

MONTHLY

Findings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tallahassee, Florida

Volume 35, Number 2, February, 2008

Trinity's Mission: We are a community of Christian disciples building pathways through which God's love is realized.

Reverend Willis plans retirement in June

At the conclusion of the 11 o'clock service on January 13, Reverend Willis announced to the congregation that he would be retiring at the end of June.

He will have been with Trinity for 9 years and has had an enormous impact on Trinity.

Before he had even begun his work here as the senior pastor, he said, "I believe God has great things in store for us, and we can't wait to get there and get started." Boy, did that ever prove to be prophetic.

What can be said about a man who has done so much for so many? For this article, several of Trinity's church leaders agreed to write some of their fondest memories of Reverend Willis.

From Linda Yates, current United Methodist Women's chair and chair of the Preservation of Church History Committee: *When Pastor John arrived at Trinity in June 1999, he found out that there was one thing he didn't want to miss — in fact, couldn't miss.*

Trinity's 175th anniversary celebration was planned for the last Sunday in September and he was to have a major role. He became

part of Trinity's history that day as he led Acting Bishop Lloyd Knox, Tallahassee Mayor Scott Maddox, and Associate Pastor

Mark Caldwell down the aisle for the celebration service. A crowd of 842 persons filled the sanctuary to hear Rev. Willis' sermon and the music of all of Trinity's choirs.

"In the midst of all this, we must continue as the Church of Jesus Christ to reach out to others," Rev. Willis preached. "In addition to continuing what we are already doing, we need to find new

and better ways to share the love of God."

The rest is history: He introduced new ways to share God's love each year he has served here. — Linda H. Yates

From Ann Lumsden, chair of the Trinity Church Council: **My Favorite "John Willis Moments"**

When John Willis stood in the Trinity sanctuary on the first Sunday and walked to the marble steps and said "Do you know what an honor it is to be your Pastor, the Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, Florida?" He was so sincere

and humble about this appointment that I knew this was a very special man to be our new pastor.

John has been so creative with our services, and has brought life, love, and caring to Trinity (The Church with a Heart). He rode a horse into the Park on Park Avenue to show exactly how the circuit riders came to Churches all over Florida. This outdoor service was just one example of the creativeness of John Willis.

And the Lenten Study Groups were so meaningful for our Lenten Season. These small groups of members were given a study booklet and we met in homes and read the Bible assignments and talked about these assignments and how this fit into our life. Many neighborhoods in our Church area formed these small Lenten Groups to study 1) The Bible, 2) John, 3) Scriptures from our own Trinity Bible, and 4) The Cathedrals of England ... These study groups gave the Lenten Season a new meaning for each of us in Trinity United Methodist Church.

From Larry Pendleton, Trinity Lay Leader: *My first impression of John was lasting. As I began to converse with him on several issues, I soon realized that his enthusiasm and passion were catching. Whether it applied to fixing water leaks in the building or drumming up support for a "need," he was the same. His messages on Sunday contained the same passion. He went after everything with zest. It was always difficult to say no to him because you knew he believed strongly*

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Gifts to Trinity

Trinity received the following memorial gifts from December 10, 2007 through January 10, 2008:



In memory of **George A. Foster** by Julia Foster (Radio Broadcast).

In memory of **Mary Blackburn** by U.M.W. Circle 4 (for Preschool Scholarship Fund).

In memory of **McKenzie Ellen Conn** by Margaret Ausley Stalvey (for Children's Fund).

In memory of **Pauline Shelley** by Glenn Rankin.

In memory of **W. Paul Shelley, Jr., Jr.** by Glenn Rankin.

In memory of **Harry M. Waugh, Jr.** by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene S. Stowers III, and Katherine Metcalfe.

In memory of **Rose Pugh Howe** by Gladys Billings.

In memory of **Bill R. Sinclair** by Lee A. Everhart, Dennis and Sandra Brumble, Dot and Jeff Bradford, and Mrs. Bet McKinnon.

In memory of **Emma Kate Willis** by Joann W. Ennis.

In memory of **Bonnie Mannheimer** by Elston and Barbara Roady (for H.E.O.), U.M.W. Circle 4 (for H.E.O.), and Mary Ann and Duncan Moore (for H.E.O.).

- In Honor of -

In honor of **John and Pat Willis** by Oberley and Ledley Brown (for Children's Home).

In honor of **Barbara Hynes** by Oberley and Ledley Brown (for Children's Home).

