

Tidings



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

Trinity's 2026 Ministry Fair and Blessing of the Backpacks

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

It's Ministry Fair Time again! This exciting event takes place on Sunday, August 9, beginning at 10:15 a.m. and promises to be a blessing in the lives of everyone who attends. Come learn about the many ways you can serve, love, and participate in the life of our church throughout the year. This is the perfect opportunity to find your calling and join in ministry with other Trinity members. You don't want to miss it!

On this special Sunday, we will all join together for one service at 11:00 a.m. Teachers, administrators, and students of all ages (birth through college and beyond!) are invited to bring their school bags or backpacks to the service for a special blessing and children's message. Read on for all the details.

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Ministry Fair, *continued*

Explore Trinity's Ministries

Are you looking for the perfect ministry in which to serve with your time, talent, and energy? Then this is the event for you! The Ministry Fair happens only once each year, and we want you to be there. Visit each of our ministry displays and learn about the many opportunities to serve within the church, community, and world.

Ministry Groups will be set up in Moor Hall, where you can peruse, ask questions, and get to know people who are already leading the many ministries of our church. **Doors open at 10:15 a.m.** We encourage you to visit before the 11:00 a.m. service if you plan to engage in playground activities afterward. There will be so much going on, and we don't want you to miss a thing.



Moor Hall was filled with ministry displays during our 2025 Ministry Fair. In these photos, attendees learn about Centering Prayer, Celebrate Recovery, our Becoming Fit at Church (BFC) Ministry, and Trinity's church historians.

At our 2026 Ministry Fair, the following Trinity ministries and service opportunities will be on display:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Acolytes | • Culinary | • Mats for Friends |
| • BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) | • Disaster Relief | • Ministry Dogs |
| • CAJM | • Facilities Renovation Team | • Prayers and Squares |
| • Care Team | • Guatemala Mission Team | • Preschool |
| • Celebrate Recovery | • JOY Club | • Residing Hope |
| • Centering Prayer | • Lay Academy | • Trinity History |
| • Club Car | • Local Missions | • Ushers |
| • Creation Care | • Love in Action | • Residing Hope |

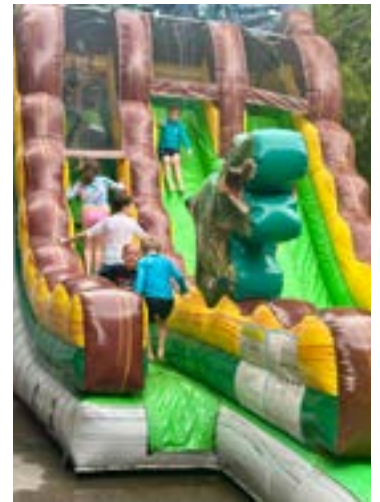
Blessings, Food, Fun, and Fellowship

We will join together for **one service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 9**, and we'll kick off the new school year with a Blessing of the Backpacks. We want our teachers, administrators, and students to know that they are loved and supported by their Trinity family.

After the service, lunch will be provided, along with snow cones, water games, a water slide, and kiddie pools for the little ones (all on the playground). A lifeguard will be present. We encourage children to wear their swimsuits under their church clothes and to bring a towel and a change of clothes if desired. Activities will wrap up at about 1:30 p.m.

This special event only happens once a year at the most exciting church in Tallahassee, so open your heart and join us for blessings, learning, fellowship, food, and fun!

Come back again for **one service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 16**, as we join together for Bluegrass Sunday! Moor Hall will be open at 9:45 a.m. for those who would like to gather for fellowship and check out the Ministry Fair displays one more time.



Mark your calendar for Chef Betsy's annual

Welcome Back PRIME RIB DINNER

Wednesday, August 19, at 5:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code to reserve your spot today!

After dinner, join us for a

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP NIGHT

in the chapel at 6:30 p.m.



Lay Academy Announces Fall Classes

By Gloria Colvin, Lay Academy Planning Committee

Lay Academy at Trinity is a long-standing tradition of educational programming for adults held on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. We are blessed with a wealth of resources in our community and church, which provide opportunities to explore many different topics with expert presenters. The classes are scheduled around Wednesday night dinners and a time of fellowship.



