



July 15, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 27



As Matt Tennant enters his third week at La Senda Verde, the routine is now familiar—physically demanding days spent caring for rescued animals, followed by quiet evenings of writing and reflection. Yet even as the rhythm becomes steady, each day brings something new: a howler monkey's mischief, an unexpected rainstorm, a conversation that lingers.

Matt continues to be shaped by the simplicity and humility of this work. It's not polished or public—there are no bulletins to prepare, no meetings to lead, no sermons to preach. Just a hose, a bucket, and a jaguar that needs to be fed. But in this simplicity, God is speaking. The animals, each with a history of trauma, remind Matt of our own need

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, July 20, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

One God, One World

Rev. Laura Davis

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-16

Anthem:

Blessed Be by Melanie DeMore

Combined Choirs from UBC, Mt. Zion Baptist,
and The United Gospel Choir
from Besancon, France

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Jimmy Li

Ushers: Johnny Ellen, Shirley Clark



Rev. Laura Davis

While our pastor, Matt Tennant, is away on sabbatical, we are grateful to welcome a series of guest preachers to our pulpit. Each one brings a unique voice and faithful perspective to our shared journey. This week we're pleased to welcome Rev. Laura Davis.

for healing, and the steady care they receive is a living testimony to the power of consistent compassion.

The writing continues as well—his *Marine Theology* project is approaching completion, and the deep questions are rising to the surface: What has God been saying? What will I bring back to the church? What new vision is forming?

How can we pray for Matt this week?

Pray that he finishes strong—physically, spiritually, and creatively. Pray for clarity as he begins to think about returning. And pray that these final days in Bolivia will offer moments of joy, renewal, and unexpected insight.

This week's spiritual challenge:

Ask yourself: *What am I learning from the people or creatures I might normally overlook?* Be attentive to those at the margins—whether human or animal—and consider how God may be speaking through them. Practice compassion in a quiet, intentional way.

The end of the sabbatical is drawing near—but the transformation continues.

Welcome Home, Matt!
Wednesday, July 30
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

Matt's three-month sabbatical took him from the shores of Bonaire to the jungles of Bolivia—with a meaningful stop in between to celebrate his sons' college graduations and spend precious time with family following the death of his father. Now he's home, and we want to welcome him back with open arms.

Join us for a joyful "Welcome Home" party as we hear stories from Matt's journey—some adventurous, some tender—and reflect together on what God has been doing

Rev. Laura Davis serves as a Coordinator with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia. Laura grew up in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains in Sperryville, Virginia and currently lives in Stuarts Draft. She received her Master's of Divinity from Campbell University Divinity School where she is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree. She and her husband, Kenny, have three children and two grandchildren.

Laura desires to equip and inspire people to live out their God given passions in their communities, especially through advocacy, education, and community relationships. She loves spending time with CBFVA congregations, supporting laity and clergy, and would love to hear your heart for missions! LDavis@cbfva.org

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 16

12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

THURSDAY, July 17

9:00 Work Team

FRIDAY, July 18

8:00 & 9:00 Softball Games on Mac 2

SUNDAY, July 20

8:30 Finance Committee Meeting

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

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



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. They will play on Friday, July 18, 8:00 & 9:00 at McIntire #2.

in far-off places and right here at UBC. We'll share a meal, share some laughter, and open our hearts to the season ahead.

Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

Let's finish this journey together—with gratitude, hope, and a warm UBC welcome.



We're excited to announce *a new summer offering* for kids at UBC--Mini Music Camp!

Instead of our traditional VBS, we're hosting a three-day music experience filled with singing, instrument-playing, movement, and games. The theme is "God, Our Protector," and we'll explore stories from the Bible about how God was present with people and kept them safe.

This is open to our church family and friends--*all are welcome!*

Come join us for joyful music-making and faith-filled fun.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

July 25: Leslee Parsons

July 29: Aimee Marshall, Bobby Gough

July 30: Lily Pallini, Clara Pinkham, Ponyo Mulcahy



GOSPEL CHOIR EXCHANGE: CHARLOTTESVILLE AND BESANÇON, FRANCE

Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, University Baptist Church, and Charlottesville's Sister City Commission will host United Gospel Besançon from Charlottesville's French Sister City for three musical performances.

