

The Trinity Window

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



Pastor's Corner

February 2020

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18b-20

This passage is very important to me. It was on a college Chapel Retreat while reading this passage on a bluff overlooking the Frio River in West Texas that I clearly heard my call to ministry. It should be important to you as well, as a baptized Christian it is no less *your* call to ministry. Jesus commissions us and in the same breath assures us that he will be with us. Christ is our strength, Christ is our security Christ's is the voice that both calls and sends.


When Jesus called his disciples, he didn't give them detailed information about where they would go or what would ultimately happen to them. He just invited, "Come, follow me." Knowing that Christ is with us is enough. For twenty full centuries and counting it has been enough. As we continue in the living of our lives and our carry out our common ministry together – it is enough.

Make Disciples, I Am with You is the theme of our 2020 Stewardship campaign. We live in an uncertain world. We are part of a denomination in the midst of change. What doesn't change is Jesus Christ. Exciting things are happening at Trinity. Just to name a few:

- Our Swahili language service at 12:30 PM has launched strongly (along with an ESL class and a Saturday prayer meeting) reaching out to new people in Richmond.
- Our Kids and Student ministries are full of energy and enthusiasm!
- Upwards to sixty Trinity members have been gathering for Sunday evening learning.
- Our Advent responses were unprecedented (and thanks to the Foundation Board for a \$5,000 match.)
- As I write this column, faithful Trinity servants are reaching out to the people of Honduras.

Stewardship is one way that we all answer the call and become part of these and other important ministries. I invite you to begin praying and to be a part. There is no greater barometer of how committed we are than the decision to share of our treasure. Jesus Christ has called us. I have never regretted answering that call. You won't either.

Blessings,



Make Disciples, I Am with You

Make Disciples, I Am with You is the theme of Trinity's 2020 Stewardship. We rejoice in the ministry that Christ has given us and rejoice all the more in Christ's presence with us as we carry it out. For over two hundred years Trinity has been proclaiming the Good News and we are just getting started. God has placed us here to be a beacon of hope to the West End, to Richmond and all the world! Your participation is important. Your financial support of our ministries makes all this possible. Our Stewardship Team asks you to do *three things*:

1. Begin praying now about how God wants to use you to support and underwrite our ministries.
2. Mark your calendar for one of our two Stewardship Breakfasts. **Sunday, February 9 at 9:30 AM and 11 AM in Trinity Hall.** Learn more about how we conduct our ministries and how your support empowers them.
3. Plan to be part of our **Celebration Sunday, February 16** as we answer Jesus' call with our lives and our resources.

Make Disciples, I Am with You, the call has never changed. How will you answer?

SUNDAY NIGHTS IN FEBRUARY

As we strive to become a community of love and faith where people share their faith and grow spiritually together, we are excited to continue our new Sunday Evenings.

Plan to spend Sunday evenings at Trinity. Classes begin at 5:30 PM.

We have programs for every age and opportunities to meet you wherever you are on your faith journey.

We are here to journey together.

Adults

Explore Faith Class 2 (Alpha Group)

Facilitator: Debbie Stocks **Date:** Feb. 9 – Mar. 1 (4 weeks)

We continue our Alpha Group in February. All are welcome! We will explore the topic "Finding God". Each week, we'll meet to pray, review a short video of others, all around the world, speaking about their experiences with faith and finding God in this life, and discuss God in our world in a relaxed, low key, friendly and fun atmosphere. Some of the weekly study titles are as follows: "Is There More to Life Than This?", "Why and How Do I Pray?", "How Does God Guide Us?", "How Can I Have Faith?". We hope you'll invite your neighbors and friends to come join us.

Matthew Gospel – The Magna Carte of the Kingdom

Facilitator: Doug Hill **Date:** Feb. 15 – March. 9 (4 weeks)

A few weeks study of the sermon on the mount, Matthew 5 – 7, February 15 – March 9. The class will focus on the Jewish background and theology of the teaching of Jesus.

Dare to Be Uncommon: Character Building Challenge with Coach Tony Dungy

Facilitator: Chris Smith **Date:** Feb. 9 – Mar. 1 (4 weeks)

Take it from Super Bowl-winning coach Tony Dungy. You don't achieve real significance by following the crowd, but by building character that honors God, even when it means standing against the tide of popular opinion. Join us for Dare to Be Uncommon, a four-session character-building challenge that will help you make wise, God-honoring choices, every day of your life.