In honor of **Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cook** by Oberley and Ledley Brown (for Children's Home).

In honor of **Mr. and Mrs. Mark Repasky** by Oberley and Ledley Brown (for Organ Fund).

In honor of **Eleanor Hale** by Joanne Hale Lazar (for H.E.O.).

Heart to Heart

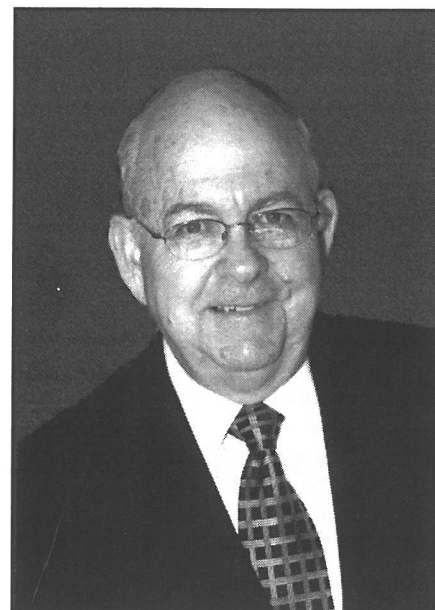
Why I am retiring and where I am going

By John G. Willis, Jr.
Senior Pastor

As your pastor, I am retiring at the end of June after thirty-six years as a United Methodist Pastor in Florida. I'm retiring because it is the right time. There is nothing wrong with me or the church. Actually, just the opposite is true. We are both in great shape!

First of all, let me say **we are not moving anywhere**. We will have been in our new house for just three years and we absolutely love it! However, Pat and I very much would like to have the opportunity to go and see our children and grandchildren when we want — to be able to spend a holiday with them if we want or maybe even to be there for Grandparents Day! We also will be looking for a chance to spend more time at our place in the mountains or even to travel some if we choose.

It is not that we don't love Trinity or that it hasn't been wonderful here, but



I truly believe it is the right time — God's time.

Your pastor loves you,

John

p.s. One of the things that will happen is that we plan to be away from Trinity for about a year after we leave. Your new pastor needs a chance to get established, so I will not be able to do any weddings or funerals after July 1. But we have a long way to go before then, and God has some great things in store for us!

Retirement ...

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in his position. We will miss that and I will miss my favorite saying of his, "You really don't want to miss next Sunday." Every Sunday was special to John and ultimately to us.

As he begins his new adventure in life, we thank God for his time with us at Trinity and pray that he has many years hugging his grandchildren.

From Bill Smith, chair of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee: *John has been an inspirational leader for Trinity — his sermons motivated us to be better Christians — his leadership has brought new programs, vitality and youth back into*

the church — John and Pat have been rocks as Trinity moves towards a 200-year-old church — his visits with me are cherished times I will always remember and I will miss him in the pulpit.

From Lori Mattice, chair of the Board of Trustees: *As a fairly new member of Trinity United Methodist Church, I feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees and as Trustee Chair for the past several years with Pastor John Willis.*

Although I did not "grow up" at Trinity as did my husband, Bill Mattice, I instantly

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February music news

Mark Repasky
Director of Music

Music Ministry Sunday Feb. 3

Once each year we celebrate the important role music plays in our worship services.

Musicians from 10 groups, who range in age from 5 through 75, come together at the 11:00 service on this special day. This is the only time each year that most of our music groups participate in worship at the same time. Come, join us as we make beautiful music together!

Special opportunity for singers

Our Chancel Choir will present Dvorak's "Mass in D" on Sunday, April 13. This is a major work by one of the outstanding classical composers of the Romantic Period (1800-1900). The 50-minute work is challenging and very beautiful. A professional orchestra will be hired to accompany the choir. We invite interested singers who are not members of the Chancel Choir to join us for this special event! If you have friends who enjoy singing but are not members of Trinity, they too can participate! You must attend weekly rehearsals starting Wednesday February 13, 8:10 to 9:00 pm in the choir room. If you have questions, contact me at the church. Otherwise, we'll see you February 13 in the choir room.

Welcome to new music groups

We are always looking for new members for our music groups here at Trinity. If you have an interest, we hope you will get involved! Contact me at the church if you have questions about any of the groups. Here's what's happening with two of our newest organizations.

