

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

BIBLE STUDY begins again. Wednesday evening, June 4, 7:00, is the starting point for what will be another 8-week stretch. The setting is Rachel's living room. Speak with her for details.

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

Next Sunday— Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826)

I Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

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.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB: Two remain. Thursday June 12 and June 19. 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 we pray.

The Ascension, ca. 1150, walrus ivory, carved in high relief, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Christ ascends in a mandorla towards the hand of God. Below the rock, representing the Mount of Olives, on which Christ stands, is a half-length figure of the prophet Habakkuk.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Of course I'll hurt you. Of course you'll hurt me. Of course we will hurt each other. But this is the very condition of existence. To become spring, means accepting the risk of winter. To become presence, means accepting the risk of absence.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

June 1, 2014

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

Order of Worship for the Ascension Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *I'll Fly Away*

Words of Welcome

*Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen* TFWS 2116

Prayers of the People Sarah Wilkinson

Lord, you have ascended.
You are free from the bounds of the human body,
Free from earthly limitations.
You are free. Still, you stay with us.
You keep your ultimate promise:
"I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

We pray for those...
Following a series of petitions, between which prayer is silent or spoken, this collect:

God with and within us:
**Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts
that we might be your true witnesses,
fueled by your Spirit.**
**Guide us in our comings and goings,
our clarity and confusion,
our joy and our sorrow,
until you return
and we spend eternity rejoicing in your glory. Amen.**

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Acts 1:1-14

Anthem *Nations Clap Your Hands*

*Gospel Lesson Luke 24:44-53

Sermon "Living With It" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* UMH 703

The Lord's Supper

Our worship continues with Holy Communion (p.15). Your tithes and gifts may be offered as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction. Join the choir in singing the refrain of our offertory hymn.

Taste and See

Refrain: Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
O taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
His praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord;
for he has been so good to me. **(R)**

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise his name.
I called the Lord and he answered me;
from all my troubles he set me free. **(R)**

3. Worship the Lord all you people.
You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that God is good;
in him we need put all our trust. **(R)**

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* UMH 154

*Benediction

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

YOUR GENEROSITY strikes again! \$850.00 will find the Virginia-wide offering plate at Annual Conference on June 21. The Children Out of Poverty initiative and the Imagine No Malaria partnership, to name two Conference Offering beneficiaries, rely wholly on the grace that comes through local church givers. Toward reaching the \$200,000 goal, every congregation's heart and help is needed. Thank-you for making Boulevard a contributor.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹⁴ **CONSTANTLY DEVOTING THEMSELVES** Acts I

The Scottish Luckenbooth takes a crown and a heart (or two) and intertwines them. Look for it on the front of stationary and t-shirts; or upon skin, in ink.

Some credit Mary Queen of Scots. She gave it as a token of her affection and commitment to Lord Darnley. That, or the husband before him, the Dauphin of France, gave it to her. In any case, now as in the 16th century, the Luckenbooth symbolizes devotion.

It continues to go by the name of the place where it was first put up for sale. [Until 1817, an Edinburgh-er shopped the Luckenbooths.] I wonder what it would have been like to work as the stall's silver or goldsmith, hammering out the trinkets. I wonder if all those centuries ago, Mary dressed in disguise so as to handpick the one brooch among the many to say, *I will be with you, I will be for you*. Mostly I wonder about devotion and signs thereof in our time.

Devotion is a matter of the heart. I do know that. But this is not to say that devotion cannot be seen. Luke says that early followers were 'constantly devoting themselves'. They were devoting themselves to prayer and to life together. People noticed.

Full disclosure: I read 'constantly devoted' and hear "Hopelessly Devoted", a song from the soundtrack to Grease. Over the melodrama of a musical, I hear the Spirit inviting me to stay a little while longer on the subject. Am I constantly devoting myself to anything? To what or to whom is Boulevard devoted?

For each of us, something or someone receives our Scottish Luckenbooth. I guess the question becomes: What or who is it? How intentionally? And then: Is this of God? Or might God long to love me into a differently devoted state?

I am thinking about fetching one from the treasure chest within—that could take a while—and then living these days of June as though a Luckenbooth from me might mean the world.

I hear that a parent loves what is given to them by their child (and for reasons beyond reason). Maybe God would like a brooch? If I have been beaten to the punch, one crown and heart would seem to be enough. Smiles God: *Never. In your expressions of devotion, I rejoice. That is when I know... It has been every bit worth it and more.*