This fall's offerings include two six-week classes, one on government and the other a Creation Care Bible study, plus one stand-alone session on the Constitutional amendments that will be on November's ballot. These hour-long classes begin at 6:15 p.m. and meet in room 305.

August 26-September 30 | Civics 101: From Capitol Hill to City Hall

If it's been a while since you studied how governments in the US are supposed to work, Trinity's Lay Academy is offering an opportunity to refresh your knowledge about the structure and operations of federal, state, and local government in "Civics 101: From Capitol Hill to City Hall" this fall. Speakers from the FSU Institute of Governance and Civics, the Florida League of Cities, and others will walk us through the different levels of government and discuss some of the controversial issues that are currently being debated and put into practice.

October 7 | Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Trish Neely, past president of the League of Women Voters, will lead us in understanding the purposes and implications of the Constitutional amendments that will be voted on in November. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. It does not endorse candidates, but it does study issues and sometimes takes positions on those issues.

October 14-November 18 | God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action

Join Rev. Bob Gibbs in exploring "God's Renewed Creation: A Call to Hope and Action." This Creation Care Bible study was designed by a task force of the Council of Bishops led by former Florida Bishop Timothy Whitaker and connects environmental stewardship with spiritual renewal.

Additional Opportunities on Wednesdays

In addition to these classes, **Richard Andrews** welcomes new members at **4:15 p.m. in the library** each week as he continues "**The Epic of Eden**." This Bible study series by Dr. Sandra Richter explores the history, timeline, and geography of the Old Testament to reveal God's continual story of grace and redemption.

Parenting Village meets each week at **6:15 p.m. in the Conference Room** and welcomes new participants. Parenting Village is an opportunity for those in the process of raising children to support each other on their parenting journey. NETKids After Dark is available to children whose parents attend Parenting Village.

Wednesday Night Dinners are available at **5:30 p.m.** during Lay Academy season. We encourage you to participate in this time of fellowship as you enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Culinary Director Betsy Gingery. Payment for dinners can be made online or at the door, but we kindly ask that you **make reservations in advance**, either by using the app or website or by calling the church office.

Memorials and Honorariums

June and July 2026

In memory of Jeff Daniels from the Retired Clergy Lunch Group

In memory of Charles Allen from Pamela and James Heinzman

Shaped to Lead: A Conversation with Pastor Matthew Williams About the Reynolds Program in Church Leadership

By Pam Epting, Staff Parish Relations Chair

The Royce and Jane Reynolds Program in Church Leadership, housed within the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, is one of the most meaningful leadership development opportunities available to United Methodist pastors. A joint venture between the Foundation and the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, the program brings theological grounding and serious leadership science into a year-long intensive experience for twenty-four clergy per cohort, drawn from six annual conferences across the Southeast and nominated by their Bishop. It exists because of the generosity of Royce and Jane Reynolds, and it has been shaped for many years by the gifted leadership of program director Janice Virtue. Recently, SPRC Chair Pamela Epting and the Staff Parish Relations Committee sat down with Pastor Matthew Williams to hear about his experience as a program graduate. Following the conversation, the committee congratulated Dr. Williams on completing the program and honored him with a meaningful gift in recognition of this significant accomplishment.

Pamela Epting: Give us an overview of this program.

Dr. Matthew Williams: The Reynolds Program is a year-long leadership development experience for clergy with at least five years of full-time ministry. We gather four times over the course of the year, twice at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro and twice at the Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill. Before the first gathering, you complete several personal and professional assessments, including a 360° assessment, the Myers-Briggs, and the FIRO-B. So, by the time you walk in the door, you already have a lot of data about yourself sitting in front of you. Each gathering builds on the last, moving from self-knowledge into vision discernment, then into leading change, and finally into where you go from here. You also have a personal executive coach throughout the year. It is rigorous, it is personal, and it is unlike anything else I have experienced in ministry.



Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Pamela Epting: Did you learn anything about yourself that surprised you?

Dr. Matthew Williams: Honestly, yes. The biggest surprise was finding out that I am an introvert. I know that may be hard to believe for people who see me up front every Sunday, but the assessments were pretty clear about it. That reframed a lot of things for me, including why certain seasons of ministry are more draining than others, and why I need more quiet and solitude than I sometimes allow myself. The 360° feedback also gave me a clearer picture of how my leadership actually lands with the people around me, not just how I intend it. That gap between intention and impact is where a lot of the real work happened.



