

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 11, 2016

11:00 am

Sermon:

“Reconnect: Reconnect With Christ”

Rev. Gary Dalton

Scripture:

John 21:15-25

Anthems:

This is the Day That the Lord

Has Made — arr. Hayes

Secure — Courtney

Jubilate

Deacons: *Ed Smith, Barry Wilson, Debby & Larry Johnson, Jack Averill, Pam Johnson

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Erin Brown, Jennifer Wagoner

Children's Church: Peachie Mays, Taraneh Brown

Ushers for September: Shirley Clark, Sally Chewning, Martha Wood, Jack Wilkerson, Joyce Martin

Greeters: Brett & Kate Lissenden

Medical On-call: Sally Chewning

The Word

September 6, 2016

Vol. 68, No. 35

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

A Bridge Across



We'll take our time as we need and want, we'll linger only to see what we can see, then we'll move along to the other end of the Bridge, to meet whomever the next Senior Minister should be.

Someone once quipped to me, “*Throwing more water in the pond don't help the fish know much about life up on the bank.*” Pithy, and a bit rough grammatically, but the essential thought applies to this Congregational Conversation we're near to beginning. Without pressing the metaphor too far, consider the fish-in-the-pond observation.

Just to remind us, on September 18 we begin a five-week congregational discernment process of how University Baptist Church's membership statement might apply to openly gay persons, and what steps, if any, to take now or later or not at all, in clearing up that question. Details are elsewhere in *The Word*.)

Back to us ‘fish in the pond,’ we who are mystified or perplexed or appalled about what we hear of life up on the bank.

Until only three years ago in my 61 years

of Baptist and Christian life, I have swum in the same pond the vast majority of you also have swum in and in which you and I continue to swim. We cannot, and do not care to, imagine any other way of being.

To state it plainly: Overwhelmingly, we Baptist Christians are heterosexual in our sexual identity and affections. That's always been our understanding of ourselves and our assumption about each other, not that we cared really to talk much about our own or anybody else's sexuality in church. Those few among us who found themselves not of these waters, kept it to themselves, and quite wisely, too, considering the consequential penalties which could have been brought against them.

The punitive consequences are now mostly gone, and we ‘fish in the pond’ are grappling with a kind of life seemingly far removed from our own experience and assumptions. Perhaps what is most unguessed at for us is that the lives of gay men and women may actually be not all that far removed from our own. Of those similarities we may know little to nothing.

So, I suggested that the Openness Task Force invite some openly gay Baptist Christians to visit UBC and share their testimonies with us. These are men and women, all married, some with children, young adult, middle aged, and retired, all of whom I met in 2013. I got to know them over the next twenty-two months as Interim Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Richmond. A retired woman of the very same waters in which we've always swum, a life-long member of GBC, will describe Grace Baptist Church's experience of choosing to include openly gay persons in their membership and leadership.

These Baptist lay persons are not scholars of the Bible nor of medicine nor of sociology. We're turning to other sources for that expertise. But these folks do have expertise about their own lives as gays and lesbians, growing up in church and coming to terms with their same-sex attraction, even as they were coming to faith in Jesus.

Whatever your views about gay believers, I invite you to attend the September 18 breakfast and to hear their testimonies. Meeting them and listening to their stories does not imply your consent nor endorsement of them. It means simply that you'll have their testimonies to add to what will follow in the weeks of Bible study and further conversation for UBC.

Your Senior Minister in the Interim,
~ Gary

Re-Connect

- with Christ
- with Community
- with Confidence

Sunday, Sept. 11, 11:00 am

Sunday, Sept. 18, 11:00 am

Sunday, Sept. 25, 11:00 am



We hope to see YOU there!



Openness Task Force Congregational Book Study and Discussions

Copies of *Changing Our Mind* by David Gushee are now available.

The church will provide a copy for every household. Audio CD's are also available at no cost. Each book will contain an envelope for your convenience should you want to reimburse part or all of the book price of \$13.00. However, no reimbursement is necessary. You may also purchase a Kindle version at Amazon.com.

