



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Spire

Volume 20, Issue 7

July 2019

Reflection on Annual Conference

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

Annual Conference was held in Roanoke this year and one of its highlights was catching up on the news of how things are going with pastors I have known and worked with over the years. I was a little surprised that three persons in my ordination class took medical leaves of absence this year and three died.

Former associate pastor at Trinity, Phyllis Earley, is on medical leave. Now her husband, Jim, will also be on medical leave. Former Trinity associate, Melissa Dunlap, is serving as Bi-District Coordinator for Church Development; former Trinity youth pastor Marc Mrini, returns to St. Stevens on the Alexandria District. Former Trinity associate, Eric Song, returns to Good Shepherd in Vienna. Amy Crisp, former DCE at Trinity is the youth pastor at Mt. Pisgah in Richmond. Associate Pastor Eileen Gilmer returns beginning her seventh year in ministry to our Trinity family. And ... Associate Pastor Keith Lee returns beginning his fifth year. We have been blessed richly across the years.

Sharma Lewis, Bishop of the Virginia Conference, continues to recover after her fourth surgery regarding a hip replacement. Her three areas of concern remain, 1. Church attendance; 2. Church Finances and 3. Deeper spiritual formation.

The Virginia Annual Conference used electronic handsets to vote for delegates to the General Conference and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Voting electronically was expected to reduce the amount of time involved in making these important selections and increase the accuracy of the balloting process. The Virginia Conference elected 11 clergy delegates and 11 laity delegates to General Conference to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from May 5 – 15, 2020. The General Conference will be trying to hold the denomination together despite global differences regarding the ordination of LGBTQ persons and same-gender weddings.

In the next three years, it's predicted that one of every two pastors in the VA Conference will retire or be eligible to retire. This will dramatically affect the system of appointments will perhaps not having enough ordained clergy to supply all the churches looking for an appointed pastor.

These are only a few of this summer's happenings. Don't be scarce this summer. Have fun, enjoy your vacation time, and come to church when you're home. Try our 8:30 a.m. service. Try our Wednesday Noon service. Try our Celtic Service. It will be great to see you.

The Importance of Rest and Play

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

Now that we are into the midst of summer, I hope you've either taken some time to relax and renew, or that your plans are in the works. Taking a break isn't just an extravagance, it's vital to our health and well-being. When we were children, few of us had to be told to stop working and start playing. Somewhere along the line, most of us lost sight of the importance of play.



Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! Psalm 149:3

The Bible mentions play, joy and celebrations many times. It also speaks of the importance of taking time away from our everyday lives and stressors. Jesus guided his disciples about the importance of time away.

He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Mark 6:31-32

We read of the importance of celebrating and of getting away from the noise that can fill our lives. We can find guidance in the Bible on how we are to situate our lives even during the times of rest and relaxation.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether you are here at home amidst your daily routine or find yourself taking some time away, I hope you'll seek out ways to do everything to the glory of God. When you're in NOVA this summer, I hope you'll join us for worship at Trinity Church. In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., we invite you to join us for the Wednesday noon Communion service. There's also our Celtic worship on the last Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

No matter which service you attend, I'll see you at church!

How Curriculum Is Presented

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

This summer during children's Sunday School we will have a one-room class using a camp-like format. For its curriculum I usually take a prepackaged one and alter it to suit our context and situation. This year, I went with *Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good* from Group Publishing because I like VBS formats in general. However, it has received criticism for racial insensitivity. For example, an article from United Methodist Insight (<https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/local-church/vbs-is-not-immune-to-racism/>) points out that institutional racism and the pervasiveness of ethnocentrism are so ingrained in our institutions—including Christian ones— if not careful, we pass on these harmful elements to our children in Sunday School. It goes on to point out examples of Group Publishing's blind spots and lack of intercultural competency found in their *Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good* curriculum. In recent weeks, Group Publishing has provided some corrections. Critics contend that they should have completely replaced the material with corrections. I reviewed the corrected pages and I agree with the critics. To go through all the material and manually insert those corrections would take a lot of work and time.

