

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

HOORAY for the outreaching spirit of Dress for Success, headquartered in our basement here at 321 N Boulevard. Their Career Center is offering "Intro to Project Management" at two different locations on two different dates in early October. Women all of kinds are invited to register for this free lunch & learn workshop. For details, call (804) 234-3034 or ask our main office for a flyer.

TOWARD ELIMINATING MALARIA you gave \$404.50. That is the grand total for September's monthly mission focus. We did our part to fund bed nets, access to diagnostic tests and medicine, the draining of standing water, and preventative sanitation. Thank you!

OCTOBER IS FOR PET FOOD. Get dollars for local animals to Boulevard and we'll get the goods to Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals and a safety and security check to homebound neighbors. Volunteer drivers also deliver food for the pets that bring companionship to these homes. Elaine Kennedy and Linda Crowder are point persons for this effort. Details regarding donations of actual cans and bags? Next week.

Opening Words are from Psalm 141 and were precious to Francis of Assisi.

I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly.

Let my prayer be counted as incense.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Do not turn my heart to any evil.

Let the faithful correct me.

My eyes are turned toward you, O God; in you I seek refuge.

On the cover: The Best Supper, by Jan Richardson.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



A good host not only has to be poor in mind but also poor in heart. When our heart is filled with prejudices, worries, jealousies, there is little room for a stranger. In a fearful environment it is not easy to keep our hearts open to the wide range of human experiences. Real hospitality, however, creates space.

- Henri Nouwen

October 5, 2014

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

Order of Worship for World Communion Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Opening Words

Introit *Give Thanks to the Source*

Greeting

*Hymn *O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread* UMH 613

Prayer

Proclamation and Response

First Reading *Philippians 3:4b-14*

Anthem *Awake My Soul*

Time with Children

Scripture Lesson *Luke 14:7-14*

Invitation *"Spaciously"* Rev. Rachel G. May

Thanksgiving and Communion

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

Offertory *I'm Gonna Keep Walkin'*

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *O Church of God, United* UMH 547

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}.

A SEASON OF SAINTS begins now. One hymn issues the invitation this way:

*"Come, let us join our friends above who have obtained the prize,
And on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,
For all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one."
- Charles Wesley, 1759 (UMH 709).*

'Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone.' That is the reason for the season. Yes, some saints are living and yes, you are among them (if you care to accept the invitation). Starting this Sunday and concluding with All Saints Sunday (November 4), we end up with five weeks for worship that is especially mindful of those who inspire us to live kingdom-shaped lives.

WE ARE PRAYING FOR Irene Wagner. 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.

NEXT MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: October 6. 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.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

GIVING GROWS both you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
In September	15,158	9,485



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

13 WHEN YOU GIVE A BANQUET Luke 14

"If we had any possessions we should need weapons and laws to defend them." It was a gentle response. His lifestyle—the one he was sharing with a growing band of ragamuffins—was driving a handful of bishops up the wall.

The young Frenchman *could* and *did* reason. [What could you do to a man who owns nothing? You cannot take from someone who has no regard for “mine” and you cannot ruin someone disinterested in prestige.]

Francis wasn't all in his head, however. He was traversing the country of the heart where, for him, possessing something was the death of love. As far as he could tell, there wasn't a whole lot of life in playing defense 'til you die. And that was what possessions did. They put you on defense.

I saw him under a blanket atop a bench. When the sun pours orange over a Virginia boardwalk and you feel your own illusions being stripped by the winds and waves, the sight of a have-nothing can make you think: Funny how a man once seen as a nuisance landed among the most honored figures in sacred history.

He was there when a slew of seagulls descended, scaring me out of my nap and up off my towel. *Who is feeding them? Don't they know?* It was war; that is, until the grace that filled a disciple nearly 800 years ago came to me. These creatures had recognized the subtle shift in tide. They were waiting for the water to pool, for their little fish to appear, and they were together en masses because they belong to each other. My God, had they wisdom to share.

How about spending the month saying thanks to those through whom we've caught a glimpse of God? A first go at it:

Dear Francis,

Thanks for loving creatures great and small. Thanks for setting the table for the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind (v.13). Maybe we'll get World Communion Sunday right in time. Oh, and the Christmas crèche: Just found out that you were behind that too. I'll think of you this year when I pull out the nativity figurines Grandpop brought back from Germany. It had to have been pain upon pain to experience your family's disassociation and the suspicious gaze of many others. I guess I came to grace upon grace—to trusting in the kin that comes with the kin-dom because of stories like yours. Sweet is your memory.

Love, Rachel

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Luke 14:7-14

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'