

The Trinity Window

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



Pastor's Corner

February 2018

*"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights and afterward he was famished."
Matthew 4:1-2*

40 Days in the Wilderness is our theme for Lent 2018. In the wilderness of our lives and world we are invited to join our Lord in his fasting. We will be reflecting on the hungers in our lives. Trinity will be producing a daily Lenten devotion in brief video form to which you can subscribe. Hard copies of the texts of these brief devotions will also be available at the church. Rather than a host of special Lenten activities, this year you are invited to slow down, reflect and pray, the true spirit of the season. *The more seriously we take this holy season of introspection, the more ready we will be for the glorious Celebration of Resurrection.* Come, join us, let us journey together. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. As we dare to look into the mirror, as we confess the hungers in our lives, as we open our hearts, Christ is there.

This Lent may you be fed with the Bread of Life.

Blessings,

Dear companions in Christ,

This year, are you open to a uniquely transforming grace of the Lenten season?

If so, I invite you to try fasting with me.

The forty days of Lent recall our Lord's own forty day fast in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). This means that when we take on a Lenten fast, we're in holy company!

For some folks, a Lenten fast means abstaining from certain unhealthy foods like candy or soda. For other folks, fasting may mean taking a break from certain activities like social media or watching television, or simply restricting the time we spend doing those things. And then for still other folks, fasting may mean not *giving up* but *taking on* something that will change their lives: a forty-day commitment to exercise, or spiritual reading, or prayer.

A vital question beneath all these possibilities is this: in your life, what could you give up or take on that would bring you closer in your journey with Jesus Christ?

For me, I'm going to be fasting from food each Monday during Lent. Why? I've found that a discipline of *not eating*--not answering that regular impulse to satisfy my hunger--is a holy thing. It reveals that I can say "no" to other impulses as well. For example, those economic impulses to consume when what I have is more than enough. Or those relational impulses to react to people when what I need to do is receive and ponder.

Countering these impulses strikes me as pretty counter-cultural these days. As St. Basil the Great said in his *First Homily on Fasting*, "Run cheerfully to the gift of fasting. Fasting is an ancient gift, not one antiquated and obsolete, but ever fresh and at the height of its vitality."

Again, I hope you'll join me this Lent. May the Spirit of Christ guide us in a transformative journey through the wilderness of our hunger.

Drew



Ash Wednesday Drive-Up

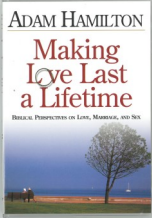
Wear the ancient sign of your faith all day: between 7-8 AM on Ash

Wednesday, February 14, drive up to Trinity's front doors to receive ashes on your forehead!

Pastors Larry and Drew will be outside and out front on Trinity's front steps bestowing ashes, blessings, and free coffee for anyone who stops by.

Start your Lenten journey this year with this fresh expression of faithfulness. See you bright and early!

We will then continue with worship services in the sanctuary at 12 noon and at 6:45 PM which will include the imposition of ashes.



Making Love Last a Lifetime

Biblical Perspectives On Love, Marriage, And Sex

Keeping your marriage alive, healthy and all that God intended it to be. **Larry and Amy Lenow** will be leading this 5 week study using Adam Hamilton's book by the same name. Larry and Amy have been happily married for 33 years and have raised two sons without casualties (so far!) This study is for those thinking about marriage or are newly married (no matter how many decades "newly married" might mean). It will be serious, but light-hearted; reverent but maybe a little irreverent; relevant but guaranteed to be fun. Participants need to register, online at trinityumc.net or by calling the church office at (804) 288-6056, cost for participant book is \$10.

Sundays, 5:30-6:30 PM in the Mastin Room (across from Trinity Hall)
Beginning February 18.
Childcare is available



Young at Heart Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 15, 2 – 3:30 PM,
Come join our Valentine's celebration!
Music by Drew Willson and Bob Burton!
Interactive games! Valentine themed refreshments!
All are welcome!