The good news is that I always filter and alter all of our curriculum resources for our setting. *Roar!* is not the first one in my years of teaching that I had to filter and alter. I am conscientious in presenting theological ideas that convey the essence of Jesus and the theology of love. In fact, all early church leaders meticulously filtered out and explained troubling passages from the Bible. For example, passages in Joshua and Nehemiah were always explained. In Judaism, the stories in Genesis are so troubling, they start children's education of the Torah from the book of Leviticus. I suspect you do the same consciously or subconsciously whenever you read the Bible or even the news.

The old adage "Don't believe everything you read" is even more relevant today. We will be using *Roar!* but with much discretion. We do this for all material presented in Sunday School anyway. In fact, I believe the *Roar!* curriculum will provide a great springboard into discussion about intercultural understanding and the need to diminish institutional racism and ethnocentrism. Looking forward to a wonderful summer Sunday School!



Confirmation 2019

Josie Blanton
Isabella Brooks
Bennett Jones Brunner
Emery Kathlene Conroy
Olivia S. Liu
Charlotte Rose Loving

Isobel Miller
Leah Miller
Spencer Miller
Katherine Hannah Prewett
Abigail Elizabeth Sterner
Benjamin van Biljon



Allie Eames	Miami University (Ohio)
Daniel Endean	Langley High School
Leah Horan	McLean High School
Liam Keough	Gonzaga College High School
Alex Kim	McLean High School
Annie Lord	Vanderbilt University
Jason Sprouls	Virginia Tech
Allison Sullivan	Langley High School
Andrew Swenson	Langley High School
Zavyor Zenk	McLean High School



What's New on Our Blog

tumcthespire.wordpress.com

Ask Henny

- Henny's July challenge for you

Music

- Try Trinity's Summer Choir

Membership Update

New Members

Josie Blanton
Isabella Brooks
Bennett Jones Brunner
Emery Kathlene Conroy
Olivia S. Liu
Charlotte Rose Loving
Isobel Miller
Leah Miller
Spencer Miller
Katherine Hannah Prewett
Abigail Elizabeth Sterner
Benjamin van Biljon

New Addresses

Mike Shotwell
7018 Woodsong Dr
Myrtle Beach SC 29579

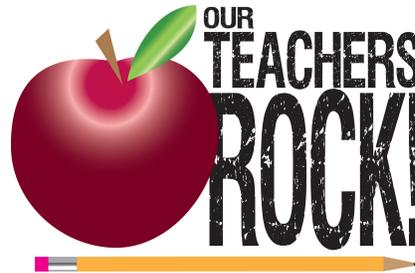
Nancy Umstott
2133 Chain Bridge Rd
Vienna VA 22182

Are you moving?

Please send your new address to the church office (703-356-3312 or 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.



Michelle Booth
Laura Brooks
Sarah Beth Burgess
Jennifer Fuqua-Calsyn
Lizzy Conroy
Beth Eames
Eileen Gilmer
Andrea Hager
Noah Hager
Yolanda Hanlan
Melissa Harris
Ann Hooton
Adam Houston
Kate Houston
Christine Lee
Joyce Lee
Keith Lee
Olivia Liu
Cindy Oh
Jennifer Short
Caroline Speidel
Jim Sprouse
Jeremey Stover
Lindsey Stover
Emily Summers
Noelle Sutherland
Marci Thomas
Jenna Yellen

Trinity Preschool

Delphine Delquie
Kimberly Elkas
Regina Kano
Kayna Newman
Jennifer Redd
Janine Whitfield
Emily Yosmanovich

Schedule of Events

July 1	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	
July 4	Office Closed	
July 9	Youth Trip: Kings Dominion	Contact Pastor Keith, klee@umtrinity.org
July 14	Martha's Table Snack Making Sunday	
July 15	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	
July 16	Trustees 6:30 p.m.	Meeting by telephone
July 20	Christ House	
July 28	Executive Council	
July 28	Celtic Service 5 p.m.	
July 24 - 30	Mission trip to Honduras' Heart to Heart	Contact Keith Lee to get involved klee@umtrinity.org
Aug. 5-9	Vacation Bible School	Register/Volunteer at http://umtrinity.org/education/vbs

Pastor Keith's Prayer of the Month: A Summer Prayer

Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.

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

Michelle Zenk—Director 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.



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Trinity App

Visit your phone's Apple App Store or
Google Play Store and search for Trinity
McLean,
or text [trinityva app](tel:773777) to 77977 for a direct
link to the app in your phone's store.

When you text, you will receive a link from
Pushpay, our app's host.

