



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Spire

Volume 19, Issue 4

April 2018

Next Level Innovation and You

Next Level Innovation (NLI) is an investment in churches that have a recognized potential for reaching more people in their community and inviting them to become disciples of Jesus. Trinity's NLI weekend in October of 2017 generated four areas that need our attention and focus. Please plan to attend a Town Hall gathering on Sunday, April 15 for an update of our next steps.

Trinity needs to form 4 new leadership teams. Take a look at the ones listed and ask yourself where your spiritual gifts align with a team.

1. **Vision Team** – creating a vision for Trinity's ministries. Design a volunteer recruiting and membership training event so that Trinity's ministries can align around our church vision. Read *Canoeing the Mountains*, by Ted Bolinger.
2. **Vision Fundraising Team (VFT)** - come together by June '18. Develop a kick-off sermon series by September. Launch a fall Stewardship Campaign. Plan and execute a Capital Campaign in 2018 or no later than January of 2019.
3. **Hospitality - Communication Connection Team (CCT)** - Read : *Get Their Name*, by Bob Farr & Kay Kotan. Develop a comprehensive plan for Trinity improving our hospitality. In November of 2018 invite the entire church to participate in a church-wide hospitality training event. CCT with the Staff will create a **Worship Planning Team (WPT)** to connect Trinity's worship to the community. WPT will work to diversify music offerings, and to engage more laity in our music ministry.
4. **Discipleship** – Staff and lay leadership will form a Discipleship Team (DT) to create a pilot program of small groups that can begin to pursue a deeper spiritual life together. These groups will: study scripture together from Sunday sermons; find community fellowship time together; eat together; pray for each other, Trinity, the world; agree to live like Christ in the world. The DT will develop and implement inter-generational hands-on mission and ministry projects for children, youth and adults.

Join one of the NLI Teams soon. Sign up to receive text messages about NLI updates. The health, vitality and future of Trinity Church is relying on your participation. The more persons involved and active in NLI the more

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(Sprouse, Continued from page 1)

disciples we'll make for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For more information talk to any of our pastors, our Lay Leader Peggy Fox, or Chair of the Executive Council John Smith. We're listening for your response.

Shalom,
Jim Sprouse

Membership Update

New Member
Brenda Lowry

Travis Mullan
82 Overlook Ct
Dawsonville GA 30534

Address Changes

Dustin & Lisa Bomar
1925 Monroe Dr NE #1523
Atlanta GA 30324

John Sinks
sinksjohnd@gmail.com

Bets Carnahan
10511 Rosegate Ct #4
Raleigh NC 27617

Jan Symons
5783 Crownleigh Ct
Burke VA 22015

Jamie & Ashley Lawson
10519 Walter Thompson Rd
Vienna VA 22181

Paul & Carol Wessel
6800 Fleetwood Rd #720
McLean VA 22101

Jarrette & Laurel Marley
6634 Vint Hill Rd
Warrenton VA 20187

Katie Wise
1530 Spring Gate Dr #9316
McLean VA 22102

What's New on Our Blog: tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Ask Duke

- What makes Easter special

Book Chat

- April 10 meeting

Music

- Origins of *Kum Ba Yah*
- Trinity Trebles sing about God's creation, especially the purple-headed mountains
- Youth Choir learning a new song

Centering Scripture

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

Do you have a favorite scripture? If not, I'd like to encourage you to find some passages that speak to you. Maybe you would like to find scripture that brings you comfort. Maybe you would like a passage that will motivate you to never give up. Whatever the reason, the Bible holds a treasure trove of inspiration and truth.

Here are a few suggestions. I've paired them with some of my favorite verses.

Be still and know that I am God. -Psalm 46:10

When selecting scripture, decide if the verses will be something you want to print or write out and carry with you (in your wallet, purse, briefcase, glove box, etc.), or if you'll memorize them. If you're going for memorization, start small. There are plenty of gems to be had that are easy to remember. This is one of my favorites and it isn't even the entire verse. I repeat this scripture to myself when I start to feel things getting a little overwhelming. It reminds me that I just need to stop, take a deep breath and remember that God is in control.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. – Phil. 4:13

Next, make sure the passage has special significance to you. This is my go-to scripture when I need reassurance that everything we'll encounter in this life is manageable when we turn to God for strength and guidance. Our God is powerful and faithful. No matter what we encounter, we can always rely on the love and steadfastness of Christ.

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. -Jer. 29:11

I love this scripture because it reminds me that God has a plan for all of us. That plan is filled with hope and goodness. I need to trust in God and keep an open heart in order to stay out of the way of God's plans!

*And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. -
Matt. 28:20*

This is another wonderful reminder that we are never, ever alone. God's loving presence is confirmed to us through these words spoken by Jesus. There will never be a time in this life when we are abandoned by our God.

I hope this encourages you to find the scripture that touches your heart.

I'll see you in church!

