

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 23, 2019 Vol. 71, No. 29

How We Gauge the Preferences of Others

ON WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

July 28, 2019

Last week, I wrote about one of Thom S. Rainer's signs of trouble in a church. Rainer writes about churches in decline, "The members are intensely preference-driven. They are more concerned about their music style, their programs, their schedules, and their facilities than reaching people with the gospel."

In response to my article, someone asked some insightful questions, "How do we gauge what the preferences of others outside the congregation are? How can we merge them with the various preferences of the current members and guests of the congregation?"

Gauging the preferences of others means engagement. We must ask people what they like. If you know people who go to church somewhere, ask them why they worship where they do. What speaks to them at that church? Is it the worship style? Is it the theology? Is it the tradition? Is it simply because they have always gone to that church?

Try to engage in an inquisitive, non-threatening way. We do not want to ask, "Why do you go to that church?" (read in a sarcastic tone). We genuinely want to know what speaks to someone. It might not be something we can or want to do, but knowing will help us engage with the world around us.

The opposite of engagement is ignoring the preferences of others. Life in church becomes about me, my preferences, and my convenience. Growth takes us into uncomfortable places. Following Christ should disrupt our lives. Jesus did not say, "Follow yourself and do what you want." According to Matthew 4:19, he said, "Follow me [referring to himself: Jesus]

Sermon:

"Holding Fast to God"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Genesis 32:22-31

Anthem:

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown"
arr. Gibbs

Deacons:

Sarah Buchanan, Jeannette May, Jim Moore, John Buchanan, Rachel Miller, Scott Miller, Michelle Proffitt

Nursery Workers:

Judy Gough, Catherine Cooper, Hunter Cooper

Children's

Church: Shirley Clark, Trip Kauffmann

Ushers for July:

Cindy Bryant, Shelley Miller,

and I will make you fish for people.”

What do we do to fish for people? We reach out. We talk to them. We meet them where they are. And, we love them where they are, just as God loves us where we are.

So, how do we merge various viewpoints and preferences? We have open, honest conversations. We learn how to be honest with ourselves. We ask ourselves, “Why do I like what I like?” The answer might inform the way we approach those who are outside of our church family. We might learn how our preferences are informed by our experiences and traditions, and we might find some surprises along the way. Then, we can take what we learn about ourselves and about the people who are all around us and put the pieces together.

Taking this journey of discovery might lead us outside of our comfort zones. If so, then we might just be following Christ instead of ourselves.

Peace,
Matt

Visitors from Haiti

On Sunday, July 28, we will be welcoming Monel and Joselie Jules, our friends and partners in Haiti, as our guests in worship. We also invite you to join us during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall, as they share about their work at Haiti's Eden. We hope you can join us!

Youth Retreat

Our youth are headed to Smith Mountain Lake, July 26-28, for a retreat. During busy summer schedules, this will be a time for relaxation, spiritual reflection, and fun. Talk to Will Brown if you'd like to go!

Lily Pallini, Ronda Wiley,
Barry Willard

Greeters: Barbara Fuller,
Wellford Tiller

Medical On-Call: Lynne
Gardner

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 23

9:00 UBC Work Team
6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

6:00 Sanctuary Choir

FRIDAY, JULY 28

9:30a Youth Retreat Begins
TBA Softball (McIntire Park)

SUNDAY, JULY 28

9:45 Monel & Joselie Jules
in Fellowship Hall
9:45 Sunday Bible Study
11:00 Worship Service

TUESDAY, JULY 30

9:00 UBC Work Team

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

6:00 Sanctuary Choir

*For our most up-to-date
calendar, [click here](#).*

Concern Updates

Sally Chewing - home

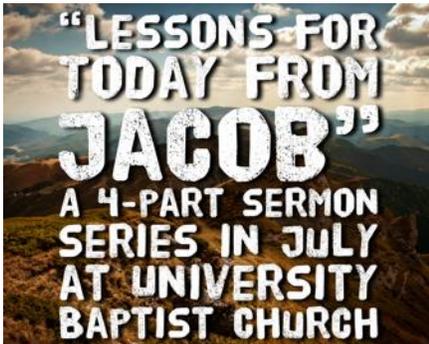
Pray for Wellford Tiller
as he is away the next
couple of months,
serving as Interim
Minister at another
Baptist Church in our
area.

Woodbrook School Supplies

During July and early August, we are accepting contributions to support students at Woodbrook Elementary School. If you would like to support this annual collection, please send your contributions to UBC, designated for "Woodbrook." Thank you!

Nominating Committee

Please pray for our Nominating Committee, which is hard at work assembling our lay leadership for the coming year. If you are interested in serving in some way, please let the church office know or contact Sarah Buchanan, Nominating Committee Chair.



July's 4-part sermon series: "Lessons for Today from Jacob"

- July 7, 2019 – What are some stories that point to God's glory? (Genesis 25:19-34)
- July 14, 2019 – How do we hear God speak? How do we listen? (Genesis 28:10-19a)
- July 21, 2019 – Why do we do what we do? What is our motivation? (Genesis 29:15-28)
- July 28, 2019 – What happens when God grabs ahold of us? (Genesis 32:22-31)

Alba's Sabbatical Continues

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 Tennant: 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. Please greet her warmly when you see her in worship this July and August.



Ice Cream Social

Save the date! Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 25, at the home of Robby and Judy Gough, beginning at 3pm. Hope to see you there!

UBC Members on Mission

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

Give thanks for Dean Tennant's safe return from his time at a medical clinic in Haiti.

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



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.

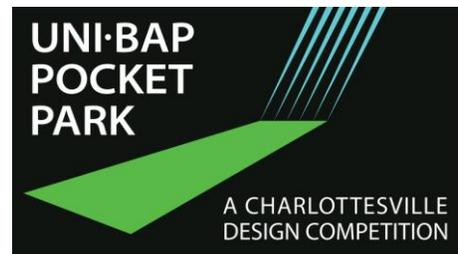
Sunday Morning Acolytes

Are you interested in participating in Sunday morning worship? But maybe you don't like reading or speaking in front of a crowd? Please sign up to be an acolyte!

We welcome anyone to participate in worship by lighting the candles and opening the Bible at the beginning of the service. The candles represent Jesus as the Light of the World, and opening the Bible reminds us that God speaks to people through Scripture. These elements of worship are brief, but they are integral to setting the tone for our worship on Sundays. We encourage all individuals, families, youth and seniors to take a turn being an acolyte. You can [sign up here](#) today!

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 regular season is complete, and now we are moving on to the playoffs. Come cheer for our team on Friday night at McIntire Park!



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Connect with us

