

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
804-288-6056



Pastor's Corner

"I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus..."
(I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light, Book of Hymns, p.206)

Shall we journey together? Let me tell you a story... Last September a team of 14 Trinity folks (6 staff and 8 lay leaders) traveled to Kansas City for the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. (For those who have read or used any of the myriad of his books, Adam Hamilton is the Lead Pastor of UM Church of the Resurrection.) The Leadership Institute was an intensive two and half days of non-stop worship, learning and challenge. If you will forgive me for employing an overused cliché, it was much akin to "drinking from a firehose". Here are a couple of "take-aways" that is to say, conclusions drawn from this experience:

First, the Holy Spirit is at work! The Church of the Resurrection is a United Methodist megachurch. This seems so counter-intuitive, but a church with our theology and values has grown to a Sunday worship attendance in the thousands and is thriving. There are vital UM churches around the country growing and reaching others for Jesus Christ! One thing that they all seem to have in common is that they are focused. They are very clear that their purpose is to be disciples of Jesus. They know what that means, they know how to do it, and everything that they do in and through their churches is judged by that standard. This was encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring. These people were serious and are on fire for Christ!

Secondly, we were confronted with the undeniable truth that our world has changed and being the church is much more challenging. At times our team found ourselves looking at one another because it seemed that the speaker was talking directly to Trinity. How focused are we? How intentional are we about being disciples of Jesus Christ? How exactly do we do that? Here's the truth: Trinity has been in numerical decline for over 15 years. Yes, we are still strong and comfortable. And yes, it is a sign of the times, but we must not be complacent. Nor can we continue to do the same old things while hoping for a different result. We have a vital job to do: We must proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all, with words and lives. We have to adapt to changing times so that the legacy of this church as a place where people encounter God and are changed is carried into the future and carried with power. Trinity can have a bright and glorious future, but we have to embrace it: We have to do some soul searching and ask ourselves what does it really mean for each of us to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does Trinity need to do to successfully reach out to those around us? What is our strategy for making (growing) disciples? Where do we start? Let's dare to ask the questions and journey together.

WHAT'S NEXT? (Glad you asked!)

Town Hall Meeting January 7 Noon in Trinity Hall. Let's continue the conversation...

Sermon Series

January 7 – February 4 "New Resolutions" RISE up! Christ calls us to follow and be disciples. Let's look at what this means in 2018, for our church but most importantly for you and me.

Study Component: We have developed a Sunday School study to accompany this series. Will your class be studying with us?

Midweek: If you are not part of a class following along with the sermons, we will be offering a midweek component. I and several of our Kansas City team members will make ourselves available to lead a Wednesday evening small group meeting at **6:00 PM** in the Mastin Room. Child care is available.

Church Consultation

One of the most impactful addresses at the Leadership Institute was a keynote address given by Tony Morgan. Tony is the founder and lead strategist of the Unstuck Group. This firm specializes in working with churches such as ours that are "stuck" in a maintenance mode. Tony is also the author of *The Unstuck Church* as well as a number of other books and articles. Following a proposal from the Kansas City Team, and me Trinity's Church Council voted on December 17 to engage Tony and The Unstuck Group for a Church wide Consultation in 2018. We believe that this will be the catalyst for many other exciting possibilities.

The Spirit is moving. God is doing a new thing. Come, let's journey together.

Blessings,



Joys and Concerns

Baptism

Zachary Bartholomew, Cole Nichols, Leigh Carver

New Members

Brittany Nichols

Our sympathies to...

The family of Charlie Thomas who died December 4
Jim Scott whose mother Ruth Scott died December 3
Jan Reynolds whose mother Ray Vaughan died November 29
Tim Gerde whose father Richard Gerde died November 21



Gifts to Trinity

Gifts were received at Trinity for:
In memory of Mrs. LaNelle Jeffrey to Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund

In memory of Mrs. LaNelle Jeffrey to Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund

In memory of Mrs. LaNelle Jeffrey to Trinity Foundation Dillard Forum

In memory of Mr. Charlie Thomas to Trinity UMC Missions Fund

In memory of Mr. Charlie Thomas to Honduras Partnership/Concert

In memory of Mr. Charlie Thomas to Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund

In honor of Mr. Don Pierce to Honduras Partnership/Concert

In honor of Mrs. Marsha Goodfriend to Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund



Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Family,

Thanks for making your live services available thru the internet. I was fortunate to hear outstanding sermons by Pastors Larry Lenow and Drew Willson and look forward to following them on a weekly basis. It's good to be back at Trinity.