Peer group being filmed in a meeting

More than anything, the program helped me learn to honor myself and the way I am wired. Trinity is a remarkable congregation, and we are blessed to have so many retired and accomplished clergy in our pews, men and women who have given their lives to the church at the highest levels. That can be a lot to sit with. It is easy to look around and start measuring yourself against extraordinary people. But through this program I have genuinely learned that I do not have to do that. I lead the way I lead, I am wired the way I am wired, and that is enough. More than enough. That may sound simple, but for me it was one of the most freeing things to come out of the entire year.

Pamela Epting: How has your leadership style evolved?

Dr. Matthew Williams: I lead with more patience and more curiosity now. I am quicker to ask questions and slower to assume I already know what someone needs or where a situation is headed. The program did a lot of work around conflict, not managing it or avoiding it, but understanding what is underneath it and how different personalities move through it differently. That has changed how I show up in hard conversations with staff and lay leaders.

Pamela Epting: Is there anything you will do differently as a result of the program?

Dr. Matthew Williams: Several things. I am more intentional about how I communicate with people whose personalities and processing styles are different from my own. I am more committed to vision development as an ongoing, collaborative process rather than something a pastor produces alone and delivers to a congregation. The fundraising and development content was also immediately applicable here at Trinity, and I expect that work to continue to bear fruit.

Pamela Epting: What can we do to continue to support your leadership journey?

Dr. Matthew Williams: The most important thing is exactly what you are already doing: asking the question. Having a congregation and an SPRC that takes leadership development seriously is itself a gift. Going forward, I would love for us to continue investing in opportunities for our staff and lay leaders to grow alongside me. The Reynolds Program made clear that a pastor's leadership only goes as far as the team around them. When we grow together, Trinity grows.

As Pastor Williams reflected on his experience, it was clear that the Reynolds Program has strengthened both his personal leadership and the future of Trinity United Methodist Church. His renewed clarity, deeper self-awareness, and refined practices are already enriching our shared ministry and laying a foundation for thoughtful, compassionate leadership in the years ahead. The SPRC celebrates this milestone with gratitude and pride and remains committed to supporting a culture where strong, faithful leadership can flourish.



Reynolds Peer Group: Rev. Susan Pennock, Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Cruz, Rev. Ed New, Rev. Paul Seay, Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Rev. Chaloea Hale

The North West District of the FLUMC invites you to attend

LOVE BOLDLY

September 12, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at Trinity United Methodist Church

Enjoy a keynote speech by Rev. Mary Downey, Founder and CEO of Hope Partnership, and workshops on the One Board model, social justice, and more.

Registration is \$10 and lunch is included.



Scan the QR code
for details and
registration.



The Future is NOW!

Update on Trinity Facilities Renovation

By Paula Smith, Facilities Renovation Committee Chair

When was the last time you actually viewed Trinity's large, sprawling facilities? Were you attending Sunday School, a worship service, a special dinner, Lay Academy, BFC exercise class, or a Bible study class? Did you take the opportunity to really consider the space you were in? Did it meet your needs? Was it welcoming, accessible and comfortable?

If your answer to any of those questions was "No", we invite you to consider the many challenges ahead. When our facilities were renovated 43 years ago, Trinity's ministry had vastly different activities and requirements. In order for our beloved Trinity to grow and thrive, it must be ready and able to meet current needs AND be prepared for the future.

What needs are we facing today?

Some of our greatest priorities are as follows:

- The **Welcome Center** must successfully balance hospitality, engagement, technology, and security.
- The **Youth Space** (The Underground) must be comfortable and inviting, with adequate access to help our Youth Ministry thrive. It must be able to host diverse activities, providing our youth with a sense of freedom, fun, and belonging. This includes improved audio equipment, improved kitchen space, and flexible, durable spaces and furnishings.
- The **Children's Ministry** area needs a designated entryway, welcoming our youngest participants into a secure check-in space that is light and bright with a spacious gathering area and flexible classrooms, as well as an infant and toddler space specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of these youngest church-goers.
- **Adult Education** could be greatly improved with universal technology for classrooms, a larger lecture area, and the relocation of the library. The library is frequently unavailable on Sundays, as it is in use as a classroom or meeting space. An additional elevator would be another great asset for the Education Building.
- **Moor Hall** is a wonderful space, overused and difficult to maintain because of the constant need to rearrange furnishings for many diverse activities — from worship and receptions to exercise classes and dining events.
- **Office Space** needs to accommodate a larger staff, appropriate technology, work spaces, an abundance of storage needs, and all the functions of a thriving ministry.

