



CORNERSTONE

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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.

Pator's Reflection: Nationalism and Cheap Grace

Robert S. Turner

At Progressive Field the other night for the Indians' latest shellacking of the Tigers, I was standing in line at the concession stand when it came time for the national anthem. As the music started I doffed my cap, and watched as all the men around me did the same. Everything came to a halt: a silence settled over the milling crowds, people stopped in their tracks, the sandwich makers and beer vendors ceased their activity. I was impressed with how respectful everyone was as we listened to a young woman butcher "The Star-Spangled Banner" over the PA system—a guy in line in front of me even took it on himself to motion at strangers passing by to take off their hats. It was like being in church, and was probably as close to being in church (or any kind of worship setting) that many of the folks at the park that night would be for a good long while.

But who needs church when we have America? When we can get our sense of belonging, our commitment to a common purpose, and a reinforcement of our sense of collective virtue at the ballpark, where no one minds what you wear or how much you drink or what kind of language you use, why bother with church?

Well, let me tell you what else I saw. Over the shoulder of the guy teaching people to be respectful by taking off their hats, I could see into one of the glass-walled team shops. Prominently displayed there was a shirt bearing a gigantic cartoonish image of Chief Wahoo, the Indians' "mascot." This version was even worse than the official

red-skinned, grinning Indian logo. It looked like something out of a Looney Tunes cartoon from the 1930s, an offensive caricature that we should have grown out of in the past eighty years.

Right there in a nutshell was the problem with patriotism-as-religion: as we honored America with great reverence and pride, we were somehow able to ignore the woolly mammoth of our national sins standing in the middle of the room. Our forebears, for all their wisdom, perpetuated the enslavement of millions of Africans and endorsed genocide against millions of native Americans, with the happy result that now we can spend thirty bucks to mock the descendants of our nation's victims and excuse it by saying we're just "supporting our team." Patriotism-as-religion has no beef with this.

In this it closely resembles religion-without-justice. Any time we manage to divorce our worship of God from acts of justice, inclusion, peacemaking, and delivering love, we open the door



Friday, July 8, 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!

to sin and evil. “As servants of God,” Peter admonishes his readers in his first epistle, “live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil” (1 Pet 2:16). Much of the rhetoric I have heard coming from this year’s election circus tells me that this remains a live option in 2016.

The First Amendment provides a corrective to the excesses of patriotism-as-religion. The words of the prophets and the teachings of Jesus do the same for religion-without-justice. The question we as a church and as a nation have to answer is this: will we avail ourselves of these correctives, or will we choose instead to worship the false gods of nationalism and cheap grace?

Grace and peace,

bob



God Wastes Time on THOSE People

Julius Mayo

Recently, while reading through one of the social media sites I frequent, I was struck by a comment an acquaintance of mine had made about the recent decision to equip police officers and other first response professionals with Naloxone (a drug designed to help those suffering from heroin and other opioid-type overdoses). “Why are we requiring police officers and firefighters to waste their time helping *those* people? They’re only going to end up right back where they started when it’s said and done,” she lamented. Unsure if I should respond or not, I paused and reflected on the power of the words “*those people*.” How many times throughout history has that sentiment been used to overlook and ignore those in need, those who were different, or those we had no desire to better understand, I thought. Before I could respond, however, another acquaintance of mine, who happened to know the person who had commented on the social media page, told her story of how she and her family have been struggling for years helping her son with his addiction, and that if first responders weren’t there when she and her family were not available, her child would likely be dead now.

Reading the online discussion that followed, in which apologies were offered, and a good reflective conversation began, I was reminded that God’s ways are not our ways. Whether you are Job, trying to figure out why he had to endure so much suffering despite his faithfulness to the Creator (Job 28:28), the woman at the well who was offered “living water” despite all those around her judging her as being unworthy (John 4:1–28), or the Christian follower who at times struggles to understand why God really does *waste time and LOVE* on those people whom we would otherwise ignore. God is Love. And not just any type of love. The Creator rep-

resents a form of love that builds bridges not walls, brings hope not fear, and has a limitless amount of compassion that we as human beings could never truly comprehend. This is the example we must work to be like in our Christian journey. It’s not easy, but it certainly is not a waste of time and effort.

