

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jay McKinney, Sissie Kerns, Chris, & Amy Kerns, those who feel the loss of Jane Frisa, Delight Andrews, Casey Bowman Miles, Jim Rickards, Alex & Melva Slonin, perpetrators and victims of gun violence, and Jim Green & family. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

GIVING GROWS US; as does offering your presence via SignUp Genius or by calling our office.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
August 1 - 13	\$10,590	\$9,807

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.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



The Greek word that is traditionally translated in English by "hospitality" is *philoxenia*, literally, "love of the strange."

Many ancients were locked into lives of routine and did not stray far from their places of birth. The unknown seekers of hospitality brought news (and stories!) of the wider world and broke open one's little provincial world. There was a kind of marvelous exchange, then, of mutual benefit between host and guest...

- Erik Heen

August 28, 2016

On the Cover: Marc Chagall's "Abraham Receives the Three Visitors" (1931).

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Family of God*

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Awake, Awake to Love and Work*
TUNE: MORNING SONG

Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with diamond dew;
the worlds awake to cry
their blessings on the Lord of life,
as he goes meekly by.

Come, let our voice be one with theirs,
shout with their shout of praise;
see how the giant sun soars up,
great lord of years and days!
So let the love of Jesus come
and set our souls ablaze.

To give and give, and give again,
what God has given free;
to spend thyself nor count the cost;
to serve right gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are,
And all that are to be.

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

*Gospel Reading Luke 14:1-7-14

*Sung Response *Humble Thyself* TFWS 2131

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Carol of the Epiphany* TFWS 2094

The choir will offer vv.1-3. For vv. 4-5, rise and join them in song.

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Jesu, Jesu* UMH 432

*Benediction



*Flowers are given to glorify God in honor of baby shower hostesses, friends, family,
and all who have supported us on the journey, by The Gooches.*



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

² **SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS** - Hebrews 13

Where do you go to practice? Which is not the same as asking where you like to be to think about things.

Call them virtues, call them Christian virtues, they have to be put on and worn and broken in and stretched out and examined and washed (or spot-cleaned) and patched (or tailored).

Everyone can get behind a good part of this laundry list put forth in Hebrews 13. Why? Because these are widely held as sound ideas, verses 1-5.

But can we point to the practice field? Are we willing to share the track with strange others? And do we show up to it?

I am lucky. On the whole, folks do not approach me with the intention of rattling off all the reasons why the church is beneath or behind them.

I am lucky. I know and love people who chosen a practice field that is not, say, a Jesus-following community. When they speak of where they go and to whom they belong and why they show up, well, I find myself nearer to *my* God and more closely connected to the terrain of the sojourn *I have chosen*; or has chosen me, rather.

Where I have work to do involves those encounters in which an ideology is front and center and I cannot, for the life of me or anyone else, locate where the espousers of this or that set of views go to experience what inevitably happens on any practice field: A real reckoning with nuance and limitations.

Limits are not all bad. Owning them can open us up to receive what others have to invest in our lives and in the kingdom. Which is one reason to *choose* limits.

If it's the Ritz-Carlton you're looking for, Boulevard may not be for you, but if it's a field you need, c'mon! We're plenty limited and thus every bit suitable for entertaining angel practice. Besides: Those of us already gathering here need to rehearse how this is not ultimately our turf, but rather ground made holy by any move made, in our midst, toward mutual love (v.1). Like I said, c'mon.

Hebrews 13:1-8 (NRSV)

Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Luke 14:1,7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'