

# The Trinity Window

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



## Pastor's Corner

December 2017

Emmanuel. God with us. The Good News this Advent is that *you are not alone!* In this holy season we will be considering the surprising ways that God comes to us, is with us and transforms us. This is the mystery and miracle of Christmas: God Incarnate, love made manifest. Let's reflect on this profound truth through confession, openness, prayer, worship and service. Now I'm not so naïve as to think that this "holiday season" is not going to be hectic and stressful; but how we experience it will depend largely on whether we dare pause and listen.

Here are a few ideas:

- Use our own Trinity Daily Advent Devotion. Use either the hard copy or have it sent every day to you email.
- Consider the list to the right on this page. One of the ways God comes to us is through our church family.
- Participation our Advent/Christmas Offering which this year is supporting UMFS (United Methodist Family Services). How better to welcome the Holy Child than by giving to support children in need.
- Slow down, at least a bit. Pray. Holy beats hectic every time.

I will for you a blessed and holy season. God with us. Emmanuel. Truly you are not alone.

Blessings,

P.S. Please given special notice to our Christmas Eve schedule!



## Look for Light this December at Trinity

We hope that you will spend time in Worship and in community at Trinity this December. Together we will celebrate Advent. Together we will see the Light born into darkness.

**Together we will reflect that light back into the world.**

### Sundays of Advent: December 3, 10 and 17

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Traditional Worship | 8:15 AM  |
| Modern Worship      | 9:30 AM  |
| Traditional Worship | 11:00 AM |

Sunday, Dec. 3, **Sharing Hope Night** **4-5:30 PM**

Sunday, Dec. 10, **Lessons & Carols** **5-6:15 PM**

*Recalling the story of Christmas through scripture, hymns and choral anthems. A reception follows.*

Tuesday, Dec. 12, **Pub Theology: (Carols & Craft Ales at Ardent)** **6:30 PM**

*Singing and exploring the meanings of our favorite Christmas songs*

Friday, Dec. 15, **Youth Winter Lock-In** **6:00 PM**

*All night gathering for middle and high school youth*

Sunday, Dec. 17, **Children's Pageant** **4:00 PM**

*A children-led telling of the Christmas story*

Thursday, Dec. 21, **Longest Night Service** **7:00 PM**

*Solstice Soul care for all who are weary, grieving, stressed and heavy laden*

Sunday, Dec. 24, **Christmas Eve**

**One Morning Worship Service** **10:30 AM**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Family Casual Service** **4:00 PM**

*An interactive experience of the Christmas story for family and friends*

**Modern Candlelight** **6:00 PM**

*Christmas story, communion, carols with full band*

**Traditional Candlelight** **8:30 & 11 PM**

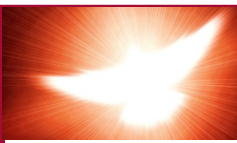
*Christmas Story, communion, and carols*



**In Between Days: An Evening of Drew Willson Music**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 7 PM**

Gather with friends in the Trinity sanctuary for a concert of Drew's original songs and stories. Childcare is available for pre-elementary kids.

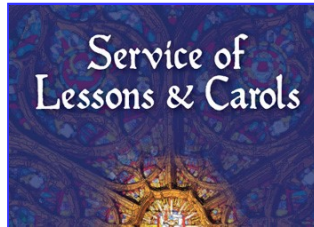
This concert is free. You're welcome to support the artist after the show by buying a CD (they make great Christmas presents / beverage coasters) or contributing toward his 2018 recording project.



**Confirmation Orientation**

An orientation for our 2018 Confirmation Program will be on **December 10 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 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 7 and will run each Sunday through to Pentecost on May 20 when the youth will be confirmed. This year's confirmation leaders are Amy Lenow, [avlenow@gmail.com](mailto:avlenow@gmail.com) and Kim Jordan, [kmjordan23@yahoo.com](mailto:kmjordan23@yahoo.com).



**Lessons and Carols**

It's been in the air of the music room since September - even before it was in the air at Costco! Your choirs are busily preparing for our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. This year, there is a new twist - well, it's really a twist that we're twisting again. We're doing this service in the evening, which is how it was done when I arrived at 903 Forest Avenue in 1991. This year's service will be at **5 PM on Sunday, December 10**, but that's really the only difference. It will still be one of my favorite services of the year and I hope one of yours. But we're only doing it once, so get there early to snag your seat! There will be a **reception of heavy hors d'oeuvres** in Trinity Hall following the service.

