

# The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229  
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July 2023

## Pastor's Corner



3 Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me;  
suddenly the Lord whom you are seeking will come to his temple.  
The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,  
says the Lord of heavenly forces.

2 Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap.

3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

He will purify the Levites

and refine them like gold and silver.

They will belong to the Lord,

presenting a righteous offering.

*Malachi 3:1-3*

It's July, a special month for us in the United States. It's the month that we celebrate the beginning of our country, our independence from an overseeing, occupying power. In "America the Beautiful," that beautiful hymn written by Katherine Lee Bates, the text celebrates much of what makes America beautiful and special to many of us. But tucked into the end of the second verse are these words, "America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine." And then in the third verse, "America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law." Ms. Bates knew that any country worth celebrating also must have the humbleness to recognize its own faults and ask God, the Divine Ruler of the Universe, for help in becoming better. Moving toward God's direction is better.

I fear that our country has lost some of that challenge and embraced the spirit of shedding the controlling power to an extreme. We have stopped asking for divine guidance. Our quest for independence has become absolute, even to the point that laws are subject to personal analysis if they apply to oneself. As a society, we have come to believe that the individual self is most important, sometimes to the detriment of the greater good. Individual effort is applauded over communal greatness. Our churches have fallen prey to this, too. The beauty of a large successful church such as Trinity is the amount of impact that we can have in the lives of those who come and the wider world. The danger of a large, successful church such as Trinity is that it becomes very easy to think we did something on our own. We did and do great things, but the best we do is when we can pause, reflect, ask God for guidance, and shift in the direction God leads. This is God's work, and we get to be part of it. It is, and never has been, about us. This is a difficult mindset to manifest and manage in our hyper-individualized self-dependent culture. It takes all of us holding each one accountable; it takes much prayer.

My prayer for our country, and Trinity United Methodist Church, is that "God mend thine every flaw," that we may be refined and cleansed as the prophet Malachi said, and that we are willing and able to let God do it. No person, no organization, no country, is perfect. Let our humility to God be greater than our hubris of a self-help, individualized culture. We are, indeed, better together, and even better when we let God lead – especially if that's in some new previously unimagined direction. Are we listening?

Yours in Christ,

Hello Trinity!

I hope all of you are well today, and enjoying the beginning of Summer. In just a few days, I will be joining you as your Associate Pastor.

Beginning something new is a strange thing. There is often so much excitement in the air, as all the good things that might happen float tantalizingly in front of us. There is also a sense of anticipation, as we get to know each other and begin to share life together. Beginnings are both invigorating and challenging. The same could, of course, be said of endings. As Hung Su departs from Trinity, I look forward to joining you in honoring his ministry, and allowing his efforts to launch us forward into this new future.

As I look ahead, I'm drawn to a single word, one that encapsulates well what it means to be a church family. That word is "together." God has called us to pray together, worship together, serve together, rejoice together, and, when necessary, grieve together. Being together means that we share our gifts and graces, and that we support each other when we fall short. And it means that we allow a spirit of love to guide our interactions and our life together.

In the coming months, I look forward to being together with all of you, to learning about what your passions are, and seeing how God has been at work in your lives. And I look forward to sharing in ministry together, to growing together, and to watching God's work unfold around us together. Beginnings are hard, but in God's hands, amazing things can happen at any time. And I believe in all my heart that amazing things are in store for us.

May we give thanks for that which has come before. May we look ahead with excitement for that which lies ahead. And today, may we give thanks together for our ever faithful God, who is with us in all places and times. I can't wait to meet you soon!

Blessings,

Daniel



## Welcome to Daniel

On **Sunday, July 9**, we will welcome Daniel Guenther to Trinity. A reception will be held in the Welcome Center at 10:00 AM. We hope you will join us in this welcoming.

### Upcoming Events



**Wednesday, July 12** 2 - 3:30 PM

"Coins from the Bible" presented by Mike Beall  
Join us as we "follow the money" - we will view and discuss ancient coins that tell the story of important events in Christian and Jewish history. Coinage of the Persian Empire, the empire of Alexander the Great, the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires, the Roman Empire, and of course Judaea itself gives us insight into the people and forces that molded these two important religions. Mike Beall will share parts of a collection assembled over the past 12 years. We will meet in Trinity Hall and of course, have refreshments!

