

WITNESS

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

{Together}

WE BELONG TO GOD who says: "The sojourner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were sojourners in Egypt."

Thank-you, William & Mary, for giving us the opportunity to exercise this part of our identity! Eight about-to-be college freshmen and their trip leaders will soon be our overnight guests.

After cleaning out and up the second floor of the house next door...a joyful flurry of hanging mirrors, installing towel bars, adjusting air conditioning, calling the locksmith, duplicating keys, testing outlets, procuring cots, counting towels, washing linens...we are almost ready.

Adopt a window (the inside of one)? Wipe down the ledges? Clean the glass? Following worship this morning, fifteen minutes from as few as 3 and ideally 5 people, can take us the rest of the way.

GIVING GROWS both you and us. July 1 – 26:

Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
16,619	15,184

On the cover: Chris Cook's "Jacob Wrestling God".

Opening Words are borrowed from William Temple:
*To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,
to feed the mind with the truth of God,
to purge the imagination by the beauty of God,
to open the heart to the love of God,
to devote the will to the purpose of God.*

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



It is good to know that fear (Herod) and grief (John) are not able to capture and control compassion and generosity. This reality is a challenge to us as we find ourselves tempted to temper our compassion in light of our fear and to withhold our generosity in the face of our grief.

Wesley White

August 3, 2014

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

Order of Worship for the 8th Sunday After Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Opening Words

Introit *Take My Gifts*

Greeting

*Hymn *Morning Dawns and Love Awakens* Insert

Prayer

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Genesis 32:22-31
Psalter Psalm 17:1-7,15 749 UMH
Sung Response

*Gospel Lesson Matthew 14:13-21
Sermon "Your Turn" Rev. Rachel G. May
Hymn *Be Thou My Vision (1-2)* 451 UMH

Thanksgiving and Communion

Following an invitation to the table and the exchange of God's peace, our service continues with The Great Thanksgiving, for which we will stand, this morning. You offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate.

Offertory *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* 593 UMH

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Michael Facemire, Ted Liles, Rafael del Cid & family, Joe Noto & family, David Johnson, Carolyn Johnson & family, Irene Wagner, Buster Ridell, Jamie & Lanier May, Jim Rickards, and Jay McKinney. Wish to add or restore a name to this printed list? Say so via the offering plate.

UPCOMING MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: August 4th and September 8th. Join in prayer and for 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 for that which is on the minds and in the hearts of those present.

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

Next Sunday—9th Sunday After Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (UMH 828)
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

BIBLE STUDY has completed another go 'round. From Genesis to Exodus to... Between now and late September, when we will reconvene, Rachel will be thinking about what comes next.



THE FLOWERS are given to glorify God and for beauty's sake, by Elaine Kennedy. You can dedicate flowers most any Sunday by visiting SignUp Genius. If you would like to know more about how it works, or prefer a computer-less route, contact the main office.

OUR ARTISTS ARE AT IT AGAIN. Dennis Winston will be showcased in Hampton's Virginia Artists 2014 Juried Exhibition. Ted Liles, Dennis Winston, and Christus Murphy's work is currently on display at Lebanon Gallery in Pennsylvania. Their studios are upstairs. We are so proud!

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

AN UPPER ROOM for Change the World RVA; yes, a space on the second floor of Boulevard's main building that has been loved into a student lounge! Gifts of time, money, and materials from all kinds of folks have made this summer project possible.

The after-school program will be here, this coming year. Amidst new faces, you may soon see some of the same people that participated in College Prep 101, which last year, met in a 1st floor classroom. Founder and director Natalie May reports:



October 7th - May 28th, we will meet on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** whenever Richmond Public Schools are in session. Off-site activities are in the planning stage. Students will be transported by Van Go services, to the church from school (Armstrong, Huguenot, and George Wythe High Schools) and from church to their homes. Students will begin arriving these days at **2:30**; activities will be held from 2:30 until 4:15; dinner will be served at 4:15 and the program will end between 4:45 and **5:00**. We anticipate between 10 and 15 participants.

Richmonders are working with Natalie, Rachel, Ruth, and others among us to repurpose additional space on the second level. You are invited to participate in bringing about this upstairs classroom.

LAST CALL FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES. For one more week, gifts designated for mission or marked "school supplies" will help two local primary schools equip our children. According to one recent study, supplies alone, not counting clothing or gadgets, are costing parents \$95.00. We have collected enough to fully equip six children. How about two more?



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²⁴ **JACOB WAS LEFT ALONE** Genesis 32

I am not on the run. I'm engaged in lesser foolishness. Though I say these things with Jacob in mind, it's Jesus whose eyebrows raise and whose expression gives me pause. There is that story about the one who prayed, *God I thank you I am not like...*(Lk 18).

Still, I do not have two wives plus two maids plus eleven children. Nor will I cross the ford of the Jabbok (vv.22-23). Sending sixteen people across a stream with all of my belongings and in anticipation of a duel with my brother: Not yet, at least.

I have, however, found myself alone. And I've wrestled a time or two with what felt like my Lord. [If God, for you, is a white man in a whiter robe, then the rest of what I have to say may not be for you. Understandable.]

No mat required, this wrestling could happen most anywhere, I would think. Some have done it at their desk. God knows it's been done in one's sleep.

If you can see Jacob's worn-out silhouette against the backdrop of a rising sun, you can see why I, for one, need supper—the Lord's Supper. I'm between matches. I need to know all over again that even when it is God who seems behind (or at least complicit in) the striking, it is God who feeds me so that I might stay in the ring.

If you can imagine this moment when Jacob asks for a name and the ring-mate replies, "Why?" you might see the Table as a good reminder. There, I see that others have a socket out of joint (v.25). There, God lovingly addresses the Jacob in each of us: *Must everything be taken so personally? Let this moment and all that has come before be what grows you into bread from which others can freely feed.*

We're told Jacob walks away with a blessing and that the mark of this blessing is a limp, which has me thinking about how gifts from God may not feel like gifts. That's when it hits me—the gracious possibility—not a divine arm or leg. Who did what here and why this happened aside, Jacob *had to feel*, come daybreak. And maybe he had felt too little for too few on too shallow of a level for too long.

"Compassion is the preeminent mark of discipleship." From he who said that, I glean one final thought. We cannot follow if we cannot feel. If God has to disorient us from time to time to get the blood of compassion moving, let it be us who say, "so be it!"