



Trinity building under construction, 1982



Worship at St. Anne's School, 1977



The Richards Family Intl. Thanksgiving Dinner, 2011



Carol McCormick's Farewell Party, 1983



Amber & Emma Inofuentes Advent Wreath Workshop, 2015



Ministry Fair, 2024



Spring Fling, 1984



Endrina Tay at TPC Homecoming, 2016



The Hub Young Adult Ministry Worship Night, 2026

TRINITY WOMEN

When Trinity began in 1976, two people had to get busy—fresh seminary grad Skip Ryan, and Carol McCormick, recent UVA grad and new administrator. Helped by volunteers, these two began charting the way forward for the crowd gathering at the Baptist Student Center. Soon, many new women—young singles, empty nesters, and in between—arrived eager to connect, bringing their gifts and talents to their new church family.

So began a season of firsts: a Women's Fellowship; Covenant Groups; a choir; VBS; a newsletter. Trinity commissioned its first missionary, Betty Bradley, a recent UVA grad, to serve in Spain; Sheila Richardson and Diane Gilliam began a weekly Bible study in 1979 where Skip first experienced teaching an all-women's group (a few times!); and Barb Armacost and Ellen Turner co-chaired the first Women's Retreat in 1979. On opening day of the new building in 1982, Trinity had a good ministry team and a "home base" at last! New space brought Mom's Morning Out and a women's Bible study, and a large member increase prompted new staff: Joan Neuroth, first Children's Director, and Beth Fletcher, first Counseling Director. In the early 80s, women helped pave the way for the creation of Covenant School and have continued to serve on its board. In the mid-late 80s "Heart to Heart," a women's mentoring ministry, and "Adopt-a-(college) Student" ministry had large participation.

In 1992, the preschool debuted under Lisa Wood's guidance, and in 1996 Amy Sherman led the charge to found Abundant Life. Eagles Wings, a Sunday outreach to youth with intellectual or physical disabilities, was launched. Throughout the 2000s, women continued teaching Sunday School and leading or serving on Trinity committees, community boards and mentoring/hosting Fellows.

Following a pause during Covid and much transition, Trinity's Women's Ministry had a strong reboot in 2022 led by Nancy Berry and Christine King. Results? A revived annual women's retreat, new Silence and Solitude days, Spiritual Friendships, and a growing Women Together in the Word. Women are involved in Sunday Service liturgist rotation, prayer and mercy teams, and since 2023, a Women's Council to assist the officers in congregational care. While the future is, of course, unknown, the same story continues to unfold in every decade. Trinity's women,



Trinity Women's Retreat, 1991

steeped in the gospel of Jesus Christ, have proven unwavering in their deep love of and faithful service for the Lord, their church family, and the larger community for the flourishing of His Kingdom purposes in this time and place. To God be the glory!

By Diane Gilliam & Ellen Turner

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

Through Friendship Partners at UVA, International Thanksgiving Dinners, overseas prayer and vision trips, and supporting scores of mission partners across the globe, sharing the love of Christ to the world has been a part of Trinity's history from the beginning. As medical students, Jennifer and Scott Myhre



Intl. Students, Inc. Picnic, 2024



Taste and See, 2019

attended Trinity in its early years at Jack Jouett Middle School and were "significantly impacted by the messages they heard Skip Ryan preach from the book of Romans." They have been serving as medical mission partners in Africa ever since.

THE MAKING OF MODGNIK

For the past 22 years, Trinity middle schoolers have enthusiastically attended the regional Presbyterian youth retreat known as Modgnik. What you may not know is that our own Dennis Doran, who, at the time of its inception, was Trinity's middle school youth director, helped come up with the name. Dennis recalls, "We were brainstorming and I told the other leaders that we live in a backward kingdom where God says to take on humility where the world says to seek fame. Hence Modgnik—Kingdom spelled backwards!" Middle schoolers will be heading to Modgnik this September. High school Modgnik will take place in the spring.



