

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Ed Gooch, 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. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

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.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: September 12. 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 moves us forward this month.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
August 2016	\$22,595	\$14,683

ALTAR FOLIAGE is given to glorify God in memory of Gerald O. Lyons, by Marjorie W. Lyons.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Listen, God love everything you love - and a mess of stuff you don't. But more than anything else, God love admiration.

You saying God vain?

Not vain, just wanting to share a good thing. I think it [ticks] God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.

- Alice Walker, "The Color Purple"

September 11, 2016

On the Cover: Lavender Field and Lone Tree (France), Locke Heemstra.

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 *Still Workin'*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* UMH 103

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

First Reading Psalm 92:1-4;12-15 UMH 811

Time with Children

Gospel Lesson Luke 15:1-10

Sermon "Reclaimed" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Affirmation of Faith

*Hymn *A Place at the Table* Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Called by Earth and Sky*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Amazing Grace* UMH 378

*BenedictioB

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things,
and celebrates all things.**

We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that our Creator became a creature, in Jesus.
He lived and breathed and spoke among us,
He suffered and died,
for all forms of life made and treasured by the Lord our God.

We look for the risen Jesus,
presiding at the core of creation
renewing the face of the earth and blessing the cosmos.

And for the Spirit also,
at work where damage has been done.

We believe in the Church;
not because it is perfect, but because it is what we have.

We believe that we will rise,
Alongside of Jesus, with all the company of heaven,
there will be a new creation to behold.
Hearts will sing.
God will delight.
And we will know the full truth and beauty of re-creation.

Amen.

Amen!

WITNESS

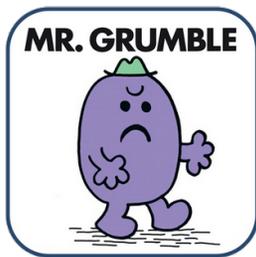
telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like

{Together}

A SEASON OF CREATION is an opportunity to deepen our appreciation for creation as an integral part of our worship and discipleship. The logic of this focused time (September) is much the same as any other season of the Christian year: Paying closer attention to something in particular can be spiritually nutritious. We might bear a clearer witness to our belief that the skies declare the glory of God (Psalm 19), that God's handiwork helps us to know who God is (Romans 1), that nature itself participates and leads us in praise (Psalm 148 & Isaiah 55).

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Saturday morning, October 15, 10:00 am. Save and share the date!





Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

² **THIS MAN** - Luke 15

Luke seems to gather all the opposition there ever was to Jesus. He wraps it up tight. He makes a tag for it; that, or he pulls a sticker from the sheet.

It reads: “For: Jesus. From: The Pharisees. We just had to.”

--Had to give him a hard time.

There are a variety of explanations as to why Luke concentrates the opposition in the way that he does. (1) The sources he is using to write his gospel harbor ill feelings toward the Pharisaic tradition. (2) It is literary choice. Types help to tell the story. (3) He is experiencing in his own time energies that resemble that of the Pharisees in Jesus’ day and wants to remind folk that Jesus wasn’t about that.

Suffice it to say, it’s a Luke thing, more than it is a Matthew, Mark, and John thing.

Jesus never asks us to see the Pharisees as the bad guys. Stereotyping, scapegoating...he didn’t have much use for either phenomenon.

We know what he thinks about a good number of them, though. They are an uptight bunch, entirely too fond of picking people apart in the name of what is right. Heck, if the moral police could bring near the kingdom of God and then further it in keeping with God’s intent for creation, he (Jesus) would not have been anointed for the very ministry they questioned.

A billboard went up some time ago. It made plain the fact that Jesus ate with suspect company. Rumor has it that a group of Christians went berserk. I’d like to think it was because they disapproved of the diminished visibility at night or some such snafu. I wonder, however, if the opposition didn’t wade into Lukan Pharaic waters, where Mr. Grumble loiters, and if Luke, from his place in the communion of saints, may have hollered “I done told y’all it persists!”

I am sure there was more to the story. In any case, watch out for those grumbling Pharisees, friends (v.2). The ones that set up shop inside of you and me are awfully persnickety.

Luke 15:1-10

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. ²The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’ ⁷In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

⁸“Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won’t light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”