

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jane and Billy Rice, Doug Johnson's family, Terry & Ken Thompson, the Ridells, 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.

A NOTE FROM RACHEL: The July challenge is to give a piece of your mind and heart to mercy. Here are the three books mentioned during last Sunday's service:

- 1) *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.
- 2) *Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job* by Kerry Weber.
- 3) *Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life* by Walter Kasper.

I have heard from some of you regarding which of these books you have acquired. This makes my heart smile. Thank-you.

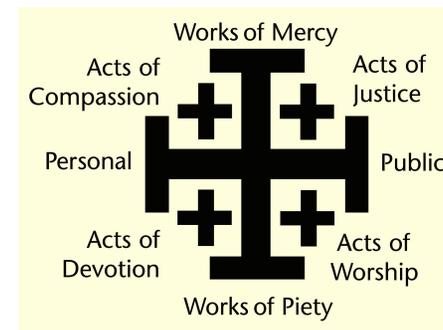
I recognize that we learn and grow through avenues other than reading. If you are saying yes to the challenge in an alternative way (e.g., taking on a mercy-inspired painting, learning to play a piece of mercy-minded music)—tell me! It inspires me. It helps me to tell the story of our life together.

On the Cover: The Means of Grace.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“The boat will never sail from one place to another without the efforts of the sailor, but it is never actually the sailor who moves the boat. It is only the wind that does so. Such are the means of grace: they are the practices in which we may participate by which the Holy Spirit propels us forward in the life of faith.”

Point Loma Nazarene University

July 5, 2015

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

Order of Worship for 6th Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Sending Forth

*Hymn

God of the Ages

UMH 698

*Blessing

Gathering

Opening Words

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

Come Thou Fount

UMH 400

Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading

Scripture Lesson

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Anthem

God Asks 'Who?'

Sermon

Michelle Hettmann

*Hymn

The Gift of Love

UMH 408

Thanksgiving and Communion

Our service continues with the liturgy enclosed (insert). Because Christ is our host and there is plenty good room, all are asked to participate. You may offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction.

Offertory

Through It All

Prayer

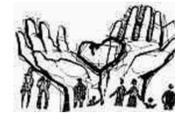
OUTREACH

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 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?* You can depart when you decide to depart. *Why this approach?* Come and see.

WITNESS

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

{**Together**}

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. Here we are June 1 - 27 of 2015:

Ministry Costs
11,154

Your Gifts
6,456

Savings Transferred
5,700



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel Michelle

DIDN'T KNOW I WAS LOST

I've gotten lost a lot in the past three and a half weeks. Richmond is a confusing area. If trying to make it between two places isn't confusing enough for you, try to work in Glen Allen, worship in the city, live in Midlothian, and explore Carytown and parts of the river on the weekends with friends. For people who have been in Richmond a while (and have an inkling of a good sense of direction), this probably doesn't seem like a big deal. But for somebody who is new to town, my GPS has been my best friend.

Even with my GPS, I've still gotten lost. For one, you can't use a GPS in the woods. I went out on lunch break one day and explored Meadow Farm- a place I stumbled upon while I was driving to the post office. It's a cool place with some trails and a pond with a fountain. I went through the woods and made it to the pond to journal for a bit. Then, realizing my hour was almost up, I quickly made my way back through the woods, only to find myself at a retirement community instead of where I had parked my car. I was calm, but confused. I had no clue where I was and definitely hadn't planned to end up there.

Then the next week, I declared Monday "the day without a GPS" in order to try to immerse and challenge myself in the Richmond area. Long story short, my twenty-five minute commute home turned into an almost two hour commute. In true Michelle fashion, I refused to turn on the GPS, even when I stated seeing signs for towns I didn't even know existed. So I just turned up the radio and went with it. Avicii came on and started singing, "So wake me up when it's all over, when I'm wiser and I'm older, all this time I was finding myself and I didn't know I was lost.*"

Sometimes we don't know we're lost until we show up in a strange parking lot or see highway signs leading to Northern Virginia. Sometimes our signs are feelings of depression or family systems that seem to be spiraling out of control. Some people may just want to skip over the hard part and wake up when they're found. But isn't being lost the biggest part of the experience sometimes? Can't God work miracles in lost people?

I'm thankful for the grace that is extended to me daily, both literally when I'm lost in Richmond and need to find my way home, or when my heart feels lost and I am searching for a sign and a place to settle in comfort and love. I hear that grace will lead you home**, and for that I'm excited to be a lost, wandering, seeking soul.

*Wake Me Up, Avicii

**Amazing Grace, John Newton

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FOR CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION
ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, you have placed us in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation an opportunity to build a realm patterned by your hospitality. Here you continue to call your people to be a sign of your reign. For such a place and such a calling we give you thanks. We join with your people in every land on earth and with all the company of heaven in your unceasing praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Above all we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom.

Celebrant continues with the events of the last supper.

And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time; in this nation; and at in the fullness of your new creation, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Gracious God, now and ever. Amen.