**4 PM Family Casual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

This Christmas Eve, join us for our interactive, child-friendly worship experience. Come travel with Joseph and Mary back home to Bethlehem. Register in the Roman census, receive the angelic news with the shepherds, and uncover the Christmas miracle in your own hometown.



**Advent Devotional Book**

Trinity has produced its own book of devotionals for Advent. In addition to offering a printed devotional booklet, we are also offering the daily devotional messages in digital format. Sign up to receive a daily

email or text message.

Text message: text [@trinityadv](mailto:@trinityadv) to the number 81010.  
 Email message: go to Trinity's website to sign up - <http://trinityumc.net/advent/>

# Trinity Adult Ministries



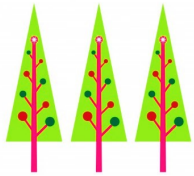
## Pub Theology: Carols and Craft Ales Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 PM

Gather round in the heated tent outside Ardent Brewery for a deeper exploration of some of our favorite Christmas carols. We've heard them for years, now let's talk about what they mean--and sing them anew. Come repeat the sounding joy!



## Longest Night Service Thursday, December 21 at 7 PM

Solstice soul-care for all who feel stressed, in grief, or out of place this holiday season. Trust us, you're not alone, and some time for yourself would be healing. Come let silence, story, stillness, songs, and surrounding company bring you comfort and light on this longest night of the year.



## UMW Service Day Tuesday, December 12 9 AM – 12 Noon Trinity Hall

Catch the Holiday Spirit at Service Day, our Busy-Hands Advent workday. Working together on a variety of hand-made projects for local ministries including *Children's Hospital, UMFS, Hermitage, Gayton Terrace, ICGR Brotherhood/Sisterhood, Sherbourne UMC, Central UMC Kids Club, Oak Grove-Bellmeade school, CARITAS, Covenant Woods, Women's Prison ministry, and Church World Service Refugees*, and others.

We will also enjoy a Christmas story by Rev. Drew Willson, the presentation of our 65<sup>th</sup> Harvest Day Offering check, and a special homemade Brunswick Stew Lunch with Sally Lunn rolls. Join us as we put our hands to projects for 'Sacred Spaces' in our own community.



On **Thursday, December 21 from 4:00 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 the Trinity Youth. Registration 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 contact Bryce Miller at 288-6057 ext. 207, or [bmiller@trinityumc.net](mailto:bmiller@trinityumc.net).

## Celebrate at Cedarfield

Join us on **Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30 PM** as we visit our members residing at Cedarfield. The event will take place in the Health Center Great Room. It will be led by our ministers and includes fellowship, refreshments, music and worship. Contact Lane Dickinson at 754-8110 or [lanedickinson@yahoo.com](mailto:lanedickinson@yahoo.com) to volunteer.



## Young at Heart Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, December 5 9:15 AM – 2 PM

Tours of the Governor's Mansion in it's Christmas splendor by our own Linda Robinson. Meet at 9:15 AM behind Trinity, near Trinity Hall Lunch on your own at the University of Richmond.

### Thursday, January 11 2 – 3:30 PM

Come hear local author Roberta Damon tell the story behind her new book "Dear Mrs. Noah". Roberta is a delightful and entertaining speaker. She will have books available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be available.

## Coming in January

Join Deanna McCullough, Teresa Given and Catherine Taylor in a six-week bible study on Monday mornings beginning **January 8, 9:30 – 11 AM**. Title of study will be forthcoming. Childcare will be provided. Stay tuned!

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# YOUTH AT TRINITY

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## YOUTH LOCK-IN



On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the youth group will be having their Winter Lock-In. This is an event that will be tons of fun and a great event to invite friends to. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the Welcome Center for dinner and fellowship. Then we will head out to a movie theater to view the new Star Wars movie! After that we will go bowling for a couple of hours. Once we have had our

fill of bowling, we will return to the church for an all night party with games and activities. We will have scavenger hunts, fun challenging contests for prizes, a gift exchange, and games in the gym. We will have a continental breakfast around 6:00 AM and the pick up at 7:00 AM from Trinity Hall. This is sure to be an evening that you won't forget.

