

Tidings



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

Celebrate!

By Paula Smith, Chair of the Big 200 Committee

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

After more than seven years of work and preparation, generosity and sacrifice by countless members of the Trinity congregation, the day will soon be here to officially celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Trinity United Methodist Church. We are filled with gratitude and thanks to have the privilege of celebrating this momentous occasion.

Much has been accomplished:

The church has been totally refurbished from steeple to kitchen to basement, thanks to the generous gifts of many, and the hard work of 200th Finance Chairman, John Harris with the Trinity Trustees, chaired by Judy Green. The 200-year history of Trinity has been carefully researched and documented thanks to the countless hours invested by Dr. Lynn McLarty and his hardworking committee. Our 200th Publicity Chair, Gloria Colvin, took on her responsibilities with the skill and acumen of a seasoned professional. The time and love invested by Gloria and her committee in sharing the news and knowledge of Trinity United Methodist Church is an accomplishment few volunteers could duplicate.

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Can you imagine the time spent handcrafting 500 pocket prayer quilts? Thank you, Prayers and Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry. How about designing and creating the truly beautiful Bicentennial Banner, proudly displayed in our sanctuary? Thank you, Cecile Baker. Would you volunteer to edit and update the complete history of Trinity United Methodist Church? Not many of us could or would. Thank you, Marti Chumbler!

Who would volunteer to design, select, purchase and sell Bicentennial pins and Christmas ornaments? Oh... and also distribute 500 pocket prayer quilts? Thank you, Ann Lumsden, Liz Dameron and the Mary Martha Circle.

If you need to know someone who can organize and implement 12 receptions over the 12 months of our celebration year, plus lunch for the multitudes on Celebration Sunday, the only ones who could accomplish this are the impressive team of Cindy McDuffie and Laura Rogers, assisted by our talented Culinary Coordinator, Betsy Gingery. Please remember to sign up for a delicious boxed lunch for Sunday, September 29. All Trinity members are requested to share in Celebration Sunday fun by bringing a dessert to share. Please bring your favorite delicious treat and we will recreate the time-honored tradition of Methodist church potluck! Desserts which do not need refrigeration will be collected in Moor Hall on Friday and Saturday. Desserts requiring refrigeration can be delivered prior to services, Sunday, September 29.

Trinity is known for its beautiful music, thanks to the skill and dedication of Director of Music, Yuliia Billa and organist, Viktor Billa, with the choir at our liturgical services, and Sofia Fernandez with her musicians at our contemporary service. Celebration Sunday, 9/29 will be a beautiful feast of faith and music.

Finally, with great excitement, the members of Trinity dedicated a tithe (10%) of the total amount of gifts to the Bicentennial Campaign during the Fall 2023 stewardship drive. Over \$13,000 was collected for a community project. Thank you, Pat Bevis and the Missions Committee for your research and hard work identifying and organizing this very special gift to our community. Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be the beneficiary of Trinity's generosity. In February of 2025, Trinity volunteers will team up with volunteers from FSU/FAMU Wesley students to build and equip beds for needy children who don't have beds in their homes.

Sunday, September 29, 2024, is Celebration Sunday. Please mark your calendars and plan to come early to get your seat. It will be a memory each of us will treasure.

Come One, Come All! Celebration Events for Sunday, September 29th

9:00 a.m. – Contemporary Celebration in the Trinity Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. – Litany and prayer at the site of the first Trinity church building, corner of Park Avenue and Bronough St.

10:40 a.m. - Members and guests will process from the site of the first Trinity Sanctuary, corner of Park and Bronough St., led by our ministers and the music of bagpipes

11:00 a.m. – Liturgical Celebration in the Trinity Sanctuary featuring a proclamation by Mayor John Dailey, guest preacher Bishop Tom Berlin, and special music performed by Director of Music Yuliia Billa and Organist Viktor Billa, with the Trinity Choir and community guest choir members and musicians.

12:15 p.m. – Boxed lunch for all on the church grounds. Desserts provided by church members. A love offering will be collected for your lunch. Please RSVP your attendance at lunch using the QR code.



ALL are welcome. Much is anticipated. Please plan ahead to join the celebration of 200 years of faith, family and community with Trinity United Methodist Church.

Finally, a very big THANK YOU to our Trinity volunteers and staff. There is no finer, more committed, faithful and talented group. Thank you ALL!