**Wednesday, August 23**

**New Date and Show!**  
11:15 AM – 4:30 PM



Join us as we go to Hanover Tavern/Barksdale Theater for lunch and then to see the matinee performance of "Honky Tonk Laundry". Cost is \$45 for the show, lunch is paid on your own.

*"Move over, Thelma and Louise! When Lana Mae Hopkins, owner and proprietress of the Wishy Washy Washateria, hires Katie to help out in the laundromat, they soon find themselves up to their elbows in soap, suds, and cheatin' hearts. Watch these two country angels join forces to turn their good ol' laundromat into a bootscootin' honky-tonk and exact a touch of revenge against those that done 'em wrong, all while guaranteeing every customer a good, clean time!*

**Reservation deadline: Sunday, August 13.**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 8 AM – 5 PM**

Day trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.! We will travel by chartered bus, limited to 55 people. Cost of bus and museum will be \$50. Lunch is on your own at the museum. Friends and family are welcome to join us !! A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is due at registration. You can pay the entire \$50 at registration too. Registration is open now.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, July 5 at 3:30 PM in the Room 323. Everyone is welcome!!



## Pub Theology

The next Pub Theology will be **Tuesday, July 18**. 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.

## Moms and More returning to Trinity this Fall!

We want to let you know we are working to be able to offer a "Moms and More"-like program this fall for mothers of young children. We know life can be crazy and stressful with newborns and little ones. "Moms and More" aims to offer caring support, fellowship, and resources to navigate through the ups and downs. If you are interested in helping to create this program, please contact Haley Hildebrand and/or Judy Oguich. We are excited to offer this ministry – refreshed!



## Tables of Eight – a Success!

Close to 40 individuals participated in "Tables of Eight" this year; forming five groups that each met every 4 to 6 weeks for dinner and fellowship. Persons who participated thoroughly enjoyed their time together, making new friends and connecting deeper with established friends. We will organize new groups this fall. Stay tuned!

## Steady Hands Needed

Upon the completion of Kids Camp, the Trustees have a two interior painting projects that need volunteer painters. All materials for these projects will be provided. If you are interested in helping out, contact Bill Pike: [bpiketrinity@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpiketrinity@trinityumc.net).



## The Lara Teague Curry Memorial 5K

On **Saturday, September 16**, Trinity will host the Lara Teague Curry Memorial 5K. We are staging this event with Douglas Freeman High School, Henrico Education Foundation, River Road Church, Baptist, Third Church, St. Matthews, and St. Stephens. A Kids Fun Run will start at 8 AM followed by the 5K for runners and walkers.

The 5K has been developed to remind us of the importance of mental health, the value of teamwork, and to raise funds for a memorial scholarship established by the Teague and Curry families in honor of Lara Teague Curry. Mrs. Curry was an outstanding Social Studies teacher at Douglas Freeman High School.

After the week of July Fourth, publicity for the 5K, pursuing corporate sponsorships, and recruiting volunteers will start. Any questions, contact Bill Pike: [bpiketrinity@trinityumc.net](mailto:bpiketrinity@trinityumc.net).

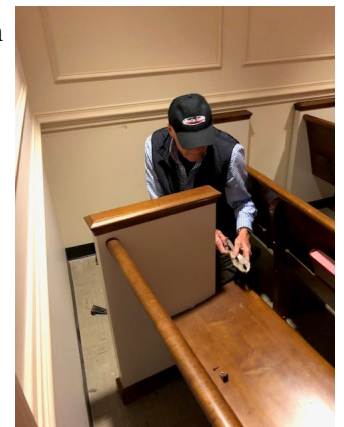
### LARA TEAGUE CURRY MEMORIAL



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST  
THIRD CHURCH • ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DOUGLAS S. FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL • HENRICO EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION  
HENRICO MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## Watching Joe Work

On behalf of the congregation and the Trustees, we want to thank Joe Andrews for his diligence and dedication to Trinity. Joe with an assist from Jim Crowder, figured out how to release the pews from the Chapel floor, and then discovered the internal screw structure to free the end cap on a pew so that it could be resized for use in the Chapel. Additionally, Joe arranged for a load of stone to be delivered to replenish the stone paths in the Bicentennial Garden and the Veterans Memorial Garden. Many thanks to Joe for his efforts!



