

Tidings



A Monthly Publication from Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, FL

Holy Week

by Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. The Procession of the Palms introduces our services on this day, which starts our Holy Week journey.

Father Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) discovered a sculpture of Jesus on a donkey in the Augustine Museum in Freiburg. He called it one of the most moving Christ figures he knew. The fourteenth-century sculpture originally came from a small town close to Breisach, Germany, on the Rhine. It was made to be pulled on a cart for the Palm Sunday procession.

Nouwen found himself drawn to this sculpture. He sent postcards of it to his friends and kept one in his prayer book. Looking at the face of Jesus, he reflected:

“There is melancholy, but also peaceful acceptance. There is insight into the fickleness of the human heart, but also immense compassion. There is a deep awareness of the unspeakable pain to be suffered, but also a strong determination to do God’s will. Above all, there is love, an endless, deep and far-reaching love born from an unbreakable intimacy with God and reaching out to all people, wherever they are, were, or will be. There is nothing that he does not fully know. There is nobody whom he does not fully love.”¹

Next week, beginning Sunday, we are invited to look at the face of Jesus. We recall in our hearts and minds the events that occurred during Holy Week, the last week in the life of our Lord.

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¹ Henri J. M. Nouwen (1990). *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey*. Image Books, p. 135)

One-third of all the events that we have knowledge about in Jesus's life occurred during this week, reminding us of the great significance of these last days. One of the most powerful services here at Trinity is the Maundy Thursday service (6 p. m.). *Maundy* means "mandate" in Latin.

As Jesus and his disciples gather, they participate in what is called a Seder meal, one of the highlights of the Passover week. The Passover festival had been done for centuries before Jesus came on the scene. It commemorated that time when the Jews were in bondage in Egypt. We recall in Exodus that Moses warned Pharaoh to let his people go, but Pharaoh hardened his heart. So God sent death over the land of Egypt, but miraculously this death passed over the homes of the Jews. Thus, the season of Passover was given birth.

The meal itself was a symbolic one reminding the Jews of the sufferings of their forefathers and the power of God's deliverance. The foods that were eaten were symbols to remind the Jews of their captivity in Egypt. Applesauce was eaten to remind them of brick mortar and the fact that they were forced to make bricks with no straw. A bitter herb is eaten to remind them of the bitterness of their captivity. It was this symbolic Seder Meal that the disciples were partaking of that night in the upper room.

At the conclusion of that meal, Jesus himself added two more symbols—symbols that we will recall on Thursday night. They are the symbols of bread and wine. Thus was born our sacrament of the Lord's Supper, out of the experience of an ancient Jewish custom. The famous painting of Leonardo da

Vinci has forever impressed upon our minds this last supper. The image has been made into posters, book covers, screen savers—you name it. It features a scene when Jesus makes known his upcoming betrayal. The disciples—all but Judas—respond by looking at each other with shock. Judas simply holds his money close to his chest and avoids looking in the face of Jesus. It is possible that we might see ourselves in those we see in the painting, sharing this last meal with Jesus. Among them represents what is good in us but also what is not so good.² Their presence and representations make what Nouwen said about God's love more real.

As we live into this Holy Week and pre-

that we are all of the disciples, with all of their frailties and sinfulness. But we are also like them in our sincere desire to follow the Christ.

I encourage you to be engaged with Scripture during this week. Below are daily readings for your reflection and meditation:

Monday:

Isaiah 42: 1-9
Psalm 36: 5-11
Hebrews 9: 11-15
John 12: 1-11

Tuesday:

Isaiah 49: 1-7
Psalm 71: 1-14
I Corinthians 1: 18-21
John 12: 20-36

Wednesday

Isaiah 50: 4-9
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12: 1-3
John 13: 21-32

Maundy Thursday:

Exodus 12: 1-14
Psalm 116 1-2, 12-19
I Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-35

Good Friday:

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10: 16-25
John 18: 1 - 19:42

Holy Saturday

Job 14: 1-14
Psalm 31: 1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4: 1-8
John 19: 38-42

Let us journey this week together in prayer and reflection as we anticipate a joyous Easter Day.

pare to participate in the ancient Sacrament of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, may we confess before God

² "Maundy Thursday Act of Worship With Spiritual Act of Holy Communion." <http://www.stfrancisclaregildford.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/MaundyThursday.pdf>

