

# OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

{Outward}

MARCH IS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER PROVISION and therefore for CARITAS, says our monthly mission calendar. Checks made out to Boulevard and designated "mission" (or cash) will be used to purchase food and hospitality supplies. One week remains to express generosity in this way.

OUR GUESTS ARRIVE ON APRIL 5. Their final overnight is the 11<sup>th</sup>. Each day, they leave early in the morning and return for supper. Between now and April 5, speak with Michael Joyner about donating goods. Speak with Rachel about giving your time.

# WITNESS

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

{Together}

A BROWN BAG SERIES continues. Help Boulevard by offering yourself as a listener and a thinker. Expect a mixture of information sharing and brainstorming. Whether you have visited us once or consider yourself a long-timer, you are what will make these remaining two discussions lively and impactful. Anticipated duration is one hour or less.



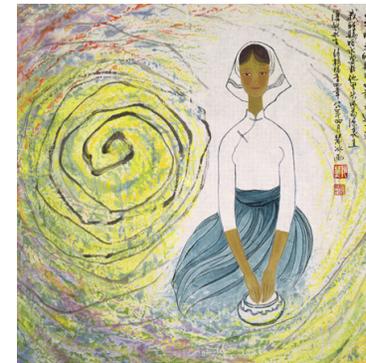
Date	Time	Topic	Related Event
Saturday, April 5	9:00	Nurture: Leadership & stewardship	None Bring breakfast.
Sunday, May 11	12:00	Outreach: July - Dec. mission calendar	Following worship Bring lunch.

On the cover: Huibing He's *Woman at the Well* (on rice paper, 1988).

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



The unnamed Samaritan woman knows something about isolation. Five times she has been either widowed or abandoned. Likely she was infertile...the passage does not tell us. But neither does it say, even though many interpreters have smugly delighted to assume so, that she was a tramp.

Matthew L. Skinner, Luther Seminary

March 23, 2014

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

## Order of Worship for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Introit *Christ is the Mountain of Horeb*

### Greeting

You shall call,  
**and the Lord will answer;**  
you shall cry for help,  
**and God will say, Here I am.** (Isaiah 58)

### Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Gracious God, you draw us near through prayer, fasting and generosity.  
Accept our Lenten discipline. And when we slip, lift us to the place of trying  
again.

#### *Silence*

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters  
never fail.

Anthem *Fill My Cup, Lord*

### \*The Peace

### Offering

Hymn *Everyone Thirsting, Come to the Waters!* Insert  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Proclamation and Response

### Time with Children

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

Epistle Reading Romans 5:1-11

Anthem *Oh How He Loves You and Me*

\*Gospel Lesson John 4:5-42

Sermon "Because She Wanted To" Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *I Love You, Lord* TFWS 2068

### Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH 127

### \*Dismissal

Go forth with a steady step.

For God provides.

Take heart.

Be of good courage.

and bold, when it is God's errand, you run.

Live.

That if, among days, these were your last, they would resemble  
in living, your finest,  
in loving, your Savior.

Amen.

**Amen.**



# Easter Flowers

A two-fold invitation:

- (1) To provide flowers for Boulevard's sanctuary on Easter morning and
- (2) To support our worship fund.

Prices below are therefore slightly higher than cost.

*If making more than one contribution, use another form (over).*

Your Name:

Attached is payment for—or, expect payment from me between now and **April 6** for:



- Potted Lily at \$13.00 each
- Potted Hydrangea at 19.00 each
  
- The Worship Fund (no flowers) \$15.00

**REMEMBERING:**



**CELEBRATING:**

- I wish to dedicate these anonymously.
  - I wish for them to be dedicated by:
- 

If you wish to support our worship services, but do not want to receive actual flowers, your gift to Boulevard UMC will be acknowledged in the bulletin accordingly. If you wish for another to receive the flowers that you purchase, please make those arrangements independently. Thank-you!

# Easter Flowers

A two-fold invitation:

- (1) To provide flowers for Boulevard's sanctuary on Easter morning and
- (2) To support our worship fund.

Prices below are therefore slightly higher than cost.

