



May 23, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 21

What about the Spirit!

ON WATCH

In his monumental three-volume work *Theo-Logic*, Hans Urs von Balthasar writes, "Born of the Spirit as we are, we exist in the fire of love in which Father and Son encounter each other; thus, together with the Spirit, we simultaneously bear witness and give glory to this love."

I love von Balthasar's phrase, "fire of love." To me, Pentecost isn't about the tongues of fire or the miracle of multilingual speech. Pentecost begins the story of a lived faith. No longer do we have Jesus walking the earth as depicted in the gospels. The post-resurrection appearances have come to an end, and the disciples watched him ascend to God. At Pentecost, things get interesting.

We are born of the Holy Spirit, and God's "fire of love" is a trinitarian encounter between God, Jesus, and the Spirit. Our calling is to live our faith and give thanks to God. We bear witness to our understanding of Jesus, and we give glory to God's eternal and everlasting love.

In our tradition, we don't talk about the Holy Spirit that much. With Jesus, we can focus on the stories, parables, healings, and his Passion. Likewise, the Old Testament is filled with stories about humanity's encounter with God. Stories are easier to remember. There's an old proverb that goes like this: "Tell me a fact, and I'll learn. Tell me a truth, and I'll believe. But tell me a story, and it will live in my heart forever."

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

May 28, 2023

11:00 AM

Sermon:

"A Fiery Spirit"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21

Anthem:

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God" (Larson)

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jackie Lockwood

Ushers: Charlotte Bailey, Ed Barker

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, May 24

9:00 Work Team

10:00 PBJ Bible Study

5:00 Nominating Committee Meeting

5:15 Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, May 28

8:30 Missions Council Meeting

9:30 ESOL Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

One of the problems with the Spirit is the lack of stories. If Jesus is the embodiment of truth as a person—God’s own authoritative self-interpretation—the Spirit exegetes or explains this truth. Jesus is a living explanation of God. We can contemplate the Spirit as the indispensable guide who leads us into all truth.

Talk of the Spirit is ethereal and otherworldly. It takes concentration to stick with exploring God’s inner movement. However, having the Spirit provides an assurance of God’s presence as we try to understand what it means to live out our faith. It’s not enough to read the Bible and have some clever person connect the words with daily living. We need God’s help, and Pentecost is the outpouring of this Spirit on humanity. When we pray, no matter how we address God (e.g., “Our Father,” “God,” “Lord Jesus,” “Merciful Maker of all things,” etc.), the Spirit is with us.

Lean into the mystery and wonder of God’s presence. Wear red this Sunday as we consider God’s eternal presence.

Peace,
Matt

Deacon Election

It is that time of year once again to elect Deacons to serve as leaders in our church, ensuring spiritual health and well-being. Expect a draft ballot by email or U.S. mail this month. This ballot is a list of all church members living in the central Virginia area who are physically able to serve. The purpose of this ballot is for your review. If your name is listed, and you are unable to serve as a Deacon, please contact the church office to have your name removed. Likewise, if your name is missing, and you are willing to serve as a Deacon, we apologize for the omission and ask that you also let the church office know to add your name.

MONDAY, May 29

Church Office Closed

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

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

Prayer Requests

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Laura Faye Groff

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Barbara Newlon

Melvin & Mildred Spicer

The Miller and Bryant families deeply appreciate UBC's many expressions of sympathy as we celebrated Shelley Miller's life. Special thanks to the Kittie Colvin Trail Circle for providing food for the reception.



Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday!

Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 10:30 and 1:30 PM on the front steps at UBC.



Susan Deal
Intentional Interim Minister of Music

Beginning this Sunday, May 28, Rev. Susan Deal will be directing the Sanctuary Choir, taking over for Will Cooke. Our ensemble choirs, Jubilate and Voces Laetae will continue to be directed by Will.

Susan holds a Master of Music in Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Ft. Worth, Texas) and a Bachelor of Music Education from Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama). She has recently retired after 30 years as a Minister of Music, serving churches in Georgia, Florida, and Virginia. In addition to her ministry at UBC, Susan works with CBF's *Thriving in Ministry* initiative as a Facilitator for the Church Musicians Cohort. She is also the Project Manager for The Harmony Project, a research initiative asking church musicians what they need to flourish and thrive in worship and music ministry. Susan and her husband, Tommy, feel as if they have returned home, readily admitting that the primary reason they now live in Virginia is to be closer to their three grandchildren--Thomas and his twin cousins, Adeline and Dorothy.