Also, belated thanks to your members who comforted my late wife, Myrta, during her protracted illness. These include Mary Virginia Manson and other members of the prayer group with their cards, comments and prayers. The Trinity Stitchers for their beautiful quilts and Jody McWilliams for his visits, prayers and handling the funeral services.

George Berger and Family



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, January 15 at 4 PM for events taking place in February.** 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.

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	11/26	12/3	12/10	12/17
Worship Service	487	550	450	
Sunday School	273	352	279	

Our Gifts as of November 30:

Projected income to date: \$ 633,655.00
Actual income year to date: \$ 742,724.92
Excess (-shortfall) \$ 109,069.92

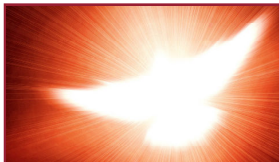


A Gift of Hope Concert January 6

Beginning in January 2018, Trinity will partner with the Honduran community of Santa Ana Ceguaca through the Friends of Barnabas' Community Partnership Program. Trinity's Mountain Medical Team 1 will visit Santa Ana Ceguaca as part of their mission trip. Our new partnership will move the community toward self-sufficiency. We will fund quarterly nurse visits providing education on environmental, reproductive, and women's health issues. Additionally, we will enable training of Santa Ana's leaders and volunteers in first aid and other issues to, in turn, teach members of their own community.

All sponsors and supporters are invited to join us for a special concert performance and light refreshments as we give "the gift of hope" to our partner community, Santa Ana Ceguaca, Honduras!

More details are available at the display in Connection Alley.



Confirmation Begins January 7

It is not too late to be part of the 2018 Confirmation Class! Confirmation begins on **January 7** at 9:30 AM in the Mastin Room. All youth in 6th grade and above who have not yet been confirmed are invited to attend. The program meets every Sunday up to Pentecost, May 20 when the youth who choose this next step in their faith journey will be confirmed. What is Confirmation? It literally means to "Make firm or solid what has gone before." Up to this time, parents or faith mentors have committed to instruct their children and raise them in the Christian Faith. Confirmation is the time when the youth prepares to make their first public profession of Christian faith and continue on their own journey of being a Christian Disciple. For more information, contact Amy Lenow at avlenow@gmail.com or Kim Jordan at kmjordan23@yahoo.com.

UMW Program Tuesday, January 9

UMW Board Meeting at **9:00 AM** in the Mastin Room.
Program in Trinity Hall at **10:15 AM**

Make plans to join us for this special program as we kick-off the 2018 New Year!

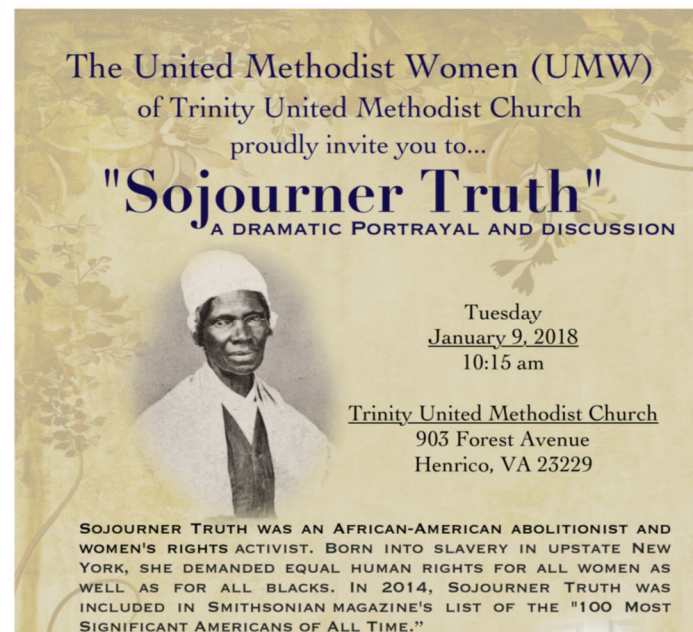
Bring your donations!

We will collect *White Elephant Gifts* at the January Unit Meeting for the Crossover Lay Health Promoter Saturday Seminar Series. (Collection box in Mastin Room)

65th Harvest Day: From Timber to Brick our special guest was **Carol Gill** who shared history and memories of Trinity church. With over 100 attending, \$4,800 was raised to support needs of the church building and grounds. You can still watch the video posted on the church website at: www.trinityumc.net on the UMW page.

