

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

August 12, 2018
11:00 am

Sermon:

“Subversive Faith”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Mark 10:46-52

Anthem:

*Christians, We Have
Met to Worship*
— Larson

Deacons: *Michelle Proffitt, Bill Jesser, Erin Brown, Jim Moore, Ray Gaines, Wellford Tiller

Nursery Workers: Karen Minor, Catherine Cooper, Lindsay Marshall, Mary Jo Hendricks

Children’s Church: Sally Chewning, Carter Groff

Ushers for August: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker, Melvin & Mildred Spicer, Ron Tweel

Greeters: Pam & Jim Hallissy

Medical On-Call: Sally Chewning

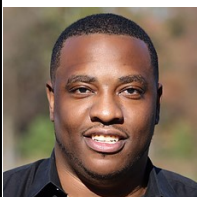


Our children’s reflection on the July 22 worship theme, “We are united in Christ.”

Welcome,

Marcus Stanley!

UBC Social Media Coordinator



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

August 7, 2018

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 70, No. 31

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

On Watch

What is Our Church Designed to Produce?

Edwards Deming was an electrical engineer who became a pioneer in systems management. He developed sampling techniques still used by the U.S. Department of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In his book *The New Economics*, he introduces systems as “a network of interdependent components that work together to try and accomplish the aim of the system” (p. 50).

Systems have a purpose. Without it, there is no system. The aim of the system should be obvious to everyone in it. The system should have plans for the future, although the aim and the plans might not be clearly articulated by everyone in the system. Some people just go through the motions in a system. But, there is an interrelationship between the aim, the plans for the future, and the purpose of the system. Everyone in the system is part of it.

Hopefully, it is obvious that the church is a system—it is different from a corporation, club, or nonprofit. The church is God’s presence in the world. Yet, when we look hard at the church, we can see that it produces what it was designed to produce. This is why different churches experience different results. Some churches are vibrant. They grow disciples, embark on mission projects, and produce ministers. Other churches are stagnant. They plod along. Still others are in decline and waiting for an inevitable funeral. These latter churches even practice the eulogy, saying, “Remember how good it used to be?”

What is University Baptist designed to produce? Do we live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)? Are we the embodiment of a faith inspired by Micah 6:8? Do we follow the repeated biblical edict of engaging with our world and loving people where they are?

Ideally, we want to say ‘yes’ to these questions. Before we can answer in the affirmative, let us analyze the system

of University Baptist Church. Let us look at how we exemplify ‘making disciples’ or ‘loving justice’. What, in our system, produces these results? A system will produce what it is designed to produce.

Many years ago, a minister asked an organist if she would leave her church to come and play at his. He tried to sell her on the idea: “If you come here, it’s easy. We don’t do much. We have one service on Sunday and choir practice before church. That’s it! You’ll have it good!” The organist viewed her playing as part of the system of the music ministry at her church as part of the wider system of carrying out God’s mission. She wanted to keep fulfilling what she understood to be God’s calling on her life. She did not want it easy.

An easy life is alluring. The Beach Boys sang, “Wouldn’t it be nice,” imagining an idealized future of wedded bliss. No married couple lives out a Beach Boys song. Instead, I pray, they enjoy the good times while building a healthy family system. They can learn from the struggles along the way. The church has good times, a need for healthy systems, and opportunities to learn.

Is University Baptist Church’s system producing the results God is calling us to achieve? Deming writes, “A system must be managed. It will not manage itself... The secret is cooperation between components toward the aim of the [church].”^[1] When we work together, we can make changes to the system to redefine what it is designed to produce. If we want disciples, let us explore ways to make disciples. If we want God’s justice, let us design the system to produce God’s justice.

This is an exciting time to be God’s church.

Peace,
~ Matt

^[1]Deming ended the sentence with the word “organization,” but “church” fits our purpose much better. Page 50.

Mid-Year UBC Financial Health Report

The UBC Finance Committee reviews both the contributions and expenditures each month. Part of the review is comparing actual receipts with those we projected earlier in the year during the budget process.

As of June 30, halfway through 2018, our contributions are \$51,740 below our budget needs. This has led to a deficit (spending more than we received) of \$26,458 during the first six months.

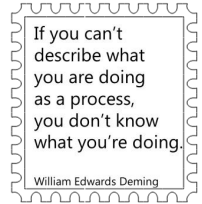
Through austere management, those responsible for budget spending have

controlled our expenditures. So we are under budget by \$25,282, thus making the deficit smaller.

God has blessed each of us and has blessed UBC in so many ways. We need to be faithful in our giving and also to find ways to increase giving to our church. This will allow us not only to maintain, but also to expand a system that produces the results God is calling us to achieve.

— Larry Martin
Finance Committee Chair

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Flowers Bring Great Joy!

◆ If you would like to dedicate flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, contact Sarah Buchanan to reserve your special date to have flowers placed in the sanctuary during worship. (sarahbucha@gmail.com) or 434-409-9064
Available Sundays:
 A couple of dates in late July and many dates later in the summer and fall.

◆ If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how to arrange them, please contact Sarah Buchanan, and join us on the Floral Committee.



Looking for a Place of Service at UBC?



UBC's Nominating Committee is working to fill all the positions on our Councils, Committees, and Teams. If there is a ministry that you would like to be a part of, please contact Sarah Buchanan at sarahbucha@gmail.com or Will Brown at wbrown@universitybaptist.org.

We would love to help you find your perfect place of service !

The Church Office Will Be Closed Friday, August 10.

FRIDAY, August 10
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, August 12
 9:45 Combined Adult Bible Study
 9:45 ESOL Classes
 11:00 Worship Service

TUESDAY, August 14
 9:00 UBC Work Team
 9:00 Painting Group



WMU School Supplies Project
 We received \$1,295. Contributions can still be made to this fund.

Church Conference
Wednesday, August 29
6:10 pm



Congratulations, Trip Kauffman!

Looking Ahead

Sunday Bible Study
Regular Schedule Resumes
 Sunday, August 26
 9:30 & 9:45 am

Church-wide Social

Pool Party, Hot Dog Cookout, & Homemade Ice Cream
Sunday, August 26



Home of Robby and Judy Gough

Wednesday Night Supper & Programming
Resumes August 29

5:00 pm Supper: Vegetable soup, Chili, Apple pie

6:10 pm Program:
Church Conference (vote on Nominating Committee Report)

Haiti Exploratory Trip
October 2-6

*Karen Dalton, Anne Keith
 Matt Tennant, Beth Wright*

This group will be traveling to Haiti to begin forming relationships with the goal of finding long-term partners for missions.

Please begin praying for this group, for their safety, for discernment, and for success in establishing a partnership for missions outreach for UBC.

Richard E. Myers Lecture Series
October 23-25
5:00 pm
Prof. David Tracy, University of Chicago
The Prophetic & Mystical Understanding of God

