

# The Trinity Window

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

December 2022

## Pastor's Corner



<sup>26</sup> When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. Luke 1:26-29

I imagine if we experienced an angel, our response might be similar to Mary's: confused and wondering. How often does God ask us to do things that might confuse us? As for me, I am often left wondering. We know how this story goes. The angel, God's very messenger, gives Mary just enough information that she is able to accept what is coming. As a matter of fact, the prose from Mary we have recorded in Luke 1:46-55 is one of the most beautiful passages in all of Scripture, beginning with "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my Savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me."

How amazing is this! God asks a big ask and Mary's response is "the mighty one has done great things for me." She is excited to live out God's plan for her life. She chooses to follow. She chooses, not knowing all that choosing will mean. This choice requires complete trust in God.

My hope for us, beginning this holiday season, is that we learn to trust more and say yes to God's plans even when we don't know how it will all work out. Let our exclamation every day be like that of Mary, especially as we become immersed in this season of celebration. The Lord has done mighty things... for me... for you... for us. I believe we can celebrate God's work every day because there is much to celebrate. The more we can proclaim God's work in our lives in ways the world sees, the more others want to join us in that celebration.

Even as we wonder what God has for us and are even confused by God's plans, let us celebrate the mighty things God has done, is doing, and has yet to do. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

## Advent Jubilee Sunday Evenings 5-7 PM

Our Advent Jubilee will feature 3 more weeks of being together for a meal and activities, all beginning at 5 PM. All activities are family-friendly and we encourage you to bring friends and neighbors with you as well.

### Week 2, December 4

"Mission Madness" gives us the opportunity to meet and interact with the wide variety of mission organizations and projects that Trinity supports. See what your generosity does and how you may be able to engage even further in the future. This meal will be provided. Please come and discover mission together.

### Week 3, December 11

"Double Take": A Christmas Pageant as told by Matthew AND Luke. This is a humorous telling of both of the birth narratives found in Scripture. Hear the stories as told and performed by our own Trinity members. We will have our meal via covered-dish, so bring something to share and we will enjoy together.

### Week 4, December 18

"Christmas Carol Karaoke" will give you and your friends the chance to be the stars of the show as we sing our favorite Christmas songs together. A fun evening for everyone to get us in just the right mood for Christmas! This last week will also be by covered-dish, so bring your favorite to share as we celebrate at table before singing.

## Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate Christ's birth at Trinity. We will have four worship services on Saturday, December 24, for you and your family.

**4:00 PM** Family Service with Kids' Interactive (and unrehearsed) Christmas Pageant.

We are so excited to share with you a reimagined Christmas pageant that focuses on telling the Christmas story using kits that will be provided and all voices singing our favorite Christmas carols! The pageant will take place during the 4 PM Christmas Eve Family Service in the sanctuary.

**6:00 PM** Modern Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))

During our 6:00 Christmas Eve service, we will sing carols led by our modern worship band, share Communion, and celebrate the joy and peace Christ brings. Our service will culminate in a traditional candlelight vigil. We hope you and your family will join us for this most meaningful celebration!

**8:00 PM** Christmas Eve worship service (also [online](#))

A traditional format service featuring a mini Lessons and Carols, special Christmas Communion, and Candlelight vigil. Come celebrate together this meaningful celebration of this most holy night.

**11:00 PM** Christmas Eve worship service

A traditional Christmas Eve worship service. This late night service is a more intimate format, featuring Christmas music, a special Christmas Communion, and candlelight vigil. Come, celebrate, as we bring in Christmas Day together.



### Blue Christmas Service A Service of Hope and Healing

Trinity will hold the Blue Christmas Service on **December 7** at 6:00 PM in the chapel.

This service is designed for those who have struggled with the death of a loved one, faced life after divorce or separation, coped with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease. This service will be reflective, accepting where we are, and holding out healing and hope. We join together to acknowledge what we have lost and to remember Jesus' promise, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" in this time of challenges. All are welcome!

