

# Tidings



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

## Stewardship 2027: Growing Toward the Future Rooted in Our Past

By Mike and Elizabeth Marschall, 2027 Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs

When asked to chair the 2027 Stewardship campaign, our first thoughts were, no, we have only been here for a little over three years and we are too new to Trinity. Leading a financial appeal is for the folks who have been a part of this church for a long time and really know its needs and abilities. We are not big financial givers, and we still get lost walking around the church buildings.

But then we thought and prayed about it and decided that the body of Christ is made up of all people — young, old, and in between. Some are big givers to the church, and some give what they can when they can. Some were born and raised at Trinity, and some, like us, have only been here for a few years, and then some have just stopped by for the first time on a Sunday morning.



Elizabeth Marschall and Mike Marschall,  
2027 Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs

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# Stewardship 2027, continued

Our Stewardship Campaign theme this year is “Growing Toward the Future — Rooted in Our Past,” so it made us think that our roots may not be deep here, but in this season of our lives, Trinity United Methodist Church is where God planted us to grow. We all grow with the many ministries here. We participate in local mission work, from the snack pack ministry serving our unhoused friends to bunk bed builds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We take advantage of the fellowship opportunities at Men’s Daybreak on Tuesday mornings and the Wednesday Night Dinners. We grow in the learning opportunities of the Lay Academy, with great speakers coming in from around the community.



*The Marshalls serving at Second Harvest with our Local Missions Team*

We are recharged every Sunday at worship with our inspiring pastors and our incredible team of choral and instrumental musicians. And we are blessed with the guidance of the loving and caring staff who give their all to make Trinity the most exciting church in Tallahassee, as Rev. Dr. Matthew Williams so often reminds us. None of this growth is possible without the financial support of Trinity’s members. So, if we are fed by these ministries and opportunities to grow here as Christians, shouldn’t we each give back and help financially support all that we love and enjoy?

Each Sunday we read our mission statement, “Because of God’s love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.” When we join the United Methodist Church, one of the vows we profess as new members is “to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.” Our financial gifts provide the resources necessary for Trinity to ensure that we all grow as servants of Christ. Not all of the gifts we share are financial, but the reality is that financial gifts are an essential resource for Trinity to make it possible to worship, grow, and serve.

In the Gospel of Mark, verses 41-44, there is an account of Jesus observing people giving money at the temple treasury:

*<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

There is an important stewardship message here. For the wealthy or comfortable, the message is that giving out of abundance is good, but does it stretch your faith? For those with very little, it is that their gifts, service, and presence matter deeply to God, and no gift is too small to use. For everyone, it is that true stewardship means holding nothing back from God, whether it is time, talent, or treasure.

Please join us now to strengthen the roots and grow a branch or two at Trinity. Take some time to prayerfully consider what you are called to give to our church. Each Sunday in September, members of this church will share what stewardship means to them and how your financial gifts make things possible here at Trinity. On October 4, 2026, we will celebrate both your pledges to give and God’s faithfulness to us and to God’s church.

We thank you for your contributions to the work of God here in Tallahassee through Trinity United Methodist Church.

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## 2027 Pledge Cards

During September, pledge cards will be sent out in the mail and will be made available at church.

For your convenience, we will also provide a digital pledge card that can be completed online.

You can scan the QR code to access our online pledge card now, or watch for links that will soon appear in our weekly *News & Notes* emails and on our website.



# The 2026 Trinity Ministry Fair

Enjoy a sampling of the ministries on display at our 2026 Trinity UMC Ministry Fair, held on Sunday, August 16, in Moor Hall. If our cameras missed your ministry, we are truly sorry. There was so much to see!