Sunday, March 18
Teen Taught Technology, 4 – 5 PM, Trinity Hall
Back by popular demand, we will meet with our youth and gain their help with our electronics!
Come bring your ipad, iphone, computer and anything else you need help with!
We will have a pizza dinner together at 5:15 PM. All are welcome!

Thursday, March 22
Lessons from Mayberry, 2- 3:30 PM, Trinity Hall
Travel with us to the beloved days of Mayberry – as we learn from Andy, Barney, Aunt Bea and Opie, brought to us by our favorite, Bill Pike.
Moon Pies and Coca Colas provided – all are welcome!



Pub Theology

A special thanks to everyone who has been attending Pub Theology sessions. Our next gathering will be held on **Tuesday, February 13** 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!



Trinity United Methodist Women

Sacred Places in My Heart: "Finding God Where the Wild Things Are"
Guest Speaker: **Ann Marie Blackmon**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
10:15 AM in Mastin Room

Ann Marie Blackmon and her family have been members of Trinity for about twelve years. They enjoy the 8:15 AM worship service, teaching middle school Sunday school, participating in Youth Group and Upward.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Ann Marie share "Finding God Where the Wild Things Are" about her faith journey and how serving God by serving alongside youth has deepened her faith.

Mission Emphasis: Collecting toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex and paper napkins for Heart Havens.

Heart Havens provides group homes in neighborhoods across Virginia where adults with a developmental disability live as independently as possible while being supported by twenty-four-hour staff.

Connect with a new Small Group this year!

In 2018, we are getting people connected to each other and to God through new small groups. These small groups will meet regularly to share four simple practices from Acts 2:42:

- devotion to apostles' teachings (Bible study/application)
- fellowship
- breaking bread (sharing a meal)
- prayer

Why small groups? If you feel disconnected these days, you're not alone. United Methodist church leaders Jacob and Rachel Armstrong write, "Strangely, even though technology has given us many more ways of connecting, people now report higher levels of loneliness and despair than ever before. Anxiety runs rampant, depression leaves us cold and dark."^[1]

To begin connecting with a small group, please fill in this information about your availability and how we can contact you. Got to trinityumc.net/small-groups.

If you have additional questions, contact Drew Willson (dwillson@trinityumc.net).

What are we Studying?

Dillard Study Group – Monday nights at 7 PM
Listening for the Heartbeat of God by J. Philip Newell

Pastor Larry's Bible Studies
7 AM Tuesdays, 1:30 PM Wednesdays
Currently studying the Book of Daniel.

3M Bible Study
6:45 PM Wednesday nights
John – The Gospel of Light and Life, by Adam Hamilton

Monday Morning Women's Study
9:30 – 11 AM Mondays
The Best Yes by Lysa Terkeurst
Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands

All are welcome – please contact Judy Oguich to join any of these studies.

Lenten Devotional Series: Wilderness 40 Days

During Lent, Trinity will be producing a daily devotional. This series will be in two formats: video and hard copy. You will be able to sign up to receive the daily devotional video, and hard copies of the devotional will be available at the church.

To sign up for the Lenten Devotional via text message, text @trinlent to the number 81010 or visit remind.com/join/trinlent. To sign up for the Lenten Devotional via email, visit trinityumc.net/Lent.

We are looking forward to sharing these scripture based reflections with you as we all journey through the wilderness for 40 days.



Welcoming Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award Winners to Trinity

On **Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 PM**, winners from fifty area high schools, plus their families, will gather in Trinity's sanctuary for the **51st Annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards**. These students are being honored by the Interfaith Community of Greater Richmond (ICGR) for their outstanding accomplishments in fostering better understanding and cooperation among diverse communities. Trinity's UMW has long supported this program, and the UMW is proud that our staff granted ICGR use of Trinity's facilities. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is free and open to the public.

