

A Message from James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

The Necessity of Christian Education



Christian education is the key to making the Christian faith a powerful attraction in the 21st century. I cannot stress strongly enough how vitally important Christian Education is on all levels of church life - from preschool through high school and all through adult life. Christian Education needs to be a multi-dimensional and multi-generational approach that focuses on commitment to Christ, small-group ministries, and evangelism. And, our educational foundation as Christians needs a solid grounding in the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament.

As a preacher and teacher, my personal prejudice is that Bible stories offer fantastic, built-in opportunities for creative interpretation and leave lasting impressions on our children and youth. Increasingly, the guests at Trinity Church, and any other churches in the U.S., do not know the stories of the *Bible*. This makes preaching more difficult. Preaching requires a certain basic level of understanding of names, places, events etc. that have Biblical significance. Only Christian education lays this necessary foundation that enables those in worship to listen for and hear God's still, small voice.

Christian education also assists our church members to face real life issues from a Christ-centered perspective. Our mission here at Trinity is to educate our members on the Christian faith and how that faith helps guide and inform the everyday moral and ethical decisions we make. Church members are often starving for knowledge of God and some awareness that God cares about each of us. We want to be taught how to recognize God at work in our own lives. Nothing does this as well as the combination of good preaching and good teaching.

Trinity expects the best from its leaders. The Christian Education and I are committed to making worship at Trinity beautiful, sound in biblical teaching, relevant to life and challenging. The Christian Education team at Trinity is committed to growing persons spiritually and equipping our children, youth and adults with a strong foundation of stories of the Bible. Our ministry and education teams are currently planning for the fall and winter seasons. Join us for our Sunday School Kick-Off, September 12, and the beginning of a wonderful year of learning about God.

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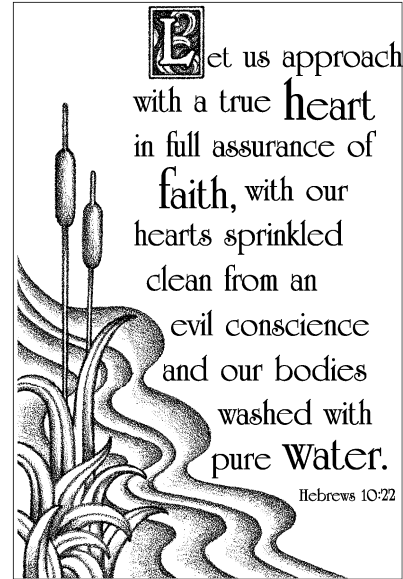
Last month, I was on a week-long mission trip to Carolina Cross Connection. The mission trip was a work trip where we were placed into small groups called CMGs (Christian Mission Groups), and we stayed and worked together all week.

One wonderful part of Carolina Cross Connection is that every morning, they encouraged us to spend time with God. After each devotional they gave us to read, I spent my week in the book of Hebrews. Some suspect that Paul wrote Hebrews, but we do not know this for sure. The theme for Hebrews focuses on Jesus being the revealer of God's grace. This book has a high Christology, and we are reminded that we are no longer in need of a high priest because of Christ.

The third and fourth devotion I had, a phrase was repeating itself. "Today, if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7-8 and Hebrews 4:7). I absolutely love these words! If we think God is tugging at our hearts or speaking to us in some way, shape, or form, let us not harden our hearts!

Scripture tells us to not harden our hearts. This means that we need to have a teachable spirit. If our hearts are hard and we are unwilling to learn, we might be missing a powerful message that God is trying to convey. God is

speaking in many ways, but are we listening? I encourage you to listen for God's voice and also to have a teachable spirit. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts!



Faith in Action

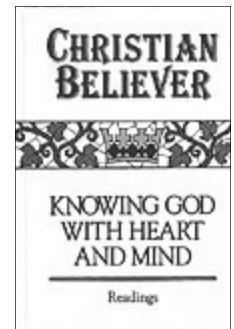
By Amy Crisp, Director of Christian Education

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been reflecting on my experience at Carolina Cross Connection. I had many awesome faith moments through which I have come to understand God, myself, and my faith a little more clearly. One such moment occurred during the morning devotional time one day after breakfast. That morning I came across Mark 3:11-12. This passage is one of many in Mark in which Jesus orders spirits and those whom he has healed not to reveal his identity, not to make him known. It is not until later in Mark that Jesus is fully ready to reveal himself as the Messiah. So until that moment comes, he commands everyone to keep it a secret. I immediately began thinking about all of the times in my life when God has been silently and invisibly present. It wasn't until I looked back on the situation that I came to realize God's hidden presence in those moments.

