



# The Trinity Window

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

February 2023

## Pastor's Corner



<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

1 John 4:7-11

February is the month of love. Why every month isn't is not something I fully understand, for it would solve so many issues! What we, as Christians maintain, however, is an understanding different than the holiday we celebrate this month. The romanticized version of love we see in movies, hear in songs, and see on cards we send this time of year is something special. But that version of love tends to be dependent on feeling and the moment. Love in this sense is also fully dependent on how we see it and even can be reduced to some sort of transactional interchange. Maybe that's why so many relationships "fall in to" and "fall out of" love. Emotional love is the wrong love to base something lasting on.

The alternative is what we see in 1 John. *God is love.* God is the very definition of love. God is also eternal and faithful and sacrificial. Love is, because God first loved us independent of our love in return. Love is Jesus among us, Emmanuel. If we base our lives on this kind of love, we see others differently and are even willing to give up some of our own self for another. We see this kind of love lived out in couples who have been together for many years. We see this giving love lived out in mission work, in special donations, in volunteering, and in so many other ways that I have witnessed first hand here at Trinity. This is the love modeled after God's love for us, and the one we are encouraged to show to each other.

Wouldn't the world be a different place if this is what we saw? Wouldn't we all be safer if we lived with genuine concern and care of each other? This is how we can combat the divisiveness and hate of the world. "Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love each other." Let's be the example, not just for ourselves, but for a hurting world.

Happy February!

Yours in Christ,

## Ash Wednesday



Wear the ancient sign of your faith all day: between **7:30-8:30 AM** on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**, come by Trinity's front doors to receive ashes on your forehead, no need to even get out of your car!

Pastors Brian and Judy will be outside and out front on Trinity's front steps bestowing ashes, and blessings 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 chapel at **12:30 PM** and a worship service in the sanctuary at **7:00 PM**, which will include the imposition of ashes. The 7:00 service will also be livestreamed.



## Young at Heart Events

**Sunday, February 19** – The Virginians Barbershop Chorus – 2 – 3:30 PM, in Trinity Hall, refreshments will be provided, and a love offering will be taken. Let’s fill Trinity Hall to give The Virginians a good audience! Come and bring a friend – or two!



**Tuesday, March 14** Come hear Jim Crowder, Trinity’s Chair of Trustees, and Corey Booker, Trinity’s Chair of Church Council share about the future building projects for Trinity. We will meet in the Welcome Center, 2- 3:30 PM.

Save the Dates:

**Wednesday, April 19** – Trip to Hanover Tavern/ Barksdale Theater for lunch and to see matinee performance of “Oil City Symphony “.

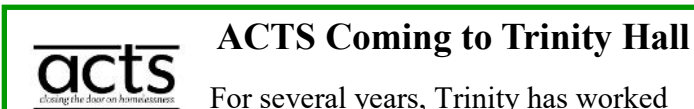
**Tuesday, May 16** Day trip to Gordonsville, Virginia Antique mall, lunch and time to explore this delightful town!



## Pub Theology

On **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**, Pub Theology returns. We will meet at Kindred Spirit Brewing. The brewery is in

Goochland County at 12830 West Creek Pkwy. Ste J. Start time is **6 PM**. The brewery’s community room is reserved for us. The church will order pizza, and we will ask each person in attendance to give \$5.00 to offset the cost. Come for the fellowship and conversation about a topic of interest.



## ACTS Coming to Trinity Hall

For several years, Trinity has worked with the local nonprofit, ACTS. This organization’s mission is to prevent homelessness in our community by providing financial support and community resources to our neighbors who are in a housing crisis.

Kathryn Erhardt and Hana Yan will be with us in Trinity Hall on **Sunday, February 26** from 10-10:50 AM. Their presentation will center upon their work with individuals, families, and referring organizations like Trinity. Kathryn and Hana will also take questions about their work. We hope you will join us.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



## Trinity to Observe Shrove Tuesday with Pancake Supper

Thanks to Trinity’s Outreach Class, Trinity will offer a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, February 21, from 5:30 – 7 PM** in Trinity Hall. Persons can come and go as their schedule allows. A love offering will be taken to help offset costs, any additional will go towards Lenten Easter Mission Offering. .

