



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Spire

Volume 19, Issue 11

November 2018

## **Our Church: A Banquet Table**

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

The leaders of Trinity Church assemble monthly to discuss the present and future direction, ministries and outreach of our church. Leaders from Education, Finance, Outreach, Trustees, Worship and Youth try to answer questions like:

1. What is God calling Trinity to do as a Body of Christ?
2. How can we extend the fellowship and friendship of Jesus to the greater community?
3. How does worship equip us for Christian mission and ministry?
4. What are Trinity's strengths?
5. What are our children and adults learning in Sunday School & worship?
6. What do the neighborhoods in McLean need us to be for them?

We often sit around tables in conference rooms or in living rooms and discuss these questions for hours. God's spirit continues to fill and bathe us all in energy and excitement. Through it all one particular observation emerged: that Trinity Church is like a wonderful banquet table prepared and hosted by Jesus Christ. All members and guests are welcome and invited. Yet, each one of us has specific tastes, and at Trinity we try our best to serve all those tastes. Our desire is to make our banquet table a place of love, fellowship and joy. Our church buildings are like that banquet table, too. We want all who attend and seek a relationship with Jesus Christ to be included, appreciated, served and loved.

For half a century Trinity has tended God's banquet table with a spirit of love and thanksgiving. Our Fellowship Building is used by our church, community and local first responders 24 hours a day. Let's be thankful for God's generosity and enjoy the opportunity that is ours to invite and welcome so many persons in our community who have not yet found a place at the table.

During this Thanksgiving season I ask that you pray for the fellowship of God's Spirit through our friendship with each other and our surrounding neighborhoods. To be God's friend in McLean is a wonderful gift. A friend accepts you as you are; a friend loves; a friend forgives; a friend cares; a friend prays.

Pray for all the persons and families in the neighborhoods surrounding Trinity. Respond with your heart!

## **A Chance to Feed Others**

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

How is it already November? I know I ask myself this question each year. As we move closer to Advent, I have a great opportunity for you, your family and even your friends. In this busy time of year, I hope you'll find space in your schedule to take part.

Trinity Church is proud to take part in Rise Against Hunger. (That's the new name for Stop Hunger Now.) This is a wonderful project that helps feed hungry people across the globe. Families are welcome to attend. (Children should be ages four and up.) It's a good opportunity for multi-generational service. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that helps impoverished people throughout the world. They are committed to ending world hunger by 2030 by supplying meals as well as through sustainability efforts.

We are aiming to make 300,000 meals at our McLean event. It's a lofty goal, for certain. We've done this before and I have no doubt we can do it again. At the end of the day, this will bring the total number of meals packaged by the McLean community to 2.5 million since 2010.

Rise Against Hunger  
Saturday, November 3  
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
Shifts start at 8:00 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
To sign up, go to their site: <http://bit.ly/mealpacking18>

Come join people from all over our community to help.

I'll see you at church!



## **Kidmin Conference 2018**

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

Toilet paper spewing out of makeshift leaf blowers. Participants frantically gathering rows of it that were strewn around the auditorium. The audience cheering. The room appearing to be in chaos as a designated player stands motionless on stage while game participants wrap him/her with oodles of TP they collected. The side that finishes wrapping up their 'mummy' first, wins raffle tickets for a chance to score a brand new 2018 Chevy Malibu. The excitement was real! And so was my skeptical mind that barked in my head "how does anything here relate to making disciples of children through Sunday School?" But since I was there already, and was given a scholarship to attend, and with literally hundreds of committed Sunday School teachers from all over the country cheering on, I thought "Why not just go with it?" (To see the video go to <https://youtu.be/64rp2dvlTYA> or search 'youtube trinity united methodist church kidmin conference') And seriously, I learned a lot from the Kidmin Conference that was held in Nashville Oct 3-5. Here are some of the takeaways from my participation.

