

Tidings



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

Introducing Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski



This summer, we welcome Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski to Trinity as our new Associate Pastor! Enjoy this interview to learn more about her. Rev. Anna Brook will officially start on July 1, 2023.

When and how were you called to ministry?

I have always been involved in ministry in some way because I grew up as a pastor's kid (PK) in Florida. I loved working in the church with my dad and with the youth group but never considered becoming a pastor myself. But when I was in college, I realized that I had a calling into ministry at Annual Conference, and my family was so supportive. They

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Cover photo taken at Children's Sunday School

told me that they knew I was meant to be in ministry since I was a kid, and now I really do feel like I am doing what I was meant to do.

Do you prefer to be called Anna, Anna Brook, or AB?

I have a fun Southern double-name, so I have always gone by Anna-Brook; however, if you can't remember it, I also go by AB, like ABC but the C is silent. I won't get upset, though, if you can't remember anything about me; I respond to anything nice!

What are your hobbies?

I love reading and running! I have a HUGE to-be-read shelf and more running shoes than I probably need. I can talk marathon-ing and track all day long. I also love to try new things, so I am hoping that while I am here, I can pick up some new hobbies. I hear pickleball is a big thing here that is worth trying!

What is your proudest accomplishment (personal or professional)?

My proudest professional accomplishment is finishing all my Board of Ordained Ministry paperwork to become a pastor. It was a very challenging time in my life, and the paperwork required deep personal reflection. It was a lot of pages and a lot of self-contemplation, but I did it and have turned out better for it! My proudest personal accomplishment is finishing the Boston Marathon. I worked so hard to qualify and to get into the race, and then when I ran it, I messed up my hamstring at mile four. I wanted to drop out, but I knew how hard I worked to get there and how hard it would be to get back into the race, so I finished it and had the best time doing it. It was the hardest and most painful thing I have ever done in my life, but it was the most fun I have ever had while running!

What's your favorite Bible verse/passage and why?

My favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8. "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." I have learned my new favorite translation while in Boston: "Do justice, love mercy, hustle humbly." The church where I interned while in seminary used this translation as part of their mission statement, and I love it because it reminds us all that we are to work to share God's love and engage actively with being a part of the Kingdom of God.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? And why?

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to Northern Ireland. I have been three times already and have fallen in love with the people, the city of Belfast, and the culture. While they are still figuring out how to live in community with each other since the Troubles, it is incredible to see the work that the majority of the city is doing to ensure that the future is one of peace and love. It is inspiring for the work that the church is working towards.

What is your preaching style?

I like to think that my preaching style is conversational. I want

my sermons to open conversation with all of us, and help us form community with our thoughts, our similarities, and our differences.

Where did you attend college and what did you study?

I attended undergrad at Florida Southern College, where I ran cross country and track for four years. I was an English literature major, with a religion minor. I have also just finished my graduate degree from Boston University School of Theology, where I earned my master of divinity.

Describe your perfect day.

My perfect day starts with an early morning long run with some friends or family. Afterwards, we stop and get breakfast either at an açai bowl place or Dunkin', and then I spend the rest of the day by the pool or at the beach, reading, swimming, or napping with the people I love. That night, we all have a movie night and go to bed by 11p.m., but hopefully earlier.

What are your favorite sports teams?

My favorite professional teams are the Boston Red Sox and the Boston Bruins. My favorite college teams are (football) the Florida Gators and (hockey) the Boston University Terriers. I have given it long thought, and I think that whenever FSU plays Boston College, I can find a way to cheer for FSU. There is a BIG hockey rivalry between BU and BC, so FSU will gain one extra fan during their football game against BC.

Thank you Anna Brook!
We are excited for you to join us.



Help Local Missions Care for the Community

by Pat Bevis, co-chair of Local Missions Committee

The Local Missions Committee has set up a book-case in the Welcome Center. It will be used to collect various things that are needed in the community. We are starting out with nonperishable food and books (focus on children's books) for distribution to various "help shelves" and "little free libraries" around town. We are hoping to give more children and youth access to books while school is out this summer; and to provide food to help fill gaps in families' budgets. Our first stop will be in the Frenchtown community, but if we collect more than can be used in that community, we will branch out and find others. Please support this effort to help our neighbors.