This passage sums up my experience at Carolina Cross Connection. Every day when we went out to those strangers' homes, we were showing them who God is by putting our faith into action. But those people may not have realized that fact. It may not be until later when they look back that they see how God was working through us to impact their lives.

It is for this reason that I advocate for all of us to live out our faith in real and tangible ways. Coming in September, I will be offering a *Christian Believer* study. *Christian Believer* is a 30-week commitment, but it is an awesome faith experience. We will explore the substance of our Christian faith through the history and doctrines of the Church. Furthermore, we will discover the connection between believing and living. Living faithfully is just one way that we can begin to show God to the world around us.

Please contact me to register for this class. We will begin our study on **Monday, September 20** from 6:30-8 p.m. I can be reached at the church office: 703-356-3312 and by e-mail: acrisp@vacoxmail.com



Trinity Round-Up



BOOK CHAT

Interested in joining a book club? The Trinity Book Chat resumes in September: Everyone is welcome, and reading the book isn't even required! We meet the second Wednesday of the month (except December) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Library. Bring a light dinner (dessert is provided) and come for fellowship and lively conversation. We have the rest of the summer to enjoy the book slated for **September 8**, *Island of the World*, by Michael D. O'Brien. Contact Kathy Maher (kmaher@ngs.org; 703-790-8884) if you have questions or would like to be added to the email list. Hope you can join us!

CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE - Since launching in May, the crafts group has made and donated 60 stuffed bears to Fair Oaks Hospital, as well as making more than 100 stamped greeting cards for U.S. troops. The blank cards are shipped to soldiers to use for personal correspondence. This month, Crafts for a Cause is working on knitted and crocheted caps for newborns, in addition to making bears and comfort pillows for cancer patients at Fair Oaks Hospital. No skills required, just a willing heart. The group meets on Monday nights in Room 122. Upcoming sessions: **Aug. 2** and **Aug. 23** at **7 p.m.** Questions? Contact Molly Sprouse, 703-356-4896 or mollysprouse@gmail.com.



Sept. 12: Sunday School Kick-off and Blessing of the Backpacks
Sept. 28: Church Council
Oct. 3: Pet Blessing
Oct. 17: Laity Sunday
Nov. 13: Charge Conference

Brainstorming New Ministries Opportunities at Trinity UMC

On Saturday, July 17, the staff, ministry chairs and lay leaders of Trinity Church met to brainstorm about **new ministry opportunities**. We thought and planned together for 3 ½ hours. We adjourned with the following list of ministry ideas to implement over the next year. We'd like to hear your thoughts regarding our ideas. Speak with any of the staff, lay leaders or ministry chairs regarding these ideas and any of your own.

1. Celtic Worship Service
2. Blessing of Animals, Bikes & Back Packs
3. Food bank collection for Thanksgiving Dinner celebration; Covered dish
4. Intergenerational Passion Play
5. Monday Night Football - fall event...gather for fellowship, Bible study, and watch the game
6. Prayer Labyrinth
7. After School Program(s)
8. Life Care Issues / Ethics / Shepherd's Center
9. Improve website with Facebook traffic and youtube link
10. Mission events: Central America, Habitat for Humanity, Africa, Appalachia (see p. 4)
11. Church Council every other month beginning 2011
12. Dance group in Langley Hall
13. Ministry to Seniors
14. Choir Dedication Service/Teachers etc.
15. Congregation sings during Holy Communion
16. Children's Handbell Choir
17. Yard sale [annual event]; hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. Crafts/Vendors
18. Knowledge sharing events / Guest speakers 4 events / year
19. Joint Revival / Lent / Advent study with other McLean United Methodist churches

COLLECTION DRIVE FOR AUGUST

In August and September, we will be collecting **school supplies and new or gently used khaki pants (sixes 3T-14)** for Stanton Elementary School. Needed school supplies are **24 count crayons, #2 pencils, glue sticks, blunt-nosed scissors, rulers and black marble composition books.** Donation baskets are located in the church foyers as well as the Fellowship Building.

