



CORNERSTONE

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Pastor's Reflection: Good Trouble

Robert S. Turner


Congressman John Lewis of Georgia appeared on a recent episode of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, and described his goal throughout his lifetime of activism on behalf of civil rights this way: "Sometimes you have to find a way to get in the way. Get in trouble. Good trouble." He said he learned this tactic of getting in the way from people like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., who came to leadership in the civil rights movement of the Fifties and Sixties because of their willingness to get into good trouble.

In fact, the tactic goes back farther than King and Parks. In Richard Attenborough's 1982 film *Gandhi*, the great Indian leader explains, "The function of a civil resistance is to provoke response and we will continue to provoke until they respond or change the law. They are not in control; we are." I have not been able to determine if this is an actual quotation from Gandhi or merely a part of the movie script, but it certainly fits within the spirit of the real Gandhi's work and philosophy.

But the tactic of getting in good trouble predates Gandhi as well. He was forthright about where he had developed his strategy of *satyagraha*, or "truth force"—he got it from Jesus. Theologian Walter Wink and others promoting Christian nonviolence have helped us to see that many of Jesus's teachings, including that famous series in the Sermon on the Mount in which he counsels his disciples to turn the other cheek and so on, were actually brilliant strategies of active non-violent resistance. They were the kind of tactics that people without physical

power or clout could use to assert their humanity and oppose the indignities inflicted by those who by the world's standards were more powerful. By refusing to respond in kind when given an insulting slap in the face, but rather to look the other person in the eye and offer the other cheek was a means of wresting control of the situation from the hands of the "powerful" party. It was a way of saying, "They are not in control; we are."

Gandhi, and later King, Parks, and the SCLC adapted these methods to suit their own contexts, and John Lewis has done the same throughout his long career. He speaks with an unquestionable moral authority, as one who has paid a high price for his adherence to the principles of nonviolent resistance. When you nearly lose your life after having your skull cracked by police clubs on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, you have earned the right to speak and be heard on issues of race, economic inequality, or gun violence. Lewis served as one of the leaders of the congressional sit-in last June in which



Friday, September 9, 2016,
7:00pm, at the Chop Shop. Come enjoy the libation of your choice as we have an informal conversation about important points in theology and ethics. Bring a friend!

Democratic lawmakers occupied the House chamber and refused to move in an effort to force the Republican leadership to act on gun safety legislation. At age 76, Lewis's pace has slowed a little, but that just makes it easier for him to get in the way.

Lewis's talk of getting in good trouble reminds me of a prayer I started praying about twenty years ago. I noticed that I and others often asked God to keep someone safe—when traveling, or just going about one's day-to-day business in an unpredictable world. It's a legitimate prayer, and I still ask God to keep my daughters safe every morning. But being safe can also have the connotation of being *non-threatening*, and I would never pray for that outcome for myself or anyone else seeking to follow Jesus. The powers of the world certainly did not consider Jesus safe, and they should not consider us safe either. If those people trying to cross that bridge in Alabama in 1965 weren't a threat to the powers, then why did that cop beat John Lewis almost to death?

So I have added an element to my prayers. I now say, "God, keep us safe ... and keep us dangerous."

May God continue to lead University Baptist Church to be dangerous in this best sense of the word. May we continue to get in the way. To get into trouble. Good trouble.

Grace and peace,

bob

Many submissions to the newsletter are voluntary contributions from individuals. The ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the mission or views of University Baptist Church as a whole.

Whenever

Julius Mayo

As a young professional, I was obsessed with the concept of time. Or, more specifically, my perceived lack of it. Fueled by insane amounts of Starbucks Frappuccino (which I have since sworn off of) I stressed about being in my office early enough, working more hours than my peers to make sure I looked committed to the job, setting aside enough time for meeting with students, creating time for meetings with student staff, and the list went on and on. Interestingly, while my goal was to become more efficient, and always work ahead, what I found instead was I just felt more and more stressed.

One afternoon, the head of our department called me in to his office, and effectively challenged me to think about just how effective living in a constant state of hurriedness was. As I sat nervously trying to figure out exactly what this so-called "chance for me to talk about my experiences in the department" really meant, I noticed a clock beside my supervisor's desk. Instantly, I prepared myself to go into high efficiency mode. But then I realized that this clock was different from the many others that I had allowed to pretty much guide my life up until that point.

This particular clock only had a minute hand, no hour hand, and the message "Whenever" scrolled across the center of the timepiece.

