

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

October 16, 2016
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Is God Alone God Enough?”
Rev. Gary Dalton

Scripture:

Genesis 22:1-14

Anthem:

The Summons — Bell

Deacons: *Johnny Ellen, Alice Batten, Bill Jesser, Brett Lissenden, Ray Gaines, Shirley Clark

Nursery Workers: Aimee Marshall, Suzanne Smith, Emily Morris

Children’s Church: Pam Hallissy, Taraneh Brown

Ushers for October: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker, Melvin & Mildred Spicer, Hugh Ames, Ron Tweel

Greeter: Betty Barker

Medical On-call: Sallie Chewning

The Word

October 11, 2016

Vol. 68, No. 40

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.

An aspect of Impressionistic painting I enjoy is to stand, gaze, and watch the artist’s registration of light emerge. What the artist portrayed as brightest in the painting becomes bright to me. Hues initially hidden on my first viewing begin to separate and become distinguishable as the artist saw and recorded the shades and varieties of color. I’m discovering this similar experience in hearing your impressions of our current conversation about membership of openly gay persons.

One message some of your comments are now registering with me concerns trust. I would state what I’m hearing this way: “Why won’t the Openness Task Force host someone to express the traditionalist view as well as views supporting membership of openly gay persons? *Why aren’t you trusting me* to weigh the differing views for myself and form my own opinion?”

If I’m accurately registering your impression as a question of trust, then I appreciate how this five-week process offends your sensibilities of fair-play. I assure you this is not the Task Force’s view of the congregation nor its intention. (The Task Force members reading this column, as you are now reading it, are probably incredulous anyone might think that of them, or that I would suggest this question of trust... What?!)

The Task Force, with my encouragement, recognized that our congregation has not heard openly gay Christians speak to us about their experiences. And, to my knowledge, while no preacher in UBC’s pulpit has ever voiced an anti-gay message — not even close! — neither has any preacher argued for alternative readings of the

Scriptures typically used to exclude openly gay Christians. This omission recommended that these few weeks allow us time to hear those experiences and readings supporting full inclusion.

You can trust the Task Force’s best intention even if you’ve experienced it as an intention that’s missed the mark. In this case, you might consider Option Three on the publicized ballot: information is incomplete, the discussion is incomplete, it should continue after the church calls its next Senior Minister.

The second message some of your reactions are impressing on me is that you’re bewildered by the whole exercise. UBC has never asked anyone about their sexual orientation, so why start now? Our standard for welcoming a new member or electing a member to church service is a person’s demonstration of Christian experience and fidelity to Christ. Whether a man or woman is gay or straight is between them and the Lord. What we need to know is how they are living out their calling to follow Christ.

If this is your response, then you might consider either the first option or the fourth option on the ballot. Option One states more precisely what UBC means by “any person” when we say, “Any person may present himself or herself as a candidate for membership in this church.” (UBC By-Laws, Art. II.1) Or, if you believe this whole conversation is unnecessary or even unwise, you might go with Option Four that says, “Drop it — discussion is not needed!”

What about Option Two? Option Two may be for you if you find yourself responding something along these lines: “I cannot in good conscience accept an openly gay person into full rights and responsibilities of church membership.” You intend no malice or harm to anyone; you fully affirm the gay person and the straight person are equal recipients of God’s love; but, you believe the Bible is clear in teaching that gay persons who act out their same-sex attraction are sinning, and you believe the church would be affirming people actively sinning. Option Two offers you a way to vote your conscience on this question.

Thank you for presenting your views, allowing me to listen until I can begin to appreciate what you’re experiencing through these weeks. Please consider how one of the four publicized options may best sum it up for you, and choose that option at the Called Church Conference on Sunday, October 23.

Your Senior Minister in the Interim,
— Gary

Openness Task Force Congregational Conversations

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

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

Called Church Conference to vote on next steps

Sunday, October 23, 12:15, Fellowship Hall (Light refreshments will be served.)

