

# Tidings



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

## A Special Message from Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

By Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

There is so much I am grateful for when I reflect on my time here at Trinity United Methodist. This was my first appointment right out of seminary — my first real attempt at becoming the pastor I had always hoped to be — and you all have helped me discover and define who I am, not just in ministry, but as a person. I carry Trinity with me, and I want you to know what that means.

*Continued...*



Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

Cover photo by Rev. Wayne Curry: [Trinity's Sewell Memorial Prayer Garden](#)

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## Rev. Opalinski, *continued*

First, I have my family because of you. I met my husband right here, in the kitchen downstairs. Jacob was washing dishes after volunteering with the Shared Meal on Park Avenue one Sunday afternoon, and it happened to be the same afternoon I was down there helping clean up. We connected immediately, and two years later we stood in the sanctuary right above that kitchen and celebrated our vows surrounded by so many of you. *(Pictured right, Jacob Tenison and Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski at their wedding, January 10, 2026)*



And then there is Nala — our sweet, high-energy dog — who came to us because a member of this congregation reached out to let me know that a rescue center nearby had puppies available. Jacob and I adopted her at two months old, and I cannot imagine our little family without her. I would not have my husband. I would not have my dog. I would not have the family I am taking with me if it were not for Trinity. I am grateful beyond words. *(Pictured below, Anna Brook, Jacob, and Nala)*



You have also given me space to grow into myself as a preacher and a pastor. In our Contemporary Service especially, you gave me room to try things out — new liturgies, new ideas, new ways of structuring worship — and you were honest when something didn't land. You never made me feel foolish for experimenting. You just gently redirected and said, let's try again. And then you showed up the next week and tried it with me. You filled in the gaps when we were without a Worship Music Leader. You stepped up with technology, ushering, serving communion, and greeting at the door.

What I learned from all of that is something I will carry into every congregation I serve: I may be the one with the microphone, but the service does not come alive until all of your voices are heard. Ministry is not something done *for* a congregation — it is something done *with* one. You taught me that, and I will carry this lesson with me. *(Pictured right, Anna Brook preaching at the Contemporary Service and at the Liturgical Service)*



You have also helped me find my pastoral voice for social justice, teaching me that not everything needs to be done in a grand gesture or a sweeping statement. Sometimes justice looks like showing up consistently — to the Shared Meal, to the advocacy meeting, to prayer vigils, to the hard conversation in the fellowship hall. You have modeled for me that a congregation can hold deep conviction and genuine welcome at the same time, that the table can be wide and the commitment to the marginalized can be fierce, and that those two things are not in tension — they are the same thing. You have shown me what dedication to education and action look like, and you have shown me the sacred relationship between justice and worship. *(Pictured left, Anna Brook working with Grace Mission and First Presbyterian to help us better understand and assist our unhoused neighbors)*

For all who have felt the calling to justice work, I want to share this with you: The justice work at Trinity was never sustained by the presence of any one pastor or person. You were doing this holy work long before I arrived, and you are more than equipped to continue in your calling. All you need is each other — and you already have that.

There is a quiet grief in leaving a place that has given you so much. Trinity is where I became a pastor. It is where I fell in love, where I learned what it means to lead a congregation, and where I have begun building the rest of my life. It is where I preached sermons that fell flat and sermons that surprised me, where I sat with people in their hardest moments and celebrated with them in their best ones. *(Pictured below, Anna Brook enjoying fellowship with Trinity members and friends at Springtime Tallahassee, a Trinity Youth Fundraiser, and Trinity Ministry Dogs)*



And yet, I believe deeply in the Methodist tradition of itinerancy, in the idea that pastors are sent where they are needed and that God is already present and working in the places we have not yet been. I do not leave because Trinity is lacking anything or because I do not want to be here. I would be foolish to want to leave the love you have so generously shared with me. But I am entering a new season of ministry with a new congregation — a community I have not yet met, people who are already doing the faithful work of being the church and who I get the privilege of joining. This is not a loss. It is a new chapter — and so is the arrival of Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith. I cannot wait to see what God does through her with all of you. *(Pictured right, Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski at Trinity's Bicentennial Celebration with Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Bishop Tom Berlin, Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, and District Superintendent Catherine Fluck Price)*



What I take with me is everything you have given me: a husband, a dog, a theological backbone, a preaching voice that is still finding its edges, a conviction that justice and welcome are inseparable, and a deep belief that the church is most alive when everyone in the room has a role to play.