Congratulations, Seniors!

by Sofia Fernandez, Director of Youth Ministries & Modern Music

As we approach the end of the academic year, our hearts are filled with overwhelming pride and admiration for the graduating high school seniors of 2023. These exceptional individuals have devoted themselves to their studies, conquering obstacles along the way. Their unwavering commitment to their education has earned them the honor of standing tall at the threshold of a new era. As they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their lives, let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and offer our support as they navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Congratulations to the graduating seniors of 2023, and may God bless each and every one of them on their journey.



Elizabeth Jane Plagens

Lincoln High School

University of Central Florida: Actuarial Science



Ryan Bower

Chiles High School

Florida State University: Environmental Policy

**also a graduate of Trinity Preschool*

Not Pictured:

John Clayton Nash

Lincoln High School

Tallahassee Community College

Construction Management

**also a graduate of Trinity Preschool*

Fletcher Haygood Ward

Chiles High School

Florida State University

Pre-Med

Church Council Minutes Report

Staff Parish Relations Committee Report, Part I, given by Susan Koehler, SPRC chair to the Church Council Meeting on March 19, 2023

Director of Music: Yuliia Billa began serving as Trinity's Director of Music on January 1. SPRC approved minor changes to job descriptions for Director of Music and Organist as Yuliia and Viktor adjusted the assignment of responsibilities for each of their roles.

Staff Evaluations and Salaries: We normally review Staff Evaluations in the fourth quarter of the year, and from there, we make recommendations for proposed salary increases. As Rev. Dr. Williams was new to us and didn't know the staff well, we voted to delay staff evaluations until spring, when pastor evaluations are done. Rev. Dr. Williams would like to use a different format for staff evaluations than has been used in the past. He and SPRC

have discussed the new format, and the final document is in the works.

In light of the change in when evaluations are to be conducted, we looked at employees who had been here prior to last year and had not yet received salary increases, and we made adjustments. That included sextons, nursery employees, Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries, the Adult Ministries Assistant, and the Facilities Manager. In light of the fact that we have had a significant amount of turnover, and the fact that with our lower-wage employees we are constantly trying to keep up with the increases in minimum wage, we have concluded that salary increases were warranted to remain competitive and retain our valuable staff.

Rev. Dr. Williams has been working with SPRC to finalize a new organizational chart for supervision, and we are close to finalizing it.

Happenings at the Preschool

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director



Trinity United Methodist Preschool 2009-10
Mrs. Duclos, teacher

Sitting front row: Aidan Carroll, Joseph Knox, Sam Rodefer, Ian Brown Middle Row: Andrew Nix, Mrs. Candace Duclos (teacher) holding Landyn Snowden, Kennedy Jackson, Mallory Robinson, Lidia McLane, Addie Zierden, Madeline Johnson on Mrs. Lora Sign's lap, Ryan Bower Standing on bench: Clayton Nash, Savannah Chambers, Arianah Tucker, Lillee Tana, Andrew Moore Not pictured: Jake Roaers

Graduation Then and Now
To graduate means that you have successfully completed your schooling. At Trinity preschool, that means that while you know your ABCs and 1, 2, 3s, you also know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made and that you are loved by your friends and teachers and most importantly Jesus. We graduate this year's class of kids with all of our best wishes for the future. We also wish the Trinity's class of 2010, now the high school class of 2023 all the best! Congratulations to all of the graduates!



Preschoolers Celebrate Their Moms!

What a wonderful time we had celebrating our moms at our annual Mother's Day Picnic! The weather was beautiful and the moms and preschoolers had a nice time picnicking on the playground while sharing this special time together. As always, the highlight was the parent survey where the children dictate their mom's favorite foods, how old they are, and what they do when the kids are at school. This year we made a flower pot and placed some paper flowers in it to mark this special day.



Representing Trinity!

