A Message from James C. Sprouse, Senior Pastor

21st Century Christianity

The Christian church is now some 1980 years on this side of the first Easter which remembered and celebrated the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. We and generations of Christians before us have labored for centuries to carry the Easter message of the transforming love of Jesus Christ to the world. You and I are part of the first generation of North Americans to live in a society that no longer appreciates the presence of Christianity. Many are hostile toward the institutional church, unless its gospel is intertwined with a form of civil religion. The early church shared the gospel of Jesus in a religiously plural, but hostile world. The 21st century has brought Christianity full circle.

Early Christians came together to celebrate their lives together with God through prayer, table fellowship, and teaching about the Way. They also went out from the great Temple into the streets to be martyrs (witnesses) to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Their message asked persons to embrace the Way of Jesus as the rule of God in their hearts. They established small groups that met in homes for nurture and fellowship. It was through these small groups that a larger sense of community developed. Finally, they experienced persecution and arrest from religious authorities and non-religious people because the Way they chose affected the economic practices of society and challenged established religious traditions.

Based on these essential concerns of the early church and what is becoming obvious to us by now of the emerging world we can conclude a few ideas about the church in the 21st century.

1. Our primary mission will be to establish Christian communities in the midst of a hostile and violent world.
2. The mission of these communities will be to proclaim the rule of God to all people.
3. Our mission's dominant theme will be the Way of life prefigured in the life and ministry of Jesus.
4. The life of prayer will be necessary to keep our Christian communities focused on our mission as witnesses to the Way.
5. All church and community leadership will be based on faithful service to the Way of Christ.
6. Denominational loyalty and church affiliation will be challenging.
7. And finally, all Christian communities in the 21st century will need to be able to stand on our own... to self-sustain.

Our excellent leadership of Trinity Church believes that, based on the life of the early church, the only way to survive and move forward in our time is for our congregation to turn outward to the world. All our ministries and missions need to shout to the entire world that Jesus is the Way without being judgmental on the worth of others with regard to their religious beliefs, or their nationality. Our mission involves embracing our passion for social justice and the demand Christ makes on us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive sins, and love the enemy. All of which is emphasized through word and deed by Jesus.

To embrace the possibilities and opportunities of life and move forward as followers of the Way of Christ all our missions and ministries must be willing to exist for the sole purpose of bringing this new life to others who are not yet experiencing it. You and I must invest God's gifts of time, talents, treasures, and our very lives to turn society upside down so that, from time to time, those who are usually last can be first at the table of the world's bounty. You and I need to discover, as we move forward into God's future, the courage needed for embracing and offering this new life in Jesus as the Way. We are fellow pilgrims along the Way that leads us more fully and deeply into the wonder of God's love, presence in the world, and mission. This is the most healthy and hopeful way to live as Easter people to the world.
Clutter. We all have it. Sometimes it's the stuff that piles up, gets in your way and seems to double in size when you're not looking. You don't have to qualify as a subject on a hoarder's reality show to feel like you have too much stuff. Once those papers or magazines or things-you-need-to-keep-because-you-might-need-them-someday get too stacked up, it can be overwhelming. You don't know where to start.

Then, there's the emotional clutter. Maybe it's in the form of guilt. Maybe it's self-doubt. Maybe it's the leftovers of an unhealthy relationship. That kind of clutter is harder to get rid of than a stack of old *The Washington Post* Sunday Editions. Just like the physical clutter, the emotional type slows us down, gets in our way and keeps us from freely moving about our lives.

What to do? Maybe it's time for a good spring cleaning. Reflect upon and pray about what's in your life that's holding you back. Pray for discernment on how to get rid of the clutter that is blocking your relationship with God and your relationships with those whom you love.

"Out of clutter, find simplicity." What a great quote from Albert Einstein. To take that a step further, with simplicity comes clarity. How do we find that simplicity and clarity? A good way to start might be to meditate a few minutes a day on scripture. Here's a good one to get you started:

*Show me your ways, LOR D,*
*teach me your paths.*
*Guide me in your truth and teach me,*
*for you are God my Savior,*
*and my hope is in you all day long.*  Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

I'll see you in church.

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Abide with Me

by Jerry Rich, Director of Music

"Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, Lord, abide with me." This hymn—a favorite of King George V and Mahatma Gandhi, recorded by jazz legends Thelonious Monk and John Coltrane, sung on board the sinking *Titanic* and at the 2012 London Olympics, featured on television's *Doctor Who* and *Doc Martin*—speaks as much to us today as it did when Henry Lyte wrote these words 168 years ago.

Reverend Lyte, vicar in the fishing village of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England, ministered faithfully for twenty-three years to his seafaring people, writing sermons, poems and hymns. But Henry's lungs were affected by the seaside's damp winters, and while in his early fifties he developed tuberculosis. On September 4, 1847, age 54, he entered his pulpit with difficulty and preached what was to be his last sermon. He had planned a therapeutic holiday in Italy. "I must put everything in order before I leave," he said, "because I have no idea how long I will be away." That afternoon he walked along the coast in pensive prayer then retired to his room, emerging an hour later with a written copy of *Abide with Me*.

