

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

SUPPLIES WILL BE DELIVERED to William Fox and John B Cary Elementary on Tuesday, August 19.

- 12 book bags
- 48 packs of wide ruled paper
- 48 boxes of crayons
- 30 boxes of colored pencils
- 20 packages of 6 glue sticks
- 20 packages of pink erasers
- 20 pair of scissors
- 80 composition notebooks
- 20 packages of #2 pencils
- 6 packages of dry erase markers
- 10 packages of markers
- 30 boxes of tissues
- 30 containers of Clorox wipes
- 20 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 24 rolls of paper towels
- 2 \$150 gift cards to be used at school's discretion

That's what \$1050.74 for our neighborhood schools can do!

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Chutzpah, temerity, guts, desperation; what it was we will never know, but this woman in the dust at Jesus' feet winks into a crack in his argument and unlocks the Master's heart, with both fierce logic and evocative need. "Dogs can live off scraps."

Peter Woods

August 17, 2014

On the cover: Sadao Watanabe's *Woman of Canaan* (1964), woodblock print on paper.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Order of Worship for the 10th Sunday After Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Introit *Mercy Called Me By Name*

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Standing on the Promises vv.1-2* 374 UMH

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson *Genesis 45:1-15*

Anthem *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 15:10-12; 21-28*

Sermon "Beauty Born of Desperation" Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn *Let There Be Peace on Earth* 431 UMH

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Behold How Pleasant (Psalm 133)*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Forward Through the Ages* 555 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, and Jay McKinney. Wish to add or restore a name to this printed list? Say so via the offering plate.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon.

Next Sunday—11th Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

LOOKING AHEAD liturgically, with a little bit of the civil calendar mixed in:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| September 1 (Monday) | Labor Day |
| September 7 - 28 | Season of Creation Fall begins (Tuesday the 23 rd) |
| October 4 (Saturday) | Feast of St. Francis Assisi Blessing of the Animals |
| October 5 – November 1 | A Season of Saints World Communion Sunday (Oct. 5 th) Laity Sunday (19 th) Halloween (Friday the 31 st) All Saints Day (Saturday the 1 st) |
| November 2 | All Saints Sunday Charge Conference Sunday |
| November 9 | Extended Advent begins |
| November 23 | Christ the King Sunday |
| November 27 (Thursday) | Thanksgiving |
| November 30 | Year B of the lectionary cycle begins |
| December 24 (Wednesday) | Christmas Eve |
| December 25 (Thursday) | Christmas Day |
| December 31 (Wednesday) | New Year's Eve |

The church office will close for Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Eve (1/2 day), Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Eve (1/2 day), Christmas Day, Day After Christmas, and New Years Day.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

8 IT WAS NOT YOU...BUT GOD Genesis 45

Are there verses of sacred story more profound than these?

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Wow.

For at least two reasons, I do not compare my life experiences. One: She who has *not* been subject to human trafficking ought approach the subject with care. Two: A vessel of mercy that true, that deep...I have not been. I may never be.

What I can identify with, however, is groundwork—how people choose to see what they endure and what they give in the light of making a way for something else. These go-beforers put the “holy” in drudgery. They are agents of blessing who seem to keep one hand on the shovel and the other pointing to the goodness of God.

Such a person as this recently surfaced. *How can I help?* Due to fatigue or a lapse in judgment, I answered abnormally. I had many people to thank and next to nothing in the tank. Could she equip the church, that week, with some gratitude-conveying goodies? Could she arm the pastor with gifts?

In a day’s time, there she was, hands full with that for which she would get no credit. If I was tempted to apologize or acknowledge the undue stress I imposed, the little bit of Joseph in her eyes said it all. ‘It was not you...but God (v.8).’ *I am who I am. I give as I give. Relax.*

Joseph is functional (narratively-speaking). He helps us connect the dots between the story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Canaan and the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He also happens to be a real man—with real pain—who, by the grace of God, embraces his role and is thereby freed to embrace others.

One hand on the shovel and the other pointing to the goodness of God...look for them this way. Their stance is unmistakable. It’s the posture that makes for peace. To Joseph then and to the Josephs now: Thanks for filling our wheelbarrows.