

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

September 25, 2016
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Reconnect:
Connect With Confidence”
Rev. Gary Dalton

Scripture:

Romans 8:15-23

Anthem:

Let the Whole Creation Cry
— John Ferguson

Deacons: *Lynda Tweel, Bill Jesser, Brad Groff, David Hendon, Peter Ohlms, Raynell Stokes

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Suzanne Smith, Laura Faye & Carter Groff

Children's Church: Brent Wilson, Carter Groff

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

Greeters: Bill & Barbara Murray

Medical On-call: Clara Belle Wheeler

Re-Connect

- with Christ
Sunday, Sept. 11, 11:00 am
- with Community
Sunday, Sept. 18, 11:00 am

✦ with Confidence
Sunday, Sept. 25, 11:00 am



The Word

September 20, 2016

Vol. 68, No. 37

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.

Thank you, University Baptist Church, for your generous support of this past Sunday's breakfast and conversation with our guests from Grace Baptist Church! You showed up in far greater numbers than we anticipated. Your questions and comments were thoughtful and on-point. You helped our Grace Baptist attendees feel welcome and heard as they shared their experiences as Christian believers who are gay or lesbian.

This is a difficult conversation for you, isn't it? Me, too. How could it not be? Sexuality in general is difficult for us to discuss. So, I'd like to remind us of a less-than-obvious truth: we share lots of the same reasons for possible upset in this conversation about membership of openly gay persons, *even if we disagree on the conclusion to which this five-week conversation should lead us.*

We're in a boat crossing a pond, we passengers, holding forth in a rational discourse, dialogue, and parley of particulars, often unaware we're relying on the same waters to float our boat. (Whew! Almost lost myself in that extended metaphor — you doing okay?)

When all goes well, sexuality is love embodied and a wonderment of God's grace: love, romance, intimacy, fidelity, life-long, and enduring. What could be finer? Except when it doesn't go well. If we're fortunate, the hard lessons of love and sexuality are the emotional

equivalents of scraped knees and elbows, the stubbed toe, the goose-egg on the noggin. I am still chagrined over absolutely mortifying memories of dating fails and blunders.

When we go beyond the mere unfortunate and enter the territory of terrible consequences, when sexuality is turned into emotional and physical abuse, we may spend a lifetime unraveling the knots and hiding the scars. Sexuality's abuses haunt far more men and women than we'll ever recognize. Our popular culture does not help. It sensationalizes on the one hand and desensitizes on the other.

We need and seek a healthy spiritual grounding other than the shifting sands our culture offers us. We, and I include myself, build a wall of “no's” in efforts to protect ourselves and our children for the one “yes.” (This insightful contrast of “many no's/one yes” is one I've recently come across in other sources. So to be clear, it's not mine.) Better grounded in “no,” we are justifiably reserved in broadening the field of “yes.”

This is why I say, *even if we disagree on the conclusion to which this conversation should lead University Baptist Church, most of us bring to church nearly identical sets of “no's” and “yeses” on matters of sexuality.*

continued on page 2



During September we acknowledge as a church family the special contributions of

Thomas Hill,

a very dedicated staff person
who is celebrating his

34th Anniversary at UBC.

Thank you, Thomas!



Openness Task Force Congregational Book Study and Discussions

Sundays, September 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 9 at 9:45 am: Individual Sunday Bible Study Class Discussions of David Gushee's book, *Changing Our Mind*; Will Brown will lead a discussion of the book in Room 114 (Conference Room/Library) for those not in a Bible Study Class

Wednesday, October 5, 6:15 pm: “Psychology of Sexual Orientation” — Professor Charlotte Patterson

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

Wednesday, October 19, 6:15 pm: Church-wide Conversation

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

For further reading

Bibliography of additional resources — <http://universitybaptist.org/bibliography> (In Room 114, the Conference Room/Library, there are copies of some of the books as well as a binder of all of the articles.) The following samples from the bibliography provide varying viewpoints on the LGBT issue.

