

WRITING

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



THE FAITHFUL

VISION



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you everyone for your feedback on the first edition of Writing the Vision.

I was naïve in thinking the second edition would be easier to pull together. I now realize nothing is simple during the creation process.

With this edition we are introducing new contributors; let me know what you think. We receive sage advice from Deaconess Linda Robinson, a lesson on vision from MIT Knoxley Samms and the youth are speaking through Dominique Connor. I feel it is important that we have a place to communicate what's going on.

I have faith that God is leading Union Baptist Church to (you can fill in the blank)

LIFE is a GIFT, I accept it.

Life is an adventure, I date it.

Life is a MYSTERY, I'm unfolding it.

Life is a puzzle, I'm SOLVING it.

Life is a GAME, I play it.

Life can be a struggle, I'm facing it.

Life is beauty, I praise it.

Life is an opportunity, I took it.

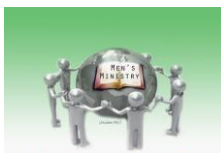
Life is my mission, I'm fulfilling it.

Blessed,

Jevata



SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY



Service/Help/Intercession Fellowship Teaching

Men's Fellowship

I had a unique opportunity to attend a Men's Fellowship Meeting. I was not in the wrong place I was actually invited, well I invited myself. I wanted to know what was going on Thursday Nights in the Fellowship Hall of Union Baptist Church. I have heard the Men of Union talk about the brotherhood they have with other Men of the Church. I wanted to know more, and I am sure I am not the only one.

As I sat at the table with about 20 Men of Union Baptist Church, I had a notebook full of questions, and I started with the obvious. Tell me what Men's Fellowship is. The answers did not waver much from the mission. Each of the different men told a different part of the mission. After each response I became keenly aware that the Men of Union Baptist Church understand why they show up every week. It is about brotherhood. It is about studying God's word so they can be better fathers, brothers, and husbands. They want to get better, and they realized God's word is the path.

I then asked what you would share with the Women of Union Baptist Church. They said, "We are trying and we will get better. Continue to support us as we grow in God's word."

I then told them that the theme of this edition of the newsletter is Faith. I had no idea that their current study topic is Fundamentals of Faith. Many of the Men took turns sharing what they were learning. I even left with a copy of the study guide.

Every Man comes with his tools. The tools are his Bible, his notebook and his homework completed.

I encourage all the Men to reach out to Deacon Palmer to get more information on how you too can get involved. I am honored to be able to share a glimpse into what the Men's Ministry is accomplishing, and I look forward to being a witness for where God is leading them.

*The Men's Fellowship meets every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 pm under the leadership of Deacon Larry Neal and Deacon Ronnie Palmer.
All Men are welcome!*



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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

There are **five** essential elements to a successful capital campaign: God, Case, Leadership, Prospects, and the Plan.

Our Pastor has provided us with the direction (case) from the Lord that says it is time for Union Baptist Church to move.

The definition of movement is to change location or position. As a member of the Church body you are encouraged to participate in the change.

Update on the Progress:

Over **100** members have made commitments to the Capital Campaign

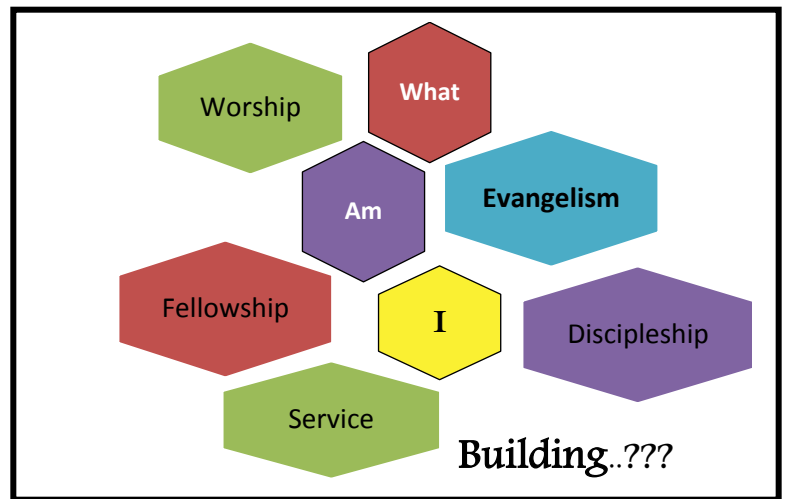
Over **75** members have made at least 1 contribution to the Capital Campaign

Over **\$40,000** has been donated for the uplifting of God's Kingdom

As Pastor has said, "The focus is not on the **when** but being aligned with God's Will."



WHAT AM I BUILDING?



"Roll your works upon the Lord, commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and so shall your plans be established and succeed."
 (Proverbs 16:3) AMP

So, you say, "I believe that the Vision for UBC is in alignment with the will of God. But what can I do? Where do I start? What am I building?"

To build anything for the Kingdom of God we must first commit our plan to the will of God; and then we must take the first step... Stepping out

on Faith and trusting that God's Will be done! Where does my first step land? I must first **BUILD** the foundation!

