



# The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229  
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## Buying Groceries in Richmond

August 2021

I can't tell you why, but grocery stores intrigue me. I always read with interest the annual market share report for grocery stores in the Richmond area.

While I know very little about operating a grocery store, I am curious about the strategic planning needed to sustain a store.

And I'll be honest with you, I struggle with how Food World reports its findings. As a consumer, I do not consider Wawa, CVS, Walgreens, Target and 7-Eleven grocery stores.

Within easy driving distance of our home are eight grocery stores. That is not the case for many Richmonders who live in food deserts — areas with no grocery store. For these consumers, a Wawa might be their only food access.

When I read the Food World survey, I want to know: Where are Aldi, Lidl, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Fresh Market, Tom Leonard's, Ellwood Thompson's and Libbie Market? Also, where are the warehouse stores: BJ's, Costco, Sam's Club?

My guess is Food World researchers would tell me the market share for these stores is minuscule or that their management will not release sales data.

As a consumer, I have many questions about grocery stores.

But, I constantly keep coming back to this one — why in Carytown do we have four grocery stores within easy walking distance of each other, while sections of the Richmond area are food deserts?

Data miners for the grocery store chains have done their homework. Grocery stores are built in locations where consumers have the income to sustain these stores.

No matter the location, managing a grocery store is not an easy task. Financially, it's risky. Even with the risks, eight stores near our home and the four in Carytown took the gamble on those locations — why?

Simple — money and safety.

I wonder what we might learn about our current grocery war leaders if we changed the reporting criteria?

How about if the first piece for determining market share was based upon how much a grocer gives back to the community during the course of a year? This could be measured by tracking food donations or financial support to local food nonprofits.

Maybe the second data measurement is to audit the grocer's hiring and leadership development data for people of color. How are their practices for hiring impoverished youth, or adults re-entering the workforce from incarceration?

A third category might track the market share impact that school systems, houses of worship and food banks have in reducing food insecurity.

Another possible grouping would assess how grocers educate their shoppers. Are customers offered insights on how to make better economical and nutritional purchases?

While it would be interesting to learn how our leaders stack up in these assessments, I don't believe grocers would be eager to report this data.

My time left on Earth is moving fast. How might I use my remaining days to impact food deserts and food insecurity?

American writer James Thurber once wrote: "There is no safety in numbers or anything else."

But, in the case of numbers, I ask — what might happen if the market share leaders pooled their financial and human resources to open five co-op grocery stores in Richmond's food deserts over the next five years?

Or, how might city and county leaders work with the owners of vacant lots and the agricultural experts at Virginia State University to turn these empty lots into thriving community gardens?

Could these community gardens include kitchens for teaching food nutrition and food preparation, including opportunities to preserve harvested vegetables via canning/freezing?

During the pandemic, I learned quite a bit about food insecurity in Richmond. Our church worked with three local food pantries to help keep their shelves stocked. I read weekly reports or had conversations with pantry leaders about the heartfelt needs in their communities.

A year from now, the market shares from our grocery store wars again will be reported. Percentage points will rise or fall. But, in all of that data will be a buried constant — those in our own backyards who are food insecure.

In the Bible, the following scripture is written: "There will always be poor people in the land."

Richmond has lots of food knowledge and talent. Why can't we use our community expertise to counter the food implications in that Bible verse?

How do we confront our shrugging shoulders like the lyrics from a Bruce Hornsby song: "That's just the way it is, some things will never change."

However, Hornsby counters that resigned sentiment with a challenge: "Ah, but don't you believe them."

Richmond community, market share in grocery store wars isn't important. No, what is important is our capacity to believe we can eliminate food deserts and food insecurity.

My clock is ticking. I need to get busy. How about you?

Written by Bill Pike

1 Printed in the Times Dispatch on July 5, 2021

## Lenten Easter Mission Offering

Our thanks to the Trinity congregation for their generous donations of \$20,300 for the Lenten Easter Mission Offering. We appreciate our SERVE committee for reviewing the applications and making recommendations for funding the grant requests. Listed below are the organizations who will be receiving grants this year.

Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic  
Westview  
CrossOver Clinic  
New Shoes  
Kids Club  
Camp Rainbow  
Friends of Barnabas  
Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary  
Leonard Theological College

### Discovering Trinity (New Membership Class)

We want to invite anyone who wishes to become a member of Trinity UMC to join Discovering Trinity Class. We will study with a book, "The Walk," written by Adam Hamilton and share an understanding of our beliefs, history, practices, expectations, and build a sense of belonging and community.

