

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?

Say yes or ponder the options by going to 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. 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.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB: May 8 – June 19th. These Thursdays, between 4:15 and 5:45, stop by the church's front porch. Say hello to somebody. Take in the sunshine. Just be. It is a ministry of presence.

NEXT MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: June 2. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury, 1600 Westbrook Ave. We gather at 11:30 in the 6th floor common room and try to embody a sense of church as people before steeple.

ON THE FRONT: *St. Paul's Visit to Athens*, one of four stamps issued in 1951 commemorating the 1900th anniversary.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



I find that it is better to love badly and faultily than not to try to love at all. God does not have to have perfect instruments, and the Holy One can use our feeble and faltering attempts at love and transform them. My task is to keep on trying to love, to be faithful in my continuing attempt, not necessarily to be successful.

Morton Kelsey

May 25, 2014

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

Order of Worship for the 6th Sunday of Easter

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Greeting John 14:15-21
Introit *Blessed Assurance*
Words of Welcome
*Hymn *Now Praise the Hidden God of Love* TFWS 2027
Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children
Scripture Lesson Acts 12:22-31
Hymn *Many and Great, O God* UMH 148
Sermon "That They Would Search" Rev. Rachel G. May
*Hymn *I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew* Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *I Bind My Heart This Tide*
*Doxology (94 UMH)
*The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning* TFWS 2004
*Benediction
*Reprisal

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—Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Anne and Bob Wilkinson, Irene and Bill Wagner, Buster Ridell, Jamie and Lanier May, Jim Rickards, and Jay McKinney. 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 under prayer.

GIVING GROWS both you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts	Savings Used
May 1 – May 15	10,013	6,669	2,000

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?" 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.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

20 **YOU IN ME AND I IN YOU** John 14

In the background is a romantic nightscape. One gazes into another's eyes. It is an e-card captioned: "The best thing about you and me is me." www.someecards.com. Poor guy. He presumed she would end that sentence with "us".

I have a hang-up with certain 1st person pronouns. I once had a boss who favored the royal we ("we" meaning "I"). To that, add our pesky human tendency to go plural when protesting. One person speaks for others who may or may not exist and thereby announces having missed the lesson on direct and owned feedback...mercy!

More troubling for me is the we/us that surfaces at weddings. Though I know that it is not my marriage and not the time to critique, the unity candle causes me to squirm. Two individuals lose themselves entirely in one flame? Yikes. Equally off is the notion of two persons co-existing without any measure of sacrifice or intentional growth.

Note that I said "hang-up". I am sharing my thoughts on the matter. I am also admitting how I can be overly susceptible, overly reactive to this stuff.

Where was I? Oh yes, on the subject of one feeling that the best part of togetherness is his or her contribution: If anybody gets to say that (and get away with it) it is God. Yet, Scripture seems to insist that the heart of the matter lies elsewhere. The divine, it seems, can only express itself in the context of relationship; thus, creation and the incarnation. If God begins a sentence with: *The best thing about you and me...* God completes it: *Is that it creates the terrain for love.*

Love may be a lofty ideal somewhere. In John 14, it is that upon which all of it rides. Love is what moves us to obey. Love is what prompts God's giving of the Spirit. Love is the medium through which precious things are revealed (v.21).

Love, then, needs soil. It needs room to be and room to become more fully the force that it is. Love needs syncing with this notion of 'you in me and me in you' (v.20).

You in me and me in you... I hear Jesus saying: *Now, that is what "us" is. Rachel, maybe healthy plural pronoun usage is tied in with hospitality.* I create room within me for you. You show me to the guest quarters within you. And we are, well, "we".

With that, I feel the hanging-up of a hang-up coming on! Easter, friends, is every bit able. Grammar police, at ease: May it do a number, a re-creating number, on me, on you, on 'me & you'.