Puzzled by this revelation, I wondered why on earth someone as important as a department head would have such a clock. But then as we talked my concept of what it really meant to use time efficiently changed. The conversation was truly rich and empowering, but not determined solely by time constraints, but instead by a commitment to focus on the experience itself. From that experience I began to realize that in order to do my job well, I needed to learn to live in the moment at times

and not devote my entire professional life to solely meeting a seemingly never ending slew of deadlines.

At times, I believe this relates to our Christian journeys as well. How often do we focus more on making sure all the rituals of our Christian practice are correct, than focusing on truly worshipping and serving the Creator and Christ are faith is based upon. It's easy to get caught in the rat race of life and not focus on the challenging (and sometimes complicated) aspects of what it really means to be a follower of Christ.

Despite the difficulty, however, it is worth it where ever and *whenever* we can truly do it to glory of God.

All praises be to the Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit! --Julius Mayo

Council of Ministry Members

The current Council of Ministry members are:

Frank Benline
 Barbara Bullock
 Leslie Floyd
 Bob Hoersdig
 Bobbi Hoersdig
 Grace Hughes
 Joe Jackson
 Alison Mowery
 Amanda McClafferty
 Oliva Riley
 Natasha Woods
 Ken Watkins
 Pat Rorhbaugh

Civil Rights—Our Christian Responsibility

Kerry Cheesman

Heading home last month from our summer pastorate in New Mexico, Maryann and I headed across I-40 to Memphis. In this city, known for its fabulous music scene, sits the *National Civil Rights Museum*, built around the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in April 1968. A visit to this museum has been on my bucket list for at least 20 years (and during that time the museum has been upgraded and enlarged significantly to tell the broader story of civil rights in America rather than just the story of Dr. King and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s).

The museum was, indeed, a wonderful stop and an experience that brought into focus many of the events and news stories that we lived through as children and as young adults. From the time we entered the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel, looking up at the balcony where Dr. King was fatally shot, until we walked out the door more than two hours later, we had to suppress tears that kept welling up as our minds flew back in time to the horrific events and struggles of the past. We listened to the stories of the families whose children were killed as they attended Sunday School in churches bombed by the KKK (most of whom claimed to be Christians). We watched horrific news reels of brutality against those who walked for freedom across the Edmond Petus Bridge. We listened to stories from throughout the ages of people in all walks of life, young and old, black and white, men and women, who dared to stand for freedom and equality for all. We heard again the Biblical mandates that compel all of us to respect God's children regardless of color or race or economic situation.

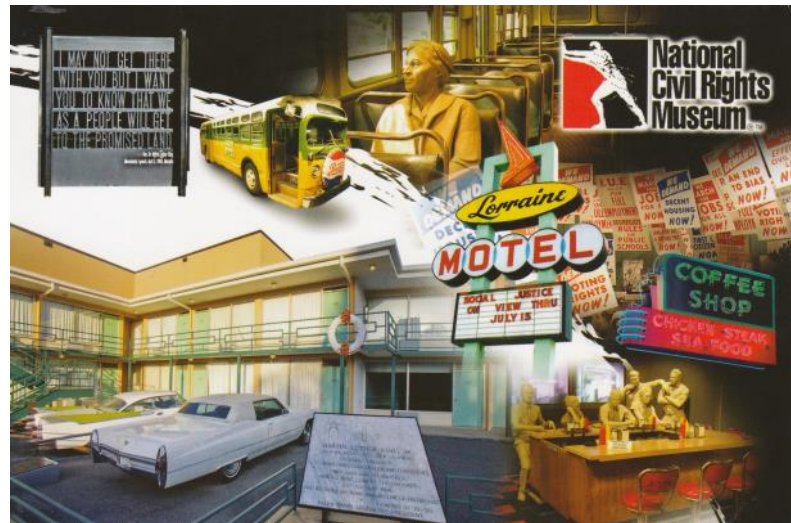
Listening again to some of Dr. King's speeches brought renewed tears to my eyes. Three years ago I stood at the pulpit of his home church in Atlanta, listening to some of his sermons anew. This summer I preached several times

using some of his words, including those he wrote in (and smuggled out of) a Birmingham jail, and part of the sermon he gave the night before he was killed in Memphis. To hear those words again in the city where he spoke them was almost overwhelming. The last time I remember being so moved by a museum was when we visited the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

As we left the museum, however, I couldn't help but feel that there was a hole in the story being told. Growing up in the west, and being involved from a young age in Native American communities, and having spent the past several summers as a pastor in "Indian Country", I was amazed that the "National" Civil Rights Museum focused solely on the struggle of the African-American community. Yes, there was one small panel at the very end that noted that Native Americans and Hispanic farmworkers have also struggled, but that was really the only mention of other populations. The fact that over a three hundred year period of colonization of the Americas more Native Americans were enslaved and killed than were African Americans was unmentioned. The fact that tens of thousands of innocent Native American women and children were systematically slaughtered by the

US Army and others, simply because they were an inconvenience to 'progress' (sounds like the KKK rationale), was nowhere to be found. Do not these individuals have civil rights struggles that are equally important?