Service Day Busy Hands Wrap-Up

Over 70 workers came out for the busy hands project day. As part of our on-going community missions, items were donated for 10 local groups. Guest Storyteller, **Rev. Drew Willson**, shared a wonderful holiday story and music and the Harvest Day offering check was presented to him. Special thanks to **Mary Hetzel** and **Pat Rollison** for creating such a tasty lunch of soup and rolls. Just as God shared his most precious gift at Christmas, we are reminded that sharing with others is the true spirit of Christmas.



Serve Opportunities

Sherbourne Food Pantry

We appreciate the uptick in contributions on first Sundays for the Sherbourne Food Pantry. As we push into the New Year, we hope you will continue to support this very important ministry. Please remember the food items you contribute need to be packaged in metal cans, plastic jars, or paper. Glass packaging doesn't always have a successful ride over to Sherbourne. Also, double bagging your items insures better handling for the volunteers. Thanks for your assistance, keep those donations coming.

Blood Drive

As we busy ourselves with gift giving during Advent, let us think beyond store purchases to our opportunity to give life-saving blood products. Did you know that liver transplants may require upward of 40 blood products, open-heart surgeries 20, and newborn open-heart surgeries require at least ten units? Your donation will help cancer patients, critically ill newborns, burn patients, accident victims, transplant patients and many more. Let's step up on **Sunday, January 14** from 8 AM -12:30 PM in Trinity Hall and show the Trinity spirit of generosity in action.

Help needed with Kids Club Dinner at Central UMC

Please consider signing up to provide a hot meal to the children who attend Kids Club and Teen group at Central United Methodist Church. Did you know that Central hosted 20 Trinity members while we were on a mission trip working all over RVA? The church is located at 1211 Porter St, Richmond, VA 23224. Many of you have graciously served before and we thank you! Please use the link to sign up and find out the details. <https://goo.gl/Ud4i7c>

Hilary Coakley and Sarah Shutt

Donation Request for The Doorways

As part of our Reach Out RVA last September, we formed a relationship with The Doorways, a home away from home for those with relatives hospitalized at VCU or at the Veteran's Hospital. Patients also come and stay at The Doorways after their hospital stay. The Doorways staff is asking for new toiletries (travel or trial size) for those who are staying there. Suggested items to donate include shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, combs, tissues, toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, dental floss, etc. A box has been placed in Mission Central for this collection.

Thanks for your generosity!
Pam and Tom Rockhold

Update for Leonard Theological College

Here is news from one of Trinity's mission projects, scholarship aid for Leonard Theological College, in Jabalpur, India. The last week of October 2017 was a mid-semester break for the college. That week its students were involved in the following: "Inter-faith dialogue at Sacchidanand Ashram; served the mentally & physically challenged children with the Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa's organization); taught the children of pavement (slum/squatters) dwellers in the transitional school; took care of the children found abandoned on the Railway station ...; worked with the Mission to the Blind; eight such groups went out from the College.

All this was done with our motto: 'to equip the people to serve humanity' ... With thanks and kind regards." Revd. Dr. Naveen Rao, Principal, Leonard Theological College



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 bpiketrinityumc.net



The Hermitage-Richmond

Hidden Treasures, formerly known as The Country Store at The Hermitage-Richmond, will be open again on January 26, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Don't miss this opportunity to find some real bargains. In 2017 over \$26,000 was raised to help support The Hermitage, and this was done when the store was not able to open for two months, due to extenuating circumstances. As always Trinity has been generous with donations to this worthy cause. Please continue to remember us when you clean out your closets. Your donations can be someone else's "hidden treasure". Questions or if you wish to volunteer, call Nancy Miller (740-3772) or Marble Jones (740-8002).



Flower Tributes

To have a tribute listed for someone in the Worship bulletin, please fill out a (pink) Flower Tribute form located in the Welcome Center (near the sofas). We have many available opportunities in 2018. Remember an anniversary, a birthday, or honor someone "just because." The cost for a tribute is \$50.

Opportunities to help at Tuckahoe Middle School

Tutoring

As part of Trinity's Partnership with Tuckahoe Middle School, it is hopeful our congregation can provide some support to students in reading and math. The school is hoping to find help for teachers that would like tutoring support within their classroom to help with small group instruction. They are looking for tutors who would be available on a Wednesday and/or Friday from 10-11:20.