When: **Sunday Afternoons 2-3 PM, August 1 thru 29**  
Where: <https://zoom.us/join> (meeting ID: 6243348408)  
Please email Hung Su Lim at [hslim@trinityumc.net](mailto:hslim@trinityumc.net) for the password and any questions.



Sunday afternoons:  
August 1 through 29  
2-3 PM via Zoom

ADVENT  
2020

People Look East



Trinity United Methodist Church

### Advent Devotional Book

If you are interested in writing a devotional for the 2021 Advent book, please e-mail Trinity staff member Kim Tingler: [ktingler@trinityumc.net](mailto:ktingler@trinityumc.net).



### Announcing Fall Kick Off!

Save the date for Trinity's Fall Kick Off, Sunday, **September 12**. We will have a combined blended worship service starting at 10:30 AM, with a meal following worship. Local entertainer Jonathan Austin will be here too! Come join us as we celebrate our life together!



### News from the Trustees

At a special called meeting of the Trustees on June 28, the Trustees voted in support of a contract proposal from Century Construction to renovate the third floor of the Children's/Preschool wing. This renovation will create a space for Kids Church. The Trustees would like to thank Church Council, the Finance Committee, the Trinity Foundation, and a Trinity family who is helping to support the project financially. Also, at that June meeting, the Trustees elected Jim Crowder as the interim chair.

### Care Committee Welcomes New Members

Do you like to keep in touch with friends and loved ones? Do you like to send cards? Then you would be perfect for our Care Committee! The Care Committee is looking for a few more members. If you are interested, you would be assigned two of our homebound members to send cards to and to call twice a month (Trinity provides the cards and the stamps). It's a simple way to reach out and help our homebound feel connected. We would love for you to join us! Contact Judy Oguich for any questions, [joguich@trinityumc.net](mailto:joguich@trinityumc.net).



## Volunteers Needed!

Our kids ministry is looking to fully reopen in September, and we are looking for more people to serve in our kids ministry! In our nursery and preschool classrooms, we are looking for volunteers who can serve once a month. For our elementary age group, we are looking for volunteers who can serve for a month. Please contact Jen Williams at [jwilliams@trinityumc.net](mailto:jwilliams@trinityumc.net) if you have any questions and would like to serve in our kids ministry!



### Family Camp!

We are moving our Family Camp to **Sunday mornings** so that families can learn together on Sundays as they start their day!! We will meet during the **10:00 AM Discipleship Hour** each Sunday in August for games and activities together! We will still be meeting in Trinity Hall and **one adult will need to attend with their child**. Nursery and preschool classes will be open (but your preschooler is also encouraged to join you in camp!).

You do not need to attend all (or many) weeks to participate!!

There is **no cost** to attend family camp, but **please register** for the dates you plan to attend so we can have enough supplies on hand.

## Acolyte Training

Calling all students in grades 7 and 8 with an interest in training to serve as an acolyte! Training opportunities will take place in August. We are especially interested in training the youngest acolytes who have not had the opportunity to serve yet, but any students in grades 9-12 who may have missed the opportunity in the past are welcome to participate too! Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is not a requirement for participation. Please contact Mary-Holland Thompson at [acolytes.trinityumc@gmail.com](mailto:acolytes.trinityumc@gmail.com) with any questions.



### S.W.A.G.

Summer Worship and Games, or SWAG as it is more commonly known, is a week of messy and fun games for our middle school students led by our high school students. The purpose for SWAG is for middle school students to get to know each other, as well as play a ton of awesome, fun and messy games and worship. This is one of the most popular events that we have during the summer here at Trinity. It is a great way to end your summer, and kick off a new school year. You can connect with old friends and make some new ones in the process!

It takes place from 6:00-9:00 PM every night, starting Monday, August 9 and going through Thursday, August 12. Pick up and drop off will be in the Eaton Hall parking lot off of Stuart Hall Rd. If you have not been to SWAG before, then you will be in for a real treat. The days start with a mini dance party followed by a House competition for points. After the opening there is a series of games, snacks, and messy, messy activities. At the end of the evening we will conclude on the front steps with a small worship and Bible study.

Make sure to register by August 2 for a free t-shirt using the link. Registration link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/TrinityUMC3/SWAGRegistration2021>

We are also asking for people to sign-up and volunteer to bring in snacks and drinks for our students to have throughout SWAG. You can sign-up using the link below. Thank you for your help!

