



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Spire

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2019

## **A Grand Adventure Story**

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

A well constructed story appeals to us all because everything that happens contributes to the whole, and we, most of us, often wish that all the events of our own lives contributed to some overall meaning in the same way. In *Orthodoxy* G.K. Chesterton described how he eventually came to the conviction that all life was like a story – a grand adventure story. Adventure stories usually have some important goal that requires great dedication if it is to be achieved; they tell of the valor of loyal companions who face danger and endure losses in achieving that goal. Chesterton showed that this “life as adventure” theme is also present in the Christian understanding of life.

You and I express who we are in the form of the stories we tell about ourselves. We introduce ourselves to other people by telling them where we are from, where we were educated, who we know, whether we are married and have family, and sometimes, what our goals are, etc. We do this because our identity is achieved slowly, through time, and it cannot be expressed apart from an account of our specific passage through time. Let us remember those who in 2018 passed from time-bound life to life eternal: Ruth Mutchler, Woody Rogers, John Sadler and Doug Swanson.

You, I and all who worship with God at Trinity Church are on a grand adventure together. Only God knows what wonderful adventures lay ahead for us in year 2019; what new faces will join our happy throng; what familiar faces will disappear from our earthly fellowship. We are all just passing through time. So, with full confidence that God knows where our journey leads, let's embrace one another with an esprit de corp. and enthusiasm for ministry together with Christ that we write our names on the pages of volume 2019 of the greatest story still being told.

Shalom,  
Jim

## How Conversation Works: Becoming a Better Communicator

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,  
so that you may know how you ought to answer each  
person.* Colossians 4:6

How good of a communicator are you? Would you like to learn ways to be more effective when talking with family, friends, colleagues or even those you meet for the first time?

In January, we'll begin a six week class, *How Conversation Works: Six Lessons for Better Communication*. Here are the topics:

- How to become conversationally aware
- How the conversational floor works
- How and when to be direct and indirect
- How to navigate face-threatening acts
- How to negotiate professional relationships
- How to maintain relationships with talk

We'll base the classes on sessions led by Anne Curzan, a Yale grad, and linguistics and language professor at the University of Michigan. Just in the first few classes, we'll look at how the word *um* can speak volumes and can even change the direction of the conversation.

We'll also dive into conversational work, finding out what to do if you're the only one doing the heavy lifting in the conversation.

Our first class will be January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in room 302 in the Fellowship Building. I hope you can join us.

I'll see you in church!



## Prayer 2019

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." - Abraham Lincoln

Life exposes our limitations and capabilities. It demands far more from us than what we know is possible. Therefore Lincoln, one of the finest and capable presidents, is known to have been a person of prayer. However, most are unaware that he was viewed as the most irreligious president, despite his emphasis on prayer.

I asked all the parents to pray for their children this year. I also asked that they include in their prayers all those who influence their children - their children's friends, schoolmates, classmates in school and church, pastors, teachers, neighbors, teammates, coaches, church and community leaders, and for the welfare of our country and the world. I renew my request because when I look at my own children, on one hand I thank God for the protection and grace that was provided. But on the other hand, I realize how inadequate I was as a father. I was not fully aware of all the changes that were happening to them and even if I did, I was not equipped to adequately address them. Thank God for God!



The picture is a prayer wall in Room 301. For confirmation and preteen classes, I have been asking students to write down their prayers and place them in the canvas. This exercise not only helps them to pray but also visualize in a concrete way that Trinity is a praying community. Let's pray together to help our children grow in the Lord!



## Check out the Trinity App

Visit your phone's  
Apple App Store  
or Google Play  
Store and search  
for **Trinity McLean**  
or text  
**trinityva app**  
to 77977 for a  
direct link to the  
app in your  
phone's store.



## Membership Update

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### New Members

Brian, Stephanie & Gillian Grunenfelder

### Are you moving?

Please send your new address to the church office (703-356-3312 or [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org)). Thank you.

This will ensure that we have all the correct information to send news and contribution statements to the correct address.

If you are interested in **joining the church** or learning more about our ministries, please contact a pastor or the church office.

A new **Membership Directory** was produced in September. It can be found as a button attachment to the E-News each Friday. If you do not receive the E-News, please send your email address to [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org) to be added.



**What's New on Our Blog:** [tumcthespire.wordpress.com](http://tumcthespire.wordpress.com)

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### Ask Henny

- Bible Fun Facts: <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-sW>

### Book Chat

- Meeting Jan. 8 to discuss *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-t4>

### Crafts for a Cause

- Update on projects and a successful 2018! <https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-t2>

### Music

- Consider joining one of Trinity's choirs in the new year  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-sZ>

### Schedule of Events

Jan. 1	Office Closed	
Jan. 5	Celebration of Life: Phyllis King	
Jan. 8	Book Chat 6:30 p.m.	<i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i> by Kelli Estes
Jan. 9	Widows' Support Group 6:30 p.m.	Meets in the Fellowship Building.
Jan. 13	Martha's Table Sandwich Making Sunday	
Jan. 20	Celebration of Life: John Sadler 2 p.m.	
Jan. 21	Office Closed	



**You and Your Family  
Can Host Fellowship**

The Fellowship Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service each Sunday is a great way to connect with your church family and to welcome new members. Trinity's committees and groups do a marvelous job of hosting, but anyone can do it. Guidance is provided! If you are interested, please contact Kathy Maher at [Kathyngs@gmail.com](mailto:Kathyngs@gmail.com)

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**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 – 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](mailto:info@umtrinity.org)

Web Site: [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org)

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

Facebook: Trinity UMC, McLean

Twitter: UMTrinity

Blog: [tumcthespire.wordpress.com](http://tumcthespire.wordpress.com)

Youtube: 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.



### The Spire

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# Trinity

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Sent in Prayer to:

**Bible Quiz**

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- A. The singing of angels
- B. One sinner who repents
- C. 100 righteous people
- D. None of the above

Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)