

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{**Outward**}

STOCK OUR SCHOOLS. We are receiving financial donations between now and August 11th. Gifts designated “school supplies” will help two local primary schools equip our children. Instead of presuming we know the needs, Boulevard asks—and then delivers. Drop-off is scheduled for the week of August 19th. To know more, speak with Mark Suter.

WITNESS

telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like

{**Together**}

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The Richmond Police Department uses August 6th festivities to bring people together throughout the Richmond area. We are still looking into how we can avail ourselves as neighbors Tuesday evening (and/or in future years). Thoughts? Contact Alexa: hokiebird0531@aol.com.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



A God madly in love with someone who too often does not, will not, cannot love YHWH back: This is the God Hosea has discovered. This is the God of Jesus the Christ.

John C. Holbert

Flowers are given to glorify God by Madelyn Parker.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

[August 4, 2013](#)

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
boulevardumc@gmail.com

Order of Worship for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome, guests.

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *O Worship the King* 73 UMH

Prayer

Choral Hymn *Thanks Be to God*

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Scripture Lessons *Psalm 107:1-9, 43*
Hosea 11:1-11

*Hymn *Now Praise the Hidden God of Love* 2027 TFWS

Sermon "God Is Where the Wound Is" Rev. Rachel G. May

Anthem *Like a Mother*

Thanksgiving and Communion

Our Confession, God's Pardon, and The Peace

Our Service of Word and Table continues on page 15. You are invited to bring forth tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction.

Offertory *Refiner's Fire*

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *For the Healing of the Nations* 428 UMH

*Benediction

*Postlude

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

A SERMON SERIES continues. Who were the prophets? What part ought they play in the living of the faith-shaped life today? From Amos, we moved to Hosea. Next up: Isaiah.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. If you'd like to prepare:

Next Sunday—12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

WE ARE PRAYING for the Carels, the Mays, the Seipps, Donna Brandt, Sheldon, Roy Burgess, Tonya Toney, David Johnson, John McConnell, Katie Anderson, William Wagner, Wilmer Chipiwalt, Wendy McClellan, Porter Anderson, Buster Riddell, and June Robinson. Want to add someone? Say so via the offering plate or call the office.

GREETING, READING, dedicating flowers, baking...give the gift. Upcoming Sundays are seeking the participation of the people! Call the office or visit SignUp Genius where clicking on "Find a Sign Up" and entering our e-mail address will take you the rest of the way.

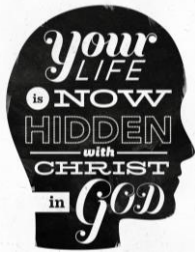
OUR NURSERY is not staffed. However, the door to "Noah's Ark" is an open one. This space is on the first floor. Please feel free to exit and return at any point during this morning's service. We welcome infants and young children in the sanctuary. With them, we are more complete.

GIVING GROWS US. Our second quarter data reflects increased commitment and is for us, a hopeful sign! In the 1st quarter, we received \$33,556 in tithes and offerings; and in the second quarter, \$37, 098.

Ministry Costs
2089

Your Contributions
2312

July 21 - 27



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

³ YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN [Colossians 3](#)

‘Hidden’ is a word liable to ring an alarm in our cultural milieu. Somewhere along the way we got to lumping confidential, secret, private, sensitive, and so on, together in a pile. Into it we then staked this sign: *I have a right to know. Transparency, please.*

If you have experienced the infrastructure (or lack thereof) in other corners of our globe, where it is nothing to bribe one’s way out of questionable-to-begin-with violation; or where those in power do not have to tell you why it is that their kangaroo court pretty much ensures you will be imprisoned indefinitely for a chameleon of a reason; then, you know. Transparency is a mighty jewel.

I wonder if we pay a price, though. Because the beauty of this notion of being hidden in God may be less prized than in bygone eras. On the whole, we are not those naturally inclined to want to wait for *anything* to be revealed.

And yet there are moments. [Grace can be counted on to break in and through.] This week, the idea that there was a portion of my reality *not* out there for all to dissect and analyze, but rather safe in the arms of God—this thought proved immeasurably sweet.

Watching my father acquiesce to incessant poking and prodding...catching a glimpse of the pre-kindergartener on the unit taking her morning walk, blanket pulled close to her heart, looking up to gently ask if they were almost there...aching for the teenager in the main lobby to whom care for the younger children had necessarily fallen...I felt for the first time in a long time, the protection in the promise.

We may not be used to thinking about our baptism as a death, in the way that Paul often speaks of it (v.3). But I think there are moments whereby we are blessed by the notion that through this metaphorical death, part of who we are gets tucked away with the one, the *only* one, who can scoop us to a place of care and comfort when faced with the gut-wrenchingly poignant, the overwhelmingly bittersweet.

What of you is hidden with Christ in God? What of us? Guarding it with all that we are and all that we have can be an upstream affair. But who are we if not those who rejoice in defying the graceless norm—those whose eyes of faith can see that the popular demand for full disclosure has not always had our best interest at heart?