

Volume 16, issue 10

October 2015



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Spire

## To Be Called Out

By James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

The Greek word used in the New Testament for church means **called out**. The church is a community of people who are **called out** of the world to be God's people.

The church is a community of people, not a building. It is hard for us to grasp this, because we think of the church as centered in a building that stands in the neighborhood where its members live. But it has not always been so. For the first few centuries Christians met together in homes or in places where their secular occupations brought them together. Later, when buildings were built they were not built in local neighborhoods but at the crossroads of life – in the market towns or places near the central government. It wasn't until the Middle Ages (400s to 1,400s) that the kind of parish church we know came into being.

It is important in our time to understand that the church doesn't depend on a church building. In removing churches from homes and from centers of business and government where secular life brings Christians of all races and classes together, have we come to think that Christian faith and life have to do only with what goes on in a building on Sunday and a few times during the week when people of the same socio-economic groups come together?

As our society and world change, our lives are less and less centered in the neighborhood where we live. Many people find their friends, do their business, take their leisure – spend most of their lives outside the neighborhood where their homes are. If the church of God is wherever and whenever Christians come together for worship, study and service in the name of Christ, do we not just as surely go to church when we meet during lunch, when we join together during service projects away from our church building, when we meet for prayer or study in someone's house?

My point is not to deny that the local church building is still very, very essential. It is to emphasize that as our society and world continue to change and the neighborhood becomes less and less evident in many person's lives, the church doesn't have to be less important. We can be free and open to experiment with new forms of church, because the church is not a building. It is God's people, whenever – wherever – and however we come together. When I think of Trinity Church, I don't think only of 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA... that is an address. The church I think of is called, Molly, Eileen, Ray, Keith, Jayne, Harriet, Ellen, Jerry, Nick, Lauren Michelle, Reba, Jim, Leslie, Jose, Karen, Chris, Carol, Jeon, Sandy, Margie, Dan, Frank, Wayne, and so on. God has strategically positioned the building address of Trinity Church in beautiful McLean, VA. One thing this means is that God needs you and me to be about the ministry of Jesus Christ, right here, right now; in this time and in this place. This is our mission post, from which all our missions and ministries flow. The people of God called Trinity Church assemble together to praise and worship God at a specific address every week. Here, we are equipped for mission and ministry, and then we leave our church home address and return to our own homes, our places of work and the market place. There we live out our faith in relationships discovering we are all members of the universal church.

## A Time for Peace, Prayer, Reflection and You

By Eileen Gilmer, Associate Pastor

I struggled a little with what to call this month's column. *How to Pray* and *Prayer: A User's Manual* were also in the running. Prayer is such a vital part of our faith walk with God. Yet, we so frequently view prayer as an expendable item on our daily to-do list. Maybe it's because we view prayer as a nice-but-not-necessary task. Often we don't pray because we feel we don't know how. Like changing transmission fluid or washing windows on a skyscraper—prayer is better left to the experts.

Maybe these are a few questions you've thought: How do I get started? Is it selfish to ask God to bless my own life? With all the baggage I'm bringing with me, aren't I a hypocrite if I go before God in prayer?

Trinity is expanding its offerings to our church members and the community on Wednesday evenings, be-

ginning October 7. We'll gather together for a meal at 6 p.m. Then, at 6:30, we'll offer classes and activities for youth and adults while the Children's Choir practices.

Everyone is so busy in Northern Virginia, we could all use a few minutes to slow down and breathe. I hope you'll join me for a time of peace, prayer and reflection on Wednesday evenings. Whether you consider yourself a prayer warrior, or are new to prayer and are looking for some guidance and encouragement—all are welcome.

### Night CAPS

(Confession, Assurance, Pardon and Silence)

6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Trinity Sanctuary  
following dinner in Langley Hall

Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

## All Saints' Sunday & Gabriel Fauré

By Jerry Rich, Director of Music

Gabriel Fauré composed his *Requiem* in 1887, conducting its premiere at Paris' fashionable church of The Madeleine on January 16, 1888. This first version had five movements: *Sanctus*, *Pie Jesu*, *Agnus Dei*, and *In Paradisum*. He added an *Offertory* in 1889, and inserted a previously-existing *Libera Me* in 1893.