Summer Opportunities of Godly Praxis

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

One of my fondest memories in Jerusalem was participating in Seder meals during Passover. Seder is a ritualized meal, based on Exodus 12, eaten on the Eve of Passover. A meal is eaten while participants read dramatized liturgy mixed with songs, games, and questions. I bring up Seder because it is a ritualized worship that transforms a meal into a wonderful learning opportunity to remind, relive and internalize Biblical truths and values. Seder is a truest form of worship where God's Word comes alive through eating, sharing, loving, singing and reminding: demonstrating acts of faith through praxis!

The Bible is full of unusual praxis was commanded to heighten the message of God. The sacrifices carried out on the altar of Jerusalem Temple graphically illustrated the gravity of sin and its consequences. The prophet Isaiah was commanded to walk around naked to demonstrate the humiliation Judah would face in relying on Egypt as their protector. Jeremiah bought land as a sign of future hope from God during the Jerusalem siege where the Kingdom of Judah was about to lose its sovereignty to Babylon. There are so many of these stories in the Bible. In our Christian tradition, we have Communion where we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus to become God's presence and compassion to our neighbors, friends, and enemies. Praxis is vital in developing character, growing as disciples, and nurturing depth of soul.

Therefore, this summer the youth group is offering a variety of opportunities to live out, to experience, and to remind the love of God to others. First is an outreach to Honduras in late June (TBD) where we will partner with The Learning Center to minister to young ladies in helping them become leaders. Second is the Appalachian Service Project (July 14-21). A group of volunteers from Trinity, Arlington Temple, Delta and St. James United Methodist Churches will go to eastern Tennessee to help with repair projects. The cost will be \$250 for adults and \$150 for youth (open to rising 9th graders and up). Third is Langley Residential Support Services tutoring, helping clients who have learning disabilities. Volunteers (rising 7th graders and up) will join tutoring programs held at Immanuel Presbyterian on Tuesdays in July (July 10, 17, 24, & 31) from 6:45-8:15 p.m. Last, but not least, Caroline Speidel is managing a collection project for Comfort Cases, which will be for foster children. Supplies needed are: small duffel bags/backpacks, pajamas (child size 10-adult XXL), small blankets (preferably fuzzy), stuffed animals, journals, pens, pencils, books, adult toothbrushes, and travel-size toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, body wash, deodorant). The goal is to pack five bags so we need five of each item. There is a collection box in Room 403 (located in the Fellowship Building). I'm looking forward to a wonderful summer filled with opportunities for godly praxis!

Schedule of Events

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| April 1 | Easter Sunday | Worship at 6:30, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. |
| April 7 | Movie Night 5—9 p.m. | Hosted by the Lovings. RSVP Jamie.lovings@verizon.net |
| April 9 | Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m. | Meet in Room 124 for fellowship and crafting. Instructions provided. |
| April 10 | Book Chat 6:30 p.m. | <i>Rules of Civility</i> by Amor Towles For more, visit: https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-nL |
| April 14 | Celebration of the Life of Doug Swanson, 11 a.m. | |
| April 15 | Town Hall Meeting After worship services | Learn about our NLI progress and what's next. |
| April 23 | Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m. | Meet in Room 124 for fellowship and crafting. Instructions provided. |

August 6 - 10, 2018

Register at umtrinity.org/education/vbs
 Volunteer? Contact Jen Calsyn, 703-356-0718, or Marci Thomas, 202-862-9304.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship Services
at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) – 9:30 a.m. (Sept–June)

Children's Education –10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Communion and Healing – 12 noon

Celtic Evensong & Communion–5 p.m. (last Sun. of month)

Here to serve Christ and you:

James C. Sprouse – Senior Pastor

Eileen Gilmer – Associate Pastor

Keith Lee – Associate Pastor

Jerry Rich – Director of Music

Catherine Wethington–Dir. of Children's & Youth Choirs

Harriet Latta – Office Manager

Jose Luis Nuñez-Ruiz–Sexton

Janine Whitfield – Director of Parents Day Out Preschool

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone: 703-356-3312

Fax: 703-356-9119

E-mail: info@umtrinity.org

Web Site: umtrinity.org

Instagram: [trinityumc_mclean](https://www.instagram.com/trinityumc_mclean)

Facebook: Trinity UMC, McLean

Twitter: [UMTrinity](https://twitter.com/UMTrinity)

Blog: tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Youtube: [UMTrinity](https://www.youtube.com/UMTrinity)

***The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church** is to be a vibrant, growing church home for all who seek companionship, direction and inspiration in their lives as they develop a personal, relevant relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.*

We are anchored in Scripture and energized by congregational commitment. Trinity Church fosters the Christian values of joy, faith, service, hope and love.

Trinity extends the opportunity to experience the Grace of God through worship, discipleship, study and fellowship in the traditions of the United Methodist Church.



The Spire

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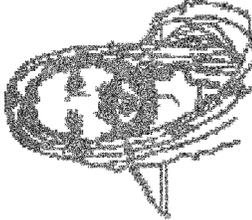
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Bible Quiz

In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B



Answers: C (see John 10:9, 11.)