Candace Duclos, Trinity's Children's Ministry director, and I spent an afternoon on campus at the Florida State University Spring Job Fair. We were both recruiting for various positions in our ministry areas and had a wonderful time meeting with students. We are so fortunate to be located next to a college campus because many of our positions are suitable for students (both part time and full time). For both of us, it was wonderful to be back on the campus where we graduated from. The new student union is amazing; if you have not had the chance to see it, you should make the time! Go 'Noles!

Thank you, Bryant!

by Sofia Fernandez, Director of Youth Ministries & Modern Music

Over the past year, I have had the honor of watching Bryant change the lives of those around him. I have seen him not only be a great pastor, but a father, an uncle, a friend, a screen-printer, a musician, an AI connoisseur, an advocate, and a worthy pickleball opponent. For many of us, he was the spiritual leader we did not know we needed, at a time when we needed it most. As Reverend Bryant Manning bids us a bittersweet farewell and continues to pastor FSU & TCC Wesley, we reflect on how he will be leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those he has touched.

Reverend Bryant's ability to communicate the Gospel is one that is not only seen but felt. His sermons balance compassion and conviction in a way that makes us all want to be more and more like Christ. But it wasn't just Bryant's preaching that made him special. He was always ready to listen, lend a hand, or offer words of encouragement to anyone who needed it. He truly embodied the spirit of service and compassion that we strive to cultivate in our community.

Here, some congregation members share what Bryant has meant to them:

"Bryant has brought an uncommon, yet vital energy to our Sunday service. He teaches with an infectious urgency that I will miss and always remember."

"He answers my questions, and he inspires me. I wholeheartedly believe he is going to lead a huge revival to be inclusive of everyone and based on love."

"Bryant is not only a great orator but has an innate ability to truly connect with people. He also helped me reengage when I was going through a difficult time with my faith. His passion for Christ and his energy will be sorely missed."



"I appreciate Bryant's honesty and openness. He isn't afraid to speak the truth even if it may be hard to hear and that is something honorable and impactful that the world and the faith needs more of."

"We will miss messages delivered with so much enthusiasm and his timely references to today's world. Oh, and his sense of humor, of course! It has been so fun to see glimpses of college ministry life."

As we bid farewell, we know that Bryant's impact on our community will be felt for many years to come. We will miss his leadership, his wisdom, and his warmth, but we know that he will go on to change the lives of many others as well. We wish Bryant all the best, and we will always hold a special place in our hearts for our dear (interim) associate pastor. Thank you for everything.

Sing or Play This Summer!

by Yuliia Billa, Director of Music

This summer, we have lots of possibilities for church members, especially if you are not a part of any music groups or choirs.

- **Non-Commitment Summer Choir.** Plan to meet for 30 minutes for choir rehearsal right before the service on Sunday morning to sing during July-August Services. These are simple favorite hymns, low range, not difficult and good for people who have never sung in the choir but are willing to try. Some singers from Chancel Choir will be available to support you and be section leaders. Please sign up for a Sunday when you are available. This is your chance to serve the church and do some singing without a long-term commitment.

The sign-up sheet is in the choir room on the piano. Just write your name under the date of your chosen Sunday and come at 10:30 a.m. to the choir room for practice in the morning. Sign-up is required.

- **Musicians.** We are looking for musicians or singers to participate during services in June-August. It can be duets or small ensembles, and help with repertoire is provided.
- **Adults who will play Orff instruments** who have never played them. Simple songs with supportive and clear instructions will be provided. Rehearsals are based on the availability of musicians.
- **Participants at Bluegrass Sunday – July 30th.** We are looking for musicians who are willing to join the Bluegrass ensemble and who are available to play guitar, banjo, mandolin, or upright bass on July 30. Please contact **Karalee Poschman** for more details kposchman@yahoo.com.

Please contact Yuliia Billa (ybilla@tumct.org) for details or sign up for the desired group as soon as possible because some places are limited. It is time to make plans. Do not wait.

New Members in Trinity Music Worship

Are you **NEW** to our church? Are you a professional or a good amateur musician? We **NEED** You! Come and sing or play your favorite song! The summer is a time for welcoming everyone willing to serve the church through music. Please get in touch with Music Director Yuliia Billa (ybilla@tumct.org) for more details about music service in Trinity, especially if you are considering joining on commitment bases.