# TRINITY Kids

What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

## Kids Discipleship at 10am

Our kids discipleship classes are taking a break until September. We have special family events taking place during the summer! Kids Worship will continue through the summer at the 9am service!

## Here is our schedule for the rest of the summer!

July 2nd: No kids programming at 10am & nursery will be closed during all three hours

July 9th: No kids programming or nursery at 10am

July 16th: No kids programming or nursery at 10am

July 23rd: Family Camp at 10am (pre-K & elem)

July 30th: Family Camp at 10am (pre-K & elem)

August 6th: Family Camp at 10am (pre-K & elem)

August 13th: Family Camp at 10am (pre-K & elem)

August 20th: Back to School Family Event at 10am

August 27th: Sunday Sundae Event at 10am

\*\* The nursery will be open during all three hours from July 23rd through August 27th \*\*



Family Camp is returning on Sundays at 10am for four weeks this summer!! (July 23 – August 13)

**What is Family Camp?** After Kids Camp, which is a fun experience for our kids, Trinity Kids offers Family Camp, a fun experience for the whole family – kids and adults! This is our third year of offering Family Camp over the summer and our second year of focusing Family Camp on the four spiritual habits that help kids and adults – the whole family – grow in their faith: spending time with God, spending time with others, using your gifts, and sharing your story!

This summer our Family Camp format will change a little bit to focus more of our time on families working together each week on an activity that ties in with one of the spiritual habits. **Family Camp is planned with the goal of giving families a shared experience that will help them continue faith conversations at home!**

July 23<sup>rd</sup>: Musical Memory Verse Challenge (Spending Time with God)

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Get-to-Know-You Card Game (Spending Time with Others)

August 6<sup>th</sup>: Kindness Club (Using Your Gifts)

August 13<sup>th</sup>: My Storybook (Sharing Your Story)

**Each of these weeks of camp is a stand-alone event so you can attend whenever you are available! We will send reminders by text for each week so you don't miss out on these family events that will help your whole family grow in their faith!!**



## Student Ministry

### JULY

- 2 Sunday School 10AM
- 9 Youth Kids Camp Training
- 10-14 Local Serve/ Kids Camp
- 16 Kid Camp Sunday / Church-wide breakfast
- 23 Sunday School
- 30 Sunday School
- SWAG Counselor Training 10am

31 SWAG begins 6-9pm

### REGISTER NOW FOR:

Youth Local Serve/Kids Camp: July 10-14  
Summer Worship and Games (SWAG): July 31-Aug 3

### Save The Date:

Pumpkin Patch Pumpkin Unloading **Saturday Morning, September 23!**



### Looking for Wii Remotes and Extras!

Trinity Students love to play Wii on Sunday mornings and during various other opportunities. We currently only have 2 working wiimotes (Wii remote controllers) when up to 4 players can play at a time.

Does your family have Wii remotes, steering wheels, games and other accessories that aren't getting any use? We would love to have them for Trinity Student Ministry. Just bring them to church and leave them in the main office or Student Center and we will be happy to have them. We look forward to using them during our summer hang out times this summer! Thanks!



**SWAG 2023!**  
**Summer Worship and Games for Trinity Youth!**  
**July 31-August 3**  
**6:00-9:00 PM**

What is SWAG (Summer Worship and Games)?

SWAG is an awesome time of fun, fellowship, and a time of worship for our middle and high school youth. At SWAG, we break into four teams for the week and have fun competing in games as our old youth act as counselors and welcome our younger youth into this fun awesome event.

We have a ton of fun sometimes playing in water, having a mystery night, and we've been known to have a night of messy games.