JULY 20 11 AM WORSHIP SERVICE UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH 1223 WEST MAIN ST.	JULY 20 2-4 PM OPEN REHEARSAL UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH 1223 WEST MAIN ST.
JULY 22 7 PM COMMUNITY CONCERT MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH 105 LANKFORD AVENUE	

All events are free and open to the public.

CHARLOTTESVILLE SISTER CITIES COMMISSION



Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

61 Years Ago

The Rev. Richard E. Myers began his 22 year ministry at UBC on September 6, 1964 with a sermon titled "Three Words That Changed the Church". During his tenure, Dick guided the congregation through



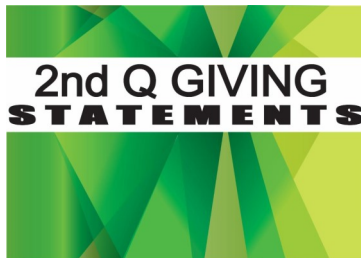
We will NOT gather tomorrow, but will meet again on Wednesday, July 30.



Volunteers Needed

It's that time again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday. Click [this link](#) to add your name and join us any time between 11:00 and 12:00 to help set up and/or between 12:00 and 2:00 in the narthex to

serve the ice cream. This is a very popular outreach ministry of the church. ***This week is chocolate & vanilla!***



Second quarter giving statements are coming out this week. If you do not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let Amanda know.

the Vietnam years and the Civil Rights Movement. Dick also moved UBC toward a more liturgical worship style and introduced the congregation to the liturgical calendar when Advent was observed in 1971. During this time, Dick posted socially relevant messages on the church bulletin board which could be read by folks sitting at the red light on JPA.

Pictures Needed

Preparations are well underway as we anticipate an important capstone event marking the celebration of our 125 years at UBC. Our banquet, which will be held October 11, will be a time of celebration and recognition as we share memories, interact with former church staff, and thank God for our time together as a congregation. Ed Smith (edsmithan-nesmith@comcast.net) and Seth Kodikara (seth.kodikara@gmail.com) are gathering photos which reflect our past. They are especially looking for photos taken during the last 25 years in order that we might also reflect on how UBC reacted to challenges such as 9/11, various events at UVA, Katrina, and the homeless needs within our community. We would love to hear from you, if you have pictures, you are willing to share.

Please contact Ed, Seth, or the church office, if you have pictures which you believe would be appropriate for the celebration or the church archives. Hard copies or electronic pictures sent via email will be greatly appreciated.



Puerto Rico Mission Trip in November

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is building a partnership and long-term presence with

teams, churches, and efforts in Puerto Rico. Several teams from Virginia have traveled to the island in the past year, and they'll be sending another team in November.

If you would like to travel and serve with a team from CBF Virginia to Puerto Rico, please save the date of November 3-7, 2025. They will plan to take up to 8 volunteers on this mission trip.

During this trip, they plan to provide hands-on assistance and financial support to relocate the electrical generator at Iglesia Bautista de Quebrada, Inc., enabling them to rebuild classrooms and offices damaged by Hurricane Maria.

A secondary but important effort is to continue to cultivate relationships with churches in Puerto Rico and to identify opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

If you are interested in joining this trip in November, please reach out to Megan. It would be great to send a UBC group to Puerto Rico.

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to reserve sanctuary flowers in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion? Sunday flowers can be reserved for birthdays, anniversaries, or to commemorate other special occasions.

Please submit your request to include your name, the bulletin message, and the desired reservation dates to the [UBC office](#). A member of the Floral Committee will be in touch to confirm your dedication.



Did You Walk Six Miles Uphill in the Snow to School?

Some of you will remember the days when gathering school supplies meant stopping by the neighborhood drug store and asking for an empty cigar box to use as a pencil box. Now the economy is different. Teachers are underpaid and many are spending their own money to buy needed classroom supplies. School budgets are stretched to the max. School supplies, that previously had been provided by the school system, are no longer in the budget. This coming school year around 56% of Woodbrook Elementary School's 525 students will qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Most families simply cannot afford to spend \$60 per child on basic school supplies to begin the school year.