The next **SHARE food drive** will be in **November**, but non-perishable food items brought to the church will be delivered in a timely manner.

CHRIST HOUSE

Trinity has the opportunity to serve a lunch-time meal to homeless persons in Washington, D.C. at Christ House. The Young Adult group prepared and served the lunch at Christ House on Saturday, July 17. The Young Adults alternate with Church and Society to coordinate the purchasing of food, the cooking and the serving of the meal to Christ House residents. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Connie Jeremiah at 703-242-6539 or e-mail: dcjeremiah@verizon.net. **Our next commitment will be Saturday, September 18, and we need at least 3 volunteers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

MCLEAN/FALLS CHURCH DAYCARE CENTER

Located in the Lemon Road Elementary School in Falls Church, the McLean/Falls Church Daycare Center offers affordable child care to needy families. United Methodist Women has supported this center for many years and now Church and Society is a sponsor. Twice a year we deliver groceries to supplement the center's breakfast and to provide healthy snacks. Trinity is only one of the churches who participate in this program. In May, Trinity volunteers purchased and delivered food.

CHANGES AT STANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A charter school company from Philadelphia is reorganizing and running Stanton as a public school, now called D.C. Scholars at Stanton. Although the administration, faculty and staff have changed for the fall of 2010, the student body has not. D.C. Scholars at Stanton will be counting on Trinity's commitment and continued support.

The best way that Trinity can help Stanton right now is to buy school supplies or provide khaki pants for the students (see above for details). Trinity Church is one of the few stabilizing factors in the lives of these D.C. children. The faces of our volunteers are some of the few they will recognize this fall. Church and Society will be counting on you, our congregation, to continue its support as we minister and renew our commitment to Stanton's community and administration.

Exciting Trinity Mission Opportunities

We are very pleased to offer four short term missions. All mission trips are with established missionaries and are "short term work and witness teams." Each team leader has personal knowledge and experience with their mission partner. Each mission team is planned for 10 participants (Appalachia project could accept more than 10). It is our hope and prayer that our Trinity family will fill these four teams. We are also certainly interested in extending this service invitation to friends of Trinity.

Please prayerfully consider your response and let us know of your interest as soon as possible.

Our mission ministry needs financial support as well as your prayers. We will attempt to provide partial scholarship support for participants. The Trinity Missions Committee greatly appreciates any donations for that specific purpose.

For general information, please contact Dan or Chris Moore (703-893-0054). For specific interest in a particular mission, please contact the leaders indicated. More details are available in the Narthex and on the website.

Destination	Company & Website	Dates	Team Leader	Estimated Cost	Commitment Date
Mississippi Gulf Coast	Habitat for Humanity frederickhabitat.org	Oct. 24—30, 2010	Sandy & Vinnie DeMicco 703-938-7906	Housing (2 options): \$100/week with meals; \$50/night, no dinners. Airfare: \$300	Sept. 18, 2010
Appalachia Guyan Valley, WV	Appalachia Service Project asphome.org	Dec. 2—5, 2010	Molly & Jim Sprouse 703- 356-4896	\$150 per person for meals and lodging, travel by car	Sept. 30, 2010
Honduras	Mercy Ships mercyships.org	Feb. 25—March 5, 2011	Chris & Dan Moore 703-893-0054	\$1700 includes project fees, airfare and lodging	Sept. 30, 2010
Ethiopia	Moria'h Deliverance of Ethiopian Children moriahchildren.org	Feb./March 2011	Karen Loss 703-850-2153	\$2800 all inclusive	Late Oct./early Nov.

We are getting ready for another exciting Sunday School year. Soon, parents will receive a letter about upcoming Sunday School dates and events, along with a teacher schedule.

It's not too late to **volunteer!** If you do not have children attending Sunday School at Trinity, would you consider taking a month of teaching or serving as an assistant? We have openings in all the grades and could really use your help! Please e-mail me or catch me during Fellowship if you are willing to help - it is a fun and rewarding experience!



Shepherd's Center Needs Volunteers

Volunteer drivers are needed for Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church. **This is an urgent and growing need.** Drivers take older or visually impaired adults who live in the McLean-Arlington-Falls Church area to medical and physical therapy appointments or to the grocery or drug store for companion shopping. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Center's office at Trinity. To volunteer, please call the **Shepherd's Center at 703-506-2199.**



There will be a mandatory **Sunday School Teacher Meeting** on **August 22** from **12-2 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. It will be a great time for fellowship amongst the teachers before the Sunday School year kicks off! If you will be unable to attend or have any questions, please contact Amy Crisp at acrisp@vacoxmail.com or 703-356-3312.