Students

Our Sunday night gatherings continue in February. We gather at **5:00 PM** for dinner and then explore what our identity is and what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. This is open to all ages, 6th-12th, but if our high schoolers would like to learn something new with a different feel, they can come to dinner at 5:00, and then participate in an adult class from **5:30–7:00 PM**.

Kids

Trinity Kids is so excited to continue offering Kids Grow Nights on Sunday evenings this February.

Here are our rooms and locations:

Infant Nursery: birth through 2 years old

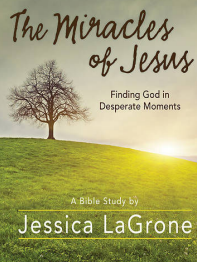
Room 208: 3 - 5 years old

Mastin Room: Kindergarten through 5th grade (After a large group gathering time, kids will break down into smaller groups by their grade levels)

Each month, we will have a new theme on Kids Grow Nights. **Our February theme is "Real Love."**

We are looking forward to being with our kids on Sunday nights!

You can register to participate in Sunday Evenings online: trinityumc.net/sunday-evenings.



Women's Study

Come join Deanna McCullough, Joey McPhail, Catherine Taylor and Mary Ann Boyd on a 6 week study of "The Miracles of Jesus". The class starts **Monday, February 3** and will continue through March 30 (with no meeting on March 16). Class time is 9:30 – 11 AM and the cost of the workbook is \$13.00. All are welcome!



UMW

Trinity's United Methodist Women will host our own Beth Monroe on **February 11, 10:15 AM** in the Mastin Room. She will discuss the work she is doing as a mentor for the Re-establish Refugee Resettlement Agency helping to welcome and assist in the resettlement process as refugees come to Virginia and establish Richmond as their place of residence. We welcome everyone to come and learn how you might be of assistance to this agency. The Board will meet prior to the program, at 9:00 AM in the Mastin Room. We are working to finalize plans for the remaining programs and welcome your input.



Pub Theology

A special thanks to everyone who has been attending Pub Theology sessions. Our next gathering will be held on **Tuesday, February 11** 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!

Celebration at Westminster Canterbury

We will gather in the Jaquelyn Room at Westminster Canterbury at 3:00 PM (NOTE TIME CHANGE) on **Tuesday, February 25** for fellowship with our members who live there. Following our time of fellowship we will share in a time of worship in the chapel. Interested in attending contact Nancy Owen at neowen1@verizon.net.

Tuesday, February 11 – 2-3:30 PM

Back by popular demand – Dr. Gerald Johnson will make a presentation of the new archaeological discoveries in Virginia. Dr. Johnson is a former professor of the College of William and Mary and was part of the team who uncovered the mastodon in Norfolk in 2017. His presentation will be filled with humor and audience participation, making geology fun. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, March 26 – Trip to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Join us as we take a guided tour through one of Richmond's jewels – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. We will leave Trinity at 10:15 AM, have a tour at 11 AM and then have lunch together in the café. Cost of tour is \$14; lunch is on your own at the café.



Ash Wednesday

Wear the ancient sign of your faith all day: between 7-8 AM on **Ash Wednesday, February 26**, come by

Trinity's front doors to receive ashes on your forehead, no need to even get out of your car!

Pastors Larry and Hung Su 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 a worship service in the sanctuary at 12 noon and at 7 PM, which will include the imposition of ashes.

Lenten Devotional

This year, in order to help you engage daily with Lent, we are sending our devotions to you via email or text message each day. You can expect the email to arrive sometime before 6 AM each day and your text link to arrive around 7 AM. We will also be posting via social media (Facebook and Instagram) around noon. Each of these posts will contain the same content, though they will each come through to your device a little bit differently.

We hope that this new thing helps you and your family dig a little deeper and experience a more holy Lent this year. Want to sign up? Go to <https://trinityumc.net/lent> to sign up to do mobile or email. Each post will appear on that page after it goes live!

Limited copies of the Lenten Devotional will be available on Sunday, February 23. We thank our writers in working with us. We also appreciate Kim Tingler, Bill Pike, Judy Oguich, Dianne Moore, and our editors.



