

## NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jim and his family, Nancy Tate, and Leslie. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH for infants - 5 year olds begins after the children's moment (approximately 4:15). They rejoin us for Communion. Ms. LaRonda is an experienced childcare provider currently employed by Grace Covenant Child Development Center.

NEXT MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: January 7. Join in prayer and lunch afterwards at the café, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room.

## WITNESS

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

{Together}



A CHURCH SUPPER happens here at 1837 W Broad following our service on January 20. Save the date! Chipotle will cater the mains and you are invited to bring accompaniments.

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
✦ where disciples are lifelong learners influencing others to serve ✦

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



"The providence of God is seen in these gifts. It provided the means necessary for the flight to Egypt that was to follow at once, and to sustain the holy family in a foreign land."

- B.W. Johnson, 1891

January 6, 2019

boulevardumc@gmail.com  
PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 840-1921

Epiphany Sunday  
4:00 pm at 1837 W Broad St.

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

The grace of our Lord, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you!**

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!**

Words of Welcome

Hymn Arise, Shine 2005

Time with Children

Hymn We Three Kings 254

Joys & Concerns

Prayer

Interlude

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn Sing We Now of Christmas 1,4-5 237

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

Music Home By Another Way

Offering

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts!*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Lord's Supper

Hymn This Little Light of Mine 585

Dismissal with Blessing



Storefront Inklings

*with Rev. Rachel*

**<sup>1</sup>THEY LEFT... BY ANOTHER ROAD** - Matthew 2:12

Frederick Buechner makes light of their not so wise thinking. Not only did these three go to the king so as to inquire about his replacement; but “it did not even strike them as suspicious when Herod asked them to be sure to let him know when they found [the baby] so he could hurry on down to pay *his* respects”.

Herod, of course, had no such intentions. It was not long before he ordered the murder of children under the age of two. His greatness was a giant favor granted to everyone. It had to be defended at all costs.

Somehow these astrologers/magicians from Parthia got drawn in to the drama and the truth is, they almost blew it. [That is the truth about each and all of us at various points along the way.] Fortunately, the magi paid attention. The star got them there. A dream then nudged the traveling trio to return to their homeland.

The gifts they present to the Christ child are richly symbolic. Everyone loves to make meaning using the number three! The gift that is not named is their attention and maybe that one is most impressive of all.

I was recently reading through the questions that are asked of United Methodist congregations in Virginia – questions that are designed to help us update our church profile – and this one gave me pause: Which spiritual disciplines are practiced? The question was posed to Boulevard as a whole and I felt a twinge of shame, knowing that I could only really answer for myself.

Spiritual disciplines are about paying attention to God and this Sunday, Epiphany Sunday, makes the case for why our attention matters.

Meditation, fasting, prayer, study, service and worship keep us woke. Practices of simplicity, solitude, and stewardship tune us in so that the star gets noticed, the journey gets taken, the gifts get given, the joy gets expressed, the dream gets interpreted, the other road gets taken...

Which spiritual disciplines are practiced here? Receiving the question may be more important than trying to answer. Choosing to ask is enough for today.

Matthew 2

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.