

WRITING

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



THE VISION ISSUE!

The Vision. The Vision!

The Vision..???

Some Christians want one; Others think they've had one... What is IT?

A **Vision** from the Lord...!

As a body of believers we get excited, nervous and if we are honest, some of us get a bit confused when the conversation shifts to a 'Vision from God'. "What does it mean?", "Is it meant for me?", "What should I do about it?" "I've never had one, have I???"

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines Vision as 'The ability to see'. From Wikipedia we find the definition of Vision as 'Something seen in a dream, trance or ecstasy, especially a supernatural appearance that conveys revelation'.

As the Church, it is essential that we recognize that our understanding in all things must begin and end with the Word of God. Scripture tells us: *"Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being."* Matthew 16:17 NLT

As we seek God for direction and understanding we will become confident in the **TRUTH** of His Word and our spiritual eyes will be opened to His plan.

What can we achieve when we begin to walk in that place of God's provision; pressing toward the place the Lord has shown us?

"By my power I will make my people strong, and by my authority they will go wherever they wish. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Zechariah 10:12 NLT

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Imagine your life three years from now. If it is the same as it is right now, are you okay with that? If the answer is "No"! What are you doing to change your life?

A few months ago, Pastor Hailey preached a sermon taken from *Habakkuk 2: 1-4 (KJV)* "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will **watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.** 2 **And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.** 3 **For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.** 4 **Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."**

I am standing in agreement with our Pastor to say it IS the appointed time. The first edition of this newsletter is an introduction of what is to come and where we are headed as a Church Family.

In the "What Am I Building Section?" you will find a call to action that aligns with our Church Mission. This month's call to action is, Evangelism. We are challenging every member of UBC to memorize the Roman's Road. We have included all related scriptural references for your convenience. I wonder who will be the first person to share this with me?

In this issue you will also find "Campaign Statistics" and a "Looking Forward" section. This section is not focused on a running total of how much money we have raised. Rather, this section is to celebrate the members of our Church Family who have shown commitment to the Campaign and provide you with a preview of what is to come.

So what does 2017 look like? I sat down with Pastor Hailey to get a glimpse of the vision God has given him. After reading this issue, let me know what you think about the initial edition and your thoughts about the Campaign. You might just see your comments in the "Heard It from the Pew" section. We hope you enjoy the newsletter as much as we enjoyed birthing it. We are excited about what the Lord is doing, so get ready.... **Jevata**



IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Editor

Featured Article

Capital Campaign Stats

What are you Building?

Heard it From the Pew

Statistics

- 150 Members completed Pledge Cards
- Pledges represent 10% of target
- 65% of Members who pledged have made an initial contribution

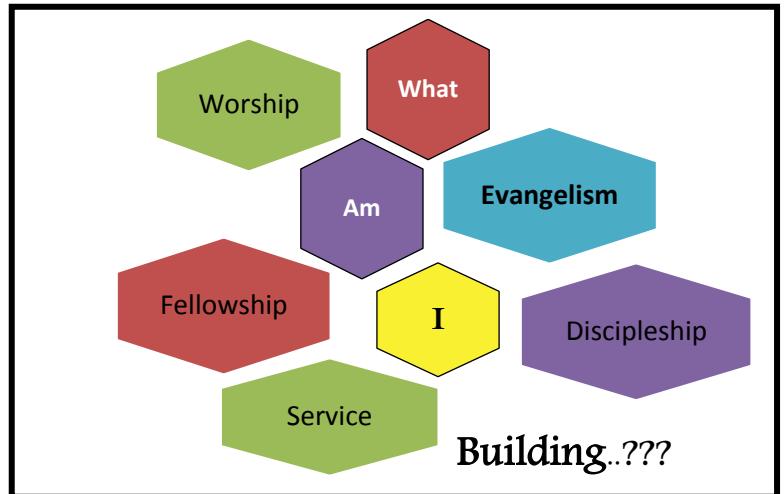
Looking Forward

The campaign is scheduled to run for the next 36 months, also known as 3 years.

Where do **you** want to be in 3 years? Debt Free? Married? Retired?

Whatever vision the Lord has given you, your Church Family is here to support your spiritual growth.

You can expect to learn from the **Ministry Spotlight** what they are doing and **Youth** will keep you in the know.



The Building Section

As Christians, our responsibility is to take the Gospel to everyone, everywhere. We must share in the **BUILDING** of God's Kingdom. You think you don't know how? The **WAY** is in the **WORD!**

The **Romans Road** lays out the plan of salvation through a series of Bible verses from the book of Romans. When arranged in order, these verses form an easy, systematic way of explaining the message of salvation.

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

1. Everyone is a sinner and is separated from God.

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

2. God loved us all so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins.

Romans 5:8 "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

3. Death means separation forever from God. Eternal life comes by trusting Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

4. In order to begin your new life in Christ (be saved), you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and declare that you accept Him as Savior.

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

5. This is God's promise to you – If you accept Jesus, He will accept you.

Romans 10:13 "For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

If you believe that the Romans Road leads to the path of truth and you would like to accept Jesus now, pray the following prayer:

Dear God, I know I have sinned and I want to ask for your forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I now accept your offer of eternal life. I will follow Jesus as my savior and try to obey Him in all that I do. Thank you for my new life. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen!



With Comments from Pastor Hailey



Rev. Benjamin T. Hailey, Sr.

If I believed that God can do all that he promised, what would that look like for me???

Over the past few months I have spent time with Pastor Hailey, Leaders of the Church and Vision Committee Members; I have taken a 'Voice of the Church' congregational survey trying to better understand our faith level and the Vision the Lord has given to our Pastor.