In contrast with other famous *Requiem*s by Mozart, Berlioz and Verdi, Fauré's is notably serene and gentle. He avoids the operatic style preferred by Parisian ears as well as the massive Germanic treatment favored in other European music centers. Fauré's most dramatic moment is the *Dies Irae* ("On that day of wrath"). Unlike Berlioz's four brass bands or Verdi's off-stage trumpets, Fauré's

two horns briefly proclaim "that day" in the *Libera Me*. Its flexible melodies and subtle rhythms (modeled on Gregorian chant) are framed by restrained dynamics, muted colors and suavely modal harmonies.

On All Saints' Day (Sunday, November 1), Trinity's choir will offer four movements from Fauré's *Requiem* (*In Paradisum*, *Libera Me*, *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*) at the 10:30 a.m. service, while soprano Catherine Wethington will sing his prayerful *Pie Jesu* at the 8:30 a.m. service; the bulletin will contain translations of the Latin texts.

"It has been said that my *Requiem* does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience... perhaps I have also instinctively sought to escape from what is thought right and proper, after all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ! I know it all by heart. I wanted to write something different." Gabriel Fauré, 1902

# Confirmation: A Journey of Faith Development for 7th Graders

By Keith Lee, Associate Pastor

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the time in a youth's life when they are CONFIRMED in their faith. It is when they stand in front of the church and declare that Jesus is the Lord of their lives. The process of getting to that point in their lives is a series of events and classes called Confirmation.

## Why do Confirmation now?

A long time ago, the Methodist church decided that youth entering or in the 7th grade would be eligible to take a Confirmation Class in their local church. It is when youth start to develop their own faith that is different from their parents, and it was a good fit with the maturity and stage that most youth are in. Confirmation experience is 100% voluntary.

## Do youth have to do Confirmation?

It is NOT required that anyone participate in a Confirmation class to be confirmed. It is suggested since most youth have not had much of an opportunity to explore their faith on their own before now.

## What is expected of Confirmation Participants?

Since Confirmation is a voluntary program, it is expected that each participant give 100% to the experience. It is expected that youth will be at each session for the entire session. However, they will be given 3 excused absences for those unexpected occasions. Youth will be asked to do some writing, drawing, sharing, learning, reading, and thinking. It is expected that each participant will be willing to try new things and will enter each session with an open mind. This generation of youth have many extracurricular activities, and we want to be sensitive to that. At the same time, faith development for teenagers is a vital part of their own journey through life.

## What is expected of Confirmation Parents?

Parents are crucial to making Confirmation a success. In many studies, teens list their parents as the number one figure in their faith development. We are here to support you as you guide your youth through this exciting time in their lives. We consider Confirmation a partnership between the church and the parents.

## What is a confirmation session like?

Not all confirmation sessions are the same. Most sessions follow a similar format with different speakers and activities. Some sessions have guest speakers that talk on a variety of topics, and some have "field trips." Regardless of what is scheduled, each session is guaranteed to be an EXPERIENCE.

## What is a mentor and why do I need one?

A mentor is a faith friend who will help you along your path of Confirmation. This person can be someone you are close to already, but does not have to be. A mentor will be asked to be at specific sessions during the semester and will be asked to sit with you in worship occasionally. If you need help finding a mentor, please ask, we have some people who have volunteered.

## Confirmation Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
Oct. 18	Introductory Meeting
Oct. 25	Creation
Nov. 1	NO CLASS*
Nov. 8	Sin/Redemption
Nov. 15	NO CLASS-Jr High Retreat
Nov. 22	Holy Spirit
Nov. 29	NO CLASS*
Dec. 6	Church
Dec. 13	New Creation
Dec. 20	NO CLASS*
Dec. 27	NO CLASS*
Jan. 3	NO CLASS
Jan. 10	Way of Discipleship
Jan. 17	NO CLASS*
Jan. 24	Wesleyan Quadrilateral
Feb. 7	No CLASS*
Feb. 8	Worship
Feb. 14	Review
Feb. 21	Sacraments
Mar. 6	Living a Holy Life
Mar. 13	Renounce, Reject, Repent
Mar. 20	NO CLASS*
Mar. 27	NO CLASS*
Apr. 3	Accept
Apr. 10	Confess
Apr. 17	I Believe (The Creeds)
Apr. 24	NO CLASS Confirmation Retreat
May 1	Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness
May 8	Going Forth
May 15	CONFIRMATION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

\* NO CLASS due to Fairfax County Public School Scheduling

## Commitment to Participate (\$100 Fee per confirmand):

- Attend each class and worship on Sunday.
  - 3 excused absences only
- Attend the Confirmation Lock-in (Apr 24).
- Complete a statement of your faith.
- Participate in the Confirmation Service and Luncheon

## Trinity-Sponsored Student at The Leadership Center

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Hello Dear Friends from Trinity Church,

Blessings and wonderful wishes to all of you from Honduras!