Trinity Flutes

Trinity Flutes has been meeting in the parlor on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m. since late November. Sue Parsons has done a great job organizing and leading this group. There were six participants at the January 9 rehearsal when I dropped in for a moment. They are looking for additional members. Sue has also provided the following information: Trinity Flutes welcomes all flutists from high school age and up from our congregation and the community. We are a "work in progress"



Music Ministry Sunday is an opportunity each year to see how much musical talent Trinity possesses. This picture from last year's Music Ministry Sunday, shows the Trinity orchestra which was under the direction of Jack Crew at far left. Mr. Crew is the former band director at Lincoln High School.

with the goals of building a repertoire of music and friendships so we can provide community service and fellowship to one another. Please contact me (322-0164 or Sueparsons@aol.com) to find out more and

let me know you are coming to visit or join. We meet September-May whenever the church is open. I also send a monthly e-mail at the end of each month with plans for the coming month.

Trinity website does all of that?

Hot links?

Before the invention of the internet, a hot link was likely the description for a spicy sausage. But, that is no longer the case as we are in the age of the world-wide-web, and an internet connection can be found in most homes.

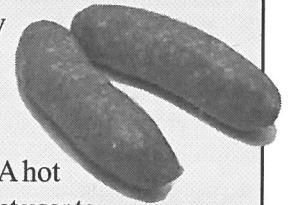
Just what is a hot link then and how does it affect you? A hot link is any text or object on a website which takes the internet user to another location or web page when clicking on the text or object with a mouse.

Huh? Okay, lets try to describe this process a different way. On the Trinity website, at this very moment, there is a hot link you can use in order to try this (our website is www.tumct.org). Go to the left side of the home page toward the bottom of the page. You will see a graphic of hands holding the Trinity heart. As you move your mouse cursor over the icon, the cursor arrow will change appearance to a hand with the pointer (index) finger extended. This is a hot link. Whenever the cursor changes to the hand with pointer finger, this is an indication that there is more information beneath. Now, press down on the mouse until you hear it click. Voila! You have activated a hot link!

How to find hot links

Now that you have opened one, how can you recognize a hot link? Usually, graphics are hot links, especially if the graphic relates to the surrounding information.

A different color of text usually foretells text hot links. The best way to find hot links is to just run your mouse over the top of objects that look like they *might be* hot links. If your cursor changes into the pointer finger icon, there is a hot link under there. And, the more you find them, the easier it is to recognize them. Happy hunting.



Reverend Cook gets First Church

March 30 is a Sunday to mark on your calendar. That is the last Sunday at Trinity



Wayne, Janet, and children, Lyndsey, and John have been a wonderful addition to Trinity since their arrival in July of 2005.

for Reverend Wayne Cook. He will bring the message that last Sunday.

Wayne has known since last year that he would be getting his first appointment on April 1, 2008. Since being approached

by the district superintendent, Tony Fernandez about the church that would need a pastor, Reverend Cook has been able to keep that secret. But on January 13, the news was made public.

Wayne's first church will be First United Methodist in nearby Monticello.

Getting the appointment to First UMC is a great fit for the Cook family. One of their concerns for getting a church was they didn't want to make their son, John, move away and interrupt his schooling at Leon High School. With Monticello being so close, and Janet being a teacher, they will be able to keep him in Leon.

Wayne will be missed at Trinity by his coworkers. In fact, one staff member said Wayne is the blanket and she is Linus. Wayne is one of those individuals who just knows stuff. He can usually figure out what needs to be done, and if he can't he is willing to ask for help. How rare is that?

You will be missed Wayne.

Children's Home Centennial

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on **Saturday, February 2** in nearby Madison.

This gala event will take place on the North Florida Community College campus at 325 NW Turner Davis Drive. There will also be refreshments served and fellowship after the celebration at the Madison First United Methodist Church, 348 East Rutledge Street, which is about a mile away from the North Florida Community College campus.

This special event, one of several planned by the home, will feature performances by the children. There will be members of the Children's Home staff as well as residents of the home at the event to greet and welcome you.

Please call Lillian Byrd at 222-1120 to make a reservation to attend this wonderful occasion.

"Snack Packs" for homeless friends ... two stories that'll make you smile!

Rita May
HEO coordinator

Edna Bennett, Jan James, Ann Lumsden and Leslie Williams, teachers of Trinity's 4th-5th grade Sunday School class, were "on a mission" several months ago. They had planned a special ministry project for the children, along with a study of homelessness and God's call to help others less fortunate than we.