Shortly afterward, Henry embraced his family a final time and departed for Italy. Stopping in Avignon, France, he revised *Abide with Me*—it was evidently much on his mind—and posted it to his wife. Arriving in the French Riviera, he checked into the Hôtel de Angleterre in Nice, and there on November 20, 1847, his lungs finally gave out. When news of his death reached Brixham, the village fishermen held a memorial service; this was when *Abide with Me* was first sung.
Hello to all the children of Trinity! I hope your April is off to a fun start.

I received a great question from my friend Bennett, who is four years old. He asked me if God created himself. Wow, Bennett. You’re super smart to ask such a good question!

The best way to answer any question like this is to turn to the Bible. I hope you have one. If you don’t, please let Pastor Jim or Pastor Eileen know. They will be happy to give you a Bible.

Let’s look at the first book of the Old Testament. It’s called Genesis and it was written in Hebrew. The name Genesis means “in the beginning” in Hebrew. Grab your Bible and look up the first verse of Genesis. That’s Genesis 1:1. A parent, grandparent, or older brother or sister can help you.

Do you see what it says? “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Pretty cool. The entire book of Genesis is about how God created everything: the sky, sun, moon, stars, earth, animals and people. Genesis talks about the creation of everything. What the Bible does not talk about is the creation of God. Why is that? It’s because God was never created. God has always been.

That’s hard for us to understand. But, it makes sense because God is bigger and more powerful than anything we’ll ever know. God is bigger than anything that could be created. God had no beginning and will have no end. Because of God’s greatness, we know that we’re never alone and that God can always help us. Praise God for that!

Keep your questions coming. And remember my motto: Paws for Jesus!

Biscuit

Crafts for a Cause has a lot of new projects going on this spring, as we continue to provide more comfort items for Fair Oaks Hospital. We’ve been working on heart-shaped pillows for breast cancer patients, lap blankets and pillows for chemotherapy patients, along with neck pillows, stuffed bears and surgery dolls. We’ll be cutting, sewing, stuffing and stitching at two work sessions this month: Mon., April 6 and Mon., April 20, both at 7 p.m. in Room 124 in the Sanctuary building. Everyone’s welcome, materials and instruction provided. There is an ongoing demand for knit caps for newborns, so if you’d like to crochet or knit some of these caps, we have patterns and yarn for you. For more information, contact Molly Sprouse at mollysprouse@gmail.com or 703-356-4896.

Easter Sunday
April 5
6:30 a.m.
We’ll greet our risen Lord with the rising of the sun.

March 29: Palm Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Celtic Service at 6 p.m.
April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
April 3: Good Friday, 7 p.m.
April 5: Easter Sunday:
6:30, 8:30, 10:30 a.m.
(No Sunday School classes or Children’s Worship on Easter Sunday.)
All Pre-K and Kindergartners are invited to join us for special Easter activities during the 10:30 a.m. worship service in Rooms 402-403. We will learn about Holy Week while decorating jewelry, posters & more.

Did God Create Himself?
by Biscuit Gilmer, Trinity Church Mascot
### Connections Sunday School Class
Beginning Sunday, April 12, the Connections class will focus on marriage. We will discuss the material in the book “The Zimzum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage” by Rob and Kristen Bell. According to the author, “This book is about the deeper mysteries of marriage. Something powerful and profound happens in marriage… We believe that you can grow in your awareness of these realities, learning how to better see what’s going on in the space between you and how the love can flow all the more freely between you. It’s called the zimzum of love.”

All are welcome to attend, advance preparation is not required. The class will continue to meet in Room 205 from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings and be led by Karen and Andy Briscoe.

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**Easter**

**Crafts for a Cause**

**Celtic Service** 6 p. m.

**Book Chat**

**Church Council**

**Folding Team**
### Anniversaries

#### April 2015

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| William Austin  
Debra Jones  
Eunice Shadle | Dolly Judge  
Jessica Kiser  
Caroline Motley  
Nate Peine  
Marvin & Betty Quinn | Ginny Garelick  
John Meak  
David & Natacha Moore | Samantha Mastrostefano  
James & Kelley Barney |

#### Maundy Thursday

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| Tom Myers  
Amelia Newell  
Samantha Prestidge  
Lindsay Stowe | William Lee  
Liam & Tracy Montgomery | Andrew Joseph  
Vaughn McCollough  
Scott Nance |

#### Good Friday

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| Jacqueline Moore  
Mary Newcomb  
Norb & Sue Wegrsyn | Weldon Brown  
Grace Christy  
Owen Parrish | Russell Adams  
Katarina Georgelas  
William Todd  
Meredith Vorndran | Robert Begotka |

#### Newsletter Deadline

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| Terri Lee  
Ashton Summers | Isabella Georgelas  
Eliza Redway  
Van Todd | Leslie Fisher  
Anna Harris  
Andrew Smith  
Ty Walker  
Dick Weaver  
Michael & Carrie Garland  
Dick & Mary Weaver | Bonnie Patterson  
Audrey Vorndran |

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| Nancy Adams  
Tracy Montgomery  
Thomas Selbe  
Andy & Oakie Russell | |
100% Chance of Rain

Well, it’s that time of the year again. Children’s Choir is gearing up for the spring musical! On Sunday May 10, we will share with the congregation, 100% Chance of Rain by Walter S. Horsley. As the Choristers Guild website states, this musical tells “the story of Noah, his family, the ark, the flood, and God’s covenant with humanity. This rendition of Noah and the Ark incorporates lilting melodies and infectious humor with the promise of ‘100% chance of love!’”