Women in the Word, 2026

FALL CALENDAR

September 13th
Ministry Fair

September 18th
Trinity Night Out

September 20th
Newcomers Lunch

October 17th
Facilities Workday

October 18th
Evening Worship

November 6th
Men's Pizza & Game Night

November 15th
Evening Worship

December 1st
Women's Wreath Making

December 13th
Lessons & Carols



Trinity Youth at Modgnik, 2011

JUBILEE
WEBSITE



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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS

I don't have one particular memory of being part of Trinity from such a young age. What I do remember is that Trinity was always there. Always a part of my sense of self—something large and unnamed but something steady and present. It was a fixture of my early childhood that grounded me to a home and a place. The large boat-shaped building that always reminded me of Noah's Ark (it still does today). The endless rows of orange chairs that provided countless hours of hide and seek with my brother. The floral scent of beloved Helen Holbrook's perfume as I squirmed in her lap, a deep sense of being known and loved. And even though I was too young to know it, my early years at Trinity nurtured the soil in which my own faith would one day grow.

Knowing I would always find a home away from home at Trinity was a main reason I so badly wanted to return to Charlottesville for college. It would not only be my church home during my years at UVA, but it was also where I reconnected with my parents' friends who had remained close to my family across decades. I had many second moms in college: Dottie Guthrie fed me dinner and sent me home with her delicious homemade granola; Lisa Wood gave me dinner while I did laundry at her house; and Brenda Cox fed me dinner and nursed me to health when I had a horrible case of bronchitis. (Note the theme—feed those college students dinner!) So many others were always a source of comfort on any given Sunday morning—a familiar face, a quick hug, even a smile and a wave while in line for communion.

By God's abundant provision, my husband and I, along with our three children, moved back to Charlottesville three summers ago. For the third time in my life, Trinity has been my church home. It is a true joy of my life to be back amidst this church body. My own children now worship in the same sanctuary I did (albeit with more beautiful and comfortable chairs!). Our youngest daughter attended Great Beginnings Preschool and had magical Ms. Laurie as her teacher, just like I once had. I see the Colquitts' children sometimes waiting out a long Sunday morning in Chris's office, the very same place where I once did that very same thing with my siblings. All three of our children participated in VBS this year; something I know I participated in when I was young. (continued to the right)



Catalino Family with Skip and Barbara Ryan, 2026

"They shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them."

– Jeremiah 32:38-40

Let me close with a story. I had the immense pleasure of getting to know Jane Nolan this past year in Wednesday morning Bible Study. Jane's mother was Mary Churchill, the matriarch of Trinity, whom I remember from my childhood. I think what I remember most about Mary is her stockings (!) since I was about eye level with her knees when she was sitting in her wheelchair.

One morning, I found an old photo from my parents' wedding—they got married in Mary's backyard in 1979—and I brought it to Bible Study to show Jane. Jane pointed to a young woman in the photo with long, red hair and said, "That's me!" I about fell out of my chair! I had no idea.

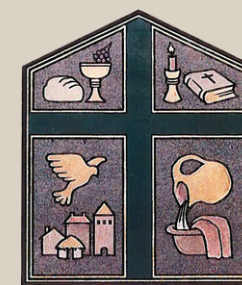
And isn't that the amazing thing about 50 years of Trinity? Faithful souls, generation after generation, worshipping a faithful God together. We keep showing up, Sunday after Sunday, year after year, decade after decade, bearing each other's burdens and being surprised by and grateful for the ties that bind us to one another. What a privilege to be a part of this church. I am so thankful.



Skip and Carey Beth, 1986

By Carey Beth Ryan Catalino

TRINITY LOGOS THROUGH THE YEARS



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REMEMBRANCES OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Happy Birthday, Trinity Presbyterian Church! I have so many memories that I must be selective. I remember the singing: from the get-go, our congregation did not mumble the words of a hymn. We sang with fervor. Trinity was where I—and many others—learned how to worship. Early on, Skip Ryan encouraged us, as we left Sunday worship, to ask ourselves: "how did I do in worshipping the Lord today?" (as opposed to the propensity I had to evaluate "how good the sermon was").

I remember certain practices in the life of the church that proved to be important in shaping the DNA of Trinity today. I shall mention two.

Annual church-wide picnics at Don and Sheila Richardson's Dunrovin farm. These always concluded with a short hike up a hill to a pasture for

a brief message and singing. This seemed to me like a "piece of heaven."

Before Trinity had its own facility, our congregation would have monthly Sunday evening communion service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. For some of us, this was our first experience being in a worship environment where this sacrament was "front and center"—literally and figuratively.

No doubt these two experiences contributed to the centrality of fellowship and communion that are still so significant in our church life today.

