

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OCTOBER IS FOR PET FOOD. **Get dollars and/or the food itself to Boulevard and we'll get it to Meals on Wheels.** They work to meet the basic needs our homebound neighbors. Volunteer drivers also deliver food for the pets that bring companionship to these homes.

A \$10 contribution can feed a pet for a month. One thirty-pound bag of dry food covers one to two months. We can lighten the load. Elaine Kennedy and Linda Crowder are point persons for this effort.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



The renewal of the Church will be in progress when it is seen as a fellowship of consciously inadequate persons who gather because they are weak, and scatter to serve because their unity with one another and with Christ has made them bold.

- Elton Trueblood

October 12, 2014

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

Flowers are given to glorify God and in honor of Dale Monroe on the heels of her birthday, by the 5 to 7. 'Flowers. Lots of flowers.'

On the cover: Sculptor Erik Christianson's "St. Paul" in bronze.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Order of Worship for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *The Family of God*

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *O God in Heaven* UMH 119

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

First Reading *Philippians 4:1-9*

Anthem *And On This Path*

Time with Children

Scripture Lesson *Matthew 25:14-30*

Invitation *"Like Gold to Me"* Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *You Are Mine* 2218 TFWS

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *We'll Understand It Better By and By* UMH 525

*Benediction

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples
{Inward}.

LOOKING AHEAD LITURGICALLY:

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

WE ARE PRAYING FOR Shane, those in contact with Ebola, and 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.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. For October 19th, read Ephesians 4:1-16 (off-lectionary) and Matthew 22:15-22.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²⁵ **HERE YOU HAVE WHAT IS YOURS** Matthew 25

I wonder if I have had it wrong; if not wrong, tied too tightly to one interpretative stake. Maybe the fault in this guy who buries his gold (v.18) has only a smidge to do with risk aversion. Maybe the more of the matter is how his course of action keeps him away from where real wealth grows.

If you bury what you have been given because you believe that your ultimate purpose is to preserve it until the day the giver returns, welp, there you are...at the burial site...disconnected...ossified by your sense of what gold is to God.

Master, I knew that you were harsh; so I was afraid, and I went and...

Hid it. He got into the hiding business. [Not unlike the duo at the top of our spiritual family tree. Their hiding also stemmed from a sense that it was the best they could do with the position that they were in.]

But what if 'what is yours' (i.e., God's) isn't the five, two, or one bags of coins? What if these talents are seed money and the divine expectation is that we servants do with the seed what is in keeping with our love? What if God wages it all on the possibility that our love will come to include the things for which the holy heart beats and what if the process of investing what we receive—the ups and down that come with any market activity included—is precisely what brings us into the relationships that bear what is golden to God?

Here you have what is yours.

If you can see this man returning his preserved one, relieved he had fended off the talent thieves and proud to have stood his ground, maybe you can see the God that is more than, beyond this story. *My child, this here was never my treasure. It was what I gave you to live a life of looking for it. It was my way of getting you out there, on your feet.*

What belongs to God...is the delight—delight in those who discern that the treasure worth investing in calls for a collective hunt—delight in our attempt to name what we hold in our hands so as to spend it in the way that God always has: With others, for others.

Which costs. Costs us all the things we thought were valuable. Might even leave us with nothing. Nothing but the connections and therefore the courage to get out of coin patrol and onto the path that winds its way into the joy (v.23)~

Matthew 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.