



April 27, 2021 Vol. 72, No. 64

“Joining the Conversation”

I often wonder how we can get more members of the church

family to join conversations in church life. Recently, I realized that I might be asking the wrong question. Instead, I should ask, “What conversation would be so compelling that people would want to join it?”

Rich conversations can take place during Bible studies or small group meetings. They can be informal in the hall or UniBap Park. We can organize town hall style meetings, community conversations, or zoom meetings. Rich conversations inspire us to imagine new worlds and creative solutions. We can look at the future and think about what could be. We learn and grow, and our worldview expands in ways we would have never imagined before. When we go deep, our faith connects with current events and informs our response.

Too often, life in churches is limiting. The institution needs feeding like a hungry machine. HVAC technicians service each unit, and an IT consultant fixes an IP address issue. Countless other mundane tasks fill the days of staff and volunteers. If we are not careful, these tasks can push aside the reason we come to church. As the ordinary and necessary operational tasks occupy more time, transformation in Christ gets less of our attention.

Cajoling people to participate doesn't work. Or, it doesn't work for very long. The role of churches in society is evolving. As the cultural peer pressure to find a church diminished, every church faced the happy task of being relevant to people in their daily lives. No one was going to push anyone to go to church. Each person gets to choose whether or not to be part of a family of faith. When churches have to matter to people, they must each find what resonates with people. That's why being relevant is a happy task.

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 2, 2021
11:00 AM

Sermon:

“Phillip and the Ethiopian”
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Acts 8:26-40

Anthem:

"Teach Me Thy Song, O Lord"
(Courtney)

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 28

10:00 PBJ Bible Study ([Zoom](#))
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
([Zoom](#))

THURSDAY, April 29

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

SUNDAY, May 2

8:30 Church Council Meeting
([Zoom](#))
9:40 Online Bible Study ([Zoom Link](#))
11:00 Morning Worship
2:00 Jubilate Rehearsal ([Zoom Link](#))

What is a compelling conversation? We could talk about how to be a better parent, spouse, or friend. Applying scripture (e.g. 1 Peter or Ruth) to daily life would interest some people. Current events, like gun violence, racism, and environmental degradation, could draw in others. These are just the tip of the iceberg, and we can all contribute to finding exciting topics.

We will continue to have to deal with the institutional aspects of being a church, but we don't have to let these topics dominate our attention. If we work together to find more compelling ideas, we can have fruitful discussions, and more people will want to join the conversation.

What do you want to talk about? What is on your mind? I can't wait to hear from you.

Peace,
Matt

MONDAY, May 3
8:30 Morning Prayer ([UBC Facebook Page](#))
1:00 Schleiermacher Reading Group ([Zoom Link](#))



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

- May 1:** Herman Eaker
- May 4:** Bobby Gregg
- May 5:** Kelly Kossi, Nancy Gaines
- May 8:** Richard Vaughan

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.



Calling All Ice Cream Taste Testers!

Tomorrow, Wednesday, April 28, starting at 11am, we will test our new soft serve ice cream machine. We will serve the following flavors: vanilla, pistachio, and pistachio/vanilla swirl. Everyone is welcome, and we will stop serving when we run out. Come on by if you can!

Community Conversations - What Now?

Looking back at the first quarter of 2021, our staff feels like we have accomplished a lot. The feedback that Dr. Tennant gathered from everyone in the community conversations throughout the month of February has led to some great discussions in Church Council and Deacons meetings, as well as in our staff meetings. We feel like we have been able to set clear goals for ourselves as a congregation and we are taking steps to make those happen!

The information gathered from our conversations has been [added to our website](#). Additionally, we have posted the full 17 page, anonymized version of Dr. Tennant's notes from the meetings on this page, and they are also available to you [here](#). Moving forward, the notes and guidance from these conversations are helping Will & Val prepare to work with the ministry transition team this summer, and will continue to be a part of what guides our outreach into the Charlottesville

community as we find new ways of being together in the coming months. As always, feel free to reach out to any minister if you have questions about this information or our Vision & Goals for 2021.

National Missions Final Reminder

UBC 2021 Goal = \$3,000. Currently, UBC has collected \$1,965.
UBC 2020 Goal = \$3,000. UBC collected \$2,255.

Please consider donating to Scarlett Jasper at Olive Branch Ministries in Somerset, KY. *Scarlett Jasper is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and was commissioned as a missionary in June of 2014.*

LAST CALL: Now Is the Day to Join UBC for 2021's Operation Inasmuch

If you have already arranged to do an OIAM project, please add it to the OIAM 2021 sign-up sheet [here](#). If you have been meaning to plan a project, now is the day to get that done.

If you would like to see the full descriptive article from the past few editions of the WORD [click here](#).

Looking forward to seeing the ways you come up with to be the hands and feet of Christ!
Sarah Buchanan, OIAM chair
sarahbucha@gmail.com
434-403-9064

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, in as much as you did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me. ~Matthew 25:40

Community Blood Drive at UBC on May 5th

On Wednesday May 5, UBC will open our doors to the American Red Cross for a community blood drive. Our very own Jubilate student and UVA 3rd year, Alexis Haskiell, has worked to organize this blood drive, and she and a group of her friends will be acting as volunteer organizers for the day!

The blood drive will run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and you must make an appointment at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. No walk-ins will be allowed due to current CDC guidelines. All who donate will receive free COVID-19 antibody tests with their donation.

AQPTS Update

It is almost time for finals, which means extending our current study hours into the evenings for finals week! Advertising will be up on our UBC Facebook page in the coming week - please share the post so that it can reach as many students as possible! **CLICK [HERE](#)** to sign up to supervise an afternoon or evening shift. Please note that out of an abundance of continuing caution, this semester we are not accepting donations of homemade treats and we recommend only fully vaccinated people volunteer. If you are unable to be here in person, please consider donating some of the following items that our students have enjoyed the most this

semester:



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
**A QUIET PLACE
TO STUDY**
DURING FINALS?
UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
HAS YOU COVERED!