If you would like to be involved with this opportunity to help others in our community, contact Mike Welch at welchmj@verizon.net.

Food support

Some parents of children who receive breakfast and lunch each school day struggle to provide enough food for their children during three day holiday weekends. Trinity will be helping these families by donating bags of non perishable food items. The weekends are January 13 and 26, February 16 and May 25. If you or your small group would like to help donate food, assemble or deliver bags, contact Roger Hart at roger.hart@arcadis.com or Linda Hart at L3Rhythm6@gmail.com

Special Projects

If you would like to oversee special projects such as coordinating the provision of some teacher treats or communicating about special events that might benefit the school, contact Teresa Given at tdagiven@gmail.com

Sanctuary Pews

On Sunday mornings when you sit in a pew, do you wonder who takes the time to sharpen the pencils, or to make sure there are blank sheets in the Guest Books, or who has straightened the hymnals and removed the previous week's bulletins from the hymnal rack? We have dedicated teams of volunteers who give their time each week to straighten the pew racks, but we are in need of a new team (*one person can do this, but it's more fun to have a buddy!*) for one week every month – to prepare for the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you would like additional information or to volunteer, contact Paula Cadden in the Church office at pcadden@trinityumc.net or call her at 288-6057 ext. 201..

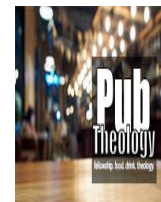


Trinity Adult Ministries

Women's Bible Study

- Starting January 8 for 6 weeks
- 9:30 - 11 AM, childcare provided
- Led by Deanna McCullough and Teresa Given
- Register with Deanna McCullough (deannamccullough1@verizon.net) or with Judy Oguich (joguich@trinityumc.net).

"Are you living with the stress of an overwhelmed schedule and aching with the sadness of an underwhelmed soul? Lysa TerKeurst is learning that there is a big difference between saying yes to everyone and saying yes to God. In *The Best Yes* she will help you: Cure the disease to please with a biblical understanding of the command to love. Escape the guilt of disappointing others by learning the secret of the small no. Overcome the agony of hard choices by embracing a wisdom based decision-making process. Rise above the rush of endless demands and discover your best yes today."



Pub Theology

Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 PM

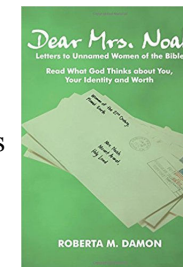
A special thanks to everyone who has been attending Pub Theology sessions. Our next gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 9 from 6:30-8:00 PM at Ardent Brewery in Scott's Addition (3200 W. Leigh St. Richmond, VA 23230). Trinity's ministers will hold forth and field questions. What a great opportunity to invite your unchurched friends!



Young at Heart Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 11 2-3:30 PM

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



Thursday, February 15 2-3:30 PM

Trinity Hall

Join Young at Heart in Trinity Hall for a Valentine's Party! Bob Burton will be on hand to lead us in singing our favorite love songs, we will have games to play- and fun and fellowship will certainly be had by all! All are welcome (come with or without a "sweetheart")! Refreshments will be available.

Gayton Terrace Celebration

Please join us on Tuesday, January 23 at 3:30 PM for a visit with our members residing at Gayton Terrace. Fellowship, refreshments, communion, and an update on the activity at Trinity are included. Contact Susie Hildebrand at shildebrand@verizon.net or 740-7490 to volunteer or for more information.

The Connected Life: New Welcome Teams and Small Groups

Welcome Teams

Have you noticed Trinity friends in reflective vests in the parking lot recently?

These courageous folks were part of a test-run Welcome Team for the 9:30 AM worship and Sunday School hour during December. We're working on our intentional hospitality at Trinity, and we're grateful to Barty Smith and the 9:30 AM worshipers who were instrumental in this trial-and-error learning experiment!

If you'd be willing to join in the ministry of a Welcome Team (or simply learn more about it), contact Drew Willson (dwillson@trinityumc.net).

Small Groups

Would you like to form a deep small group connection with new friends at Trinity?