As a congregation, we are encouraged to look to the Pastor and Church Elders to provide scriptural references and resources to answer our questions and concerns as we increase our faith. Increasing faith means understanding what God expects of us and being prepared to take action to bring the vision to reality. I spoke with Pastor Hailey to obtain background on how we arrived at a \$3.8 Million Faith Raising Campaign and in what manner we are called to minister in a way that is not typical.

The story begins with Pastor remembering how God's hand has moved in his life. He recalls being at a conference with Pastor Melton and being pulled aside for what he thought would be a brief conversation; a conversation that turned into an interview.

Pastor Melton told Rev. Hailey that God had shown his face as the next Pastor of Union Baptist Church. Now whether or not you believe God gives people prophecy is not at question. Our proof that God's will has been fulfilled at Union Baptist Church is that Benjamin T. Hailey, Sr. **has been our Pastor since the year 2003!**

Fast forward to 2013, I wanted to know what has been happening over the last 10 years. Pastor Hailey recalls that in 2003 we averaged about 2 people in attendance for Bible Study. This number has grown steadily over the last 10 years. What changed? Pastor stated, "We have been laying the groundwork for a Ministry that understands God, the Bible and Divine Purpose. This journey is in preparation so Union can become a "non-typical church."

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During our talk, Pastor mentioned two books: 'The Purpose Driven Church' and 'The Church on Purpose'. If you are like me, you have not read either of these books. Pastor has offered to supply 'The Church on Purpose' to a group of members, because he remembers finding a copy of this book in his desk left by Pastor Melton. He recalls how the book impacted his life. I want to read what Pastor is reading, if you would like to join me let me know.

Pastor reflects, "Pastoring a church is not a 2 or 3 year commitment." It takes time to implement ministries with direct community outreach. Community outreach is Evangelism.

There are two Chapters in the Book of Matthew that Pastor referenced during our discussion: Matthew 22 and 28. I encourage you to read the entire chapters as the mission of the Church is contained in these verses. When Pastor spoke about Matt 28: 18-20 he said this is the easiest commandment; *Go ye therefore...* I disagreed, Evangelism is hard. "What should I say, who do I say it to?" Refer to the '**What Am I Building**' section of this newsletter for an easy how to.

The people of God have always been major contributors in building God's Kingdom. So not catering to naysayers and not understanding what success looks like is typical; *Faith is evidence of things not seen*. So let today be the day we start on the path of a church run non-profit or the first day of our track record for ministering to the community, or the day we believe we deserve and need more space, additional staffing, greater resources and adequate parking to grow as a body of believers. Holistic ministry is set-up to create the environment to increase God's Kingdom.

The definition of typical is *conforming to a standard*. At the end of our discussion I wanted to know 'Who is Pastor Hailey?' I have found him to be a family man who has dedicated his life to ministry and uplifting God's People. As he sits and watches the sport of choice the Bible is not far away. In my opinion, a very non typical Man; *But a typical Man of God*.

"FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT!"

HEARD IT FROM THE PEW

One thing we know for certain, everyone has an opinion! In preparation for this issue the questions asked were all about '**Vision**'. Take a look at some of the answers, they just might surprise you!

Question: What does Vision mean to you? : "Being able to see what's down the road. You need to be able to see past your present circumstances. You need to see where you need to be, where you can be and where you want to be."

Question: What do you think about the Vision for UBC? : "Well, Pastor says we're going to build a church. He got the vision from God. So I guess we're going to build a church!"

Question: How do you feel about the Campaign? : "I believe we can accomplish the vision that Pastor has for His flock if everyone gets on board. However, it's a possibility that everyone won't (because there are always naysayers), but as long as two or more are gathered, the LORD is in the midst. So with that said, whoever is on board, it will come to pass. We just have to believe and don't focus on what we see but WHO we know. Also, Pastor has to be honest with the flock concerning where the money is going and for what purpose the money is being spent? People want to know where their hard earned money is going, and we have that right to know."



SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

The Purpose of the Church is to Worship God (*Luke 4:8; John 4:23; Rev. 4:10*), **Study His Word** (*2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:6*), **Pray** (*Acts 2:42*), **Love One Another** (*John 13:35; Phil. 1:1-4*), **Help Each Other** (*Gal. 6:2*), **Partake of Baptism and the Lord's Supper** (*Luke 22:19-20*), **To Learn How to Live as Godly People** (*Titus 2:11-12*), and to **Be Equipped to Evangelize to the World** (*Eph. 4:12; Matt. 28:18-20*).

The Union Baptist Church seeks to be a "Church on Purpose" by providing holistic ministry to the total person; spirit, soul and body.

Our church offers many opportunities for us to minister to each other and our surrounding community, but if we are not aware of the opportunities to serve, we will never fully engage in service through ministry.

In future editions, the 'Spotlight on Ministry' section of our newsletter will be dedicated to promote one of our existing ministries.

We are challenged to inform the readers as to the objectives, challenges and victories of ministry as we let the love of Jesus shine through service to others.

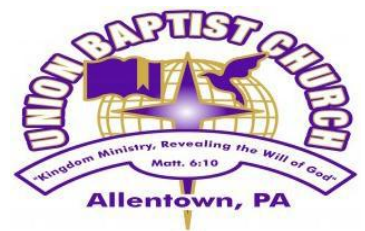
The Vision Committee is Inviting all members to join us as we read: **The Church on Purpose: Keys to Effective Church Leadership** by Joe Ellis.

Pastor recommends this book as foundational as we increase God's presence in the Lehigh Valley.

We care about what you think!

Share your thoughts with the Vision Ministry.

Email us at atavej@yahoo.com



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