Trinity Foundation Scholarship

The Trinity Foundation is pleased to announce that it will offer scholarships again this year to Trinity members for undergraduate and graduate studies. These scholarships are made possible because Trinity families and friends have established scholarship funds through the Trinity Foundation. Applications will be available on February 19 in the Welcome Center and on-line, and **must be returned to the church office by March 31.**

Trinity students who attend Virginia Wesleyan University are eligible to apply for the Eugene R. Woolridge, Jr. and Jane Smith Woolridge Scholarship, established by Trinity UMC and Virginia Beach UMC in honor of our former minister and his wife. For more information, please contact the Virginia Wesleyan Director of Financial Aid, Teresa Rhyne, at trhyne@vwu.edu or 757-455-3345.



Scout Yard Sale Coming In March

The annual Trinity Scout Troop 799 Yard Sale will be held this year on **March 7** in Trinity

Hall. Please come out and support the Scouts and if you have items that you would like to donate, please contact Dennis King (dennis.king1@gmail.com) or Susan Kooch (susan.kooch@gmail.com) for assistance.



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. Have questions, contact Bill Pike bpike@trinityumc.net

Trinity Foundation: Our 2020 Vision

The year 2019 was an eventful and energized year for the Trinity Foundation. Brian Ford became Foundation president in July with a vision to "honor the founding members' bold vision by being bold in our time." Barry Schmitt and Kirk Spitzer joined the board, adding their considerable strengths and expertise.

The year also saw the Trinity Foundation funding substantial and far-reaching initiatives in our church and in our community. Grants continued to support items not covered by the church operating budget, including (but not limited to) staff training, Crossover Healthcare Ministry, Friends of Barnabas, Trinity children and youth missions, and scholarships. One of the largest grants was a \$76,000 to support enhancements and updates to Trinity's infrastructure.

A new initiative leveraged the Foundation's support to substantially increase the Advent Offering for United Methodist Family Services. The Foundation announced it would match up to \$5,000 in donations. A resulting \$28,000 was raised, eclipsing last year's total by more than \$12,000.

The fiscal strength of the Foundation continues to improve, with the investment assets exceeding \$3 million as of December 31, 2019. As we continue the momentum and excitement, we ask you, the members of Trinity United Methodist Church, to be more informed and engaged than ever. Here are 3 ways you can do that:

- Submit your suggestions of organizations to support.
- Establish a fund in honor of someone, or make a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation.
- Consider naming the Foundation in your will as a Planned Gift.

To do any of the above or to learn more, contact brian.ford@rbc.com or by cell phone at 347-4699.

We can see with "2020 Vision" this is the year to use our gifts in the service of God as we make disciples of Jesus Christ.



What's been happening on Sundays in our Kids Ministry?

During January, using the theme of outer space, our focus has been on four spiritual habits that help kids take their relationship with God to new heights! To help a kid grow spiritually, we've been teaching them to spend time with God, spend time with others, use their gifts, and share their story.

How is Sunday morning different than Sunday evening?

Although kids are focusing on the same scripture and big idea in both Kids Church and Grow Night, the bible story is presented differently in each context. Different activities are chosen for each environment as well that help kids explore the scripture and apply it to their lives. We have also added the option for kids to bring a bag dinner (nut-free) with them on Sunday nights.

How can I support Trinity Kids?

We are recruiting volunteers on Sundays for both the morning and the evening through June. Our greatest need is for volunteers to serve with our infants, toddlers, and preschoolers on Sunday evenings. We will be utilizing the Grow curriculum with this age group and need volunteers to work alongside our paid nursery staff to make that happen.

If you would like to serve on Sundays (either in the morning or in the evening) please sign up using this link: <https://signup.com/go/yqMSLYE>

These are some of the supplies that we need for February and March. The link below each item will take you to Amazon where you can easily purchase what is needed:

- Heart Stickers (need by 2/1)
- <https://tinyurl.com/tj5xydb>
- Dominoes (need by 2/5)
- <https://tinyurl.com/wg2rnby>
- Cross Craft (need by 2/15)
- <https://tinyurl.com/srnzgyt>
- Zipper Bracelets (need by 2/15)
- <https://tinyurl.com/t3d7jng>
- Magic Cubes (need by 3/1)
- <https://tinyurl.com/vhotuvc>
- Jumbo Playing Cards (need by 3/1)
- <https://tinyurl.com/s42f4be>
- Magic Tricks for Kids (need by 3/1)
- <https://tinyurl.com/w5usvuz>
- Tetris Puzzle (need by 3/1)
- <https://tinyurl.com/sfhw44a>
- Large Floor Puzzles
- Board Games

If you would like to provide any of these items for the kids ministry, please contact Jen or sign-up with this link on our sign-up genius: <https://tinyurl.com/rnrfgke>

What will our kids be learning in February?

