

## 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](http://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}**

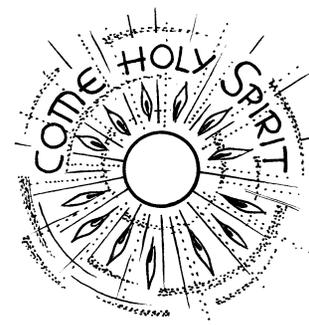
A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. May 1 – 16:

Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
4,975	6,446

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



"On the way to discipleship, conversion is not merely a point but a permanent process. And, strangely enough, it is the conversion of believers, not nonbelievers, that is the focal point."

Mortimer Arias

May 25, 2015

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

# Order of Worship for Pentecost Sunday

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit *I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing*

### \*Call to Worship

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.**

These all look to you to give them their food in due season.

**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; I will sing.

**I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord!** (Psalm 104)

\*Hymn *O Worship the King*

73 UMH

### Greeting

### Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

*Spirit of God*  
2117 TFWS vv. 1-2

## Proclamation and Response

### Time with Children

### Scripture Lessons

Romans 8:22-27

Acts 2:1-4

Sermon "The Convertables"

Rev. Rachel G. May

### Prayer

The Spirit of God prays for us 'with sighs too deep for words'.

Let us honor the breath of God,

Breathing in strength. *Pause for breath.*  
and out...our exhaustion. *Pause for breath.*

Inhaling God's sense of direction...

Exhaling our clouded compass...

Taking in possibility...

Letting go of worn-out scripts...

Come, unconditional love...

Be gone distrust and angst...

**Holy Spirit, blow away what we have released.**

**Fill us with good air. Amen.**

### Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Oh A Song Must Rise*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer for Renewal (574 UMH)

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Sent Out in Jesus Name*

2184 TFWS

\*Blessing

# NURTURE

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

{Inward}



## Crossing Boulevard

*with Rev. Rachel*

**4 TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES** Acts 2

WE ARE PRAYING for peace, 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—Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

ACTS 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

ROMANS 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Saul must've celebrated Shavuot elsewhere, around another table, because that's just what you did. It was the fiftieth day after Passover. You made the trip to Jerusalem. You ate. You thanked God for the grain by giving the first of the harvest away.

[Friends, please don't drink the "tithing isn't biblical" Kool-Aid. I'm not saying your first fruits have to land in Boulevard's plate, but they ought to be returned to the Source. Had people not been practicing what it means to give God what's best and not what's left, there would be no Pentecost story.]

Back to Saul and to Saul not being present for what happened that hot summer morning: It wouldn't be long. The Holy Spirit would find him. This respectable scholar, teacher, leader, citizen...would be doing his fair share of talking funny.

You see, when the Spirit shows up (and we're not shut up tight) there is this other language we acquire. It is the language of our calling. We say things that come to us in our conversations with God (prayer). We speak of the particular thing God is laboring to do through us.

Paul's sense of his God-given errand was bound to meet criticism. The jeering at this Peter-attended Shavuot (v.13) was modest compared to what Paul would face. People thought Saul-now-Paul should be championing other causes. *Why are you worried about the Gentiles? We could be...*

Of course, those voices came then, as they do now, from persons out of touch with their own errand. For when you focus attention on God; and out of that relationship sprouts a particular something; you're *relying* on God to sprout a something in others so that you can stop trying to run a hundred errands that aren't yours.

Church, not everyone wants your response to grace in a given season of life. Folk can't help themselves. They mistake advising for following. But Paul did the thing. By the same Spirit he befriended, follow suit. Strain to see the thing. Name the thing. Be its vessel!

Some souls *will* see us on our errand and "get it", just as surely as some "got it" back then. Regardless, go ahead with your beloved selves. Talk funny. What the Spirit enables (v.4), God is using for nothing less than the redemption of the world.