

## WITNESS

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

{Together}

LIKE THE HUMAN BODY, the faith community works interdependently. One part fulfilling its role allows for another to attend to *its* function (1 Cor 12).

Each Sunday offers an opportunity to help Boulevard be the body of Christ. Might you dedicate flowers? Read? Greet? Bring breakfast bites? These things evidence the presence of disciples here (as distinct from observers).

Say yes, or ponder options, by going to [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com). Click on "Find a Sign Up". There, it will ask you for the list creator's e-mail. The address to enter is [boulevardumc@gmail.com](mailto:boulevardumc@gmail.com). You will then have access to "Worship 2014". If you are experiencing limited access or are uncomfortable with the online tool, look for the clipboard in the main floor hallway.

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



In the simple act of feeding the widow, Stephen follows Jesus, but in the process he opens himself to the forces of the world that will not stand for such a witness. Like Jesus, Stephen in his final words recalls Psalm 31. The Living Stone faces down the stones of death. Stephen knows where his deliverance lies.

Scott Bader-Saye

ON THE FRONT: *The Stoning of Stephen*, c. 1100, Walters Art Museum - Stephen kneels with his arms raised in prayer, blessed by the Hand of God. He seeks a pardon for the three men shown at the right who are about to stone him to death under the orders of Saul of Tarsus, who is seated at the left (Acts 7). This plaque was likely made for a reliquary box or casket.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

May 18, 2014

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

# Order of Worship for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Call to Worship                      Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;  
**in your righteousness deliver me.**

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me,  
**a strong fortress to save me.**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,  
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
**for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.  
My times are in your hand. Let your face shine upon your servant;  
**save me in your steadfast love.**

Introit                                      *I Go to the Rock*

Words of Welcome

\*Hymn                      *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (1-3)*                      UMH 117

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

## Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading                      John 14:1-14

Anthem                      *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Scripture Lesson                      Acts 7:55-60

\*Hymn                      *For All the Saints (1-2, 4)*                      UMH 711

Sermon                      "Stephen's Gaze"                      Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn                      *Saranam, Saranam (1-3)*                      UMH 523

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory                      *How Sweet the Name*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of all ages:**

**In every time and place you have been steadfast.**

**Your faithfulness endures without fail.**

**from generation to generation.**

**So bind to yourself the hearts of your covenant people**

**that all who have promised fidelity to the gospel  
may fulfill their vows.**

**Preserve your church**

**not only from renunciation or neglect of faith**

**but also from a tepid faith that calls forth from others  
contempt rather than conversion.**

**Make your church to be as a city set upon a hill,**

**that our witness may be seen**

**and that others may be drawn to you.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, who is faithful in all things**

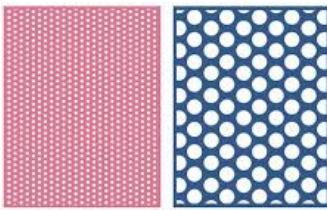
**and taught us to pray:**

\*The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn                      *How Firm a Foundation*                      UMH 529

\*Benediction



## Spotted!

{or last we heard}\*

Come Saturday, **Sarah Richards** is off to Greece and Turkey. Rachel May and **Sarah Wilkinson** did their best to not covet over pizza and fried green tomatoes. That lucky duck...Speaking of ducks: **Dot Hechler** may not make here on Sundays anymore but I bet she knows the latest on the mama who chose her hatchery well over on the grounds of Westminster-Canterbury.

The **Annex** seems to be walking a little taller after receiving a new window and some yard care from **Calvin Gay**. **David Smith** jumped in to offer his hands and heart to the premises. The letter board out front has new hardware and bulbs!

**Bekki Dize** done finished graduate school. With that Masters in Social Work, she ought to stay and serve the people of RVA. [That is our take, at least.] Change the Word RVA's **Elaine Williams** just completed a first year at VCU. **SharQueena Freeman** now lives with a family whose welcome has been full of love and grace.

**Ed Pillow** loves *him* some Facebook. This pastor had to give him the look when a picture taken at **Thursday Afternoon Club** needed to be deleted (as opposed to shared). Aaron Bell is partly to blame for these new skills—that is, when he is not moving, writing a dissertation, and job hunting. **The Bell's** new residence involves less rowdy neighbors, for which he and Lauren are most grateful.

As **Melody Porter** is eyeing her own still-in-this-neighborhood relocation, she is busy being quietly fabulous. One organization just named her most outstanding William & Mary faculty member. On that note: Did someone say: “**Kylee Ponder** is up for new teacher of the year”? Like another, above, she said nothing; but little birdies still work this planet.

Happy Birthday to **Edith Waldbauer**, **Buster Ridell**, **Helen Taylor**, and **Elaine Kennedy**. Elaine is fixing to get gone. To get zipped up in one of her bags would be worth trying if it weren't for our needing to go easy on partner-in-globetrotting **Linda Crowder**, who without use of one arm. **Dale Monroe** has also had a bit of a time, as of late, enduring the kind of poison ivy that makes you itch just hearing about it. Time with grandchildren has kept the light in her eyes.

'Tis all for now, friends, Keep up the lovely.

\* A once in a blue moon serving of parish notes -- never thorough, but always celebratory.

## NURTURE

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

{Inward}

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

Next Sunday—6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-2

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Anne and Bob Wilkinson, Irene and Bill Wagner, Buster Ridell, Jamie and Lanier May, Jim Rickards, Jay McKinney, and Brittany Cooper. Wish to add or to restore a name to this printed list? Use the offering plate or contact the main office to say so.

BIBLE STUDY is about to begin again. Wednesday evening, June 4, is the starting point for what will be another 8-week stretch. Speak with Rachel. The setting is a living room and the focus for this go 'round is currently under prayer.

## OUTREACH

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

{Outward}

WHY DESIGNATE CASH or write a check to Boulevard UMC, memo-lined “Annual Conference Offering” between now and end the end of May? Because behind those words are mission emphases that matter. The Children Out of Poverty initiative and the Imagine No Malaria partnership are examples. United Methodists are doing work that only generosity at the local church level makes possible. Rachel and Boulevard's lay member to Annual Conference will hand-deliver the sum of your gifts in June.