Bridging the Past with the Present: A Story of Restoration and Devotion

by Dr. Pamela C. Crosby, Crossroads & Historical Society Publications Editor

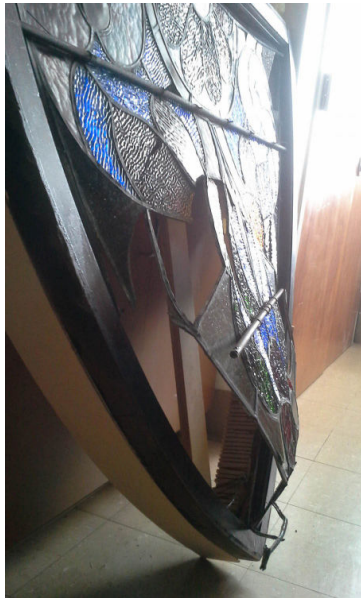
Hanging on the north wall of the Yates Heritage Center at Trinity is a beautiful, multi-colored stained glass panel. It had once shared its earlier home with other stained glass windows adorning the 1893 church building. Empire Glass and Decoration Company in Atlanta (1889 – 1935) had created the arched and pointed panel that likely functioned as a transom over a door.

In 2014, Linda Yates, Nancy Vaughn, and Bob Yates shown reading historical documents in what is now called the Yates Heritage Center. Behind them hangs the 1893 stained glass panel.



Its story, however, almost ended tragically.

A day after a powerful storm passed through Tallahassee in March 2016, a few of us met in what was then called the “Heritage Room” on third floor to organize Trinity’s Historical Society. We found that the storm had not only damaged the church’s elevator but had caused the glass panel to fall and hit the floor, breaking much of it—some of it in tiny pieces. Brett Ingram, Trinity’s facility director, had gathered the broken pieces and frame in a box and stored the contents in the craft room next door.



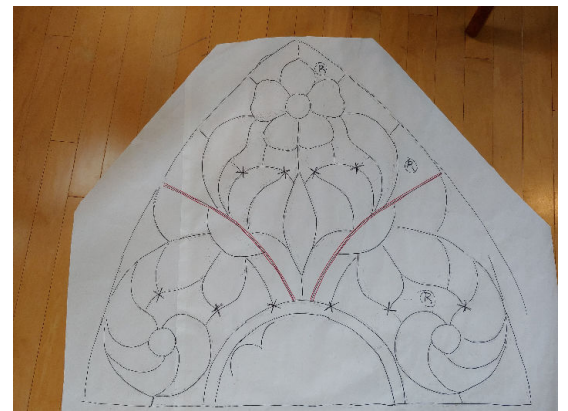
The broken window

After its repair, and after a few years in a closet, the 1893 stained glass panel (with the help of Brett Ingram and Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams) was mounted in February 2023 in its former home—on that north wall of the Yates Center. For all those years of work, Bob has refused any compensation; instead, he has requested that any insurance money that has been given to the church be directed to Historical Society projects.

Fortune was with us, however. One of the founding members of our Society who met with us that day was Bob Jones, a stained glass artisan and historian with decades of experience working with leaded glass. He examined the damage and came up with a plan to repair it.

Bob’s plan included identifying the origin of the loose pieces and looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the assembly. He decided that the most suitable site for the repair of the glass was in the corner of room 307, the Betty Phifer Advanced Studies classroom. Here it would occupy its temporary home on a round table where Bob could come into church and work on repairs.

Initially, Bob sketched a pattern of the panel on paper, and over the years, mended breaks with solder applied to copper foil or clear silicone, cut through solder joints, moved the upper section free of the bottom, placed it back in the frame, and continued to solder the remaining needed areas.



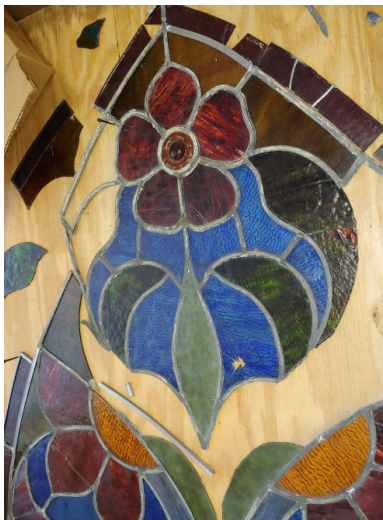
The above diagram is an inked tracing of a lead-rubbing tracing of the damaged window when it was first laid on a table.