Now that we got your attention with pancakes, you may be asking

“What is Shrove Tuesday?”

Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent, a day of celebration as well as penitence. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them.

In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shrieving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning “Fat Tuesday”. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

### Now you know!

We hope you will join us on February 21 as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday!!



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

- **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

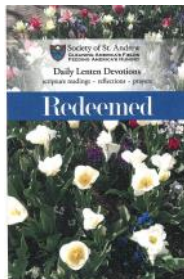
All programs are held on Tuesdays starting at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. We hope you will join us to learn about our community.

## 2023 Lenten Devotional

Regular devotion time is one of the spiritual practices we highly recommend. Whether you use one of our recommended devotions or one you find on your own, we encourage you to take the intentional time to focus, especially during this holy season of Lent.

We recommend **two different options** for your Lenten Devotional this season.

- One option is a daily devotion by Society of St. Andrew, a Virginia-based gleaning and feeding ministry.
- The other is a weekly devotion produced by clergy in the Virginia Conference, including our own Hung Su Lim.



To find the options go to:  
<https://trinityumc.net/lent>

### Lenten Easter Mission Offering: Heart Work

For many years, the Trinity congregation has supported the Lenten Easter Mission Offering (LEMO). Unlike our Advent offering that singularly focuses on assisting United Methodist Family Services, LEMO is an application driven process. Trinity members can apply for a grant on behalf of a nonprofit, or nonprofits in our community can file an application.

In 2022, ten nonprofits completed the application process. The Trinity congregation donated \$15,583.00 to LEMO. Trinity members Betsy Estes, Virginia Rhines, and Bill Pike reviewed the applications. This team worked diligently to ensure that each nonprofit received a portion of the 2022 funding. Local, state, and international organizations benefitted from the congregation's generous hearts.

As we move into the season of Lent, at various times, we will be reminding the congregation about how LEMO donations make a significant difference in the lives of people who are touched by the work from the nonprofits.

It is our hope that your hearts will continue to support the Lenten Easter Mission Offering.

### Be a Greeter

Help make an IMPACT here at Trinity by just smiling and sharing a warm hello! Be a **greeter** before a worship service - it only takes 15 minutes (once a month or for an entire month at a time - the schedule is flexible).

Contact Joey McPhail ([johelen.mcphail@gmail.com](mailto:johelen.mcphail@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving as a greeter. Many thanks to all who have previously served in this important effort.

## Staff Parish Update

For the last several months, Staff Parish has been working on a transition plan for the retirement of our Financial Secretary, Diane Ladd. Diane has already started the orientation and training process for her replacement, Marsha Davis.

After a careful review of the responsibilities of the Financial Secretary, Staff Parish is converting this position from full-time to part-time. Improvements in remote technology have assisted in this conversion.

Diane will work into February assisting Marsha with learning Trinity's systems. During February, Staff Parish will post all information about Marsha's hours and contact information.

Thanks for your time and cooperation.



## Lay Servant Winter Training

Lay Servant Academy's Winter Training takes place **Friday and Saturday, February 17 & 18**. The course schedule features Michael Beck, originator of Fresh Expressions and a leader in cultivating movements.

In addition to this course in Planting Fresh Expressions, additional courses include Fruitful Small Groups, Lay Pastoral Care-Giving, Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, and Certified Lay Ministry Orientation. Courses are offered in person only at Shady Grove UMC Mechanicsville, VA. Registration and additional information can be found using this link: <https://vaumc.org/layservantacademy/>

## You are invited to the Installation Service for the New Bishop

Clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference are invited to attend the Installation Service for **Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson** at Woodlake UMC (15640 Hampton Park Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832) on **Saturday, February 11 at 10:30 AM** with a reception to follow.

The service will be livestreamed; more information about how to watch will follow closer to the date.

