

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Abraham and Sarah receiving visitors under the oaks of Mamre (Genesis 18): That text was quoted more frequently than any other during the first 500 years of the church, more than any gospel passage.”

- Amy Oden

June 25, 2017

On the Cover: Nicholas Markell's "Abraham and Sarah"

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 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music

It is Well With My Soul

Call to Worship

Practice ☺

God of Abraham

Insert

Words of Welcome

*Hymn

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

UMH 68

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Proclamation and Response

Children's Moment

First Reading

Genesis 18:1-14; 21-23

*Hymn

Deep in the Shadows

TFWS 2246

Second Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn

God of Abraham

Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

UMH 129

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Parting Music

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the family of Yolanda Williams, Rusty Moellencamp, Mary Anderson and her new to the family son, the friends and family of David McConnell, Colleen Bouldin, Kimberly Gwynn, Merle and Laurie. 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
June 1 - 17	\$5,637	\$3,923

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

WE REST until our next mission focus, the details of which will be included in the July 9 bulletin. With ideas for future outreaching endeavors or to offer yourself as a leader for a particular effort, speak with Rachel.



Crossing Boulevard

with Kylee Ponder

✦ I'S A PEOPLE Isaiah 43:19

As a Linguistics Major and someone who struggled painstakingly through a semester of ENG 304: Generative Syntax, offered by the illustrious and amazing Professor Ann Reed, “I’s a People” doesn’t follow my learned syntactical rules of the Traditional English language.

But daggone if it doesn’t express a sentiment of truth and love expressed so beautifully by the Bishop James E. Swanson on Saturday morning’s worship service at the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference held in Hampton, Virginia.

I sat, Saturday morning, in awe of the energy and passion showcased by Bishop Swanson in the Convention Center Room sandwiched in between Rachel and my father. The three of us spent the next 30 minutes catching glances at each other with wide eyes and laughs of disbelief that yes. This is our church. Pride that yes. This is our church.

Bishop Swanson’s two sermons we heard on Saturday were interspersed with reunions with old friends, challenging moments of reality in which I realized the privilege I hold and the blessing of a worship community Boulevard UMC is, and a sea of familiar faces, from both Boulevard and beyond.

Those words uttered by Bishop Swanson on Saturday morning of “I’s a People” were a less than gentle reminder that we, the Church, are responsible for shaking things up. For taking on risks and challenging tradition. For being the types of people God has called us to be. Bishop Swanson so eloquently stated, *Whether we like it or not, there is no way that through our own power and strength that we can ensure success in any enterprise we undertake. We must get used to taking risks and trusting the results into God’s own hands.*

The theme of 2017’s Annual Conference was “A New Thing,” referencing the verse of Isaiah 43:19 – *See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* Bishop Sharma Lewis challenged the traditional ways in which Annual Conference has been “done” in the past and shook things up a bit. She did her own “new thing.”

It was such an incredible honor to spend my weekend amongst people like Bishop Lewis, Bishop Swanson, Rev. Rachel, and even my sweet father. I was renewed in the path I foresee our Church heading down and am so thankful to serve a Church community like Boulevard, one that celebrates “new things” all the time.

Isaiah 43:19

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

✦ Bishop Swanson said this in reference to this verse from Isaiah. It was his way of making plain how God has chosen *people*, flaws and all, to bring about God’s newness. He had us say, “I’s a people” to drive it home.