And what I leave with you — what I hope you will keep — is the knowledge that you are a congregation fully capable of thriving, growing, and doing hard and holy work. You have everything you need. You have each other.

Thank you, Trinity, for being my first home in ministry. I will carry you with me always.

With so much love and gratitude, Rev. Anna Brook

## Memorials and Honorariums

May 2026

In memory of Jeff Daniels from the Retired Clergy Lunch Group

In memory of Carole Smith from Nora Nell, Hardy, and Dinah (Jackson family)

In memory of Carole Smith from Joe and Marti Hughes

In memory of Betty Jane Betts from Kelly and Linda Phillips

# Honoring Decades of Devotion in Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School

By Susan Koehler, Director of Communications and Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

Fifty years ago. The year was 1976. Our nation was celebrating its Bicentennial. ABBA's "Dancing Queen" hit number one on the US Billboard Hot 100. Bell bottoms, leisure suits, and platform shoes were in style. Families gathered around television sets to watch popular shows like *The Waltons*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Happy Days*. And at Trinity United Methodist Church, fourth and fifth grade students were taught by a team of teachers who would remain faithful to their Sunday school commitment for decades to come.

That team is made up of close friends Edna Bennett, Jan James, Ann Lumsden, and Leslie Williams. For over fifty years, they have taught fourth and fifth grade Sunday school to generations of Trinity children. These ladies didn't just teach — they made a commitment to really *know* each one of their students and to provide a consistent environment that included warm smiles, relationship-building conversations, and Christian love. With individual pictures on the wall, attendance markers strung on ribbons, Bible verses, and activities, they built a legacy. And after 50+ years of dedicated service, this team is retiring.

We've reached out to these faithful mentors and asked them to reflect on their time as Sunday school teachers. We wanted to know what led them into service and what kept them there; what made them laugh and what brought them joy; and most of all, we wanted parting words of wisdom from these Sunday school icons. We are grateful for the service, commitment, and impact of these special teachers, and we are pleased to share their personal reflections.

## Edna Bennett

I was led into children's ministry service by this verse: "And a child shall lead them.": My son (nursery school age at the time) enjoyed his visit to Trinity. He enjoyed playtime with the children, activities, story-time, and hugs. He wanted to come back, and I kept coming back to Trinity for 50 plus years to help.

During my years of teaching Sunday school, I have marveled at the acceptance of the class members. I enjoy how they are open to different ideas and are willing to share experiences. I've also enjoyed some funny moments, like the time we were discussing the passage "He makes me lie down in green pastures," and one student interpreted it as "pastor" rather than "pasture."

If I could leave readers with some last words of wisdom, it would be this: Do God's work, show love and respect to each child, and pray for strength.

## Jan James

I came to Trinity at the invitation of Ann Lumsden in 1975. That's when I turned my one-year-old daughter over to the loving arms of Marie Touchton in Mother's Morning Out. I joined the church shortly after that. I began teaching with Ann, Leslie, and Edna about 35 years ago, when Walter and Janie Kalaf retired. One of the perks of teaching every Sunday was getting to spend time with good friends each week as we taught together.

Over the many years of teaching, we have probably learned as much from the kids as they did from us. Who knew there was a game called Nerdle? Wordle for math nerds! (Too hard for me.) I have enjoyed getting to know the kids and the young families in the church. It's fun to see the fourth and fifth graders we teach grow into teenagers before our eyes. We've taught multiple generations of the same families!



Miriam McLarty with Edna Bennett, Leslie Williams, and Miriam's daughter and grandchildren



Ann Lumsden, Jan James, and Edna Bennett

## Ann Lumsden

Church has always been a part of my life. My great-grandfather was a Methodist minister in Mississippi. His daughter (my grandmother) played the piano for her church, and my grandfather ushered and was a member of the Board. My parents, Ada Dee and Frank Stephenson, always helped with MYF and taught Sunday school.

Bobby and I moved to Tallahassee in 1975, with our sons Robert and Clay, ages three and one at the time, and we joined Trinity United Methodist Church. I worked as the preschool coordinator and taught wherever teachers were absent. I taught by myself until Janie Kalaf asked to teach with me. We taught third and fourth graders, and later Betty Roberts joined us, and after her, Libba and Bob Harris.

