



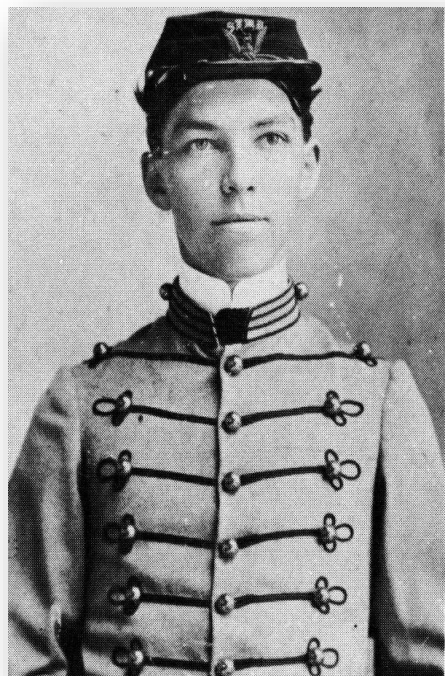
"Preserving—Sharing—Caring"

Crossroads

R.A. Gray: A Giant in Florida's—and Trinity's—History

By Carrol Dadisman

Robert Andrew Gray played a leadership role in 20th Century Florida government that rivaled—even exceeded—that of many state governors. He served as Secretary of State from 1930 until his retirement in 1961.



Cadet Robert A. Gray - Polk County, Florida. 1900. Black & white photonegative, 5 x 4 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/149354>>, accessed 2 March 2019.

His distinction as Florida's longest-serving and most influential Secretary of State is appropriately memorialized in the Tallahassee building that bears his name and which houses the Museum of Florida History and the State Library and Archives.

Gray's exceptional ability as a leader was apparent to all who served with him and knew him. Upon his death in 1975, legendary *Tallahassee Democrat* editor Malcolm Johnson described his service to the state of Florida in this way:

R.A. Gray, more than any other man in the middle half of the 20th century, personified the unique Florida Cabinet system. He was its foremost expositor and defender. . . . [He] typified the government career employee rising to officialdom. Government—not merely the game of politics, but the science of government—was his primary hobby as well as his sole livelihood. . . .

It was at the Cabinet table where he shone, and as its presiding officer in the absence of the governor. (Under his chairmanship, the Cabinet administered effectively during long illnesses of two governors). (Johnson, 1975, p.1)

(cont. on p. 2)



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Newsletter Contact Info:

Pamela C. Crosby, Editor
pcrosby@tumct.org

120 W. Park Avenue
Mailing: P. O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: 850 222-1120

Historical Society Email: history@tumct.org

Crossroads Email: **Crossroads**
Online Archives: <https://www.tumct.org/crossroads-newsletter/>

History Website: <http://www.tumct.org/welcome/about/history/>

(cont. from p. 1) Born on August 2, 1882, near Concord, GA, Gray and his family soon moved to North Florida, where, at the age of 15 (R.A. Gray Collection), he taught in a “backwoods” school (Gray, 1962, p.2). He



Portrait of Captain Robert A. Gray. 1918. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 2 Mar. 2019. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/323310>>

attended South Florida Military College in Bartow for four years (R. A. Gray Collection) and later served as captain in the Army during World War I (Gray, 1962, viii).

In *Outward Bound* (1962) a book of spiritual meditations, Gray wrote about the immense influence his father, a Methodist circuit preacher, had on his religious faith and practice. He explained that although his grandfather and great-grandfather were also active preachers for many decades of their lives, he and his brothers were not

“called to preach” but instead were “active laymen” (p.44).

As an “active layman,” he remained true to his Methodist heritage. For more than 60 years, until his death at age 93, Gray served Trinity United Methodist Church as a devoted member and leader.



Florida Secretary of State Robert A. Gray applying the Great Seal of the State to an executive order. 1951. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 2 Mar. 2019. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/326115>>



Portrait of R.A. Gray with his wife Grace. Not before 1903. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 2 Mar. 2019. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/326115>>

One of the many ways that he provided significant leadership at Trinity was serving as Chairman of Trinity’s Board of Stewards Building Committee, which in 1945 acquired the lot where Trinity Hall (the addition that serves as a venue for various church activities) was built. He and his committee made a general plan for remodeling or rebuilding the entire church structure, and Gray was a vital leader during a critical period in the church’s growth (*Quarterly Conference Minutes*, 1945).