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

--Julius Mayo

July Scriptures and Sermons

Jul 3, 2016

Patriotism

2 Kings 5:1–14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:7–16

Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

Jul 10, 2016

Go and Do Likewise

Amos 7:7–17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1–14

Luke 10:25–37

Jul 17, 2016

The Better Part

Genesis 18:1–10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15–28

Luke 10:38–42

Jul 24, 2016

Triumph

Genesis 18:20–32

Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6–15

Luke 11:1–13

Jul 31, 2016

I Will Not Come in Wrath

Hosea 11:1–11

Psalm 107:1–9, 43

Colossians 3:1–11

Luke 12:13–21



Attention Needed! Permission to Use Photographs

As you may know, we are in the midst of an overhaul of our web site, and will soon be creating new promotional literature for our church, such as brochures and flyers. An important element in making these pieces effective is the use of photographs. We want to highlight the members of our congregation as we worship, serve, and

share fellowship together so that people can see for themselves the joy and love that characterize this church.

We also know, however, that people have varying levels of comfort with having their photos shared publicly. For this reason, in the next few weeks we will include a permission form in the worship bulletin and in this issue of the newsletter. This form will allow you to set the parameters by which we use photos of you and the members of your family on the web site and in a variety of print media. Please take a moment to fill out the form and return it to the office. You may drop it in the offering plate or leave it with Kerry in the office.

Apart from pictures of staff (who also have the option to opt out), in no case will personal information be connected with any photographs we use—persons will not be identified.

[Please note that this form does not cover the church’s Facebook page, because: a) it is not as fully public as the web site, since one must be a member of the group to see its content; and b) any member of the group may post to the page—the church has no proprietary control over what gets posted. If you object to your image being displayed on the Facebook page, we suggest you contact the person who posted the image directly and ask to have it removed.]

We all know that University Baptist Church is an ideal place to experience the unbounded, inclusive love of God. Thank you for your help in sharing this message with others who need to know it too!

Web Site Photo Permission www.ubccolumbus.org

Thank you helping us to improve our web site and other external communications. To let the church know how we may use your photograph, please check the appropriate box(es) and write the name of each person in your family to whom the choice applies.

- I grant permission for the use of photos of the following person(s) online and in print media:

- I grant permission for the use of photos of the following person(s) in print media only (*not* online):

- I grant permission for the use of photos of the following person(s) from the back or at a distance only:

- Do not use photos of the following person(s) in any public context:

Breaking Down the WALL

Last month I left my pastoral duties at Philmont Scout Ranch to go to California for a short meeting. Returning eastward I was driving across I-8 in southern California. All of a sudden there it was on my right – **THE WALL**. Actually it is an incredibly large fence, but I understand why they call it the wall. It grew larger and larger as I got closer – I could almost reach out and touch it. The helicopters overhead and the uniformed men with really large guns, however, persuaded me not to even think about touching it. Soon traffic began to slow as I approached a Border Patrol checkpoint. A dog sniffed my car while an agent asked me where I had been. In front of me were lots of men with heavy guns, and of course the helicopters were still overhead. My mind questioned whether I was in a supposedly Christian country, the land of the free, or the old Soviet Union.

I admit that I have always been disturbed by talk of The Wall, and the idea that has been advocated most strongly the past year or so to make it longer and higher. It's already multiple layers thick and built so that no human or animal (except a bird or an insect) could possibly cross it. We know from scientific studies that there are several mammals that are declining in population and threatened because we have cut off access to their breeding grounds. But it is the human toll we have created that concerns me the most.

Both the Old and New Testaments talk about migrants and refugees, and how God's people are expected to treat them. Not once, as far as I can find, does God ever say that we are to shut them out or build a wall. Instead, God and Jesus specifically tell us to welcome the stranger and the needy, regardless of circumstance, with love and open arms. In Deuter-

Kerry Cheesman

onomy 10:18–19, for instance, God “upholds the cause of the fatherless and the widow, befriends the stranger, providing food and clothing; you too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” This expression of concern for the oppressed, the poor, and the stranger is found also in Leviticus (19:9, 19:33–34), Exodus (22:20), and Numbers (15:14). In the New Testament Jesus echoes a similar concern for the poor and oppressed, telling us in Matthew 11:28–29, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The Bible is full of stories of refugees who flee their land and enter (almost always illegally, but with God's blessing) the neighboring lands. Stories such as those of Abraham, Lot, Ruth, even Mary and Joseph, show us how refugees come in many forms and for many reasons, and remind us of how God expects us to treat those who need our help. In our own country the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is inscribed with a quote that paraphrases Jesus: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Nowhere in the Bible does God direct us to build a wall to keep refugees out of “our” lands—the lands, by the way, that were settled by refugees such as my ancestors and many of yours! Who is to say that refugees entering our country, even illegally, are not following God's commands, just as Mary and Joseph did?

