



Cornerstone

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Pastor's Reflection: Queer and Faithful—Bob Turner

This month we will again engage in the Pride festivities in Columbus. Check out the information on page 4 of this newsletter and make plans to participate in the parade, the information booth, or both. We would love to have a large contingent of UBCers to march in the parade this year, to show the LGBTQ community of Columbus that we truly are a welcoming and affirming community of faith where they will feel safe and at home. If you cannot participate in the Pride events but would still like to be a part of this important ministry of our church, consider sticking around after worship on June 11 to help us make some colorful signs for our parade participants to carry.

As I was preparing to write this article, I read through a new brochure from the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, entitled "Queer & Faithful?" It's a sort of "entry-level" document for people, whether gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian, who question if it's even possible to be an LGBTQ Christian. Most of us at UBC are way past those sorts of questions, but it's a helpful reminder that a lot of people have not yet made the journey we have made. Some LGBTQ persons still wonder if their orientation indicates that they are essentially flawed and ineligible for God's love. Some straight Christians may want to become welcoming and affirming but worry that to do so would make them disobedient to God's scriptural commands. Some of the people we will encounter at the Pride festival will fall into these camps. Others will have already written off the church entirely, or will have come armed with

megaphones and Bible verses to demand conformity to their narrow version of the Christian faith and their binary understanding of human sexuality.

Most of us grew up with that same binary understanding. I know I did, anyway. There are boys and there are girls. Boys like girls and girls like boys, and when they grow up they get married and have baby boys or baby girls, and the cycle repeats. If you run across a girl who likes girls, or a boy who likes boys, or a girl or boy who likes both, or a girl who thinks she's a boy, or something along those lines, you have encountered an aberration. Those people are confused or sick or perverted, and "normal" people are justified in shunning them or making fun of them or worse. I was raised with this kind of worldview. My dad never hid his contempt and disgust when the subject of "queers" came up. It took me a long time to break free from that legacy and learn a new way of looking at the world.

The "Queer & Faithful?" brochure puts it this way: "Difference of sexual orientation and gender identity are not 'sins' from which to repent or 'sicknesses' to be cured. They are, instead, important markers of human difference that serve as living witnesses to the wide diversity and deep beauty of God's creation. They are cause for wonder and *celebration* (not cure)!"

Or, as Hamlet says, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

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.

As we prepare for the Stonewall Columbus Pride festival this month, let us approach the world with the sense of openness Hamlet indicates. We are not the same; we don't have to be the same; the world would be a terribly boring place if we *were* all the same. Let us open our minds and hearts to the wonderful rainbow diversity of God's creation; let us open our arms to those who are different from us; and let us open up our philosophy to take in more of what God wants to show us in heaven and earth.

bob



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 4 Orin Newberry
- 7 Bill Schultz
- 13 Tim Spengler

Anniversaries

- 21 Ken & Genevieve Peterson
- 25 Curtis & Charmagne Hough

Theology on Tap

Friday, June 9, 2017, 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!

Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter items are due the third Friday of the month.

Also, it is UBC policy that all references to God be inclusive. We will edit to reflect this.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Pentecost Sunday

is June 4th

Remember to wear

RED

Where Would Jesus Be?— Julius Mayo

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to visit St. Peter's Basilica in Rome while co-leading a study abroad experience. To say the structure is breathtaking would be an understatement. The adornments and decorations were some of the most elaborate designs I have ever seen. As I stood amongst all the grandeur however, a strange question formed in my mind. In all the magnificence of the ornate paintings, sculptures, and carvings celebrating the greatness of God and Christ, what might Jesus think and do? As I was walking around the basilica, I noticed a somewhat ordinary corner with nothing especially remarkable about it except it was a good place to stand and take in everything around the room. I wondered if that might not have been where Jesus would have been waiting if he were in such a place. While I am sure Christ would appreciate the beauty and majesty of the church, I also think God would be waiting in the "unremarkable" places to welcome those who might be seen as unworthy by earthly standards. However we recognize the Creator, we should remember that it is not just about praise, but also about demonstrating the Christian love and mercy we have been instructed to provide at all times. By doing this we can truly appreciate the magnificence of God.