Next, Jan James, Edna Bennett, Leslie Williams, and I started teaching the fourth and fifth graders. We wanted our class of students to always have a teacher that they knew, and each of us knew the students. We worked hard to know all the names and the parents of our students. I have enjoyed working with Jan, Leslie, and Edna for all these years; we are not just teachers — we are best friends at church. I've also enjoyed getting to know the fourth and fifth grade students of our Trinity family and their parents. We have had several funny moments in these years! Most we will keep to ourselves and the class at the time. But, one I'll share was that our favorite Tallahassee judge used to listen to the lesson under the table in class!

I was asked to share some "parting words," and I'd like to clarify that I'm just retiring from teaching, not parting! But here's what I thought about: I am retiring from the perfect children's church service position — working with three wonderful friends each Sunday to introduce Trinity's fourth and fifth graders to God, the Bible, our church, and the message that Jesus gave us to "love one another"! If you have love in your heart, then other important traits come to you, like patience, understanding, sharing, tolerance, giving, kindness, and happiness. I'll close with words from the hymn "Others" by Charles D. Meigs:

"Others, Lord, yes, others,  
Let this my motto be,  
Help me to live for others,  
That I may live like Thee."

## Leslie Williams

Back in the '70s, a former Trinity Associate Minister asked me to teach Sunday school because he knew I was an elementary school teacher. I really enjoyed teaching Sunday school and have always had great support from the Trinity educational staff members, so I continued teaching.

I have loved teaching with Ann Lumsden and Jan James as well as Edna Bennett when she was teaching with us. Since there were three and four of us teaching together, we hardly ever had to have a substitute teacher. I have also enjoyed getting to know the children we taught in the fourth and fifth grades and watching them as they went through their middle school and high school years. It has been great to see them as "alums" from our class and also to teach the children of several former students.

I am not giving any names, but one of our precious students, after reading a Bible scripture always said, "Dot Dot" for the colon. For example, he would say, "First Corinthians 13 Dot Dot 1-13" or "Matthew 5 Dot Dot 1-12." If his parents (and maybe some of his former classmates) see this, they will probably know who he is.

The more you take part in any type of activities at Trinity, the more special Trinity will be for you.



*Ann Lumsden sits on a table and joins students in watching a Bible story video during class*



*Leslie Williams, right, works alongside Edna Bennett in 4th/5th grade Sunday school*

# Summer Fun at Trinity UMC

By Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education

Summer fun has begun! Our church has special events and fellowship opportunities on the calendar, and we want YOU to be there! Get your calendars out now, and make plans to join us for one or more of these great summer events: VBS, Summer Fun Nights, Camp, Blessing of the Backpacks, and Ministry Fair!

## June 8-12: Vacation Bible School

Summer will kick off with a trip to *Rainforest Falls* to discover the nature of God. Kids of all ages will explore God's creation, love, and kindness through the word of God, praise songs, science experiments, food and games! Watch for themed decorations and rainforest fun as Trinity's Kids grow closer to God and each other through *Rainforest Falls*.



## June 24: Summer Fun Night - BINGO!

Join us in Moor Hall for food, fellowship, and BINGO! There will be prizes in addition to all the fun and fellowship! We'll begin at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious meal featuring grilled hot dogs (choice of plain, chili cheese, or slaw dog) plus all the fixin's. There's no cost for dinner, but a love offering will be accepted. Then we'll immerse ourselves in the game of BINGO, which promises prizes and fun for everyone. [Please register in advance](#) by phone, app, or website, or by scanning the QR code. Join us for summer fun, and bring a friend!



## July 13-18: Camp Warren Willis

Please pray for our 18 Trinity students who are attending Camp Warren Willis this year. And while you're at it, pray for our adult chaperones as well! Students become eligible to attend camp after completing third grade, and as they grow through our youth program, we have seen how camp is such a valuable part of their spiritual formation.



## July 22: Summer Fun Night - LUAU!

Join us for dinner and a LUAU! It all happens in Moor Hall on Wednesday, July 22, at 5:30 p.m. In addition to a delicious dinner featuring pork chops with grilled pineapple and orzo pasta salad, there will be lots of fun and fellowship! There is no cost for dinner, but a love offering will be accepted. [Please register in advance](#) by phone, app, or website, or by scanning the QR code. Come relax with a snow cone as we play luau games, explore themed crafts, and visit with one another!



## August 9: Blessing of the Backpacks and Ministry Fair

We will have one combined service in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 9, at 11:00 a.m. During the service, we will have our Blessing of the Backpacks, an annual back-to-school tradition at Trinity. Students of all ages and stages, along with teachers and administrators, are encouraged to bring their backpacks or school bags!