Through the month of July, the money you donate to the Woodbrook School Supplies Project will allow the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) to purchase school supplies that are requested by the school's Family Support Workers. They will then give the needed supplies to economically disadvantaged children.

Please help us make these children's school experience meaningful and productive by making checks or online gifts payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies".

Church Building Improvements

This week we have two maintenance activities going on in the building:

1. A new door access system is being installed. The new system will have additional features, resolve repair issues with obsolete parts, and be more flexible for scheduling and general system administration. This upgrade is being funded with income from renting space in our building for concerts, recitals, and other community events. See below!
2. The floors in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Music Suite are being cleaned and polished.

Thank you for working around the disruption these improvements will cause for a few days. Late in the week we will need helpers to move chairs and tables back into their spaces. To volunteer, or for any questions, contact [Alan Hendricks](#).

New Door Code System

Our new door code system has been installed. We are in the process of transferring door codes into the new system. If you currently have a door code, it will work, but with slight alterations. Your altered code will be the last four digits of your current code preceded by the # sign. We will get them transferred as quickly as possible. If you have any problems with the new system, let the office know.



Reminder About Our 125 Acts of Service Goal

Take a picture of your Act of Service and then [fill out this form](#) to tell us about it. If you are having trouble with the

form or need to turn in your information a different way, contact [Amanda](#).

Dinner with Andrew

One of the members of our church family has been raising funds to address food insecurity every year since July 2001. On January 1, 2001, Colleen Baber's son Andrew choked on a gummy candy and did not survive. He had been working at Domino's Pizza at the time, and his coworkers wanted to do something to honor his memory. They chose a food drive which fit well with honoring Andrew because few people liked to eat more than he did. Thus, "Dinner with Andrew" began.

This year is the twenty-fifth year Colleen has been collecting donations in Andrew's memory. In 2020, she switched from collecting and sorting food to taking donations for food gift cards. She gives these cards to families in extreme need through The Jefferson Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, The Emergency Food Bank, and ARC. We can help address food insecurity and be the hands and feet of Christ by supporting this ministry. You can contribute directly [through this link](#), or you can send a check to the church or give online with "Dinner with Andrew" in the memo line.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Tony & Patti Barretta

Alba & Pam Beasley

Clara Brown

Leon & Nancy Castle

Johnny & Gail Ellen

David & Linda Hendon

Doc & Sarah Litchfield

Larry & Lynn Martin

Edith Parker

Barbara Weber

Jack & Anne Wilkerson

*In order to respect privacy, limited information is included here.

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of five new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: Debra Bryant, Lily Gregg, Jen May, Scott Miller, and Eddy Tennant. These faithful leaders will help guide and support the life of our church in meaningful ways.

Deacons are elected and ordained to be the lay ministerial leaders of the congregation. They help provide spiritual support, care for the church community, and work alongside staff and church leadership to help guide the mission and ministry of the church.

We will ordain Eddy Tennant and install the other newly elected deacons during worship one Sunday in August—more details to come. Please join us in giving thanks for these five individuals and praying for them as they begin this important work.

Staff Contact Information:

Senior Minister: Dr. Matthew Tennant - matt@universitybaptist.org

Interim Executive Minister: Rev. Susan Deal - susan@universitybaptist.org

Associate Minister for Music and College Students - Rev. Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org

Voces Laetae Director: Will Cooke - wcooke@universitybaptist.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Weirich - linda@universitybaptist.org

Financial Coordinator: Amanda Ohlms - aohlms@universitybaptist.org

Social Media Coordinator: Alaysia Toney - socialmedia@universitybaptist.org

Church Administrator: Alan Hendricks - ahendricks@universitybaptist.org

Education Coordinator: Rev. Tommy Deal—call the church office at 434-293-5106

Organist: Barbara Moore - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Maintenance Assistant: Hunter Cooper - call the church office at 434-293-5106

Sunday Mornings

Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service begins 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

