

WITNESS

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

FOR THE LOVE of baby Ava, whom we have not yet met, we are preparing to purchase a gift (or gifts) from LaRonda Malone's registry. LaRonda has cared for our children and this is an opportunity for our congregation to bless her and as she welcomes one of her own. If you would like to contribute, please envelope cash or memo-line a check "Ava".

Boulevard United Methodist Church on Broad



God does not want our religion to be too holy to be happy in. Throughout his life and his ministry, Jesus of Nazareth celebrated people -- people getting married, people being healed of disease and deformity, people enjoying meals together. He carried a spirit of celebration with him wherever he went as he proclaimed a God of mercy and peace and joy.

- Robert Brearley

January 27, 2019

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
4:00 pm at 1837 W Broad St.

Greeting	Rev. Drew Willson	
Hymn	<i>Come Let Us With Our Lord Arise</i>	2084
Time with Children		
Responsive Reading	Psalm 36	771
Hymn	<i>Saranam, Saranam 2-3</i>	523
Joys and Concerns		
Prayer		
Music		
Gospel Reading	John 2:1-11	
Sermon	Rev. Rachel G. May	
Interlude		
Offering		
Doxology	<i>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!</i>	
The Lord's Supper		
Hymn	<i>Welcome Table</i>	
Dismissal with Blessing		



Storefront Inklings

with Rev. Rachel

THE FIRST OF HIS SIGNS John 2:11

You know the story; or the gist of it, anyway. Jesus and the disciples go to a wedding. The wine runs out. Mother Mary is there too and she's not about to let this couple's family feel ashamed, so she tells him (Jesus). She tells him to do something about it.

Jesus protests. He's not a magician-for-hire. He's not a restorer of the open bar. Plus, he's not trying to out himself.

Mary tells the caterers that they need to do as Jesus says; at which point Jesus relents. He tells them to take six giant jars and fill them up to the brim with water. Oblivious, the headwaiter takes a drink of this water that has been sent his way, and discovers that it is wine. *Fine* wine.

I don't think that it all boils down to Jesus performing a miracle... and the details are therefore unimportant. [Boiled down stories are rather useless.]

And no, this story doesn't make every party or any meal a means of Cana-grace.

When John stops short of spelling out what and I are *to do* with this account, we can settle for a lazy interpretation. Or, we can start asking questions, the kind that draw us into the Gospel.

The first of his signs is an act that (a) rescues a feast-in-trouble and (b) allows a celebration to continue. What this offers us and what this wants from us, well, we've got to ask.

And it dawns on me: that's what prayer is for. Sure, we can pray anywhere without a book. But the kind of prayer that follows the daily reading of Scripture is in a league of its own.

If you have never tried it or if you have fallen off the wagon, remember, the barrier to entry (and re-entry) is low. A Scripture, a moment of reflection and a prayer – daily – is all one really needs. Stories like The Wedding at Cana have been given to us for swishing and smelling and sipping. So, here's to imbibing the Word between Sundays and on occasion, glimpsing the glory.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Bishop Sharma Lewis, Tammy Estep and David Outten, Jim and his family, and Nancy Tate. 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.

THE WORD EPIPHANY suggests "a making known" of something or someone. For us, Epiphany is both a day and a season. The identity of the Jesus and is being made known to us as we follow him from birth into the beginning of his public ministry.

Long ago the feast of Epiphany celebrated four events: the Nativity, the visit of the Magi, the baptism in the Jordan and the wedding at Cana. Today, these events are more often celebrated over the course of several Sundays.