Snack and Drinks sign-up  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44a8a72aa2fdc16-swag>

## Got Rhythm?

If you sing or play a musical instrument; if you love great music, both ancient and modern; if you appreciate timeless hymns and spiritual songs as well as fresh expressions of worship and song; your spirit might just find a musical home on Trinity's Modern Worship Team.

Our Modern Worship Team is a rotating ensemble of musicians and singers who lead us in song Sunday mornings at 9:00. Whether you play the drums or the violin, the clarinet or the bass, the piano or the guitar, there's always space on our team for musicians and singers with heart.

To learn more, please email Aaron Miller at [amiller@trinityumc.net](mailto:amiller@trinityumc.net).



## TECH-SAVVY?

Join Trinity's A/V Team!

[trinityumc.net/news/tech](http://trinityumc.net/news/tech)

## Tech-savvy?

*Does technology interest you? Are you looking for a practical way to make a difference? Do you want to help Trinity thrive?* Please consider

joining our Audio/Visual Technology Team (A/V Team).

Our live sound and video technology has advanced considerably in the past year, taking on a more central role in our worship ministry. Accordingly, **a new and urgent need** to build a strong team of volunteers to operate our sound and video equipment in worship has presented itself.

There are three distinct roles to play on the A/V Team during a Sunday service:

- Sound Tech (operates soundboard)
- Video Tech (operates cameras and video switcher)
- Visual Tech (operates the slideshow and cues videos and other media from computer)

Tech-savvy individuals—with or without A/V experience—please consider joining this unique ministry team. All necessary training will be provided, and a flexible scheduling rotation will be implemented.

To volunteer or to learn more, please email Aaron Miller ([amiller@trinityumc.net](mailto:amiller@trinityumc.net)).



## Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic

It is that time of year for our annual campaign to help support the Mattaponi Eagle Healing Clinic.

Last year the congregation of Trinity Methodist Church helped in collecting a large amount of supplies that included both medical and personal hygiene items for the Mattaponi Eagle Healing Clinic. These contributions helped sustain services to native Americans of the Mattaponi, Upper Mattaponi, Pamunkey and Chickahominy tribes in Eastern and Central Virginia. Diane Richardson, who is the coordinator of Indian affairs, was extremely thankful for our support particularly during these difficult COVID times.

This year, Diane is asking for monetary donations because she is short of staff and the volunteers needed to handle the logistics of storage and distribution of medical and other supplies. The Eagle Clinic has made an arrangement with a local Mechanicsville drug store program that they provide medical supplies, including prescriptions, on a more targeted and effective manner.

The Eagle Healing Clinic still has doctors and nurses administer patient care on an as needed basis. Your contributions will help support these efforts by providing the necessary medical supplies.

If you would like to make a monetary donation—make a check out to Trinity United Methodist Church and put in the memo line The Mattaponi Eagle Healing Clinic. Send to the attention of Trinity's Financial Secretary, Diane Ladd. Also, it is possible to donate on-line via Trinity's website.

Trinity has been supporting the clinic for over ten years. Each year, 200 people are impacted by your generosity. This year's campaign will end August 22. Any questions, please reach out to Tom Askew: [taskew47@comcast.net](mailto:taskew47@comcast.net).

## New Shoes for Back to School 2021

New Shoes for Back to School is a ministry carried out by a group called the Metropolitan Partnership of Churches/Synagogue. This year, the coalition is made of 8 churches (including Trinity) plus one synagogue. The group provides new shoes to K-12 schoolchildren in underserved communities in the metro Richmond area. This is the fourth year that Trinity has been a part of this ministry.

Last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Shoes Ministry went to a “Plan B” that was so successful the group decided to proceed in the same way again. Instead of one distribution day open to the public, the organizers have reached out directly to area Title 1 schools. Each church/synagogue will again provide shoes directly to their assigned schools during the first half of September.

There are three ways you can help:

1. **Stay tuned for more details**, including sizes and numbers of shoes needed. You can purchase and drop them by the Welcome Center or you can order shoes online from your favorite store and have them delivered to Trinity.
2. **Consider making a financial gift.** This allows organizers to be efficient in purchasing shoes (often they are needed for older students). Please specify “New Shoes Ministry” with your donation.
3. **Keep the New Shoes for Back to School Ministry in your prayers.** The lead organizer is Third Street Bethel A.M.E., a church founded circa 1850 that shares a history with Trinity UMC. This is a great way to recognize and continue that important relationship.

