

The Word

February 14, 2017

Vol. 69, No. 7

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 19, 2017
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Uncommon Sense”
Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt

Scripture:

Matthew 5:38-48

Anthem:

The Gift of Love — Hopson

Deacons: *Johnny Ellen, Diane Mundell, Donna Marshall, Nelda Vaughan, Peter Ohlms, Raynell Stokes

Nursery Workers: Karen Minor, Jen Bates, Catherine Cooper

Children’s Church: Katherine & Joey Hamel

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

Greeters: Jim & Pam Hallissy

Medical On-call: Lu Overbeck

The Senior Minister Search Committee is posting regular updates on the UBC website. These can be accessed here:
<http://universitybaptist.org/pastorsearch>

Church Conference Wednesday, February 15 6:15 pm Fellowship Hall

Agenda:

- Committee Reports
- Affiliation Task Force Report — *concerning membership and proposed By-laws changes*

For I Was a Stranger...

Evening Worship Service
Sunday, February 19, at 7:00 pm



Image Credit: The Refugee Art Project

Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Betty Hall, who died February 8.

Faith & Justice

Congregational Conversation

The Faith and Justice Committee is hosting a Congregational Conversation on Sunday, February 26, in Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Donna Hopkins Britt to Preach February 19



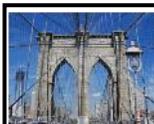
Our guest preacher on Sunday, February 19, will be Donna Hopkins Britt. She will be with us as part of our annual participation in the Martha Stearns Marshall Preaching Emphasis sponsored by Baptist Women in Ministry.

Rev. Britt was raised in Virginia Baptist churches and is a graduate of James Madison University and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. She was ordained as Associate Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church of Roanoke in 1995, and then became Senior Minister there in 2000. She retired from the pastorate in 2014 and now teaches

child abuse prevention through Children’s Trust.

Donna is married, with a son (14) and a daughter (12), and two Labrador retrievers. She and her family attended University Baptist Church in the late 1960’s.

We welcome Donna Hopkins Britt to the pulpit this Sunday.



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.

Schemes and conspiracies are wonderful fodder for entertainment, but they wreak havoc in congregations. Even the whiff of such deviousness begins cutting into the delicately woven patterns of trust that make church possible.

While serving as an Associate Pastor in my first posting out of seminary, a couple began asserting that I was orchestrating a finely crafted plan to usurp their lay ministry in our church. I was incredulous when that word finally made its way to me! To begin with, I was not nearly so clever as they seemed to think I was; it was a weird kind of compliment, I suppose, to be thought of as such a mastermind.

Through open committee discussions in which this couple had participated over a period of months, lay leaders had agreed to modify how things got done in the committee’s ministry. These committee changes happened despite the couple’s misgivings. I must have been manipulating people, they concluded. Nope. Didn’t really happen that way; no secret conversations were held outside of the committee’s regular meetings.

In a later pastorate, though, I really did encounter a case of congregational skullduggery. The congregation had voted to remain in its old, downtown location and to modestly renovate the building. Two established leaders strongly opposed the decision, so they secretly sought out a buyer for our building. After nailing down an offer, they would quietly lobby other church leaders to sign-on to their plan before going public in a church business meeting. Now, *that*, my friends, is *scheming*!

The potential buyer soon realized he was about to be sucked into a church brouhaha of which he wanted no part. He alerted me to what the two men were up to, and I convinced them to quit their attempts to circumvent the congregation’s decision.

Interim ministry always encounters genuine misgivings among members for their church’s welfare. We travel together over uncertain waters...how could we not be perplexed and anxious? The Israelites were the only people for whom God parted the waters so the folks could walk the distance on dry ground. For the rest of us, it’s the old metaphor again: We’re building a bridge across the waters from one shore to the other.

Your elected leaders—your Deacons, your Church Council, your Senior Minister Search Committee, your Leadership Transition Team—and your ministry staff are offering their best, above-board efforts for UBC. They have no other agenda in their minds and hearts than to assist UBC to be the Gospel-people whom the Lord calls us to be, now and in the years ahead.

Please don’t let misgivings steep and stew into mistrust. Please don’t disparage motives in anyone as did that couple whom I described earlier, and please don’t accept that someone is trying “to take your church out from under you” the way those two men actually tried to do.

Speak with your elected leaders and with us, your church staff. We’ll do our best to address your questions or concerns. Honestly!

Your Senior Minister in the Interim,
~ Gary

Youth Auction Fundraiser Wednesday, February 22 at 6:15 pm

Tables
Lamps
Dishes
Sofas
Chairs
Rugs
Antiques
Tools
Decorative items
Etc.



Donations are still being accepted. Items are being collected in the Youth Room (305). Contact Sarah Wilson for more information (swilson@universitybaptist.org).

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Shopping for food, changing sheets, laundry, finding a belt, washing pots, coloring, changing sheets, McDonald's cards, sticking to the rules, changing sheets, giving a hug, listening to stories, searching for backpacks, changing sheets, sewing on buttons, fixing dinner, MILK, and always being kind equals
PACEM 2017 at UBC

Thank You

Thank you for once again hosting PACEM's men's shelter in our 13th winter of helping people who are homeless in our area. We want you to know how truly blessed this community is to have congregations like yours to help in our mission to provide shelter for our neighbors in need. We greatly appreciate your willingness to prepare and serve dinner, to work with partner congregations, and for all the showers, movies, TV, games, reading materials, cards, coloring books, donations, desserts, and hospitality you provided for the guests in a warm, welcoming, and compassionate environment each night. The Super Bowl party was a lot of fun, too.

Thank you for hosting PACEM's men's shelter again this winter, for the hands of all your volunteers, the graciousness of opening your doors, and your willingness to work with other congregations in our community to address the immediate needs of our neighbors.

We look forward to hearing how PACEM has enriched the lives of your congregation. It has eased the burdens of so many people in need. Thank you.
 — PACEM

Thank You

Thank you to all the amazing people at UBC who volunteered their time, made donations, shopped, cooked, served, talked, listened, cleaned, and prayed for our PACEM ministry. Together we spent approximately 992 hours over the previous two weeks showing some of Charlottesville's homeless men God's love through acts of kindness, small and large. This ministry is a huge undertaking, and it would not be possible without help from all of you.

— Laura, Jennifer, & Katherine

**And Thank You,
 Laura, Katherine, and Jennifer!**



WEDNESDAY, February 15

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Country style steak)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:15 Church Conference
- 6:15 Children's Activities
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, February 16

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

SUNDAY, February 19

- 8:30 Finance Committee Meeting
- 9:00 Genesis Choir
- 9:00 Fellowship
- 9:30 Seekers Bible Study
- 9:30 Joyful Servants Bible Study
- 9:45 Bible Study
- 11:00 Worship
- 12:00 Bereavement Team Meeting
- 6:00 Real Life, Jubilate Rehearsal
- 7:00 Evening Worship Service

MONDAY, February 20

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



TUESDAY, February 21

- 9:00 UBC Work Team
- 9:00 Painting Group
- 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, February 22

- 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Turkey)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:15 Auction Fundraiser
- 6:15 Children's Activities
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Youth/Jubilate Supper February 19
 Debby & Larry Johnson

Wednesday, February 22
5:00 Supper: Turkey and stuffing
6:15 Program: Auction Fundraiser

\$10 UBC T-Shirts For Sale \$10
Child's Small to Adult 3X
In the Church Office



One of our guests left a thank you note.