All Trinity members are requested to join in the fun by bringing a dessert* to share. Bring your favorite delicious treat and we will recreate the time-honored tradition of Methodist Church potluck! Please use disposable containers and disposable serving utensils.

**Desserts that do not need refrigeration (cookies, pies, cakes) can be delivered to Moor Hall on Friday and Saturday. Desserts requiring refrigeration can be delivered to Moor Hall prior to services, Sunday 9/29.*

Bishop Tom Berlin: Bicentennial Sunday Guest Preacher

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

The Guest Speaker Bicentennial Committee is delighted to announce that Bishop Tom Berlin will be the keynote speaker for our Bicentennial Celebration Sunday on September 29, 2024. This momentous event will commemorate 200 years of the faith, service, and community of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Bishop Berlin, elected as a Bishop of The United Methodist Church on November 2, 2022, by the Southeastern Jurisdiction, has been serving the Florida Episcopal Area since January 1, 2023. His profound leadership and dedication to the church have already made a significant impact in our community.

Tom Berlin's journey in faith began in his hometown of Winchester, Virginia, where he was nurtured at Braddock Street UMC. It was here that he first felt the call to ordained ministry while serving as a summer counselor at the Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain TOP) mission camp in Ozone, Tennessee. His educational path took him to Virginia Tech, where he earned a BS in business with a major in public administration, and later to the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he received his Master of Divinity. Ordained in 1987, Bishop Berlin started his ministry serving the Brucetown-Welltown UMC Charge and Toms Brook UMC.

Over the years, Bishop Berlin has led churches of various sizes within the Virginia Conference, including 25 years as the Lead Pastor of Floris UMC, a multi-site congregation near the nation's capital. His deep belief in the value of a connectional church and his commitment to its vitality and unity have been hallmarks of his ministry. He has also experienced the power of global connections through partnerships like the one with the Sierra Leone Conference, supporting initiatives such as the Child Reintegration Centre and Mercy Hospital. Additionally, Bishop Berlin is a noted speaker and author, focusing on the Christian life, stewardship, and church leadership.

His leadership extends beyond the local church. He has chaired

the Board of Governors at Wesley Theological Seminary, led delegations to General Conference, and served on the Commission on a Way Forward. As part of the team that created the Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation, Bishop Berlin has navigated challenging times with hope grounded in the love and resurrection of Christ and the active presence of the Holy Spirit among committed congregations.



Bishop Tom Berlin

Bishop Berlin brought to the Florida Annual Conference much needed administrative leadership for the changing landscape of the conference. While downsizing the Annual Conference staff, he has been able to ensure smooth transitions for persons nearing retirement, reorganize ministry initiatives and conference organization, which honors the financial commitments of local churches who are in the connection. In addition, he has led the conference to reduce the number of districts and has been creative with the role of District Superintendent, with some of these persons leading ministry areas beyond the district.

Bishop Berlin's relational leadership style is well received by the Florida Conference. He has produced a series of videos entitled "Ask the Bishop" where persons submitted questions regarding the United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Theology, and the Christian Faith. In addition, he has encouraged every church in the Florida Conference to offer a sermon series in 2024 centered on Wesleyan theology and practice, with the goal of our centering in on who we are as Christians and our distinct offering of Christ to the world. His leadership at our Annual Conferences has been spirit filled and inspirational to clergy and laity alike.

On a personal note, Bishop Berlin is married to Karen, and together they have four daughters who have been a significant source of growth and inspiration in his life. He enjoys woodworking, hiking, and spending quality time with his family.

For the Bicentennial Celebration Sunday, Bishop Berlin will deliver inspiring messages at both the 9 AM and 11 AM services

on September 29. Additionally, he will join us for a significant procession from the first church site to our current location at 10:30 AM. This symbolic walk will honor our rich history and the steadfast faith of our congregation through the centuries.

We invite all members and friends of Trinity United Methodist Church to participate in this historic day of celebration, reflection, and unity. Join us as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to a vibrant future guided by faith and community spirit.

Parking, Parking, Parking

Celebration Sunday will be a very busy day. Officers and volunteer greeters will be throughout our property to greet you and direct you to appropriate parking areas.

Because of the need for expanded parking, we will be using additional space at Kleman Plaza. If you are able-bodied and capable of walking short distances, please enjoy free parking at Kleman Plaza. Two shuttles will continually circle to bring you quickly and easily from the fountain at Kleman and College Ave. to Trinity for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

We recommend that you plan to come early to the service of your choice for ease of parking and to find your favorite seat.