## DATES TO KNOW

- DECEMBER 1-3
  - HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE RETREAT
- DECEMBER 3
  - SHARING HOPE NIGHT
- DECEMBER 10
  - LESSONS AND CAROLS
- DECEMBER 15
  - WINTER LOCK-IN
- DECEMBER 17
  - MISSION TRIP MEETING
- DECEMBER 21
  - PARENTS NIGHT OUT
- DECEMBER 24
  - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
- JANUARY 7
  - YOUTH GROUP RETURNS

## WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

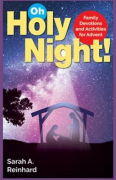
- SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP
  - 5:00 PM IN TRINITY HALL
- WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
  - 5:30 PM IN TRINITY HALL

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## November in Review

- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the youth participated in the Trunk-or-Treat program run by the Children's Council. Their responsibility was to create a "BOO Garden" in the Mastin Room. It was a tricky task to create a scary room for all ages. However, everyone had a great time and only a couple of people left the room crying.
  - Election day in 2017 was a fantastic day for our youth group. They went down to the Sacred Heart Center to help spruce up the grounds and halls. We did touch up painting on the murals throughout their halls, repainted a bench, and cleaned up debris from a storage space they had as well as the grounds. Everyone there was so grateful for all the help!
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# Children At Trinity



## Advent Devotions for Children and Families

**December 3** is the first Sunday in Advent and a Devotion Booklet will be given out in Sunday School, made available in the Welcome Center and given out at the Sharing HOPE Night event. Make sure you get a copy. We hope that families will enjoy celebrating together throughout the Advent season.



## Angels We Have Heard On High Sticker Book & Poster

*Angels We Have Heard On High* will be sent home through children's Sunday School on December 3. Angels are God's special messengers. We prepare to receive, celebrate, and share their exciting message of all: the good news and great joy that comes to us through Jesus' birth. Hear the angels' heavenly announcement of the promised Savior as the skies over Bethlehem fill with a multitude of heavenly host. Each day in Advent, an angel sticker is added to the Bethlehem skyline. When Christmas arrives, we join in singing the angels' first Noel!



## Gift Tree Sponsored by Children's Sunday School

There are still some gift ornaments available. Wrap gifts and make sure each package/bag is clearly marked with the age, size, gender and clothes/toy. Gifts must be returned by **December 6** to Leila Denton's office. Thanks so much for the great support you have given!!



## 2017 Children's Christmas Pageant

Come one come all to see the 2017 Children's Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 17** at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. There will be a reception in The Welcome Center following the event.



## Upward

The teams are organized and basketball practice begins soon! Come see the kids play and cheer for eight Saturdays starting **January 6**.



Sunday School  
During the  
Christmas  
Holidays

## Children's Sunday School for the Christmas Holidays

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays this year, so you may wonder what is happening with Sunday School on those days. On **Christmas Eve, December 24** there will be **no** Sunday School, but we hope everyone will come to the service at 10:30 AM. On **New Year's Eve, December 31** the Education Committee is inviting all Kindergarten – 5th grade Sunday School children to come to room 300 at 9:30 AM to celebrate together.



## Sharing HOPE Night Sunday, December 3 4 – 5:30 PM

A NEW Event celebrating the first Sunday in Advent and the New Christian Year by sharing HOPE, **servicing others**, and sharing warm fellowship. We will begin with stations where we can create, assemble or wrap items to benefit those around Richmond. Activities will include making dog toys, assembling ornaments for retirement home residents, creating cards for the homebound, socks for the Bless My Sole Foot Washing Ministry for homeless, building boxes to take home as reminder to bring foods for Sherbourne, tying & stuffing fleece pillows for kids at UMFS. We will be able to take an Advent Prayer Walk through the halls. Around 5 PM we will gather to share Old Virginia Wassail punch and winter soup & warm bread. The event will close by gobbling our own decorated cookies. \$3 per person/\$10 per family. Childcare for Babies & toddlers is available. Register at <http://bit.ly/SharingHOPENight>. Contact Leila Denton [Ldenton@trinityumc.net](mailto:Ldenton@trinityumc.net).