If you have questions, please email Beth Monroe at [beth-monr@gmail.com](mailto:beth-monr@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Apple Angel Tree



The Angel Apple Tree is back again this year! Apples for supplies for the Teachers of Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School are now available. We want ALL of

Trinity to have the opportunity to participate in this project, so we have split our apples into **in-person apples** and **digital apples**.

### In-Person Apples

If you worship **in person** at Trinity or **are able to come** to Trinity, we invite you to choose an **in-person apple from the display board at Trinity**, leaving the digital apples for those who are unable to be in-person at this time.

### Digital Apples

If you are a member of our **virtual congregation** or are **unable to get to Trinity in person**, we hope that you will select a **Digital Apple**.

### Delivering the Supplies

If **bringing the items to Trinity**, please double bag items in paper bags with handles. Attach a list of items to the outside of the bag. **Deliver to the rear of Trinity Hall by Sunday, August 29.**

If **having the items shipped**, have them delivered to Trinity UMC at 903 Forest Ave. Richmond, VA 23229 and marked “Oak Grove Supplies.” Items should be delivered **by Friday, August 27.**

### Financial Donations

If you would prefer to make a financial donation to the Apple Angel Tree you can do that via check (memo: Oak Grove Apple Tree) or via ACS (choose “Back to School Supplies”).

### What is the Apple Angel Tree?

Trinity has partnered with Oak Grove through the Micah Initiative for the past 15 years, and one of our most popular projects has been to provide school supplies. Over 50 Trinity families participate in this effort each year.

During the spring, we meet with the lead teachers for all grade levels at Oak Grove and come up with a list of much-needed items. There are about 125 apples on our tree for the upcoming school year. If you have questions, contact Karen Adams at 804-270-9869 or at [kmadams1711@earthlink.net](mailto:kmadams1711@earthlink.net). Thanks for all your support!

## Scouting News

As Troop 799 prepare their backpacks, swim trunks, and boots for summer camp, they look back on some very busy weeks, and look forward to some exciting end of the summer events.

### What we've done:

- Music Merit badge hosted at Trinity with local music celebrities and some Rhythmic Basketball.
- Constructed a 30' bridge for Bandy Field Nature Park - working towards a Conservation Good Turn award.
- Astronomy Merit badge onsite at Bandy Field

### What we are going to do:

- Summer camp at T. Brady Saunder in Goochland
- Golf Merit Badge hosted at First Tee Richmond
- Environmental Science Merit Badge at Deep Run Park
- Back-To-School welcome back to Scouting recruitment

We are excited about starting a new Scouting year, and invite you to learn more about Scouting opportunities at Trinity from grades K-12 (Cubs to Scouts). Visit our website at Troop799.org, Pack799.com or contact any of our leaders.



## Thank You Notes

I want to thank the staff and members of Trinity for the prayers during my recent illness. It is comforting to have such a supportive church family.

**Bill Bare**

Dear Trinity Family

Thank you for the cards, emails and prayers due my recent diagnosis and starting treatments. A special thank you to the McClure Bible Study class and the Stitchers for the prayer quilt. It is a blessing to be a part of the Trinity faith community.

Sincerely,

**Callie Stuart**

When we first came to America on December 16, 2004, our son Muktar went to the Trinity PreSchool right away. He learned a lot, and all my six kids went to the Trinity PreSchool. People were so nice to them.

Carole Smith, Mary Jones, and later Katie Swartz the PreSchool Directors, were wonderful and helped me so much. I consider them part of my family. Carole Smith always greeted me with a big smile, Mary would encourage me with everything, and Katie helped me with paperwork.

In the fall, Muktar will begin at VCU studying Business, Halima who just graduated from DS Freeman will study Graphic Design at J Sargeant Reynolds, Amina will be a Junior and Hawa a Sophomore at Douglas Freeman, Ibram will be in 4th grade, and Yusuf in Kindergarten at Ridge.

We learned that just before our arrival in 2016, several men in the 7 am Pastor's Bible Study insisted that the best possible use of money would be to insure that the children could attend Trinity's PreSchool. They got the ball rolling, and over the years many, many people contributed and our family contributed what we could.

We want to say a big thank you to Trinity.

**Isnina & Hassan and Family**



**Newsletter DEADLINE** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, August 16 at 4 PM for events taking place in September.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, [ktingler@trinityumc.net](mailto:ktingler@trinityumc.net).