

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

MAY IS FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE. What is that? Annual Conference convenes in June. It is a body composed of clergy and laity. It's a geographical entity. The Virginia Annual Conference is an event, a region, and a people.

At each year's Annual Conference session, relief-supply kits are collected. It is also customary for each Conference to take up an offering for specific connectional ministries. Bishop Young Jin Cho hopes the 1,200 congregations in Virginia can collectively offer: \$50,000 for Virginia disaster relief (February 2016 tornadoes), \$25,000 for leadership development in Mozambique, \$25,000 for The Shade and Fresh Water Project in Brazil, and \$50,000 to fund the Methodist Mission of Cambodia. You can help Boulevard do its part through cash or checks made out to BUMC, memo-lined "Annual Conference Offering".

WITNESS

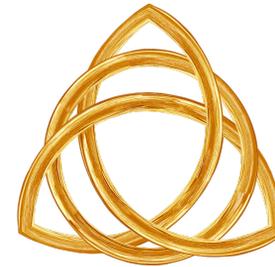
telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like

{Together}

 FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON MAY 29th, stick around for what comes *off* the grill and what goes *into* relief supply kits. We asked ourselves what would happen if an occasional Sunday here included an inward and outward and together component. Awesomeness came to mind.

You could bring a chair to sit in at the top of our front steps. You could relax in the shade on the sidewalk below. You could eat a tasty lunch while offering a passer-byer a midday bite to eat. You could remain in the sanctuary and assemble a health kit for UMCOR relief workers to distribute. We could be present to friends and strangers, reflecting the hope and hospitality we find in God. Let's!

Boulevard United Methodist Church



You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying 'we don't know' as of saying 'we do know.'

- N.T. Wright

May 22, 2016

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Richmond, Virginia 23220
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 Trinity Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Holy Holy Holy

UMH 64

*Benediction

Gathering

Introit

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*Call to Worship

Psalm 8

UMH 743

Opening Prayer

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon and curl the baby's ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth's ends with water and words:
Startle us with the grace, love and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. **Amen.**

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY PRAYERS

Greeting

*Hymn

Come Join the Dance of the Trinity

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Lesson

John 16:12-15

Time with Children

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Sermon

"It Takes Three"

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

UMH 400

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

How Majestic is Your Name

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the United Methodist Church, Brittany Leggett, the families of Arthur C. Thurston, Sue Lockhart Larson and Audrey Clements, Mary and Keith Bedson and family. 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. Next Sunday:

I Kings 18:20-39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS allows you to help Boulevard in a roundabout way. If you shop at Kroger and use a Plus Card, consider the rest a piece of cake. All you need to do is to attach Boulevard's organizational number to your account. That number is 91758, Enroll online or ask a Kroger customer service representative for assistance.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
May 1 – 14	\$21,862	\$20,072



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

I **MADE RIGHTEOUS** - Romans 5

From an essay in the Marquette Law Review: “How ubiquitous the image of the courtroom trial has been and remains in American literature, film, and television”. How ubiquitous it is in Christianity!

I spent the first part of Thursday where I had not intended to think theologically. The biblical commentary tucked away in my bag was mostly for brushing up on some basics.

Simply being there, however, prompted reflection. [I should have known. John Wesley done told us all those years ago, that there is no such thing as Jesus following without the theological reflection.] I found myself pondering how Christians have long used legal language to describe the benefits of faith.

Maybe it was the confusion in the eyes of shift-workers who tried to find a seat; or, the older folk (were they great-grandparents?) staring ahead as though shouldering the weight of the years summoned all of their strength; or the woman in front of me gently rocking back and forth as the judge described the shape of the morning...

In any case, as real people in real trouble held their breath, I realized I was holding a strange sadness. It was the kind of sadness that creeps in when you realize that there is more to it—that just as sure as the reality of crimes committed is the presence of accused persons who long to be counted as righteous.

The human desire to stand worthily was something you could reach out and touch. It rendered the courtroom comparison (Jesus as the one who pays the price, the Spirit as our lawyer) useless. By useless I mean, all used up.

Even if one insists on the image of God as judge, that same God left the bench to take on flesh. God endured the jumpsuit, the handcuffs, all of what was playing out before me (and then some). God then shows up in the Spirit that is sent for us to do more than get out of jail free. A Trinitarian understanding of God escorts us out of any single metaphorical framework and into the mystery.

We are a people who proclaim *the mystery* of faith. On this Trinity Sunday, don't just quote Paul when you could do what Paul did, which is to dare to describe God's great deeds in a new way. What has God in Jesus offered to Creation? To you?

Speak. Lend words to the mystery. Let them be fresh.

Romans 5:1-5 (CEB)

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. ³ But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, ⁴ endurance produces character, and character produces hope. ⁵ This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.