



July 29, 2025 Vol. 77, No. 29

WATCH Finding Grace in Unexpected Places

Over the last three months, I never ceased to find God at work—when I opened my eyes to look. Matthew 7:7 says, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find...” I began my time away with an intentional openness to seeing God at work. My prayers included a petition for God to open my eyes to let me see the “wondrous things” of God’s world (Psalm 119:18). And God answered my prayers.

One example of finding God’s grace came during a long road journey in Bolivia. We were traveling from the animal refuge La Senda Verde to their rewilding site in the Amazon called Passiflora. I traveled with our driver Jesús, Vicky the founder of La Senda Verde, and two more people Vicky employs: Vladimir and Juan. We traveled in a tightly packed four-door pickup truck. The road was so rough that it felt like we were off-road in some places. We passed multiple sites of landslides and a bridge that washed out a few months ago. Often, the cliff beside the road led to a sheer drop.

Someone told me the journey should take 8 hours by car. It took us 13. Yes, it was 13 hours of bouncy roads, twisting turns, and extreme views. Yet, grace abounded throughout the journey. The views were incredible—I took too many pictures, and Jesús would stop if there was a waterfall or dramatic bridge. Everyone was congenial. We laughed and joked. They were generous and shared what they had.

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 3, 2025

11:00 AM

Sermon:

Where I've Been

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:

Hosea 11:1-11

Anthem:

Always By Our Side

by Mark Burrows

SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacons: Shirley Clark, Rachel Miller, Ray Gaines

Ushers: Tom & Sylvie Moore

Jazz Sunday!

On Sunday, August 10, we will get to experience a taste of Jazz Vespers in the morning. The choir and congregational singing will be supported by a jazz quartet including Dean Tennant on piano, Bobby Gregg on saxophone, Dhara Goradia on bass, and Stephan LaRue on drums. During this lively worship service we will also bless all children and youth as they prepare to begin classes on August 13.

I learned a valuable lesson about Vicky's work and her relationship with small businesses. The reason it took so long is because of the number of stops. In Ceiba, I bought chocolate from a small merchant who knew the farmer who grew the cacao (Vicky swore it was the best! You'll have to ask Melanie). On a mountaintop ridge rivaling the Skyline Drive, we could see mountains off both sides. There, we stopped at a fruit stand where the matriarch sold freshly squeezed orange juice sweetened with wild honey. We stopped at a tiny shack where we had frozen coffee (think Frappuccino). I saw relationships—building, growing, and bearing fruit. Matthew 12:35a says, "The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure." I saw "good things" from a "good treasure."

What are the good things around us? Do we see them? Are there "good treasures" we miss? Do we, like Jesus says in Matthew 12, seek to "bring good things out of a good treasure"? If we ask God to let us see acts of grace, we will find them. If we seek to "bring good things out of a good treasure," we will.

Peace,
Matt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

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

Aug. 6: Clara Brown

Aug. 7: Ian Pallini

Aug. 8: Donna Marshall, Alaysia Toney

Aug. 9: Shirley Wagoner

Aug. 10: Rachel Miller, Michelle Proffitt

Aug. 11: Olivia Burgess

Aug. 12: Gayle Eaker

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, July 30

8:00 Work Team Breakfast @The Villa

9:00 Work Team

12:00 Ice Cream Ministry

5:30 Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00 Welcome Back Matt!

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 3

8:30 Church Council Meeting

9:30 ESOL/Seekers Class

9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study

11:00 Morning Worship

TUESDAY, August 5

7:00 Kittie Colvin Trail Circle

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



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. He is now 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 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.

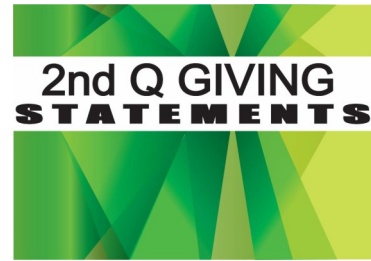
Make your dinner reservations [here](#).

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



Second Quarter Financial Update

January-June 2025
Contributions:
\$253,073.20
Expenses: \$353,765.18



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



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 vanilla, strawberry, & grilled donuts!***



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

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.

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.

56 Years Ago

At the Church Conference of April 22, 1969, the members of UBC voted 85-60 to revise its Bylaws to open membership to any Christian upon a public profession of faith. Prior to this conference, the Deacons unanimously passed a recommendation which read "Qualifications for membership shall be based solely on an individual's Christian commitment and his sincere desire to be a member of University Baptist Church." This paved the way for persons of color to become full members of UBC. It also resulted in several members leaving UBC to join other congregations.



WMU Woodbrook School Supplies and So Much More

In addition to purchasing more than a \$1000 worth of school supplies each fall, the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) has also used your donations to supply gift cards for

winter coats, buy dozens of backpacks, provide packages of new underpants and second-hand pants for the school's emergency clothes closet, and buy many pairs of tennis shoes, belts, soap and deodorant, and individually packaged snack items for the Woodbrook family Support Workers to give to students when needed. We check back with them throughout the school year to see if there are other things they may need. One winter, we provided gallons of hand sanitizer during a severe flu season. Please help us provide for the most underprivileged children in our community. Make your checks or online donations payable to UBC and earmark "school supplies."

Meet Our New Deacons

We are grateful to announce the election of four new deacons to serve a three-year term on the Deacon Council: 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.

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.



A huge thank you to everyone involved with making our first ever Music Camp a wonderful success. The kids had a great time and were an awesome addition to our Sunday morning worship service.

Another huge thank you to everyone involved in making our combined choir experience with Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church and the United Gospel Choir from Besancon, France such a wonderful and meaningful experience. This was an event we will long remember and may lead to additional ministry opportunities in the future.

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.

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.

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 Morning 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