This service will be recorded and uploaded to watch later.

## community CONVERSATIONS



We are pleased to announce the following guests for the remainder of our 2022-23 season:

- **December 6** Local musicians Susan Greenbaum and Chris Parker
- **January 10** Chris Coates, Executive Editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch
- **February 7** Chip Jones, author of the book—The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant
- **March 14** Dr. Robert Winn, Director VCU Massey Cancer Center
- **April 18** Christy Coleman, Executive Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
- **May 9** Jack Berry, President Richmond Region Tourism

All programs are held on Tuesdays starting at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. We hope you will join us to learn about our community.

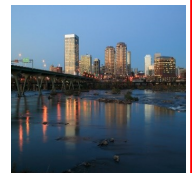


### Young at Heart Events

**Tuesday, December 6** The Freeman High School Chorus will present their

Christmas Program in our sanctuary, 2 – 3:30 PM. Please bring a Christmas treat to share!

**Tuesday, January 17** All Things Richmond with Jack Berry. Come hear our own Jack Berry share with us the latest trends about town! 2 – 3:30 PM in the Welcome Center



**Sunday, February 19** 2-3:30 PM. Concert by The Virginians Barbershop Chorus! Come and listen to one of the best vocal groups in central Virginia! A love offering will be taken to help with their expenses.



## Cedarfield Celebration

Everyone is welcome to join us on **Tuesday, December 13, 3:30-4:30 PM** in Cedarfield's Fellowship Hall for our quarterly celebration!

We love spending time with our Cedarfield residents, but everyone is welcome!!! On December 13 we will have a Christmas program, highlighting music from this most special season. If you can participate on December 13, contact Carol Wampler ([carolwampler@msn.com](mailto:carolwampler@msn.com)) or John Taylor ([jaydeetay@verizon.net](mailto:jaydeetay@verizon.net)). We hope to see you there!

## Farewell to Bishop Lewis

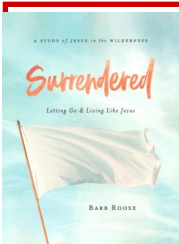
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis will be ending her episcopal tenure in the Virginia Conference and beginning as the episcopal leader for the Mississippi Conference effective January 1, 2023.

Virginia Conference members will have the opportunity to show appreciation and bid Bishop Lewis farewell at a conference-wide reception at Good Shepherd UMC (9155 Hungary Rd, Henrico, VA 23294) on **Saturday, December 10**, from 12 to 3 PM.

All are invited to attend at any time during the event. Light refreshments will be provided.

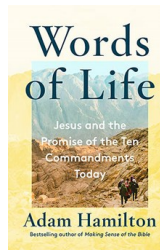
For those who wish to share a gift with Bishop Lewis, you are asked to donate in her name either to the Bishop's Foundation or to the Virginia Annual Conference Mission (Serving Response) Fund. Mail donations to Virginia United Methodist Conference, Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

To share notes of appreciation, mail a letter to Bishop Sharma Lewis at P.O. Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5606.



## Monday Morning Bible Study

The 9:30 AM Monday morning Bible Study will begin a new study on **January 23. Surrendered: Letting Go and Living Like Jesus** by Barb Roose is a 6-week video/discussion study. Our class meets from 9:30 – 11:00 AM on Monday mornings in Room 324. If you are interested in participating, contact Deanna McCullough ([deanna6mccullough@gmail.com](mailto:deanna6mccullough@gmail.com)) and purchase your participant workbook from Amazon.com. We would love for you to join us!



## 3M to Study "Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton

Our Wednesday Night Study Group, 3M, will study "Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton beginning **Wednesday, January 4**. In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history – the Ten Commandments. Adam considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt."

This 10-week study will go through Wednesday, March 15 (skipping February 22, Ash Wednesday). Our class meets 6-7:30 PM both in person and on Zoom.

Book are available through Cokesbury for \$18.29. Contact Judy Oguich to register and to get the Zoom link.

We would love for you to join us!