We're initiating a new small group model this year based on the four practices of the early church in Acts 2:42:

- Devotion to the apostles' teaching (scripture)
- Fellowship
- Breaking bread (eating together)
- Prayer

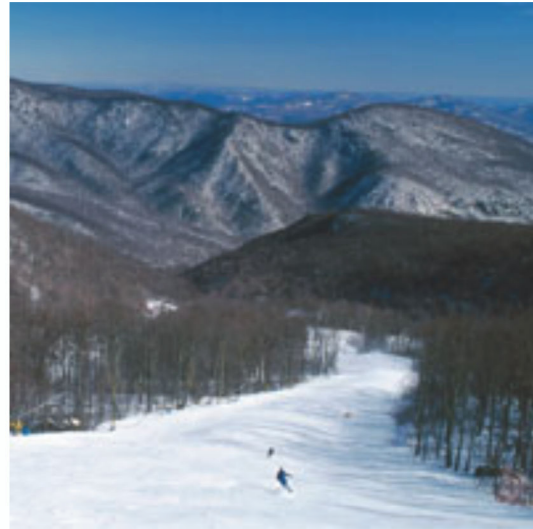
If you're interested in this ancient and new way of connecting with other disciples this year, contact Drew Willson (dwillson@trinityumc.net).

Weekly Journey Prayer Group

The Journey Prayer group meets every Monday, at 11:45 AM in the Chapel. Come join us as we pray weekly for our church, our community and our world.

YOUTH AT TRINITY

SKI AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT



On the weekend of January 26th-28th, we will be taking a trip up to Wintergreen Resort for some skiing and learning. We will leave on Friday at 5:00 PM and return on Sunday in the mid afternoon. This is going to be a fantastic weekend filled with fun and us diving deeper into our faith. On Saturday, we will enjoy all that the mountain has to offer. And on Sunday

morning, we will go tubing as a group! Coupled with outdoor fun, we will be having in depth discussions about our faith and how our lives reflect that faith. If you do not ski or snowboard, please still join us, there are plenty of activities for you. The costs vary depending on what activities you will be participating in. The sign up and other details are in the weekly email.

November in Review

- The first weekend in December, a group of students attend the #called2017 Virginia Annual Conference Retreat. We had a great time being away in the mountains and worshipping God. While we were there, we learned about how we are all called in different ways to serve God. The group can't wait to go back next year!
- On December 15th, the youth group had its Winter Lock-In! We enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship in the church. To kick off the night, we went and saw the new Star Wars movie! It was fantastic.
- December 17th was our white elephant gift exchange. Everyone was happy except for the recipient of the underwhelming vinyl album.

DATES TO KNOW

- DECEMBER 21
 - PARENTS NIGHT OUT
- DECEMBER 24
 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
- JANUARY 6
 - THREE TENOR CONCERT
- JANUARY 7
 - YOUTH GROUP RETURNS
- JANUARY 15
 - MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE
- JANUARY 26-28
 - SKI AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
- FEBRUARY 4
 - SOUPER BOWL
- FEBRUARY 14
 - ASH WEDNESDAY

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

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

Children At Trinity



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.



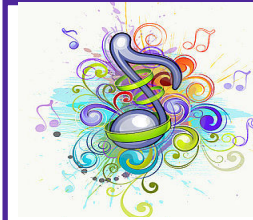
Bible
Learning
And
Sharing
Together

BLAST – Bible Learning And Sharing Together For 3rd & 4th Graders

Two different events will be held in Trinity Hall during the 9:30 AM Sunday School time for kids and parents. One for 3rd grade and one for 4th grade. **Children and parents** (or other adult) will have fun learning a little more about using the Bible. **Events are designed for an adult and child to work together at their own pace in a learning center environment.** Children will experience practical ways to discover God's Word and make the Bible a part of their everyday life. Parents will learn how to cultivate children's use of the Bible at home.

Sunday, January 21 - For 3rd grader and parent - At 9:30 AM meet in Trinity Hall - Remember to bring your Bible.
Sunday, February 18 - For 4th grader and parent - At 9:30 AM meet in Trinity Hall - Remember to bring your Bible.

Children's Choir News



January 3 is when Children's Choirs begin again for the New Year! The Celestial Choir (N4 – Kindergarten) will meet in 317 at 5:15 PM with Patsy Hallett and the Treble Singers (1st – 5th) will meet in the Choir room at 5:15 PM with Pat Ruscus & Katie Berlin. JOIN the FUN!!

Upward Sports Ministry



Upward Season—The teams are all organized and practice has begun! Come watch the games in the new year! See the kids play and cheer for eight Saturdays starting **January 6**. Upward Sunday, is January 21.