Click [here](#) to see a copy the Ballot with Preamble and Instructions.

Copies are available at the church.

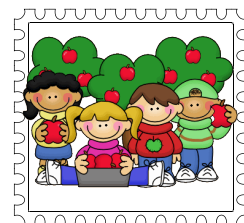


Copies of *Changing Our Mind* by David Gushee are available. A discussion guide with chapter summaries and discussion questions for the book is available on the UBC website at universitybaptist.org/discussionguide.

A bibliography of additional resources is available at <http://universitybaptist.org/bibliography>. The bibliography, copies of some of the books, and a binder of all of the articles are in Room 114 (the Conference Room/Library).

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank You

Thank you for allowing me to spend time each week ‘playing on the computer’ and ‘putting a puzzle together’ — otherwise known as writing the UBC newsletter. I have been enjoying doing this for the past 15 years and look forward to continuing my job as Editor-in-Chief of The Word.

— *Lynn Martin*

**Preschool & Children
Apple Picking**

**At Carter Mountain Orchard
Friday, October 14, 4:30 pm**

We will meet at the orchard.

Contact Will Brown for more information.

Mission Opportunities

Missions Fair

Wednesday, November 9, 6:15 pm
in Fellowship Hall

WMU Collections for Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW) of greeting cards, stamps, stationery, and toiletry kits are due November 13. (More details to come.)

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due mid November. Plan to fill a shoebox and make a difference in a child’s life. Go to [Samaritan’s Purse](#) for a list of items for the shoeboxes.

Christmas Dinner in a Bag will be due mid December. (More details to come.)

Wednesday, October 19

5:00 pm Supper: Chili (meat & vegetarian), Cornbread, Salad

6:15 pm Program:

Congregational Conversation

**Alma Hunt State
Missions Offering**

During October we are supporting the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions. The goal is \$3,000.

This offering supports ministries in and missionaries from Virginia. A portion of the money goes back to the local associations. Since the CVBA (Central Virginia Baptist Association) supports the chaplain ministry, that means our contributions will be supporting the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women.

CVBA Fall Meeting

(Central Virginia Baptist Association)

**Sunday, October 23, 3:00 pm
at Belmont Baptist Church**

Program:

Belmont’s “Loads of Love”
and CVBA Clothing Center
(There will be tours of each project.)

BGAV Annual Meeting

(Baptist General Association of VA)

**at Bonsack Baptist Church
in Roanoke
November 14-16**

Register now:

<http://meeting.bgav.org/register/>

Pray for the people of North Carolina who are suffering major flooding from the recent hurricane. Pray for efforts to bring them aid.

This Week

WEDNESDAY, October 12

- 10:00 PBJ Women’s Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Pork BBQ)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:15 “OBTW, SOJ”: Easy Peasy & Slow-Mo No.— Gary Dalton
- 6:00 Children’s Activities
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:10 Video Series

THURSDAY, October 13

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

SUNDAY, October 16

- 8:15 Finance Committee Meeting
- 9:00 Fellowship
- 9:30 Congregational Conversation
- 9:30 Seekers Bible Study
- 9:30 Joyful Servants Bible Study
- 9:45 Bible Study
- 11:00 Worship
- 12:30 Leadership Transition Team Mtg
- 6:00 Real Life
- 6:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

MONDAY, October 17

- 10:30 Bible Study at Rosewood
- 1:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:30 Deacons’ Meeting

TUESDAY, October 18

- 9:00 UBC Work Team
- 9:00 Painting Group

WEDNESDAY, October 19

- 10:00 PBJ Women’s Bible Study
- 5:00 Supper (Chili)
- 6:00 Prayer Time
- 6:00 Children’s Activities
- 6:15 Congregational Conversation
- 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:10 Video Series

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30

3:00 pm

At the home of Judy and Robby Gough

Bounce House
Crafts
Games
Face Painting

FREE

Candy
Concessions
And More!

