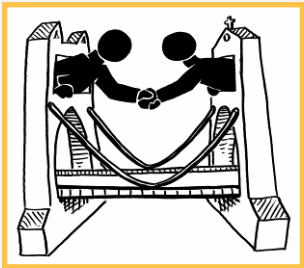


Boulevard United Methodist Church, (804) 358-8993



Faith Under Fire

Special Interest Articles

- ◆ No More "Bad Days" – p.3.
- ◆ Postmodern Ministry – Report from Annual Conference p.5 - 7

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With the presidential election two months away, the spotlight on the candidates is intensifying. Every move they make, every word they say, every little bit from their past is open for discussion and dissection. The media seems to be majoring in minors.

But what if your life were put under that kind of scrutiny? What if a microphone was put under your chin and you were asked questions of faith? Would you have an answer?

Next time you hear a

candidate asked about their faith – try to answer the question out of your faith. Have you ever thought about the issue? Can you answer the question succinctly? Are you sure your answer comes from your faith, or is it what you think others want to hear?

All of a sudden, faith is not so easy. I listen for candidates who not only quote scripture, but who apply scripture in their private and public life. Matthew 25:31-46 becomes a call to take care of those on the fringe of society. Luke 4:1-13 is a

reminder that temptations abound and vigilance is needed. James 5:7-11 is an acknowledgement that our timing is not always God's time.

That's what is so unique about faith – it is so personal "This is what I believe because of my faith in Jesus Christ"— and it is so public "This is how I stand on the issues because of my faith in Jesus Christ".

May you look at candidates through the eyes of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Dorothy

LATE NEWS!

We are starting a new **Young Adults Sunday School Class** on September 7th at 10:00AM.

It will be meeting on the 2nd Floor of the building, coming in from the Stewart Avenue entrance.

Jim O'Quinn will be leading the group. All who consider themselves young adults are invited to attend.





"Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed."

—Robert Schuller

Worship Notes - September

7 18th After Pentecost
 Matthew 18:21-35
 Holy Communion

The Communion Rail offering will go to the Katrina Disaster Relief Fund (see p. 3).

Starting September 14th will be a sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit.

14 19th After Pentecost
JOY John 3:22-36

21 20th After Pentecost
LOVE John 14:1-14

28 21st After Pentecost
KINDNESS
 Ephesians 4:30-5:22

The Fruit of the Spirit are named in two epistles, Galatians 5:22-25 and Colossians 3:12-13. These "fruit" are the end result of a spirit-filled life. Come and hear how you may live a fruitful life!

FINANCE REPORT

On hand 7/1/08 (7,708)

Income
 Regular offering 14,532
 Community Bless'g 183
 Building Fund 425
 Endowment Inc. 19,914
 Memorials/Specials 1907
 Other Income 6,912

Expenses
 Mission & outreach 1,692
 Operating costs 11,900
 Staff costs 24,073
 Miscellaneous 534

On hand 07/31/08 (2,034)

New District Superintendent

There will be a celebration as our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Steve Jones, comes to the Richmond District.

It will be held at **3:00PM** on **September 14th** at **Beulah United Methodist Church** (6930 Hopkins Rd.)

The Reverend Steve Jones is asking that all the churches receive non-

perishable food items and bring them to the service.

So, on September 7th and 14th, we will receive non-perishable food items during the worship service.

Is there anyone who can take the items to Beulah UMC that afternoon? Please let Pastor Dorothy know.

Many thanks.



Music Notes

With the retirement of Dr. Marianne Kessler, and with Joshua Allen leaving, there are big changes in store for the remaining musicians of Boulevard.

The Music Committee, formed to fill the open music positions, hopes to be interviewing people

soon.

In the interim, Joshua Kennedy and Dorothy O'Quinn will be leading the music during worship. While Dorothy is playing the organ, Evelyn Henson, Gina Wyse and Jim O'Quinn will be helping with the spoken parts of

the service.

Please be in prayer for all who are taking on new responsibilities, and pray that new musicians will be swift in coming!!

See Mary Marshall if you have questions. 272.4963.



Communion Offering – Sept. 7th

Sunday, August 24th, is the date set aside for a special offering and emphasis on the Bishop's Katrina Church Recovery Appeal. This date is the Sunday closest to the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina making landfall along the Gulf Coast in 2005. Here at Boulevard, we have set aside **September 7** for this mission work.