## New Shoes for Back to School Ministry

This article was in the Richmond Times Dispatch on January 9, 2023

Rita Willis believes in starting a school year with a brand-new pair of shoes. She keeps that in mind as leader of the **New Shoes for Back to School Ministry**, which has provided more than 96,000 pairs of shoes to underserved K-12 students in Richmond and Chesterfield and Henrico counties.

“It was just something about going to school with a new pair of shoes,” Willis said. “We didn’t care about the outfit, but you had to have those shoes.”

In 2006, Willis was the local president of the Women’s Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The U.S. economy was declining, and Willis spoke with other parishioners and missionaries about helping their communities.

Willis suggested a shoe ministry, citing a Baltimore church that previously tried a similar but short-lived ministry. Through her church, Third Street Bethel A.M.E., Willis started New Shoes, putting up flyers and distributing shoes through the church hall.

Third Street Bethel A.M.E. gave away 710 pairs of shoes during the first year of the program. The number doubled in the second year, according to Willis, and doubled again in the third year. After the third year, Willis lobbied to expand the program to other churches.

“I told the pastor we needed to open this up to other churches,” Willis said. “Because God’s not gonna ask you what denomination did you come from, it’s ‘did you feed my sheep?’”

The expanded church network that Willis leads is the Metropolitan Richmond Partnership of Churches. It is made up of Third Street Bethel A.M.E. as well as Broad Rock Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, First Baptist Midlothian, Lyndale Baptist, Sharon Baptist, Temple Beth-El, Temple of God International Ministries and Trinity United Methodist. Each is part of New Shoes.

“[Rita’s] so humble,” said Beth Monroe, Trinity United Methodist’s liaison for New Shoes. “I think she really wants the rest of the team and the churches to be recognized. She doesn’t want to just be the one person, because she truly sees it as a team.”

Before COVID-19, any student accompanied by an adult could pick up shoes from either of two distribution locations: Third Street Bethel A.M.E. or Southside Community Center. Families came from as far as Dinwiddie, Willis’ hometown.

During the pandemic, the program changed to just include Title I schools, meaning schools with high percentages of low-income families. The structure switched to prearranged distributions between the churches and the school principals each September.

Willis, 72, said people are open to returning to the old system, but it depends on what the church will allow in terms of large gatherings.

New Shoes has gained numerous supporters and partners over the years, including Saxon Shoes, which reached out with its own donations.

“We appreciate what Rita and her group try and do every single year,” said Gary Weiner, president and CEO of Saxon Shoes. “It’s something we look forward to every year just because of the benefit it brings to so many children and the parents that need a little extra help.”

Willis, along with a host of volunteers, always enjoys seeing the joy expressed by the kids as they receive their new shoes.

“As soon as they walk in the door, we want them to feel good,” Willis said. “For the kids, it’s like Christmas morning.”

[tgreen@timesdispatch.com](mailto:tgreen@timesdispatch.com)





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 February:

The internet helps us learn how to do so many things! From new skate tricks and viral recipes to helpful hacks, there's a "how-to" for almost everything. But is there a tutorial video for how to follow God? This four-week series is kind of like that — thanks to some tutorials from Jesus! Each week, we'll focus on one of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as we learn "how to" make a difference, love our enemies, share with others, and pray.



Transit is meeting on February 5 and 26 from 5:00-6:30pm. We meet in the Welcome Center and then head upstairs to room 302/304 for a pizza dinner followed by games and activities. We end with a short devotion. Transit helps 4th and 5th graders grow friendships with each other to help them transition to the student ministry when they enter middle school!

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/2j8wex9n



Parents Night Out is Saturday, February 11 from 5:30-8pm!! This is a popular fundraiser for our Trinity Kids and Student Ministries!

Kids 3 years old (no potty training required) through 5th grade may register! We will have age specific rooms for our preschoolers. Elementary kids (K-5) will be together.

Check-in will be open from 5:30-6:00. A pizza dinner will be provided. Kids should be picked up by 8pm.

Suggested donation is \$15 per child (but larger donations are welcome). Please bring a check or cash when you check in your kids for the evening.