The Bible tells us to remember what happened in the past—because it is good and wise to do so. So, let us remember God's goodness in establishing Trinity Presbyterian Church. Let us also remember the blessing that Trinity Presbyterian Church is, not only to those who were there at the start, but also to the many who became part of the congregation over the years, and now into the present, and future.

By Ken Elzinga

THIS WEEKEND'S SCHEDULE

Homecoming
Breakfast
8/29, 8:30am-11:00am

Celebration at the
Wool Factory
8/29, 7:00pm-10:00pm

Worship Services
8/30, 8:30am & 11:15am
10am: Reflections w/Skip Ryan

Jubilee
Jamboree
8/30, 4:30pm-6:30pm

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Jamie Miller A NEW WAY OF PREACHING

I was in church, looking down to my right, looking at the aisle. There on the floor lay a rather jolly fellow, smiling and laughing, rolling around a bit. I thought to myself, "This may not be the place for me." It was the early 1970s, the Jesus Freak era, and the Lord had yet to form Trinity Presbyterian Church. The good folks at the Oakleigh fellowship I was attending were kind and sincere, but I was raised Episcopalian and was accustomed to a much more staid and boring form of worship.

A few years later, I walked into the Baptist Student Union building on JPA and settled down for the already-crowded Sunday service. My parents were Ben and Betty Miller.

Mom's Bible study leader Daryl Richman had told her about this new church, Trinity Presbyterian, and they had been attending since about the first week. I was arriving at the third or fourth service, ever.

So there was this young guy, Skip Ryan, a pastor recently out of seminary. He was neither staid nor boring—especially in his preaching. His presentation was captivating. In the same sermon, he talked about both the New and Old Testaments. Can you DO that? I thought. I'd never heard of such a thing. Of course, I wasn't listening very well, either. I was a young Christian who hated reading (still do), so launching into the Old Testament seemed like such an impossible burden that I had barely even tried. But Skip enlivened the text for me. He connected both books, linking them together through Jesus.

Slowly, I grew as a Christian. And I watched Trinity grow, quickly! We soon outgrew the Baptist center and moved to the chapel at St. Anne's-Belfield, which we soon outgrew and moved to Jack Jouett Middle School, which we

outgrew and moved to Western Albemarle high school, which, well yeah. We had known for a while that we needed a church building of our own. So we went about the Lord's work and built it.

When Trinity was founded in 1976, I was a young man, well-churched but desirous of much more. Trinity has provided that, not only for me but for thousands of others. Through the Holy Spirit, Trinity is continuing on that path to preach the way, the truth, and the life.

Melissa Stell BUILDING COMMUNITY

Melissa started attending Trinity in the early years at the Baptist Student Union - already filled to bursting! "I first heard about Trinity the summer before the church's first service," she says. "Skip came to a pool party at my parents' home in McLean to meet Christian students in a summer fellowship—to meet us and tell us about the new church.

"Spring Fling was a yearly whole-church afternoon and picnic at Don and Sheila Richardson's farm. I remember my kids playing in the creek, and then having delicious food and vespers up on the hill overlooking the mountains. We would sing the 'Lord of Glory' with the lyrics, 'Leaping the mountains, bounding the hills; see how our God has come to meet us.' It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun.

"Women's retreats have always been special to me," Melissa says. "Some of the earliest retreats were at the Chamberlain Hotel in Hampton, VA, on the water overlooking Hampton Roads. Big ships would pass by, and there were bicycles to ride through historic Fort Monroe."

Lauren Byrne LIFE TOGETHER

When Lauren and her husband, Bob, first arrived at Trinity in 2012 with four children under the age of five, they were exhausted and spiritually hungry after years of serving in a small church plant. They were immediately welcomed into an intergenerational small group of older, wiser couples who modeled faithful Christian living and offered their profound presence and wisdom. Two women from this initial community, Joyce Seibert and Linda Carter, made a lasting impact by frequently bringing

meals and embracing the family's chaotic season of life. Reflecting on this season, Lauren notes that these families "didn't just offer advice, they offered themselves," listening and praying with them through the demanding years of early parenthood. "Their investment in our family during those years was not only life-giving, it shaped the way we think about Christian community to this day.

Today, Lauren serves regularly as a Sunday morning liturgist as well as a teacher at Women Together in the Word.