This event is an opportunity to reach scores of people from across the Richmond metro area with Trinity's welcoming love and support. UMW members have already volunteered to assist the students and ICGR representatives from the time the students arrive for pre-event sessions on the afternoon of February 15, through the awards ceremony that evening.

However, we could use some extra help. For this event, we expect a large crowd. To insure that we move people through our building effectively, we need some additional volunteers in the following time slots: 1:30-3:00 PM and from 5:45-7:00 PM. This will give us good coverage from the parking lots, church office, Mastin Room, Welcome Center, and Sanctuary.

If you are able to volunteer, e-mail Carol Wampler carol-wampler@msn.com or Jo Lewis jolewis49@yahoo.com before February 1. All volunteers are requested to wear your Trinity nametag.



2018 Lenten Easter Mission Offering: Feed My Sheep

American author Hal Borland once stated: "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

Thanks to the generosity from our congregation, Trinity has never skipped its turn in supporting the Lenten Easter Mission Offering. In 2017, your donations totaled: \$26,930.00, and we celebrate your support.

This offering touches lives from our neighborhoods to far corners of our world. Every penny collected impacts a life.

Jesus taught us "feed my sheep." The Lenten Easter Mission Offering is an opportunity to follow Jesus' command. No matter where we look, people are in need of assistance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

YOUTH AT TRINITY

ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE UP



On Wednesday, February 14th, we will be observing the start of Lent with our Ash Wednesday services. The first of these will be our drive up ashes and blessings in front of our church. We will offer a chance for the community to come thru and receive the ashes, a blessing, and coffee. The pastors will be out front from 7 AM until 8 AM. This year the youth of the church will be holding

signs and inviting people who are driving down Forest Ave to come through and receive a blessing. We will meet at 6:40 AM in the Welcome Center. After the drive up, we will then go to breakfast as a group and then off to school. If your student does not drive yet we will have transportation for them to school so you do not have to come back and take them.

DATES TO KNOW

- JANUARY 26-28
 - SKI AND SPIRITUALITY RETREAT
- FEBRUARY 4
 - SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
- FEBRUARY 14
 - ASH WEDNESDAY
- MARCH 9-11
 - SPRING RETREAT AT CAMP WILLOW RUN
- MARCH 18
 - TECH NIGHT WITH Y.A.H @ 4:00 PM
- MARCH 25
 - PALM SUNDAY
- MARCH 29
 - MAUNDY THURSDAY
- MARCH 30
 - GOOD FRIDAY
- APRIL 1
 - EASTER SUNDAY

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

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

January in Review

- We started the New Year with a new sermon series and an emphasis on that same series during our Sunday night youth meetings. We have been discovering what it means to be a disciple.
- On Monday, January 15th, a group of fourteen youth and adults went down to the Pace Center at VCU to help renovate the building.

We served alongside Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville, doing some painting, replacing ceiling tiles, moving heavy objects and cleaning the kitchen. We learned about how our work was helping to create a space that could be a place of rest for VCU students.

- This weekend 24 people will be headed to Wintergreen for a ski and spirituality retreat!
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Children At Trinity



Tackle Hunger 2018, The “Souper Bowl” of Caring

You are encouraged to join our Children’s Ministry in sponsoring the nationwide “Souper Bowl” collection. On **February 4**, kids will be stationed in the foyers outside of the sanctuary and the Welcome Center doors after each service. Help us to transform the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration to tackle hunger. The proceeds will go to support Sherbourne UMC food pantry. Thank you in advance for supporting the Souper Bowl.



Bible
Learning
And
Sharing
Together

BLAST

– Bible Learning And Sharing Together For Fourth Graders, Sunday, February 18

Event will be held in Trinity Hall during the 9:30 AM Sunday School time for kids and parents. **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.

