

Jeremiah and the Gulf Oil Spill

by Bill Carrell

It is not often that we see a disaster unfold slowly before our eyes. With the gulf oil spill, we have been forced to watch this horrific disaster grow day by day for two months. With the technology of underwater cameras and streaming internet video, the gushing oil has entered our homes, our offices, and our minds. As each day goes by, our anger and frustration mounts.

While I know of nothing in the Bible that would compare directly to a 21st century oil spill, there were many occasions when people were warned of coming disaster and failed to prepare for it. One such instance is found in the Book of Jeremiah. The prophet, Jeremiah, had the most difficult job. He was called by God to tell the people about an upcoming disaster.

In the late 600s B.C., the Kingdom of Judah was in its last years of existence. Far to the northwest, the Babylonian Empire was making its plans to invade and destroy the last remnant of the great nation that God had formed under the rule of David and Solomon 400 years earlier. Jeremiah's task was to preach to the king and to the people that God was not going to spare their nation. The Babylonians were going to come and destroy their beloved Temple and the people would be killed or taken into exile. Jeremiah is sometimes called "the weeping prophet," because he had to proclaim such a terrible message. He suffered, because his own people rejected his message. They threw him into a cistern deep in mud; later they put him in chains.



For us, Jeremiah represents all those who tell the truth when others do not want to hear it. Human-made disasters are often due to people ignoring the truth, wishing and hoping that the worst will not happen. It is clear that many people ignored the obvious truth about the potential for an oil spill and what such a spill could do to the environment. Greed, laziness, arrogance—all have played a part in this disaster. Indeed, BP and others will have to pay a heavy toll for their negligence.

However, as Christians, we need to make sure that we understand that the blame for such a disaster falls on a much larger element. Our society does not want to hear bad news any more than the people of Judah 2600 years ago. But it is only by preparing for the worst that we avoid, or at least minimize, the effects of a disaster. We need to have a greater respect for the truth. If not, we will continue to destroy ourselves and our world.

One more thing that should be noted about Jeremiah. He not only warned his people about disaster, he also proclaimed hope. Jeremiah told his people that they had failed and that they would suffer the consequences, but he also told them that God had not failed and that one day God would bring them back to dwell in Jerusalem and Judah again. The prophet Jeremiah was both a clear-eyed realist and a person of great faith. Like him, we need to be realistic about the threats to our existence, and we need to put our ultimate hope in God. Only God is able to deliver us from our own sin.



Helping Our Youth Attend Passport Camp

by Robin Anderson

Does it sound like fun to wake up at the crack of dawn, climb into a van filled with teenagers, and drive 9 hours to take them to camp? Trust me, it is. Okay, so maybe the waking up early and driving all day long isn't always so fun, but taking our youth to Passport Camp is one of my favorite things within my ministry at UBC! It is such fun to spend a week hanging out with them, having a few heart to hearts, and watching them experience Christ in a new way.



At Passport, our youth spend each morning participating in engaging Bible study. They spend each afternoon in the activity of their choice. They may repair a home in a low-income neighborhood, play games with children who need extra attention, or visit residents of a nursing home. They may learn to express their faith through the arts, explore a Christian responsibility to be good stewards of our earth, or learn how to talk about faith with people of other faiths. Each evening they experience worship intentionally designed for youth. Of course, they also get to be silly at parties where they do things like play tug-of-war in a mud pit.

Our youth come back from camp asking new questions about their faith, digging a little deeper, wondering how God may call them to serve others for Christ's sake. They have even come back seeking baptism or pondering calls to Christian ministry. If you would like to help send our youth to camp, you are invited to make a donation. Please mark checks "Passport Camp." It's a great opportunity to invest in the faith development of our youth... and to give them a chance to see me have to do something like shoot peanut M&Ms out of my nose on stage.

Last year, Bob Horner was able to serve by enlightening and instructing a group of Vacation Bible School participants.