After the service, we will have a waterslide, bubbles, snow cones, playground time, and water pools for the younger kids. Lunch will be provided, and there will be opportunities to see how you can be more involved with our church family—MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The Ministry Fair will also take place on August 9. It will open before the service at 10:15 a.m. and will be open after the service as well. We want everyone to have the opportunity to walk through and see all of the ministries at TUMC! All Trinity United Methodist Ministries that would like to participate in the Ministry Fair must register through the [event pages of our website or app](#) or by scanning the QR code found here.



If you have questions about any of our summer activities, be sure to contact our Senior Director of Christian Education, Candace Duclos, at [cduclos@tumct.org](mailto:cduclos@tumct.org).

# Thank You for the Music..

By Gregory Hilliard, Director of Traditional Music

**V**OICES! HANDBELLS! HANDCHIMES! STEEL PAN MALLETS! All together lifting in praise of our mighty God week after week! Before the Traditional Music ministry ensembles take their well-earned summer hiatus, I wanted to say THANK YOU to all our musicians who made a joyful noise in worship during the last three-plus months, especially during our special services (Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, and our NETKids Spring Showcase)! Lots of dutiful-but-cheerful rehearsal went into each ministerial opportunity, and it's been an absolutely blessing to serve along with everyone!

## Opportunities this summer and fall!

- We are looking for singers and instrumentalists to participate during services in July, August, and early September. Solos, duets, and small ensembles are welcome, and help with repertoire is provided.
- Bluegrass Sunday will once again return this summer; please reach out if you are interested in joining our bluegrass ensemble (upright bass, mandolin, banjo, guitar, fiddle, et al) on this fun Sunday!
- Even though the ensembles are taking a little break, NOW is the time to consider joining our musical offerings in the fall! Whether if you're a professional or a good amateur musician, we're always looking for members, and there are places for everyone in each of our ensembles. Here's a smattering of a few:
  - › The adult Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (Rehearsals resume August 12.)
  - › Jubilation Bells, our "bronze" handbell ensemble for new handbell ringers, rehearses Sunday evenings, 6:15-7:15 p.m. (Rehearsals resume August 16.)
  - › The senior Heavenly Chimes ensemble, who play on our set of choirchimes, rehearses Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Rehearsals resume August 18.)
  - › Sacred Pans, our set of 6-instrument Caribbean steel drum ensemble, rehearses Sunday afternoons, 5:00-6:00 p.m. (Rehearsals resume August 16.)

For participation in any of these music opportunities, please get in touch with Director of Traditional Music, Gregory Hilliard ([ghilliard@tumct.org](mailto:ghilliard@tumct.org)) for more information about music service at Trinity! And make sure to check out our other opportunities in the upcoming Ministry Fair on Sunday, August 9, in Moor Hall; we will have members of our ensembles ready to answer all questions!



## Gregory's Corner

On a personal note, thank you all for making my return to Trinity and Tallahassee welcome, rewarding and enjoyable! My first three months back could be mirrored by the weather in Tallahassee during my first three Sundays at Trinity: February 1 was the coldest day of 2026 so far; February 8 was a beautiful North Florida late-winter day; and on February 15, we ended the 11:00 a.m. Liturgical Service early due to nearby tornado activity!

Even though I was able to secure housing relatively quickly (not an easy feat in February when the universities and the state legislature are session), I was without most of my belongings for several weeks due to complications with the moving company. (As of this printing, I have some of my possessions, but not all — it's a very long story). However, after 16 years working in K-12 Education, you learn to be flexible and patient (every educator reading this nodded along). Comparatively speaking, it made jumping into work with our vast and different musical ensembles at Trinity a breeze!

I appreciate the help of our Music Committee, chaired by Pat Gilleland, for their support, guidance, and suggestions during my tenure so far. And of course, I must thank Warren May, Karalee Poschman, Jess Cloud, and Douglas Chaplow for their assistance in leading our massive traditional music ministry going before my arrival!

# Stained Glass Prayer Quilt

By Karen Taylor, Praise Band Member



This textile installation for the Moor Hall stage was inspired by two art forms with deep roots in the Methodist tradition: stained glass and prayer quilts. The panels were created using pojagi, a traditional Korean patchwork technique known for its layered construction and visible seams. In this method, the stitching itself becomes part of the finished design, emphasizing care, connection, and the handmade process.