Bent bottom of window



Separating top from bottom sections



Repairing the top portion of the window



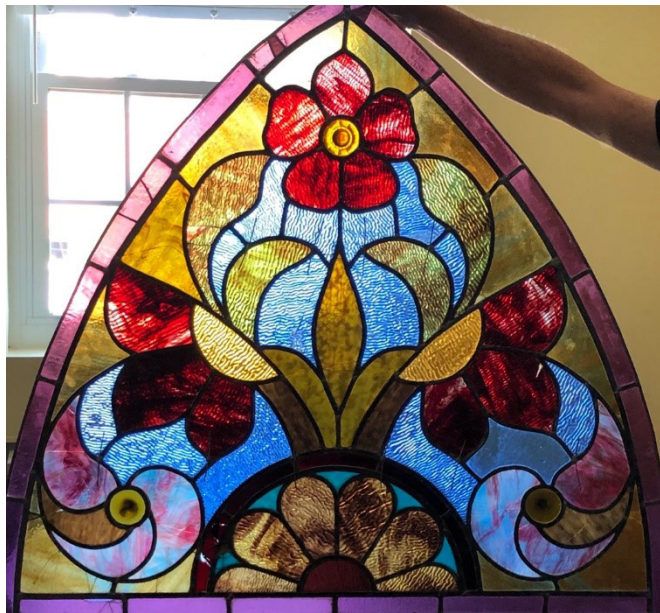
The completed window, November 2019

Our Historical Society and Trinity UMC honor the faithfulness of Bob Jones for his patient, dedicated work in this restoration process. For those of us who do not have Bob's skill and experience, it is difficult to know the expertise, effort, and time involved in this project. But we can all enjoy the stained glass panel's beauty and note its historical significance as a symbol of how faithful individuals in our congregation can bridge the past and present. We invite our members

and visitors to visit the Yates Heritage Center and say a prayer of thanks to all who have been involved in the story of this beautiful piece of art.



In 2019, Bob Jones explains the steps of the restoration process (in its temporary home in the Betty Phifer Advanced Studies classroom) to the Historical Society and Committee for the Preservation of Church History.



To “travel” with Bob on his journey restoring the stained glass panel, please go to these past issues of *Crossroads*:

https://www.tumct.org/history/april_2017_hs_newsletter.pdf
<https://www.tumct.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/July-2020-hs-crossroads.pdf>

Contact Pam Crosby, *Crossroads* and Publications Editor for Trinity’s Historical Society at pcrosby@tumct.org for more information. Visit our extensive history website including online church archives at <https://www.tumct.org/welcome/about/history/>

The stained glass panel, repaired by artisan Bob Jones, was returned to its former place in the Yates Heritage Center in February 2023. Brett Ingram and Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams completed the ongoing project by mounting the prized art piece on the wall.

Local Missions Spotlight by Pat & Lyn Bevis, Local Missions Committee Co-Chairs



As I write this on March 10 to meet publication deadlines, I can only guess at what will happen this month, but I am reporting on faith that all of this will come to pass, and more. The Committee met on March 6, and among other business, agreed to make our first major donation of the year. More about that soon. The last big bag of stuffed animals was delivered to the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center on March 9th. What a wonderful job you all did with the donations! Over 300 stuffed animals were collected and distributed to many agencies in Leon County.

On March 1, the interest meeting for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) was successful, and the HOME team is now officially formed. Perhaps our team will have met our adopted family by the time you receive this newsletter. In addition to a cash contribution approved by the committee, there will be a list of items needed to help the refugee family set up their household. We know you will be supportive of this effort. Please watch for an online sign-up.

Justice Sunday was held on February 26 with information and support for Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). The big event of CAJM’s year, the Nehemiah Action, was held on March 27 with a large group in attendance from Trinity. And on March 25, a field trip to the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home in Enterprise was held with several members attending. Wow! What a month!

April Plans

In addition to continuing to support the IRC HOME Team, and

our new projects with Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, in April, we will start a new relationship with



This organization touches the lives of seniors in several different ways. Our initial project with them will be to provide volunteers for the Meals on Wheels deliveries on Friday, May 19. We will need 26 drivers and 8-10 people to work at their headquarters that morning to pack all of the cold boxes. Hot foods will be prepared and packed by Elder Care personnel.



Josie Fliger

We have invited Josie Fliger, CEO, to join us on Sunday, April 16, to tell us about the organization and to tell us more about the May 19 project. There will be an online sign-up available starting on April 16.

The Local Mission Committee continues to study and visit agencies in the community to learn more about what the needs of our community are and how we can help.

If you would like to be involved in some way, please get in touch with Lyn (352) 804-0441 or Pat bevis.pat@gmail.com for more information or just show up at a committee meeting at 1: 30 on the first Monday of each month in the conference room on the first floor.



We Love You, Dad!

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

We celebrated our wonderful dads with a donut party. We gathered on the playground and presented our dads with a handmade gift, a treasured keepsake survey, and PLENTY of donuts! Besides the donuts, the highlight of the day was the surveys that the children filled out about their dads: How old is your dad? What does your dad do while you are at school? What is your dad's favorite snack? Some sweet and funny answers by some sweet and funny preschoolers! Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

United Women in Faith News

by Nancy Bedford, UWF Communications Officer

UWF incorporated our focus on women, youth, and children as themes for our three luncheon meeting under new president Sandy Frazier. The first meeting focused on renewing and making new friendships after the pandemic! "Finding Joy Through Fellowship" was the subject of speaker Judy Micale, a credentialed life coach, as she spoke about women finding joy each day.