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

Julius Mayo

P.S.—Happy Father's Day!

June Scriptures and Sermons

DATE	LITURGICAL DATE	TENTATIVE SERMON TITLE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Jun 4, 2017	Pentecost	<i>Fire and Water</i>	Acts 2:1–21	Ps 104:24–34, 35b	1 Cor 12:3b–13	John 7:37–39
Jun 11, 2017	Trinity	<i>All Authority</i>	Gen 1:1 – 2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11–13	Matthew 28:16–20
Jun 18, 2017	Pentecost +2	<i>Without Payment</i>	Gen 18:1–15	Ps 116:1–2, 12–19	Rom 5:1–8	Matt 9:35 – 10:8
Jun 25, 2017	Pentecost +3	<i>The Cost of Discipleship</i>	Jer 20:7–13	Ps 69:7–10, 16–18	Rom 6:1–11	Matt 10:24–39

The Lesson of the Lemon Ants—Kerry Cheesman

May 2013 – Maryann and I are slogging through the Amazon rainforest with a group of college students and a local guide who speaks little English. It is 90 degrees and the humidity is 95%, and in spite of the monkeys swinging overhead and the marvelous reptiles and insects all around us, we are beginning to wear down physically after nearly four hours of hiking. All of a sudden we reach a small tree with a good size clearing around it, and the guide says this is the tree where the lemon ants live. He asks if anyone would like to taste them. Being hungry and close to delirious, Maryann eagerly gobbles some up, then asks for seconds! It is like finding water in the middle of the desert!

Fast forward to two weeks ago. We are back in the rainforest with students on a similar hike. This time the weather is a little better, and Maryann is more alert. When we reach the lemon ant tree she jumps for joy and encourages all of the students to taste them (they actually do). Yes, they do smell and taste like lemon and they tickle a little as they go down (which is why I gobbled up all the rest!). But the real story is why they live there and how they interact with this particular tree.

These little ants and the tree that they live inside of have co-evolved a mutualistic system that helps both succeed. In a dense tropical rainforest there is great competition for sunlight and soil, and few trees survive past the early stages. Lemon ants secrete a toxin that kills most of the other small plants within a large radius of their host tree, allowing their host to receive the sunlight that it needs to grow and succeed. In turn, the tree provides both a shelter for the ants and the basic nutrients that they need to grow and thrive. Each shares what they have to help support the other.

Such mutual support and sharing of resources might well be a lesson that we as humans need to consider. Throughout our weeks in Ecuador we were only able to see television twice,



and BBC Worldwide and CNN International were our only sources of news. Both of these reported on widespread unrest among groups around the world (in far greater detail than any of our US stations do), as well as a worldwide perspective on the divisions within our own country (and the lack of respect most of the rest of the world has for our present leadership). It seems humans everywhere seem to be vested only in their own self-preservation, not in helping neighbors or sharing our resources for the common good.

Jesus often spoke of helping others and sharing our resources. Perhaps the most notable of these statements is Matthew 25:35-40 – *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”* Then the righteous will answer him, *“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”* The King will reply, *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* Others include Matthew 10:8 – *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out*

demons. Freely you have received; freely give. and John 15:12 – *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Similarly the Apostles and other New Testament writers encouraged us to follow the Lord’s commands to share our resources with others. For instance, in Philippians 2:3-4 Paul encourages us to *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.* In 1 John 3:17-18 we read. *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

Is it possible for us as humans to follow the example of the lemon ants and the lemon tree by sharing what we have to help all of God’s children in this world? I think it is, but it requires some re-thinking and hard work. The lemon ants and the tree did not develop this system overnight – it took time and a lot of hard work. Of course ants are known for their hard work and concern for the colony. As God’s chosen ones, can we not do the same?

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

A Message from Frank Asher

The last 1 1/2 years as your moderator have been some of the most challenging and rewarding in recent memory. I am truly humbled at the trust, love and support you have given me during this time. You are an amazing church with a great capacity to love, welcome, and put feet to the words Bob says each Sunday. "Always remember, you are loved, loved, loved." This IS a loving church, dedicated to reaching people who may not otherwise know that there are Christians who truly believe Jesus when he taught that we need to welcome and accept all people, regardless of whatever their background may be.