- “I'm an evangelical minister. I now support the LGBT community - and the church should too” <http://goo.gl/1qyfqK>
(A summary of David Gushee's stance, published in the Washington Post)
- “Review: Changing Our Mind” <http://goo.gl/1JhWLC>
(Written by one of David Gushee's former colleagues, this is a broadly point-by-point rebuttal of Gushee's argument.)
- “The Gay Debate: The Bible and Homosexuality” <http://goo.gl/CTUuyj>
(A summary of Matthew Vines' position regarding the biblical questions around sexuality, video and transcript)
- “God and the Gay Christian? A Response to Matthew Vines” <http://goo.gl/sn3hd1> (A critical review of Matthew Vines' work; a free e-book, available to download). Multiple copies of this 96-page book are available in Room 114.

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



A Bridge Across continued

Our comparable experiences of love and sexuality recommend that we listen for common themes in our discussion, that we not tell another person his/her feelings are wrong or bad though we disagree in reason, and that we be compassionate with one another. Heaven knows we bear enough wounds from life that we don't need to add wounds to our Christian sisters and brothers as we talk this topic through to whatever conclusion may come.

More showing up than staying away, more listening than telling, more testifying than arguing, more love always; these are our gifts for each other in this present moment in UBC's life.

Your Senior Minister in the Interim,
~ Gary

Don't Let This Be You!



We tow cars which appear to be illegally parked in our lots. **UBC decals are free to members and can be obtained by calling the church office at 293-5106.**

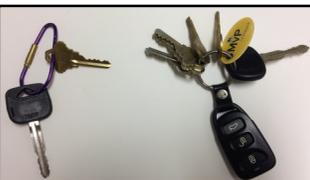
NOTE! Beginning October 1, 2016, Collier's Towing Service will check our lots

after 4:30 pm on Wednesdays and after 7:30 am on Sundays and **TOW all cars** (owner's expense) that do not have a UBC parking decal or are not registered in the Church Office.

No decal? Get one free!
New license plate? Register it in the office!

YOURS?

Check in the Church Office.



Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, PrayerGrams, and calls during my recent illness. It is a true blessing to have such a wonderful church family!

— Cindy Bryant

Wednesday, September 28

5:00 pm Supper: Baked ham, Mac & cheese, Peas

6:15 pm Program: "Oh, By the Way, Speaking of Jesus": People Come Pre-Faithed.

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. LJohnson1950@gmail.com

Child Safety Seat Check

Friday, September 23
9 am - Noon



UBC Front Parking Lot

Child Passenger Seat Technicians from UVA Children's Hospital, the Thomas Jefferson Health District, and the Virginia Department of Health will check the child safety seat.

Please bring: Car owner's manual
Car seat manual

WEDNESDAY, September 21

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Oven-fried chicken)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:15 "Oh, By the Way, Speaking of Jesus": Evangelism as Spiritual Guidance — Gary Dalton
- 6:00 Children's Activities
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:10 Video Series

THURSDAY, September 22

- 9:30 Pre-K Play Group
- 10:30 Women's Prayer Group

SUNDAY, September 25

- 9:00 Fellowship
- 9:30 Seekers Class Bible Study
- 9:30 Joyful Servants Bible Study
- 9:45 Bible Study
- 11:00 Worship
- 6:00 Real Life
- 6:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, September 26

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

TUESDAY, September 27

- 9:00 UBC Work Team
- 9:00 Painting Group
- 12:00 WMU Executive Council Mtg.
- 6:30 Prayer Shawl Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 28

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Baked ham)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children's Activities
- 6:15 "Oh, By the Way, Speaking of Jesus": People Come Pre-Faithed — Gary Dalton
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:10 Video Series



Faithin3D
Conference
At Epcot Center
January 13-16

Deposit of \$75 due by October 1

Pray for Our Openness Task Force as they lead us in the Congregational Conversations in September and October.