Much work remains to be done before United Methodist churches in Louisiana and Mississippi can meet the growing needs of their traumatized communities. Please open your hearts to the Katrina Church Recovery Appeal (#818-001). Your donations of money and service will help to:

- ◆ Renovate and reopen hurricane-damaged United Methodist churches, parsonages and other facilities.
- ◆ Provide skilled professionals as a labor

force.

- ◆ Grow congregations where memberships have declined.
- ◆ Reestablish community-outreach ministries.
- ◆ Train new lay leadership and rebuild church infrastructure.
- ◆ Provide salaries for support staff (including associate pastors, church musicians, Christian education directors and others).



No More "Bad Days"

It could have been a downer of a day. Three people I visited today said, "I don't know why I'm still here. I'm no good to anybody."

I understand those words. People who once were able to go and do can no longer. Life has turned out differently than what was envisioned. Yet, even when our bodies don't cooperate with us any more, we can still serve God.

We can always pray. Prayer is the important job of a Christian, for it connects us to God who created us, who redeems us, and who is with us. It doesn't matter if you use a walker, need help with everyday activities, or have body aches and pains. You can always pray.

Don't know what to pray, start with yourself, your joys, your concerns, your sins. Next pray for all those on the prayer list – who have been lifted up to the church as needing extra prayer. Then pray for all those in our church phone directory. If you need more ideas, just call me!

Yes, it could have been a downer of a day, then Elaine Kennedy told me what she witnessed in the

check out line at 7-11.

A young man was dropping all the items in his hands. The man behind him in line said, "Hey, are you having a bad day?"

"No Sir," the young man said. "I don't have bad days. I was on Cary Street yesterday and ran into a man with a grocery cart. He was picking up cans. There were only 5 in his buggy. I said, 'Hey mister, are you having a bad day?'" The man looked me right in the eye and said, 'No Sir. God made every day a good day. If you think it's bad, it's your own fault.' "Since then, I'm not having a bad day."

God made every day. God made you for this day. No more bad days!

Pastor Dorothy



Members' Notes

September Birthdays

- 1st Frances Thurston
- 4th Cheryl Dunn
- 5th Barbara Broach
Mary Riddell
- 8th Roc Currin
Tyler Hatch
- 9th Frances Hale
- 14th Jim O'Quinn
- 15th Eileen Mabe

- 16th Dorothy Rawlings
Kelly Tobe
- 18th Evelyn Henson
- 19th Zach Acosta-Lewis
- 20th Marilyn Acosta

Anniversaries

- Bill & Evelyn Bowers
Sept. 14, 1940

BLAIR O'QUINN

Blair O'Quinn has started his first year as a student at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. His school address is: Box 899 Shenandoah University 1460 University Drive Winchester VA 22601

His new e-mail address is: EyeonU92@gmail.com

As with every student, Blair would love to receive some greetings and news from his home church!

Congratulations!

"Living the Sacred" – Sept. 12th

The Richmond District will hold a mini school of Christian Mission on Friday Sept. 12th, 5:15PM to 8:30PM, at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave.

With the overall theme of "Living the Sacred", the following studies will be offered:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH – Faith in Jesus Christ in a Postmodern World. The study leader will be Rev Al Horton, Pastor, Mt

Pisgah UMC.

ISSUE STUDY – Issues affecting Native Americans in the US. Study Leader: Rev Karen Sandoval, Chair, Native American Ministries.

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY – Israel & Palestine. Study Leader: Becky Breeding, UMW Social Action Coordinator.

The Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic has been

selected as the special Mission emphasis for the event. Participants are asked to contribute small bottles of vitamins, fish oil, Tylenol Arthritis, First Aid Cream, first aid kits, etc.

Registration at 5:15PM. Dinner 5:45PM. Study Groups 7:0PM Cost is \$10 – registration by August 31st.

For more info, call 560 – 4757.



Leave a Living Legacy

Leave a Living Legacy to carry on your life's good works. Include Boulevard Church in your

- ◆ Will
- ◆ Life insurance policy
- ◆ Charitable Gift

Annuity

- ◆ Pooled Income Funds
- ◆ Charitable Remainder Trusts
- ◆ Gift of Residence with retained life use

- ◆ Bequest and other gifts

Bequests and life income gifts offer substantial tax and legal benefits.

For more information about how you can be faithful to God and

Boulevard Church long after your death, please speak to Roy Burgess or call Warren Smith in the church office. (358-8993).

Summary of Dietrich Kirk's Annual Conference Presentation – by Josh Kennedy

Can medical science extend the life of United Methodism indefinitely? The population within the United Methodist Church is statistically older and less ethnically diverse than the population of the United States in general.