**Margie Clay; Celebrate Recovery and Centering Prayer**



**Paula Smith; Facilities Renovation Committee**



**Cindy Donelan; Lay Academy**



**Traya Hollady, Dan Drake, Pat Gilleland, Terri Lee; Music**



**Linda Fleming, Kathy Drake, Stewart Fleming; Creation Care**



**Joe Miller, Brian Wheeler, Bill Shults; Ushers and Disaster Response Team**



**Ben Gilleland, Jimmy Henderson; Ushers and Club Car Drivers**



**Lyn Bevis; JOY Club**



**Lark Mott-Smith, Gail Quickle; BFC Ministry**



**Teresa Sweeney, Jayne Mittan, Linda Shults, Anne Lumsden; Prayers and Squares**



**Rev. John Willis; Trinity Ministry Dogs**



**Brian and Laura Underhill; Grace Mission, and Cindy McDuffie; Snack Packs**



**Frank Mercer; Finance**



**Betsy Staudt Willet, Rachael Diaz, CAJM and Love in Action**



**Chelsea LaFever; Hospitality Team**



**Haley and Laney Jean Stacey; Youth**



**Erin Casey; Trinity United Methodist Preschool**



**Jayne Mittan; Guatemala Mission Team**



**Stephanie Johnson, Ann Jenkins, Marti Chumbler; Local Missions**



**Diane Bower, Valerie Dowell; Mats for Friends**



**Cecile Baker; Trinity's Historical Society**

## Memorials and Honorariums

August 2026

In memory of Mary Lee Peebles from Harry and Carol Morrison  
In memory of Mary Lee Peebles from Palmer and Leslie Williams  
In memory of Charles Allen from Timothy and Kellee Rumrough  
In memory of Charles Allen from James Tarleton  
In memory of Charles Allen from Marcia Sharma  
In memory of Charles Allen from Doug Cherry

# What We Mean When We Say "I Will"

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

*"...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Ephesians 4:16*

**O**n the first Sunday of August, I drove to Alabama to preach the homecoming service at my home church, the congregation that raised me. It was established in 1843, which means people were gathering to sing and pray there when Florida was still a territory and the pews were still new. I sat before the service began, looked around the room, and thought about how many hands it took to keep that place standing for more than a hundred and eighty years.



*Images of Hopewell Methodist Church in Valley, Alabama*



## What holds a congregation together across generations?

I have not been able to stop thinking about that since I got home. What holds a congregation together across generations when the founders are gone, the crisis they weathered has been forgotten, and the only thing left is the habit of showing up? Our tradition has an answer to that question, and most of us said it aloud on the day we joined the church. We promised to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Five ordinary words, spoken in about four seconds, and I have come to believe they are the closest thing we have to an explanation for why my home church in Alabama is still there.

The story behind those words is older and stranger than I realized. In the last weeks of 1739, eight or ten people came to John Wesley in London, deeply troubled about their lives, asking him to pray with them. He set aside a Thursday evening for them and they came. More came the following week. Wesley later wrote that this marked the rise of the United Society, first in Europe and then in America. Everything that eventually became Methodism grew out of a handful of worried people who showed up on a weeknight and kept coming back. By 1743, Wesley had put some structure around it, asking those early societies to do no harm, to do good, and to attend upon all the ordinances of God, by which he meant public worship, the ministry of the Word, the Lord's Supper, family and private prayer, searching the Scriptures, and fasting. These are the means of grace, and he was pointing out where grace tends to flow, at least as he was learning, in the Christian life.



*Portrait of Wesley by William Hamilton, 1788*

## Methodism Comes to America

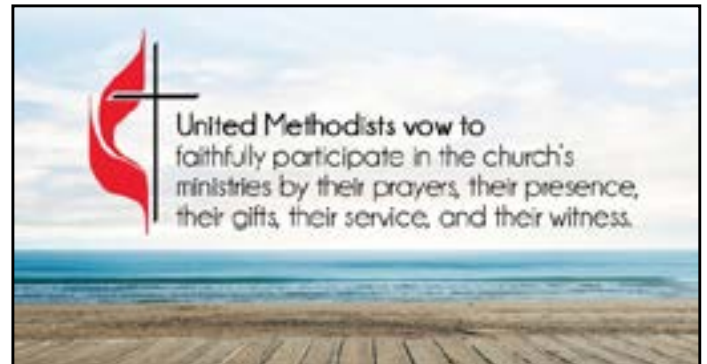
When Methodism crossed the ocean, those expectations came with it, though in language nobody could remember. If you had joined a congregation in 1912, you would have been asked whether the Rules of the church would cheerfully govern you, whether you would hold sacred the ordinances of God, and whether you would promote the welfare of your brethren. You would then have been asked separately whether you would give of your earthly substance according to your ability. It is lovely language, and it is far too much to carry home.