The class collected food items to make into "snack packs" for the homeless friends who come to Trinity's door. And how! By the time I came to their class to receive their "gifts" of food items and to talk with the children about Trinity's homeless

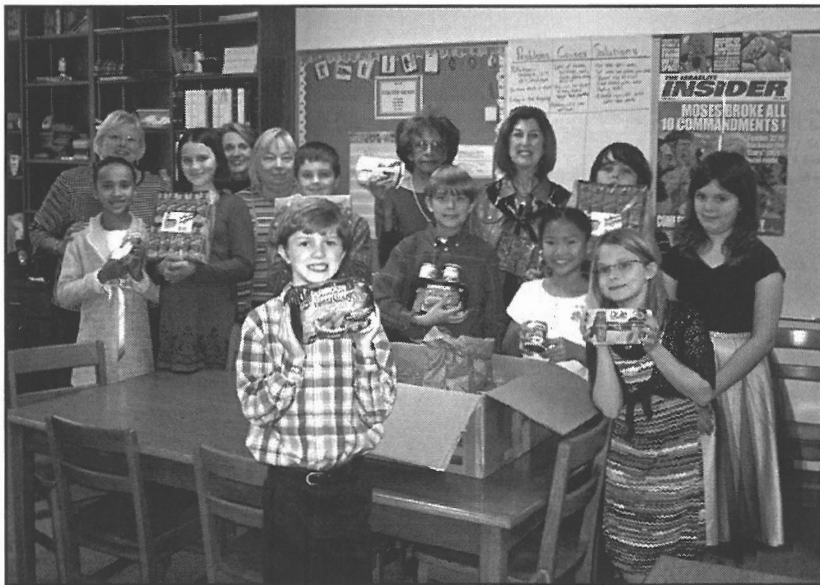
friends, they had collected two large boxes of food, filled-to-the brim!

What a wonderful example of ministry by Trinity's young people, giving so that others' lives might be enriched.

Since I'm on the subject of Trinity's ministry to homeless friends ... I want to

share a story about identical twin brothers from Mississippi. They were young, handsome men, staying at The Shelter, who came to Trinity's doors each month last year to receive a "snack pack." One of the brothers came one day, wanting to know if we might be able to help his twin brother get admitted into an

alcohol rehabilitation program. "Please help me and pray with me, Miss Rita. I have convinced my brother to receive help, and now I need help finding where to take him." We worked together, HEO calling and making an appointment for his brother with



The teachers and children who helped fill the HEO food pantry! Pictured from left to right are, HEO coordinator, Rita May, Marielle Scheffers, Ella Smith, Leslie Williams, Jan James, Matthew Huggins, Ben Bryan, Edna Bennett, Colin McDuffie, Ann Lumsden, Joelle Carbonell-Bierbaum, Joshua Clark, Mary Lynne Steinmeyer, and Cassie LaJeunesse.

an intake counselor and providing bus transportation for him to accompany his brother.

During the months of rehabilitation, the remaining twin brother was able to find work,

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Blanket Sunday Feb. 24

Blanket Sunday will be February 24 this year at Trinity. Ollie Dawirs is the Trinity liaison for Church World Service and she asks that checks be written to "Trinity UMC" with the memo line filled out with "Blanket Sunday." Last year's donations exceeded expectations. But, they still need our help.



Ollie Dawirs does a wonderful job as liaison for Church World Service.

Church World Service is a private, non-profit disaster response agency. The agency responds to disasters in the United States and all around the world.

Your donation on Blanket Sunday can help provide warm blankets for a family left homeless from a hurricane, or buy fishing nets and equipment for a village cooperative in Bolivia.

For more information on Church World Service, visit www.buildavillage.org.

Snack packs ...

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saving every penny he could. In early December I got a call from the office saying, "Rita you have two 'customers' at the door." And there they were, both together at the door for the first time in 4 months!

Pulling out two bus tickets from his jacket and an envelope filled with saved cash, one brother said, "Miss Rita, we're going home to Mississippi this afternoon. It's a day we've dreamed of for years. Our family is waiting for us and we have worked and saved and can finally begin a new life." With a huge smile, the other brother said "We would never have made it without this church, without prayer, without the help and love you have given us when we were down. We hope that some day we can return here, drive over in our own car, and give Trinity a big donation of "snack packs" to help others. We'll be back!"