Registration is limited and will close on February 4th (or when the event is full).

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/4ppum555

Volunteers for Parents Night Out are needed (youth and adults!)

Please register here to help us with this fundraiser:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849a9ab2ea4fb6-parents1#/



United  
Women  
in Faith

**From Trinity UWF President**

Dear Trinity Women,

We were inspired by Jim McCullough's wisdom and insight into Corinth and the Corinthians at our January meeting. Jim shared that he felt like he really knew Paul from all his studies.

We have another great program planned for February 14<sup>th</sup> – see the information below. Come out and share the fellowship and some Valentine goodies as well.

I encourage you all to go to our website and check out all the upcoming events and to also check out the list of items for the hygiene kits for girls and women on the UMCOR website [Relief Supplies - Global Ministries \(umcmission.org\)](http://www.umcmission.org).

Peace and love, Jo

**Save the Dates:**



**February 14  
10 AM in room 324**

The program will be a presentation about Heart Havens, an agency that provides residential support to adults with developmental disabilities. Jennifer Boyden, Chief Executive Officer, and Rebecca Huff, Chief Operations Officer, for the agency will be here to speak about its mission and answer any questions that may arise.

**Call to Prayer and Self-Denial  
March 14  
10 AM**

The offering received this day will support the ongoing racial justice work of United Women in Faith's national office, such as the campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

**Circle News**

**Circle 1** – On February 21 we meet in room 323 at 9:30 for a Sole Hope Shoe Party - preparing shoes for children in Uganda dealing with jiggers.

**Circle 4** – We will meet February 2 at 11 AM in room 323. Nancy Lott will lead a discussion of Catherine Marshall’s *The Helper*. We will also work on our Valentine’s Day project.

**Circle 6** – We will meet on February 7 at 10 AM in room 319. Anna Schoenenberger will lead us in making valentines for those who have lost spouses

**Circle 10** – we will meet Feb. 2 at 7 PM at the home of Bana Caskey. Beth Vann-Turnbull from Housing Families First will be the guest speaker.

**Three Notch’d District  
United Women in Faith  
Upcoming Events**

**Charter for Racial Justice Committee presents  
Hearts for Environmental Justice Program  
Saturday, February 25  
10:00 – 12:00 noon**



Guest Speakers from  
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL)  
ZOOM only – more information to follow

**Lenten Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday, March 11, 2023**

First United Methodist Church  
101 E. Jefferson St. Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Worship leader and Speaker: Rev. Alex Joyner  
Registration and Breakfast 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am- 12:00 pm  
Cost \$5 to cover meal

Registration information will be sent out to the Circles for both district events.

## Care for God's Creation Recycle Electronics Responsibly!

Did you get new stuff for Christmas and now have redundant/old/broken electronics that are cluttering up your space? Do not throw them away – recycle!

CVWMA contracts with Securis to hold an electronics recycling event on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. This event is open to all residents of central Virginia.

When: February 4 or March 4, 10 AM-2 PM

Where: 8419 Glazebrook Ave., Henrico  
Near E Parham & Staples Mill Rd

What to recycle: computers, telephones, gaming systems, cables & more.

Fees will apply for these: anything with a hard drive, CRT or LCD TVs or monitors, some printers

Not accepted: alkaline batteries, light bulbs, anything that has mercury. Check the website for the complete list: <https://securis.com/fees-accepted-itms-for-richmond-electronics-recycling-event/>

Since 2006, more than 5.6 million pounds of electronic waste has been recycled through CVWMA's program.

The average American uses 28 electronic devices, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. Most of these devices contain dangerous heavy metals, including lead, silver, barium, cadmium, chromium and mercury. Electronics that go to a landfill or end up in the environment could contaminate soil, water or air. Invest the time to dispose of these responsibly!



## Volunteering in our Community

The Virginia Annual Conference depends upon churches to send in a variety of year end reports. These reports cover a wide range of activities and apply to every age group.

