



The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229

December 2016



Pastor's Corner

Joy to the World! Advent offering us a different world is our Advent theme this year. Advent (*ad venite*) is, of course our holy season of preparation. We prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and world. I invite you to ponder this different world. We know the "holiday season" or "Christmas season" as a time on retail frenzy, social obligation, decoration, scheduling, and celebration. Is there room for the holy? Is there room for the Christ child? I invite you to reflect on that question. I invite you measure and judge each decision you face this month with that question in mind. I invite you to order your family life and schedule with that question in mind. God can offer us a different world only if we are willing to consider the possibility. In this edition of the Window you will find a number of ways that God may be trying to speak to you. Listen.

Wishing you a blessed Advent,



Advent at Trinity

God is in our world. Open yourself to the miraculous. As we prepare the way of the Lord, let this holy season be a new beginning for you.

- Sunday, November 27 5:30 PM - Advent Adventure
- Sunday, December 11 Service of Lessons & Carols
8:00* & 11 AM
*Note special time
- Wednesday, December 14 6:45 PM - Blue Christmas Service
- Sunday, December 18 4:00 PM - Children's Christmas Pageant
- Monday, December 19 6 PM - Caroling
- Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services
4 PM - Family Service
6 PM - Contemporary Service
8:30 PM - Traditional Service
11 PM - Traditional Service
- Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day
No Sunday School
10 AM - One Worship Service for all



And many blessings
From the Trinity Staff!

Trinity Adult Ministries



Pub Theology

A special thanks to everyone who has been attending Pub Theology sessions. Our next gathering will be held on **Tuesday, December 13** from **6:30-8 PM** at **Ardent Brewery** in Scott's Addition (3200 W. Leigh St. Richmond, VA 23230). Pastor Larry will hold forth and field questions. What a great opportunity to invite your unchurched friends!

Celebrate at Cedarfield

Please join us at Cedarfield on **Tuesday, December 13** at **3:30 PM** in the Health Center Great Room for fellowship and worship with Trinity members residing at Cedarfield. Contact Lane Dickinson to volunteer or for more information (lanedickinson@yahoo.com or 754-8110).



Blue Christmas Chapel Service, Wednesday, December 14 at 6:45 PM

There's a bluer side of Christmas for many of us here, for even while the lights are bright and songs are full of cheer, we also find that Christmas has a way of bringing tears: the rhythms and traditions of the season may ensure remembering pain, departed friends, and loved ones here no more. Please hear this: you're not alone in that December gloom, and for the grief we share this season we are making room. Come December 14 at 6:45 PM, and we'll invite the Christ, our Light, with tender prayers and hymns.

Contact Drew Willson at dwillson@trinityumc.org for more information.



Church-Wide Christmas Caroling

Trinity families have gathered to informally go caroling for a number of years. We will be meeting at **6:00 PM** in **Trinity Hall** on **Monday, December 19**. We usually carpool to different places. We should be back around 8 PM. There is no sign up, but please try to be prompt so you don't get left behind!



Young at Heart Christmas Program Thursday, December 8

Everyone is invited to Young at Heart's Christmas celebration on Thursday, December 8. We will be entertained by the Festival Chorus of Douglas Freeman High School, then we will enjoy lunch together.

The concert will last from 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM. Registration is required for lunch, which will cost \$8. Please bring a dessert/Christmas treat to share. Registration will take place Sunday, December 4 in Connection Alley (or you can sign up on the friendship pads, or by emailing Judy Oguich at joguich@trinityumc.net). Come join us as we celebrate the season!

Mark your calendars: Thursday, January 19 – Dinner at Tanglewood Ordinary.



UMW Service Day

Please join the Trinity Women Tuesday, December 13 for our Busy Hands Service Day from 9 – noon in Trinity Hall. Following work on a variety of hands-on projects, we will present the Harvest Day checks, hear a Christmas Story by Hermitage Chaplain Denise Bennett, and enjoy a Brunswick Stew lunch.

