle Beach last weekend, we came to a place where the road narrowed from three lanes to two lanes. Side by side were two road signs. One said, *Right Lane Ends Ahead*. The other sign said, *Stay in Your Lanes*. Fortunately, I was in the center lane at the time. I can only conclude from the signs that those in the right lane were ... well, they were stuck in a pickle because they had to stay in a lane that was about to end.

There are times when that seems to also describe the circumstances of my life – stuck in a lane and that lane is about to end. Ever feel that way? I know some people feel that way every day. People for whom life is heavy and burdensome and painful, and for whom there seems to be no way out. I feel for those people because their pain must be terrible. But that's not my circumstance. I'm basically an optimistic person who is blessed in many ways. But sometimes the lane I'm in comes to an end and it seems I'm doomed to that dead end. Right now I find myself in that dead-end lane in many ways. I'm sure I'll get over it. I always have. But right now it's rather depressing.

I've heard people talk about God having a plan for every life. They talk as though there were some great blueprint room in heaven with the plans for the life of every individual on file there. If you knew the phone number, you could just call, identify yourself, and ask what you were supposed to be doing on a given day at a given time. Some angelic bureaucrat would enter your name and up would come the "plan for your life." That doesn't seem to me to be the way life works. I think God invites us to journey with him. To enter with him into the creative process of Kingdom-building. To be surprised by the experiences along the way and to share both those experiences and our reactions to them with the Creator and with others who journey with us. So today, if you've tuned in to this space to get some answers, you've come to the wrong place. Today I've got questions. Today I'm feeling trapped in a lane that I cannot escape but a lane which is about to come to an abrupt end. Sorry if this isn't what you were looking for today. Here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to ignore the command to stay in my lane. I don't know where I'm headed, but it's to another lane. This is all part of the journey, the pilgrimage by which we are being shaped into the image of Christ. Oh, by the way, there is the blueprint for your life. Look like Jesus. Develop his attitudes and behaviors. Walk the way with him and with others. It's not always easy, but it is always a great adventure.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

Worship Service – 10:55 a.m.

### **November**

- 11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
9:00 a.m. Sandwich Ministry  
10:30 a.m. Instrumentalists's Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
3:30 p.m. Knit & Crochet Club (Parlor)  
5:45 p.m. Begin Serving Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Discipleship Study  
7:35 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Conference Room)  
2:30 p.m. Mended Hearts Ministry
- 14 9:00 a.m. Youth Paintball
- 15 8:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Conference Room)  
12:30 p.m. UBC Foundation Board Mtg.  
1:00 p.m. Children's Faith & Fun Day
- 16 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 17-18 BGAV Annual Meeting, Fredericksburg
- 18 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

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## **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.

**You can help Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop top tabs from soda and beer cans, placing them in a baggie, and bringing them to church for collection.**

## Youth News...Twyla Turner

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 complete the quizzes for week 1 & 2 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 have not been present to complete the fast forward and weekly challenges thus far completed, contact Twyla for info on how to complete those tasks to help out the team. We now start on the books of History. This will be an exciting adventure as we start on this new leg of our Bible study. The race is on—join us!

If you are interested going to play paintball on Saturday, November 14, please contact Twyla directly for details. We will not be going to Skyline, but will be trying another field that is a little closer to home. There are new forms that you will have to have completed for this course.

Make plans to attend our church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 23 following the worship service,

Remember our annual Thanksgiving weekend lock-in. Traditionally, we lock-in on Friday night and help to "Deck the Worship Hall" on Saturday for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This year we will be unveiling some new chrismons that we have made throughout the year to replace some of the older chrismons that have begun to break and fall apart. Put this date on your calendar so that you can join in the fun of decorating for this special time of the year.

Our next Kid's Club event will be on Nov. 30 after church. Put it on your calendar so you can join in the fun. All of the details will be right here next week!!

Christmas Card delivery is coming. Watch here for details soon.

A Holiday in NYC!! After Christmas. Watch here for details.

### Major Fall Student Ministry Events---

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

November 14-Youth Paintball

November 24—Thanksgiving Mission Project

November 27-28--Youth Lock-in/Deck the Worship Hall

November 30—Children's Faith & Fun Day (Kid's Club)

Dec. 12—Youth Paintball

Dec. 13—Kid's Club Christmas Event

Dec. Christmas Mission Project

Dec. 20—Youth Christmas Event

After Dec. 25—a day in NYC!!

## You can Help...

Last Sunday, Jill Sturges, a nurse in our congregation who is working on her advanced degree, asked for our help with a project related to her degree work. Jill's degree project is related to our Parish Nursing Ministry. Our participation is critical to her completing her degree. This 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 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.

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## ***UBC CONCERT SERIES*** **Sunday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.** **UBC Sanctuary**

### **Isora Heckel**

(accompanied by Charles Potter and a yet-to-be-named instrumentalist)

Ms. Heckel, a long-time friend of Phil Carpenter, has shared her gifts with us as a member of the choir for cantatas and as a soloist in worship services. She has always been a blessing. Now we can show her our appreciation by supporting her in this concert – and be blessed once again.

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## **Northern Virginia Chorale** **(which includes our own Phil Carpenter)**

### ***HOLIDAY CONCERT: "REJOICE!"***

## **Saturday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.** **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

Advance ticket purchases are at a discount and can be purchased from Phil Carpenter at 703-867-0856 of [pfcarpent@yahoo.com](mailto:pfcarpent@yahoo.com).