Here is a description of our February series, Real Love: We are always teaching our kids that we need to love God and love one another, but often times neglect to give them tangible ways to do so. In this series, we are going to examine a few of Jesus' teachings in depth and discover practical ways we can demonstrate our love for God, family, friends, and enemies, too! Our hope is that by the end of this series, every kid will be able to say, because God loves everyone, I can show God's love by being kind, I can show God's love even when it's hard, and that ultimately, love is the best choice!

Want to serve in our kids ministry? Have questions? Contact Jen Williams at jwilliams@trinityumc.net



FOR PARENTS OF TRINITY KIDS



Hey parents! Here's a look at what we're covering with your kids this month so you can help your kids continue growing at home during the week.

GROW AT HOME IN FEBRUARY

WEEK 1

This week, kids will experience **the story of Nicodemus** and how he learned about God's love for the whole world.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** God loves everyone.
- **THE BIBLE:** John 3:1-21; 1 Corinthians 13

WEEK 2

This week, kids will learn and practice kindness through **the story of the Good Samaritan**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I can show God's love by being kind.
- **THE BIBLE:** Luke 10:31-37; John 13:35

WEEK 3

This week, kids can discuss the different ways they can show love to others, **especially those that are unkind towards them**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** I can show God's love even when it's hard.
- **THE BIBLE:** Matthew 5:40-48; Romans 12:20-21

WEEK 4

This week, kids will learn what it means when Jesus says that **the greatest (and next greatest) commandment is to love**.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** Love is the best choice.
- **THE BIBLE:** Mark 12:28-34; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: 1 John 4:11 (NIV)

Grow Children's Ministry Curriculum and Annual Strategy. ©2019 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved. www.stuffyoucanuse.org



Kids Church!

Kids Church (for Kindergarten through 5th grade) takes place every Sunday morning!

9:30 Hour: Kindergarteners through 5th graders will meet as a large group in the Mastin Room. After our large group time, we will break out into four small groups (kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd/3rd grades, and 4th/5th grades) for further discussion and activities. Parents pick up kids in the Mastin Room.

11:00 hour: Kids will begin in the worship service. After the Pastor calls the kids forward for a blessing, kids will be escorted to the Mastin Room for Kids Church. Parents will pick up kids in the Mastin Room.

We are looking for adults and teens to serve in our kids ministry! If you are interested, follow these links to sign up!

Adults: <https://signup.com/go/yqMSLYE>

Teens: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849A9AB2EA4FB6-teenagers>

Thank you from Central UMC

Dear People of Trinity UMC,

There aren't sufficient words to express our gratitude and appreciation for the ways you have been a tangible expression of Christ's love for the people of Central UMC and its community. Thank you for adopting our Kids Club children and families for Christmas; because of you, these parents were able to not worry and the families were blessed by your outpouring of gifts. Thank you for your very generous gift for the Phelps family, one of our kids club and youth families, in response to their house fire. I am joyous to let you know that the entire Phelps family were baptized at Central on January 12. God is moving in their lives, as they have proclaimed their faith in the midst of struggles.

Thanks you again for your tangible means of grace and deep generosity. We also appreciate the ongoing meal provision on Sunday evenings for the kids club and youth. What a blessing to be in partnership with you all.

In Christian love and gratitude,

Rev. Amy Johnson

6 Trinity raised and sent to the Phelps family a total of \$9,128.

Students at Trinity

FEBRUARY 2020



February 14
Winter Lock-In

Come out for the beginning of a new thing here at Trinity on Sunday night! We will gather at 5:00 PM for dinner and after we will have fun and learn about what your identity is and how we can live into it!

March 13-14
Middle School Journey Retreat

Journey is run by the Jeremiah Project and is designed specifically for middle schoolers and takes place at the amazing Rockbridge Retreat Center! Check out more info and sign up on our website.

April 17-19
High School Spring Retreat

This retreat will be centered around the table, and more specifically serving each other! Don't miss out on lots of hands on time in the kitchen learning to cook. More information and sign up online!

