

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

MAY IS FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE. What is that? Well, in the UMC it's an event, a place, and a people. Annual Conference convenes in June. It is also a geographical entity. [Our is the Virginia Annual Conference.] It is a body composed of clergy and laity that enable us to be who we are: Connected. For the sake of ministry that is both local and global.

At each year's Annual Conference *session*, relief-supply kits are collected. Rachel is still seeking a leader for the assembly of school or health kits, a description of which is available online at www.umcor.org.

It is also customary for each Conference to take up an offering for specific connectional ministries. Bishop Young Jin Cho hopes the 1,200 congregations in Virginia can collectively offer: \$50,000 for the Methodist Mission in Cambodia, \$50,000 to aid the Ebola-ravaged countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia, and \$50,000 to support projects working with the poor in the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts. You can help Boulevard do its part through cash or checks made out to BUMC, memo-lined "Annual Conference Offering".

WITNESS

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

{Together}

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. May 1 – 9:

Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
1,942	3,866

On the cover: Ascension of Jesus, ivory, c., 400, Bavarian National Museum, Munich.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived."

Gabriel Marcel

May 17, 2015

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

Order of Worship for Ascension Sunday

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

I'll Fly Away

*Call to Worship

Let us look to our spiritual ancestry.
Visualize those who labored to articulate our hope.
Summon the grace to say thanks.
Shall we call forth the communion of saints? Lift our gaze to the horizon,
where there are those who will come after us?
Yes!
Through tradition there runs a life-giving thread,
an aqueduct of living water.
We ask the Lord to lead us there,
blessing God's holy name by honoring faith in the fourth century
and beyond...

880 UMH

*Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

Insert

Greeting

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

Scripture Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

*Hymn

Who is He in Yonder Stall?

190 UMH

Sermon

"Still Got It"

Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Nations Clap Your Hands

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymns

Shout to the Lord
Lord I Lift Your Name on High

2074 TFWS

2088 TFWS

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

MUSIC THIS MORNING spans the Christian year to date. Pop Quiz: When did it begin? With what emphasis? Here comes a hint. In order to celebrate the Ascension we'll reach back to the dawning of God with us in the flesh.

WE ARE PRAYING for Ray Smith, Robbi and Scott Hudgens, Betty Kane, the family of Bobby Crutchley, Amanda O'Hara, June Robinson, the Woodall family, Brent Monroe and family, JJ and Lindsay, Colburn Dize, the family of Jack Little, Jamie and Lanier May. Here, per your request, we publish a 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. If you'd like to prepare:

Next Sunday—Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹⁸ **WITH THE EYES OF YOUR HEART ENLIGHTENED** Eph. 1

I'm about to say something that will rock your world. Or cause you to yawn. Wait: I'm actually about to quote *somebody else* saying something that will rock your world. Or cause you to yawn.

“After the Church was bound by the Nicene Creed, it made a formal list of the books in the New Testament (K. Collins).”

You might want to read that one more time.

Now, if the Church did not adopt the Nicene Creed until 325 (or 381)... and the New Testament *followed* those councils...that may mean, well, a number of things. For starters, the winners of the debate in Nicene (and Constantinople) got to apply their litmus test, *their* rule of thumb.

The Nicene Creed influenced the Holy Bible's Table of Contents?

That sort of scares me.

Until I look up from my computer and recall the power of the Holy Spirit. I feel some pneumatology coming on and don't tell me that's too big of a word because I've heard you say a bunch of other -ologies. Embrace another!

We receive the wherewithal to be and to do graciously, when the Holy Spirit comes upon us (Acts 1:8); *not* when we succeed at defending or disparaging a creed. Jesus asked for neither. Christ asked us to be witnesses to what he said and did and to be advocates for the people with whom he walked—in short, kingdom-minded.

Maybe affirmations of faith are like the bumpers at the bowling alley. Just as those bumpers aren't there for their own sake but rather to help us make contact with the pins, creeds and the like in the back of the hymnal offer themselves similarly.

I'm here. I'm here to provide a channel by which you can connect to God. Oh, and to the people of God. Until the eyes of your heart are fully enlightened, you might consider being more of an opportunist. Anyway, don't guess I'm going far. Like I said, I'm here. Here when you have it in you to keep my company, arriving, I expect, on the wings of the Spirit.

Yours,
The Nicene Creed