

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the members and friends of Emanuel AME Church, Colburn Dize, Bob Wilkinson, Anne Wilkinson, Bobbee Jo O'Hara, 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—6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: July 6. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6th floor common room.

On the Cover: *Jesus the Healer* on cardboard, Rudolph Bostic.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Can the Christian community alter the conditions of people's lives?”

Emerson Powery

June 28, 2015

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

Order of Worship for 5th Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

*Hymn

O Holy Spirit Root of Life

TFWS 2121

*Blessing

Gathering

Introit *Reach Out to Jesus*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *God of Mercy, God of Grace* Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Scriptures Lessons 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

*Hymn *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* UMH 351

Prayer UMH 597

Sermon "Mercy's Place" Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *O Jesus Crowned With All Renown*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

Thus far, our monthly mission calendar has incorporated us into the work of Heart Havens, FeedMore, Shalom Farms, United Methodist Committee on Relief and ministries with the people of Cambodia and the poor in Virginia.

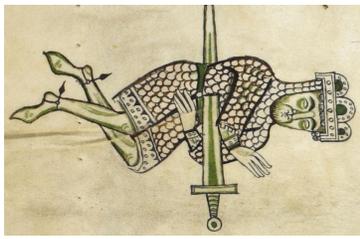
In July and August, we will collect school supplies for two local elementary schools. But before we lift our gaze to that initiative:

A PRAYER MEETING to ask God for direction in our outreaching



happens here at Boulevard on Wednesday, July 8, 8:00 pm and Thursday, July 9, 8:00 am. These two opportunities to go to God for guidance will be casual, quiet, simple, and holy (hopefully)!

What happens at prayer meeting? At least two or three gather to seek insight. People don't talk about praying. They pray. How long do these things run? Rachel is setting aside an hour. You can depart when you decide to depart. Why this approach? Come and see.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²⁴ **WEEP OVER SAUL** 2 Samuel I

This book is full of grief. It is full of folk whose emotions are as predictable as mine can be; did someone say 'not very'?

David is intoning his lament over Saul. He is commanding the people to join in weeping. Absent the preceding drama, it sounds sensible.

The thing is, it's not. Makes a reverend want to raise an eyebrow at David: *Oh, so you're sad. Right.*

Saul was to David what Samuel had been to Saul: A possibly paranoid and often unpleasant predecessor. These guys had mixed like toothpaste and fruit juice.

C'mon now!

First it was Samuel's sense of rejection; understandable, yes, until he acts like Saul's end is his undoing. [He didn't want Saul. He made life difficult for Saul.]

David enters the scene. Saul the resent-ee becomes the resent-er. David has to hide from the old man (chs. 18-20)! Yet, you and I are supposed to believe that the world is ceasing to turn when David hears of Saul's death.

The Samuel-Saul-David era is a hot mess.

Or maybe it is more true to life than we expect Scripture to be.

Tell me, have you cried over something toward which your heart was at one time hardened? Have you been struck a sense of needing another alive, even if you are at odds? Have you favored a song or written a poem that deals with missing the forest of someone's worth for some real silly trees?

I hope so. That makes you a ready recipient of God's story and the story of us trying to be God's people. That makes you the kind of person with whom I want to read the Bible—the sort of spirit I need walking alongside of me.

Weep over Saul, David says. I say: *You heard him. Weep.* Because that's how we do it in the kin-dom. We have mercy. We show mercy. While it is yet messy.