New Adult Sunday School Class to Start January 22!

Have you wanted to be a part of a Sunday School class, but felt awkward joining a group that has been together for so long? Are you new to Trinity and you are looking for a Sunday School Class at 9:30 AM? Is one of your "new year resolutions" to grow closer to God? Then we have a NEW class for you! We will start Sunday, January 22 in the library at 9:30 AM with coffee and refreshments. We hope you will stop by and look to be a part of this new opportunity for fellowship, friendship and spiritual growth. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Sara Winterhoff (baw120575@hotmail.com), Melissa Sanne (melissasanne@yahoo.com) or Judy Oguich (joguich@trinityumc.net).



Special Choir Happenings

The music of the season is well underway at Trinity as we prepare for the Feast of the Incarnation. You can be a part, either as listener or performer. On **December 11** at **8 and 11 AM**, the Trinity Choir, bells and children (11 only) will be presenting our annual **Service of Lessons and Carols** in the tradition of King's College, Cambridge. We start the 1st service early that day, because we are jam-packed with music.

We always invite extra folks to join our choir for Christmas Eve. Some people travel, and some have family obligations which prevent them from singing, and we want a full choir for these important services. SO - if you have been blessed with a voice (or know someone, or have a visiting family member) and would be willing to join us on **Christmas Eve at 8:30 and/or 11:00 PM**, please contact Dr. Charles Staples, Director of Music ASAP and we'll get you set up!

Hands-On Hope This Advent

Some of us can give gifts and send support this season, and some of us can even lend a hand. If you're physically able, could you be a part of Trinity's work team for tornado recovery?

Trinity UMC is teaming up with Virginia UMC Disaster Recovery to continue the relief efforts that began immediately after the tornado damages on February 24, 2016.

On December 5, a volunteer work crew will leave Trinity UMC to spend the day in Waverly, VA. We will leave at 6:30 AM and return at 4:30 PM. Please dress appropriately for December weather with sturdy shoes and work gloves required. Also, pack a lunch.

On January 15-16, 2017, we will also send an overnight team to Evergreen, VA.

If you are interested in joining the Waverly work team, please contact team leaders Drew Willson (dwillson@trinityumc.net) or Carmen Sheppard (kevinshapp@aol.com) by November 25. For the Evergreen work team, please contact us by January 1.

We hope you will lend a hand of hope with us both at the end of this year and in the next.



Advent Devotionals for all Ages

- **Adult:** In an effort to be good stewards, Trinity is offering a collection of Advent devotionals left from the past few years. Three titles by Henri Nouwen are available: "Unto Us a Child is Born," "Wait for the Lord" and "The Lord is Near." Also copies of Tim Wesemann's "Awaiting the Wonder" will be available. An Advent calendar, "Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent!" will also be available to help individuals prepare for Jesus' birth. Devotionals and calendars will be available in each narthex.
- **Children:** Advent Calendar Cards were sent home through children's Sunday School on November 27. What an exciting and fun way to prepare the heart of every child for Christmas. Behind each of the 24 windows on the front of these cards are important symbols and pictures as well as a Bible references highlighting the true meaning of Christmas. And there is a poem inside.
- **Families:** November 27 was the first Sunday in Advent. A Devotion Booklet was made available in the Welcome Center and given out at Advent Adventure. If you did not get a copy, pick one up today. We hope that families will enjoy celebrating together throughout the Advent season.
- **Families:** A Christmas Tree sticker book and poster are available for children in the Welcome Center. Please feel free to come by and get one for your family. The Christmas Tree can be used to tell the salvation story and help children to learn Christian symbols. Each day children can add a sticker ornament to the garland that circles the tree and read the Bible verse for the day.

Winter Weather Decisions



Decisions for closing our building related to winter weather are tricky. Basically, we follow the closing announcements from Henrico County Public Schools.

