

## NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Oscarlyn and Todd Elder, Delight Andrews, Mary Marshall, and Casey Bowman Miles. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
March 1 – 19	\$8,236	\$4,665

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: April 4. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room.

OUR NURSERY is not staffed. However, the door to "Noah's Ark" is an open one. This space is on the first floor. Please feel free to exit and return at any point during this morning's service. We welcome infants and young children in the sanctuary. With them, we are more complete.

## OUTREACH

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

**{Outward}**

SUPPER AT MELODY'S: Reverend Porter says, all y'all come. [Do tell her you plan to, though: melodyporter@hotmail.com. She can then share her address.] Conversation over this April 3<sup>rd</sup> meal will attend to our call to ministry. We, Boulevard, have a call to ministry from God. Hearing and naming this call is what makes for authentic, rooted congregational activity (as opposed to mere busyness). Participating in this ongoing work will bless you if you let it!

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



“He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death.”

- Frederick Buechner

March 27, 2016

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

## Order of Worship for Easter Sunday

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Anthem *Then Came the Morning*  
Greeting  
Because death loses, hope triumphs, and life and love prevail,  
**Let resurrection ring!**

Words of Welcome

\*Hymn *Sing With All the Saints in Glory* 702 UMH

Prayer

Anthem *Easter Song*

### Proclamation

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

Time with Children

\*Gospel Lesson Luke 24:1-12

Sermon "The Trip Back" Rev. Rachel G. May

Prayer  
You asked for my hands that I might use them for your purpose:  
I gave them for a moment, and then withdrew them for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice:  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.  
You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty:  
I closed them, for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life that you might work through me:  
I gave a small part; that I might not get "too involved".

**Holy One, forgive us our calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for us to do so,  
only in places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

Renew us, empower us, to be usable instruments  
that we may take seriously the meaning of your call in our lives.

FROM A PRAYER BY JOE SEREMANE, SOUTH AFRICA

### Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord's Supper

You are invited to offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to receive the  
sacrament by intinction. Please join in singing these hymns as we celebrate:

#### *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

#### *Because He Lives*

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive; He  
lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

{continuing on 364 UMH}

Prayer  
Eternal God,  
**Make this holy meal to be our strength and our courage;  
for the sake of those who need us to be who you call us to be. Amen.**

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Go to the World* Insert  
\*Benediction

# A FLORAL TRIBUTE

## *Hydrangeas are given*

*Celebrating and Remembering:*

Hannah, Cooper & Harley  
by Mimi & Grandpa

Loved Ones  
by Sue Garber Stewart

Ann & Fred Monroe, Aunts &  
Uncles, Grandparents,  
Jim & Theresa Hammack  
by Dale Monroe

Our Grandmothers:  
Eleanor, Celine, & Grandma Hannay  
by Matt & Sherry Hannay

Barbara L. McGhee  
by David Smith

Loved Ones  
by Elaine Kennedy

Our Church



## *Lilies are given*

*Celebrating and Remembering:*

Benjamin Lewis May  
by his enduring fan club

Cousins & Boulevard UMC  
by Dale Monroe

Roxana Sadie May  
by The Mays

Stanley Harrison Solem  
by James W. May, Jr.

Christus Murphy & Janet Rodgers

Alexa Slonin

The Joy & Love of Our Community



## *Contributions to The Worship Fund Celebrate:*

Loved Ones  
By Elaine Kennedy

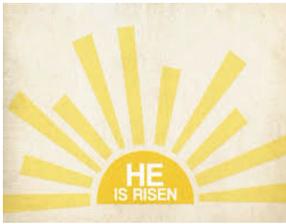
Thank-you. And to God, be the glory.

Luke 24:1-12

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. <sup>5</sup>The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup>He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words. <sup>9</sup>When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. <sup>12</sup>But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. <sup>35</sup>Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! <sup>37</sup>You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. <sup>38</sup>You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, <sup>41</sup>not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

34 **I REALLY AM LEARNING** Acts 10

A colleague had this to say: “It’s hard to imagine showing up at the empty tomb on Sunday without dining with Christ on Thursday and standing at the cross on Friday.” I found myself thinking of how true that rang for me; and yet, how close it came to parishioner shaming. That was not his intent. But folk are funny. Some read that and hear *oh, so if I only show up for Easter morning I belong to a lower caste of humans.*

I am deeply grateful for those who can and do walk the way of Holy Week with me. It is hard to hear how the preacher is supposed to do \_\_\_\_\_ and the pastor never \_\_\_\_\_ (broader cultural commentary) when we preachers and pastors have our own emotions vis-à-vis presence. No one ever asks us how it feels to hold down the fort of faith while our *regular* attendees now attend 2.5 times per month!

But here’s the thing about Easter: It’s meaning is not mine to define or police. [Let’s all take a moment and thank Jesus for that.] Easter has been a mystery from the start. I am marveling anew at how, in the Scripture before us this Sunday morning, there is surprisingly little to pin down. Heck, where is the actual sighting of the Risen One?

There isn’t one—not in Luke 24:1-12 anyway. Perhaps Jesus ensures that no one can apply for a patent on the worship of God in Christ. Maybe in his humanity, he understood that you and I need resurrection in a way that transcends how often we attend church and whatever it is that we imagine ought to be done by whom there.

*[We] need resurrection  
because it promises  
that in the end  
all wrongs are made right.  
Death loses.  
Hope triumphs.  
And Life and Love  
Prevail.\**

Come on, then. Come on up to the rising. “I really am learning that God doesn’t show partiality to one group of people over another.” Yep. What Peter said~

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\* Kara Root, pastor of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church n Minneapolis, MN.