

WITNESS

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

{Together}

OUR CALENDARS bear witness to something. To what or to whom is up to us. Looking ahead liturgically (with a bit of the civil calendar mixed in):

September 7 (Monday)	Labor Day
September 6 - 27	Season of Creation Fall begins (Wednesday the 23 rd)
September 20	Rachel preaching Homecoming Service on Eastern Shore
September 28 – October 1	Rachel vacation days
October 4	Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals details TBD World Communion Sunday
October 4 – November 1	A Season of Saints Charge Conference (10 th) Laity Sunday (18 th) Halloween (Saturday the 31 st)
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Extended Advent begins
November 22	Christ the King Sunday
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 29	Year C of the lectionary cycle begins Happy Christian New Year!
December 24 (Thursday)	Christmas Eve
December 25 (Friday)	Christmas Day
December 31 (Thursday)	New Year's Eve

Please note that the building will be closed on September 7, October 12, and November 11 for public holidays.

On the Cover: Wisdom Commons, "Discernment" photo, Sharlene Jackson, UK.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"Some people think they have discernment when actually they are just suspicious.

Suspicion comes out of the un-renewed mind; discernment comes out of the renewed spirit."

Joyce Meyer

August 16, 2015

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

Order of Worship for 12th Sunday After Pentecost
11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *The Lily of the Valley*

Greeting

*Call to Worship 112 UMH

*Hymn *O Worship the King* 73 UMH

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Gospel Lesson John 6:51-58

Anthem *God the Sculptor* 2060 TFWS

The choir will offer vv.1-2. Please join them in singing vv.3-4. You may remain seated.

Sermon "Clear as Mud" Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *When in Our Music*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* 451 UMH

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Charlene Suter, Rob & Allison Smithson, Doug Johnson's family, Terry & Ken Thompson, the Ridells, Emanuel AME Church, Colburn Dize, 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—13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

DISCIPLES SPEND. Disciples give. Monetarily speaking, August 1 - 8:

Ministry Costs

\$3,126

Your Gifts

\$2,925

The numbers in last week's bulletin meant to reflect July 2015 and not August. Please pardon the oversight.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

\$890 worth of school supplies is soon bound for John B. Cary and Fox Elementary. Generous friends, thank-you!

Gibeon also was the place where Solomon had the dream in which the Lord granted him the gift of wisdom, according to the Book of Kings.

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁹ AT GIBEON 2 Samuel 18

Gibeon is where God the philanthropist is poised to back us. At Gibeon, the Lord is like *bring it. Tell me what you need. I live for this stuff.* “At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you (v.5).”

It’s what a mission committee might do. But when in Richmond, do as Richmonders do and refer to this crew as Backers—Mission Backers.

Worn out committees cater to the –ain. What is there to MAINTain? Have you the urge COMPLain? These imagined Mission Backers ask: *Is there something any one of you longs to bring about via 321 N Boulevard that connects us to our neighbors? Can we help you think through how it aligns with your calling and Boulevard’s reason for being?*

The Mission Backers could gather three to four times a year; not in actual Gibeon, but in a Gibeon state of mind. They could announce that they were fixing to convene. Their ability to assist/fund would depend on others’ responsiveness...

Clergy are evaluated annually and this year, as a part of that process, I thought quite a bit about Ministry Development (defined as a willingness to lead the congregation in establishing ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness). One new outreaching ministry, this would be my goal, I wrote.

Here’s the beautiful and frightful thing about Ministry Development: It’s not just a fancy word for pastor-goes-and-puts-on-a-great-event. Leading ministry development is a matter of cultivating the soil wherein another experiences their discipleship being tugged on by God, and then chooses to say so in a way that calls the community together to be like God at Gibeon—backers.

Our dearly departed intern Michelle (not dead, just back to school) shared with me a time when she experienced some semblance of these hypothetical Missions Backers. In high school, she had been carrying around a sense of I/we could do this. She and a friend gave birth to a benefit concert; several of them, it turns out. Ministry development began with an ordinary teenager.

God does not exist to make me successful. Neither do the people of God! If one new outreaching ministry does not emerge, I may be making a return trip to Gibeon to ask for that understanding mind (v.9). Sometimes God is gracious revisionist before philanthropist. Which, by the way, might also be true of Mission Backers ~

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

¹⁰Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. ³Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”