

## OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING boosts (1) Methodist ministry in Cambodia, Brazil and Mozambique (2) Disaster Relief, Minority Missional Ministries, and Volunteers in Mission in Virginia. This is a special collection initiated by our Bishop Sharma Lewis. Goal: \$200,000. Virginia can do this!

As for “kits”, also collected that same weekend, we are aiming to assemble twenty health kits following worship on Sunday, May 21. These disaster relief supplies will then be transferred to UMCOR at this year’s Annual Conference.

## WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

STAY AFTER WORSHIP on May 21 for a potluck picnic! Our togetherness and any proceeds will boost this month’s mission focus. You can tell Beth Nelson [beth.p.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:beth.p.nelson@gmail.com) what you are inclined to bring. Or, you can show up without food and offer a helping hand to those setting up or cleaning up.

On the Cover: “Many Rooms” by Jan Richardson.

*The flowers are given to glorify God with gratitude for the life Margaret Fry Foy and her fidelity to this congregation.*



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



We can’t call these words of Jesus the “Farewell Discourse” without recognizing fully what it means to say goodbye, both for Jesus and for the disciples. We can’t dilute this moment with theories that predict what heaven will look like or anticipate who will end up being our mansion neighbors. To do so is to take these words away from the disciples that they needed to hear—and maybe you do as well.

- Karoline Lewis

May 14, 2017

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

# Order of Worship for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

One: We are sons and daughters, fearfully and wonderfully made.

**All: Thank you, Lord.**

Among us are mothers who have made countless sacrifices.

**Sustain them, Lord.**

Others grieve mothers who went away too soon.

**Uphold them, Lord.**

We know women who labor to provide, women who are expecting,  
and women who have mothered outside the gates of biology.

**Bless them, Lord.**

We honor the pain of those who wanted to, but could not;  
those who bear the weight of children dying.

**Make us mindful. Enlarge our hearts!**

Beloved are these, your maternal ones.

**Give us grace to honor them by bringing our best before you;  
this hour, this day, and always. Amen.**

\*Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* UMH 577

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Eve Watters, harp

## Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Psalter Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

First Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Reading John 14:1-14

Sermon "The Grace in Goodbye" Rev. Rachel G. May  
\*Hymn *Saranam, Saranam* UMH 523

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707

\*Benediction

\*Parting Music

## NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Mary Anderson and her new to the family son, the friends and family of David McConnell, Michael Barrett, Colleen Bouldin, Kimberly Gwynn, Grayson Foy, Merle and Laurie, Jeanette, 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 1 – April 30	\$68,848	\$54,751



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

**9 HAVE I BEEN WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME, PHILIP** John 14

It was a casual read of an article that barely interested me. Something about Christian sites in Turkey, two ancient structures there, one of which had only recently been unearthed...Mostly, I was thinking about how the sun should make an appearance.

Then the author dropped the word “Virginia” like Virginia and Turkey are talked about together all the time. I was back in the (reading) game, gazing at a photo with this caption: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond/The Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund.

I may not have known what I was looking at but holy cow, I was across the street from it! It was my lucky day. Or, I was a fool for never having bothered to locate this thing currently housed in a museum I claim to love.

It was a bread stamp. Bread stamps were, in antiquity, pressed in the side of a loaf to signify where it came from or where it was supposed to go. This particular bread stamp featured the two holy sites about which the article had been written.

In the summer of 2011, an excavation director struck gold in Christian Turkey. It wasn't the bread stamp but rather the site imaged on the left side of the stamp. By virtue of having found the remains of a fourth or fifth century church, Francesco D'Andria had found the tomb of the apostle Philip.

So, the VMFA across the street has had a bread stamp that had been trying to tell us that there was this other church (and tomb) at Hierapolis All this time, an intricate bit of bronze knew something of the Philip Jesus called and loved. It is crazy in beautiful way when the dots connect. Generous patrons of the arts...faith in the first century...modern archaeological discoveries...the Apostle Philip...us.

Maybe you would have to have been there in my office and reading the article for that last sentence to translate. If I have a point, it's that one never knows what will engender a sense of curiosity and appreciation for the arc of sacred history and the cast of characters in our faith family tree. It all started with a dry article.

When we hear from him in John 14, know this Philip to be not only the patron saint of hatters and pastry chefs, but in some small way, our next-door neighbor-apostle.

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.