We are so grateful for your continued support of our education at The Leadership Center (TLC). Your sponsorship is so precious to us.

TLC is not only a school where we learn about leadership and business. The Leadership Center is also a place where students grow spiritually as Christians. We have weekly Bible study and church services, which are all student led. Before our new multipurpose building was completed earlier this year, our church services were celebrated in the dining hall in front of the kitchen, not enough space to fit many people. Last February, TLC started to have its church meetings in the multipurpose room for first time. As Christians, we were happy because we had a more spacious place to praise and worship God every Sunday. Now TLC students can enjoy a church service in a very spacious and peaceful place every week.

Our second year class has been working on plans and speeches about many important topics, goals and projects that we want to establish in our home communities. We have been using and developing the skills and gifts that leadership classes have helped us to discover. We are not afraid of going into their communities to talk, help and work in organizations with different people. That is one of our important objectives - to help improve and better our communities.

We hope to see some of you soon here at The Leadership Center. We would love to spend time with you. Again, thanks for everything!

Love,

Daniela, Yudy and Dayana



Dayana, Yudy and Daniela are the three students at The Leadership Center (TLC) in Honduras who are sponsored by Trinity Church.

## Donations Requested—Help for Honduras

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This fall we are collecting a couple of specific items to send to Honduras by mid-October in connection with Art for Humanity.

Your donations will be in the hands of needy people in Honduras by Christmas. People will use these items for their families or sell them to help raise money to support their families. We need new or used shoes - men's

size 11 or smaller and any size women's or kids shoes. Shoes allow people to work and kids to go to school. Used clothing is always welcome as well.

We need kitchen utensils / supplies and tools for The Leadership Center. You may drop the donations at the trailer or in the Fellowship Building if weather is an issue, someone will

check the trailer regularly to load the donations.

*Because this is a mission of love, we only want items in very good condition. Share your love and compassion by sharing quality items.*

Thank you very much,  
The Missions Committee of Trinity  
United Methodist Church



## Blessing of the Pets

By Biscuit Gilmer, Trinity Mascot



Happy fall to all the children of Trinity United Methodist Church!

October is a great time of the Fall. The leaves are changing, the air is cooler and we celebrate the blessing of the pets! Mark your calendar and grab your furry friends, because the Pet Blessing at Trinity Church is on October 4.

Pet blessings are held around the world. They were started to honor St. Francis of Assisi. He was an Italian Catholic friar (that's a pastor) who lived nearly 800 years ago. Francis did a lot to draw attention to the poor and needy. He also loved all animals, recognizing animals as part of God's

great creation. (St. Francis was even known to carry on conversations with the birds in the trees!) In the year 1228, Pope Gregory named Francis the patron saint of both animals and the environment. That's pretty cool.

Here are the details of how we'll celebrate the pets of our parish:

### Trinity's Pet Blessing

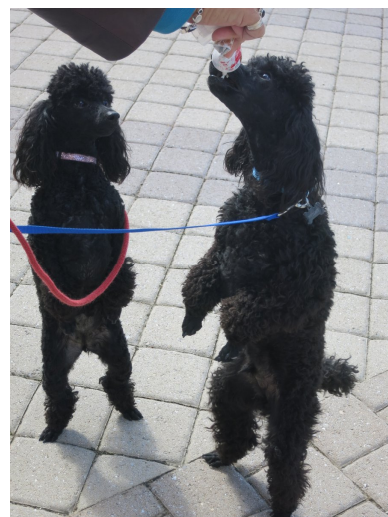
October 4

2 p.m.

We'll meet in the courtyard outside the Fellowship Building.  
(If it rains, you can find us in Langley Hall.)

Important information: All dogs need to be on leashes. Cats and all other critters need to be in cages or other appropriate carriers. Come out and say hi to me. I can't wait to meet you and your pets!

Until then, remember my motto:  
Paws for Jesus.  
Biscuit



## Furniture Needed

Are you looking to find a good home for some used porch furniture? Maybe you plan to buy new next year and don't know what to do with your old? Storage a problem? We can help! Trustees would like to furnish the screened porch of Trinity House with your "gently-used" cast-offs!

Suggestions could be: a small cafe table and chairs, a porch sofa, comfortable chairs, a coffee table, end tables, maybe an indoor/outdoor rug. If you want to be relieved of any such items, please drop an email to Mary Weaver (MWeaver23@cox.net) or call 703-758-9281 and we'll make arrangements for a pick up.

