

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

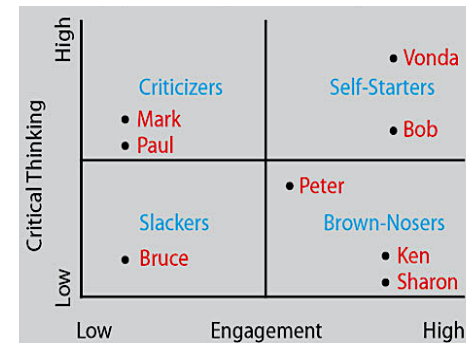
WE ARE PRAYING for Alex and Melva Slonin, Nancy Tate, Cheryl Duke, the family of Troy Bailey, Bill Rice and Debbie Bassett, Jamie and Lanier May. Here, per your request, we publish a prayer list. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate. Or, leave a message with the main office.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, I Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28.

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.

BIBLE STUDY is about to begin again. Tuesday evening, February 24, is the starting point for this once a week for seven weeks opportunity. We'll travel through Lent and Easter together. The setting is a living room and the focus for this go 'round is being discerned. Speak with Rachel.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“What does it mean to follow him, to truly participate in the kingdom he proclaims and the work to which he calls us?”

Matt Skinner

January 25, 2015

On the cover: Sample Curphy-Roelling Followership Model

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

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

11:00

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal

(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

Crashing Waters

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Anthem

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:14-20

Sermon

“The Ripening”

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

UMH 344

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

I'll Go

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Grace Greater than Our Sin

UMH 365

*Dismissal with Blessing

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

THE LAND LAYS FALLOW this month. There is no January mission focus. With rest comes renewed compassion and engagement. That is the hope! You may be wondering what happens to money that is designated “mission” when we are not emphasizing a particular project. It is accounted for as such; and then used in accordance with our definition of outreach (above). In other words: It’s always usable.

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS. We’ll help sustain neighbors with intellectual disabilities, as they live as independently as they are able in Heart Havens homes. Stay tuned.

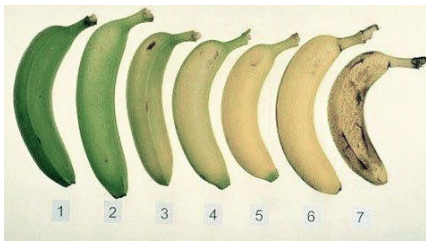
WITNESS

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

{Together}

A LETTER will accompany 2014 Giving Statements. It (the letter) bears witness to the generosity of worship attendees and community members more broadly. Look out for it, as it is a once-yearly thing.

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
January 5 - 17	3,621	4,044



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹⁴ **NOW AFTER JOHN WAS ARRESTED** Mark I

Some obscure proverbial wisdom:

Time and straw make medlars ripe. *

When the fox cannot reach the grapes he says they are not ripe. †

A mouse that removes the palm-nut that turns out to be the bait of a trap, would already have known that the palm-nut does not ripen on the ground. ‡

From Germany to China, in ancient Greek and Africa, for the Dutch, Scottish, English, forgotten peoples... there was and is a word for “ripe”. Ripening is universal. This very ordinary phenomenon offers that for which we have very little appetite: Common ground.

Of course God in Christ would tell agricultural parables. Is it any wonder that Mark’s Jesus tells time in terms of maturation? Paul *would* write to the Galatians about what happened “in the fullness of time”.

Back to Mark: I don’t want to reduce John’s arrest to a green light for Jesus. Even as it indicates the ripeness of the moment, it is tragic. This arrest preceded a death that did not have to be. It was Herod’s doing; which is to say, our drowning of those who makes waves we do not wish to surf.

I do want to lift up this moment, though. I want to wonder if God is still moving in our midst, pointing to that for which time is ripe. I want to ask if there are distinctions to be made between ripe and rotten and if these distinctions are lost on us because we have grown accustomed to fruit that is manipulated in all sorts of ways to look like what we want it to look like when we go to get it wherever we say it ought to be at the price we expect.

I’m not knocking on anyone’s bananas. I don’t know where y’all stand on this spectrum. Which permits me to sign-off with this: Yellow does not equal ripe. A fully ripe banana has spots. #7 is not rotten. You may have to open it from the bottom. [Monkeys have been waiting for us to figure that out.] What has this to do with life and life together? That’s on you ☺

* Medlar: A rare fruit.

† It is easy to sneer at what one cannot get.

‡ Greed gets in the way of common sense.

Mark I:14-20

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. ¹⁵He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

¹⁶As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were fishermen and were casting their nets into the lake. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, "Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish." ¹⁸Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

¹⁹Jesus walked on and soon saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat, mending their nets. ²⁰At once Jesus asked them to come with him. They left their father in the boat with the hired workers and went with him.