Notations in Trinity files indicate that Gray kept many original Trinity records in the Secretary of State vault, presumably to protect them. They were returned to Trinity in the 1960s by **Frank Moor**, after Gray retired and after the present church building was completed.

In August 1963, an item in the church bulletin summarized the extent and significance of Gray’s long service to Trinity:

Six friends are giving the *Lectern* in the Glenn James Memorial Chapel in honor of the Honorable Robert A. Gray. This devoted churchman has been a member of Trinity since 1914 and has served his church faithfully and loyally in many official capacities. He was chairman of the Official Board for 13 years, a teacher in the church school for many more, a Trustee, chairman and member of numerous commissions, a delegate to more annual and district conferences than he can recall, and a member of five general and jurisdictional conferences. He is presently serving as a member of the Memorials and Church History Committees.

This is a very fine and appropriate tribute in honor of a great man. (Trinity Methodist Church, 1963)

Linda Yates and Pamela Crosby contributed to this article.

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"May 22, 1945." *Quarterly Conference Records: June 1941–June 1947*. Trinity United Methodist Church Archives. Tallahassee, FL: Trinity United Methodist Church.



Mrs. Godfrey Smith, chair of the UMC luncheon honoring senior members of Trinity, congratulates R. A. Gray, age 92, for being the oldest in attendance May 9, 1974.



Kerce, Red (Benjamin L.), 1911–1964. Captain Robert A. Gray's home at 721 N. Adams St. in Tallahassee. 1954. Black & white photonegative. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 2 Mar. 2019.<<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/326119>>

An Unlikely Youth Director: My Introduction to Trinity

By The Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt

The year was 1976. I had finished two years of college at Valdosta State in South Georgia, and decided to take a year off from school in order to “find myself.” At the invitation of my older brother, I moved to Aspen, CO, to learn how to ski and specifically check out the resort industry. Thinking I might want to major in hospitality management at Florida State after my year off in Colorado, I found a job in a high-end condominium complex to test out the “frozen” water!



In my “Stayin’ Alive” days, standing by my 1971 MGB in spring 1976, in Valdosta, GA, before I moved and sold the car for needed funds to head off to college. Photo credit: high school buddy Frank Williams, now a professional photographer.

Instead, I would soon discover my calling (while having my “heart strangely warmed” during an altar call at my home church) was to become a music minister. This John Wesley experience would eventually lead me on an educational path in sacred music; in the meantime, however, I discovered that I desperately needed a job!

My dad retired in May of that year, and my parents moved to their vacation home on Lake Talquin, just west of Tallahassee. I answered a job posting for a summer youth intern at Trinity and interviewed with **the Rev. Phil Roughton**, one of the associate pastors at the church that year. A few weeks later, Phil called me and told me I did not get the job! The pastors had decided to go with a Duke Divinity seminary student instead. Disappointed, I turned back to my work as a part-time desk clerk at Ramada Inn.

I am not sure how my life’s path would have pro-

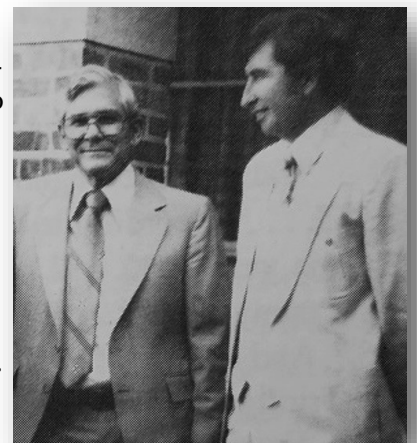
ceeded differently had that Duke Divinity guy followed through and accepted the offer to come to Tallahassee. But two weeks after I was turned down, Phil rang again and offered me the internship, explaining, “The Duke student just called and said he got a better offer in North Carolina. Would you still be interested in the job?” I remember covering the receiver and shouting an exuberant “YES!,” accompanied by a fist pump.

Phil explained to me the logistics of the summer intern position. I would live with a member of the church who would provide room and board, with the exception of three-four nights a week when I would travel to different homes of Trinity members to have dinner. I didn’t realize it at the time, but my schedule of itinerating around the congregation was to be much like what I would soon experience as an ordained deacon/elder in the Florida Conference.

I attended my first Sunday School and UMYF in the “Youth Basement,” which smelled pretty much the same as it does now—like a room filled with teenagers who have been playing 4 Square, (but now it’s 9 Square) for hours on end.