Trinity is blessed to have a large campus with many square feet of usable space. Our challenge is to do a better job of using that space. Future improvements must carefully consider ADA requirements, replacement of aging infrastructure, and all the ways technology is important for bringing the message of Christian love to our membership and the community at large. We can do better!

How You Can Share in the Process

To begin the process, the Facilities Renovation Committee invites you to participate in a survey that will be available to the congregation in August. Additionally, we invite you to join us on tours of the Trinity facility. Times of tours will be posted and designed to meet your busy schedules. Need a different time? Let us know. We will accommodate your needs.

What if we do nothing and continue to use current facilities "As Is"? In the last five years we have experienced major expenses because of our aging facility — burst pipes, HVAC problems, roof problems, programmatic challenges, and the diminishing effect of programs no longer effectively delivered for all ages of our membership. Should we allow this to continue? Come and learn with us. I think you will agree, we should begin today to address the needs of the Trinity facility and prepare for a better future!

Tallahassee Local Missions: From Downtown to Frenchtown

By Brian Underhill, Local Missions Team Member

Just a few blocks north of Trinity, down the street from the Governor's Mansion, sits a small building on the edge of Frenchtown, known as Grace Mission. Many who race down Bronough Street toward Tennessee Street may not even notice the building and the people gathered there. But, to those who have crossed the threshold, Grace is a beacon of hope, welcoming them as they are — feeding both their physical and spiritual needs.



Grace Mission first opened its doors in 1997 and permanently relocated in 2001 to its current location on Brevard Street. Grace is a mission church of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida — one that reflects the radical love of God, a place where the wider body of Christ unites with others to serve and make a powerful difference in our community for those experiencing poverty and homelessness. These are many of the same individuals that Trinity serves with snack packs during the week and coffee on Sunday mornings.

Along with weekly church services, Grace provides meals five days a week, clothes two days a week, showers two days a week, and laundry services three days a week. Grace has recently been blessed with the addition of a social worker on staff who helps individuals with their specific needs.

If you are one of the many members of Trinity who have expressed interest in assisting Grace, please know there are ongoing opportunities for those who are led to support the ministries of Grace, either through prayers, donations, financial support, or volunteer time.

Individuals who want to serve a meal can join Brian and Laura Underhill on the third Sunday of each month. They can be reached at blunderhill@gmail.com or 850-692-9174. If you are looking for other ways to support Grace, you can reach out to the Underhills or contact Grace Mission directly at 850-224-3817 or gracemission@gracemission.net.

A Special Thank You

"But as it is written, 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him'." -1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV

Trinity, please hear my heart when I say write and embody the words "THANK YOU!" Geeze-o-weeze, I am so in awe of how God has shown Godself in this transition from ministry in Ohio to ministry in Florida. Even in my dreams or imagination, the sendoff I received from Mentor United Methodist in Ohio and the reception here at Trinity exceeds my feeble view. Certainly, I say *Thank you, Mentor!*



Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

And moreover, THANK YOU, TRINITY! It has been "Showers of Blessings" even before my arrival! At the onset you have provided for me, and I will be, you will be, we will be the better for it! So, for every welcoming kiss, hug, handshake, squeeze, card, gift, bit of cash, gift card, bouquet of flowers, dinner invite, and food too, you have covered me with your heart. To Rev. Matthew, Rev. Wayne and the entire staff, I appreciate every contingency you have anticipated on my behalf. I feel so loved!

Trinity, I look forward to the beautiful picture that God will paint as we go forth in Christian service, ministry, and worship here in Tallahassee. Trinity, my cup runneth over because of your generous spirit. To God be the glory!

