

## NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

**BURYING THE ALLELUIA?** There is a long tradition for suspending the use of *Alleluia* from now until the first service of Easter. Some churches bury or "hide" the *Alleluia* during Lent because when we retire something familiar for a season, recovering its use has a way of making it new.

**WE ARE PRAYING** for the family of Jack Little, Jim Kay, Bert Hobson, Alex and Melva Slonin, Nancy Tate, the family of Troy Bailey, 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.

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS** typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday, First Sunday in Lent: 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6 2, Corinthians 4:3-6, and Mark 9:2-9.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is February 18. There are five Sundays in this year's Lenten season. The first is February 22. Palm/Passion Sunday falls on March 29. We celebrate Easter on April 5. To your secular calendars, add the sacred.

## WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

**AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** is worshipful and can therefore be thought of as Nurture (above). Receiving ashes makes it an act of witness as well. Let your forehead speak: Wednesday, February 18, 12:30 – 12:45, in our chapel.

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Invite in imaginative lovers, lunatics, and poets to give us visions of new selves and new heavens and earths. God knows, we need them if we are to be God’s partners in transfiguring ourselves and the world.”

Bruce Epperly

February 15, 2015

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Transfiguration Sunday

**11:00 AM**

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal

(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

\* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

Words of Welcome

\*Call to Worship

The Lord speaks and summons the earth

**from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,

**God shines forth.**

Our God comes and does not keep silence:

**“Gather to me my faithful ones!”** (Psalm 50)

\*Hymn

*Come to the Mountain Peak*

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-9

Anthem

*Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*

Scripture Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-12

Sermon

“God-Awful”

Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn

*Savior, Shine and Cheer My Soul*

Insert

An Invitation to Lent and Burying the Alleluia

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Invitation to Lent and Burying the Alleluia

*I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice*

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

it is our joy to sing and say "Alleluia".

With our faces turned toward Lent

we bid farewell to this word;

that on Easter we may take it up anew. **Amen.**

Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*Come Christians Join to Sing*

UMH 158

\*Dismissal with Blessing



**OUTREACH**

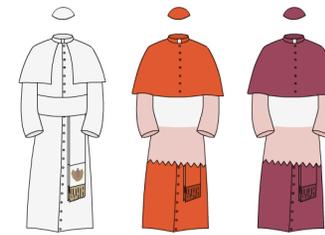
*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS. Checks made out to Boulevard UMC, memo-lined “Heart Havens” or cash designated this way will help sustain neighbors with intellectual disabilities, as they live as independently as possible in Heart Havens homes.

AMONG OUR RESOURCES for outreach is money. A snapshot (Feb. 1 – 7):

Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
9,657	2,912



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

**<sup>5</sup> IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE** Mark 9

Mark 9:2-9

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Feeling immortal and essential | 8. Existential schizophrenia |
| 2. Excessive activity             | 9. Gossip                    |
| 3. "Petrification"                | 10. Defiance                 |
| 4. Over-planning                  | 11. Indifference             |
| 5. Lack of coordination           | 12. The funeral face         |
| 6. Spiritual Alzheimer's          | 13. Hoarding                 |
| 7. Rivalry and vanity             | 14. Cliques                  |
|                                   | 15. Showing off              |

I caught the tail end of the radio news bulletin. What ailed the Church was a manifestation of what ailed each and all of them present. This, the pope said, before the top brass, members of the curia, who had not yet finished greeting one another as colleagues do: *It is good for us to be here* (v.9)

They may not have been terrified but surely some were at a loss for words (v.6). This gathering was set to address organizational reform—not spiritual disease.

I can't quite say what it is that delights me so about Francis. There is 3 and 12 (above), for starters. How does one not grin with appreciation?

I love it when he pays attention to the hopes and fears of real people in the crowd. I love how he brings up the poor (they are always with him) whilst we debate the surest ways to build wealth. I love that he asks Christians to act like Christ.

It was easier to locate reactions to the address than the address itself. Go figure. I found them, though, these '15 spiritual ailments'; and I thought of where we are in the Christian year.

If we are the people who have in some way or another gone looking for the glory (the Transfiguration account)—If we claim the prophetic voice and accountable relationships as that which draws us nearer to image of God (Elijah and Elisha)—than we ought to be over it by now, this getting offended at the idea of self-examination. Of course we ought to be on guard against these things! And of course we can do it with a smile, a non-anxiousness, that is Jorge Mario Bergoglio's.

## Savior, Shine and Cheer My Soul

Words: John Newton, 1770 (adapted R. May)

TUNE: TOPLADY

Once I thought my mountain strong,  
Firmly fixed no more to move;  
Then Thy grace was all my song,  
Then my soul was filled with love:  
Those were happy golden days,  
Sweetly spent in prayer and praise.

Shall I sigh and pray in vain,  
Will you still refuse to hear;  
Will you not return again,  
Must I yield to full despair?  
You have taught my heart to pray,  
Could you turn and fade away?

Savior, shine and cheer my soul,  
Bid my dying hopes revive;  
Make my wounded spirit whole,  
Far away the tempter drive:  
Speak the word and set me free,  
Let me live alone to Thee.

## 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.