Then, in 1916, something happened that I find wonderful. A commission brought a sixty-five-page revision of the ritual to General Conference, and the delegates bogged down working through it line by line until a man named C. W. Rowley finally stood up and moved that the bishops take the whole thing and fix it. The motion passed. We have no record of what was said in that room, but we know what came out of it, because those two long questions came back pressed down into four plain words about prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Almost a century later, in 2008, General Conference added witness, on the reasonable grounds that the first four can all be done rather privately and that the good news was never meant to stay indoors.

So, the vow we make is not a modern membership agreement. It is Wesley's old rule of life, worn smooth by generations of use until it fit in a person's pocket.

## **Our Prayer, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service, and Our Witness**

What strikes me most about the five is how much they need one another. Our prayers are where everything starts, because prayer is the difference between a church that works hard for God and one that listens for God. A congregation can go a long time without praying before anyone notices what has been lost. Our presence is the vow that sounds smallest but is not, because so much of what matters in the life of a church happens simply because someone was in the room. The woman who has just buried her husband does not need a program so much as she needs to see your face three pews back.



Our gifts keep the whole thing standing, and I notice that the old vow asked for our substance according to our ability, a gentler and more searching standard than any number I could put in front of you. Our service is the vow with dirt under its fingernails, and Wesley insisted that acts of mercy are every bit as much a means of grace as acts of devotion, which means that carrying a meal downtown is not something we do after church; it is church. And our witness is what opens the door for someone else, because a faith kept entirely to ourselves eventually stops being a faith at all.

Held apart, they wobble. Presence without gifts fills a sanctuary that slowly crumbles around us. Gifts without presence sustain a beautiful building where nobody knows anybody. Service without prayer wears out good people faster than you would believe. Held together, though, they multiply, and a congregation begins to bear the kind of fruit that outlasts everyone who planted it.

All of which brings me, without much subtlety, to our stewardship campaign: Growing Toward the Future — Rooted in Our Past. This month, we begin our annual stewardship season begins, I want to say two things about it as honestly as I can. Giving is one of five promises, not the whole of our discipleship, so no one should feel that a check settles the account. And giving is one of five promises, so it is not optional, because it makes the other four possible. Your generosity keeps the lights on for the numerous groups that meet during the week, pays for the meals for the needy, cares for infants and children whose parents are counting on us, and the list goes on, and on, and on. None of that is overhead. All of that is the vow, kept.



I keep coming back to that little church in Alabama and to the people whose names I do not know. They prayed for a congregation they would never see. They showed up on Sundays, even when it would have been easier not to. They gave money they could have spent on themselves. They served and told the truth about God to their neighbors, and because they did, there was a church waiting for me when I was a boy who needed one.

Trinity has been doing that since 1824. Somebody will sit in these pews in a hundred years, knowing nothing about us, glad we were here.

*Pictured left, Rev. Williams with his brother Ben and nephew Micah on either side of him (standing); son Ethan and parents Randall and Debbie Williams (seated)*

# Personal Experience Drives Kate Bowler's Work

By Gloria Colvin, Trinity Librarian

If your life isn't perfect, you may find books by Dr. Kate Bowler inspiring and helpful. An Associate Professor of History of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School, Bowler is an award-winning author, professor, and podcaster.

In 2015 at the age of 35, Bowler was married to her high school sweetheart, the mother of a young son, and a promising academic when she was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer and given two years to live. While the disease is incurable, immunotherapy has successfully extended her life. Such a dramatic and devastating diagnosis forced Bowler to question many of her beliefs and expectations about life.