The perfect example of this, for me, was when we decided to become a member of AWAB. It was a risky move, knowing that it meant our dis-fellowship from our association and our state region. However, we said, "This is too important to allow that to be a factor in our decision." To say this was an incredible experience for me is quite the understatement. Your love and support of Rick and me in our relationship, throughout the ups and downs of our health issues, have been a haven of God's grace in our lives. I cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us. Truly, God touched our lives through you.

After all of this, and I could say so much more, I am saddened to have to say that I must resign as your moderator. 2017 has surely been one of the most personally challenging years for Rick and me. I have tried to continue the work you entrusted to me, even through Rick's medical issues with his foot, as he had daily hyper-baric oxygenation, and daily IV antibiotics given. However, this latest bout with his health, which has landed him at Wexner Village Rehabilitation for a few weeks, and the stress of our home being invaded, have led me to make this decision. It was not an easy one, as I'm sure you all can easily understand.

I will continue to work with our University Baptist Church in any way I am able, and will continue my membership and attendance. You have become my family, and as such, you are stuck with me!

To quote someone, whomever it may be, I want you all to remember "you are loved, loved, loved" by Rick and me. That will never change.

May God guide us, lead us, and give us wisdom as we look forward to our future as we seek to be God's church. I am excited for what we are able to do, and what we WILL do!

Thank you, with all my heart.

Frank Asher



Pride Weekend

This year's Pride weekend is June 16-18.

Join with us as we once again march in the parade and have an information booth.

The parade is June 17 with step off beginning at 10:30. The booths open the 16th beginning at 4:00 pm. Sign up sheets are at church, or contact the office or Barabara Bullock.

Two UBC Young People Graduate

Two of our young people are *summa cum laude* graduates this year.

Natalie Turner, Bob's daughter, graduated from Marywood University in Scranton. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences Disorders. Natalie is in a five year program and continues her studies to earn a Master's Degree, which she will complete next May, and to become a speech pathologist.

Accepted in Ohio State's Humanitarian Engineering Scholars Program, and majoring in biomedical engineering is Arpita (Rhea) Saha. Rhea is the daughter of Rini and Arun Saha and the granddaughter of Manju Chakraborty. She graduated from Olentangy High School and was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. Rhea was the concert master in Sinfonia and first violinist in Chambers. Rhea has other honors, but what I know that isn't listed is that she is a wonderful artist.

Congratulations, graduates. We are proud of your accomplishments.

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 pm Bible Study	2	3
4 10:30 am Worship	5	6	7 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	8 6:00 pm Bible Study	9 7:00 pm Theology and Ethics on Tap @ the Chop Shop 6:30-10:30 pm CCF	10 10:30 am COM Meeting
11 10:30 am Worship Noon—Pride Sign Making	12	13	14 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	15 6:00 pm Bible Study	16 6:30-10:30 pm CCF Newsletter Deadline	17
18 10:30 am Worship	19	20	21 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	22 6:00 pm Bible Study	23 6:30-10:30 pm CCF	24
25 10:30 am Worship Noon—Talk Back to the Preacher	26	27	28	29 6:00 pm Bible Study	30	

University Baptist Church — *Progressive • Welcoming • Inclusive*

- **Theology and Ethics on Tap. Friday, June 9, 7 pm.** Meet at the Chop Shop.
- **Council of Ministries (COM) Meeting.** Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am at the church.
- **Pride Weekend is June 16-18.** Join us as we march in the parade and have an information booth. More to come!
- **Talk Back to the Preacher. Sunday, June 25, following worship.**
- **Refreshment sign-ups for 2017.** The sheet is up in the Narthex. As you plan for 2017, please consider providing snacks for fellowship after worship.



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Pastor—Rev. Bob Turner
Moderator—Frank Benline
Choir Director—David Tomasacci
Pianist—Mollie Rausch
Office Manager—Kerry Taylor

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 6/30/17