

# OUTREACH

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

**{Outward}**

2014 MISSIONAL FOCUS CALENDAR		
<b>July</b> PRIMARY ED Local School Supplies	<b>August</b> PRIMARY ED WORLD HEALTH National/Global School Supplies (1 <sup>st</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> ) ImagineNoMalaria	<b>September</b> URBAN MINISTRIES Regional Shalom Farms
<b>October</b> FOOD FOR ANIMALS Regional C.A.R.E via Central Virginia Foodbank	<b>November/December</b> FAMILY SERVICES Local UMFS Christmas	

# WITNESS

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

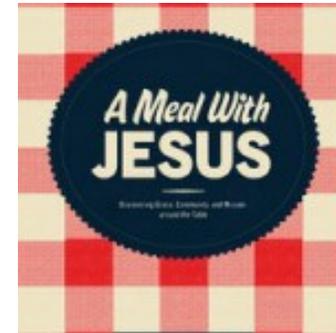
**{Together}**

OFFENDER AID AND RESTORATION of Richmond serves individuals and families affected by incarceration. Among the variables that OAR staff members must address, for reintegration to hold promise, is clothing. Nancy Pomplun, a re-entry case manager, can receive your donations—men’s clothing, any size, all kinds—here on Sunday mornings. Or, call her at 643-2746 to make other arrangements. Why? By this we bear witness to the God of Matthew 25:36.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



A college student once challenged the school's chaplain, saying, "Christianity is just a crutch"; to which the chaplain replied, "Who says you don't limp?"

Marion L. Soards

July 6, 2014

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

## Order of Worship for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Prelude

*America the Beautiful*

Words of Welcome

Introit

*He Looked Beyond My Fault*

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn

*God of the Ages*

698 UMH

Prayer

**God of great deeds:**

**On the first day of the week you called forth light out of darkness.**

**On the first day of the week you raised Jesus from the dead.**

**On the first day of the week you formed the church  
through the gift of your Spirit.**

**Cause us to be first and always about this triple witness;  
a people preoccupied with your covenant love.**

**Grant that all who worship you this day may do so wholeheartedly.**

**To this end, banish from us,  
all pettiness and rivalry,  
speaking ill of one another,  
seeking to serve ourselves rather than you.**

**Bind us, Lord;**

**into one company of hope, one community of service;  
through Christ who summons and sends us. Amen.**

*Adapted, "A Wesleyan Way of Prayer"*

### Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson

Romans 7:15-25a

Anthem

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus*

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

2158 TFWS

## Thanksgiving and Communion

Following a time of preparation and invitation (12 UMH), our service continues with The Great Thanksgiving (insert).

Offertory

*When Love is Found*

Prayer

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*How Firm a Foundation*

529 UMH

\*Benediction

## 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—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 25:19–34

Psalms 119:105–112 or Psalm 25

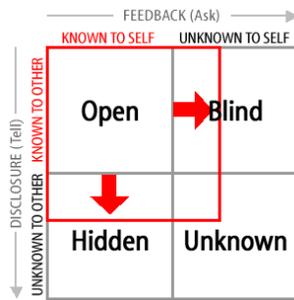
Romans 8:1–11

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Joe Noto and family, David Johnson, Carolyn Johnson and family, Irene 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.

NEXT MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: July 7. Join in prayer and for lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room and we pray for that which is on the minds and in the hearts of those present.

TOO PROUD TO BEG? Maybe. Certainly not above asking, again. Worship services are a gift we give collectively. Make plans to greet, read, dedicate flowers, or bring treats. See our scheduling on SignUp Genius, using the church's e-mail address. Or, offer your availability by calling our office.



### Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

<sup>15</sup> **I CAN WILL...BUT I CANNOT DO** Romans 7

Let me tell you what drives me crazy about other people. And then I'll have to tell you what drives me crazy about myself. The log in the eye thing is real, y'all!

The diagram above: It asks for more than casual glance. I would rather you dig into it than read the rest of my musings. I mean it.

Since 1955, some have called it an exercise. Others have used it therapeutically. It has to do with God—at least one person is wondering—because it has to do with self-awareness and what we do not know about ourselves can hurt *us*, others, and therefore community into which our baptism initiates us.

The Johari window is for what we see (or do not see) when we go vulnerably before the mirror. Paul goes there in Romans. *The blind quadrant and the unknown quadrant, for me, are substantial.* “I do not understand my own actions (v.15),” he writes.

Thus why he may be sharing more of himself in this particular letter (i.e., the ‘tell arrow’). And he may well be seeking feedback—other arrow—as this is, we gather, an ongoing correspondence. The Romans are brothers and sisters in the One who had advised followers to tell and to seek. Maybe Paul is making good on that truth.

In any case, how is it with your window? How is it with Boulevard’s window? [Here, being in the red is a positive.]

When there are things we want to do, but fail to do, perhaps God gifts us with an occasion to proclaim more than our own wretchedness (v.24). Maybe that’s when we say: Forget fixing me! I cannot even fully *know* me.

That he was not left to his self-loathing, Paul thanks God through Jesus Christ; which is more than an obligatory nod. You see, Christ institutes the kind of community whereby the command to love God and neighbor necessitates working at loving one’s self...and by this summons to self, Paul experiences mercy...rescue.

So, do the work, as a mentor of mine has said. Invite others into the gap between what ‘I can will...but I cannot do’. Trust that they have a God-given candle to carry there. And celebrate. In independence and interdependence, the holy abides.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, you have placed us in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation an opportunity to build a realm patterned by your hospitality and abundance. Here you continue to call your people to be a sign of your reign. For such a place and such a calling we give you thanks, as we join with your people in every land on earth and with all the company of heaven in your unceasing praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Above all we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom to every creature.

*Celebrant continues with the events of the last supper.*

And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time in this nation and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore.

**In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and ever. Amen.**