If you need some assistance and prefer less walking, you will be directed to drop off passengers in front of the sanctuary and directed to parking following your drop off.

Thank you for helping us make parking available and convenient for ALL attendees!

Milestone Moments in the Preschool

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

I have a few big moments from the preschool that I wanted to share with everyone!

As you know, we celebrated big this past year as we acknowledged our 50th Anniversary of the preschool! We gathered a few items and buried a time capsule! I will leave it up to the future director to decide when the time capsule will be unearthed, but it will likely be at the 75th anniversary or the 100th! We placed letters and cards from the pastors as well as from the current children and packed a small gift for the future preschoolers to enjoy.



The time capsule is buried (left). You would never know anything is here!

Another big anniversary to celebrate is for the one and only Victoria Tetley! Ms. Victoria has just reached her 40-year mark of employment with the preschool! 40 years! We are so grateful to her for her steady and loving presence in the infant room. I can only imagine how many of your children she has cared for. (She cared for my youngest Rachel in the late 90's!) We celebrated Victoria at our planning meeting and presented her with a 40-year pin.

We love you Victoria!





Music for Big Bicentennial Celebration

By Yuliia Billa, Director of Music

One day, Rev. Matthew mentioned that one of his favorite anthems for the Chancel Choir is “I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me” by C. Hubert H. Perry, and he would love it if our choir would perform it during the service. Right at that time, was born the idea to plan for the Big Bicentennial Service on September 29. It is very festive and powerful music that is written for two choirs and has a great arrangement for the Brass Quintet and Organ. Our choir loved this so much and is very much looking forward to learning it.

Another song for the Choir, Brass Quintet, Timpani, and Organ will be by British composer Philip W. J. Stopford, “Christ Is Our Cornerstone.” These meaningful words reflect a strong statement that Christ is our cornerstone, grace, love, hope, and joy, and on him alone we build our church, faith, and life.

The Fanfare and Introit are by Peter Latona - “Let Us Go Rejoicing.” It reflects all our joy and unity as a church on this festive day. Written for the Brass Quintet, Timpani, Organ, and Choir.



Three Congregational Hymns will also be accompanied by a Brass Quintet, Timpani, and Organ: “O Worship the King,” “O God, Beyond All Praising,” to the tune of THAXTED, and “And Can It Be that I Should Gain” on words by Charles Wesley.

“Flourishes” by Carlyle Sharpe for Brass Quintet, Organ, and Timpani will be played for the Prelude. Our own Viktor will pull out all the stops and delight us with a magnificent performance of the famous Finale from Symphony No. 1 by Louis Vierne for the Postlude. Also, prior to the Service, Viktor will play 20-25 minutes of the organ music, which includes the most favorites of our congregation.

The special highlight will be at the very beginning of the Service. After the litany at the location of the first church, bag pipes will lead the procession of clergy and the congregation to the historical Sanctuary with sounds of “Amazing Grace.”

The best musicians for the Brass Quintet, Timpani, and double quartet for Chancel Choir will be hired from Florida State University just for this special service. Let’s proclaim all these Joyful songs with Love and Grace in Honor of our historical church, which is home to so many children of God.

Volunteer to Make History!

History is in the making for Celebration Sunday, September 29, 2024! Please sign up now to volunteer for the best event in 200 years. Your help is needed to set up, prepare, serve and break down for a very exciting day.

Please scan the QR code to sign up on Sign Up Genius.



BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry Celebrates 16 years!

By Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader



Join the BFC Ministry Team in wishing the more than 400 people who have participated in this ministry since 2008 a very Happy 16th Anniversary on September 2! Through their faithfulness in attendance and contributions, over \$85,000 has been raised for community service locally and globally. Not only have the participants had fun, fellowship and become fit, they have also enjoyed food together - and more importantly, through their class donations have touched lives of others all over the world.



Come join us as we continue to raise funds while Becoming Fit at Church. Try one of the four Tuesday/Thursday BFC Exercise classes each week, learn to play Pickleball with the BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) group during the new fall session on September 5, 12, and 19, or practice Pickleball with our new players on the open court from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

For more information contact BFCSeries@yahoo.com, visit our web page at <https://www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/>, or call the church office, leave your name and ask for a call back from our BFC Team.

Advanced registration is required for both BFC Exercise and BFO Pickleball.