Ironically, her earlier research focused on the prosperity gospel, a belief that financial success and physical health are the direct results of a person's faith. Her book *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel* (277.3083 Bow) traces the history of this theology and the major figures that have shaped it while also exploring its negative implications for people who are sick, poor, or struggling.

Many of her subsequent publications have been inspired by her illness and her responses to it. Bowler writes with honesty and wit, tackling topics from the absurd to the very painful. Her books *Everything Happens For A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* (362.1969940092 Bow) and *No Cure For Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* (616.9943470092 Bow) are memoirs based on her illness and her struggle to find ways to best use the time she has in meaningful ways.

Most recently she has published collections of devotions, meditations, and blessings that reflect an appreciation of life and a recognition that life is not perfect. *In Good Enough: 40ish Devotions for a Life of Imperfection* (155.232 Bow) Bowler and co-author Jessica Richie reflect on finding beauty and truth amid life's chaos and recognizing that some things can't be fixed. *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (179.9 Bow), contains blessings centered on gratitude and hope while recognizing the messier moments of life. *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Between* (248.4 Bow) offers readers ways to embrace the terrible as well as the beautiful in life. In her most recent, *Joyful Anyway* (152.42 Bow), Bowler distinguishes between joy and happiness and discusses how joy can surprise you in the midst of pain or loneliness.

All of these books are available in the Trinity library. If you'd like to hear more from Kate Bowler, follow her podcast "Everything Happens" and listen to her conversations with well-known guests about some of life's fundamental human issues.



Dr. Kate Bowler, author, podcaster, and Associate Professor of History of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School (photo courtesy of Duke Divinity School)



Trinity's Library, located on the first floor adjacent to the Welcome Center

## Have you explored Trinity's Library?

Trinity's Library is located on the first floor, adjacent to the Welcome Center. The McKenzie Collection offers a wealth of resources for adults, and the Carolyn Hart Memorial Children's Library houses books for our younger readers. You can visit the library in person or peruse its contents through our [online catalog](#). Links to the online catalog can be found on both the Adult Ministries and Children's Ministries pages of our website. For more information about the library or to request new materials, please contact church librarian [Gloria Colvin](#). In upcoming editions of *Tidings*, look for more articles by Gloria that highlight the treasures that can be found in Trinity's Library.



The Carolyn Hart Memorial Children's Library, a collection for young readers

# Justice: A Wesleyan Tradition, A Trinity Hallmark, An Opportunity to Live Your Faith

By Christopher R. LaFever, CAJM Team Member

The Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) is a diverse coalition of 22 religious congregations and partners across Tallahassee and the surrounding area that come together to answer the scriptural call to “Do Justice.” Trinity United Methodist Church is a founding member of CAJM.

## A Wesleyan Tradition

After a lifetime observing the brutal and cruel injustice of slavery, in 1774, John Wesley finally took a clear stand noting that “...all slavery is as irreconcilable to justice as to mercy,” that all who benefited from slavery were in error, and that “Liberty is the right of every human creature, as soon as [they] breathe...” The Methodist movement, despite mistakes and capitulations, also has a rich history of taking bold stands in seeking justice for oppressed people, as highlighted by the 1800 Methodist General Conference statement and the 1908 Methodist Episcopal Social Creed. By the grace of God, this history of seeking justice for the oppressed has continued to be lived out by faithful Methodists who have embraced this history and God’s call to seek Justice.

## A Trinity Hallmark

For over two centuries, Trinity United Methodist has continued to march boldly forward for justice. The Yates Heritage Center has extensive records of Trinity’s members following their hearts for justice. This is exemplified recently by our strong connection and engagement with CAJM. CAJM has been a key conduit for advocating to local commissioners. When you look at CAJM, you will quickly see Trinity represented as a member congregation, as leaders in research teams and committees, and as advocates in commission meetings and at the Nehemiah Action meeting.