Want to help make SWAG happen by contributing items or funds? <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44A8A72AA2FDC16-swag3>

SWAG Registration:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/TrinityUMC3/SWAGRegistration2023>

## Delegate Update from Annual Conference!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I had the honor and privilege of attending the Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke this past week as a delegate from Trinity. This was my first year attending and I was moved, challenged, energized, and inspired in ways I could never have imagined. I met many incredible people and was touched to see so many familiar faces from Trinity, past, present and future, serving the Conference dutifully: Pastor Brian was in charge of all technology at the conference, Pastor Judy prayed over retiring clergy, Pastor Drew Willson led music, Pastor Hung Su made a moving motion to make families more welcome at Conference, and we had the great honor of seeing Aaron Miller licensed as a Local Pastor and Pastor Daniel Certified as a Provisional Elder.

The Conference was a wonderful mixture of business, fellowship, and worship. One of the largest pieces of business was the presentation and endorsement of the [Christmas Covenant](#). This is a proposal for regionalization and contextualization, allowing the General Conference to focus on Global issues and allowing the US to focus on issues closer to home. This piece of legislation will be presented at General Conference in 2024 with the Virginia Conference's endorsement. The budget presentation included increases to the information technology budget, keeping our personal information safer and providing better services for our districts, made possible by a large decrease in our legal funds as disaffiliations and open cases come to a close. You can view the budget report [here](#). I was also energized by the presentation of several Service opportunities that are supported by the Conference and Methodist Ministries. One local to us is [Heart Havens](#) which serves adults with developmental disabilities.

This was the first Conference with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson. Her first sermon was incredibly open, honest, and straight-forward. She addressed the issues plaguing our denomination and world and pointed out that our current reactions are to "build walls and circle the wagons" but that when we do that, the wagons have nowhere to go. She encouraged us to pursue our ministry and service beyond our four walls. That really stuck with me during the entirety of the conference and was compounded when Reverend Seungsoo Jun said, "If your church suddenly closed tomorrow, how would your community react? Would they rejoice? Mourn? Or would they even notice?" I have been thinking about this constantly and I hope you will consider the answer to this question as well.

Art Utley attended as a delegate from our Three Notch'd District. He says, "It was the best conference I've been to in seven years. There was less tension, more harmony, more humor, and more unity. The Christmas Covenant Resolution gave us a voice in the General Conference and is a bright path to our future for the United Methodist Church."

I look forward to continuing to serve Trinity as a delegate and look beyond our four walls for ways to serve Jesus, our community, and our conference. As your delegate, I promise to be a good connection between the Conference and our Church and continue to provide information and opportunities. Let's focus on the things that matter most to God and as Bishop Sue said in her closing, let us "not love the building more than Jesus and do not love the past more than the future."

In Christ's Love,  
Ashley Marshall



### New Shoes for Back to School

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 10 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 sixth year that Trinity has been a part of this ministry.

The New Shoes Ministry is continuing with its "Plan B" that has been so successful during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 [bethmonr@gmail.com](mailto:bethmonr@gmail.com). Thank you!

## 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 contributed over \$3,000 to help purchase supplies that included both needed medical items, vaccinations, and personal hygiene items for the Mattaponi Eagle Healing Clinic.

These contributions helped sustain services to over 125 families of native Americas mostly from the Mattaponi and Upper Mattaponi tribes, but also including assistance for request from the Rappahannock, Pamunkey, and Chickahominy tribes in Eastern and Central Virginia. Diane Garrison who is the coordinator of Indian affairs was extremely thankful for our support particularly during these difficult times.

This year, Diane is again asking for monetary donations to help the 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 provides medical supplies, including prescriptions, baby formula, and children's diapers on a more targeted and effective manner.

The Healing Eagle 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 Healing Eagle Clinic. You can also go to the Trinity web site and click on give, choose give as guest or give on line, choose Mattaponi Healing Eagle clinic under funds.

Thank you in advance for your continuing support,

Tom Askew



## It's Apple Angel Tree Time for the 2023-24 School Year!

Apples for supplies for the Teachers of Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School

will be “ripe for picking” starting Sunday, July 9. We want all of Trinity to have the opportunity to participate in this project, so we have both **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 boards in the Welcome Center at the church.