With love,
Your new Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

Meet Matt Wright

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications

Matt Wright is a familiar face around Trinity. He has been a faithful attendee at worship services and has been active in many of Trinity's ministries. In June, Matt became a part of Trinity in a whole new way. He was hired as a facility steward, and he hit the ground running the week of Vacation Bible School. Matt is staying very busy these days, so his time in completing this interview is greatly appreciated!



*Matt Wright,
Facility Steward*

Matt, I understand you're not originally from Tallahassee. Would you mind sharing a bit about your background?

I moved around a fair bit growing up. My family's homebase is Monroe, Louisiana, but we moved to Branson, Missouri, when I was a small child, where I attended elementary school and where my Dad still lives. I attended middle and high schools on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, then Pearl River Community College, where I completed my Associate of Arts degree. I then attended Mississippi State University, where I completed my Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy and performed undergraduate research in radiation detection for environmental cleanup applications. Following my graduation, I was employed by Mississippi State as a data analyst/software engineer within a nuclear quality assurance program. I came to Tallahassee to pursue a Ph.D. at FSU with the end goal of a career in science education.

You're on staff now, but you first found Trinity as your place of worship. What can you tell us about your faith background and about what led you to Trinity UMC?

I grew up in the Southern Baptist tradition with Pentecostal influences. My faith drove me to pursue a career in physics, as the methodology of science allows me to spend every day in a state of worship through study of the creation. This context motivated me to rigorously evaluate the fundamentalist faith of my youth, and I realized how I had been taught to weaponize scripture against my neighbor, justified by a doctrine of inerrancy when convenient. The final straw motivating my departure came as I was teaching within a college ministry, where I refused to use the Sodom and Gomorrah story to demonize my LGBTQ+ neighbor. When I moved to Tallahassee, I was looking for a tradition where Jesus' radical inclusion was practiced, and I found Trinity and the weekly vigil for immigration justice.

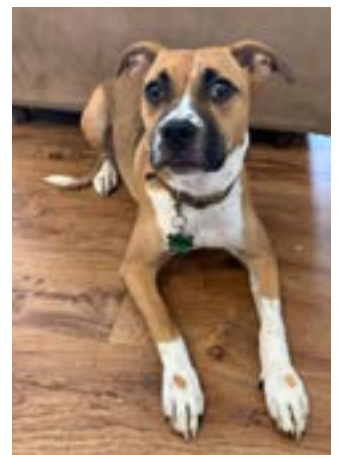
It's great that you were able to find a spiritual home at Trinity that aligned with your conscience and belief system. I know you will remain active in worship and ministry, but what do you see as your new role as a staff member?

I am responsible for maintaining Trinity's facility and supporting the ministries it houses. This summer, I am a full-time employee, but I intend to drop to part time when I return to school this fall.

While you're spending all this time at Trinity, are there any pets missing you at home?

I have a Boxer/Pitt Bull, Madame Marie Curie. I bring her to San Luis Dog Park almost daily.

Before you get back to work, let's wrap up with a lightning round of favorites:



Madame Marie Curie

- **Favorite Food:** Jambalaya
- **Favorite Vacation Spot:** Cabin in the woods
- **A Superpower you'd like to have:** Ability to manipulate photons. As the gauge boson carrying the electromagnetic force, this would provide large-scale telekinesis (including flight) by movement of free charges in materials, full control over chemical reactions by determination of electron energy-states within atoms, the ability to ionize all atoms comprising an adversary, ability to change appearance by fine-tuning photon wavelengths after they reflect off my body, and invisibility by forcing all wavelengths outside the visible spectrum.
- **Favorite Bible Verse:** Mark 9:23-25

Love in Action: A Ministry Committed to Change

By Margie Clay, Love in Action Ministry Team Member

*"The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands:
'See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God.'" –Micah 6:8*

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the Justice Committee at Trinity recently combined to form the newly named Love in Action Ministry. This name reflects our shared commitment to living out our faith in word and action, and to empowering our congregation to learn, grow, and act alongside us as we pursue God's call to justice, restoration, inclusion, and radical love.

Mission Statement: Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve. As the Love in Action Ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church, we are **committed** to **building a beloved community** rooted in fairness, inclusion, healing, and the protection of human rights. We **recognize** and **reject** injustice, **repair** harm, **cultivate** welcome, and **dedicate** ourselves to building a church where everyone, without exception, experiences our love — and, more importantly, the love of God.

