

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

MAY IS FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE. What is that? The Virginia Annual Conference is an event, a region, and a people. At each year's Annual Conference session, relief-supply kits are collected. [To contribute on that front, see below.] It is also customary for each Conference to take up an offering for specific connectional ministries; those helping projects we cannot do on our own, but only together.

Bishop Young Jin Cho hopes the 1,200 congregations in Virginia can collectively offer: \$50,000 for **Virginia disaster relief**, \$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}

STICK AROUND TODAY for what comes *off* the grill and what goes *into* relief supply kits. Following worship we will share in an informal time of eating and whistling while we work. The work is light.

Remain in the sanctuary and assemble a health kit for UMCOR to distribute. Sit for a spell at the top of our front steps. Relax on the sidewalk below. Greet a passer-byer and offer them a hot dog. Connect a friend with our vegetarian and gluten-free options. Eat on the run or practice Sabbath ☺

Boulevard United Methodist Church



But it should be remembered that Elijah did all of the tough activity that we often do not subscribe to prophetic activity. In the end, that activity was enough to bring about victory, perhaps not because it was efficacious, but because it was able to put the prophet and the people in a place to really look to God and not themselves.

- Roger Nam

May 29, 2016

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Through It All*

Call to Worship

Greeting

*Hymn *We Sing to You, O God* TFWS 2001

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

First Lesson *1 Kings 18:20-39*

Time with Children

Gospel Reading *Luke 7:1-10*

*Hymn *Open My Eyes, That I May See (1-2)* UMH 454

Sermon *Rev. Rachel G. May*

Please join in a reprise of the introit by singing the chorus printed on page 508.

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *As Now the Sun Shines Down at Noon*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* TFWS 2158

*Benediction

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.

NEXT MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: June 6. 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.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday:

*1 Kings 17:8-24
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17*

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
May 1 – 21	\$26,864	\$23,743

LUKE 7:1-10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." ⁶And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

7 BUT ONLY SPEAK THE WORD - Luke 7

“Just give the order.” That’s how Clarence Jordan translates it.

This centurion *knows* about orders. He points that much out as a way of explaining how he, an officer in Rome’s armed forces, has a reference point for what Jesus is able to do simply by speaking the word.

Officer has a sick servant. Officer has heard about the traveling healer. Officer asks to be on the receiving end of that healing. Jesus goes. On the way, he receives word that the officer is sure that Jesus can give the word from afar, which ought to be plenty. Jesus says, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith (v.9).”

Now the preacher says we ought to aim for that kind of faith. Fair enough. It’s not a feather rufflin’ proposition.

That, right there, ought to signal a time out. Jesus didn’t get the death penalty for sharing a few good lessons for us to maybe get behind since they might fit with what we already think. What more is there to this story?

Let’s say an occupying force is patrolling our city. The soldier saying that he is out on Broad Street to keep the peace (“peace” sounds better than “forced compliance”) -- Jesus is affirming that guy’s faith. *Oh, so you see something in him that you’re not seeing in us, Jesus?* I can imagine a whole host of stink-eyes.

What the centurion offers is subtle yet tremendous. The centurion goes into the conversation recognizing that Jesus is authorized to be Jesus. While many work to delegitimize his ministry, the fodder these others employ to justify their undermining behavior (Lk 6:1-11) is one non-issue after another for this Gentile.

Friends, we are surrounded by voices that tell us that the doctor doesn’t know what she is talking about, all civil servants are incompetent, our barista cannot make a proper espresso, the mailman cuts corners, that teenager bagging our groceries won’t put the eggs in right, the technician on the other end of the line is a joke...Oh my. The centurion’s posture must amaze God now as much as it did back then (v.9).

Bless another this week, if you can. Ask them to do what they do as though they spent for the schooling, they made sacrifices to be trained, they are giving what they have to give to work that is often more complex than we imagine. Access the grace within you to authorize somebody. And a centurion’s faith you’ll have.