Goals are the building blocks that turn visions into reality. They are like a road map, leading you to your destination. And **S.M.A.R.T. Goals** will get you there faster!

During a recent UBC Leadership training each Ministry Leader was guided on how to use this methodology. We encourage you to pray about how you can incorporate **S.M.A.R.T. Goals** into your life.

What are Smart Goals?

S.M.A.R.T. is an acronym for the 5 steps of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based goals. It's a simple tool used to go beyond the realm of fuzzy goal-setting into an actionable plan for results.

Specific: Consider who, what, when where, why and how when developing the goal. Great goals are well-defined and focused. The moment you focus on a goal, your goal becomes a magnet, pulling you and your resources toward it.

Measurable: Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set. When you measure your progress, you stay on track, reach your target dates, and experience the exhilaration of achievement that spurs you on to continue the effort required to reach your goals.

Attainable: Dream big and aim for the stars, but keep one foot firmly based in reality. While an attainable goal may stretch you in order to achieve it, the goal is not extreme. The goal is neither out of reach nor below standard performance, as these may be considered meaningless. When you identify goals that are most important to you, you begin to figure out ways you can make them come true.

Relevant: Achievable goals are based on the current conditions and realities of the overall objective. Relevant goals (when met) drive the team, department, and organization forward. A goal that supports or is in alignment with other goals would be considered a relevant goal.

Time-Based: Goals and objectives just don't get done when there's no time frame tied to the goal-setting process. Whatever your goal, choose a time-frame to accomplish it.

Are you ready to build your foundation?



MIT Knoxley Samms



FEATURED ARTICLE

Vision is essential for something as grand the church. God works through and uses anyone. Union Baptist Church would not exist if it were not for visionary leaders and pastors.

I've compiled a few thoughts on vision – a somewhat amorphous subject. I am sure you have some ideas of your own I look forward to the discussion.

Vision does not happen without leaders. Vision is about people. A leader's vision enables a group of people to organize for common purposes and future goals. Vision helps rally people towards something tangible. Vision unifies – revealing how people link into something bigger than themselves.

Vision excites people about taking risks. It leads people into uncharted waters, compelling them to take a chance on the uncertain. Having the realization that failures produce more opportunities to learn and move towards the next exciting place.

A clear vision is believing, supporting, and acting in complete unity with a singular focus and purpose.

Vision is grounded in absolutes. Vision embraces and welcomes dissenting views, but never to the point of detriment for the common purpose and future goal.

Vision has a hook. Casting vision means having a big hook. An exciting vision gets people asking, "What's next? What's the encore? Where are we going from here?"

I have seen the importance of a strong vision. There are many different ways you can Biblically "do" church. There are many different ways you can "Biblically" structure a church. We have freedom in our forms and structure to accomplish God's plan for the church. Until a church has a crystal clear view of what God has called them to be, and how God has called them to function, they will function in frustration and discouragement. A clear vision is more than just having and articulating a mission or vision statement. A clear vision is believing, supporting, and acting in complete unity with a singular focus and purpose. Most churches never get to a clear vision, with ministries competing for time and resources and people competing to push their plan and agenda for church.

By educating the congregation on God's call through the Scripture, prayer, patience and encouragement a clear vision can consume our church.

Knoxley Samms, Minister in Training

HEARD IT FROM THE PEW

One thing we know for certain, everyone has an opinion! We are all talking about where we are headed as a Church. Here is what I heard:

- We are here to strengthen each other...
- Ministry is to help us to be better Christians, so when we are blessed we have to bless someone else...
- Keep it biblically sound, this is important for any Ministry...

Mother of Pearl Wants You to

Take a "Little Sip"



Offer a cup of kindness, to someone hurting today
offer them a sip of grace; tell them things will be okay.

Offer a cup of compassion, to someone who needs a lift
offer them a sip of love; share with them your gift.

Offer a cup of gentleness, to someone who is down
offer them a sip of mercy, it will take away their frown.

Offer a copy of helpfulness, to someone who lives alone
offer them a sip of hope; show them your eternal home

Offer a cup of forgiveness, to those who have hurt you
offer them a sip of peace, you'll please God if you do.

Offer a cup of kindness, to someone you meet today
offer them a sip of joy; they're yours to give away!

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***Galatians 5:22-23***

*King James Version*

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

## Youth Corner

A poem... Written by a member of our  
Youth Ministry

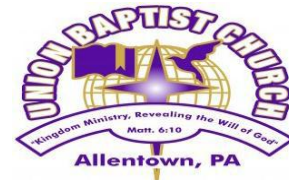


"Swimming in a sea of forgetfulness where  
people come and go but the world never stops  
flowing..."

So you're hurt and your pain is just a spec out of  
1 million and the only person who can see  
through the broken glass, torn flesh and head  
pounding trauma is God."

**Share your thoughts with the  
Vision Ministry.**

Email us at [atavej@yahoo.com](mailto:atavej@yahoo.com)



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