

## 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.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. If you'd like to prepare:

Next Sunday—9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



God has been "moving about", accompanying Israel from the day God delivered them from Pharaoh's regime. In tent and tabernacle God has moved with them, providing leaders to shepherd them. David has settled into his royal domain but God refuses a similar settlement.

Elna K. Solvang

## July 19, 2015

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Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

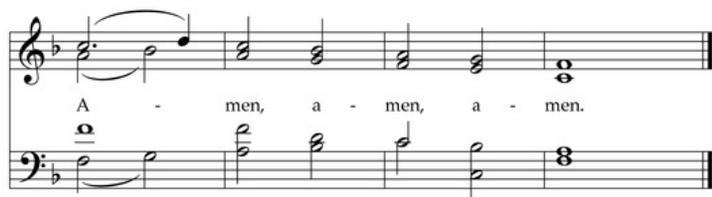
\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Opening Words            Ephesians 2:11-22  
Choral Call to Worship    *Deep in Our Hearts*  
Greeting  
Prayers of the People  
  Joys and Concerns  
  Pastoral Prayer  
  Interlude                *Bind Us Together*

## Proclamation and Response

\*Gospel Reading            Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
\*Hymn                        *We Cannot Measure How You Heal*            Insert  
Time with Children  
Scripture Lesson            2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
Sermon                        "I'll Be the Judge of That"            Rev. Rachel G. May  
\*Affirmation of Faith            Psalm 89:20-37                            UMH 808



## Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory                *O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns*  
\*Doxology (94 UMH)  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn                        *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*            UMH 559  
\*Blessing

## WITNESS

*telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like*  
**{Together}**

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 book you have acquired. This makes my heart smile. I recognize that we learn and grow differently. 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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. July 1 – 11 2015:

Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
2,173	2,561

# OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

## 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. <sup>14</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

### Missional focus calendar: July – December

<b>mid July - August</b> school supplying Local  JOHN B. CARY & FOX ELEMENTARY		<b>September</b>  OPEN
<b>October</b> food for animals Regional  MEALS ON WHEELS	<b>November – December</b> Family Services Local  UMFS CHRISTMAS	
Speak with Rachel if you feel nudged to contribute leadership to September or are otherwise feeling called to help outreach us. Look for school supply details in next week’s bulletins.		

**STOCK OUR SCHOOLS.** We are receiving financial donations from now through the first week of August. Gifts designated for mission or marked “school supplies” will help two local primary schools equip our children. Instead of presuming we know the needs, Boulevard asks; and then delivers. Drop-off is scheduled for mid-August



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

### Ephesians 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

### <sup>12</sup> ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH Eph. 2

It would be rather presumptuous of me to write a Crossing Boulevard in two parts. My readership—all thirty of you—on the edge of your seats, begging for a second installment is but a delusion. Heck, I’m doing it and on “biblically informed immigration policy” to boot.

#### Part I:

I could always tell when Tammy’s grandchildren had visited. The nesting dolls were on the hearth, where they belong, except in disarray. Not only had they been un-nested but also split plus scrambled. When I gaze upon the subject of immigration I am gazing at the aftermath of Conner, Sarah, and Charlie—that Matryoshka mess.

I labor to connect tops to bottoms. There are many. Imagine:

- Figure 1 - One’s literacy/fluency/training vis-à-vis The Holy Bible.
- Figure 2 - The role of civil government in the Old and New Testaments.
- Figure 3 - Migration in Scripture.
- Figure 4 - The law of the land and Jesus’ interactions with civil authority.
- Figure 5 - The emergence of modern nation-states in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- Figure 6 - 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment separation of church and state in America.
- Figure 7 - Democratic and legislative processes at the state and federal level.
- Figure 8 - The economy; an increasingly global one.
- Figure 9 - Covenant faithfulness or sacred duty.
- Figure 10 - Individual and/or societal expressions of mercy.
- Figure 11 - Christ’s Church, the body birthed by Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, ascension, and *its* head.

Maybe we have to get it together, so to speak, on each of these fronts before we get to ordering; acknowledging the layers’ existence, at the very least. Maybe biblically informed immigration policy isn’t the fruit we can pick from campaign trail clips. Maybe it takes work and maybe, at the end of that work, what we get is not absolute certainty with regards to our initial question, but something else. Until next time~