## Crafts for a Cause

The pillows, bears, dolls and blankets are piled high in Room 124, thanks to the extra volunteers who have been coming to Crafts for a Cause since a daytime work session was added last month. During October, the weekly work schedule will continue, with Monday night sessions on **Oct. 5 and Oct. 19** from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Wednesday daytime sessions on **Oct. 14 and Oct. 28** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. You don't have to be "crafty" to participate - just willing to help out with this fulfilling ministry. In addition to comfort items, the group will be working on projects for the annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR, which starts Sun., Nov. 22 and continues

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Church & Society

By Chris Wilbur

### October Collection Drive

This month we're collecting men's winter clothing and toiletry items for Christ House, a medical facility in Washington, D.C. Please donate new or gently worn fall and winter men's clothing (no women's clothing) sizes small to extra large, new men's underwear any size, new socks, t-shirts, tennis shoes and belts. Men's sweatpants (any size, preferably new) are always needed. Also, toiletries such as disposable razors, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, are needed. Please place your donations in either the collection baskets in the foyers of the church or in the collection closet in the Fellowship Building.

October 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Schedule of Events

- Oct. 4: Bible Sunday, 10:30 a.m. (3rd graders receive Bibles)
- Oct. 4: Pet Blessing, 2 p.m.
- Oct. 5: Crafts for a Cause, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 15: *Spire* Deadline
- Oct. 18: Laity Sunday
- Oct. 22: Moms' Group (Briscoe home), 7 p.m.
- Oct. 23: Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 25: Celtic Service, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 31: Charge Conference, 11 a.m. (at Charles Wesley UMC)
- Oct. 31: Stop Hunger Now (at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer)

## Anniversaries

- 6 Robert & Mary Newcomb
- 9 Ron & Lenora Evers
- 10 Thuong & Hanh Nguyen  
Barry Nigro, Jr & Stacey Sovereign  
Patrick & Tina Sprouse
- 12 Jay & Ruth Hoffman
- 13 David & Karen Hunt
- 17 William Salazar & Betsy May-Salazar
- 18 Vinnie & Sandy DeMicco
- 20 Keith & Janey Lee
- 23 Mark & Molly Weidner
- 25 Matt & Kelly Sadler
- 27 David & Emily Velez
- 30 David & Patty Burgess

## Birthdays

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 William Calsyn<br>Chris Fuchs  | 12 Tanner Coerr<br>Storm Jensen<br>Lachlan Thomas   | 22 Laura Gray   |
| 2 Sarah Beth Burgess<br>David Case<br>Will Garcia<br>Gay Rogers<br>Sharon Todd | 13 James Barney<br>Justin Burr<br>Sandy DeMicco<br>Meredith Faust<br>Liam Keough                                | 23 Ed Booth<br>Emery Conroy<br>Keith Dailey<br>Catherine Fuchs<br>Mary Weaver |
| 3 Madison Speilman   | 16 Jon-Luke Duley<br>Jan Fuchs<br>Ann Hooton<br>Jamie Lawson<br>Jewel Myers<br>Dale Rasmussen<br>Christian Yoon | 24 Lindsay Boyle<br>Barbara Gray<br>Tasha Lewton                              |
| 4 Kit Arthur<br>Samantha Case<br>Damon Hanlan                                  | 17 Kathy Bowles<br>George Dailey<br>Lani Galloway<br>Liam Montgomery  | 25 Livia Phillips   |
| 6 Tammy Casey<br>Jessica Faust<br>Jay Hoffman<br>Bill Slade<br>Zavvor Zenk     | 18 Audrey Goodner<br>Judy Osha<br>David Wise  | 26 Valerie Jorgens<br>Tyler Martin<br>Todd Prewett<br>Nicholas Velez          |
| 7 Ted Georgelas<br>Landon Peterson   | 19 Kip Howlett,<br>Rhett Parrish<br>Liz Weidman   | 28 Anne Arnold<br>Allie Eames<br>Erin Endean<br>Jim Sprouse<br>Bryce Yang     |
| 8 Jim Corey<br>Barry Garelick<br>Rhys Solina                                   | 20 Ryan Gottwald<br>Chip Gray<br>Finn Parrish<br>Nadine Wethington  | 29 Alice Brouillard<br>Chip Coston<br>Fiona Keough<br>Constance Solina        |
| 9 Jeff Graves<br>George Lorenze<br>Pat Richards<br>Sarah Steinke               |   | 30 Caroline Speidel   |
| 10 David Cope<br>Allison Sullivan  |   | 31 Eileen Jackson<br>Nicholas Nigro<br>Morgan Snyder                          |

(Crafts Continued from page 5)

Sundays until Christmas. Be prepared to do some holiday shopping and support not only Crafts for a Cause, but also the Heart 2 Heart orphanage in Honduras. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com.