For example, if schools close early or are on a delayed opening, Trinity's opening and closing times are adjusted. If Henrico schools are closed, Trinity will be closed, and this would include all day and evening events. Our ability to re-open the building after a winter weather event depends upon how quickly we can clear our sidewalks and parking lots. If we can safely get people on to our grounds and into our building, then Trinity might return to normal operations quicker than the school system. Decisions related to closing the building on Saturdays and Sundays will be made based upon weather conditions at that time.

Questions contact Bill Pike bpiketrinityumc.net.

Children At Trinity

Mission Kids



Mission Kids are kids in 1st - 5th grade who are interested in mission and service. We have been busy with lots of activities this fall. We have one more meeting for 2016 and plans already in process for 2017.

December 4 – Field Trip to the Hermitage (Elderly care facility) to visit and deliver Christmas items.

January 8 – 5:00 -6:30 PM - meeting at church to design, make and hang posters to advertise for our “Souper Bowl” collection.

For questions contact Leila Denton at 288-6057, ext. 208.



Give a Gift at Christmas

The Trinity Mission Kids are sponsoring a church-wide Christmas mission project to benefit the children in the community around Central United Methodist Church. Each gift needs to be wrapped and returned (with the age, size & gender sticker and clothes or toy sticker attached to it) by December 7 to Leila Denton's office.

The Mission Kids thank you for your generous donations to this most important project.



What Can I Offer?

An Interactive Christmas Eve Service for Children of All Ages

Mr. Fred Rogers once wrote, “Everyone wants to feel that he or she has something to offer. The most depressing feeling in the world is that one has nothing to offer... nothing that’s acceptable.”

Our 4 PM Christmas Eve service provides a hands-on worship experience for children, families, and *anyone* who wants to join in the fun—because *everyone* has something to offer.

Children can help us build the stable and stock the manger with food for the Holy Family right there in the sanctuary! We’ll provide the building materials, and we ask every child to bring a can of food to offer in the manger. After the service, the cans will go to the Sherbourne UMC food pantry.

Come hear the wonderful story, sing the favorite hymns, share the light in the darkness, and live the action: let’s receive God’s gift of Jesus Christ our Lord and offer our own gifts to prepare him room!

Children’s Christmas Pageant

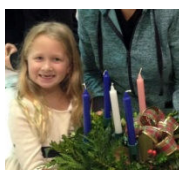


Come one, come all to see the Children’s Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 PM** in the **Sanctuary**. There will be a reception in The Welcome Center following the event.

Parent’s Night Out

On Wednesday, December 21 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm you can drop your kids off for Christmas fun while you take care of some last minute Christmas details. Parent’s Night Out cost is \$10 a child (larger donations are very welcome). All the proceeds will go to benefit Trinity Youth Missions.

Register at <http://bit.ly/TrinityParentsNightOut>. Children will bring their own bag dinner. Parents will receive an email with details prior to the event. We will enjoy Christmas stories, videos, crafts, games, and other activities. If you have questions call Leila Denton (288-6057, ext. 208).



Advent Adventure Sunday, November 27, 5:30 – 7 PM

Adventure starts with “Advent”

Come join us as we design and craft an Advent wreath, enjoy a festive meal, participate in some interactive fun, and celebrate the first Sunday in Advent with inspiring worship featuring the Children’s Choirs. \$10 per Adult, \$8 per child (2 to 8 years old) \$30 immediate family limit. Make reservations at <http://bit.ly/AdventAdventure> or by contacting Leila Denton ldenton@trinityumc.net, 288-6057, ext. 208. Payment will be take at the door. Please bring evergreens & clippers (if you have them).

Meet & Greet
Join us for a Treat!