Under Construction: A Habitat for Humanity Vacation Bible School July 26-30, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

by Robin Anderson

During the last week of July, children from our church and community will spend a week laughing, playing, singing, and praying at UBC. They will hear Bible stories and apply them to their lives. They will make crafts and learn music. They will play games and eat snacks. They will learn about how hard it can be for many families to have a safe home and what Habitat for Humanity does to help people all over the world afford standard housing. They will also learn that God calls upon their gifts and talents to help others.

We need plenty of adults willing to use their gifts and talents in order for kids to have this wonderful VBS experience. We need adults to organize, to teach, to talk with kids and let them know that God and UBC think they are special. If you have any of the following gifts, please prayerfully consider helping with VBS: teaching, painting, hammering, stirring, serving, playing games, singing, playing piano, teaching chimes or handbells, organizing, hugging, inviting someone to talk.

All materials are provided for leaders. You don't have to decide what to teach or run all over Baltimore buying supplies. Just prepare your lessons and come ready to lead! Please sign up on the Garden Entrance bulletin board or contact Robin Anderson at robin@ubcbaltimore.org, if you have any questions.



Meet Cindy and Ryan Clark

by Marty Anderson

The Clarks have an unique opportunity to serve some of the most neglected communities in Asia while continuing with work that began over 50 years ago. They will be serving at the Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTS) teaching and providing administrative support. Ryan will teach pastoral care classes and Cindy will teach music. In addition, they will be working to increase awareness of human trafficking in Asia and partner with local churches in their efforts to rebuild after four consecutive typhoons.



“We have always had a sense of calling to working with populations of people who need our gifts,” Ryan said. “This is a great opportunity to bring our gifts to areas with great need. We have loved our experiences in short-term mission service and are at a point in our lives where we spend some time in international service.”

The Clarks are self-funded CBF field personnel. As affiliates, they are responsible for raising their own support in order to minister in the Philippines. If you would like to get involved, you can learn more from their web page at: www.clarksgo.org.

Location: Philippines
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Commissioned: 2010



Cindy and Ryan Clark

Welcome New Members Eric and Carolina Broadus

by Sue Harding

Please welcome new members, Eric and Carolina Broadus to our UBC fellowship! They live just three blocks from the church and walked in one day to discover what was going on inside the building. They appreciated the kindness of Bill Carrell and decided they wanted to be a part of the ministry of our congregation. We are so thankful they did!



Carolina and Eric Broadus

Carolina was born and raised in Colombia, South America, and she earned her B.S. degree in Computer Science from the National University of Colombia. Eric is from Indianapolis and earned his B.A. degree in Economics from Indiana University and his Master's Degree in International Finance from the Johns Hopkins University. They met while they were working in Chicago for an international Christian microfinance organization called Opportunity International. They were married in 2001.

Eric is the Finance Manager at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. He envisions helping in a financial planning ministry and also speaks fluent French. Carolina currently is seeking job opportunities in her fields of computers and Geographic Information Systems. She speaks Spanish and is willing to use her computer skills to help members.

This talented couple attends Bible study on Sunday mornings and has much to offer here at UBC. We all look forward to being able to share in the blessings these new servants of Christ bring to

Focus on Passionate Worship

What Puts the “Passion” in Worship?

Last February, our study of the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* made it clear that churches that are vital and growing are characterized by passionate worship. Yet it may not be clear what is meant by “passionate.” It would be easy to assume that this word indicates some kind of emotional demonstration, but the meaning is much more substantial.

Passionate worship is decidedly *participatory*. Rather than a group of spectators watching or listening to a performance, the worshippers are personally engaged in the act of worship themselves. This means that the people come to worship ready to step into sacred time and space.



How do we do this? How do we put the passion in worship? While there is no pat formula, there are some basic things that bring passion to worship.

First, we must pray. Prayer during the week and immediately prior to worship makes our worship a true expression of a real and ongoing relationship with God.

Second, we must decide. Passionate worship requires a personal decision to be intentional about what we are doing. When worship is mere routine, it becomes dead ritual. We must decide that this is the most important time in our week and enter into worship intending to make it our time with God.