In preparation for the event, we are asking for donations to help us share:

- New socks – especially men's tube socks
- Old tennis balls
- Pinecones and/or gumballs



## Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Family,  
Your thoughtfulness, concerns, and many prayers offered for a return to good health was greatly appreciated as well as the altar flowers.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Trinity is a caring church.

Sincerely,  
**Martha Rice**

Dear Trinity Family and Trinity Stitchers,

We were very touched by all of the cards, notes, messages and the beautiful altar flowers during Ralph's hospital stay and recovery. What an honor it is to be a part of such a caring faith community! A special thank you to the Trinity Stitchers for the beautiful quilt. Ralph has used it every day and been surrounded by the warmth of your prayers. We truly appreciate your support during this time.

**Ralph and Susan Freeman**

My surgery was a success due to, in my mind and heart, two factors: the skill of the surgeon, assistants, nursing staff, and the prayers offered up by my brothers and sisters at Trinity UMC. I felt your love and concern. My sincere thanks for the altar flowers, bulletin, calls, cards, visits, and food. I am very, very fortunate to be part of the Trinity family.

God's blessing on each of you.  
**Nancy Kindervater**

Lin and I would like to express our thanks to Trinity's staff and members for all condolences and prayers. We have been moved by your expressions of love and sympathy for the loss of our son, Brian.

**Lin and Judy Niedermayer**

### Thanks!!

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Veterans Pancake Breakfast. The presentation from Paige Bartholomew and Eileen Osmolski about the Blue Star and Gold Star organizations was outstanding. We appreciate the help from the Trinity staff, Don Floyd, Dianne Moore, the Outreach Class, and our Trinity Veterans.



## Winter Weather Decisions

Making the decision to close our building based upon winter weather conditions can be a challenge.

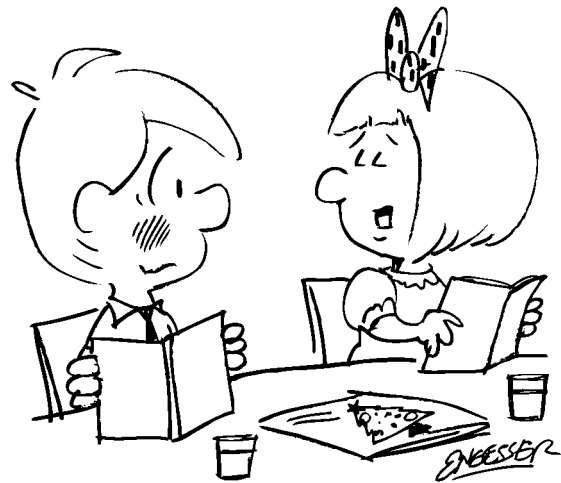
First, the Trinity Preschool follows the Henrico County Public Schools closing decisions. If Henrico schools are closed or are on a delayed opening, then Trinity Preschool will follow the school system's plan.

For all church activities and for organizations that use the church facilities, generally, the decision to close the building will also follow the Henrico County Public Schools schedule.

**However**, our ability to re-open the building after a winter weather event depends upon how quickly we can clear our parking lots and sidewalks. 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. As soon as the decision is made about opening/closing, we post it on our website, Face Book page, and update our phone system message.

Decisions related to closing the building on Saturdays and Sundays will be made based upon weather conditions at that time. Questions contact Bill Pike [bpik@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpik@trinityumc.net)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



"'Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"

# Serve Opportunities

## Sherbourne Food Pantry

As a part of Reach Out RVA, our congregation made significant effort in restocking the shelves at the Sherbourne UMC Food Pantry. This is a reminder that keeping the shelves stocked at Sherbourne is an ongoing need. We target the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, to drop off food for Sherbourne. Drop off boxes will be in the Welcome Center on Sunday, December 3 just waiting to be filled up. Please don't forget!

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### “UMFS: Changing Lives, Creating Futures”

Beginning Sunday, December 3, Trinity will receive a special offering for UMFS. UMFS began at the Virginia Conference Orphanage in 1900 when Dr. Joseph Mastin was asked to leave Trinity and become the first director.

Today, UMFS is an unwavering champion for high risk children and their families, collaborating with communities to help them reach their full potential. The agency provides a comprehensive network of services in seven locations across the state, specializing in foster care, adoption, education for students struggling with emotional, behavioral or developmental challenges, autism and other neurological services.