### Digital Apples

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

### Delivering the Supplies

**If bringing the items to Trinity**, please double bag them in paper bags with handles. Attach your apple or a list of items and grade level to the outside of the bag. **Deliver to the rear of Trinity Hall by Sunday, August 13.**

**If having the items shipped**, please have them delivered to Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave., Richmond, VA 23229 and marked “Oak Grove Supplies.” **Items should be delivered by Friday, August 11.**

### Financial Donations

If you would prefer to make a financial donation to the Apple Angel Tree, you can do this 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-Bellemeade Elementary School through the city-wide Micah Initiative for over 15 years. One of our most popular projects each year has been to provide much-needed 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 the school and come up with a list of items the teachers would like to receive for their classrooms. There are about 150 apples that can be “picked from our tree” for the upcoming school year.

If you have questions, contact Karen Adams at 804-382-6477 or at [kmadams1711@icloud.com](mailto:kmadams1711@icloud.com). Thanks for your support!

## A Century of Leading Christian Service Throughout India!

For many years, part of Trinity's Lenten Mission Offering has supported scholarship aid at Leonard Theological College (LTC), in central India. That graduate-level seminary has now completed its one-hundredth year of producing leaders for India's Methodist churches.

To honor LTC, Roland Fernandez -- the General Secretary of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, who works in Atlanta, Georgia -- issued the following message on March 11:

We "give thanks for a century of faithful service to God and the human family by the Leonard Theological College of Jabalpur, India .... Since its founding ... the college has prepared more than 6000 leaders for the Christian community in India and beyond ... spiritual and professional training for a substantial percentage of the pastors and deaconesses of the Methodist Church in India ... I remember fondly the many visits I made to the Leonard Theological College during my years as Chief Auditor of the Methodist Church in India in the late 80s and early 90s."

## Major Article in "Christianity Today" Highlights Work Supported by Trinity

Background for Trinity Window readers: For many years, part of Trinity's Lenten Mission Offering has supported scholarship aid at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, in Estonia. Estonia finally received its independence from Russia in 1994 and the Seminary was founded a few years later. It's now the largest Methodist seminary in Europe. The seminary's President is Dr. Kulli Toniste. Its graduates serve as pastors and youth ministers in many of its nearby countries, taking the central message of Jesus with them. (Also, according to Wikipedia, the magazine Christianity Today was founded by Billy Graham in 1956, the Washington Post calls Christianity Today "evangelicalism's flagship magazine", and the New York Times describes it as a "mainstream evangelical magazine".)

The article's headline is "Estonia Seminary Unites War-Wearied Russians and Ukrainians in Christ. Baltic Methodist Seminary offers a rare safe space to Slavic foes."

The article -- nearly two thousand words long -- is in the May/June issue of Christianity Today. Its final sentence is: "The informal education students receive from each other is just as valuable as our curriculum of theology," Toniste said. "Estonians know about life under occupation, and how much better it is to be free."

## Joys and Concerns

### Baptisms

*Evelyn Floyd, Mary Windsor Walker*

### New Member

*Laura Gaythwaite*

### Our sympathies to...

*The family of John Warman who died June 18  
Robin Brewster whose mother Shirley Brewster  
died June 14*

*Manya Saunders whose mother Lou Rosypal died  
June 12*

*The family of Otey Denton who died June 3  
Betsy Pike whose mother Elizabeth Cloud died June 1*



## Plastic Free July

Today what began with one person in 2011 in Australia is a global movement with 326 million participants in 177 countries.

Never doubt the power you as an individual person of faith have!

Each year, 30 million tons of plastic are produced. Of that, 50% will be discarded after a single use and overall, 93% will not be recycled.

Imagine what you can do to refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic:

- Taking a beach vacation this year? Eight million tons of plastic pollute the ocean. Keep your eyes open and pick up what you can.
- When you order online, support companies that ship plastic free.
- Make your summer get-togethers plastic free. Decorate with reusable or natural items. Use compostable or reusable dinnerware.
- Say thanks to God's critter, the racoon, for the reminder to find out what's in your trash. Check for items that can be recycled vs. trashed.
- Celebrate Plastic Bag Free Day on July 3! Take your own bags not only for grocery shopping, but when shopping at any store that uses plastic bags: Dollar stores, Walmart, Target, book stores, etc. Bring your own produce bag and buy loose fruit and vegetables.

How many ways can you reduce your use of plastic?  
Take the challenge. Tell your friends.  
Make a difference.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, July 17 at 4 PM for events taking place in August.** 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).