Throughout this year we would like to greet you and offer you the opportunity to have a few minutes to meet the other parents in your child’s age group. “Meet & Greet” events will be held at **10:30 AM** in the classroom and will last 10 to 15 minutes. On **December 11** there will be an event for the **4th grade** class. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Youth At Trinity

The holidays are busy for everyone and not the least of which are Trinity's youth. In addition to their academic and extra-curricular responsibilities, these teens still make faith a priority. The month of October was dedicated to pumpkins and missions. The teens sold pumpkins to fund summer mission trips, and also participated in hands-on mission projects at Trinity that included touch-up painting, packing warm kits for the homeless, sending care packages to college kids, and our favorite, offering technical support to Trinity members in the Young at Heart class.

As we enter into the Christmas season, The Trinity Youth Ministry will offer a variety of ways to celebrate our faith. December 4 youth will travel back in time as they participate in the Bethlehem Walk, an experience that will bring to life the reason for the season. December 21 these teens will host Parents' Night Out, an activity that lets Trinity's youth model Christian discipleship for the children of our church.

Since December also brings a break from school, the Trinity Youth Ministry will offer our teens some much needed downtime for fun and fellowship with Christmas parties on December 18, and snow tubing at a date still to be determined. To stay up to date with youth ministry activities, opt-in for the weekly email updates using this web address: <http://trinityumc.net/email-updates/>

The Trinity Youth wish to thank all church members who support their faith journeys whether it is through buying pumpkins or volunteering at youth events. We also wish to give a special thank you to Circle 2 for the donation of funds to cover mission trip scholarship needs. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!

Last but not least, the youth have a Christmas wish you can fulfill. Please pray for the Trinity Youth Ministry and the teens in our area that Trinity may continue to build a thriving ministry that allows teens to be and make disciples.



Upward

The teams are organized and basketball practice begins soon! Come see the kids play and cheer for eight Saturdays starting January 7.



Confirmation Orientation

An orientation for our 2017 Confirmation Program will be on December 11 at 9:30 AM in the Mastin Room. We are inviting all 6th graders and youth who have yet to be confirmed to attend, with at least one parent. What is Confirmation? It literally means to "make firm or solid what has gone before." The youth during the months of confirmation are actually preparing to make their first public profession of their Christian faith. For those who have been baptized as an infant it is a time to affirm the vows made for them as a child. For those yet to be baptized, it is a time to lay the foundation, receive the sacrament of baptism and claim their faith. So this is a big deal!!

At the orientation you will receive all the information about this year's program with a detailed calendar. You will also have a time to fill out the registration forms and pay a \$25 registration fee. We will outline the program and have plenty of time to answer your questions. This year Confirmation class begins on January 8 and will run each Sunday through to Pentecost on June 4 when the youth will be confirmed. This year's confirmation leaders are Amy Lenow, avlenow@gmail.com and Kim Jordan, kmjordan23@yahoo.com.



Changes are Coming to the Connection!

Trinity is making some changes to the way we send our Connection Email in the coming weeks. We will be simplifying the weekly email in order to help keep you informed about coming events and opportunities while also making the email easier to view on your phone/tablet.

The **News & Information** section on Trinity's website will continue to be an excellent place to find more detailed information about the events and ministries at Trinity. Also, be sure you check out our **Calendar of Events** to know what is going on in the building.

We will also be offering additional opportunities to hear from Trinity in the coming months. You can visit our **Subscriptions Page** to update your preferred email settings and/or sign up for additional emails at any time.

Information about events or opportunities should be sent to news@trinityumc.net for inclusion on Trinity's News & Information page.

Serve Opportunities

Kids Club

Consider signing up to provide a hot meal to the children who attend Kids Club and Teen group at Central United Methodist Church in the Manchester area of Richmond. Many of you have graciously served before and we thank you! We generally have up to 25 people to feed. Use the link to sign up and find out details about time and suggested menus that are well received: <http://goo.gl/ziiAPJ>

Thank you so much!
Hilary Coakley and Sarah Shutt

Blood Drive

Trinity's Winter Blood Drive is Sunday, January 8 from 8 AM – 12:30 PM in Trinity Hall. To register for an appointment, contact Mary Hetzel 282-5872 or hetzelmary@comcast.net. When you donate blood, you help save the lives of critically ill infants, cancer patients, and accident victims by giving the gift of life. What better way to participate in Trinity's SERVE Ministry! Chef Ronnie Johnson will again prepare his famous Breakfast Bistro Egg Sandwiches with your choice of cheese, sausage, or bacon at a minimal cost of \$2. Our Spring VBS Drive is Sunday, April 9.