Looking for a Jack of All Trades?

Jack Jardine, our Building Maintenance Manager who helps keep our Trinity facility ticking and beautiful on a part-time basis, is leaving his full-time job maintaining a group of Mormon churches. He will have his own business now contracting out his time and expertise to homeowners and commercial property owners, as well as continuing to work at Trinity part-time. His talents are widely diverse and he has an amazing array of equipment for every task from the smallest to the complex. Jack has had his own carpet-cleaning and flooring maintenance

business for years; he is a licensed contractor for HVAC; he knows electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting, general handyman services, etc. Please think about Jack the next time you need some work done. His telephone number is 540-325-6532. If you want to talk with a church member about Jack, please ask Mary Weaver, Karen Hunt or Ed Schrock about their experiences with him. You'll get a glowing report!



New Member/Baptism
Cassidy Bohman

Address Changes
Ken & Megan Keane
5322 Esabella Ct
Fairfax, VA 22032

Patrick & Tina Sprouse
3148 Holly Hall St
Houston, TX 77054

If you have an address away from home (college, military service, etc.) or you have a new address, please send it to umtrinity@vacoxmail.com. When you provide the church with your new address in a timely way, it saves the church the address correction fees from the U. S. Postal Service.



Following a recent UMC conference gathering, Jim Sprouse shared with me a book that caught his attention and interest. Rev. Adam Hamilton's *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* is really an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom on prudent financial practices. Hamilton, the Senior Pastor of a 15,000 member UMC congregation in Leawood, Kansas, is the author of a number of books on leadership, ethics, marriage, and the spiritual life. As I read through the short and succinct book, the chapter that had significant meaning for me was the chapter titled: *Defined by Generosity*. It really asked the question as to what would be some of the characteristics we, as individuals or as a group, would be defined as by following generations. Hamilton hoped that one of the key characteristics you and I would be defined and remembered for is our generosity.

Hamilton reminds us through his writings that when God created humankind, he designed us to be generous, with the willingness to give – to God and to others. While we all find ourselves dealing with our generosity and the giving of our time, talents, and treasures in challenging times, we all need to be comforted by the thought that "our generosity to God and others not only touches God and

other people, it also changes us" (Hamilton, 2009, p. 88). Generosity can and does change us, filling us with joy and charging our lives with various blessings. The writings of the Bible remind us of the benefits of having generous hearts:

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

We have lots to be thankful for, and our generosity toward one another and our community of faith has been significant. However, as you can see by the numbers displayed below, we continue to be faced with that ever-present balancing act involving our generous giving, our spending, and our outreaches. So, in addition to being remembered characteristically as being generous, let's also be remembered for pulling together in difficult times and ensuring that our financial well-being is guaranteed for the future. Please take the opportunity now to give generously of what God has given us, and you will experience the abundant blessing that come from living a life with God.

Our Record of Stewardship Faithfulness

Thru June 2010

Operating Budget	<u>Expenses Budget</u>	<u>Actual Revenue</u>
June 2010	\$50,800	\$38,637
Year-to-Date (end-Jun)	\$391,000	\$299,044
MFT/EOF Capital Campaign	<u>Interest Expense</u>	<u>MFT/EOF Donations</u>
June 2010	\$25,000	\$12,489
Year-to-Date (end-Jun)	\$150,000	\$140,864

Notes: 1) Expense budget includes local outreach, staff salaries, programs, administrative expense and property. It does not include some District/Conference apportionments and benevolences, which are budgeted later in year. 2) MFT/EOF donations are used for debt service/loan reduction.

Bi-District United Methodist Men

Celebrate 100 Years of Scouting

Saturday, Sept. 11

8-11 a.m.

Old Bridge United Methodist Church
3966 Old Bridge Rd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Keynote Speaker—Rev. Ken Jackson
Alexandria District Superintendent

Rev. Jackson has been a longtime supporter of scouting activities.


Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. with a district business meeting and program to follow. There is no cost for this event; however, a freewill offering will be accepted.

