

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy
{Outward}

Boulevard United Methodist Church

Missional focus calendar: August – December 2015	
mid July – August school-supplying Local JOHN B. CARY & FOX ELEMENTARY	September OPEN
October food for animals Regional MEALS ON WHEELS	November – December 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.	



This text does not share the later dualism separating flesh and spirit inspired by Greek philosophy in which the body and its desires are regarded as being lower or lesser than spiritual things. Body and soul are one here, united in love.

Wil Gafney, Brite Divinity

August 30, 2015

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

On the Cover: Leela Ganin's illuminated scroll of the Song of Songs.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

Order of Worship for 14th Sunday After Pentecost
11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

*Call to Prayer and Praise

*Hymn *Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring* UMH 644

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Anthem *Come Away to the Skies*

Epistle Reading James 1:17-27

Gospel Lesson Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Cast Out, O Christ*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, our help and our hope: Holy is your name. Holy are your ways. Holy are your people, called by you to show the world a new way, a new hope. Cast out whatever it is that tethers us to the same old. **Cause us to be what you call us to be; through Jesus Christ, who died for being different. Amen.**

Sending Forth

*Hymn *O Young and Fearless Prophet* UMH 444
TUNE: Aurelia

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jane Frisa, Charlene Suter, incarcerated residents of metropolitan Richmond. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

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

Next Sunday—15th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: September 14. 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. This typically happens on first Mondays. Labor Day pushes us forward this month.

THE TUNE AURELIA was written by Samuel Wesley in 1864. Some know it as it the tune to which *The Church's One Foundation* is set. For our music readers:





Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

² WITH UNCLEAN HANDS Mark 7

The cacophony of truisms about hands is one that I could live without. To gain the upper hand, to take the law into your own hands, to force someone's hand, to bite the hand that feeds you...yeah, yeah, yeah.

That the devil makes work for idle hands and that there are times when the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing...also ubiquitous and no more invigorating. [We'd only have one hand if God didn't value the possibility of one hand doing one thing while the other hand does another, right?]

No I don't want to "hand in" another paper to a professor. Ever. Again. And I'm certainly not making money "hand over fist". It is perhaps only when we arrive at this notion of having blood on one's hands that I jerk to attention. That could have something to do with my aversion to blood. [I faint before the doctor can even say "blood-work."] It may also relate to the life and death implications of this image.

I think Jesus would have me do a little more digging; you know, go after what's underneath my initial reaction and see what more there is to see.

Experiencing again this exchange with the Emily Posts of his day, I am reminded of what saddened him about popular manners: No one wanted to think about the essence of why, for example, they washed their hands before eating. They simply wanted everyone to just do it. They asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders (v.5)?"

His response was a lived one. *Because in the kingdom, God's intention trumps convention and God intends life.*

With that, my conventional view of having blood on one's hands shifts a smidge. I see Shiprah and Puah, the Hebrew midwives sparing the lives of countless infants (Exodus 1). Surely, there was blood on their hands. I see all people who have given everything to stop the life from leaving a bleeding loved one. I see Joseph of Arimathea offering to take Jesus' body down from the cross (Mk 15).

Maybe what I'm saying is that Jesus is still checking the Scribes and Pharisees. He's checking them in as much as they live in me and I'm glad. It's not so bad. It feels like love, actually.