Mr. Kirk asked those of us attending Annual Conference under the age of 35 to stand. At 34, I was just under the bar so I stood up. There were not very many of us (I'd guess less than a hundred out of crowd of about 2,000.) When we stood, the rest of the Conference gave us a round of applause. But why did so few people stand up? Without young people, without "fresh blood" the church is destined to fade away, but young people don't seem to want to come to church. Why?

Mr. Kirk told us about a survey that asked teens and college students about their spiritual beliefs. The result was something that Divinity students have called "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism," and its creed (if there was a formal creed) would go something like this: "God is good. God wants me to be good so I can feel good about myself. God is there if I need Him, but there's no need to bother

Him unless I'm really in trouble." There was a lot of dismayed sighing and muttering in the crowd as Mr. Kirk outlined these ideas. Then he asked, "Where did they learn this?"

He answered his own question. "They learned it from us."

He went on to explain to us that young people are "postmodern" and approach the world with a "postmodern" perspective due to changes, within the last two generations, in culture and technology. The postmodern viewpoint is subjective rather than objective (experience varies from person to person, and external "universal" truth is rare or nonexistent.) The postmodern viewpoint is skeptical (don't believe what you're told; everybody's out to make a buck.) The postmodern viewpoint holds no fixed perspective (life is constantly changing; what was "true" yesterday may not apply today.) Mr. Kirk listed the following values of postmodern society:

NARRATIVE.

Everybody has a story to tell. Narrative structure helps bring meaning to the chaos of postmodern life.

EXPERIENCE. Doing something "for real" is always better than hearing or reading about it. Postmoderns place a high value on direct experience; doing and feeling something real and meaningful. (Experience plus Knowledge equals Faith.)

SPIRITUALITY. Older generations often criticize the young for lacking spirituality, but they are in fact very spiritual. Their emphasis on "experience" leads them to find profound spiritual significance in settings such as concerts and sporting events. Church often lacks the "oomph" and is too dry and/or theoretical to deliver the Spiritual Experience a young person craves.

PLURALISM. The world has gotten smaller. We are exposed to a seemingly endless variety of ethnicities, ideas, creeds, and beliefs. The postmodern mind enjoys being able to mix and match, and having many options to choose from. Nobody has a monopoly on "truth."

AUTHENTICITY.

Postmodern youth don't appreciate a lot of fancy academic jargon. Their emphasis on direct

Recommended website:
www.churchleadership.com

experience means that one has to "keep it real" and be honest about what one is doing, thinking, and feeling. If something is fake, they'll figure it out pretty quickly.

ANTI- INSTITUTIONALISM.

Postmoderns see many of our old, cherished institutions as being outdated, irrelevant, bloated, corrupt bureaucracies which have lost sight of their true mission and have degenerated to the point of ruthlessly protecting their own positions of power at any cost. Young people generally don't trust the "organization" part of "organized religion."

So what can we do to serve young people with the Postmodern mindset? Mr. Kirk pointed out that youth are typically drawn to the most powerful force in their society that desires them. It's important to feel wanted; this is why gangs and cults operate so successfully. The church is still a powerful force in society, but have we really demonstrated to our community's youth that **WE WANT THEM?**

Mr. Kirk recommended that there should be a 1:7 ratio of young people to

Continued over



"Knowing a young person doesn't just mean knowing their name. It means knowing who they are, their interests, their likes and dislikes, their talents. It means taking an interest in their development and their welfare."

Postmodern Ministry (continued)

adults who know them in the church. Knowing a young person doesn't just mean knowing their name. It means knowing who they are, their interests, their likes and dislikes, their talents. It means taking an interest in their development and their welfare. We call our congregation "the church family" but do we really act like a family? Next time you're in church, take a look around at the congregation. How many people here do you really know? The top of page 35 in the front of the hymnal contains the promise that the entire congregation makes upon the baptism or confirmation of a new member. Read it when you have a chance. We absolutely must take that promise seriously.

Young people also yearn for something to believe in, because an idea worth dying for is worth living for. Don't the teachings of Christ encapsulate that very idea? The Gospel story is the church's great, compelling narrative (see list of postmodern values, above) and it will work wonders in people's lives if we just TELL it. That doesn't mean "preach" it.

I know from my own experience in college that when somebody starts evangelizing, young people are scared away. Their "authenticity" and "anti-institutional" alarms

start going off and they get the feeling that the preacher is trying to sell them something. We need to learn to tell the church's story, as a story, no strings attached, and let it do its work in the hearts and minds of the listeners.