Both of these stories are affirmations of Trinity's continued commitment to ministry beyond our doors—the "Church with a Heart for the City!"

Bulletin to be emailed

Beginning in February, your weekly bulletin will be delivered to your other mailbox. Your email mailbox, that is.

Trinity members are asked to either email their address to tumct.org or write their email address in the pew pad on Sunday.

Bear Sunday Feb. 10

Make sure to bring a brand-new teddy bear to church with you on "Bear Sunday" – February 10, 2008.

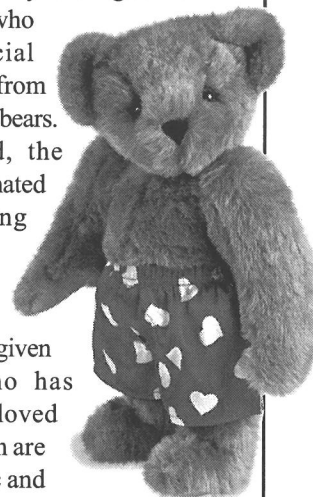
This is a great way to bring some love to a child who needs the special comfort gained from one of our Trinity bears. Once collected, the bears will be donated to the following local agencies:

Big Bend Hospice:

Your bear will be given to a child who has recently lost a loved one. The children are very enthusiastic and appreciative.

Leon County Elementary School Clinics (24 total schools): provide children with a special friend if they are hurt and need to go to the clinic.

Letters from children speak of the comfort and joy these bears bring. Even though there are only two official agency recipients this year, there are many other agencies that may receive bears as they become available. Open your heart and bring a teddy bear to church on Bear Sunday.



Ministry of the month

Refuge House

Ron McCranie
Church and Society Co-chair

Refuge House provides direct services to battered women, their children and victims of sexual assault. Refuge House, which opened its doors in 1978, provides emergency shelter and services to Leon and seven neighboring counties in North Florida.

Families come to the Refuge House when they have no other safe housing option. Shelter can be provided for 50 women and children for up to 45 days, as

well as a transitional housing wing which can house 20 women and children. While in the shelter, residents receive assistance in areas such as counseling and support groups. Special activities are designed to help children begin the process of recovering from violence. Families are provided with emergency foods, linens and other household items.

Trinity actively supports the Refuge House through the Church and Society Ministry Team. However, Refuge House also welcomes volunteers who can assist by answering the hotline, helping with

maintenance and providing meals, as well as providing medical and legal assistance. Opportunities also exist in the Thrift Store, which is always in need of responsible volunteers to help in all areas from sorting, tagging and stocking goods to customer service, to keeping the inside and outside of the store looking good.

If you think this is a ministry that you may be interested in, contact Trinity Church and Society Ministry Team chairman Ron McCranie for more information. Ron can be

reached via telephone at 850-671-4815 or by email at mccranie@hotmail.com.



Youth news for February

Kelly Rains
Youth Director



A Note from Kelly ...

Down here in the **Underground** we have lots of things happening and several big events planned for the near future. I want to encourage all youth and parents to keep checking the website for details and information on these events as they get closer. You don't want to miss any of them! Something new we are doing this year is the **30 Hour Famine** starting on **Good Friday (March 21)**. This will be a new challenge for our youth as they raise

awareness and donations for world hunger. It takes a lot of determination to fast for 30 hours, especially if you are a growing and very hungry teenager! Please support our youth in this effort by sponsoring them or assisting us with the actual event on March 21st and March 22nd. Volunteers are needed and I challenge you to fast with us! Please call me at **545-2852** or **222-1120** if you would like to find out ways to get involved.

be seen. be heard.
BE HUNGRY
2008 30 Hour Famine

Upcoming Youth events for February

- Feb. 3 SaLT Meeting 12:00 p.m.
- Feb. 3 UMYF Super Bowl Party
(check website)
- Feb. 6 Wednesday school
pick-up/Bible studies
- Feb. 9 Mid-High Madness/SNL
(check website)
- Feb. 10 UMYF
- Feb. 13 Wednesday school
(pick-up/Bible studies)
- Feb. 15-16 SaLT Team Leadership
Retreat
- Feb. 17 UMYF
- Feb. 20 Wednesday school
pick-up/Bible studies
- Feb. 24 UMYF
- Feb. 27 Wednesday school
pick-up/Bible studies
- Feb. 29-Mar. 2 .. Confirmation Retreat

Important Upcoming Dates

- Mar. 21 - 22 30 Hour Famine
- Mar. 28 - 29 Spaghetti Fundraiser
(Springtime Tallahassee)
- May 3 - 4 Confirmation Banquet/
Confirmation Sunday

Check out the youth website for more information:
www.geocities.com/undergroundministries

Spotted at the recent Trinity Youth New Year's party were, from left, Scott Griffith, Anna DeVliieger, Bob High, Melissa Gilleland, Mary Beth Waddill, Sara-Beth Miller, and Vanessa Carey.