The piece was designed by Alex Whitlock of Pleasant Studio, a design studio specializing in interior styling and handcrafted textile work. Karen Taylor and her mother assisted with the sewing and assembly of the panels. Together, the work brings elements of tradition, collaboration, and contemporary textile art into Moor Hall, creating a backdrop that reflects both community and craftsmanship.

## Love in Action

By Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

We are pleased to share that the DEI Working Group and the Justice Committee have merged to form one unified ministry: Love in Action. Though each group brought its own distinct focus — one committed to fostering understanding, healing, and affirmation within our congregation, the other dedicated to recognizing and rejecting injustice and protecting human rights — both have always been rooted in the same conviction: that we are called to build a beloved community where every person is welcomed, valued, and cared for.

Together, as Love in Action, we carry forward that shared calling with renewed energy and purpose, dedicating ourselves to the ongoing work of repair, welcome, and justice — so that all who enter our church doors might truly feel the love of God through our words, our actions, and our hearts!

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.



# BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Exercise & Pickleball All Summer Long!

By Beth Curry, BFC Director

Stay active, have fun, and be part of something special this summer with BFC Ministry!



*Stay strong all summer long and enjoy the fellowship and encouragement of your BFC exercise classmates.*

Join us as we celebrate the “royalty” of the BFC Exercise program—our dedicated Kings and Queens who each attended 20+ classes between January and May 2026. On their special Coronation Day, they chose the equipment, the exercises, and even picked their favorite song! And the best part? Our royal court is keeping the energy going all summer long. Ready to join the court? See below for more info.



*Recent BFC Kings and Queens: Kathy Drake, Ann Price, Gloria Colvin, Dan Drake, Rev. Anne Godbold, Glen Squire, and Kiki Lykens*

BFC’s Pickleball team will be meeting indoors all summer in the cool, air-conditioned space at FSU Wesley. New to pickleball? Our friendly coach and team would love to teach you. Already playing? Come out and join us for a great game and even better company Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

BFC Ministry is entirely volunteer-run, and there is no fee to attend. In place of class fees, participants are invited to make a suggested donation of \$3 per class. Daytime contributions help support BFC’s mission of serving others both locally and globally, and a small portion of Pickleball donations may also help offset program costs. Thanks to the generosity of the BFC participants, more than \$100,000 has been raised to date.

Whether you’re working out or hitting the courts, there’s a place for you at BFC this summer! For all the details and the latest schedule, visit <https://tumct.org/adult-ministries#BFC>, email [BFCSeries@yahoo.com](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com), or call the church and request a callback. Registration before participation is required.



*Beth Curry, Chewy, Jean Glenn, Rev. Anne Godbold, and Carole Dalton*

# Staff Spotlight: Susan Koehler

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

How do you keep up with all that goes on at Trinity? Monthly *Tidings*? Weekly *News & Notes*? Our website? Facebook? Instagram? Special announcements through bulk e-mail notices? Promotional materials? All of the above? For any of these means of communication, you have Susan to thank. As Director of Communications, she handles it all...and more!

Although she has only been on staff for about a year and a half, she has a long history at Trinity. She first attended as a college freshman in 1981, returned in 1986, and became a member the following year. Her girls, Dylan and Emily, were active in our children's program before she met and married John and added his kids, Tyler and Shelby. Together they added Hillary to complete their family! At that time, in addition to being a teacher, she was on just about every committee/volunteer activity at church. Now her grandchildren (Raleigh, Baker, and Vera) keep her hopping. This is no problem for Susan, as she comes from a big family of very supportive sisters.



Susan Koehler,  
Director of Communications

You may or may not know this, but Susan is a published author of teacher resources, informational picture books, middle-grade novels, and high/low books for struggling readers. Right now her focus is on middle-grade novels (books for 8-12-year-olds), and she volunteers with a group called "From the Mixed-Up Files of Middle-Grade Authors." Though it can be hard to find time to write, weekends and early mornings will find her in front of the computer. She was recently invited to be a part of a Goodwood Writing Project, which has kept her on task! Interested in her work? Her website and blog can be found at [susankoehlerwrites.com](http://susankoehlerwrites.com).

Dogs or Cats? No current pets, but she leans toward cats. Beach or Mountains? She grew up in Miami near the beach, so mountains have always been a larger pull for her. The mountains are calling, Susan...we hope you take some time off this summer to answer!

## Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

On May 15, we celebrated our Trinity United Methodist Church Preschool 2026 graduates. These students completed VPK and will be moving on to multiple different schools for kindergarten. Wherever they go, they will carry with them the foundation that was established here and the knowledge that they are loved.

Our teachers and staff are so grateful for the many expressions of love and gratitude during Staff Appreciation Week. As this school year comes to an end, we want you to know that we consider our preschool families to be such blessings and wish each of you a safe and happy summer.



The preschool will be closed Monday, May 25 through Friday, May 29 for cleaning, maintenance, and training. On June 1, we will begin our summer session, which offers a more relaxed pace and lots of play. Our enrollment for both summer and fall is set, and we're ready to roll! We do have a few rare openings left in our PK3 class for the fall, so if you know a family with a 2 ½ -3-year-old, feel free to send them our way — we'd love to have them join us. For more information, contact Director of Preschool Erin Casey at [ecasey@tumct.org](mailto:ecasey@tumct.org), and please be sure to explore the "[About Our Preschool](#)" page of the church website, [tumct.org](http://tumct.org).

# Children's Ministry Update

By Candace Duclos, Director of Christian Education

Summer has arrived! We've had a great year in NETKids on Wednesday afternoons, and we celebrated together during our last meeting of this school year on May 13. Our NETKids program will be back after school begins. Watch for details! Until then, we have a lot of summer activities to enjoy.

We hope all our rising kindergarten through fifth grade students have registered for VBS! Find details and registration on our app and website. We will travel to [Warren Willis Camp](#) with rising fourth graders and up for a fun and meaningful week, July 13-18.

Summer Sunday school is now in session. During summer, preschool and first grade students will gather in room 202; second through fifth grade will gather in room 205. I am in need of summer volunteers, so please reach out to let me know if you can help!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: Our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, August 9. We will have a waterslide, bubbles, snow cones, playground time, and water pools for the younger kids. Lunch will be provided, and there will be opportunities to see how you can be more involved with our church family. Invite your friends today!

The Ministry Fair will be open before the service so that everyone will have the opportunity to walk through and see all of the ministries at TUMC! Our special back-to-school service will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. Students of all ages and stages, along with teachers and administrators are encouraged to bring their backpack or school bag!



## Trinity Youth Happenings

By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

Graduates of high school and college were celebrated and honored on Sunday, May 17. We are so proud of the graduating members of our youth group and of those who have been a part of the church over the years. We will continue to pray for and support you and your families as you move forward into your next chapter. (Pictured right: Emoni Aaron, Ciara Morgan, Stephanie Foley, Elizabeth Plagens, Sarah Watters, Aubrey Recks, Laurie Shiver, Brayden Chason, and Langston Chason.)



Plans are set for our Mission Trip to New Orleans, May 30-June 4, and for camp, July 13-18. Registration for both of these events is closed. If you are registered, watch for information and updates on my emails. Let me know if you have questions. A [packing list](#) for the mission trip is available on the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](#).



Be sure to introduce yourself to our Summer Pastoral Intern, Phil Prasse (left). Phil grew up as part of Trinity's children's and youth programs. He currently works with FSU Wesley as an Outreach Coordinator. This summer, Phil will work with our youth and will help with other church ministries. Be sure to come to the June 24 Bingo Night (see p. 6 for details). Phil and I will be leading this event, and we'd love to see you there!

**THE BIG NEWS IS YOUTH WEEK, July 26-August 1!** We want to see you there for all the fun activities we have planned. In addition to daily food, worship, and games, we'll go tubing at Bear Claw, have a Pool Party at the Annins' house, complete a service project, visit an Escape Room, and finish off with a lock-in at the church. Find all the details for our TIDEPOOL YOUTH WEEK on the app and on the [Youth Ministries page of tumct.org](#). Sign up and invite a friend!





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Trinity United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 1086  
Tallahassee, FL 32302  
(850) 222-1120 [www.tumct.org](http://www.tumct.org)

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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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 Contemporary Service and 11:00 Liturgical Service are livestreamed  
on [YouTube@TrinityUMCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityUMCTallahassee)

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## PASTORAL STAFF

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

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Ben Armstead, *Facility Steward*  
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*  
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*  
Erin Casey, *Director of Preschool*  
Douglas Chaplow, *Organist*  
Zachary Cramer, *AV Technician*  
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*

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## TIDINGS TEAM

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Susan Koehler, *Editor*

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