The second meeting featured Amaya Waymon, Rickards High School senior class president, who was accompanied by her parents. She spoke about her nonprofit, The Girl Flo, which she initiated and which now supplies period products free of charge in all Leon County Public Schools. Amaya is an amazing young woman featured in the *Tallahassee Democrat* in 2022 as one of "5 Young Women to Watch." Her list of community service, honors, goals, and accomplishments is outstanding.

The final luncheon in May will highlight children. We are fortunate to have Trinity Preschool Director Stacey Duggar and Children's Director Candace Duclos join us with information and details about their programs. A highlight will be a visit from the preschool children which is always a delight! UWF welcomes all women to the luncheons. You do not have to be a UWF member to attend.

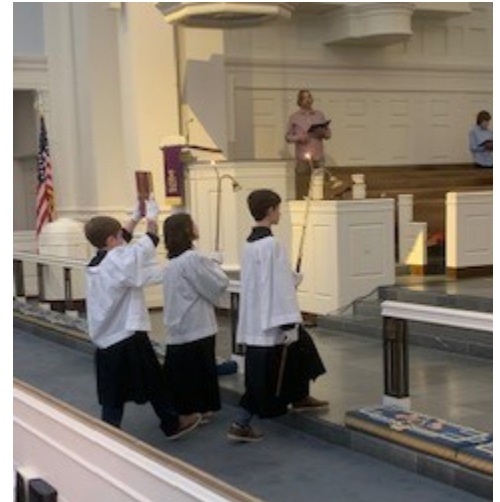


Amaya Waymon (right) and her parents

Children's Ministry News

by Candace Duclos, Director of Children's Ministry

WOW! Our Children's Ministry has a lot going on. We are celebrating the Savior's resurrection all month with stories, songs, and many activities. If you are in Sunday school each week, then you are aware of how many friends we have here and how much energy is in the air. Acolytes are a part of the 11:00 a.m. service. Our acolytes have served a few times so far, and they are doing a fabulous job. If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact Mrs. Duclos at cduclos@tumct.org. NETKids are preparing for the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner and the musical performance of *The Big Fish* on Sunday, April 30, at the 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. service. You will not want to miss this message about Jonah, brought to you by our children. Finally, summer planning is upon us—we need adult volunteers in VBS! There is a place for everyone to serve. Even if you have only a day or two available, we can use your helping hands. Please visit www.tumct.org, click on **Community**, click **Children's Ministry**, scroll down to the **Stellar VBS Registration** buttons. Thank you for supporting, praying for, and loving our Trinity Kids Ministry.



Acolytes serving at the 11 a.m. service

Want To Get Fit This Spring?

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

Want to get Fit this Spring? BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry has an opportunity for you!

Did you know **BFC Exercise** classes meet all year long? Whether you are just beginning to exercise or have been for a long time, there is a class for you! *Staying Strong* is a gentle basic class—just right for beginners or those who like seated and standing exercise. *Variety Mix* is for seasoned exercisers of all ages who like to use a variety of equipment while standing or lying on the floor. *Flexibility for a Better You* is for those who want to use foam rolling and stretching exercises to improve flexibility on the floor. Classes meet in Moor Hall or via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursdays. One hundred percent of suggested class donations of \$3 goes to local or global community service.

BFC Exercise and BFO Class Schedule

Tuesday – 9:45 a.m. – Staying Strong
Tuesday – 11:00 a.m. – Variety Mix
Thursday – 11:00 a.m. – Variety Mix
Thursday – 12:15 p.m. – Flexibility for a Better You
Thursday – 1:30 p.m. – Staying Strong
Thursday – 6:00 p.m. – BFO (Becoming Fit at Church)
-meets at Cascades or a local park

BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) Walking/Hiking is for those who prefer to be outside walking with a group. Depending on the time of the year, this weekly group meets on Thursday at 6:00 pm to walk at Cascades Park, or one of the other beautiful Tallahassee trails. Families (and pets on leashes) are welcome. Class fee is \$10 per 5-6 week session (\$15 per family).

Please visit our [website](http://www.bfcseries.com) at for more details and email Beth Curry at BFCSeries@yahoo.com for advanced registration information which is required for both BFC and BFO.





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WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
SUN Service (contemporary worship): 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11 a.m. in the sanctuary

SUN Service and 11 a.m. Liturgical Service are live streamed
Please visit www.tumct.org for viewing links

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Rev. Bryant Manning, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Dr. Nick Quinton, *Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

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Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
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Viktor Billa, *Organist*
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Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*
Gabriela Denton, *Communications Coordinator*
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Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*

Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Youth Ministry & Modern Music*
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