*If making more than one contribution, use another form (over).*

Your Name:

Attached is payment for—or, expect payment from me between now and **April 6** for:



- Potted Lily at \$13.00 each
- Potted Hydrangea at 19.00 each
  
- The Worship Fund (no flowers) \$15.00

**REMEMBERING:**



**CELEBRATING:**

- I wish to dedicate these anonymously.
  - I wish for them to be dedicated by:
- 

If you wish to support our worship services, but do not want to receive actual flowers, your gift to Boulevard UMC will be acknowledged in the bulletin accordingly. If you wish for another to receive the flowers that you purchase, please make those arrangements independently. Thank-you!



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

### 6 JACOB'S WELL WAS THERE John 4

This was Jacob territory. The setting is fully loaded. It is a landmine of lore and legend, into which Jesus walks as though God were unafraid of the skeletons that fill any given closet and very much fond of reclaiming contested landscape and recreating holy ground.

Jesus is resting. If he closed his eyes, or if we close ours, there are scenic references to the tension between Jews and Samaritans. [One believed Jerusalem was the end-all-be-all and the other was not so convinced, and long story short, both used Jacob to argue their respective side (v.20).] There are the things, namely water and a well, that point to God and to the gifts of God.

We can tell the story without any of this. I am sure it has been done well and in good faith. But John didn't tell us that Jacob's well was there for nothing.

Set apart from the other associations, may be that this is a place of courtship. This is where Jacob and Rachel decided to look no further. The drama aside, (precipitated largely by the fact that Jacob lived life not only with Rachel, but her sister Leah and their handmaidens too), their story is captivatingly tender.

There are some for whom the word "desire" belongs outside...outside virtue, outside church, outside that which appropriately merits our attention. Surely, Jesus loves them. Surely, they have a hard time saying that *they love Jesus*.

I was not ordained to tell anyone they have to or else (express love for the divine, that is). But I did promise to tell the kinds of stories in which God took on flesh precisely to make it clear, in case we missed the memo, that we are desired and that to desire God, is a force for good...fuel for kingdom construction.

Unless you go with *Photina*, the name ascribed to her by Eastern Orthodoxy, you cannot acknowledge this one the way we do others in Scripture. But we can call her by her experience, can we not? She felt wanted. She felt known (v.29). She felt that he could not only stand her tattered-ness, but that he could be present in a way that made her want to put down the jar so as to pick up the pieces.

I'm not saying that Jesus has to be your boyfriend; only that the force that worked within the woman at the well and then in turn, upon her community—a force called desire—re-enter our vocabulary of faith.

## NURTURE

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

{Inward}

### A WORKING LENTEN CALENDAR:

March 23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Easter flower forms available in bulletin	
March 30	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent		greeters needed
April 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	Flower orders due	
April 13	Liturgy of the Palms Liturgy of the Passion		liturgists needed (several)
April 17	Maundy Thursday	7:30 pm service Boulevard UMC	
April 18	Good Friday	12:00 pm service St. Paul's Episcopal Rachel participating	
April 20	Easter Morning Holy Communion	Sanctuary Worship	greeters & liturgist needed

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

#### Next Sunday—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

I Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE those grieving Bernice Flynn, Jeremy, Cathy Harman and family, Magoo Gelehrter, Kimberly and Timothy, Jamie and Lanier May, William Wagner, and Porter Anderson. Wish to add or restore someone the list? Use the offering plate or e-mail the main office, to say so.

GIVING GROWS both you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
March 1 - 15	4894	6055

# Everyone Thirsting, Come to the Waters!

Refrain



All: Ev'- ry - one thirst - ing, come to the wa - ters! You with no



mon - ey, come buy and eat. Come for the sweet wine, come for the

Fine



fresh milk, come with no mon - ey, there is no price.



1. Why spend your liv - ing on what can't feed you? Why la - bor  
2. You have a fu - ture, I have or - dained it; through Da - vid's



long and not sa - tis - fy? Lis - ten to me \_\_\_\_ child, let my words  
line - age de - liv' rance comes. Na - tions un - known to me will be -

D.C.



guide you, and you'll be feast - ing, full of good life.  
friend you, God's glo - ry shines through you from now on.

WORDS: Taylor Burton-Edwards, 2007 (Isaiah 55:1-5)  
MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody

BUNESSAN  
55.54 D

Words copyright © 2007 The General Board of Discipleship  
of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.  
Telephone 877-899-2780, ext. 7070. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>.