



April 22, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 16



This week, Matt begins his long-anticipated sabbatical by landing on the island of Bonaire, nestled in the Caribbean Netherlands. He'll be there through May 10, staying just steps from the sea. His goals for this first leg of the journey are simple yet profound: to unplug, rest, swim, run, and visit a place as unexpected as the Donkey Sanctuary. But this isn't just a tropical vacation--it's sacred space. Matt is taking time to pray, listen for God's voice, journal, and begin reading books like *Creation and the Cross*, *Blue Planet Blue God*, and *Ecology and Religion*.

He's also beginning work on two major writing projects: *Overcoming Differences* and *Marine Theology*. One book explores how we live faithfully in a polarized world, and the other dives deep--literally--into what the ocean can teach us about God's love for all creation.

As Matt finds renewal in the rhythms of water, sun, and stillness, let's commit to lifting him in prayer. Pray that the noise of everyday life fades so he can hear the spirit clearly. Pray that the sea and solitude stir creativity and peace.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 27, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Are We There Yet?

Rev. Tommy Deal

Scripture:

Luke 24:13-35

Anthems:

Hallelujah arr. by Matsikenyiri

The Servant Song

by Schwoebel

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Peter Ohlms

Ushers: Shirley Clark



Jubilate Spring CONCERT

This Sunday, April 27, 2:00 in the Sanctuary, Jubilate will present their Spring Concert followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are able to help with the reception, [please click here for the sign-up genius.](#)



Rev. Thomas Deal, Jr.



Let Matt's time away remind us that rest and listening are not luxuries--they are essential to our spiritual lives. Set aside time each day to unplug, even briefly, and create space for silence. Ask yourself: *What might God be saying to me in the stillness?*

And here's another challenge: While Matt begins writing *Overcoming Differences*, consider revisiting his earlier book, *Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America*. It's a powerful reflection on how we can live with love and conviction in divisive times--and it offers the perfect foundation for what's to come. **Limited copies are available for purchase from the church office for \$10 each.**

As Matt begins this journey of rest and renewal, let's walk alongside him in spirit, open to what God might be doing in us, too.

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. Thomas Deal, Jr.

After graduating from James Madison University, Tommy traveled with the Concern Singers before enrolling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he met his wife, Susan. Together, they have served in ministry roles across Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. Tommy's work has included congregational ministry, clinical pastoral care, disaster response with CBF, and hospice chaplaincy. He is a Board-Certified Chaplain and has also volunteered as a police chaplain, firefighter, and EMT. Now retired, Tommy and Susan live at Lake Monticello, enjoying time with friends, the outdoors, and their grandchildren in Lynchburg and Richmond.



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First Quarter Financial Update January-March 2025

Contributions: \$125,750.01
Expenses: \$181,455.86



The United Gospel Choir is Coming!

There will be no dinner or program on Wednesday, April 23. Dinner will return on Wednesday, April 30 with a Church-wide Cookout from 5:30 - 7:00.

Prayer Requests*

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill
Tony & Patti Barretta
Alba & Pam Beasley
Clara Brown
Leon & Nancy Castle
Shelby Clements
Johnny & Gail Ellen
David & Linda Hendon
Doc Litchfield
Larry & Lynn Martin
Edith Parker
Melvin & Mildred Spicer
Bob & Joyce Tennant
Barbara Weber
Jack & Anne Wilkerson

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



First quarter giving statements came out last week. If you did not receive yours (either through email or print) or you have questions, please let [Amanda](#) know.

Who? This summer, in partnership with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, we will have an opportunity to host a visit from the United Gospel Choir of Besancon, France.

When? The choir is coming to Charlottesville on Wednesday, July 16 and departing on Wednesday, July 23.

What? During their visit we will create a combined choir with the United Gospel Choir, UBC choir members, and Mt. Zion FABC choir members.

Where? We will give one or two performances and sing in worship at UBC on Sunday, July 20.

How to help? If you are interested in offering space in your house to host one or more of the visiting choir members, please contact [Megan](#). There also will be opportunities to help with meals and transportation during their visit.

Please save the dates-July 16-23!