How many kids can fit inside a very small car? Well, we know at least six could fit at the recent "Parents Night Out" fundraiser. Pictured like sardines in a can are, from left, Ellie LaJeunesse, Malinda Rains, Iyanna Keys, Zinaya Arnold, Payten Merlau, and Cassie LaJeunesse.

Summer camp registration Sunday, March 2

Kelly Rains
Youth Director

One day only!

Don't miss this important day to register for this summer's camp in Leesburg. This year Trinity will be going to camp the week of June 23. By signing up on March 2, you will be guaranteed a spot on the bus that will take you to camp. The charge for riding on the bus this year is only \$20!

If you can't come March 2

If you are unable to be there March 2 for the assisted registration, you may come to the church office one week prior beginning February 25 through February 29 to register. However, if you miss either of those two opportunities, you will need to register directly with the Leesburg camp.

Summer Camp

at Leesburg

Sign up times

9:20 - 10:50 a.m.
Conference Room

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Gregory Room
(Youth area)

Camp costs \$350 this year (plus \$20 for bus transportation). Trinity will assist with \$100 for Trinity members. Scholarships are available through the camp.



Bring with you

\$50 camp deposit
(check made to Trinity UMC)
\$20 deposit
(separate check made to Trinity for transportation).

Call Barbara Hynes or Kelly Rains at 222-1120 with any questions

Retirement ...

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felt at home with Pastor John. His sermons were guaranteed to be inspirational, interesting and often times full of wit and good humor.

The recent renovation of Moor Hall was another project inspired by Pastor John. His enthusiasm and energy put into this project is evidenced by the beautiful results seen in Moor Hall.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Pastor John for the 9 years of service to this church and for encouraging all of our members to reach out to our community in so many different ways. He will truly be missed.

From Rita May, former Trinity Lay Leader, current HEO coordinator: John Willis came to Trinity with shirtsleeves rolled up, with fervor and enthusiasm, and with dreams of ministries which would further open Trinity's doors to the community. He felt led to extend God's message of giving and reaching out to this community. Soon we would be introduced to John's vision of Trinity

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State Rep. Loranne Ausley to be UMW speaker Feb. 5

Two-term Florida House of Representatives member, Loranne Ausley, will speak to Trinity's United Methodist Women at their luncheon meeting Tuesday, Feb. 5, about a community-wide effort she now chairs, Whole Child Leon. The luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. in Moor Hall.

Under Rep. Ausley and United Way of the Big Bend's leadership, Leon County applied to the Lawton Chiles Foundation and was designated a Whole Child community four years ago. Since then, more than 500 persons, representing educators, medical providers, the faith community, parents, child advocates and community volunteers, have been gathering data related to children's well being.



Loranne Ausley

They are now addressing challenges and opportunities that will ensure that Leon County's children from age 0 to 5 will thrive. Rep. Ausley will focus her talk on spiritual foundation and strength, one of six dimensions of a Whole Child the program is addressing.

Especially invited to attend the luncheon and hear Rep. Ausley are Trinity members who are acting as mentors at Kate Sullivan School and members of Trinity Preschool Advisory Committee. These persons as well as UMW members will need to make a lunch reservation by calling Nancy Kerce at 877-6546 by Friday, Feb. 1.

UMW's executive committee of officers and circle chairs will meet at 10:45 that day in the Conference Room.

UMW Circles to Meet

Circle 1 will meet at 10 a.m., Mon., Feb. 11, at the home of Nell Morse, 504 Plantation Road.

Circle 2 will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the church parlor immediately following the UMW luncheon.

Circle 3 will not meet in February.

Circle 4 will meet in the church library on Tues., Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m..

Circle 5 will meet Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Phyllis Henderson, 905 Lothian Drive.

Circle 6 will meet at the home of Julie Pararo, 2104 Randolph Cir., at 6 p.m., Mon., Feb. 11.

