

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

WOWZERS. Your generosity in May looks like over \$300 worth of disaster relief kits and almost \$900 for the beneficiaries of this year's Conference Offering (the Methodist Mission in Cambodia, Ebola-ravaged regions of Sierra Leone and Liberia, projects working with the poor in the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts). Thank-you! Our missional giving—that which we spend on others, rather than on ourselves—is upwardly trending.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Samuel might have been a figure who encouraged him, but instead he meant to destroy Saul and the very idea of monarchy. Saul needed Samuel’s help, but got only his antagonism.”

Moshe Reiss

June 14, 2015

On the Cover: Stamp of Saul

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Order of Worship for 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

He Keeps Lifting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (1-3)

383 UMH

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

Hymn

The Kingdom of God

275 UMH

Seated, please join the choir for the third and fourth stanzas.

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

In the Day of Need

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Hymn of Promise

707 UMH

*Blessing

WITNESS

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

{Together}

MICHELLE HETTMANN is her name. Two L's. Two T's. Two N's. She comes to us via Virginia's Calling 21 initiative, which finds and funds opportunities like this internship. She will be learning and serving with the Conference Center in Glen Allen and also here with us. Between June 10 and August 8, there will be several opportunities for interaction. Ask not how she can bless us! Ask how we can bless individuals working out their yes to ministry.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. Here we are May 1 - 6:

Ministry Costs

2,889

Your Gifts

1,608

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—4th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:32-49

Psalms 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

26 **THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE** Mark 4

What does the Bible say? All sorts of things. What did Jesus say? 'God's kingdom is like'...'It's as though'(v.26)...Over. And over. And over. Again.

God's kingdom is like the Downtown Y at lunchtime where the first to arrive for a group fitness class is greeted by the sound of hammers on glass. Her concern turns to disbelief. Shards of mirror fall to the floor. A supervisor takes his seat to watch the demolition. *Could they not wait an hour to do this?*

When the instructor arrives he approaches those in hard-hats. He assures them that the class participants can move to the back portion of the room and that the music will make their job enjoyable. Says he to the class: "New mirrors y'all: This is a good thing, right?"

The woman is me and the moment is parabolic because it revealed something that was not well with my soul or an attitude at odds with the New Creation.

It's called spiritual smugness. You know, when you critique others for some way of being or behaving. You cannot for the life of you make sense of it; a disposition that distracts you from finding yourself guilty—guilty of the thing that displeases you so.

Here I was, the one who bemoans how agitated folks get about the smallest of things, *agitated*. Here I was, the one who believes people at the Y need to get off their rude medication and on a strict chill pill regimen, *a bearer of antagonism*.

I don't mean to say that the kingdom of God is like the me of that moment. Rather, that God's kingdom is furthered by the disruptive grace that found me and brought me out.

I was looking at an unbecoming selfie. By grace, I accepted the corrective energy flowing from the instructor. Instead of holding on to my initial feelings, internally justifying them, etc., I gave myself a quick talking-to and cleaned up my act, nearly laughing out loud at the ways of our God.

Life is full of parabolic moments that will move us to see ourselves and our communities as we are. Images and interactions are able upend and unwind a myriad of what obstructs. Thanks be to God, I tell you. Thanks be~