

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

June 25, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 25

Baby Steps & Long Range Planning

Over the past two years, there have been a number of small changes. Just this summer, for example, the ministers and choir stopped wearing robes (we will resume on the first Sunday in September), we moved the offertory earlier in the service, and we added a table for children to color during worship. What do all these changes mean?

We make decisions today for who we want to be in 5, 10, and 20 years in the future. Each tweak seems minor to some people and major to others. Sometimes, they might appear to be haphazard or disconnected. Other times, several little changes can appear to have something in common and be part of a larger plan.

Here's the larger plan: Share God's grace with our community and the world. Period. That is it. There is nothing complicated or grandiose. My goal is to share God's grace with every person I encounter.

How do we share God's grace with our community? We have to exist. Not only do we have to exist today, but we have to exist in the future. This is the reason we talk about stewardship and encourage people to financially support the church. This is also the reason we spend money on programs and expanding ministry. If we continuously cut our spending, we will cut back to nothing, and we will probably not exist in 20-30 years.

Instead of cutting, we want to grow. We want to spiritually grow, to grow in the depth of our knowledge of who God is and what God expects of us. We want to grow as a community, to grow closer to one another, to be more supportive of each other, and to minister to one another. We also want to grow in numbers.

How do wearing robes, offertory placement, and a children's coloring table help us grow? We do not know the impact yet. Some changes (like taking off the robes for the summer) are a trial. When Alba, Will, and I talk, we say, "Let's try it and see what happens." Other changes (like a children's coloring table) might lead to an even more family-friendly environment on Sunday mornings. We do not know the future. We do know who we serve, and we know that we cannot remain the same—if we do, we do not reflect the change in our hearts of knowing Christ.

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

June 30, 2019

Sermon:

"The Widow of Zarephath"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

1 Kings 17:8-16

Anthem:

"All That Hath Life and
Breath"
arr. Clausen

Deacons: Sarah Buchanan,
John Buchanan, Laura
Morris, Rachel Miller,
Scott Miller, Wellford
Tiller

Nursery Workers: Karen
Minor, Colleen Baber,
Catherine Cooper

Children's Church: Roy
Thomas, Carter Groff

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

Greeters: BJ Blincoe, John
Buchanan

Medical On-Call: Sally
Chewing

Look toward the future. Expect little changes. Make suggestions. Tell us ministers what feeds you and what does not. Just as importantly, tell us what feeds your non-church-going neighbor. Tell us what those folks would like to see. Who knows? We might just try your suggestion!

In all things, my prayer is for us to move forward together as a congregation who loves God and loves one another.

Peace,
Matt

Requesting Input on Multimedia Displays

As we explore the best way to utilize video screens in the sanctuary, we are seeking feedback from the congregation about how we might do this effectively. We will be hosting listening sessions this summer to hear as many viewpoints as possible. The first listening session will be held on Tuesday, June 25, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and give their input.

Concerns

Elsom Johnson - MJH

Martha Williams - Encompass

Nat Howell - now at Colonnades

Barbara Phipps - Rosewood (Greenbrier)

Judy Whitt Scruggs - home

George Payne - home

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

9:00 UBC Work Team

9:00 Painting Group

6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 Listening Session about Sanctuary Screens

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

1:00 Nominating Committee

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

6:00 Softball Game (McIntire)

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

9:45 Combined Adult Class

11:00 Worship Service

MONDAY, JULY 1

10:30 Rosewood Bible Study

TUESDAY, JULY 2

9:00 UBC Work Team

9:00 Painting Group

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

6:30 Sanctuary Choir

Learning Opportunity at UBC

We have a unique and exciting opportunity in a few weeks. Many of us have seen on television or read in books about the experiences of transgender people in society, but many of us have had few chances to meet and hear directly from someone with this gender identity.

On Sunday, July 14, in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to a presentation entitled, "*From the Heart: A Transgender Virginian's Story.*" Join Donna, a member of Equality Virginia's Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau, for a morning of fellowship and learning as she shares her story as a transgender woman, followed by plenty of time for dialogue and questions. Our time with Donna will be the usual Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45am, and we hope that you can join us for this unique opportunity to hear from someone whose experience may be different from our own.

Alba's Sabbatical Begins

We pray for Alba and Pam Beasley as they spend six weeks away this summer for Alba's sabbatical. Our prayer is that Alba will be able to rest, rejuvenate, and return to work with new energy. Alba's sabbatical will last from July 1 until August 15. For worship-related questions while Alba is away, please contact Matt: matt@universitybaptist.org

During Alba's sabbatical, we are pleased to welcome Caroline Schetlick as our interim Choir Director. A rising fourth-year student at UVA, Caroline is studying music and statistics, and she comes highly recommended by the music faculty at UVA. You may have met Caroline when she directed the choir on June 9. Please greet her warmly when you see her in worship this July and August.