In addition to Sundays, with guitar in hand, we met for Tuesday Night bible study in youth homes, traveled to South Georgia on a youth choir tour, helped lead a day camp at Maclay Gardens with **the Rev. Dr. John Green**, associate pastor, delivered Meals on Wheels each week, participated in the Appalachia Service Project in Tennessee, and traveled to Eleuthera, Bahamas, with **the Rev. Dr. Eugene (Gene) Zimmerman**, senior pastor, to provide a Vacation Bible School for the children and youth in Upper/Lower Bogue, Tarpum Bay, James Cistern, and Rock Sound.

Toward the end of my three-year tenure, youth attendance averaged around 50-60 young people a week with our ever popular Youth Week rounding off the summer activities. Trinity still



The Rev. Dr. Eugene Zimmerman, senior pastor, and the Rev. Dr. John Green, associate pastor and director of Christian education. Cropped photo-Trinity United Methodist Church: Tallahassee’s First Church, 1824–1999.

had two traditional worship services in the late 70s, and it would be 1997 before a contemporary service was born.

I was fortunate to have many mentors who guided and inspired me during those early days at Trinity. Dr. Zimmerman was instrumental in directing me toward ordained ministry and opened doors for me to apply to Emory University's Candler School of Theology for my seminary education. Dr. Green became my mentor in the candidacy process and guided me to eventually interview with the District Committee on Ministry to become a certified candidate in what was then the Tallahassee District of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Roughton taught me about youth ministry and even introduced me to some new chords on the guitar as we joined together in leading youth singing during United Methodist Youth Fellowship at Trinity. I joined the Chancel Choir and met a number of college students attending FSU who made Trinity their home.

The Rev. Austin Hollady was leading innovative worship with creative drama and music at the Wesley Foundation, which was groundbreaking for the new contemporary music scene of the early 80s. Trinity was still a huge draw for those who appreciated classical music and the phenomenal music program for which the church continues to be well known today.

Looking back at the fact that I was Rev. Roughton's "second choice" for an intern role at Trinity, I will always believe it was the "best choice" for me. Trinity guided, mentored, and encouraged me to answer my call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

I am back "home," having traveled full circle to the place that first gave me my wings.



Associate Pastor Phil Roughton (center) welcoming new members to Trinity in the late 1970s.



Austin Hollady, Director of the Wesley Foundation at FSU from 1954 to 1987, and Dot Binger, Wesley Foundation Board member, break ground for Chapel of Upper Room on February 9, 1969.

"Paper Trails": Glimpses of Church Life from Past Trinity Publications

MEALS FOR OUR YOUTH WORKER

We're proud to announce a very positive initial response to our request for meal invitations for our summer youth worker, **Wayne Wiat** [sic]. Thirty-six volunteered to provide either lunch or supper for Wayne. If you have not yet added your name to the list and would like to do so, please contact **Phil Roughton** as soon as possible.

—*Worship Bulletin, June 13, 1976*

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our acolytes for December: **Nancy Parramore, Rob White, and Chip Huggins.**

—*Worship Bulletin, December 26, 1976*

BUDGET FOR 1963-1964

Pastor's Salary	\$10,500.00
Music Director's Salary	2,400.00
Church History	1,500.00
Total Budget	\$197,000.00

—*Worship Bulletin, July 14, 1963*

Recollections of Trinity Life: Rubie Butterworth (From Video 5)

By Pamela C. Crosby

To see the videos produced by **E. Lynn McLarty** and **Rex Adams** with interview by E. Lynn McLarty (divided in eight parts for researchers), go to our video page at <https://www.tumct.org/video-history-of-trinity/>

...

This is the second part of an ongoing series based on the taped interview of **Rubie Plant Butterworth**, former director of Trinity's older adult ministry, as well as a trainer, mentor, and teacher. Our [last segment](#) ended with Rubie working as church secretary after her graduation from Florida State College for Women in 1946. Her recounting of this time continues in this article.

Based on Rubie's recollections, job responsibilities as a church secretary during the post-World War II years must have been somewhat different from those of today's church office staff!

A recent graduate of Florida State College for Women in modern languages, she found that she had little opportunity to use her foreign language skills in her new job. However, she had opportunities to learn a few new skills, such as how to pour ink into an old mimeograph machine (the only office equipment the church owned), and by necessity, spread the ink around with a brush before making copies of various documents. All documents except the bulletin were copied on that old machine.