In 2023, churches in the conference will be required to report these data/statistics on a more frequent basis. For example, we know that members of our congregation volunteer at multiple nonprofits and schools across the Richmond area. Now, we are going to need your help in documenting when you volunteer.

We are going to keep this simple by using a software program that will allow you to sign in and provide the following information: your name, the name of the organization, and the number of days you volunteer per month. To enter: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/TrinityUMC3/CommunityVolunteer>

If you have questions about this request, please email Bill Pike: [bpiketrinityumc.net](mailto:bpiketrinityumc.net).  
Thanks for your time and cooperation.



## 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 [bpiketrinityumc.net](mailto:bpiketrinityumc.net)



## Summer 2023 Mission Trip

For our 2023 summer mission trip, we're heading to Hinton Rural Life Center, in Hayesville, NC. This is a multi-generational trip designed to include our students as well as families and individuals who want to come along.

Hinton is a retreat center, but also a mission agency, with year-round opportunities for individual volunteers and mission teams to work with us and "alongside" our neighbors in Safe and Healthy Home Repair ministry. Other service options include our firewood ministry and Ervin Sanctuary Gardens & Trails. With its outreach focus, Hinton seeks to enhance the long-term quality of life in our rural area. And, Hinton guests "pay it forward," as our lodging revenues help support our community outreach programs.

Hinton is a United Methodist agency, and we welcome all — all individuals, all faith traditions, and non-faith-based groups seeking to meet, retreat, and serve in a spirit of acceptance and mutual respect. We invite you to experience Hinton Center hospitality and to become a part of our community through your stay and/or service.

We're looking at June 25-29. The cost is \$395/person, but scholarships and assistance are available upon request. This fee covers all meals, project supplies, lodging, and devotional booklet. Worship and programming are led by Hinton staff and includes Appalachian Culture Night, Poverty awareness activities, group devotional times, worship services, and more.

Interested in signing up? Need more information?  
<https://www.trinityumc.net/summer-missions-2023/>

## Thank You Notes

Thank you, Trinity, for your support for the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic.

For our most recent visit, we took 14 wellness bags filled with cold and flu items to the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic on December 14, 2022. This was an additional mission that was set up by Jo Lewis and the United Methodist' women's group. The clinic would not have the resources to continue to provide the level of service without our help. Know that your donations have made a difference in the lives of Native Americans in Virginia through the Clinic.

Trinity's support of the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic started in 2008 by Janet Somerville and is now headed up by Trinity member Tom Askew. We have held an annual fund raising event every year. This Last year the monetary donations were in excess of \$4,000.

If you want to be a part of this ministry, you can donate by going to the Trinity website and clicking on the dropdown menu for the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic. Most of the Virginia Native Americans either do not have health insurance or are under-insured. Your donations help to provide Over The Counter (OTC) medicines, medical supplies, prescriptions and vaccines.

The picture is from the latest visit with wellness bags. Pictured: Rear Tom Askew and his son Mark, Front left to right Cathey Hess (Helper), Connie Lovelace (Clinic RN) and Diane Garrison (Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic President)



## Coffee Ministry



There is a new sign-up for 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 and guests 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: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094fa8ab22a5f85-trinity3>

## Joys and Concerns

### Our sympathies to...

*George Norris whose sister Rachel McClelland died January 9*

*The family of Ross Hotchkiss who died December 25  
Brian Siegle whose aunt Betty Lou Stark died December 24*

*Polly Lantz whose sister died December 24  
Manya Saunders whose father-in-law Charles Saunders died December 16*

*The family of Fred Dabney who died December 12*



## Invasive Ivy

In assorted sections of our church grounds, we have some invasive ivy intruding. This is in some landscaped borders and the trunks of

trees. Before the arrival of Spring, we would like to clear the ivy from our borders and our tree trunks. If you have some free time for this project, please contact Bill Pike via email: [bpike@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpike@trinityumc.net).

## Trinity's Team to Honduras



NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, February 13 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 to Kim Tingler, [ktingler@trinityumc.net](mailto:ktingler@trinityumc.net).