Extended study hours
beginning Thursday, May 6

Free snacks & beverages
Private study rooms
Disney movies for brain breaks

Details, hours, and more info at
universitybaptist.org/study

Dr. Pepper, Coke, or Diet Coke
Applesauce squeeze packets
Individual bags of Doritos, Cheez-Its, or Sun Chips
Any kind of mini chocolate bars - Snickers, Twix, etc.
Individually wrapped ice cream treats like Drumsticks
Nature's Bakery Fig Bars
Nature Valley Sweet & Salty nut bars
Individual bags of trail mixes
Bags of mini Oreos and Chips Ahoy

Flowers Bring Great Joy

With more people coming back into the sanctuary to worship, we would again like to provide live flower arrangements. If you would like to dedicate sanctuary flowers for a special remembrance or celebration, the 2021 Floral Calendar has been posted in the first floor hallway. Sign up on the calendar AND call or email Sarah Buchanan to reserve your special date. I will order the flowers from Plantscapes for \$60 unless you want to provide them yourself. (Plantscapes does have a new owner and the price that we have paid for the past 15 years has finally gone up.) 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 sarahbucha@gmail.com and join us on the Floral Team. Sometimes it can be as simple as taking an already made arrangement out of the refrigerator and placing it in the sanctuary or water the live plants.

Volunteer Request

After nearly 20 years of faithful service, Rev. Alba Beasley announced his retirement effective May 30, 2021. In an abundance of caution, we will delay gathering to celebrate his ministry until after his last day, to a date later this year. The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to form a Committee to Celebrate Alba's Ministry. Carolyn Lowry has agreed to serve as the chairperson of this ad hoc committee. If you would like to join her, please notify one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Melanie Tennant, Chairperson
Judy Gough
Jackie Lockwood
Ed Lowry
Karen Minor
Raynell Stokes

What has the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle been up to during the COVID 19 pandemic?

The Kittie Colvin Trail Circle is a small group of women of varying ages, occupations, and family status. Our purpose is to serve Christ through mission activities, and to nurture and support each other. We welcome you to visit with us and learn more about us.



On March 3, 2020 the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle met on our usual first Tuesday of the month, with hardly a care in the world. Little did we know that in the following week the world would come to a complete stop and be thrown into turmoil and isolation by the COVID 19 virus. For the next few months we found ourselves in a holding pattern, not meeting, not planning, just waiting to see when this crisis would be over. The world was saying things like, “surely we’ll be back together by Easter.” As you know it is taking much longer.

By June we were all a little squirrely, and Debby Johnson invited us to gather—socially distanced and masked—in her front yard. It was a wonderful time of catching-up and commiserating. By fall we thought things were getting better. We met in October and November in the fellowship hall, masked and six feet apart. Catching up on our mission projects and planning for the Christmas season. COVID got worse instead of better, so In December we began meeting by ZOOM, and did so through the winter. On a warm spring evening on April 6, we again met in person, masked and six feet apart in Sarah Buchanan’s front yard. It was so good to feel almost normal.

In addition to all of the church-wide missions efforts, the Kittie Circle has sponsored a Nada, Kentucky kindergarten class for many years. Our kindergarten teacher is Dianna Gilbert. Nada is one of the poorest communities in the United States. Like Charlottesville area children, they began school on-line in September and returned to in-school classes about the first of March. In August and January we sent gift cards for classroom supplies. We also sent Christmas gifts for the children, Valentines, and a small gift card for their upcoming end of year celebration.

During this time of pandemic, we have continued checking with the UVA Hospital Hospitality House and delivering quarterly cleaning products and paper goods. They are operating on a very restricted occupancy so haven’t needed as many supplies from us.

The Kittie Circle normally sponsors the UBC Christmas Post Office, where church folks can exchange greeting cards then donate what they would have spent on postage to the Global Missions Offering. With our worship meeting virtually and not being in church in person, we had to cancel the Post Office this past December.

Each year we get a Christmas family from Albemarle County schools. We usually get together for lunch and shop for clothing for these children. This past December we received the names of two brothers, 3rd and 5th graders. Instead of our usual group shopping trip, one of our ladies did all the shopping and delivered our gifts to the school.

As most of you are aware our church usually works with PACEM (People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry) to house local homeless men for two weeks during February. This past year due to COVID, UBC was asked to house the men for the entire month of December. The Kittie Circle provided dinner for all the men and PACEM staff one night. We also collected wash cloths and towels, and items for Christmas stockings for the guests.

We minister to a number of church friends as they become home bound. Even though we were unable to visit our friends in person we continued to deliver birthday, anniversary, and holiday cards, and Christmas gifts.

Most recently, at our April front-yard meeting, we collected cleaning and housekeeping supplies for AIM (the Alliance of Interfaith Ministries) to share with their Secure Seniors and Reach Program clients. On May 4, depending on the weather, we will again meet in Debby Johnson’s

front yard or by ZOOM. Contact [Sarah Buchanan](#) if you would like to learn more about us and the work we do.

Joy to the world!
Sarah

Sunday Mornings

As we slowly begin to regather, there are several options for joining us on Sunday mornings. We will continue to offer our minister-led Bible study via Zoom, and our in-person worship services will continue to be livestreamed for those who are not ready to come back to the building yet. We hope you will join us!

Bible Study

At 9:40 am, we gather on Zoom to share prayer requests and updates about our lives. 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 in whatever way you feel safe and comfortable at this time, whether in person or virtually. 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