To make copies of the bulletin, she first typed details of the service and then took the document to



Artcraft Printers building. Slade, Harvey E.(Harvey Eugene), 1909-1975. Artcraft Printers - Tallahassee, Florida . 1957. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 28 Feb. 2019.<<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/48476>>.

Artcraft printers, a Tallahassee business located at 306 East Park Avenue within blocks of the church.

Her responsibilities also involved typing the church letter with copies sent to all members in small-sized envelopes. Typing addresses on each envelope was a tedious task that took hours, but eventually church member **J. Edwin White**, president of Tallahassee Federal Savings and Loan Association at that time,

came to her rescue by offering the use of his addressograph machine, housed in his bank building at 115 East Park Avenue (next to what is now the DoubleTree Hotel).

The addressograph machine used plates to print information on paper so that in this case, members' addresses could be printed on the envelopes, eliminating the need for typing each time the church letter was sent out.

Rubie went to the bank building to use the addressograph plates, which saved her much time and that was "as modern as we got," she said, during the two years (1946-1948) she served as church secretary.



E. Lynn McLarty at the home of Rubie Butterworth in May 2018 for an interview about her experiences at Trinity. Photo: taken from a video by Rex Adams.

While these were tedious tasks, there were some exciting moments also. **The Rev. Ralph Huston**, who was the associate minister at that time, lived in a house north of the church at the corner of Call and Duval. On one occasion when the Rev. Huston and his wife were expecting a child, Rubie was asked to spend each night in the house while Rev. Huston was away participating in his ordination ceremony.

Rubie remembers being “scared to death” during these visits at Mrs. Huston’s home because she did not know what she would do if the baby came while Rev. Huston was away. This job responsibility seems quite unusual for a church secretary, but Rubie was young and willing to do her best to help out the church when she was needed. Fortunately, the baby’s introduction to the world happened after the young associate minister had returned home.

Rubie recalls that the most exciting time of her church secretary days did not involve secretarial duties. Her office, as noted in the earlier article of this series, was in the “old Park parsonage building” (no longer used as a residence), which was located between the church and the back of the Presbyterian church, an area that includes where the Chapel stands today (Crosby, 2018).



Tallahassee fire station - Tallahassee, Florida. ca 1939. Black & white photoprint. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 28 Feb. 2019. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/>>

One day while she was working in her office, she saw a firetruck drive up. She learned to her horror that persons working in the fire department had seen the flames coming out of the wood-shingled building. Fortunately the fire department was very close by.

Rubie explains that “there was an old post office building there that had become the city hall, and the fire department was right behind it,” situated on the east side of Adams Street between College and Park (about where the DoubleTree Hotel is located today).

The firemen came to the old building to evacuate everyone and put out the fire. She says in her interview that “the children were upstairs rehearsing for the choir. And so they [the firemen] ran up and got the children.” Happily, the firemen were able to prevent much fire damage. It was fortunate that the church building was so close to the fire department!

Although there were both tedium and challenge in being a church secretary—and it was not the type of career Rubie had had in mind when she graduated—she recalls that “it was interesting experience, and I enjoyed it a lot and it changed my career pattern.” The change in her career plans was not to pursue a secretarial career. Rather, it was in another field entirely:

One thing I did was order curriculum materials and distribute them. There was not a Director of Education or any other staff at that time. And I realized that they did not know what they were doing a lot of times. They could go and read the books to children but that was about it. And that made me realize that maybe [there was] something more I could do than just type letters.

So off the young woman went to graduate school in the fall of 1948 to work on a master’s degree, leaving her days as church secretary at Trinity behind—while seeing the need for serious study to pursue a career in Christian education. It would be a long time, but as we will see in future articles, Rubie would not stay away from Trinity forever.

Look for the next “Recollections” by Rubie Butterworth in the July 2019 Crossroads.

For information on the Rubie Plant Butterworth Scholarship Fund for aspiring deacons, see <https://www.gbhem.org/article/new-scholarship-fund-deacons-honors-woman-who-dedicated-her-life-church-service>

References

Crosby, P.C. (2018, January). “Recollections of Trinity Life: Rubie Butterworth (From Videos 3 and 4).” *Crossroads*, 3(1), Retrieved from https://www.tumct.org/history/January_2019_hs_newsletter.pdf

Want to have loads of fun and learn at the same time? Join us at our next Historical Society meeting on April 3, 2019, at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Room on 3rd floor. Everyone is always welcome to attend.