During my first ministry position, directing the youth program at North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago, the youth painted a wonderful mural on the wall of the youth room depicting a brick wall tumbling down. It was a vision taken from Ephesians 2:14,

which reads “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and **has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility**”. What a vision that would be today: Following Christ's example and removing the wall that separates us from the refugees along our border.

Edwin Markham (1852-1940) wrote a poem titled “Outwitted” that reads like this:

*He drew a circle that shut me out
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!*

Perhaps all we need is a little love, like that God shows toward us, and maybe we can tear down the wall and draw a circle that welcomes and includes the stranger and the refugee!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2	Marjorie Blair
3	Crystal Faris
12	Tommy Faris
14	Ralph O'Dette
19	Isaac Robinson
21	Arun Saha
22	Pat Rohrbaugh Barbara Bullock
23	Alison Mowery
26	Marissa Williams

Anniversaries

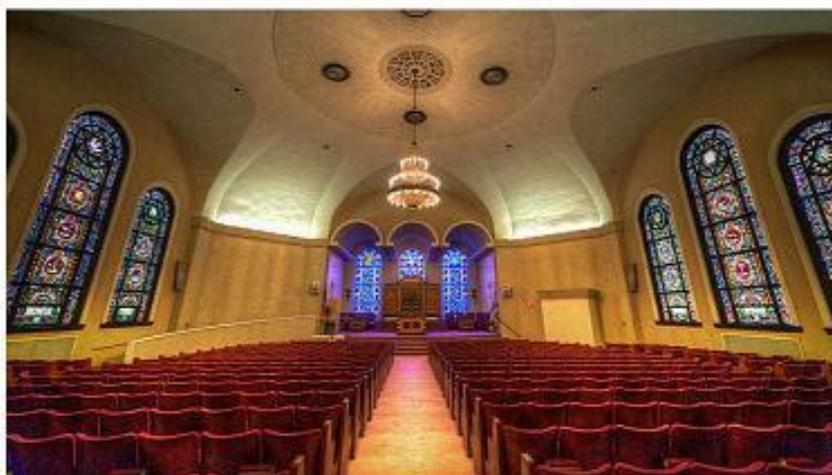
11	Bill & Leslie Schultz
29	Bob & Bobbi Hoersdig



Interfaith Visit to Synagogue

Friday, July 15, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Congregation Tifereth Israel
1354 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43205



5:00 pm: Gathering with wine and cheese
5:30 pm: Worship Service

Interfaith visits to places of worship provide for a time of conversation, consultation and community-building. Please join us in building a community of friendship and trust.

To attend kindly RSVP by July 8 to office@iaco.org

Engagement Committee of Interfaith Association of Central Ohio
www.iaco.org

Our offices are located at IACO, 65 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-849-0290.



OSU Welcome Service & Fellowship Dinner

**Sunday, August 28, 2016
Worship at 10:30 am, followed by
fellowship dinner**

Join us for this annual event welcoming the OSU community back for another year.

Church members are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Wings will be provided by BW3.

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	2
3 10:30 am Worship	4	5	6 CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	7 CYA Gathering 6:00	8 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm Theology on Tap 7 pm at the Chop Shop	9 COM Meeting 10:30 am
10 10:30 am Worship	11	12	13 CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	14 CYA Gathering 6:00	15 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	16
16 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm—Spellbound at the Ohio Theatre	17	18	19 CCF 6:30-9:00 pm	20 CYA Gathering 6:00	21 CCF 6:30-10:00 pm	22
23 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

University Baptist Church — Progressive • Welcoming • Inclusive

- **Theology & Ethics on Tap, Friday, July 8, 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.
- **UBC Movie Matinee. Sunday, July 17, 2pm, the Ohio Theatre.** It's an afternoon at the movies with the classic Hitchcock thriller "Spellbound," starring Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck, part of the CAPA Summer Movie Series. Tickets: \$2.50. More information: Bob Turner.
- **OSU Welcome Service & Fellowship Dinner, Sunday, August 28, 2016.** Worship at 10:30 am followed by a fellowship dinner. Join us for this annual event welcoming the OSU community back for another year. Church members are encouraged to bring a dish to share; wings will be provided by BW3.



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Website: www.ubccolumbus.org

Pastor—Rev. Bob Turner
Moderator—Patricia Rohrbaugh
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 7/31/16