Third, we must get with it. Passion means participation. This means participating in each of the planned elements to the best of our ability, and it means concentrating with our mind and hearts on the person of God and the will of God throughout the service.

When people come to worship having been in prayer, intending decisively, and participating physically and mentally, then worship will be passionate. In other words, it is all in what we bring to worship, what we intend in our worship, and how we engage in worship that makes the difference.

Why Do We Use the Lectionary in Worship?

Some may not be aware that our church uses something called the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary is a standardized collection of Scripture readings for use in personal devotion or worship according to each week of the year. The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year collection of Bible readings consisting of four texts for each week from four parts of the Bible: from the Old Testament, from the Psalms, from one of the Gospels, and a final reading from some other part of the New Testament.

So why does University Baptist follow the liturgical church year and use lectionary readings? Ironically, many Baptist churches that proclaim the Bible as God’s word, actually read very little of the Bible in worship. By using the lectionary, we are able to better affirm our Baptist love for the Scripture. Using the lectionary keeps us grounded in the biblical text and connects us with the larger body of Christ. The lectionary helps to keep sermons fresh and the church challenged and strengthened by the whole of the Bible, not just what we might like to hear more often. The word of God is the life of the church. May we read it often.

Lectionary Readings for July and August

- July 4 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- July 11 Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- July 18 Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
- July 25 Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13
- Aug 1 Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
- Aug 8 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- Aug 15 Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- Aug 22 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- Aug 29 Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Focus on Stewardship

Giving Our Resources and Ourselves to Christ

– An Act of Gratitude

by Bryan Beverly

- ¹²What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
- ¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- ¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.
You have loosed my bonds.
- ¹⁷I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
- Praise the LORD! (Psalm 116: 12-14, 16-19; NRSV)

In Psalm 116, the composer expresses gratitude for deliverance, and vows to offer his life and resources to God. In like manner, let us express our gratitude for God's grace through how we give our resources and ourselves to Christ.

Treasurer's Report

by Rose Johnson

Neither sun or snow has kept our congregation from its commitment to our financial support. Thanks be to God for our faithful givers.



Remember, during the hot summer months the bills and salaries need to be paid. So your current giving is important, too.

The final report on our National Mission offering is **\$5,551**. Heart's place was able to stay open several weeks longer because of this generous gift. Our commitment to mission is commendable.

Contributions Thru June, 21, 2010		
Contributions	Budget	Over/ Under
\$182,420	\$206,678	(\$16,130)

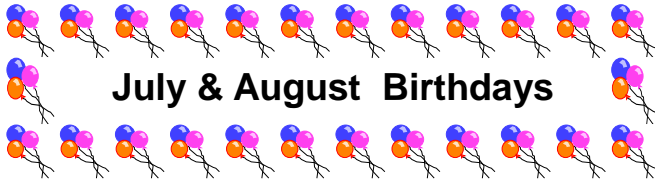


Cooperative Baptist
FELLOWSHIP

Report from the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF)

The CBF General Assembly met this past June 23-26. Over 2400 Baptist attended from CBF churches. Bill and Martha Carrell and Robin Anderson went as representatives from UBC. We came together for joyful worship services, powerful and insightful sermons, and breakout sessions on an amazing variety of topics. Sixteen new Baptist missionaries were commissioned for service around the world. The sermons this year were particularly powerful. Bill Leonard, outgoing Dean of Wake Forest Divinity School, called for Baptists to reconnect with our historical roots of witness in the face of opposition and even derision. The sermon by Lauren Winner, professor at Duke Divinity School, called upon mainline denominations and progressive Baptists to care for their surrounding communities no matter whether churches are growing or declining.