Summer Choir!

*Singing in a choir is cheaper than therapy,
healthier than drinking,
and more fun than working out!*

Come join our SUMMER CHOIR! Wednesdays at 6:30 (beginning May 31) in the Choir/Lecture Suite.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

June 2: Jenny Price

June 6: Sarah Bryant Craddock, Arlene Propst



Softball Schedule

Did you know that UBC has a softball team? Below is their schedule for the rest of May and June.

June 2, 6:00 & 7:00 vs United Methodist
June 9, 6:00 & 7:00 vs All Saints

All games are played on Friday at Darden Towe Park, Field 1, except June 2 which is on Field 3.

If you're interested in playing or just finding out more information, contact [George Martin](mailto:cva2011@aol.com) at cva2011@aol.com.

Wear Red This Sunday!

Please join us in observing the special tradition of wearing red for Pentecost. Throughout the year, the colors associated with seasons of our liturgical calendar move from green (ordinary time) to blue (Advent) to purple (Lent) and to white (communion Sundays, major feast days, and seasons like Christmas and Easter). But Pentecost is the only Sunday of the year that we dress our Sanctuary in red vestments! Observe this unique day with us by wearing red to church on Sunday, May 28.



VBS 2023
Monday-Friday, June 19-23
9 - 12 noon (drop off begins at 8:30)
For ages 4 (by June 19) - 12

Join us in Babylon, where we'll explore what life was like for Daniel and his friends, captives in a strange land. You'll craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Daniel, and eat some interesting food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

To register your child(ren), click [here](#).

Questions? Contact Melanie Tennant at meltennant@yahoo.com or 804-577-0319.

Sunday Bible Study for All!

I have been so encouraged by your continued faithfulness every Sunday morning as you lead out in our Sunday Bible Study ministry. We "re-started" after an over-extended Pandemic break, and we "re-started" tracking attendance.

Attendance has been a basic attempt to "count" those in attendance. We have encouraged each other to look at our class rolls and reach out to those we haven't seen and extend invitations to others to join in our Bible study time.

We are saddened by the fact that as Will Cooke leaves us, so does David Waters, our beloved and faithful Youth Sunday Bible Study leader. I really have tried to convince him to stay! I know that God has provided in this body a couple of people who love young people and want to have eternal impact in their lives. If this is you, please talk with me or Rev. Val Fisk.



Save the Date for our Annual Church Picnic, Sunday, June 4

We will have our annual church picnic on Sunday, June 4, at the home of Robby & Judy Gough. This is always a great time to get together, share a meal, and enjoy a time of fellowship.



25,000 Meals On Their Way

Rise Against Hunger sent their truck yesterday and loaded the 25,000 meals that we have already packed to take them to their warehouse in Richmond. From there they will be sent to various parts of the world.

They also brought supplies for our next packing event on Saturday, June 24, 9:00 - 12:00. You can sign up for this event [here](#).

We have good momentum right now with our Sunday Bible Study for All. We want to continue as best we can. As we are now approaching summer, I want to encourage you not to look back but keep moving forward!!!! We will not suspend Bible study during the summer. We will work to keep going strong and work through, and hopefully overcome, any summer blues.

Every one of us will be gone some during the summer. This is expected and encouraged. We all need this time away with family and others to rejuvenate. So, make plans for when you are away as you have during the fall, winter and spring, encourage another to "sub" for you. This is a great opportunity to prepare someone to be a study leader. If you need any assistance, please let me know.

Lastly, I want all of our SBS Leadership to reserve on their calendars Saturday morning, **August 19, 8:30 - 11:30**. I am planning to lead us in a "Sunday Bible Study Leadership Team Event." We will be encouraged, inspired, and maybe learn something, too! I will build some time in for each leadership team to spend some time in their space to "spruce it up." (You know, go ahead and toss out the old curriculum that we never went back to use, and get rid of old supplies and items not needed.) We have some of the most excellent educational space in any church I have been a part of, and I want us to maximize its potential! Now that we have a good start, let's keep it up! Thank you!!!!

~~Tommy Deal, Education Coordinator

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin 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.

University Baptist Church
1223 West Main Street
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