Michael & Mallory Joyce FELLOWS TO FAMILY

Michael and Mallory Joyce arrived at Trinity in the summer of 2009 as members of the seventh class of Trinity Fellows. While they had been previously acquainted through mutual friends, the Fellows Program was the perfect backdrop for them to really get to know each other spending a year walking together in spiritual formation and

service. They were engaged the next summer! Reflecting on their journey, the couple notes that they "can't imagine navigating young adulthood, marriage, and life in a new city without the rich community at Trinity."

They feel deeply blessed by their pastors, leaders, and friends. "While many faces have changed over our 17 years here, we have consistently experienced God's faithfulness through this church body," they share. Weekly communion remains a central highlight, a time where they "encounter grace and love in a tangible way."

Joseph Okeno-Storms OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Joseph Okeno-Storms joined us in 2021 after visiting with his sister and brother-in-law, who were members. "I was drawn to Trinity for the community, the preaching, and the ministry needs I had heard about,"

Joseph says. "Over the years, John Gayle III and Kelly Scott have been tremendously influential in my life. They intentionally sought me out, got to know me deeply, and invested in me in countless ways. I am deeply grateful for their wisdom, guidance and genuine care."

For Joseph, church is about building Christian relationships and serving Christ together. He knows that having fun opens the doors to deeper bonds.

"One of my favorite memories," he shares, "is our 2023 Youth Group Beach Weekend retreat. It felt like a turning point with our

eighth-grade guys. Walls came down, and they invited us into their lives. I remain grateful for the trust built through meaningful conversations, sand lacrosse, a windy night on the beach, and even flying cheese puffs!"

Joseph believes belonging is something we choose to build rather than just find. His advice for anyone struggling to feel connected is simple: look for ways to invest in the people around you. "Seek and learn from those who can pour into you, share life with your peers, and find opportunities to serve," Joseph encourages. "You'll often discover that God has placed you right where you need to be."

Michael & Dottie Guthrie RELATIONAL MINISTRY

"I first heard about Trinity from Michael," Dottie says. "He was one of a group of 25 or so people who met and prayed about starting a church. Michael and I began dating and married in those first couple of years, and felt loved and supported by Trinity leadership."

Although the Guthries left Charlottesville for a time, their return has found them just as dedicated as before. Today, Michael remembers seeing the Lord's work in those wonderful early years. Daryl Richman, a leading force in Trinity's formation, disciples Michael and taught him the power of relational evangelism. "I remember feeling so blessed and excited," Michael says. "I went on Young Life staff the same time the Study Center and Trinity opened their doors. It was such an extraordinary time of seeing God on the move here in our community."

They recall that "monthly communion was particularly sweet—Jordan Churchill would read the Ten Commandments and the final hymn was always, 'Crown Him with Many Crowns.'"

Trinity's constant renewal through the Holy Spirit stands as testament to God's blessings and love, and to the bright, bright future ahead.

EARLY MEMBERS WORSHIPING AT TRINITY TODAY

JOINED IN 1977-1979

Jane Spencer Bopp (4-3-77)

Terry Maguire Elzinga (4-3-77)

Michael Guthrie (4-3-77)

David Mills (4-3-77)

Eleanor Mills (4-3-77)

Bets Oberle (4-3-77)

Sheila Richardson (4-3-77)

Margo Caldwell (7-10-77)

Ken Elzinga (11-6-77)

Jamie Miller (11-6-77)

Bob Cochran (5-7-78)

Connally Gilliam (5-7-78)

Diane Gilliam (5-7-78)

Barbara Dixon Ryan (5-7-78)

Dottie Guthrie (11-5-78)

Jane Churchill Nolan (11-5-78)

David Turner (8-5-79)

Ellen Turner (8-5-79)



First Members, 1977



First worship service held in the new building with 1,000 attendees

1982



John Hall installed as Senior Pastor

1993



RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) begins at UVA

2000



Greg Thompson installed as Senior Pastor

2006



Trinity's Friends for Life ministry hosts Night to Shine

2017



Chris Colquitt installed as Senior Pastor

2023

August 1, 1976

First worship service held in the Baptist Student Center with founding pastor Skip Ryan



1987

Wednesdays in the Word Women's Bible Study (now Women Together in the Word) begins



1996

Seeking to serve our neighbors, Trinity begins Abundant Life Ministry in Blue Ridge Commons



2003

Trinity Fellows program begins with arrival of first class

First International Thanksgiving Dinner hosted at Trinity for international students at UVA



2016

Annual Vacation Bible School tradition continues with Marketplace VBS



2022

Women's Council Established