### **Games Serve Useful Functions in Spiritual Development**

Repeatedly the presenters and workshop speakers promoted the use of games and other engaging strategies to teach students. Games often offer life lessons; plus, students love playing them. I've shared this point with teachers and encouraged them to utilize them in class.

I would like to dedicate a shelf in the Fellowship Building to store board and other kinds of games. If you have some that you no longer use or need, please consider donating them.

### **Teachers Require Attention and Encouragement**

About a fourth of the workshops were dedicate to (and half of the speakers for the main sessions mentioned) encouraging teachers and children's pastors. One speaker said, "If you're thinking about quitting, you're not alone. But here's the good news; we're here to encourage you and to remind you that you're making an eternal difference in the kids. So keep at it!" Lack of volunteers, average of 1.3 Sundays a month attendance, and lack of gratitude and attention from church leaders and members are some reasons for discouragement. But I want to remind us, we love our teachers! Please let them know.

### **Teachers Need Resources**

One of the many benefits from the conference is receiving valuable lessons and tips from speakers and workshops. I bought some books and found others in our library. I will have them available for our teachers in the Fellowship Building. Look for them in Room 301!

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Lee, Continued from page 3)*

### **Our Students Require Both Engaging and Contemplative Activities**

Engaging programs and activities will attract and retain students at Trinity. At the same time, contemplative programs should be offered to counter the over stimulated environment around us. The conference was about engagement, creativity and creating excitement. However, a contemplative approach was never mentioned. But the absence of it, screamed even louder in my mind. There is a need for silence and introspection. Even though we might not recognize the need for Sabbath, silence and slowing down, I urge parents and teachers to find creative ways to find that quiet center.



Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Ray Gilmer, Melissa Harris, Barbara Long, and Loren Monroe for their generosity in donating AV equipment for Sunday School classes!

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### **Membership Update**

#### **New Member**

Roy Winston

#### **Wedding**

Sarah Cusenza & Gabriel Morey  
Amanda Boor & Bradley Johnson

#### **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.

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### **What's New on Our Blog:**

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

#### **Ask Henry**

- Being thankful and helpful  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-s4>

#### **Crafts for a Cause**

- Current projects, work dates and a work-at-home project  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-sb>

#### **Music**

- Expressing thanks through music  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-s7>
- Be part of the Christmas pageant  
<https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-s9>

A close-up photograph of a white plate filled with various dishes. On the left, there are green beans and a slice of salmon. In the center, there are green leafy vegetables. On the right, there are pieces of cooked chicken. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the plate and the table.

# THANKSGIVING FEAST

Sunday, November 11  
after 10:30 a.m. worship

The entire congregation is invited to Langley Hall with your favorite potluck dish to share. Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Share, and plan to join us for a delicious feast. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Lobby.

### Schedule of Events

Nov. 4	Charge Conference 3 p.m.	Held at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington
Nov. 12	Office Closed	
Nov. 5	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	Learn about the latest projects: <a href="https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-s9">https://wp.me/p3ZFFv-s9</a>
Nov. 11	Thanksgiving Lunch	See page 5
Nov. 11	Martha's Table Sandwich Making	
Nov. 13	Book Chat 6:30 p.m.	This month: <i>News of the World</i> , by Paulette Jiles
Nov. 19	Crafts for a Cause 7 p.m.	
Nov. 20	Christmas Trees Arrive	
Nov. 23	Christmas Tree Sales Begin	See graphic below for all hours.
Nov. 25	Celtic Service 5 p.m.	



## Christmas Tree Sales

Thursday - Friday: 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday: 12 - 8 p.m.

If you choose to shop after hours, payment instructions will be posted on the lot to pay by text or the payment dropbox.

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

Blog: [tumcthespire.wordpress.com](http://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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# Trinity

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**Bible Quiz**

After Cain killed Abel, their parents, Adam and Eve, had another son. What did they name the baby?

- A. Seth
- B. Enoch
- C. Shem
- D. Lamech



Answer: A (See Genesis 4:25.)