

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 29, 2018
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Practical Miracles”
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:

John 6:1-21

Anthem:

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
— arr. Grassi

Deacons: *Debra Bryant, Ed Smith, Jennifer Wagoner, John & Sarah Buchanan, Scott Miller
Nursery Workers: Aimee Marshall, Diane Woerner, Catherine Cooper, Jen Bates
Children’s Church: Amanda Ohlms, Hunter Cooper
Ushers for July: Shirley Clark, Sally Chewning, Martha Wood, Joyce Martin, Jack Wilkerson
Greeters: Ray Kauffman, Scott Morris
Medical On-Call: Sally Chewning

Welcome, Marcus Stanley!

Marcus Stanley is the new **Social Media Coordinator** for UBC. He truly understands social media and will be able to use it to help us share the good things God is doing at UBC.

Please take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Marcus!

Learn more about Marcus Stanley on his [facebook page](#), at [my story](#), and on his [YouTube channel](#).



The Word

July 24, 2018

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 70, No. 29

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

On Watch

Practicing Discomfort

Being uncomfortable does not come naturally. We tend to avoid it. If a chair is wobbly or has a lumpy seat, we move to another seat, or we try to replace it. When it is cold, we wear coats. When it is hot, we seek shade or air conditioning. No one likes to be uncomfortable.

A 1916 brochure said, “It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it’s the pebble in your shoe.” Little discomforts can distract us from the bigger picture. Many years ago, I was hiking in Isle Royale National Park. The friction between my heels and a new pair of boots wore debilitating blisters on the back of each foot. At the end of a long day of hiking, when I saw the blisters, I could think of nothing else. The park has wolves and moose. It feels like one of those thin places where the veil between earth and heaven lifts slightly. Instead of seeing God in a wilderness that exceeds superlatives, I could only think of my feet.

In church, we are no different. Anything that disrupts our expectations can create discomfort. A new song begs the question, “What is wrong with the good old hymns?” After reading a new translation of scripture in worship, someone says, “I like the King James Version. That’s the way I learned it.” New worship arrangements, unusual subjects, artistic displays, modern composers, incorporating things in church that we have never used before—all of these things create discomfort.

Lumpy seats and foot blisters are discomforts to avoid. New worship, art, translations, composers, and cultural artifacts are not. Doing something new just to do something new rarely leads to spiritual growth. Being constrained by the fear of discomfort does not yield growth either. As followers of Christ, we must fearlessly go where God leads.

How do we prepare to go where God leads? One step on this path is to practice discomfort. We can try new things, introduce new elements, seek new opportunities, and leave our comfort zones. As we do, we enter into a Land of Discomfort. We do not live there. We do not have to stay there. The act of entering into the Land of Discomfort prepares us for future opportunities.

For many people, talking to a homeless person is a new experience. It can be jarring because we do not have a frame of reference for that person’s daily existence. I remember when I was volunteering at the Roanoke Rescue Mission in the early 1990s. My background in Roanoke County did not prepare me for working with homeless men. I did not know what to say. So, I said, “Hi. My name is Matt.”

John Sylvester-Johnson invited me to work with some men in a long-term recovery program. Over several months, I began to build relationships with some of the men. One week, I invited several of the men who I had been getting to know to go sailing with me. We drove to Smith Mountain Lake and enjoyed a day on the water.

By the time we left the dock, I could not remember any feelings of discomfort. I was simply going sailing with some friends. As I think back on it, Jesus’ words recounted in John 15:15 come to my mind. “I no longer call you [recipients of ministry-to]. Instead, I call you friends.”

Practicing discomfort prepares us for God’s opportunities. Will you join me in getting uncomfortable? As we do, let us prepare for the blessing of joining God at work in the world.

Peace,
~ Matt

We’re Going Back To School



You Still Have Time to make a Donation to the School Supplies Project

to purchase school supplies for the low-income children at Woodbrook Elementary School. This project is coordinated by Love INC in cooperation with city and county schools’ Family Support Workers.

Make checks payable to UBC and earmark them for “School Supplies.”

Did you know?

- ◆ Between 50% and 60% of the children at Woodbrook Elementary School are on free or reduced-price lunch.
- ◆ The money we collect helps purchase school supplies all during the year for these children.
- ◆ This money also helps with shoes, emergency clothing, hygiene needs, and healthy snacks for these same children during the school year.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Welcome, New Members!

We welcome Gary Wood and Jenny Schlack, who joined UBC during the worship service this past Sunday.



Thank You

Thank you so much for the prayers, emails, cards, and support during and after my recent surgery. Special thanks to my Seekers group friends for your caring thoughts and love.

— *Ji Song*

**Church Conference
 Wednesday, August 1
 6:00 pm**

5:00 pm - Covered-dish Supper

Presentation of JARC report on changes to the UBC Constitution and Bylaws

There will be time for discussion and amendments before the VOTE.

If you have questions or feedback for JARC, contact any member of the committee: Will Brown, Shirley Clark, Jim Hallissy, Alan Hendricks, Amanda Ohlms.

WEDNESDAY, July 25
 No Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, July 27
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, July 29
 9:45 Combined Adult Bible Study
 9:45 ESOL Classes
 11:00 Worship Service

TUESDAY, July 31
 9:00 UBC Work Team
 9:00 Painting Group

WEDNESDAY, August 1
 5:00 Covered-dish Supper
 6:00 Church Conference



**Thank you,
 Summer Choir,**

for a wonderful presentation of the Anthems of John Rutter! It was, for me, a truly worshipful experience as we sang anthems that so expertly expressed their texts. “Pure joy,” “wonderful choir,” “exciting program,” are just a sampling of the comments I heard. Also, I heard many times how special the addition of the Consort Prelude Choir was, and I thank Donna Rehorn for her expert preparation of the children’s voices to blend with the choir.

Thanks also to Julie Gaines Walton for adding the flute parts and to Lydia Erbaugh for her interpretative movement. Thank you also to Jack Averill, for being our narrator and speaking so

eloquently as he led us through the program. And especially, thanks to Barbara Moore for her prelude and accompaniments – bravo!! Behind the scenes, what people outside the choir never see, are so many people who work hard to make the musical experience so coherent. Thanks to Pam Beasley for leading the Sopranos and Altos in section rehearsals, and to Karen Dalton for accompanying those rehearsals.

I want to especially thank the 10 choir members from outside the University Baptist Church family who joined us for this special event. Their voices added to our own Sanctuary Choir made this presentation even more special. Rutter’s text, from “Distant Land” states “... Friends out of strangers starts with me and you.” We have this many more friends, and hope that in the future we can increase our friend base as we plan more special musical events!

Thank you also to Debra Bryant for working with Chef Mike to have figgy pudding as the “icing on the cake” for the presentation. Thanks also to Sarah and John Buchanan for the salad

and to Richard Vaughan and W.C. Keith for delivering the chicken for the lunch as well as being the “chefs” and delivering the figgy pudding.

Finally, I join the Summer Choir and all you who heard us in thanking John Rutter for taking ancient and modern texts and making music that is challenging to sing (but well worth the effort) and inspiring to hear. It spoke to me of the ancient promises of God that are relevant to all people everywhere today, and of current divisions in our world that faith and hope in God and those promises can bring about a new day of peace on earth. Let us pray that we, as a world of so many diverse people and backgrounds, can find experiences like the singing John Rutter’s music, and make friends out of strangers!

~ *Alba Beasley*

The complete concert can be enjoyed on [YouTube](#).