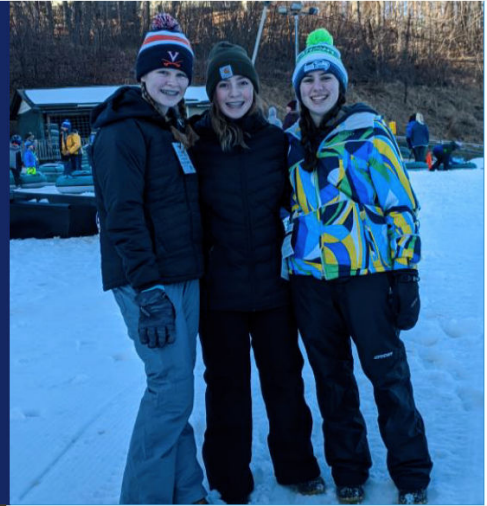


DAYS OF SERVICE AT TRINITY

We have a day of service every month for us to give back to our community. The next two days are February 17 and March 3. If you would like to be a part of transforming your community, please check out our service page on the website.

Ski and Spirituality Retreat

This past weekend, we entered the winter wonderland that is Wintergreen Resort, for a time of fun, food, and spiritual growth. The students of Trinity and Shady Grove UMC gathered together and shared meals and devotion times. We also shredded some serious snow and flew down the tubing hill with reckless abandon! We focused on transformation this weekend and how we can respond to God's love by changing our hearts and lives. We learned that sometimes we need an interruption of our everyday lives to really open our eyes to see what God is doing in our world!



MLK Jr Day of Service

JANUARY 20

On January 20, a group of students helped to clean up around Trinity. They sorted and organized the Eaton Hall storage area and youth lounge, as well as itemized and cleaned up the mission supplies so that we can be ready for our summer mission experiences starting in June!

Attention Everyone

ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE START OF LENT ON FEBRUARY 26

Do not miss out on one of the greatest stories in the bible, Lent and Easter! Not only do we get to hear this story in worship, but we get to experience it in our daily lives by taking on something new or removing a harmful habit. I encourage you to sign up for our Lenten devotional as well as join me in fasting for a day during the week. Embrace this time of reflection and prepare yourself for resurrection!

Follow us on our social media platforms

If you are looking for ways to stay connected to what we are doing at Trinity, follow us on Instagram at @tumc_youth and on Facebook through our group on the Trinity UMC page. This will be home for all celebrations and live updates of what goes on at Trinity!

Joys and Concerns

Birth

Taylor Hill McCullough born on December 20 to Marty and Brian McCullough. Her grandparents are Rob and Sandy Taylor and Wendy McCullough.

Baptisms

Mabel Harris, Teddy Harris

New Member

John-Scott Smith

Our sympathies to...

*Kim Snead-Neuner whose husband CJ Neuner died
January 22*

*The family of Lee Childress who died January 20
Stuart Fisher whose father Jay Maosha died January 14
Jean Hanner whose Daughter-in-law Vicki Hanner died
January 9*

*The family of Virginia "Ginny" Spencer who died
December 26*

*Chick Hadden whose sister Shirley Flowers died
December 17*

Advent Offering

Your generous hearts did it again!! We appreciate the Advent offering of \$23,076 for United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). As you know, UMFS does significant work with children across the Commonwealth of Virginia. This donation will allow UMFS to continue to have a positive impact in the lives of children.

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	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Worship Service	515	445	432	460
Sunday School	178	157	201	183

Our Gifts as of December 31:

Projected income to date: \$ 898,094
Actual income year to date: \$ 849,356
Excess (-shortfall) \$ (48,738)

Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Stitchers,

I can't thank you enough for the beautiful prayer quilt. I don't know how you knew that purple was my favorite color but I love it! It has been a great comfort to me to be surrounded by your prayers and it has brightened my room while I continue to work on getting stronger. Thank you for the ministry you provide to so many!

God bless you!

Ruth Freeman

"I would personally like to thank Doris Clements and her UMW team who wrote me as well all other members of the choir a note thanking us for our devotion and dedication to praising God in song every Sunday morning. It was such a nice gesture, and I appreciated the thoughtful words."

Betsy Rule

Gifts received for the *Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund*

In memory of:

Sam Beale
Robert Wells Dickson
Rachel Habel
Shep Hanner
Walter Roish
Craig Tidey

Gifts received for the *Trinity Stitchers*

In memory of:

Faye Eury

Gifts received for the *Trinity McClure Scholarship Fund*

In memory of:

Louise King
Paul Miksovic

Gifts received for the *Trinity UMW*

In memory of:

Virginia Spencer

Gifts received for the *Trinity Youth Ministry*

In memory of:

Shep Hanner

Gifts received for the *Trinity UMC Operations*

In honor of:

Rev. Larry Lenow
The Joseph Thompson Family

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, February 17 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.