Countdown to Trinity's 200th Anniversary in 2024: 1840s Timeline

By E. Lynn McLarty

In 2024, Trinity will be celebrating its 200th anniversary. In each issue leading up to this noteworthy date, Crossroads shares with our readers notable events that focus on one decade.

1840

The Masonic notice in *The Floridian*, **April 25, 1840**, announced the upcoming laying of the cornerstone for the new Methodist Church located at the corner of McCarty Street (currently Park Avenue) and Duval Street. However, due to financial stress from the depressed economy and the ramifications of the Second Seminole War, the church building stood for months as only a shell. After a decrease in membership, the local church experienced a swell of new members resulting from conversions at camp meetings, held in the countryside around Tallahassee. These meetings assembled families for a week of preaching and singing. In **fall 1840**, **Richard A. Shine** was given a mechanic's lien to finish the church building. In **mid-1840**, Methodist Church Trustees sold parcels in the church-owned block 291, the site of the earlier church and its cemetery.

1841

During June–July 1841, a yellow fever epidemic decimated the 1,600 population of Tallahassee by 10 percent.

1843

On **May 25, 1843**, a great fire burned Tallahassee's downtown businesses and homes. The Presbyterian and Methodist church buildings were spared. The **November 6, 1843**, *Quarterly Conference Minutes* recorded an approved resolution to request that the upcoming Georgia Annual Conference give permission to form a Florida Conference, "Commencing at Fort Gaines on the Chattahoochee River and running a line directly to Albany on Flint River Rail Road, thence down the Ochmulge (sic) & Altamaha Rivers to the Atlantic Ocean, and all the Territory lying South and West of said line to form the 'Florida Conference.'"

1844

In **January 1844**, the Georgia Annual Conference met in Columbus, GA, and passed a resolution for Florida and South Georgia churches to form a separate conference entity within the Methodist Episcopal Church. On **May 1, 1844**, the General Conference convened in New York City and lasted over five weeks due to disagreements regarding Southern Methodists' desire to separate from the Methodist Episcopal Church over slavery. Heated arguments continued throughout the session over **Bishop James Osgood Andrew's** ownership of slaves. Florida was granted autonomy as a conference and was to include a combination of South Georgia churches and those congregations in "all of Florida east of the Apalachicola River." On **June 8, 1844**, a resolution for division of the Methodist Episcopal Church was passed. After the General Conference adjourned, Southern delegates remained to draw up a Plan of Separation and to designate a time and place for the upcoming general convention of the Southern conferences.

1845

On **January 18, 1845**, at Eatonton, GA, Middle Florida and South Georgia churches met one last time as part of the Georgia Conference. Soon after, **Bishop Joshua Soule** and thirty-two unassigned ministers from the South Georgia churches set out for Tallahassee to arrange details for the recently formed Florida Conference. On **February 6, 1845**, the first session of the Florida Annual Conference was held in Tallahassee with Bishop Soule as leader. Meeting the only time under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Florida Conference was comprised of four districts—Quincy, Tallahassee, Newnansville (Alachua area), and St. Mary's, GA. Those attending voted unanimously to join what would be called the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South." On **March 3, 1845**, Florida was admitted with statehood status. Ninety-seven delegates from fifteen conferences of the newly formed Methodist Episcopal Church, South met in Louisville, KY, on **May 1, 1845**. **Peyton P. Smith** and **Thomas C. Benning** represented the new Florida Conference in Louisville. The main purpose of the meeting was to organize the new Conference of the Methodist Church in America.

1846

Due to a concerted effort by the pastor **Edwin L. T. Blake**, the 1840 church was finally finished in **1846**. During renovation, services were held in the halls of the House of Representatives. In **December**, the congregation was able to worship in the restored sanctuary.

1848

In May 1848 five ministers and four laymen joined to incorporate a Methodist “conference school,” in Thomasville, GA. The preparatory school was named Fletcher Institute after theologian John Fletcher.

“I Remember When . . .” Snapshots of Trinity Life

I remember when . . .