## An Opportunity to Live Your Faith

Whether you have been part of CAJM since its inception or this is the first time you have heard about it, CAJM provides an opportunity to live your faith by seeking God’s justice. On September 13, after services, you have that opportunity. The CAJM Connect Luncheon and discussion will be a time to share about housing, food insecurity, immigration, gun violence interruption, and mental health in our local community. Additionally, we will have listening circles (previously called house meetings) where each person can share what is on their heart and mind. At the age of 70, John Wesley published an unequivocal denouncement of slavery. It is never too late to begin seeking God’s justice in our community. Join Trinity’s justice work and live out your faith on September 13 at the CAJM Connect Luncheon.



Register now for the CAJM Connect Luncheon by phone, app, the [Events page of our website](#), or by scanning this QR code:



# Centering Prayer

By Margie Clay, Centering Prayer Class Leader

Why would anyone spend twenty minutes in silence, simply making space for God? Centering Prayer is a practice of surrender that gently reshapes how we see ourselves, others, and the world. In this reflection, spiritual director Therese DesChamps of Heart's Rest Retreat shares why this simple practice has become a life-changing way of opening herself to God's transforming love.



## The Importance of Centering Prayer

Spiritual director Therese DesChamps reflects on her commitment to a contemplative practice:

*I don't meditate to improve my mental acuity, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, slow aging, or even become a better Christian. Those may be byproducts of meditation, but they are not the reason I practice.*

*I meditate because, without the surrender at the heart of the practice, I lose my deepest vision. I lose the ability to see myself and the world with the compassion, forgiveness, and humility of God.*

*I also do not meditate in order to chase mystical experiences or insights. My practice is not measured by what I feel during twenty minutes of silence. The true measure of meditation is how I live during the other twenty-three hours of the day.*

*A practice prepares us for something beyond itself. A pianist practices scales to play beautifully. Someone studies French to speak fluently. I practice Centering Prayer so that when life begins to fall apart, I can remain steady. I practice so that I can step aside and allow God to work in and through me.*

*Meditation can make me like a sponge. A sponge gathers water and releases it; it does not own or create it. In meditation, I open myself to the grace of God, the living waters of life. Whether I feel that grace or not, it is still present. The deepest purpose of my practice is simply this: to be filled again and again so that I might move through the world leaking Love into dry and weary places.*

## Centering Prayer at Trinity

Trinity's Centering Prayer ministry group meets weekly from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Underground. No registration is required. We welcome all those interested in developing the practice of centering prayer. For more information, contact Margie Clay at [margietally@comcast.net](mailto:margietally@comcast.net).



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.



# BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Ministry Celebrates Eighteen Years at Trinity!

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](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com) or call the church office and ask for a call back. Advanced registration is required for all BFC Ministry programs.



## Thank you, Beth Curry, for 18 years of BFC Ministry!

For all these years, Beth has graciously donated her time and expertise as a licensed exercise physiologist to provide Trinity members with FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and FITNESS. Classes have always been free, and donations contributed by participants have raised FUNDS for a wide range of community service projects. Through BFC, countless lives have been positively impacted by Beth's ministry.

# Staff Spotlight: Melanie Gonzalez

By Kathy Drake, Lay Leader

If you haven't met Melanie before, she is Trinity's Director of Operations, overseeing the day-to-day operations of our church and its facilities. Working closely with Rev. Williams, she helps manage projects, implements new systems and software, develops policies and procedures, and coordinates facility operations.

You probably know her best as the young woman with the sweet baby boy (Nathan) and his big sister (Zoe). Adding two dogs (Rogue and Rokko) to the family, Melanie and her husband, Kevin, stay plenty busy! Having her children one floor below her at the preschool has been a blessing she doesn't take for granted, but this isn't the only thing that keeps her here at Trinity. She likes the challenges that have helped her grow as a professional and as a wife, mother, and friend. The relationships and the community support have been deeply meaningful. Asked what brings her joy, Melanie responded by listing children's laughter, music, dancing, sunshine, and iced coffee (which she will always have in her hand while at the beach, on a playground, or wandering around a nursery). Recently, she has begun dabbling in watercolor painting!