The struggle for equality and civil rights has certainly not ended. It is not a relic of our past. As Christians, and especially as a progressive Christian community, we need to be vigilant in following such great leaders as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (an American Baptist pastor, by the way) until ALL who reside within these shores are treated as equals and offered equal opportunities. We need to demand that ALL lives matter, and recognize that Jesus did not distinguish between races or classes or economic backgrounds when he stretched out his arms on the cross so that ALL people might have eternal life!





Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Leslie Floyd
- 4 Devi Monjot
- 5 Beth Short
- 6 Ian Cheesman
- 14 Stella McClafferty
- 23 Manju Chakraborty
- 28 Shirley Brown
Kerry Cheesman

Recycling

The Recycling bins are located in the bottom floor stairwell. The blue bin is for kitchen recycleables and plastic. The grey bin is for paper/ cardboard waste.

Please remember only clean plastics, aluminum, and cardboard can be recycled. Aluminum pans that had food in them that aren't thoroughly cleaned must be thrown away. No paper plates with food or cardboard pizza boxes are allowed either. Please help do your part to keep the insects and odors out of the stairwell.

Support Ministry Update

Jonathan and Leslie are still working on getting estimates for the bell repair.

UBC hired Energility to do an energy audit for the church. This will result in a report with recommendations on upgrade/replacement of the building's HVAC systems including use of alternative energies.

UBC received a \$3000 grant from Columbia Gas for the audit. Cost to the church was \$1000. Energility will be presenting their findings and recommendations to the church. Watch for more information on this meeting.

The roof in the sanctuary leaked several weeks ago during the heavy rains. One Red Slate roofing company came out and gave an estimate of around \$1,000 to repair the leak. Flashing repair at the juncture of the tile roof building the flat roof building, replacement of some broken tile, and re-gluing of the rubber roof are recommended to fix the leak. One Red Slate also indicated that the flat roof was about at the end of its life.

OSU Home Games and Football Parking

OSU home games are starting and our parking lot master, Bob Hoersdig is hard at work getting things ready to go.

Volunteers to lot sit are always needed. Please contact Bob if you have a few hours to spare on a home game Saturday.

2016 OSU Home Games

- Sep. 3 Bowling Green Falcons
Noon ET
- Sep. 10 Tulsa Golden Hurricane
3:30pm ET
- Oct. 1 Rutgers Scarlet Knights
Noon ET
- Oct. 8 Indiana Hoosiers
Time TBA
- Oct. 29 Northwestern Wildcats
5:30pm ET
- Nov. 5 Nebraska Cornhuskers
8:00pm ET
- Nov. 26 Michigan Wolverines
Time TBA

September Sermons and Scriptures

DATE	TITLE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sep 4, 2016	<i>Clay in the Potter's Hand</i>	Jer 18:1-11	Ps 139:1-6, 13-18	Philem 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sep 11, 2016	<i>This Fellow Welcomes Sinners</i>	Jer 4:11-12, 22-28	Ps 14	1 Tim 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sep 18, 2016	<i>Lamentation</i>	Jer 8:18 - 9:1	Ps 79:1-9	1 Tim 2:1_7	Luke 16:1-13
Sep 25, 2016	TBA	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Ps 146	1 Tim 6:19-31	Luke 16:19-31



Conflict Transformation

Sunday, October 16, 12:00–4:00 pm.

Mark your calendar for a special training event led by Le-Dayne McLeese Polaski of the Baptist Peace Fellowship and our own Joe Henry. Lunch will be provided. More information to come.



Kids 2nd & 4th Sundays Pat Rohrbaugh

After a summer vacation, Kids’ 2nd and 4th Sunday is starting up again this coming Sunday, September 11. There are some changes.

