

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

February 23, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 55

Celebrating Almost 20 Years at UBC

ON WATCH

On Sunday, many people were surprised when Alba announced his retirement. He and Pam have been a part of UBC for longer than many members. For those who joined the church in the last two decades, they have only known a UBC with Rev. Beasley directing the choir and Jubilate.

Since Sunday, Alba's phone has been filled with messages of appreciation, encouragement, and love. One person stopped by the church today and told me, "I am so happy for him and Pam. They're gonna love retirement!" (Needless to say, this comment came from a happily retired member of our church family.)

Over the coming months, Alba and Pam will likely continue to receive messages telling them how much their ministry means. This is good and it is right. If you haven't reached out to them yet, please do. When he first told the staff of his decision, each one of us said what we appreciate about his ministry and what God has done through him at UBC.

Baptist life is often fraught with amnesia. When God calls a minister to a new place to serve or into retirement, the temptation to move on too quickly looms. Instead, we can be a people who celebrate the best of what has been. Take the time to look back and say, "That was really good." Don't say it privately or just think it. Tell those who God uses how much you appreciate them. Look back on the happy memories and thank God for them.

Once, at a deacon meeting, the chairperson said, "Alba, I love the way you pray. Will you close our meeting tonight?" Ever since, I have listened more closely. She was right. Alba says beautiful prayers. With my ears attuned to God speaking

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 28, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"Forsaking All Others"
Rev. Val Fisk

Scripture:
Psalm 22:1-8, 23-31

Anthem:
"Go Not Far from Me, O God"
(Zingarelli)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, February 24

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
(Zoom)

THURSDAY, February 25

10:00 Bible Reading Group ([Zoom link](#))

SUNDAY, February 28

8:30 Missions Council Meeting
(Zoom)

9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom link](#))

11:00 Morning Worship
(radio and livestream)

2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal ([Zoom Link](#))

MONDAY, February 29

through his voice, I can hear honest, heartfelt prayers whenever Alba addressed our Lord.

What's next? Our bylaws require us to officially accept Alba's retirement letter. At that meeting, we will share some of the ways we will prepare for the future. But, let's not get ahead of ourselves. If you haven't reached out to Alba and Pam yet, go ahead and do it. When it is safe to regather, we will have a big, in person celebration. Until then, notes, texts, emails, and phone calls will have to suffice for expressing what God has already said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Peace,
Matt



8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))

1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group ([Zoom link](#))

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday this week!

March 1: Laura Centofante

March 2: Suzanne Smith

March 3: Martha Ballenger

March 5: Tom Leland

March 8: Gerald Brown

March 9: Ewing Minor

Having a birthday and do not see your name here? Please help us update our records. Contact Lexi to provide your updated information at (434)-293-5106

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE

[Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov)

Or call 1-877-VAX-IN-VA 7 days a week, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Available in English and Spanish. Call-back service in 100+ languages. TTY service.

VACCINATE VIRGINIA

- ✔ **GET INFORMATION** on how vaccines work and why they are safe.
- ✔ **GET PRE-REGISTERED** to put your name on the list.
- ✔ **GET VACCINATED** —when it's your turn, we'll contact you to schedule your vaccine.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Prayer Concerns
[Ed Lowry](#) - Home

Upcoming Church Conference

Called Church Conference - March 14, 2021

There will be a Called Church Conference immediately after worship on Sunday, March 14. In keeping with our church bylaws, we will vote to formally accept Alba's letter of resignation, and then we will look ahead to next steps. This meeting will lay the groundwork both to celebrate Alba's ministry at UBC as he moves into retirement, and also to begin preparing for what lies ahead for UBC. You may join this Called Church Conference in the Sanctuary or by Zoom:

Link to join meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85356372364?pwd=dFhNZIVGT3Fmbzhyc3VZZHYrdS94UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5637 2364

Passcode: 942390

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,85356372364#,,,,*942390#

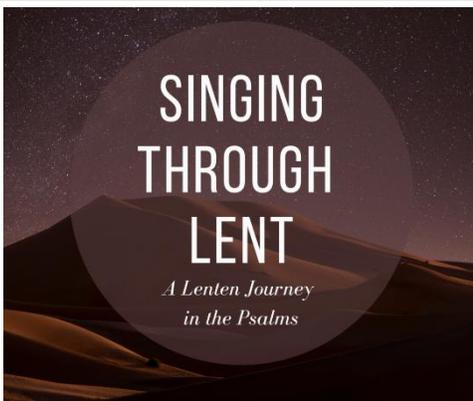
Piano Search Task Force

Several generous members of the UBC Family, including the Jubilate Alumni Association, have pledged funds for the purchase of a new piano for the sanctuary. At the February 7 Church Council meeting, we formed a Piano Search Task Force. The members are: Matthew Tennant (chair), Jack Averill, Alba Beasley, Karen Dalton, Barbara Moore, Beth Wright, Kevin Wright. If you know of a concert grand piano and want to recommend it, please contact any member of the task force. We look forward to the completion of their work and the arrival of a new piano.

New Bible Study Series Has Begun!

As we enter into the season of Lent, our Sunday morning Bible study will turn to examine our own experiences of this season. Lent is traditionally a time when we give something up for the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. The past year has been an extended practice in giving up - giving up hugs, handshakes, smiling at the person you pass in the produce section, eating in your favorite restaurants, lingering over coffee with a good friend. So perhaps now is a time when we need to add in a new practice.

Over the season of Lent, our Sunday Bible study will be following [Forty Simple Practices for Lent](#) by Sarah Bessey. You can find a printable version of these practices [here](#). Each Sunday we will spend some time discussing our experiences trying these practices - which were easy? Which were hard? What might you try to continue after Lent is over? We will end each week with a reading of Psalm 90 from a variety of translations, reading this one Psalm several weeks in a row as a practice of careful contemplation. Because so much of this study will be discussion based, we encourage those who usually watch on YouTube to consider joining us on Zoom!



Lenten Worship Theme

During the season of Lent, our worship services each week will focus on one of the psalms. Exploring the themes of these ancient texts, we discover that the joys, struggles, and promise of these texts continue to reverberate in our context today. Whether your presence is physically in the sanctuary or through the use of technology (most of us these days), we hope you will join us in worship as we sing our way through Lent in the Psalms.

How Can I Help?

There are many needs for help with the COVID Vaccination rollout. While talking with volunteers, we have learned that the needs are great and helpers few. While there is little that the church as a whole can do, there is much that individuals can offer. And knowing the volunteer spirit of our members, here is a [website](#) where you locate needs and volunteer to help as you are able.

Sunday Mornings Online

Even though we are not gathering in person, we are still joining together each Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 10:00 am, we begin an interactive Bible Study. To join us, click this [Zoom link](#). Or, watch the Bible Study portion on [YouTube](#). We invite you to join in the conversation by adding comments during the session. To download the handout ahead of time, visit universitybaptist.org/live

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin, as usual, at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us from home. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and 98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

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Connect with us