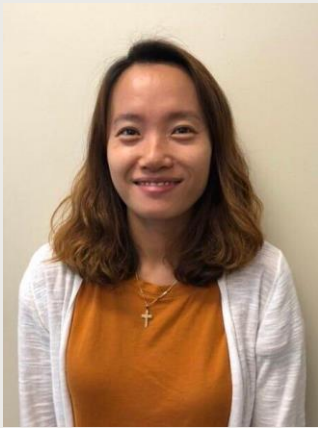


Live from Haiti...

On Monday, the Missions Council had a video conversation with Dean Tennant and Monel Jules, one of our partners in Haiti. Dean shared about his experiences shadowing a doctor in the medical clinic, and Monel updated us on the ministries taking place at Haiti's Eden. At their Vacation Bible School next week, they expect over 500 children. Wow!



For the first time, some of those children at VBS will be from the nearby Philadelphia Baptist Church, whose pastor we support each month (Pastor Rubuns). Monel and his family will be visiting UBC the last weekend in July, and we look forward to hearing him share in person about the exciting ministries taking place in Haiti.



Meet Jane Kim

Jane Y. Kim has joined our church staff as our new Financial Secretary. Jane is a native of S. Korea and served in the Korean Army after graduating from the Korean Military Academy before coming to the United States and becoming a citizen. She has worked in several accounting positions and has passed her CPA examinations. Jane and her husband have two young children that she has stayed home with for the last few years. Jane will be responsible for contribution tracking, bill payments, payroll, tax reporting, and general office duties. She will typically be in the office from 9-1 each day. Jane enjoys activities with her family, singing, practicing guitar, and exercising.

Jane is working to assume her duties from Richard Vaughan, who has served as the interim Financial Secretary and will continue to serve as Treasurer. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Jane when you are in the

office. Also remember to thank Richard and Larry Martin, who have worked in recent months to modernize our financial management system.

For correspondence related to financial matters, please email Jane at jkim@universitybaptist.org
For general office matters, office@universitybaptist.org is the best email address to use.

Pheobe Brown away

Pheobe Brown, Volunteer Coordinator, will be out of the office June 30-July 12. She and her family are travelling to Ireland. If you need assistance from the church office while Pheobe is gone, call 434.293.5106, or email Pheobe and she will be happy to assist when she returns. If you need immediate assistance, contact Rev. Will Brown wbrown@universitybaptist.org

Deacon Elections

Deacon ballots have been distributed to church members and are due back in the office by July 15. Please take a few minutes to prayerfully complete your ballot and participate in this process of selecting the spiritual leaders of our congregation. Contact the office if you have any questions: office@universitybaptist.org

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School last week was a great success! We welcomed about 70 enthusiastic children for our week-long program. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who made this week possible!



UBC Members on Mission

Pray for Dean Tennant as he serves in Haiti at a medical clinic in Haiti's Eden.

Pray for Kathy Wilson's mission trip to Peru, where her aunt and uncle are serving as missionaries

Give thanks for Roy and Jane Thomas's safe return from their two-week mission trip to Malawi and Kenya.



Soles4Souls

Coming soon: an exciting new ministry opportunity in our community. Our church in the past has collected shoes for "Soles4Souls", and this organization may be a helpful partner in our mission work in Haiti. Church Council has approved the idea of our hosting a collection box, similar to the one pictured, where people can donate used shoes.

What are they wearing??

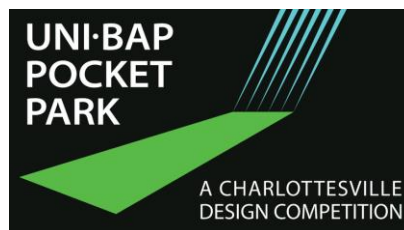
During Sunday morning worship this summer, the choir and ministers will not be wearing robes. This accords with the more casual feel of worship in the summer, as well as the practicalities of warm robes on hot days!

Sunday Bible Study this Summer

Although our Sunday Bible Study classes take a break during the summer months, we offer a combined adult session each week in room 117 at 9:45 for anyone interested. The group will use a DVD series considering daily life in the ancient world. All are welcome.

Competition underway!

The design competition to re-imagine the green space between our parking lot and West Main Street is now underway, with the first expressions of interest coming in. Church Council will recommend to the church a panel of judges, who will select the winning design. With congregational approval, we will build it, and the winner will receive a donation to the charity she or he chooses. If you have any questions or comments, contact the senior minister. The detailed contest description can be found here: universitybaptist.org/unibap-pocket-park



UBC Softball

The season is underway, with games played most Friday nights at McIntire Park. Come cheer for our team, or contact

Brad Groff if you'd like to play: brad.groff85@gmail.com



Flowers Bring Great Joy

If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2019 Floral Calendar is posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND email or call Sarah Buchanan to reserve your special date. There are several Sundays still available: July 14, 21, 28, and Aug. 18. I will order the flowers for \$45, unless you want to provide them yourself. You can drop a check earmarked "sanctuary flowers" in the offering plate, or send to the church office. If you love flowers, enjoy arranging them, or want to learn how, please contact Sarah at 434-409-9064 or sarahbucho@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team.

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Connect with us