1. The children will come to Fellowship Hall rather than the sanctuary. We need more time.
2. We will be using new material. Because we have a one room program for children, finding material isn’t easy. Our oldest will be twelve her next birthday, and the youngest is five. Sometimes, we have younger visitors. Finding material appropriate for that age range is a challenge. Without realizing what I was doing, I signed up for a contest for Sunday School material. I won. Even better, I really like the material called Whirl from Spark House. Most publishers sell material for a complete Sunday School program for children to adults. We don’t need

that. Materials are for a weekly program; we don’t have that. Because of these unnecessary offerings that we don’t need, material is expensive. Some material is much more conservative than we are. Whirl isn’t. All of the material we received, is Bible based. Each lesson begins with an animated video and follows a four-part sequence: welcome, hear, respond, and launch (WHRL!). As part of my winnings, we received NRSV Bibles for older children and story Bibles for younger ones. In addition, we received a take home lesson for each child. Hopefully, the children will like the material as much as the teachers do.

Speaking of teachers, Liliya Yang, our nursery attendant, comes to assist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Thomas Garrett and I are the teachers. Kay Monjot helps with music when we have time for it. We have sung, played chimes, and used Boomwhackers. David Riley helps with whatever we need him.

I encourage all of you with children, grandchildren, and/or visitors to bring them this Sunday or any 2nd or 4th Sunday as we learn about God’s message to us using our new Whirl material.





**SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 – 9 TO 1 - \$15
GARDENERS OF WEEDIN' FALL CLASSES AND
WREATHMAKING WORKSHOP**

**OUR BI-ANNUAL GARDEN CLASSES PROVIDE HANDS-ON
EDUCATION IN A FUN AND RELAXED ENVIRONMENT!**

HUGE RAFFLE!!! WITH TREASURES YOU JUST CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT!

DON'T spend \$60 on a wreath you can make for FREE in our workshop! All materials are provided! DON'T KILL YOUR ORCHIDS! NURTURE them by learning their basic requirements! DO learn how to save money by overwintering your favorite annuals for next year's garden! COME get FREE seeds to plant in the spring! LEARN how to have healthy, green houseplants!



**WHAT TO PLANT
THIS FALL FOR
SPRING COLOR!**

HOUSEPLANTS 101

**HOW TO GROW
FABULOUS
ORCHIDS**

**SAVE MONEY AND
OVERWINTER YOUR
GERANIUMS**

**HOW TO PUT YOUR
GARDEN TO BED FOR
WINTER**

Have Gardening
Questions? Ask our
Horticulture specialists!

\$15 - SEATING IS LIMITED!

University Baptist Church
50 West Lane Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

To Register
Please Call Diana Morrison
614-795-6703 or
Gumby43221@yahoo.com

September 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 10:30 am Worship	5	6	7 INCH 9:30-11:30 am CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	8 CYA Gathering 6:00	9 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	10 COM Meeting 10:30 am
11 10:30 am Worship	12	13	14 INCH 9:30-11:30 am CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	15 CYA Gathering 6:00	16 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	17
18 10:30 am Worship	19	20	21 INCH 9:30-11:30 am CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	22 CYA Gathering 6:00	23 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	24 Gardeners of Weedin' Class 9 am-1 pm
25 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28 INCH 9:30-11:30 am CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	29	30	

University Baptist Church — Progressive • Welcoming • Inclusive

- **Theology & Ethics on Tap, Friday, September 2, 7 pm, The Chop Shop.** Enjoy your favorite libation as we hold an informal discussion on various theological topics and their implications in the real world. More information: Bob Turner. *Note: We will be holding this event the second Friday of every month.*
- **Book Study, beginning in September.** If you would like to take part in a book study on racial issues but have not yet signed up, please do so today. The signup sheet is in the Narthex. When you sign up, be sure to vote for the book you would like for us to read.
- **Conflict Transformation, Sunday, October 16, 12:00-4:00 pm.** Mark your calendar for a special training event led by LeDayne McLeese Polaski of the Baptist Peace Fellowship and our own Joe Henry. Lunch will be provided. More information to come.



*University
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E-mail: ubccolumbus@gmail.com

Website: www.ubccolumbus.org

Pastor—Rev. Bob Turner
Moderator—Frank Benline
Choir Director—Chelsea Mondesir
Pianist—Mollie Rausch
Office Manager—Kerry Taylor
Nursery Care—Liliya Yang

Worship—10:30 a.m.

**Children's Sunday School—2nd
and 4th Sundays—10:30 a.m.**

Office Hours

Tues.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Return Service Requested 9/30/16