Your gift during the month of December makes you an unwavering champion offering hope and help to high risk children and their families. Return your donation in the Christmas offering envelope located in the pew racks, in your numbered offering envelope set that you received in the mail, or make a gift online at [www.umfs.org/donate](http://www.umfs.org/donate). All donations in any Christmas offering envelopes will be given to UMFS. For more information about UMFS, consult the website or call 254-9450. Thank you for your generous gift.

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## Oak Grove ESL Saturday Scholars Academy

In January of 2014 we moved into the new Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School. At that time we had five Hispanic students, however I knew we would grow to 120+ due to rezoning our school. During the summer of 2014, I reached out to the private schools to request support from their community service clubs. As a result, Collegiate School and J R Tucker High School rose to the challenge. Collegiate was led by Spanish AP teacher Esperanza Saria-Nieto. In the fall of 2014 our Saturdays began. We meet each Saturday from 9:00 AM -12:00 PM. Our curriculum involves reading, enrichment activities and crafts.

This year we have 40 eager students attending each Saturday as well as 4 parents. We have been joined this year by Sandy Donaldson, a retired reading specialist as well as a wonderful group of VCU Globe students. I can't thank Esperanza, Sandy and our Globe students enough for their support.

Our fall semester will end with a holiday celebration on December 9. Our children will entertain their parents with song and will receive a visit from Santa. All our children will receive a new bike thanks to Richmond area Biking Association and a new book from Faithworks Sunday school class. Faithworks will also be preparing food and assisting in distributing bikes. Your class is an example of doing church outside our walls.

Thank you members of Trinity for all the prayers and support for our Oak Grove ministry. You have given me an opportunity to live my FAITH. Our spring semester will begin again in March. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact Bob Argabright at [rargabright@me.com](mailto:rargabright@me.com) Come absorb the excitement and love our children provide us.

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## The Hermitage

The October Bazaar and Bake Sale netted \$8,822. The donations of baked items and other items were greatly appreciated. Trinity is to be applauded in the unwavering support given to this worthy cause. The next Country Store event will be December 1, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Additional Christmas decorations and other donations are needed.

The UMW Service Day will be December 12, when we will make 25 Christmas gift bags for the Hermitage. Tray favors will also be made. Willing helping hands will be much appreciated.



## Joys and Concerns

### Baptism

*Alex Hawke, Michael Toalson*

### New Members

*Julia Vidal, David Zanitsch, Mike Fanelli, Freddie Fanelli*

### Wedding

*Congratulations to the following couples who were recently married:*

*Ali Newton and Alex McCrickard who were married on November 18*

*Alicia Todd and Andrew Cecil who were married on November 11*

### Our sympathies to...

*Pat Tribble whose brother John Hudson died November 18*

*J.D. Neary whose mother Donna Neary died November 4*

*Janet Sommerville whose brother Sonny Mariano died November 3*

*Lin & Judy Niedermayer whose son Brian Niedermayer died November 2*

*The family of Harry Cordier who died November 1*

## 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             | 10/29 | 11/5 | 11/12 | 11/19 |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Worship Service | 431   | 519  | 421   | 547   |
| Sunday School   | 302   | 328  | 278   | 309   |

Our

## Gifts as of October 31:

Projected income to date: \$ 510,710.00  
 Actual income year to date: \$ 512,856.16  
 Excess (-shortfall) \$ 2,146.16

## Gifts to Trinity



Gifts were received at Trinity for:

In memory of *Mrs. LaNelle Jeffrey* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In honor of *Dr. Charles Staples* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In honor of *Mrs. Kathy Crew* to *Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund*

In honor of *Ms. Dianne Moore* to *Trinity UMC Creation Care*

In honor of *Rev. Larry Lenow* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In honor of *Mrs. Bonnie Andrews* to *Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund*



Year-End  
Finances

## Calendar Year-end Contributions

IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2017 or postmarked by December 31, 2017 may be counted as 2017 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, 2018 that is dated December 31, 2017 it is a **2018** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 2, 2018 and it is postmarked December 31, 2017 and the check is dated December 31, 2017 or before, it is a **2017** gift.

Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 31, 2017. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6057 ext. 203.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLine**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 11 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](mailto:ktingler@trinityumc.net).