

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OUR MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS is United Methodist Family Services. We help them put hope into the holidays for children and families in Virginia. Making a check out to Boulevard UMC and designating it UMFS is one avenue of participation. Walkers, joggers, and runners: Consider taking on the Nutzy Rotary Funn Run. Proceeds from this December 6th 5K event will benefit UMFS' Courage to Succeed program.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 14th. At 4:00, come and experience "A Christmas Memory". Thanks to Janet Rodgers, formerly Head of Voice and Speech Training at VCU and currently a friend to Boulevard, among other ventures—we have the privilege of hosting. Last year's production was heart-warming, awakening, and put on with great professionalism and dedication. Don't miss it this time around!

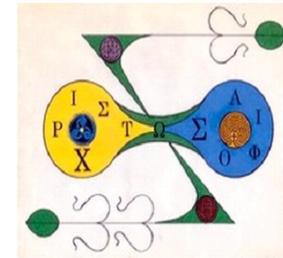
GIVING BEARS WITNESS to a caring and sharing God. Financially, 3rd Quarter ministry costs totaled 55, 191. We contributed 34, 213. Indeed, there is a gap to mind. There is at the same time, something to celebrate. More dollars went to outreach than to operating this July – September. Our checkbook is reflecting our purpose!

On the cover: Scottish ChristoSophia symbol. In the "double disk," the words Christos and Sophia appear in their original Greek letters. To signify their interconnectedness, the last letter of Christos is the first letter of Sophia.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Perhaps what we are waiting for is waiting for the Lord to show up in our waiting.

- Karoline Lewis -

November 9, 2014

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

Order of Worship for Extended Advent I

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *When We All Get to Heaven*

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* **UMH 400**

Prayers of the People
 Joys and Concerns
 Pastoral Prayer
 Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Epistle Reading *I Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Anthem *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 25:1-13*

Prayer for Illumination **UMH 112**

Sermon "A Wiser Wait" *Rev. Rachel G. May*

*Hymn *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* **Insert**

Offering Tithes and Gifts
 Offertory *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*
 *Doxology (94 UMH)
 *Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud* **UMH 113**

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WISDOM describes an attribute of God or *personifies* the wisdom of God (i.e., Lady Wisdom in Proverbs). It is the first of six images at the heart of the Christian tradition that we will honor.

<i>O Sapientia</i>	Wisdom	FALLS ON A SUNDAY BETWEEN: November 6-12
<i>O Adonai</i>	Lord	November 13-19
<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	Ruler of nations	November 20-26
<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	Root of Jesse	November 27 – December 3
<i>O Clavis David</i>	Key of David	December 4-10
<i>O Oriens</i>	Light from the east	December 11-17
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	God with us	December 18-24

Biblically speaking, wisdom involves what one must know to live well. It is an insightfulness that gives way to action, which taken together, pleases God.

WE ARE PRAYING for James Herringer, Jamie and Lanier May, 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. Next Sunday will bring these texts into focus: I Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30.

OUR NURSERY is not staffed. However, the door to "Noah's Ark" is an open one. This space is on the first floor. Please feel free to exit and return at any point during this morning's service. We welcome infants and young children in the sanctuary. With them, we are more complete.

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

African American spiritual

1. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

Refrain:

Sisters, don't grow weary,
brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

2. It's our faith makes us happy,
it's our faith makes us happy,
it's our faith makes us happy,
for this work's almost done. [↑↑Refrain]

3. We are climbing Jacob's latter,
we are climbing Jacob's latter,
we are climbing Jacob's latter,
for this work's almost done. [↑↑Refrain]

4. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done. ↓

People, don't grow weary,
preacher, don't grow weary,
pilgrims, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NRSV)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13 (CEB)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

“When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’

“Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’

“But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

“Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’

“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don't know you.’

“Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

18 **WITH THESE WORDS** | 1 Thessalonians

I am indebted to at least two persons when it comes to a big chunk of the New Testament. It is as if Amy-Jill Levine and Brad Braxton clear their throats when I as much as approach the Pauline epistles. Their raised eyebrows call to mind:

1. Paul was a leader and was therefore inundated with questions not of his choosing. Because he desired to hold together what had been brought together, he corresponded. “Now about what you wrote...(1 Cor 7)” These letters to the Corinthians, to the Ephesians, to the Galatians, and so on are responses.

2. Paul was practical. This man recognized that not every ditch was one worth dying in and that front burner real estate was precious. He wasn’t going to arbitrate all things in any arena. *Ask yourself, are you using your freedom for the common good (Gal 5)? Let that question lead you.*

3. Paul put the body first. If and when the situation was messy, he shared what wisdom he had and asked that they—those who had initiated contact—attend to the health of the whole. *One baptism, one Lord, y’all; see that your functioning supports others’ and the disease will lose its haven (Eph 4).*

4. Paul was no puppet; which is to say that some of his words and actions were his. “I don’t have a command from the Lord...but I’ll give you my opinion (1 Cor 7).”

So when I find myself tasked with 1 Thessalonians, I parachute in with the two affectionately known as A.J. and Braxton. I smile because I can see Paul the pastor and the person. I experience his practicality and his prioritization. Folks are apparently upset because a death in the community has raised questions about the order of things. They’ve written to convey the panic. Paul replies and wisdom drips from the final thought, verse 18: “Therefore encourage one another with these words.” *Don’t set this description in stone and beat each other over the head with it. Don’t use my vision to negate everything else that has been said.*

‘With these words,’ ‘encourage one another’. It is a summons to reflect on what we do with any Epistle lesson...and with others’ words in general.

To celebrate our teachers and their lasting imprint? Yep. That too~