Refugee Resettlement Program

Since summer 2001 hundreds of Trinity members have donated household furnishings to incoming families served by Church World Service's Refugee Resettlement Program. If you are downsizing or have unwanted items, contact Mary Hetzel at 282-5872. Case-worker Kika Husejnovic at 972-1361 is welcoming families and can help us deliver your unwanted items with families who really need them. Recent deliveries from generous members of Trinity went to newly arrived families from Bhutan, Congo, and Ethiopia. Since larger items require truck delivery, please let us know if you drive a truck and can assist. Typically, several men from the family receiving the items will assist with the actual lifting and moving.

Phones needed

Since spring of 2011, members of Trinity have donated a total of 164 cell phones to the YWCA for victims of domestic violence. The YWCA is no longer collecting phones but is requesting that donors take them to any Verizon Wireless retail store and place them in their HopeLine bins for the same purpose. HopeLine collects wireless phones, batteries, chargers, and accessories in any condition to benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence. Trinity will continue to offer a bin in Missions Central (the room down the hall from the church office toward the sanctuary) for donations of your no-longer used phones; these will then be taken to a Verizon Wireless store for HopeLine. Please erase all data and disconnect service for donated phones. This is a great way to recycle what you no longer need and could save someone's life. If you have questions, contact Anne Burch at 270-1661.

Save that Box Top!



An easy way to help schools address some of their operating needs is by clipping and saving those "Box Top for Education" labels. They can be found on products by General Mills, Yoplait and Kleenex, among others. Did you know that each of these labels is worth 10 cents and each school can earn up to the maximum of \$20,000? So don't throw them away, please remember to save that "Box Top." This year Trinity supports the UMFS Charterhouse School. They will alternate years with the OakGrove Bellmeade and Tuckahoe Middle Schools. Please drop them in the Box Top Education labelled plastic shoe box at Mission Central. Questions? Contact Janet Sommerville, UMFS Auxiliary Secretary 562-3303.

Box Top update: We collected 535 box tops church-wide, the equivalent of \$53.50 for UMFS Charterhouse school for the period of November. Thank you to everyone, and please continue to clip and save those box tops.



Winter Warm Hearts-An Advent Event

Do you know of a local business, organization or public service entity that might enjoy a visit and token of appreciation from Trinity? If so, you are invited to participate in "Winter Warm Hearts," a project to help our church reach beyond the walls and engage with others in our community. During Advent, and for the remainder of the winter, you are invited to join in with friends, your Sunday School class, covenant group, or any other small group of which you are a part, to take some kind of baked good, snack or even a light lunch to different organizations in the community. This project is modeled after the "Lenten Love Project" and "Summer Sunshine," in which we have participated in the last year. During Lent, small groups in our church visited Fire Station 8, the Tuckahoe YMCA, the Tuckahoe Library, the Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad, Henrico Doctors Hospital ER, CrossOver Ministries, and the Forest Hill Rescue Squad and Fire Department. Similar organizations and local businesses were visited during the summer. The reception and interaction was amazing, and brought much joy to those who participated. If your group would like to participate, let us know if you have an organization you would like to visit or if you would like a suggestion. We will get you a Trinity Note Card on which to write a message. The message might read something like this: "During Advent, we celebrate the love of God through the birth of his son, Jesus Christ, and we want to share our love and appreciation for your service to our community."

This is just a suggestion; feel free to make it particular to the organization you will visit. Thank you for your consideration of this project. Let us know if your group would like to participate, or if you have any questions.