. . . about 1930 my Sunday school class met in the basement of the old (1893) church. Some classmates were **Mary Margaret Davis, Claudia Croy** (now **Burton**), **Clara Jane Carrol** and **Christine Puckett**. **Mrs. Ruediger** led us in singing

Betty has a birthday we're so glad.
Let us see how many she has had.
As we count the pennies,
We are told 1, 2, 3,
Yes, the pennies say, “She is 3 years old.”
Happy Birthday to you. . .

. . . in the 1940s, **Mrs. Fred Carrol** was our Sunday School teacher upstairs in the old church. When the pastor no longer used the parsonage (located where the Chapel is now), members of Epworth League, the forerunner of Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), met there. **Bob Bass** was leader, and others attending included **Ralph Jones, Fred Drake, Bill Moor, Bob Mann, Bays Anderson, Claudia Croy, Clara Jane Carrol, Christine Puckett, Margaret Cogswell, Frances Nell Cogswell**, and **Hollis Pember-ton**. We returned one summer to find MYF cancelled because of the polio epidemic.

. . . **Miss Ollie Reece Whittle** was our Sunday School teacher about 1943. We signed a pledge that “we will not use alcohol” and were encouraged to live righteously so anyone watching would not be led astray.

— **By Margaret Cogswell Morse, Smyrna, GA**

. . . Trinity would have a Lenten devotional and breakfast during the week before Easter. We kids would grumble about having to rise early during our spring break, but it was worth it! The Sunday classes would prepare breakfast while the rest of us went to the sanctuary (pre-current sanctuary) for a brief devotional presented by an adult. After the devotional, we would exit *en masse* and go to the old kitchen in the basement of the educational building, where the tables were set and food served. Those having to be at work at eight got to go to the head of the line.

. . . Trinity would go caroling on a city bus to visit the shut-ins during Christmas holidays.

. . . **Mr. Pat** (Christian educator) would show cartoons and serve hot dogs on Saturday mornings in the basement of the educational building (currently down under).

. . . **Mr. Pat** set up summer camp for elementary children at Carrabelle Beach.

. . . Sunday evening there was a short service after MYF with an altar call at the end.

. . . the youth Sunday School classes were held on the third floor of the education building. All grades had separate classes after a joint gathering before in 305.

. . . costuming for the Christmas pageant was put together in the classrooms under the sanctuary (pre-current sanctuary).

— **By Judy Levy, Tallahassee FL**

My Dad: William James Tait, Jr.

By Judy Levy

My dad, **William James Tait, Jr** (“Bill,” “Doc,” “Grandpa Doc,” “Ping Pong”) was a giant of a man inside and out. He came into the world larger than life at 12 pounds. He was born in Anaconda, MT, the first son of a chemical engineer and a flapper. His grandfather was a Methodist minister. The family moved to Denver, CO, when he was in elementary school.

There he attended Denver University (DU) for his BA, working as a delivery boy for a florist to pay his way. He met **Edna Julia Saunders** (the girlfriend of his best friend) and became her “big brother.” However, his best friend’s girlfriend soon became HIS girlfriend. They were married in Denver and started a family.

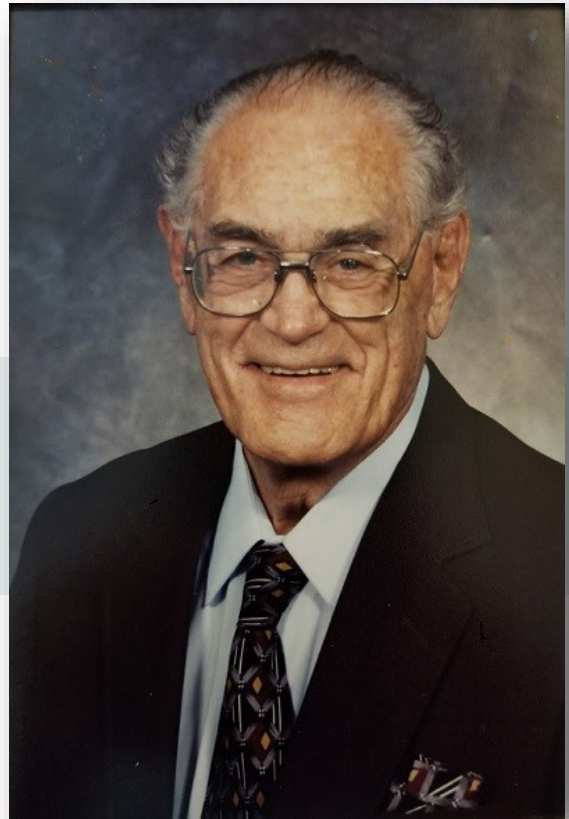
After obtaining his MA at DU, he took a leap of faith, pulled up roots, and moved to Pelham, NY, to complete his education with a PhD at NYU. His degree attracted the attention of FSU because they were looking for a leader to start a new degree program in recreation.