The Assembly also approved a new operating budget (down from previous years), elected new officers for the coming year, and passed a resolution to pray for churches torn by the drug killings in Juarez, Mexico. There were too many other actions and activities to list here. To get a much fuller view of all of the events of the recent CBF meetings go to the CBF website: <http://www.thefellowship.info/>



July & August Birthdays

7/3	Donald Sullivan
7/2	Samuel Aragon Huisman
7/12	Rose Johnson
7/12	Sue Harding
7/13	Beverly Johnson
7/18	Patricia Wilson
7/24	Grace Horner
7/28	Marcia Sibley
7/28	Kevin Moore
7/30	Beverly Withers
8/1	Bette Botzler Decker
8/5	Hugh McCormick, Jr.
8/6	Paul Thiessen
8/8	Debra Butler
8/11	John Carter
8/12	Charline Berry
8/18	John Harding, Sr.
8/19	Christian Lalov
8/25	John Juracek
8/28	Millicent Kelly
8/31	Joseph Giles



- **Julie Fredericks and Daniel Knorr** were married on June 5, 2010.
- **Elaine Pokuaa Amankwah and John Keenan Nietmann** were married on June 12, 2010.
- **Joshua Amos** graduated from Towson High School.



Combined Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Begins July 4

As we have done the last two summers, we will give all of the adult Bible study teachers a break for the summer and the pastor will teach a combined class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Joy McCormick Center. The subject of the combined class this year will be Introduction to the New Testament, which will be an overview of the background and content of the New Testament. The class will begin July 4th and conclude on September 5th.

Weekday Small Group Opportunities for the Summer

Women's Spiritual Formation Group
Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
Parlor

Young Adult Bible Study Group
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Joy McCormick Center

Adult (All) Bible Study and Prayer Group
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
Joy McCormick Center

Men's "Followers of Jesus"
Spiritual Formation Group
1st & 3rd Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.
Joy McCormick Center

POOL PARTY!

At the Emory's Home
July 18
3:00 p.m. for Swimming
5:30 p.m. for Picnic

Hot Dogs & Drinks Provided
Bring Your Own Sides



Every summer, Clay and Susanne invite the whole church to their home to swim, chat and cook-out. It's a perfect chance to cool off on a hot summer day, have some good conversation and enjoy a picnic supper.

The Emorys graciously supply the hot dogs, the grill (you can bring hamburgers), the soft drinks and ice cream. All you need to do is bring a side dish to share.

If you want to swim or watch the swimmers, come around 3:00 p.m. If eating is more fun for you, Clay has the hot dogs cooked at 5:30 p.m.

You can make this another successful fellowship for UBC.

Maps to the Emory's home are available at the church.



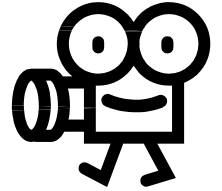
UBC Area Parties in June and July

The highly successful Area Parties last September have inspired us to once again invite UBC folks from all over the City and County to gather together for fun and fellowship with their Area groups. Soon your Area Representative will contact you about a party scheduled sometime in the near future. Each Area will be combined with another Area, to afford you the opportunity of meeting new people and making new friends.

Summer Family Movie Nights

Wednesday, July 21, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 p.m.

On the big screen in the
Joy McCormick Center.
Bring your family and your
popcorn!



Serve the Lord! Join a UBC Ministry Team!

Here are the teams and their leaders:

Area Group Team—Betty Williams
Child Care Team—Denalyn Dorn
Christian Education Team—Charline Berry
College Ministry Team—Marty Anderson
Flower Team—Beverly Withers
Mission Team—Georgia Smith
Ordinance Team—Beverly & Brook Withers
Outreach & Evangelism Team—Bryan Beverly
Property & Grounds Team—Jacques Amos & Sally Gutierrez
Reception Team—Karen Plowden & Patsy Sullivan

Anyone, UBC Church members or friends, may participate on a ministry team.
We would be glad to have your help and ideas.

August 18 Link Deadline for September

Material after the deadline may not appear or will be edited to fit the available space.



THE LINK

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Phyllis Broome, Nathaniel Tune, Custodians

E. Dickerson Crook, Russell Gartner, Jennie Ritter, Beth Miller Ryan, and Kelli Young, Soloists