

WITNESS

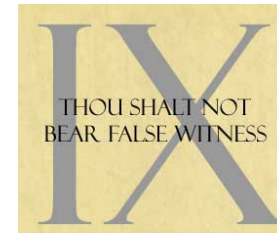
telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like
{Together}

GET YOUR CRAFT AND COMPASSION ON by staying after worship this Sunday. We are crafting one-of-a-kind greeting cards as a part of a project set in motion by ReEstablish Richmond. They are gathering cards throughout the month of February to send to refugees who are already our neighbors.



Maybe you want to know a little more about how and why this project came to be. You might have questions about the individuals and families who will receive our handiwork. Good news: A ReEstablish Richmond staff-person will lunch and craft alongside of us! 12:15 – 1:30, in an art studio on the second floor: It's a potluck style lunch. You may, however, come empty-handed!

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"One of the crooks he was strung up with put it this way: 'If you are the Christ, save yourself and us' (Luke 23:39). Save us from whatever we need most to be saved from. Save us from each other. Save us from ourselves... If he is, he can. If he isn't, he can't. It may be that the only way in the world to find out is to give him the chance, whatever that involves."

- Frederick Buechner

February 12, 2017

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).

Order of Worship for the 6th Sunday After the Epiphany

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

On This Path

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Gnossienne No. 1

Jennifer Scott

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Solo

Three Things I Promise

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn

Come Follow Me

Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

10,000 Reasons

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

TFWS 2223

*Benediction

*Parting Music

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Merle and Laurie, Jeanette, the family of David Bradley McConnell, the Talton family, Sissie Kerns, and Jay McKinney. 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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
January 2017	\$21,569	\$12,167

JENNIFER SCOTT joins us today as a once accomplished student of voice and piano turned teacher who practiced law somewhere in the midst of all of that. She runs her own business while introducing a variety of audiences to the joy and beauty of her French Latin fusion. If she were not with us this morning you could find her horseback riding, figure skating, playing with her dog, going to performances or spending time outdoors. Alas, welcome Jennifer!

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS. Heart Havens, with help from congregations like Boulevard, empowers adults with intellectual disabilities to find their places at tables both at church and in the community. We are collecting financial gifts and supplies (paper products, cleaning supplies, art supplies).



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

! TO THOSE OF ANCIENT TIMES Matthew 5

If you learn only one thing about when and where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, let it be this: It was an honor-shame society.

Honor-shame dynamics are still a thing. “From online bullying to Twitter takedowns, shame is becoming a dominant force...(A. Crouch).” Indeed. Lord, have mercy.

First thing’s first, though; to those of ancient times, losing honor meant losing one’s place at the family supper table and one’s folding chair for the 4th of July block party. Those without honor went without what was thought to make life worth the living.

Some have described the honor-shame society as a zero sum game in which the only way to preserve honor involves withholding it from another; which is not to say that 1st century people thought of it in those terms. In any case, what one perceived to be *dishonoring* provided the basis for a number of acts. Like murder. Like divorce.

Murder and divorce were how folks took satisfaction when their honor was on the line (or so they thought). Men killed men and women in the name of their family’s honor. Men divorced women in the name of their family’s honor. The reason Jesus talks divorce here is because it was assumed that a man *had* to divorce a wife when there were allegations of infidelity and the Law was being used/abused accordingly.

Honor was the currency and certain men were the only ones allowed to handle it. Jesus, I believe, had something to say about the way things worked. Jesus still has something to say when we refuse to imagine an alternative to the status quo.

What if Jesus was giving his listeners a way out of the honor-shame quandary? What if the problem here isn’t the Law of Moses or even how some had interpreted the precepts of God but the larger, broader unchallenged norms of the time?

What if, beginning with the Beatitudes, Jesus was blessing those who had faced honor-loss so as to set them free from the fight? What if Jesus was assuring them that they were honorable in God’s sight—that they had nothing to fear when it came to what they would lose by virtue of following God into a new world order? Oh, I think that is exactly what he was, and is, and will be up to~

Matthew 5:21-37

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.”²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire.²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ ‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.”³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ ‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.”³⁴ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

* Jerome H. Neyrey; Bruce J. Malina & Richard L. Rohrbaugh.