Opportunity Awaits: Sleep In Heavenly Peace

By Ray Diaz, Local Missions Committee Co-Chair and Daniel Diaz, Local Missions Committee Member

The words “sleep in heavenly peace” usually stir a feeling of comfort and rest for those who have a comfy bed to sleep in at the end of the day. Think about how much more this means to a child who has been sleeping on a couch or on the floor for much of their life and will now have a comfortable bed to sleep in. This is the mission of “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” (SHP), a national nonprofit organization which has been building beds for children that have no beds since 2012 when it was founded. With a mission statement of “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town”, SHP now has over 350 chapters nationwide.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

The Opportunity for Trinity United Methodist Church

As part of Trinity's Bicentennial fundraising effort, a commitment was made to allocate 10% (a tithe) of the total amount of gifts to the Bicentennial Campaign during the Fall 2023 Stewardship Drive. This was intended to reflect the missional heart of our congregation and the desire to grow the relationship of the church with the community. After seeking input from our congregation, praying and discussing the ideas presented, the Local Missions Committee voted in June to devote these funds to the sponsorship of a SHP bunk bed build. This ministry would also give the congregation an opportunity to be directly involved with a local mission.

What It Means to Sponsor a SHP Build

Sponsoring a SHP bunk bed build requires three things: funding, a location, and volunteers. As a sponsor, Trinity will provide the funding necessary to build 15 bunk beds. These 15 bunk beds can be assembled as bunk beds or as individual beds, accommodating a total of 30 children. The cost for each bunk bed is \$400 and includes the wood frame, rails, fittings, mattresses, bedding, and pillows.

After consulting with the Tallahassee Chapter of SHP, it was determined that the Trinity UMC parking lots would not be adequate for a build site. The Local Missions Committee considered alternative sites that would provide the space needed for set up and parking for volunteers. Ultimately, the committee selected the Wesley Foundation at FSU as the build site. This site offers the added benefits of building the relationship between FSU/ FAMU Wesley students and Trinity UMC as well as providing a larger source of volunteers. It will take a minimum of 50 volunteers for a 15-bunk bed build, which includes the delivery of the unassembled beds at the end of the build.

A primary goal of local missions is to be the hands and feet of Jesus for those in need in our community. This is an opportunity for members of Trinity UMC to engage in an activity where we are literally using our hands and feet to build beds for children in the community that have no beds. Every bed we build is handcrafted and constructed by volunteers willing to donate their time. The joy that comes from delivering the beds to a child that otherwise does not have one is a life-changing experience.



Due to the popularity and impact of the SHP ministry, the first available build date for Trinity UMC is February 22, 2025. There will be ample notification and opportunities for volunteers to sign up prior to our scheduled date. Read more about SHP at [SHPbeds.org](https://shpbeds.org).

For more information, contact Ray Diaz at raydhhs@msn.com.

Lay Academy and the Hortin Years: Decades of 80s and 90s Celebrated the Past With New Beginnings

By Linda Yates (adapted from an article in the August 2004 issue of Tidings)

What do you do with a sparkling, newly renovated three-story building? Before the paint was dry on Trinity Hall, Long Range Planning Committee II had been named to prepare recommendations. Its report was presented on April 25, 1988, to the church's Administrative Board.

The first planning committee's recommendation that Trinity Hall be refurbished had been accomplished. Now it was time to put its many classrooms to greater use. LRP II said over the next 10 years an expanded ministry of program and Bible study for persons of all ages should be offered in the new facilities and the staff increased to implement them.

David Hortin arrived as new Senior Minister in June 1988 and Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller came as Associate Minister. A new director of Christian education, Linda Mobley, joined the staff also in June. With other staff and church members, she began to plan new educational programs for each age group.

On September 27, 1989, a new tradition of study and fellowship began with something called Lay Academy, a program to include "learning and teaching, sharing and giving, fun and fellowship." On Wednesday afternoons and evenings for eight consecutive weeks, one-hour classes were offered at 4:30 and 6:15 p.m. Dinner in Moor Hall was served at 5:30 to those attending classes as well as to other persons who just wanted to share in the fellowship.

Wednesday also became the time for handbell choir and children's and adult choirs to practice. To take advantage of the Lay Academy setting, programs for elementary children began – first Trinity Troopers and later NETkids.

Rev. Fogle-Miller and DCE Mobley took training to lead another new program – Disciple Bible Study. The 34 weeks of Bible study began as part of the Lay Academy. Also offered were other Bible studies, prayer groups, support groups, exercise, health classes, crafts and hobbies, music, study of



From left to right: Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller, Rev. David Hortin, and Director of Christian Education Linda Mobley

current issues, bridge, Piano 101, and church liturgy and symbols.