Sunday, September 18, 8:45 am: Church-wide Breakfast

9:15 am: Congregational Conversation

Sundays, September 25, October 2, October 9, 9:45 am: Individual Sunday

Bible Study Class Discussions

Wednesday, October 5, 6:15 pm: “Psychology Behind Sexual Orientation”

— Professor Charlotte Patterson

Sunday, October 16, 9:15 am: Church-wide Congregational Conversation

Wednesday, October 19, 6:15 pm: Church-wide Conversation, for members who could not attend the October 16 session

Sunday, October 23: Called Church Conference to vote on next steps

For further reading

Bibliography of additional resources — <http://universitybaptist.org/bibliography>

(In the Conference Room [Rm. 114] there are copies of some of the books as well as a binder of all of the articles.)

New and relevant articles will continue to be added, so check often.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Happy Birthday!

Thank You

Thank you for all that you did during Dad's illness: cards, calls, expressions of support, thoughts and prayers. We especially value the stories/memories of times with Dad and Mom and what they meant to UBC. Thank you all for the wonderful time of celebration of Dad's life and the expressions of support for us in this time of 'readjustment' in our lives. We appreciate all you did the day of Dad's funeral: support from ministers, beautiful music, pall bearers, lunch for us, and a wonderful reception following the service. You truly made that day a celebration of Dad and his life.

— Family of Jim Garrison, Sr.

Monday Bible Study at Rosewood

The Monday Adult Bible Study will resume meeting on Monday, September 12, at 10:30 am at Rosewood Village on Greenbrier Drive. All adults are welcome to attend this weekly Bible study. Communion is served every second Monday.

PBJ Women's Bible Study

(Prayer, Bible study, Joyful Fellowship)
Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 am
beginning September 14
5-week study of the Lord's Prayer

Contact Lynn Martin if you are interested.
(434-977-8090 or Lmartinx2@comcast.net)

Wednesday, September 14

5:00 pm Supper: Baked pasta, Garlic bread, Salad, Dessert

6:15 pm Program: "Oh, By the Way, Speaking of Jesus": Not. On. Your. Life! — Gary Dalton

40-Hour Immigration Law Training October 10-14

Manassas Baptist Church

Sponsored by World Relief and the Baptist General Association of Virginia

The course will touch on all areas of immigration law, focusing on topics most relevant to those serving and representing low-income immigrants.

More info and registration: <http://worldrelief40houroctober.eventzilla.net>



Sunday Bible Study Class

Cavs 4 Christ

9:30 am during the school year
Chris Owens, Leader Room 115

This is a non-denominational discussion Bible-based study featuring the teachings of Dr. John Stott and others in the International Evangelical Movement. Dr. Stott was an English cleric in the Anglican tradition from the latter part of last century. We will explore the premise espoused by Protestant minister Martyn Lloyd-Jones in the 1960's that "true Christian fellowship requires evangelical views on central topics..." We will seek God's leadership in dealing with young adult life in a safe and non-judgmental setting.

The group is focused on the issues confronting student life at UVA, but we gladly welcome all regardless of age, education, or church affiliation.

Study materials and reference copies of the New International Version of the Bible are provided. Coffee and pastries will be served.

UBC Ray & Gladys Lang Memorial Golf Event

Sunday, September 25
3:00 pm

Meadowcreek — \$20

9 holes, Captain's Choice, Cart

Putt Putt — \$5

All you can play!

Contact Larry Johnson
to register. LAJohnson1950@gmail.com



Pray for our Deacons as they attend a weekend spiritual retreat.

WEDNESDAY, September 7

- 5:00 Supper (Meatloaf)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children's Activities
- 6:15 Interim Touch-ups: On the Firing Line With the Ministers
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, September 8

- 9:30 Parent's Morning Out
- 10:30 Women's Prayer Group

SUNDAY, September 11

- 9:00 Fellowship
- 9:30 Seekers Bible Study
- Joyful Servants Bible Study
- 9:45 Bible Study
- 11:00 Worship
- 12:00 Student Luncheon
- 12:00 Senior Minister Search Comm.
- 6:00 Real Life — Youth

MONDAY, September 12

- 10:30 Bible Study at Rosewood
- 1:00 Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, September 13

- 9:00 UBC Work Team
- 9:00 Painting Group
- 12:00 Annie Armstrong Circle Meeting
- 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 14

- 5:00 Supper (Baked pasta)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children's Activities
- 6:15 "Oh, By the Way, Speaking of Jesus": Not. On. Your. Life! — Gary Dalton
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:10 Video Series