## Disciple Leadership

By Ellen Fillette

A disciple in leadership... is that even possible? If you think about it for a moment you realize that this phrase is really an oxymoron. To be a disciple and to be a leader are seemingly opposite tasks. To be a disciple means that we are passionately modeling our life after our leader. A disciple of Jesus commits their whole being to living a life that follows the example of the one we call Christ. To be a disciple is to be a committed follower. On the other hand leadership implies that others are following you. As a matter of fact, being a leader by standard definition, *necessitates* that you have followers. It is not possible to call yourself a leader if no one follows. So if we take these two definitions and try to smash them together we end up with a distorted idea of linear relationships starting with God and then trickling down: leader, follower, leader, follower, and so on. The image that comes to mind is the scene from Peter Pan where the lost boys are "following the leader." As they journey together each lost boy – one after another in line – is both a leader and a follower doing exactly as the boy ahead of him in line did. But

this can't be a right image of disciple leadership. It runs the risk of ending up like a particularly difficult game of telephone and it looks nothing like the Kingdom of God that belongs to the least of these or the Kingdom of God where the last will be first. But like any oxymoron (Jumbo shrimp, known rumor, act naturally, freezer burn) I think these two words take on a different meaning all together when they are combined.

Being a disciple in leadership means that I am passionately modeling my life after Christ and inviting others to join me in following. A disciple does not lead from the front, but rather alongside of others. It is faithfully living into the vision of the Kingdom of God and inviting others to participate in working towards the manifestation of this vision. Disciple leadership requires that we recognize that we are only one part of the body of Christ, no more or less important than the others. Most importantly, disciple leadership offers the assurance of knowing that we never walk alone. God goes before us and our brothers and sisters walk beside me hand in hand.

## Book Chat

In October the Trinity Book Chat turns to *The Rosie Project*, by Graeme Simsion. Featuring an oddly charming, socially challenged genetics professor who is seeking true love, the book is "bursting with warmth, emotional depth, and... humor," says *Entertainment Weekly*. We'll discuss the book on **Tuesday, October 13**, at 6:30 p.m., in the Trinity Library. Bring a light dinner (dessert is provided) and enjoy fellowship and lively conversation. Our book for November 10 is *Tell the Wolves I'm Home*, by Carol Rifka Brunt. Then we'll take a break for the holidays! Contact Kathy Maher (Kathyngs@gmail.com) to be added to the e-mail list.

## Membership Update

### Birth

Calvin Lynnwood Summers

### Baptisms

Peter Daesuk Bricker  
Alison Jinsuk Bricker  
Liam Alexander Hanlan

### Death

Mason McAllister

### New Members

Mike Duley  
Damon & Yolande Hanlon  
Jeremey & Lindsey Stover

### Change of Address

Jamie & Jamie Loving,  
Adelaide & Charlotte  
8414 Martingale Dr.  
McLean, VA 22102

Brad & Colleen Mantel,  
Samantha & Abigail  
210 E. Fairfax St. #210  
Falls Church, VA 22046

## Education: Adults



**Bible Study with Pastor Jim** continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., Mondays at 10 a.m. and

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The current topic is Paul's Letters and is led by Jim Sprouse in the Library. The study of Paul's Letters will last until Thanksgiving, studying one letter a week.

**Connections** continues a parenting series on the book *The 5 Love Languages for Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. All are welcome to attend, advance preparation is not required. This study will end in time to begin an Advent study after Thanksgiving. The class meets in the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings and be led by Karen and Andy Briscoe.



## The Spire

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McLean, VA  
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*Sent in Prayer to:*



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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 — 12 noon  
Celtic Evensong & Communion—6 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

Jose Rivera and Leslie Vorndran — Lay Leaders

Jerry Rich — Director of Music

Ellen Fillette — Children/Youth Choir Director

Harriet Latta — Office Manager

Jose Luis Nuñez-Ruiz— Sexton

Janine Whitfield — Director of Parents Day Out Preschool

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*The Spire* deadline is  
the 15th of the month.

Spire Editor: Harriet Latta.

Submit articles to [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org).

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***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.*