Our Mission in Action:

Building a beloved community – Creating a church where everyone belongs (Ephesians 2:19)

Committing – Faithfully pursuing justice, mercy, and inclusion. (Micah 6:8)

Recognizing – Seeing injustice so it can be addressed (Isaiah 1:17)

Repairing – Healing relationships and restoring hope (Matthew 5:9)

Cultivating – Fostering a spirit of welcome and respect (Romans 15:7)

Dedicating – Living Christ's love through faithful action (1 John 3:18)



Together, we seek to embody Christ's love by welcoming all, standing with those who are marginalized, and working for a church and community where justice, compassion, and grace are lived every day.

BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Fall Session

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end! As we transition from summer schedules and vacations, the BFC Exercise Program is gearing up for an exciting fall season with a Fall Strength Challenge.



In late August, participants will begin with a simple upper- and lower-body strength assessment. From there, everyone will learn how to set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and create a personalized plan for success. Over the following 8–10 weeks, we'll encourage and support one another as we work toward those goals. At the end of the challenge, we'll reassess our progress and celebrate our accomplishments together.

Whether you're already attending classes or looking for a place to begin, we invite you to join us and finish the year strong through consistent exercise. The BFC Exercise Program offers four weekly classes, and newcomers are always welcome!

August will also mark the return of our Flexibility Class — with a new addition! Along with stretching, we'll incorporate mobility exercises designed to help maintain and improve joint range of motion. This small-group, eight-week class will focus on mat and floor exercises while teaching practical skills you can use throughout the year to keep your muscles flexible and your body moving well. Come increase your flexibility, improve your mobility, and enjoy a stress-reducing and relaxing class together!

This fall our Pickleball group will continue to meet every Thursday for fun, open play! Whether you're a seasoned player looking to enjoy some friendly competition or a newcomer eager to learn the game, everyone is welcome. Come join us for a great time and enjoy the fun and camaraderie on the court each week.

For information about BFC Ministry programs, including the class descriptions and schedule, see <https://tumct.org/adult-ministries#BFC>. If you have questions, please email BFCSeries@yahoo.com or call the church office and ask for a call back. Advanced registration is required for all BFC Ministry programs.

Staff Spotlight: Betsy Gingery

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

Besides cream cheese and the Eagles, what other great product comes to us from Philadelphia? Our favorite Culinary Director, Betsy! Yes, although born and raised in Philly, Betsy has been in Tallahassee well over 20 years, coming to Trinity almost three years ago. Graduating from culinary school in 2001, she was employed at St. Paul's UMC for 16 years, then left to be the head chef at Canterfield Assisted Living and Memory Care. She continued in that industry until Trinity's opportunity "fell into her lap!" Lucky us!

Betsy's sister and mother live in St. Augustine, and her daughter, Kelsie, and Kelsie's husband, Jack, live in Raeford, North Carolina. (Jack is an Army Captain.) Betsy recently became a grandmother to a new baby boy named Wes, and because she was in the delivery room supporting Kelsie, she said it was the most amazing and overwhelming experience of her life.

Besides cooking wonderful meals for us, Betsy also has a catering business, *Catering by Betsy*, which keeps her busy. However, she still has time to hang out with her rescue dog, Kamper. Why Kamper? He was found in a St. Augustine campground, and all her past pets' names started with a K. Of course!

Things you may not know: At the top of her bucket list is an upper floor apartment view on the parade line for the Macy's Day Parade in NYC! In addition, have you seen her office full of Snoopys? She's a bit obsessed. You may be surprised to know that she was invited to try out during Season 2 of Hell's Kitchen!! (Interesting for a church cook!) As an aside, ask her how she knows Denise Williams...hmmm.

Let's play a round of This or That: *Restaurant or Food Truck?* Food Truck! *Carnivals or Craft Fairs?* Craft Fairs! *Grow It or Buy It?* Buy it ("I don't have a green thumb.") But you sure can cook, Betsy!