Circle 8 will meet at noon Wed., Feb. 5, at St. John's Cafe.

Circle 9 will meet at the home of Neddy Summers, 650 East 6th Ave., Tues., Feb. 19, at 10 a. m.

Circle 10 will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21 in the home of Treva Merlau, 212 Hoffman Drive.

New members join in January

Trinity began the new year by gaining six new members. The newest members joined on January 28 at the 11 o'clock service. Please make sure to welcome them when you see them at church.

Nick Platt has lived in Tallahassee for the last 11 years. Originally from Louisiana, Nick has also previously lived in Venezuela for 12 years. He currently works for the State of Florida as a Communications Engineer Supervisor. He



Welcome
Our New
Members

graduated from Louisiana Tech with a degree in computer science. In his free time, he likes to lift weights and play tennis. Nick joins Trinity by transfer of membership.

Mike and Ann Melder joined Trinity by transfer of membership from another United Methodist church. Ann and Mike are both long-time Tallahassee residents. They have 4 grown daughters: Jennifer, Linsey, Lesley, and Elizabeth, and 2 granddaughters. They both work for the

State of Florida. Ann works for the Department of Education in the Just Read office and Mike works for the Department of Transportation.

Mike and Judy Pate joined from another denomination. They have one grown son, Brian and 2 "adorable granddaughters," Shannon, 8, and Cassidy, 3. Mike and Judy just recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. They met in the Marching Chiefs at Florida State and Judy was Tallahassee's first female band director. In fact, several of Judy's former students are members of Trinity. Mike and Judy stayed in Tallahassee for 11 years after graduating from FSU, then left Tallahassee for 22 years. They then spent most of their time trying to figure out how to get back to Tallahassee and have been back here for the last 11 years. Mike is recently retired as the publisher of the Tallahassee Democrat. He is currently working part-time for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Andrew Moore joined Trinity by transferring his membership from First United Methodist Church in Panama City. His parents are Trinity members, Duncan and Mary Ann Moore.

Retirement ...

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— "The Church with a Heart for the City!"

John's dreams were big, they were bold, they were an invitation to the congregation and the staff to "jump on board." Before we knew it we had "Bear Sunday," "Community Sunday," a series of "Capital Faith Forums," and a "Legislative Breakfast." He rolled out the "Kate Sullivan Partnership and Mentoring Program," "Change the City," and the "Providence Neighborhood Project," to name a few. Just this year, John's budget recommendations nearly doubled the financial support given to many Church and Society Ministry programs—such programs as Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Clubs, ECHO, The Shelter, Refuge House, and the Neighborhood Health Clinic.

There is no "halfway" about John Willis. With a twinkle in his eye, with gentle prodding and feverish planning, he made things happen at Trinity. We were admonished to come to a special service or an upcoming program with his familiar urging, "Trust me on this, you don't want to miss this one!" **And we all followed him, and we came.** He encouraged us to grow, to work, to "be there," to participate in ministry, to join him in learning about Christ and the love of God.

What's "not to love" about John Willis? His heart is as big as a basketball. He entertains youth with his "Hollywood" puppetry, he is a highly effective communicator, and his creativity keeps our heads spinning and our hearts "on track." John brought to us fresh and ever-changing elements of worship, using music and drama and visual effects together in new and different ways. Most

important, John's message was always unwavering and passionate, illustrating the love of God through scriptural teaching and preaching.

John Willis came to Trinity with a vision. He will be leaving this church with that vision engaged, lives enriched and a congregation changed for the better.

— Rita C. May

What do each of these leaders' words have in common in describing the impact Reverend Willis has had on Trinity? That he was a creative, dynamic, and yet a very caring and sensitive man who put God and his church first in all things. He not only had the vision, he also had the wherewithal to achieve his dreams for Trinity as a church.

From a staff perspective, he was a great delegator. He would come in the office with a great idea. First he would explain it, and then just hand it off to be completed. How could you not want to work for someone like that?

So, let's enjoy these last few months with John as Trinity's spiritual leader. And remember that the best way to honor him is to continue his vision of Trinity, "the Church with a BIGGER Heart for the City."

PERIODICALS
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Monthly Tidings
Trinity United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
(850) 222-1120 www.tumct.org
John G. Willis, Jr., Senior Pastor
Wayne P. Cook, Executive Pastor
Rex W. Adams, Communications Director

POSTMASTER: PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE MONTHLY TIDINGS