The Word

September 27, 2016 Vol. 68, No. 38

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 2, 2016
11:00 am

Sermon:
"Xena, Warrior Princess"

Scripture:
Judges 4:4-10, 12-16

Anthem:
Come to the Table — Pote

Deacons: *John Buchanan, Alan Hendricks, Carolyn Lowry, David Hendon, David Wagoner, Debra Bryant, Lynda Tweel, Jimmy Li, Shirley Clark
Nursery Workers: Aimee Marshall, Diane Woerner, Chandler Proffitt, Ewing Minor
Children's Church: Sarah Buchanan, Javaneh Brown
Ushers for October: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker, Melvin & Mildred Spicer, Hugh Ames, Ron Tweel
Medical On-call: Lynne Gardner

Dr. Charlotte Patterson, Guest Speaker
Wed., October 5
6:15 pm
Fellowship Hall

Charlotte J. Patterson is a professor in the Department of Psychology and in the Center for Children, Families, and the Law, and is director of the interdisciplinary program Women, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS) at the University of Virginia. Her research focuses on the psychology of sexual orientation, with an emphasis on sexual orientation, human development, and family lives. In the context of her research, Patterson has worked with children, adolescents, couples, and families; she is best known for her studies of child development in the context of lesbian- and gay-parented families.

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.

We've just completed Sunday #2 in UBC's five-week Congregational Conversation on whether to receive openly gay persons into formal church membership. What weighs on me in all this is that we could lose church members either during the course of this discernment process or as a result of its outcome. That's my topic for this week: will we — must we — inevitably trade out current friends in our fellowship whom we know and love for some possible future friends we might take in?

How should I counsel you who feel strongly that if your fellow UBCer's say "yes" or say "no" to openly gay members, then you must leave to find another place of worship? What grief that possibility must be bringing into your hearts during these weeks, as with all of us who would dread such a loss of some of our church family.

Please note that "no" or "yes" are not your only options. As the Deacon letter of June 29 detailed, you will have two other options as well: "postpone this conversation until we call the next permanent Senior Minister," or "drop this topic entirely." The Deacons' Openness Task Force will begin publicizing the specific wording of these four motions on Sunday, October 9. That will be two weeks before the Called Church Conference to be held after morning worship on Sunday, October 23.

To those who feel you soon must leave because the congregation will be out of step with your own convictions, I offer this guidance: you must weight your convictions. Which ones carry the most weight? Which conviction or set of convictions tips the balance in your decision to stay or to go?

As we do on questions of whether to ordain women and divorced persons, whether we insist on believer's baptism alone or also accept those who later affirmed their infant baptisms, whether we insist on the inerrancy of the Bible or allow a different reckoning of Scripture, whether we drink alcoholic beverages or fastidiously abstain, so must we weight our convictions on this membership matter now before us.

In the New Testament era, the questions of conviction were whether to worship on Sunday or on the Jewish Sabbath, whether to eat meat which might have been sacrificed in pagan worship before being sold in the market or to refuse any meat with a whiff of suspicion, whether Christian Jews should fellowship with Christian non-Jews, whether to abstain from marriage so to more fully serve the Lord or to seek marriage, whether women might speak in worship or must remain silent. Please don't dismiss or minimize these First-century Christian convictions! Differences over these matters disrupted congregations and at times provoked physical violence.

The Apostle Paul wrote extensively on these questions of conscience and practice affecting the early churches. He himself weighted his own convictions so he might find fellowship with the greatest number of believers, as he describes in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and Romans, chapters 14-15. Acts 21:17-26 shows Paul accommodating himself to the Christian Jews in Jerusalem so he might avoid offending their sensibilities. Again, don't take those convictions lightly; despite Paul's genuine efforts in Jerusalem, rumors of his violating Jewish practice led to his near-murder in the street (Acts 21:30-31).

If I may offer particular counsel with you at this time, please don't hesitate to contact me. For all of you in our fellowship, I value you, I respect and honor your conscience, and I encourage your patience and forbearance.

Your Senior Minister in the Interim,
~ Gary

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. **A discussion guide with chapter summaries and discussion questions for the book is available on the UBC website at** universitybaptist.org/discussionguide**.**

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 Congregational Conversation
Sunday, October 23, 12:15, Fellowship Hall: 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/sn3hdI (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.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Concerns

Sally Chewning — At Home
Jim Sivley — At Home

Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Ronda Wiley and her family at the death of her father, Ronald Wiley, on September 17.

The family and friends of Cornelia Gibson at her death on September 20.

Ron Tweel and his family at the death of his mother, Sally Tweel, on September 21.

Thank You

I am grateful to my church family for your many expressions of sympathy following the death of my Mom. It is comforting to know that so many people care during this time of sadness.

— Lynn Martin

Wednesday, October 5

5:00 pm Supper: Chicken pot pie with biscuit topping & mixed vegetables, Salad

6:15 pm Program:
"The Psychology of Sexual Orientation"
— Dr. Charlotte Patterson

Pray for people in war-torn countries around the world. Pray for those working to bring them relief.

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.**

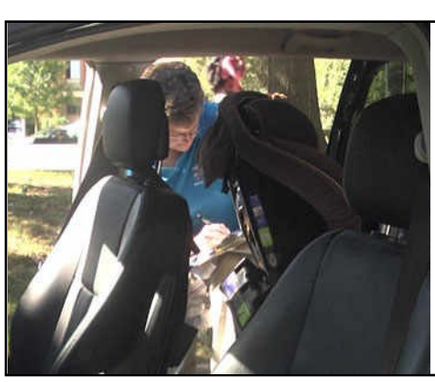
NOTE! Beginning October 1, 2016, Collier's Towing Service will check our parking lots (when activities are scheduled at the church)

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!

Attention Youth!

Faithin3D Conference
At Epcot Center
January 13-16
Deposit of $75 due by October 1.



On Friday morning, September 23, UBC hosted a free car seat safety check in the church parking lot. Child Passenger Safety Technicians from UVA Children's Hospital were on hand to help parents and caretakers know how to make sure their little ones are safely buckled up. The trained technicians inspected 14 car seats and found that 10 of them were improperly installed or needed some type of adjustment. One car seat had expired.

WEDNESDAY, September 28

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

THURSDAY, September 29

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

SUNDAY, October 2

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

MONDAY, October 3

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

TUESDAY, October 4

9:00 UBC Work Team
9:00 Painting Group
7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle Mtg.

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YOURS?

Check in the Church Office.