Mr. Kirk also recommended incorporating a time of Testimony into worship. When people stand up and tell their own personal stories of faith, it registers on several of the key postmodern values: narrative (a story is being told), experience (direct participation in worship), spirituality (feeling the closeness of God in our lives), pluralism (a perspective & a voice other than the pastor's or the lay leader's), authenticity (this is the real deal, from a real person, not a pre-packaged selection from a book). Mr. Kirk said that incorporating testimony into worship caused a noticeable rise in attendance. Even though it was in the informal early service, he noticed that young people started making the effort to attend, getting up at the crack of dawn on Sunday morning because they felt the early worship service was a worthwhile experience.

Young people want to be involved. They want to do things. The church has a

responsibility to call young people to ministry and then LET THEM DO IT.

Mr. Kirk stressed that "service" for young people should not mean "serving on committees." Committees only push a postmodern person's "anti-institutional" button, making him feel bored and unsatisfied. If he asks to serve on a committee, that's one thing, but don't shanghai a young person into doing it unless you really don't want him to stay. (I was hoodwinked into committee service when I first joined Boulevard, and I didn't like it ... but maybe I'm more patient than most, because I wound up staying anyway. Don't count on that happening too often. Most people would drift away and not come back.)

Instead, ask youth what they'd like to do. They might surprise you with some good ideas, as well as the drive & initiative to put them into effect.

Youth ministry does not necessarily mean having to ditch all our ancient and cherished traditions and come up with something totally new. Worship style is not a determining factor for youth ministry. A traditional service can be just as good (if not better) than a

Continued over

United Methodist Women

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Richmond District UMW will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 28th**, at **Ginter Park UMC**, 1010 W. Laburnum Ave. Registration begins at **2:30PM** and the Annual meeting will be held from 3:00PM to 4:30PM. The Theme for the Annual meeting is "Publish Glad Tidings: In Mission Together".

Virginia Conference

UMW President Addie Hayes will be the main speaker.

The Mission emphasis for the event is the Summer Day Camp of Asbury UMC on Church Hill. Rev. Marilyn Heckstall, Pastor of Asbury UMC, will provide an overview of the day camp program which is an outreach ministry to the children in the neighborhood. For more information, call

323-9134.

Also mark your Calendar for **Sept. 27th** as the District UMW goes to the **Chickahomeny Pow-Wow**. Contact your local UMW or call 747-7493 for more information.



"For more information about the United Methodist Women's meetings, please speak to Petie Harry, or call the Church Office.

Postmodern Ministry (continued)

"contemporary" service, as long as it's sincere. Young people will go where they can find a genuine experience, not a fancy show. Mr. Kirk told us that Christian radio station managers (selling advertising airtime and doing the demographic research which that entails) have to know their

target audience, and the audience for "contemporary" music is not all that young anymore (it appeals mostly to women in their 40s.)

Young people want experiences, and ritual is a well-established way of experiencing God. We have a responsibility to

teach the faith, a responsibility which we have neglected for many years (as the prevalence of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism indicates.) Youth are eager to learn, and the more "experienced" members of our church family have lots of wisdom to share.

Metro Richmond at Prayer

Pray for Schools and Educational Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond.

Only take heed and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. (Deut. 4:9 RSV)

September 7

For superintendents, School Boards, PTAs, and Administrators of the Public Schools; for healthy relationships between parents, teachers and students.

September 14

For all public schools – students, teachers, support personnel, and staff – including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school

bus drivers.

September 21

For all private and religious schools, pre-schools and day-care centers, all children in home schools.

September 28

For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate and professional schools.



Boulevard United Methodist Church
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Visitors Welcome!



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.BoulevardUMC.org



Important Information

We invite everyone to share in praise, fellowship, learning and worship with us, regardless of race, creed, age or any other personal issue. If you need help with the steps into the building, let us know so we can open the side door by the ramp.

Sunday Mornings
9:45AM Fellowship

10:00AM Sunday School
11:00AM Morning Worship

Wednesday Evenings
6:30PM TheoSonics
7:30PM Sanctuary Choir

Our Pastor is Dr. Dorothy McNeer O'Quinn. You can contact her through the Church Office, Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 4:00PM; or email her confidentially

through our website at:
Pastor@BoulevardUMC.org

Church Administrator:
Warren Smith

Information for the next Church Newsletter may be sent to the Church Office or emailed to the Editor at:
Evelyn@BoulevardUMC.org
by Saturday September 13th

From Our Pastor

My hope is that you will find in Boulevard Church what you need: a healing place for your weariness; a challenge for your bored soul, a place to explore who, and whose, you are.

Pastor Dorothy



BOULEVARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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