To register, contact Dennis Fairbanks at denfair48@verizon.net. This event is hosted by Old Bridge United Methodist Men.



August 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <i>CCC Sunday</i> Jan Symons Andy Wright	2 <i>Crafts for a Cause</i> Drew Copeland Allison Deutsch Scott Keough Daniel Yoon Weldon & Gail Brown	3 Anne Laughlin	4 <i>Praise Service</i> William Kadel Emily McGowen Matt Sadler Gene Sizemore Bob Ward	5 Mark Brunner Edwin Kuhn	6 Hana Betts Mika Huffman Cornell & Ann Hooton	7 James Todd Howard Williamson Frank & Leslie Vorndran
8 <i>Sandwich Sunday</i> Matthew Eads Nicholas & Karan Chinn Jamie & Jamie Loving	9 Caroline Brunner Suzanne Hamilton David Wilkes	10 Lily Chinn Brayden Verity Charles & Genee Boykin Anne & Kevin Davis	11 Katie Moore Hanh Nguyen Tim Wallace	12 Michael Esposito Kay Walker Steven & Christina Stafford	13 Melissa Frazee Robert Frazee Pamela Huffman Thomas Hunt Jamie Loving, Jr. Chris Moore David Moore Jeffrey Sinks Doug & Rebecca Taylor	14 Kailia Zenk Palmer & Karen Robeson
15 <i>Spire Deadline</i> Tyler Crum Susan Hunt AJ Kuhn Mary Leake Jim Wilson Curt & Dori Burner Eric & Kelly Rasmussen	16 Steven Conroy, Jr. Jessica Martin Brad Snyder Richard & Shannon Haddad	17 Mark Betts Dale & Kathy Rasmussen Mike Ferguson & Deb Rawhouser	18 Brock Burner Russell Wheeler	19 Carolyn Cope Don & Miyoung Merrill	20 Christopher Hower Laurie Meamber Tamara Rafferty Scott & Jane Pelley	21 Eric Kadel Eugene Leake Katey Weir
22 <i>Teacher Meeting</i> John Browning Bets Carnahan Mildred Coover Roger Gilliland Al Klopfer Elouise Revercomb	23 <i>Crafts for a Cause</i> Elizabeth Christy Dillon Prestidge Rebecca Taylor Brooke Waldron Jamise Wykle Rob & Lisa Lloyd	24 Alexander Dale Mark & Carol Brunner	25 Molly Sprouse	26 Jerry Rich Christy Slade Olin & Nadine Wethington	27 Barbara Bruce Andrew & Kathleen Card	28 Karen Bell Miyoung Merrill Jess Riedel Rod & Mary Weir Jim & Cindy Wilson
29 Jo Ann Hull Allison Lea Julie Smith Helson Wykle Dorinda & Benton Burroughs Woody & Gay Rogers	30 Willis Ashworth Peggy Fox Ivan Kadium Claudia O'Brien	31 Rachel Georgelas Joe Osha Richard & Elaine Brinkley Steve & Judy Ochs				

The Spire

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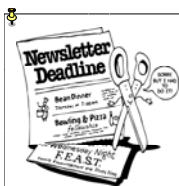
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

mailed July 29, 2010



Vacation Bible School
August 16—20, 2010
9 a.m.—12 p.m.
Ages 3—Rising 4th grade
Registration forms and contact for
volunteering are available in the
Narthex, Fellowship Lobby and on
our website.

Sent In Prayer To:



Please Note: The next Spire deadline is the 15th of the month.
Spire Editor: Harriet Latta.
Submit articles to umtrinity@vacoxmail.com.

Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Wednesday Evening Praise Service—6:45 p.m.

Sunday School — 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Communion and Healing — 12 noon

Here to serve Christ and you:

James C. Sprouse — Senior Pastor

Eric C. Song — Associate Pastor

Gretchen Miller—Pastor of Congregational Care

Amy Crisp—Director of Christian Education

Carol Brunner—Director of Children's Ministries

Carol E. Bruce and Scott Keough — Lay Leaders

Jerry Rich — Director of Music

Evan Ayars — Children/Youth Choir Director

Harriet Latta — Office Manager

Thuong Van Nguyen – Custodian

Karen Jester — Director of Parents Day Out

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Fax: 703 356-9119

E-mail: umtrinity@vacoxmail.com

Web Site: umtrinity.org

Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth • Peace On Earth

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.

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