

## WITNESS

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

{Together}

“IN THE CHURCH’S YEAR, TRINITY SUNDAY is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we’ve been celebrating for the previous five months—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost—and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word ‘god’ might actually mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a god who comes to us like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, ‘You did not choose me; I chose you.’

**You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying ‘we don’t know’ as of saying ‘we do know.’** The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they’ve got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.



On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: ‘Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.’ Or, perhaps better, the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: ‘Come, and I will make you children of light.’ The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp, even our most intelligent grasp.” N.T. Wright in *All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church*.

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

Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
8,093	9,111

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



**Fr. Boyle:** Well, if God is loving-kindness, all we’re asked to do is *to be in the world* who God is. So --

**Ms. Tippett:** But that’s huge [laughter].

**Fr. Boyle:** Yeah. So you’re trying to imitate the kind of God you believe in. You want to move away from whatever is tiny-spirited. You want to be as spacious as you can be that you can have room for stuff...

Father Greg Boyle  
“On Being” with Krista Tippett

## May 31, 2015

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

# Order of Worship for Trinity Sunday

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit

*River*

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn

*Trinity Hymn*

Opposite

Prayers of the People  
Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

## Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:12-17

\*Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

Anthem

*Love is the Touch*

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon

“Where There Is Indifference”

Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Heaven Came Down*

Prayer of St. Francis (UMH 481)

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*The Voice of God is Calling*

436 UMH

Tune: Webb (UMH 514)

\*Blessing

## Trinity Hymn

HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED (UMH 203)

The void that rippled with your breath  
was ordered to your will;  
then life evolved, as love informed  
your purpose and your skill.  
That love, the ground of all that was,  
of all that is to be,  
inspired the prophets, fired each word,  
and still is wild and free.

The fire of love was never quenched,  
yet all your power distilled  
until a human frame contained  
all that you loved and willed.  
You came in humble gentleness,  
to live beneath this sky,  
and though your flesh was scourged and torn  
your love would never die.

Beyond the cross, beyond the grave,  
you lived audacious hope,  
and proved that truth and grace could give  
a life of greater scope.  
And now the spirit fires our lives  
and we are living proof  
that God who formed the universe  
loves now through grace and truth.

# NURTURE

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

{Inward}

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—2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-14)

Psalms 138

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Mark 3:20-35

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: June 1. 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.

# 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.

It is customary for each Conference to take up an offering for specific connectional ministries. Please read **Bishop Cho's letter** and consider the 2015 beneficiaries in light of these having been selected by our spiritual leader. **This is the final Sunday** to bolster Boulevard's contribution via cash or checks made out to BUMC, memo-lined "Annual Conference Offering". The other 1,200 congregations need not cover for us when we can do our part!

## Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

## John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him



## 2015 Virginia Annual Conference Offering

Bishop Cho has announced the recipients of the 2015 Annual Conference Offering. The offering goal will be \$150,000 and again focus on both international and Virginia-based mission needs.



### METHODIST MISSION IN CAMBODIA: \$50,000

We will be offering our continued support to our partnership with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia with \$50,000 as they continue to purchase property for new churches and expand their fast growing mission.



### UMCOR GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES: \$50,000

\$50,000 will go to UMCOR Global Health ministries to aid the Ebola ravaged countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Both of these countries have trained and equipped Health Boards in their United Methodist Conferences that are working to meet priorities and needs of communities recovering from the Ebola outbreak as well as a holistic approach to health that empowers people to take charge of their own lives and develop positive health-seeking behavior in their communities.



### CHILDREN OUT OF POVERTY – VIRGINIA: \$50,000

In Virginia our goal is \$50,000 that will be offering support to mission projects working with the poor in the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts. Both of these districts are working in ministry in areas of Virginia that are well below the national and state poverty levels. Of particular concern and emphasis are children that are living in poverty.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

YOUNG JIN CHO, RESIDENT BISHOP  
10130 STARBUCK MILL ROAD, P.O. BOX 5806  
GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 22058  
(804) 521-1100

March 10, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to offer a great challenge to you this year as we approach the 2015 Annual Conference session of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. That challenge is that we accept a renewed call to being disciples of Jesus Christ and explore together all that comes with that calling!

Being involved directly in God's missional activity in the world is a big part of that call and this year we as a conference are being asked to make a difference in the lives of the least of these by setting our conference offering goal of \$150,000!

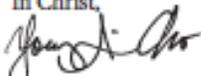
Our offering will be focused on both international and Virginia-based mission needs.

We will be strengthening our commitment to the **Methodist Mission in Cambodia** in our third year of support as that church continues its rapid growth moving toward its goal of being an autonomous Methodist Church.

A second international component of the offering will be to actively support the **Global Health Mission of UMCOR** as they work with health boards of the United Methodist Conferences in the Ebola ravaged countries of Liberia and Sierra Leone. Our connectional church makes a difference in the lives of sisters and brothers living hopefully beyond the despair of that disease.

Our Conference is placing ministry with the poor as a priority and will be exploring new ways to be in ministry with the poor across the conference. This year a portion of our conference offering is designated to **Children Out of Poverty** as we offer love and support for mission projects in the Danville and Eastern Shore districts that serve children and families in these areas of our state that are well below the national and state poverty levels.

It is our calling and our response as disciples to prayerfully give. May our conference offering this year reflect that calling to wholeness and justice as we live out our discipleship through giving and loving in the name of the one who first loved us!

In Christ,  
  
Young Jin Cho