It was a fit made in heaven—our Midwestern family loved Tallahassee, and he started what became a nationally recognized program in recreation that grew into recreation and leisure studies. Because he was a forward thinker, his insights were often considered “outside the box” in the realm of recreation and leisure living. He would go on to devote 20 years with the university before he retired in 1971.

Dad’s connection to Trinity started the minute he hit the capital city. Our first home (temporarily) was the church’s house on the corner of Duval and Call. Its foundation sat where the gravel lot is now. He and my mother joined Trinity Methodist church in 1951. They gave their children, **Jim, John**, and me, (**Judy**) a strong faith foundation in Methodism with all three of us confirmed at the altar in the sanctuary of the previous church building.

We all attended Sunday School, and my parents were adult leaders of our Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF). Dad once decided to have a session at MYF on line dancing. When the elders of the church found out beforehand, they were aghast and said teaching line dancing was not appropriate for a church. Dad quickly said “OK, we’re having an *exercise* class at MYF” (it just happened to be *line dancing*.)

He was always giving of his time and efforts to the



church. For example, after he retired from FSU, like most retirees I know, he was busier than ever. He became “Tinker Tait” and available to anyone in the church/community for minor home repairs or assistance. He had a bevy of elderly ladies that he took care of—changing light bulbs, getting rid of unwanted critters in their house, taking the ladies to appointments, etc.

His involvement also included his support of our family: walking his *favorite* (who happened to be his *only*) daughter down the sanctuary aisle and supporting his middle child’s wedding the same summer. He sat in the front pew for his beloved wife’s memorial service and greeted guests at the reception in the parlor.

His last act of valor was serving as guardian of an elderly Trinity member who had no family to assist her in her final days. Clearly, from his first years in Tallahassee and throughout the rest of his life, Dad maintained a strong connection to the church he loved.

Judy Levy (AKA the “Nut Lady” for her unremitting promotion of pecans sales to support UMW ministries and service activities) can often be found at the church, helping to spread the good word. She serves on the Board of Officers of the Historical Society as Membership Archivist Assistant.

Just for the Record . . .

By Linda Yates

Trinity's *Quarterly Conference Minutes* from April 1828 through January 1883 is now in a bound volume in the church's Heritage Room (and [online](#)), thanks to Archivist **E. Lynn McLarty** and **Rex Adams**. The records show a strict expectation for responsibility of pastors, stewards, teachers, and other officers and members of the church. Below are excerpts (with summary information), showing how the early church conducted some of its business.

April 5, 1828—Report: **Josiah Evans**, Presiding Elder, raised subscriptions to build the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee and succeeded in raising the building in 1825.

June 21, 828—Complaint: **Brother Freeman** allows the members to indulge too much in superfluous apparel, but the Quarterly Conference thinks that he has adopted and does pursue the best possible plans and hopes he will succeed in enforcing the Discipline.

Sept. 20, 1828—Are there any appeals, complaints, references, any licenses to preach granted? None. How many expelled since last conference? None. How many have been received? 13 Whites and 16 Blacks. The following brethren's names were severally called, their character examined, and passed: **Josiah Smith** and **Joseph Harley**, Local Preachers; **Daniel Faust** and **Davis Floyd**, Class Leaders and Stewards.

Jan. 25, 1859— Presiding Elder called attention to importance of building a parsonage in Tallahassee and

Brother Branch was requested to ask contributions from members for such purpose and report his success at the next conference.

May 21, 1859—Brother Branch now reports that he has secured reliable subscriptions amounting to the sum of \$1775, and **Brother J.A. Edmondson** entered into contract to build said parsonage, out buildings and fences for \$1800. The report was approved and a committee appointed to supervise the work.

July 1, 1861— What report is there on the Sabbath schools? One school for Whites and one for Colored. Both doing well. Has the rule respecting the instructing of children been observed? No.

Feb. 4, 1871—Report: Members 131; Sabbath school officers, teachers 19; Sabbath school scholars 99; volumes in library 300; one church value \$5000; one parsonage \$3000; town lot \$500.