Thank You for Your Ministry in Music

Before we will proceed into the summer and make new music plans, we would love to thank **ALL** musicians who made amazing music worship in the previous months. The Celebration of Praise Sunday, steel pans playing, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, Orchestra Sunday, and the children's musical. We did work hard but with great love, pleasure, and a huge desire to glorify our God with the best music. Everyone did a fantastic job!!! Thank you all!



Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday



Orchestra Sunday



Steel Pans during Springtime Tallahassee



Celebration of Praise Sunday, February 19

Memorials & Honorariums

April 11–May 10

Honorariums:

In honor of **Brett Ingram** from Judy Levy.

In honor of **Lynn McLarty** from Circle One.

In honor of **Stephen Shiver and family** from Gail Melton.

In honor of the late **Thomas James Perkins** from John Earle Perkins.

Memorials:

In memory of **Richard Gardner** from Cynthia Smith.

In memory of **Mary Margaret Rogers** from Beth and Lawton Langford, Benson and Betty Ann Skelton, Betty Kane, John and Susan Thomas, Jay and Anne Hutcheson, John Earle Perkins, and William Webb.

In memory of **Lois Ann Bower** from Debra Buckles, Donna Frinks, Sally Roberts, Mary Ann and Duncan Moore.

In memory of **Richard “Dick” Peters** from Bill and Lori Mattice, Mart Hill, Donna Frinks, John and Mary Jean Thrasher, James Trafton, Julie Graybill, William Smith Jr., Mark and Nan Hillis, Suzanne Peschl, Julian Vereen Smith, Bob and Jan Porter, and Donnie Ann Henderson.



Children's Sunday School Continues Throughout Summer

by Candace Duclos, Director of Children's Ministry

Hello, Summer! The kid calendar revolves around Christmas and SUMMER. I am sure you have planned vacations, camps, friend time and relax time. However, remember Sunday school is ongoing each week. While our school-year teachers enjoy a break, Mrs. Duclos and Ms. Alexis will be teaching with stories, songs, games, and worship time! If you would like to help with summer Sunday school, please contact Candace Duclos. We will also will offer kid activities during the Adult Summer Camp Nights so please join us!

BFC Meets All Summer Long

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

Did you know the BFC Ministry exercise classes and BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) program continue year-round? While other ministries may take a break in June, July, and August, the BFC Ministry continues going strong all summer long. There will still be six weekly BFC exercise classes as usual offered in person and via ZOOM. All class donations go to community service. BFO will continue to meet Thursday evenings and will walk when weather permits but may explore other “cooler” options like swim-

ming, cycling, kayaking, and maybe even an exercise class when it's just too hot. Class fee offsets ministry costs.

BFC Ministry provides an opportunity to have Fellowship, Fun (sometimes even Food) and get Fit! For more information check out the website at <https://www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church/> or email Beth Curry at BFCSeries@yahoo.com for details and registration information.

BFC and BFO Summer 2023 Calendar

Monday 7:30 p.m. – *Flexibility for a Better You* (zoom only) – foam rolling and stretching

Tuesday 9:45 a.m. & Thursday 1:30 p.m. – *Staying Strong* – basic gentle standing and seated exercise

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. – *Variety Mix* – fast paced full body work out (intermediate to advanced)

Thursday 12:15 p.m. – *Flexibility for a Better You*

Thursday 6:00 p.m. – **BFO** (activity and location decided weekly)



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WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Dawn Adams, *Congregational Administrator*
Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Viktor Billa, *Organist*
Yuliia Billa, *Director of Music*
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*
Gabriela Denton, *Communications Coordinator*
Candace Duclos, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*
Jack Falcon, *Financial Assistant*

Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Youth Ministry & Modern Music*
Melanie Gonzalez, *Office Administrator*
Patti Groh, *Sexton*
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*
Amy Leach, *Programs Assistant*
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*
Alexis McEntire, *Assistant to the Director of Children's Ministries*
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*

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