

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

AN END TO MALARIA? United Methodists are committed. The data speaks. Between 2007 and 2012, fatalities were halved. **Imagine No Malaria** is the name of the cooperative effort largely responsible for this good news and it is our mission focus for September. Fact: Cash or checks made out to BUMC, designated mission or Imagine No Malaria, will stop death in its tracks.

A related update on our district superintendent's effort to raise funds for the Annual Conference's goal of saving 100,000 lives: He (Rev. Steve Jones) is running the Chicago Marathon in October. With a contribution of at least \$100 from each church in the Richmond District, he figures can contribute \$7,500. We said yes to that—plus some—figuring that if Boulevard wanted to help, why not do it alongside of a brother (and supervisor) in Christ? Your \$155.00 has been forwarded. We can still add to that.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 4, 10:00 am. We mean to bless some animals in our own backyard. Rachel does not care if your pet has confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior. She does care about proper containment/leashing, waste disposal, and hydration.

The City of Richmond and Richmond Animal Care & Control enforce laws pertaining to the protection and well being of citizens and pets. Within these parameters, we will share in a short and sweet liturgy designed to say give thanks. With or without a creature you call your own—come! Spread the word. Bear witness to the God of all creation and to Christ-shaped community, which celebrates caregiving and care-receiving relationships of all kinds.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



When our ancestors saw the manna for the first time, they asked, "What is it?" in Hebrew "*man-hu*." Thus, the name of the substance both commemorates the people's wonder at God's provision and reflects their lack of trust.

Nancy deClaisse-Walford

September 21, 2014

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
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Order of Worship for the 15th Sunday After Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship (Psalm 105)

God,
We are reluctant travellers.
With parted waters,
set us free!
With cloud and fire,
guide us!
With gushing waters,
quench our thirst!
With food from heaven,
feed us!
Lift our gaze. Order our steps. Illumine the path.

*Hymn *Let My People Seek Their Freedom* 586 UMH

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16

Scripture Lesson Exodus 16:2-15

Sermon "God at Sunset" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Spirit Song* 347 UMH

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *I Saw The Rich Ones*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn *God The Spirit, Guide and Guardian* 648 UMH

*Dismissal with Blessing

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—16th Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

WE ARE PRAYING FOR...Here, per your request, we publish a prayer list. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or leave a message with the main office.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

² THE ISRAELITES COMPLAINED Exodus 16

Congenital insensitivity to pain (CIP) means a person can feel any number of things—but never pain. People with this condition tend to suffer infections and injuries that go unnoticed and therefore untreated. CIP is rare. It can be caused by a gene mutation; or, by the brain over-producing endorphins.

Flip this on community. Are there groups suffering unnoticed infections and injuries? Do congregations, for example, have a kind of DNA, a particular pattern to their being and doing which, if examined, might reveal a mutation? [Mutations, by the way, play a part in normal and abnormal processes. They tell the backstory which is neither negative nor positive until we interpret it as such.]

From WebMD: “It’s safe to say most of us are not big fans of pain. Nevertheless, it is one of the body’s most important communication tools.”* Pain tells us something. Though it is not our job to provoke it or revel in it, it is our good fortune to have bodies that can get our attention.

In our relationships, in our classrooms, in our companies, in our clubs...we are all part of at least one social body...is there a way for people to say and to hear “ouch”? Who are the careful interpreters—those who listen for where overall big picture wellness may be at stake?

“A social body without a mechanism for registering dissent is like a physical body that cannot feel pain. A social body that includes little more than dissent is as disruptive as a physical body that is in constant pain. Both need treatment.”

Bob Beck said that. He wasn’t focused on Exodus. I am, though. And I am thinking a little differently about these grumblers in the wilderness. Having considered social bodies in light of our human ones, I confess: I’ve only half heard them.

There is disorder to their thinking (returning to Egypt is not an option). And there is misdirection (they’re taking to Moses what needs to be taken up with God). Even so, their complaining just might be a means of getting at the real rub... the actual needs which they long to believe will be met. Moses calls on God to help him see into their “ouch”. We, wherever we find ourselves, might follow suit.

* WebMD is the second most visited health website. Its independence and objectivity is contested.

Exodus 16:2-15 (NRSV)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." ' '

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?*' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

Matthew 20:1-16 (CEB)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

"Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' And they went.

"Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?'

"'Because nobody has hired us,' they replied.

"He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.'

"But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."