Jan. 18, 1862—What report from the Sabbath school? The school is not in such a prosperous condition, yet much good is being accomplished. With Brother Branch having been in charge a little more than one month, much progress has been made in this important duty.

Oct. 7, 1867—Written report: During the first part of the quarter, the Sabbath school was in a flourishing condition but recently the church has been undergoing repairs and the school has had to meet at the Capitol. There have been many rainy days and attendance has been comparatively small.

A Loss of a Dear Friend of the Historical Society

The officers of the Trinity United Methodist Historical Society express their sorrow for the recent death of a loyal HS member, **Margie Smith**. Margie set aside time to attend the monthly meetings of the society each month while being involved in extensive volunteer work at Trinity and throughout the Tallahassee community. She encouraged HS members with her kindness and offered her insights on church history based on her own experiences at Trinity and her educational background, which included an undergraduate degree in history.

A few of her regular volunteer activities included serving as Vice President of the Trinity United Methodist Women and helping in the church nursery. We will miss her presence at our meetings, and we convey our prayers to her family and all those who knew her.



Margie Smith and fellow Hope Community volunteer, Sam Rogers, Sr.

— HS Officers

Making History

Historical Marker Update

Trinity's Historical Society members have applied to the State of Florida for approval of a historical marker for Trinity United Methodist Church. On March 14, 2019, Historical Society members **Linda Yates** and **Pam Crosby** attended a meeting of the Historical Marker Council in the R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, whose purpose is to review applications, as part of the ongoing review.

Historical Society Sorting Squad

Hundreds of documents, photos, and recordings fill boxes in the closets and other places of the Heritage Room and an adjacent classroom. Many of these items are spread out on tables before being sorted into files. **Dot Binger** and **Pam Crosby** are currently sorting worship bulletins dating from 1928 to 1979 and from 2005 to 2009. **Rhonda Work** organizes CDs of sermons, worship services, and special events. All are invited to join our "sorting party" each Wednesday afternoon. Our gatherings are not only fun, but provide glimpses of past Trinity history.

Timeline in Weekly Worship Bulletins

To research Trinity's history for the multi-part timeline published in the current weekly worship bulletins, **Linda Yates** draws from information found in the *Quarterly Conference Minutes* (dating back to 1828); Trinity's own history book; old timelines; and other documents.

Confirmation Class Welcomed

A tour of the Heritage Room and a brief history presentation of Trinity were scheduled for the Confirmation Class during the Sunday School hour on March 31, 2019. Other groups and individuals are invited for similar visits; telephone 385-2768 or write yateslin@me.com.

Call for Stories and Articles

The editor of Crossroads welcomes different types of stories and articles for consideration for publication.

- **"I Remember When" snapshots:** These are short descriptions that recount church life memories. They are usually **25–100 words long**. See below for general guidelines.
- **Oral interviews:** Interviews may be audio or video taped. Trinity historians write up the interviews in narrative form with approval from the persons interviewed before publication. Videos or audios of the interviews may be posted on Trinity's website with permission from persons interviewed.
- **Firsthand stories:** Individuals may submit stories based on their firsthand experience at Trinity. The stories are **500 words in length**. See below for general guidelines.
- **Research articles:** These articles are more formal in nature.
 - o Criteria for formal articles include **relevance** to the purpose of the newsletter, which is to publish articles that pertain to the history of Trinity in a substantial way; **quality of writing**; **historical accuracy**; **clarity**; **conciseness**; **coherence**; and **readability**.
 - o Articles should be **original** works and not excerpts.
 - o The word limit for articles is 500 words. Longer articles can be adapted as a series of shorter articles.
 - o A list of resources used for historical research may be requested. **Original** sources (instead of information from history books, newspapers, or newsletters) are preferred when possible.

General Guidelines

- Writing should be free of disrespectful language.
- Photos and information should not violate privacy, copyright, or other established laws.
- All accepted works are subject to editing in compliance with all *Crossroads* guidelines, including style guide standards, and must pass editorial approval before publication.
- Submit Word document to **Pam Crosby**, editor, at pcrosby@tumct.org.

2019 Trinity UMC Historical Society Board of Officers

Linda H. Yates, Chair

Dot Binger, Secretary

Pamela C. Crosby, Publications Editor

Bob Jones, Historian

Judy Levy, Membership Archivist Assistant

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