## Contemporary Class

Matthew King will be speaking to the Contemporary Class on January 22 and 29. Ensign Matthew King is an active-duty intelligence officer in the United States Navy. Matthew is a member of Trinity as is mother Susan King and his grandparents were members of Trinity as well, George and Frankie King.

The Contemporary Class would like to extend an invitation to the rest of the church to join them in Trinity Hall to hear Matthew speak. Matthew's topics are:  
**January 22:** "Joining the Navy in the 2020s"  
**January 29:** "The Strategic Thought of Henry Kissinger"

This church-wide event will take place from 10-11 AM.

## Announcing the Return of Pub Theology!

Mark your calendars for the return of Pub Theology on **Tuesday, January 31**, at Kindred Spirit Brewing in Goochland County, Virginia. We will be using the brewery's community room for our gathering. The brewery is located at 12830 West Creek Pkwy, Ste J, Goochland. Start time will be 6 PM. More details to follow in the January edition of The Window.



# TRINITY Kids

What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

Kids Discipleship at 10am



Kids Discipleship during the 10am hour occurs in these locations:

- Nursery: Birth – 3 year olds
- Room 208: 4 & 5 year olds
- Room 302/304: Elementary schoolers

**This is what we are learning about in November:**

Why are there so many Christmas songs about angels? Because angels show up all throughout the Christmas story with great news! In this four-week series, kids will explore the foundational stories of Jesus' birth with a focus on the angels who were there to witness them! From the city where Jesus was born, to the cities we live in today, the angels' message is just as important now as it was then! Jesus is God's plan, calms our fears, makes everything new, and is God's love for everyone.

## TRANSIT

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Transit had a great fall season! We will return in January! Here are some pictures of our last time together!



## FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

Have you picked up a Family Advent Calendar to use for this Advent season? They are in the Welcome Center and can be picked up at any time! Won't be able to come by Trinity this week to pick one up? Reach out to Jen if you would like for her to stick one in the mail for your family!



Our pageant will take place during our 4pm Christmas Eve service! When kids arrive at church for the service, they can choose which character they would like to be (shepherd, angel, or animal) and we will have costumes available for them to wear! Kids will sit with their family until they are called forward to participate!

## Serve Updates



### Angel Tree at Central UMC

Hillary Coakley and Sarah Shutt are coordinating Angel Tree for the children at Central UMC who participate in Kids Club. It's not too late to get an angel and buy a gift! All Angel Tree gifts would be due back at Trinity by Friday, December 16.

### Flood Buckets, Food Pantries, Thanksgiving Meal Bags, and Central UMC

As you are well aware, our neighborhoods and communities have multiple needs. During the last year, Trinity members have helped many in the Richmond area and beyond by donating cleaning supplies, food, and Christmas gifts. Working behind the scenes with the flood buckets was Jo Lewis, with the Thanksgiving bags, Karen Adams, and with the gifts for the children at Central UMC, Hilary Coakley and Sarah Shutt. If you see these kind folks around the church, please take the time to thank them!

### Christmas Gift Buying Reminder

If you shop on Amazon, customers can designate a portion of the dollars they spend be donated to charity via AmazonSmile. Clearly, there are many charities available to choose from, but there are also churches and one is Trinity UMC. Please consider designating Trinity as you do your shopping on Amazon.

### Kroger Community Rewards Program

Trinity has now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. It works when people participate by visiting <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into their Kroger account, they can search for Trinity UMC by name or by EN259 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card. Please consider participating in this new program.

## A Pumpkin Thanks

From the day the first pumpkins arrived until the last pumpkin was claimed, it takes lots of people to make the pumpkin patch a success. Thanks to all of the volunteers, and a special thanks to Jim Crowder, Mike Estes, Jeff Given, and Steve Schmitt for their timely help.



