

## OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

{Outward}

**R** 11 students are our guests! They are from Rutgers and on an alternative break. What's an alternative break? It's a trip that occurs during college students' fall, winter, weekend, or summer breaks. The aim of the experience is to contribute to communities and to positively influence the life of the alternative breaker. The second floor of our annex building will be their home base January 4 – 11.

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



Contrary to all our fond hopes, you seized upon precisely this kind of human life and made it your own. And you did this not in order to change or abolish it, not so that you could visibly and tangibly transform it, not to divinize it.... No, you took upon yourself our kind of life, just as it is.

- Karl Rainer

January 4, 2015

On the cover: The five-pointed star symbol in Christianity is known as the Star of Bethlehem or the Epiphany Star and represents Jesus' birth and incarnation.

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](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

## A Service of Holy Communion on Epiphany Sunday

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Call to Worship

Psalm 72:1-8  
*O God to Thine Anointed King*

UMH 795

↑ Please join in the responsive Psalter reading, staying seated until the first hymn.

Words of Welcome

\*Hymn *Jesus The Light of the World* Insert

Prayer

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls,  
you brought the nations to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself once more;  
through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star,  
even Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

[LATIN SACRAMENTARY, 5<sup>TH</sup>- 7<sup>TH</sup> CENT., ALT.]

### Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Readings  
Isaiah 60:1-9  
Ephesians 3:1-12

Anthem  
*Rise Shine You People*

Gospel Lesson  
Matthew 2:1-12

Invitation  
"By Another Road" Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *Go Tell it on the Mountain* UMH 251

### Thanksgiving and Communion

Our Service of Word and Table continues with the liturgy included in the hymnal on page 12.

You are invited to offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction.

Offertory

*Behold That Star*

Prayer

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *This is a Day of New Beginnings* UMH 383

\*Dismissal with Blessing

## NURTURE

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

{Inward}

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMASTIDE peaks on The Twelfth Night, or what we might call Epiphany Eve (this year, January 3<sup>rd</sup>). Today we celebrate Epiphany, a more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas. It originally encompassed the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ.

WE ARE PRAYING for Joshua Allen, Maria, Bill Rice and Debbie Bassett, Jamie and Lanier May. 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: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: January 5. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room.



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

! **FOR THE SAKE OF YOU GENTILES** Ephesians 3

Once inside, insiders can forget: They were not always inside.

It's a human phenomenon—an old-as-time dynamic. It didn't take long for God to have to say: "Remember that you were once slave in Egypt (Deuteronomy 5)."

When we're new to town, newly in charge, recently invited into a reality that preceded our participation therein, better behavior prevails. We are, at that point, still sensitized. The extent to which hospitality is offered and we present ourselves as wanting recipients, we consider these things.

Sometimes a circle widens. A chair, bearing our name, is pulled up to the table. One day we look up and see, that against all odds, we belong. It is a sweet realization. With time, the graft marks fade. Nothing makes us mind the fact that we were and are an incorporated part.

So begins the shift.

Maybe we stop using the five minutes before a scheduled program to greet a stranger; turning instead to a familiar face, unaware that in so doing, our back is to the door—the door through which we once entered for a first time. Maybe we start talking about the sorts of things that keep others out, not realizing that this is the effect even if not our intent. Maybe we grow less accustomed to asking ourselves if what we are about to do is more self-serving than it is God-honoring.

Paul labored long and hard in keeping with his call. He was called to graft others in (Romans 11). The incarnation had wreaked holy havoc with the family tree. It was now plain to see, all sorts of folks were to be counted kin. Christ had asked him to take the life he had left to live and to wage inclusion.

You are Gentile. I am a Gentile. We weren't always heirs to the presence and promises of our God. It is worth remembering because, I believe, it snaps us back to a place of Christ-like living. It puts us in our place. As we were once graciously grafted in, we concern ourselves with passing it on, paying it forward, doing likewise.

In our homes, at our workplace, on our pew: "Remember that once you were...At that time you were without...You were aliens...strangers (Eph 2)." Let this be what stirs us to look for the magi. May we see something of ourselves in them and the manger scene for what it is: Opened up; to and for, what's on the outside.

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Giving Tree  
for  
Christmas 2014

**THE GIVING TREE is back.** Here is how it works:

1. If you see something you would like to give the church for Christmas, claim the ornament. A list of options is available (over).
2. Claiming can happen by way of the clipboard near the tree or by contacting the main office. Use the flipside to indicate intent.
3. Gifts can be placed under the tree on Sunday, January 4. There are twelve days of Christmas, remember! In the spirit of better late than never, givers may make other arrangements.



4. If you wish to participate but cannot fetch an ornament or simply prefer to give an amount other than what is listed to go toward any one of these needs, you may do so.
5. Because some like to shop and others loathe it, we are happy to help with purchasing. Contact the main office.

<u># &amp; \$</u>	<u>Gift description</u>	<u>For our</u>	<u>Specifics</u>
1. \$70	trash can	kitchen	50-gal rollout with lid
2. \$45	black ink	printer	Epson 676XL
3. \$30	cyan ink	printer	Epson 676XL
4. \$30	magenta ink	printer	Epson 676XL
5. \$30	yellow ink	printer	Epson 676XL
<del>6. \$10</del>	<del>book of 20 stamps</del>	<del>main office</del>	<del>Songbird or Liberty Bell</del>
<del>7. \$10</del>	<del>book of 20 stamps</del>	<del>main office</del>	<del>Songbird or Liberty Bell</del>
8. \$20	dishtowels	kitchen	cotton commercial set
9. \$100	folding chair 4-pack	multipurpose	Flex One Black/Gray
<del>10.</del>	<del>100% grape juice (2)</del>	<del>Communion</del>	<del>Welch's singles 6pk</del>
<del>11.</del>	<del>not decaf coffee</del>	<del>hospitality</del>	<del>Starbucks or local roast</del>
12.	not decaf coffee	hospitality	Starbucks or local roast
*13. \$90	½ folding roundtable	indoor/outdoor social hall, classroom	Flash Furniture 72"
*14. \$90	½ folding roundtable	indoor/outdoor social hall, classroom	Flash Furniture 72"
<del>*15. \$570</del>	<del>½ week of fuel oil</del>	<del>main building heat</del>	<del>cold weather average</del>
*16. \$80	1 day of fuel oil	main building heat	cold weather average

Most items are available at Staples and/or Amazon.com. Prices will vary and are rounded, above. The church can order bulkier items (often free of shipping charges and sales tax). \* Indicates those items that have to be ordered by the church.