A Lay Academy Committee came up with a wide range of offerings in the years that followed. Classes on books of the Bible, gardening and landscaping, defensive driving, stress management, income tax laws, church wide mission studies on Africa and other foreign lands, and computers have been offered, to mention a few. Classes sometimes drew 80 or more people when health issues were presented by local physicians or spiritual issues were discussed by a group of current and retired professors of religion at FSU.

A new Director of Christian Education replaced Linda Mobley in October 1993. Barbara Doak, now Barbara Hynes, continued the successful Wednesday Lay Academy programs.

NETkids and other children's and youth programs attracted more and more young families to the after-school activities at Trinity. Youth groups had annual mission projects in Appalachia, and adults went on mission trips to Mexico and to help build Habitat houses in Brazil. Here at home, a team from the church took part in the Tallahassee Habitat for Humanity's Thanksgiving Blitz building of three houses. Trinity continued to work with other UM churches in building additional Habitat houses each year.

Dr. Hortin invited leaders of the religious community to plan an interfaith Thanksgiving service each year of his 11-year ministry at Trinity. When the Florida Annual Conference adopted a Vision 2000 plan by which to strengthen United Methodist Churches by the year 2000, Dr. Hortin and the Administrative Board appointed a committee to prepare Trinity's own plan. The committee presented its Vision 2000 mission statement to the congregation in January 1993 and presented priority goals later that year. At that time membership totaled 2,058.

The church celebrated two important events during Dr. Hortin's ministry. On Feb. 5, 1995, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Florida Conference of the Methodist church was celebrated at Trinity, the place where the Conference first met. Dr. Hortin named the 175th anniversary committee that made plans to celebrate in September 1999, the anniversary of Trinity's 1824 organization. He retired in June 1999, three months before the event and a new minister, Rev. John Willis, presided at the gala occasion.

Celebrating 25 Years of Contemporary Worship at Our 200-Year-Old Church

By Sofia Fernandez, Director of Contemporary Worship and Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

This year marks a noteworthy milestone in our church's history as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our congregation. As we look back on two centuries of faith, fellowship, and service, we also celebrate a significant moment within this journey—the 25th anniversary of our Contemporary Service.

What began in 1999 as the "SUN Service," an acronym that stood for "Serving Unmet Needs," this gathering infused fresh energy into our worship experience. The SUN Service was a place where modern music, a focus on fellowship, and contemplative prayer and worship came together, drawing a diverse group of attendees, including young families, newcomers, and long-standing members eager for a different style of worship. Over the years, as it evolved into what we now call the Contemporary Service, it has remained a cornerstone of our church's mission to offer dynamic and inclusive worship that serves the needs of all.

Music has always been at the heart of this service. From the earliest days, when a small band with just a guitar and a keyboard led the congregation, to the vibrant, full-bodied sound of our current worship team, the Contemporary Service has been a place where music moves the

soul and connects us to God in a profound way. Each Sunday, Moor Hall fills with the sounds of guitars, drums, and voices raised in praise, creating an atmosphere of joy, redemption, and reverence.

But music is only one part of what makes this service special. The Contemporary Service is also about fellowship—a place where relationships are built, nurtured, and deepened. Whether it's through small group discussions after the service, passing of the peace, or simply the time spent chatting by the donut table, the sense of community here is strong and enduring. It's a place where we can come as we are, knowing that we are accepted, loved, and valued.

Fellowship and music at our Contemporary Service have helped create a safe and contemplative setting for people to come and worship, no matter who they are, who they love, or where they are on their faith journey. The reflective nature of the service allows people to ask questions and to find the answers for themselves within Scripture, music, and relationships. The Prayer Station has been a crucial part of the service, indicating a physical space where prayer and action come together in people's faith.

As we celebrate this 25-year milestone, it's important to express our deep gratitude to those who have made the Contemporary Service what it is today. First, to the volunteers—your dedication and hard work have been the backbone of this service. Whether you've been part of the worship team, served as greeters, helped with sound and lighting, or assisted in countless other ways, your contributions have not gone unnoticed. Your willingness to give of your time and talents has helped create a worship experience that is both welcoming and inspiring.