## A Veterans Thank You

A special thank you to the Outreach Class, Dr. Steve Anders, and everyone who attended our Veterans program on Sunday, November 13. We appreciate the preparation the Outreach Class did in coordinating the program with the church staff. Additionally, military historian, Dr. Steve Anders, was outstanding in presenting an insider's view of his service to our military. Finally, we want to thank Trinity member, Don Floyd, for beautifully playing "Taps" in honor of the Veterans who passed during the last year.

## Church Chores

If you have the time and want to assist with some church chores, please contact Bill Pike via email: [bpik@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpik@trinityumc.net).





### Christmas Town

Trinity Students are headed to Busch Gardens Christmas Town in Williamsburg on **Monday, December 20**. We will meet at Trinity UMC at 1:00 PM  
 Cost for tickets: \$55

Already have a ticket/pass? Please indicate so on our form. Please contribute \$7 for bus expenses. Also, have youth bring money for meals and any spending money they require.

Registration deadline is December 18. Register at <https://www.cognitofrms.com/TrinityUMC3/TrinityStudentsAtChristmasTownBuschGardens2022>

### Save the Date


Mark your calendars to join us on **Sunday, January 22** for a multigenerational event. It will be a covered dish dinner and a game night. More information will be in the January issue of the Window.



### Calendar Year-end Contributions

IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2022 **or** postmarked by December 31, 2022 may be counted as 2022 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. Thus, if someone hand carries a check to the church on January 3, 2023 that is dated December 31, 2022 it is a **2023** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 3, 2023 and it is postmarked December 31, 2022 and the check is dated December 31, 2022 or before, it is a **2022** gift.

Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 30, 2022. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6056.



### 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. Questions, contact Bill Pike [bpik@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpik@trinityumc.net)

### United Methodist Day at the General Assembly

UM Day at the General Assembly is happening on January 26.

If you aren't familiar with this event we'd love to tell you all about it! Faithful Virginia United Methodists from across our great Commonwealth have gathered in Richmond in January for over 30 years to advocate for our neighbors. When we gather together we arrange visits with our Senators to discuss issues that are relevant to our faith with direction from our friends and partners at Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

You can learn more about the event and our schedule on the [VAUMC website](#).

Registration is \$25 for early registration and \$10 for students. We can't wait to see you in Richmond!



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Service Day in Trinity Hall  
December 13 from 9-12**

**Program** – Christmas story and caroling led by Peggy Hart

**From Trinity UWF President**

Dear Trinity Women,

Thanks to you all for making our 2022 Harvest Day a big success. Nancy Owen and Teresa Cross did an amazing job of pulling it all together. Over \$2,000 will be given to our Food Bank partners. If you missed the big day, you can still give by writing a check to Trinity UMW/Harvest Day and put it in our Treasurer's box in the office by 11:45 AM on Dec. 11 or mail to Shari Adams to be received by Dec. 10 (yes, checks still go to our UMW account). Checks will be presented to the recipients at Service Day.

Now preparations are being made for our December Service Day. All are invited to share in the fellowship around the tables as we assemble items to help the various groups we support (see below). Feel free to bring some of the overflow of your Christmas baking or a bottle of juice/apple cider to share. We will have coffee!

At this season of Advent, we celebrate our Living and soon-coming Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. We thank Him that we have been so blessed that we can be a blessing to others.

His love and mine, Jo

**Thanks!**

Thanks for the generous outpouring of support for the UMCOR cleaning buckets – 41! – and the offering for the United Methodist Family Services Stockings for the residential students. We collected \$585 for items to stuff the stockings for these precious kids. We have been blessed to be a blessing.