3rd Quarter 2017/18 Teacher Orientation and Training February 18 at 10:45 AM in Trinity Hall

This year we want to make the Teacher Orientation and Training session a priority; it is so important that we all be on the same page and hear about new things. We want to make this the best year ever for our children! Also, this year we are trying to help you by covering the Annual Child Protection Training requirement at the meeting.



Upward Sports Ministry

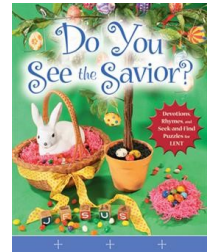
Games continue through February, so come out, watch and cheer!!! Upward’s “End of the Year” Celebration will be **February 25** at Freeman High School. We hope to see you there!



Children’s Lenten Devotions



On the first Sunday in Lent, February 18, N3 through 5th grade kids will receive Lenten



Devotions through Sunday School. N3 & N4 will receive the “My Easter Story” basket with stickers. Kindergarten through 5th grade will receive “Do You See the Savior” book.

Extra copies will be available in the Welcome Center. If you have questions, contact Leila Denton, ldenton@trinityumc.net.



Children’s Worship Service April 15

This is the 25th year that the children of Trinity will do the worship services on Sunday, April 15. Children’s choirs will be singing and there will be many ways children can participate.

Registration forms will be circulated through Sunday School in mid-February and are on the Children’s web page <http://trinityumc.net/children/>. Turn in forms to Leila Denton by March 7.

If you have any questions, contact Leila Denton (ldenton@trinityumc.net).



News from The Hermitage-Richmond

Hidden Treasures, formerly known as The Country Store at Hermitage-Richmond will be open again January 26 and February 23 from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Your donations are greatly appreciated, but please be sure they are items we can sell. Clothing, jewelry, toys, and household items should be in good condition and not missing parts. If in doubt, call Marble Jones (740-8002) or Nancy Miller (740-3772).

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 AM. 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 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

Boy Scout Yard Sale



Troop 799 enjoys being a part of Trinity UMC and has one fundraiser a year. We have a fantastic yard sale coming up on Saturday, March 10! The two weeks prior to this we will be collecting items to sell in 2 large pods in the lower parking lot by the trash/dumpsters. Please consider doing some early spring cleaning and save items for the Troop 799 Yard Sale on Saturday, March 10. Thank you!

Thank You Notes



Dear Trinity ministers, staff, members and friends,

Thank you very much for your sympathy cards, emails and prayers on the passing of my brother in November. You showed us how much you cared. That meant a lot to us. It helped to ease our pain and sorrow. Words are not enough to express my gratitude. Trinity is truly a community of believers. I am glad we are members of Trinity.

Janet Sommerville

Words can't express our appreciation for all of your love and concern with Abby's recent ACL surgery. Thank you for the meals, the visits, the cards, the calls – and most importantly, your prayers. She is healing quickly; we are so blessed to be a part of this community of faith.

Love,

Eric, Judy and Abby Oguich



Trinity members came in droves to donate blood on Sunday, January 14. We registered 52 donors, of those 42 were qualified to donate. We provided 34 whole blood donations, 6 platelets, and two double red cells. We saved 126 lives. Ronnie Johnson outdid himself with the Breakfast Bistro selection of breakfast sandwiches: egg, cheese, and bacon varieties. Our next drive is Sunday, April 8. Kathy Barksdale will be organizing the future drives. A new Sign Up Genius will offer reminder messages. Please pray for the people who received our blood donations. We are grateful to the VBS technicians and to everyone who generously gave their time while rolling up their sleeves to help SAVE LIVES.

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.

Micah Association Luncheon

The winter Micah Association Luncheon Meeting will be **Thursday, February 8** at the Weinstein JCC, 5403 Monument Avenue at 12 noon. Our speakers' focus on the topic of Educational Equity include Carrie Coyner, innovative member of the Chesterfield School Board; Rose Marie Germanis, President and CEO of CIS of Petersburg; and Robin Jackson, Key Coordinator of the Richmond Jewish Coalition volunteers at Swansboro Elementary. DeFazio's catering offers you a \$10 garden salad or box lunch (by cash or check payable to Micah Association, memo-line JCC Lunch). Doors open at 11:30 for Meet & Greet. Register online or by e-mail at micah@richmondhillva.org by February 1. To get involved at Oak Grove Elementary, Trinity's Micah partner, contact Bob Argabright 310-1080 or Mary Hetzel 282-5872.