**Melanie Gonzalez**  
Director of Operations

You may not know that Melanie first came to Tallahassee in 1997, spending five years at the Florida Baptist Children's Home before moving to Miami to live with family. She always wanted to return, and in 2013, her dream came true when she attended FSU and stayed.

If she won a million dollars, Melanie would invest some, give away some, buy a bigger house with more room...and book a couple of trips. She loves to see new places but wants to get there fast, so she definitely prefers planes over cars or trains. Here's to winning the lottery, Melanie!

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## Preschool News

By Erin Casey, Director of Preschool

Thank you, Trinity UMC, for supporting our preschool with your August Collection! Our classrooms are stocked with cleaning supplies, paper plates, Ziplock bags, and other necessities. The supplies are greatly appreciated, and the love and support we feel from our church family has warmed our hearts.



**Our VPK class on a visit to the Capitol**

In other news, we are excited to celebrate a wonderful accomplishment for Trinity United Methodist Preschool! Our 2025–2026 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program earned an “Excellent” performance designation from the Florida Division of Early Learning, recognizing the high-quality early learning experiences we provide to our students. This achievement is a reflection of the dedication, hard work, and love of our teachers and staff, as well as our commitment to helping every child grow, learn, and thrive. We are incredibly proud of our VPK and entire preschool team, and we stay grateful for the opportunity to serve the children and families of our community!

As a new school year begins, we look forward to fulfilling the mission of Trinity United Methodist Church Preschool: to nurture and enrich the lives of children during the critical years of early learning and create the Christian and educational foundation for our students to flourish throughout their lives. Thank you for your support!

To make donations to our preschool, visit the [About Our Preschool page](https://www.tumct.org/about-our-preschool) of [tumct.org](https://www.tumct.org).



# 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 is more excitement ahead!



With the return of school, we have the return of NETKIDS! Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are eligible to participate in this one-of-a-kind Wednesday afternoon program that is thoughtfully designed with our kids' interests in mind. Students will grow in their faith and in their relationships with others at our church. This year, we offer church bus pick-up at Maclay, Hawks Rise, and Gilchrist. We are also offering van pick-up at Kate Sullivan and DeSoto Trail. Please visit the [Children's Ministries page of our website](#) and register NOW to secure your child's spot! The registration fee for the year is \$40.

## Trinity Youth Happenings

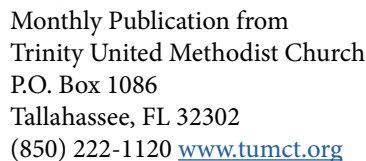
By Britton Stacey, Director of Youth Ministries

We had a great summer, but it's time to get back into the routine of school and back into the routine of youth activities at church. We kicked off the new school year with a Back-to-School Bash on Sunday, August 16. Our youth enjoyed pizza, milkshakes, Mario Kart, Super Smash Brothers, 9-Square, Trinity Trivia, and more. It was a great way to get back into the swing of United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We invite all students in grades 6-12 to join us. In addition to UMYF, Sundays include **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**, and **Praise Band at 4:00 p.m.** There is a place for everyone in our youth group!

On **Wednesdays** we invite all youth to join our **Holy Homework Club**. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., we will have a time for our youth to concentrate on their homework. From 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., we will all join for Wednesday Night Dinner in Moor Hall. (Dinner costs \$10.00 per person, and you can RSVP on the church app or on the [Events page of the website](#).) From 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. we will have Bible study in the Underground. **Please note that drop-off will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Underground, and pickup will be at 7:15 p.m. in the Underground.** We look forward to welcoming all our youth to this programming!

**Coming soon: Confirmation Class!** Confirmation is the process through which a youth learns what it means to be United Methodist, and at the culmination of our classes, becomes a professing member of the church. In weekly classes, we go through UMC history and then Old Testament and New Testament studies. Watch for details coming soon!





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

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

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*

Corey McHugh, *Production Assistant*  
 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*

Susan Koehler, *Editor*

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