We also owe a debt of thanks to the faithful members of our congregation who have attended the Contemporary Service over the years. Your presence, your voice, your prayers, and your participation have breathed life into this service. Many of you have been with us since the early days of the SUN Service, and your commitment to this community is a testament to your faith and love for God.

Finally, we acknowledge the visionaries who conceived the SUN Service, like Rev. Mark Caldwell, and the leaders who have shepherded it through its evolution into the Contemporary Service. Your foresight, creativity, and perseverance

have left an indelible mark on our church's history, and we are forever grateful for your leadership.

As we move forward, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for the past and hope for the future. The Contemporary Service has been a place of spiritual growth, community, and worship for 25 years, and we look forward to many more years of praising God together in this vibrant and joyful way.

Happy 25th anniversary to the Contemporary Service, and happy 200th anniversary to our beloved church! Here's to many more years of worship, fellowship, and service to come.

Rev. Dr. Robert Gibbs to Preach on September 8

By Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

Trinity is blessed with many retired pastors as part of our congregation, one of whom is our former District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robert "Bob" Gibbs. The son and grandson of United Methodist pastors, Bob Gibbs grew up in parsonages across the state. With that heritage, it's not surprising that he might follow in his father's and grandfather's paths to ministry, but he took some detours before going down that path.

At Florida Southern College, where he earned a BA in history, Bob was very interested in political science and a career in government. He spent a semester in Washington at American University and considered going to law school following his graduation.

But wait, Bob's life took quite a different turn when he served as a counselor at Warren Willis Camp and joined up with two other counselors, Waite Willis and Angelo Fuster, to form a folk group called Rainbeaux. They got an agent and went on the road to perform at restaurants, clubs, college campuses, and churches for several years. According to Bob, the three albums that they recorded are now "major collector's items."

It was during a stint in Ohio where the group sang in hotel lounges, that Bob realized that God was calling him in another direction. He enrolled in Emory's Candler School of Theology, earning a Master of Divinity degree and later earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary.

Bob returned to Florida and initially served as pastor at First UMC, Ocala, as an Associate Pastor, followed by pastorates at John Wesley UMC in Tallahassee, First UMC, Miami,

Englewood UMC, First UMC, Lakeland, and St. Andrew's UMC, Brandon. He had a deep interest in campus ministry and for five years served as the Methodist campus minister at the University of Central Florida, Rollins College, and Valencia Community College. Later Bob was appointed as District Superintendent of the North West District, which includes Tallahassee. He served on several Conference and District committees, including the Board of Ministry and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, which he chaired.



Rev. Dr. Robert Gibbs

Bob has been active in social justice work both during his career and in retirement. While serving churches in Miami and Lakeland, he became involved with the local affiliates of the Direct Action & Research Training Center (DART), an organization that coordinates congregation-based community organizing programs that mobilize people to work for justice. Inspired by the successes that they had in addressing serious local problems, he has been one of the leaders of Trinity's involvement in the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), a DART affiliate, and serves on CAJM's Affordable Housing Research Group.

Following his retirement in 2016, Bob and his wife, Brenda, settled in Tallahassee. Brenda is a gifted actress who has performed locally at Theatre Tallahassee. They have two children, Dr. Beth Gibbs, Director of Choral Activities at Florida Southern College, and Rob (McCoy) Gibbs, a professional musician in Nashville, Tennessee.

On Sunday, September 8, Bob will be our guest clergy, preaching at the 9:45 and 11:00 services.

Trinity Reflections

Compiled by the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

“Trinity is home. It holds our dearest memories and inspires our greatest hopes as we move forward. It’s the place we return to again and again and know that we are loved.” — **Susan & John Koehler**

“I chose Trinity because justice and service are practiced as integral parts of faith. Through the Capital Area Justice Ministry, the church works with others across the county to listen to the needs and advocate for justice for our neighbors.” — **Betsy Staudt Willet**

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Big 200 Bicentennial Committee Chairs

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

MINISTRY STAFF

Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*
Viktor Billa, *Organist*
Yuliia Billa, *Director of Music*
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*
Candace Duclos, *Director of Christian Education*
Sarah Duclos, *Sexton*
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*
Betsy Gingery, *Culinary Coordinator*

Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Contemporary Worship*
Irene Gonzalez, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Melanie Gonzalez, *Church Operations Administrator*
Patti Groh, *Sexton*
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*
Susan Koehler, *Director of Communications*
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*
Alexis McEntire, *Children's Ministries Assistant*
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*

TIDINGS TEAM

[Gabriela Denton](#), *Editor*

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