If you are not a member of the Children’s Choir, but want to join us for the musical we would love to have you! We meet Wednesday nights 6 – 7 p.m. During the first thirty minutes, we share a meal together and then we rehearse music for the last 30 minutes. This can be a fun, engaging way to get plugged in here at Trinity and find a place in this community. During the month ahead, we will not only learn the words to songs or the melody, We will also take a closer look at the Bible story itself. What exactly is an ark? How many people and animals were on it? (Hint: the answer isn’t just two of each kind!) What is a covenant and why do we need one? It is going to be a fun and exciting time to worship God through music. I hope to see you there!

Shift into Hospitality: Be a Greeter
by Kathy Maher, Worship

Through a new program at Trinity called Shift, we’re striving to deepen our mission and ministry. Our first goal is to Shift from Fellowship to Hospitality.

Is Trinity your church home because you feel welcome here? Perhaps you were greeted warmly the first time you walked though the door. Won’t you pass that feeling along? Greeting before the service only takes a few minutes, and it can be done at your convenience. It’s a great way for individuals to help once in a while or for couples or families to volunteer together.

Here’s how it works: If you usually attend the 8:30 a.m. service, contact Karen Taylor at 703-241-7576. Karen sends an occasional email asking for greeters; just sign up for the date of your choice. Greeters at this service also make coffee (easy instructions are provided) and bring a snack to share. If you’d like to greet at the 10:30 a.m. service, you can sign up online at http://bit.ly/1030greeters or call Linda Drumheller at 703-448-6702.

After that, all you have to do is come to the service a bit early and greet people as they enter, offering a friendly hand and a warm smile. That’s all there is to it. Join us at Trinity as we Shift from Fellowship to Hospitality and welcome others as we have been welcomed.

Address Change
Lee Okster & Claudia O’Brien
664 Live Oak Dr.
McLean VA 22101

Are you moving?
Please send your new address to the church office (703-356-3312 or info@umtrinity.org). This will ensure that we have all the correct information to send news and contribution statements to the correct address. Thank you.

If you are interested in joining the church or learning more about our ministries, please contact a pastor or the church office.
April Collection Drive
For the month of April, Church and Society is collecting clothing for Christ House and Carpenter’s Shelter. Christ House, a residential medical facility in Washington, D.C., specifically needs new or gently worn spring and summer men’s casual clothing in sizes small to extra large, new men’s underwear any size, new socks any size/color and new or gently worn sweat pants for men in any size. Men’s clothing only. Donations will also aid Carpenter’s Shelter, serving homeless and formerly-homeless adults and children. Please place your donations in Church and Society’s collection baskets or closet located in the Fellowship Building.

Thank you for the travel-size toiletry items collected during the month of March. Personal hygiene kits will soon be assembled using those items, and given as Mother’s Day gifts to women coming to Martha’s Table.

DC Scholars at Stanton Elementary School
Trinity’s commitment to Stanton Elementary in Washington, D.C., continues to benefit the school’s students and faculty. If you would like to get involved, please contact Suzanne Hamilton at suzanhamil@aol.com, or 703-759-6264.

Missions
By Jose Rivera

This last trip to The Leadership Center (TLC) in Honduras, I had the privilege of traveling with Victoria Todd and Sharon Tanner. Typically, I travel with Dan and Chris Moore, but this time it was a little different. Dan and Chris were already there to welcome us and to say goodbye. They have been doing a wonderful job and everyone on campus is crazy about them. It will be very hard for the students and everyone on campus to say goodbye to them. The students are always sad even when a group leaves after only a week on campus. I cannot imagine how they will feel the day Dan and Chris leave at the end of their three-month stay.

During my trip, the plane and car ride were uneventful as all of my previous trips have been. Our group was involved in teaching and many different projects. We also made connections with everyone on campus. Personally, I had a great opportunity to connect with the construction workers, Elias, Marcos, Christian, Gerson, and Javier. Although the focus of our mission trips is the students, I like to spend some time helping them and talking to them. I believe they have needs just like the students do. Please keep everyone in TLC in your prayers. Feel free to ask me about TLC and consider joining us the next time.

Foundations
Becoming a Better Disciple.
We are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to go out into the world and make more disciples. But, what does that mean? Our April sermon series, Foundations, will examine how we can shift from fellowship to hospitality to become better disciples. We have to start with our relationships with each other as Christians. Then, we can think about our call to serve others and how we share our faith with others. It is our hope that this will provide a hands-on, practical approach to living out your faith journey.

April 12: Live Authentic Relationships
April 19: Discerning Call to Serve
April 26: Share Our Faith
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.