Volunteers Needed

It's that time again! Sign up to help us give out ice cream each Wednesday beginning **TOMORROW** Wednesday, April 23! 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 vanilla & strawberry with grilled doughnuts!*

New Signage

Back in February, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued a ruling that blocks ICE (and all Department of Homeland Security agents) from entering houses of worship to carry out enforcement operations unless they have first obtained a warrant signed by a judge or there are exigent circumstances. This ruling is limited to the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit. This includes all CBF partner churches, the Sikh Temple Sacramento and six Quaker Meetings. This decision effectively restores the sensitive location policy that had been revoked by the interim secretary of DHS, ensuring that houses of worship remain free from warrantless government raids. It means that CBF congregations like ours can now continue to worship and minister without the fear of unexpected enforcement actions. The ruling validates the longstanding Baptist commitment to religious liberty, local church autonomy, and the separation of church and state. To notify enforcement agents, the University Baptist Church's Church Council voted to place signage at each of our entrances. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Church Council or one of the ministers.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

April 29: Jen Bates

May 1: Jessi Groves, Herman Eaker

May 4: Bobby Gregg

May 5: Kelly Kossi, Nancy Gaines

May 6: Pat Owen, Isaiah Krispin



2025 VBS
July 21 - 25



125 Acts of Service

"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

IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS LARGE AND SMALL

- Prepare garden for neighbor or community and plant flowers
- Walk dog for sick or injured friend
- Do a simple repair for a neighbor
- Help with computer/IT problem
- Pick up trash on trail or in a park
- Collect socks and slippers for elderly
- Hold a bake sale for charity

Your own ideas are welcomed!!

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](#).



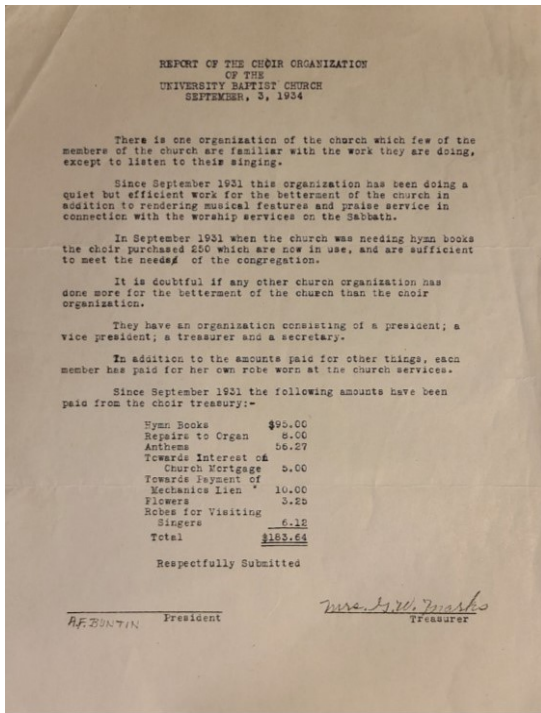
Our Pastor on WINA

Dr. Tennant was Jay James' guest on WINA's Morning News last week. He appears on WINA once per month to provide commentary on the news from a faith perspective. This month he joined the program to discuss our Holy Week services and more. In case you missed it, you can [hear the interview here](#).



We have a softball team!

UBC's softball team is part of the Charlottesville Church Softball League. The start of their season is only a month away. They play their games at McIntire or Darden Towe and always welcome new players. If you are interested in playing softball with a fun group of people in a Christian atmosphere, contact Coach George Martin at cva2011@aol.com.



91 Years Ago

The above photo is a copy of the "Report of the Choir Organization of the University Baptist Church" dated September 3, 1934.

As is evidenced by the report, there was (and is) much that went on behind the scenes with the choir beyond worship music. The work continues to this day in order to enhance the worship experience through choral music.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, April 23

8:00 Work Team Breakfast @The Villa
9:00 Work Team
12:00 Ice Cream Ministry
No Wednesday night dinner or program

FRIDAY, April 25

5:15 UBCKids Dinner/Movie
5:30 Jazz Vespers

SUNDAY, April 27

8:30 JARC Meeting
9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study
11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 College Bagel Brunch
2:00 Jubilate Spring Concert
3:00 Jubilate Reception

MONDAY, April 28

12:30 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, April 29

7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

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



Another opportunity to attend Jazz Vespers! This is the last event of the Spring series.



Join us on the fourth Friday of the month (April 25) at 5:30 in the Sanctuary for Jazz Vespers.

We will be offering extended childcare that will cover the service plus an additional 90 minutes to allow parents to go out and grab a bite to eat.

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 - Megan Sharp - megan@universitybaptist.org

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy - elizabeth@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.

University Baptist Church
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Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-5106

Connect with us