Betsy Gingery,
Culinary Director

Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

As we prepare to welcome children back for another wonderful school year, we want to preemptively thank you all for your generosity during our August Preschool Cleaning Supply Drive! Your donations help ensure our classrooms are stocked and ready for a fantastic year of learning and discovery. Donations can be delivered directly to the preschool or can be left in the Local Missions donations bins in the narthex or Welcome Center. Here's a list of the items most needed for our classrooms:

Rolls of Paper Towels
Baby Wipes
Clorox/Lysol Wipes
Ziplock Bags – Gallon, Sandwich, and Snack Size
Paper Plates
Lysol Disinfecting Spray
Magic Erasers
Gift cards to Sams, Walmart, Costco, or Target are also appreciated!

We're also excited to share that we've added a [Preschool Donation button](#) to our website! If you'd like to support classroom materials, special projects, or enhancements throughout the year, this provides an easy way to give. Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful difference for our children and teachers.

We can't wait to see everyone as we kick off another amazing year at Trinity United Methodist Preschool!



This summer, preschoolers participated in a 4th of July parade through the church office!

Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

It's been a great summer! Vacation Bible School was so much fun. We journeyed into the rainforest to learn about God as we built beautiful bonds with one another. We shared two Summer Fun Nights with family-friendly games and delicious food. And we took a wonderful group of kids to Warren Willis Camp! Camp is an annual opportunity for kids in rising fourth through twelfth grades where the love of God is made tangible, friendships are deepened, and joy is experienced. Take a moment to enjoy some pictures from our summer fun, and then keep reading because there's a lot ahead of us!



New school year, new us! As we get excited for the coming school year, we are changing our class structure. When you bring your child to Sunday school on **August 16**, please go to **room 205**, which will now be our drop-off and pick-up room. During the Sunday school hour, your child will experience the Word of God through scripture lessons, hands-on Bible activities, crafts, games, and science experiments. Every child is going to be eager to join in this new and exciting curriculum, so please bring your child to room 205 promptly — by 9:45 a.m. — each Sunday.

We're also excited to kick off **NETKids** on Wednesday, **August 26**. Register now on the app or website, or by scanning this QR code.



We're looking forward to a great year learning, loving, and leading!



Be sure you've made plans to attend the Blessing of the Backpacks, Ministry Fair, and family-friendly activities on August 9!

Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries



It's been an exciting summer in the life of our youth group! We've participated in a mission trip to New Orleans, VBS at Trinity, two off-campus meet-ups, snack pack preparation, helping our new associate pastor move into her house, Warren Willis Camp, and Youth Week.

Looking ahead, be sure to put these dates on your calendar:

- **August 9, Blessing of the Backpacks** - Start the school year right by bringing your backpack for a special blessing at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Visit the Ministry Fair and enjoy lunch and treats after the service.
- **August 16, Back-to-School Bash** - BIG GAME NIGHT, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Join us for pizza, milkshakes, Mario Kart, Super Smash Brothers, 9-Square, Trinity Trivia, and more!
- **August 26, Holy Homework** - We're starting a new Wednesday youth ministry program. We'll gather for homework before Wednesday night dinner, and we'll have Bible study after dinner.

As always, we will continue our weekly Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Praise Band at 4:00 p.m., and UMYF from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Make plans to be a part of it all this school year!



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service: 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
Contemporary Service: 9:45 a.m. in Moor Hall
Liturgical Service: 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Contemporary Service and 11:00 a.m. Liturgical Service are livestreamed
on [YouTube@TrinityUMCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr3vYUwUwUwUwUwUwUwUwUw)

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. E. Wayne Curry, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

CHURCH STAFF

Ben Armstead, *Facility Steward*
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*
Erin Casey, *Director of Preschool*
Douglas Chaplow, *Organist*
Candace Duclos, *Senior Director of Christian Education*
Betsy Gingery, *Culinary Director*
Melanie Gonzalez, *Director of Operations*

Gregory Hilliard, *Director of Traditional Music*
Chip Huggins, *Maintenance Technician*
Susan Koehler, *Director of Communications*
Anne Plagens, *Christian Education Assistant*
Britton Stacey, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Alex Taylor, *Contemporary Music Worship Leader*
Heather Watson, *Administrative Assistant*
Matt Wright, *Facility Steward*

TIDINGS TEAM

Susan Koehler, *Editor*

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