Teresa Given, tdagiven@gmail.com
Mary Hetzel
Melissa Sanne
Caroline Cardwell
Barbara and Milt Burton



United Methodist Family Services

Want to give a gift that makes a real difference to children and families in need this year? We encourage you to take part in a special offering for United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) during the season of Advent.

Gifts to UMFS directly support high-risk children, empowering them to contribute to society as engaged citizens. Your gift will help to:

- nurture spiritual growth through chaplain programs
- enable therapy and support groups to help youth heal from trauma
- provide scholarships to help foster and adoptive children pursue education
- develop kids' talents with classes in art, music, video production, and horticulture
- put youth on the path to self-sufficiency through career training in cosmetology, technology, and culinary arts.

UMFS doesn't receive any funds through church apportionments, so its work really depends on the generosity of people like you. Give to the UMFS Advent Offering with the envelopes included in the bulletins on Sunday, November 27, and stop by the UMFS table in Connection Alley throughout Advent.



Calendar Year-end Contributions

IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2016 **or** postmarked by December 31, 2016 may be counted as 2016 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. Thus, if someone hand carries a check to the church on January 2, 2017 that is dated December 31, 2016 it is a **2017** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 2, 2017 and it is postmarked December 31, 2016 and the check is dated December 31, 2016 or before, it is a **2016** gift.

Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 31, 2016. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6057 ext. 203.



Come Serve with Trinity in Haiti: March 11-18, 2017!

Known to many Westerners for its earthquakes and hurricanes, Haiti is a beautiful Caribbean nation also ravaged by poverty: with a per capita income of \$250, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Pray and consider: could you come serve with Trinity UMC as we join forces with the Robert Ford Haitian Orphanage and School Foundation to improve the living conditions in rural Haiti? For more conversation, contact Drew Willson (dwillson@trinityumc.net).



The Hermitage

The Hermitage fall Bazaar and Bake Sale was a huge success, making \$7,648.28. The funds will go toward purchasing new patio furniture. Trinity members made wonderful donations of baked goods and other household items and clothing. The next Country Store will be open on Friday, December 2, from 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Don't miss this opportunity to once again pick up Christmas decorations and many other bargains.



Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies to...

Jay Johnson whose father Gary Johnson died November 13
The family of Jordan Strickler who died November 9
The family of Doris Burgess who died October 29
Kim Tingler whose mother June Carpenter died October 23

Our Stewardship

"We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness."

Our Presence:

Day	10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20
Worship Service	596	516	469	581
Sunday School	411	326	374	352

Our Gifts as of October 31:

Projected income to date: \$498,316
 Actual income year to date: \$496,739
 Excess (-shortfall) -\$ 1,577



Gifts to Trinity

Gifts were received at Trinity for:

In memory of *Mrs. Marjorie Browder* to *Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund*

In memory of *Mrs. Marjorie Browder* to *Trinity UMC History Project*



Thank You Notes

I want to thank everyone at Trinity for all the cards, notes and well wishes for my retirement from Trinity. It has been an honor and privilege to have served as the Financial Secretary for the last 32 years. During that time I have met some extraordinary people. I will miss each and every one of you.

Judy Niedermayer

To the Trinity Congregation,

I want to thank you for all the cards, prayers and words of comfort during this difficult time of losing my mother. This church has made me feel like such a part of the Trinity family. Special thanks to Judy Oguich for doing such a great job at the service, you have a special place in the heart of my family. Again thank you all for having my back today and always!

The Tingler and Carpenter families

We are thankful to Mike Cross, John Henderson, Don Floyd, Diane Moore, the Outreach Class, and the Trinity staff for your work with the annual Veterans Pancake Breakfast. Additionally, we thank the guests and congregation who attended, our Veterans, and our speaker, Colonel Jon C. Hatfield.

Perhaps you noticed that the Trinity parking lots have gone through a restoration process. Please thank Fred Dabney and the personnel from Slurry Pavers for their hard work and diligence in accomplishing this task.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 12, at 4 PM for events taking place in January.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing with the contact person's name to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.