Box Tops for Education Update

Thank you for your continuing support for the church's box tops for education campaign. This year the recipient for our box tops for education is Tuckahoe Middle School. Since we started monitoring the number of box tops donated to the schools in late 2016, we have donated the following:

2016- UMFS Charter House School: 1,039 box tops at .10 each or \$103.90
2017: Oak Grove Bell Meade: 1,268 box tops at .10 each or \$126.80

This may seem so minimal in amount, but each school can collect as much as the maximum of \$20,000 for their unbudgeted operational needs if we step up our campaign to help them with our share of box tops for education. It is easy to do. You only have to be conscientious about cutting them from the products that offer them and then drop them at the designated box in the Mission Center in Church. Can we count on you to help the designated school this year? Thank you for your generosity.

Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen?

Not at the United Methodist Family Services! Many students attend the classes at the culinary arts school and enjoy the many duties there. Lessons include interpretation of recipes, food preparation, sanitation practices, catering service. The students have catered lunches and a formal English Tea and enjoy developing menus. The students also prepare for the ServSafe certification test which has helped students to secure jobs. Students also go on to the culinary program at Reynolds. This program provides life skills "one dish at a time."

Update from Baltic Methodist

Here is recent news from one of Trinity's mission projects, scholarship aid for the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, in Tallin, Estonia. "We began this school year with a big and motivated class of 22 new students - probably one of the biggest classes in the last ten years. For many of these students the opportunity to receive partial scholarship - thanks to your faithful giving - has made it possible to study theology and mission in our seminary. We do believe that we need to support the theological study of people, sincerely answering their call to ministry... We hope to have 14 graduates this coming spring. Our graduates serve God's Kingdom in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Finland, and Romania."
Meeli Tankler President of the BMTS



Joys and Concerns

Births

Winter Rose Martling born on December 30 to Molly and Daniel Martling. Her grandparents are Karen Adams and Jim Scott.

Mitchell Iden Noonkester born on December 26 to Lauren and Seth Noonkester

Baptisms

Emmy Noland, Patrick Peele, Johnny Marshall

Our sympathies to...

The family of Lane Dickinson who died January 8

The family of Boyd Jones who died January 8

The family of Evelyn Niedermayer who died December 30

The family of Dot Howard who died December 27

Rosemary McCullough whose brother Dr. Richard Fleming died December 22

The family of Rev. Norman Chattin who died December 19

Gifts to Trinity



Gifts were received at Trinity for:

In memory of *Mr. Harry Cordier* to *Trinity UMC Mission Fund*

In memory of *Mrs. Mancha White* to *United Methodist Family Services*

In memory of *Alex Allen* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In memory of *Ms. Claudine Bolton Watkins* to *Trinity Foundation McClure Scholarship Fund*

In memory of *Mrs. Catherine Crawford* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In memory of *Mrs. Dot Howard* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

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

In memory of *Mr. Charlie Thomas* to *Trinity UMC Mission Fund*

In memory of *Mr. Charlie Thomas* to *Trinity UMC Building Fund*

In memory of *Mrs. Lane Dickinson* to *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In honor of *Mr. Bill Pike* to *United Methodist Family Services*

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	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
Worship Service	408	485	484	
Sunday School	288	339	330	

Our Gifts as of December 31:

Projected income to date:	\$ 906,300.00
Actual income year to date:	\$ 946,168.09
Excess (-shortfall)	\$ 39,868.09

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, February 12 at 4 PM** for events taking place in March. 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.