

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, 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—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Mark 4:26-34

MICHELLE HETTMANN is her name. Two L's. Two T's. Two N's. She comes to us thanks to the Calling 21 initiative. Michelle interned at a church last summer, between her second and third year at Virginia Tech. Even as she is here this summer, she will be learning and serving with the Conference Center staff in Glen Allen.

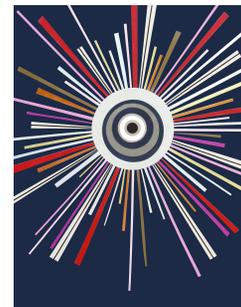
Between June 10 and August 8, there will be several opportunities for interaction. Ask not what she can do for us! Ask who we ought to be for people working out their call to ministry.

On the Cover: Alyson Kahn's *Starburst Commission*.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the center, and that the radii are the different ways human beings live. When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the center of the circle... The closer they come to God, the closer they come to one another. And the closer they come to one another, the closer they come to God.”

Dorotheus of Gaza, 6th century

June 7, 2015

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

Order of Worship for 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Tis the Old Ship of Zion

345 UMH

*Blessing

Gathering

Opening Words

Introit

I Shall Praise You, O God

*Call to Worship

Psalm 138

853 UMH

*Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See (1-2)

454 UMH

Prayer

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:15—5:1

Gospel Lesson

Mark 3:20-35

Anthem

Who Is My Mother?

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 8:4-20

Sermon

“Hidden in Rejection”

Rev. Rachel G. May

Interlude

WITNESS

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

{Together}

Thanksgiving and Communion

Our service continues with the liturgy included in the hymnal on page 15. Because Christ is our host, all people are asked to participate. You may offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction.

Offertory

He Giveth More Grace

Prayer

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. Here we are in May of 2015:

Ministry Costs

11,778

Your Gifts

10,173

Savings Transferred

5,000

How much is in Boulevard’s “savings”? \$230,000. How long until that well runs dry? Approximately 3 years. Why ‘publicize’ that figure? To shoo any shame away! Interpreting numbers in the open, in the light, is an expression of faith and an opportunity to grow into what, with God, we can become.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

5 THE TENT WE LIVE IN ON EARTH 2 Corinthians 4

Our bodies are like tents. It is an analogy sizzling, bursting, popping with meaning.

In tents, the patriarchs and matriarchs dwelled. For four wild decades, their descendants followed suit, remaining tent-dwellers even in the Promised Land. Their children pitched tents wherever the tribes got together and their children's children traveled to Jerusalem for feasts which involved camping outside the city...in a tent.

Before there was a Temple there was the tent of meeting. It was a portable sanctuary where God the Tabernacle-r promised to dwell. In Jesus, Christians came to see God pitching God's tent again in our midst; a tent made of flesh this time.

The Corinthians would have connected these dots. For their pastor (whom we call the Apostle) to compare their bodies to tents provoked reflection. Paul's choice of tent imagery shone a light on biblical tent imagery, broadly. He meant to do that.

One's affinity *for* or aversion *to* camping aside, consider that we come from a long line of tent-dwellers. Perhaps Paul's image is as spiritually nutritious for us to chew on as it was for early followers.

It was in this tent of a body that I pilgrimaged to something like a modern-day tent of meeting. All of God's people weren't there; but there, God visits, and I reconnect with my call to cultivate beloved community.

In New Bern, North Carolina, David wastes no time. He has me laughing before I can drop the cooler in the kitchen. In Tammy's eyes is that look we get from the very few in this life—those who are truly and always glad to see us. I'm not talking square footage or decor when I describe the three days as roomy and airy...

This earthly tent tears. It's true. But we don't have to spend our lives trying to dwell otherwise, in a way that we are *told* is more secure, but actually cuts us off from the sights and sounds and souls that lead to real and everlasting life.

I've heard it said that healthy, happening congregations (small or large), see themselves as pitching a tent; where they are, or, wherever God calls them to be. They are porous. Their house is sacred enough for worship but not needy to the point of taking away from discipleship. It's plenty biblical. I can believe it.