**Save the Date:**

**Paul and the Corinthian Church  
Dr. James McCullough  
January 10, 2023 at 10 AM**

**Projects**

- Stockings for UMFS Residents – led by Kate Ockerman
- Stockings for the Hermitage Residents – led by Nancy Miller & Judy Putnam
- Sherbourne UMC Christmas Poppers – Circle 10
- Christmas centerpieces for various recipients – led by Bonnie Andrews (need help with delivery)
- Birthday cards for Oakgrove ES Students – Circle 1 led by Stacy Campbell
- Cookie treats for groups meeting at Trinity – Circle 6 led by Jo Lewis
- Wellness Bags for MHEC – led by Tom Askew
- Mini Holiday Loaves for Oakgrove ES – packing led by Karen Adams & Pam Carnahan
- Coloring Books for Sherbourne UMC – Circle 4
- Candy Cane Mice for Food Pantries – Circle 11
- Felt dove ornaments – led by Gail Clelland and Trinity Stitchers



**Circle News**

**Circle 1** – We had a nice group attend Harvest Day, including a long-distance member, Mary Hetzel. We will gather to work projects on Service Day and have our Christmas Brunch at the home of Stacy Campbell on Dec. 20 at 9:30 AM.

**Circle 4** – Our Christmas meeting and lunch will be at Nick's Roman Terrace on Dec. 1 at 1 PM.

**Circle 5** – We will meet at Service Day to assist with projects as needed.

**Circle 6** – On Dec. 6 at 10:30 AM we will gather for a short meeting and lunch at the Hermitage Country Club.

**Circle 10** – Our Christmas party will be on Dec. 1 at 6 PM at the home of Carolyn Simpson.

**Circle 11** – We will meet on Dec. 6 to make the candy cane mice for Service Day.

## Gifts were received at Trinity.....

In memory of **William Carlton** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Emily Elmore** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Charlotte Forrester** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **John Hamilton** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Betty Henderson** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Carolyn Robinson** for **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of **Mac Elledge** for **The Elledge Bible Fund**

In memory of **Hilda Chiles** for **Louisa United Methodist Church**

In memory of **Robert Daniel** for **United Methodist Committee on Relief**

## Joys and Concerns

### Our sympathies to...

*Brant Verdery whose uncle Pete Verdery died  
November 16*  
*Marie Barrow whose mother-in-law Lola Barrow  
died November 1*  
*Hildie Bottom whose son Carl Bottom died  
November 1*  
*Linda Latimer whose mother-in-law Jeanne White  
died October 28*



## Coffee Ministry

It's a new season and that means a new sign-up for our Coffee Ministry on Sundays. It just takes a couple of people to get things all set up each Sunday. It means a lot to our church members to have that service each week. We appreciate all of your help each week. If you have any questions, contact Mary Beth Utley at [maryb.utley@gmail.com](mailto:maryb.utley@gmail.com). To sign up go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094fa8ab22a5f85-trinity2>

## Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Members,

I cannot thank you enough for all the cards, calls, and food that came our way after my hip surgery. The flowers sent from the altar were lovely and appreciated.

Many thanks to the Trinity Stitchers for the lovely lap quilt! It is gorgeous. I know took lots of handwork and hours! I will treasure it.

Blessings to all of you,  
**Julia Leaman**

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for all the prayers, pocket prayer square and blanket from the Trinity Stitchers, and the altar flowers. These gifts have comforted me during my pneumonia recovery.

It is a blessing to be part of this caring church community.

With gratitude,  
**Brad Dike**

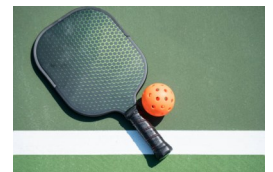
Dear Trinity family,

Thanks so much for the many prayers, emails and cards for the health of my daughter Liz. Your prayers worked...she is cancer-free! I am so grateful for all of you. We are so blessed at Trinity.

With love,  
**Martie Parch**

## Pickleball Update

We are having 8-10 people come out and play. Looking ahead, we are on the calendar for Tuesdays through December 13. On the nights that we play, we are in Trinity Hall from 6-8 PM. We hope you will come out and join us! All ages and abilities are welcome. We have equipment (paddles, balls, nets) so we just need you! If you have questions please email Paul Brooks at [jpaulbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:jpaulbrooks@gmail.com).



NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, December 12 at 4 PM for events taking place in January**. Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, [ktingler@trinityumc.net](mailto:ktingler@trinityumc.net).