

Tidings



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

Faith of our Founders... Living Still

In 2024 we will celebrate Trinity's 200th anniversary! Two hundred years ago some of Tallahassee's first pioneers had the vision of forming the church that became Trinity. According to one historian, a group of ten people reportedly gathered in the home of a Mr. Myers on the last Sunday in September 1824 and organized a Methodist Society in Tallahassee. At that time Tallahassee had just been selected as the capital of territorial Florida. It was a wilderness town with few inhabitants and only six houses. The following year the South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Church established the Tallahassee District and appointed Josiah Evans as pastor of the Tallahassee Mission and presiding elder of the District. Under his leadership the first Methodist church building in Tallahassee was built on what is now the southwest corner of Bronough Street and Park Avenue. From those earliest beginnings, Trinity has been an influential presence in the community.

The opening words of the familiar hymn, "Faith of our fathers, living still" take on new meaning as we look back with gratitude for the founders' faith and commitment, and also as we rejoice in Trinity's growing fellowship and vibrant ministries and anticipate its promising future. Building on these words from this oft-sung hymn, the theme for our year-long Bicentennial celebration will be "Faith of our Founders... living still."

The Bicentennial celebration will kick-off in January with the first of twelve guest clergy, many of them former pastors of Trinity or leaders in the Florida Conference,

In This Issue

Faith of our Founders...Living Still	2-3
The Church Through the Years.....	3
Letters from our Leaders.....	4-5
Memorials	5
Bicentennial Music Aspirations.....	6
Explore the History of Trinity and Methodism in Florida.....	6
In Other Celebratory News.....	7

*Cover photos are the 1840 & 1964
church buildings on the northeast
corner of Park and Duval*

More information on page 3

preaching on the second Sunday of each month. Special events will involve all ages in learning about the church's history and celebrating its continued presence and impact. Look forward to concerts, social events, a Lay Academy class on Trinity's history, and activities for children and youth. In 1999, Trinity published a book on its history edited by Linda Yates. This book is currently in the process of being updated by Marti Chumbler. Special music composed for the 200th anniversary will be premiered. Then on Sunday, September 29, 2024, exactly 200 years after that initial meeting of the church's founders, we'll join together in a special anniversary service and celebration.

In the coming months, look for signs of the upcoming celebration – a new logo, a webpage devoted to Bicentennial activities and Trinity history, posters, banners, and articles in News & Notes, Tidings, and Crossroads. Perhaps you've noticed some of the work that has been taking place around the church building in preparation for the Bicentennial. More details on these and future updates will be forthcoming.

Trinity's 200th anniversary also coincides with Tallahassee's Bicentennial, so we plan to be part of that observance, as well. Many people are already enthusiastically at work planning events, refurbishing the building, and making special arrangements for what we hope will be a joyous and memorable celebration. We invite you to join the excitement and anticipation as we prepare for this momentous year in the life of our church!

Gloria Colvin, Chair of Bicentennial Publicity Committee

Dear Friends,

I love the inspiring quote, "Faith of our Founders...living still", chosen to illustrate the path we must take following our celebration of 200 years of history and ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. This quote stirs our memories and demands our participation as we look to the future.

To review recent history, please recall from the pandemic to today. In 2022, our budget was deep in the red. Answered prayer brought amazing re-engagement, membership growth and the enthusiasm to plan for the years ahead. Today, we are enjoying exciting preaching, teaching and outreach, the historic priorities of Trinity. We continue to struggle to meet budget expenses, but we are optimistic our membership will provide a strong finish to 2023, celebrate the 200 years past, and plan for many years ahead. In order to succeed, every member must participate with the giving of time, treasure and talent. YOU are needed!

To kick-off our next 200 years, we will challenge ourselves with dual fundraising goals. In November, we kickoff the annual stewardship campaign, for the full operations of the church AND an additional goal for our 200th celebration to afford critically needed renovations, from which we will contribute a tithe (10% of the funds raised) to be offered as a gift to the community.

You have seen renovation work progressing around the church. A silent campaign has funded improvements to date. The job must be completed. Very important projects remain to be funded including kitchen renovations, refurbishing of pews, and flooring improvements. Projects that have been completed include painting, renovating the memorial garden, security, lighting, and kitchen planning. Thank you, generous members that have made renovations to date possible. Thank you, Trinity Trustees, for managing the long and complicated list of renovations.

What is your part in this? Our request is three-fold:

1. Recognize and respond to the need to finish 2023 in the black. Please refer to your bulletin to see current status. Complete your pledge. Make your year-end gift.
2. Make your pledge for 2024. Trinity operates well only because we have talented pastors and dedicated staff to implement wonderful programming. Teaching, preaching and outreach are impossible without fully funded operations.
3. Give a generous gift for Trinity's Bicentennial. You will feel great pride in the amazing renovations, exciting programs and a historic gift to the community.

I am filled with gratitude for YOU, reminding me of the words of our pastors – You are loved!

Paula Smith, Chair of the Big 200 Joint Committee

You're Invited to Participate

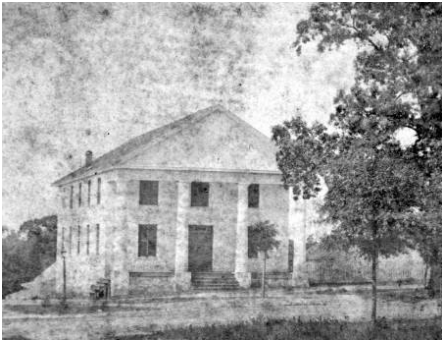
If you have an interest in being part of some aspect of the planning for the 200th anniversary celebration, please contact one of these people who are spearheading various efforts.

- Fundraising – John Harris (john.harris@gray-robinson.com)
- Publicity – Gloria Colvin (gpcolvin@comcast.net)
- Children and Youth – Sarah Watters (sewatters@outlook.com)
- Social events – Laura Rogers (laurakrogers@comcast.net), Cindy McDuffie (cmcduffie1965@gmail.com)
- Historical Documentation & Preservation – Dan Drake (ddraco75@gmail.com), Donna Bryan (zbryand65@gmail.com)
- Memorabilia – Ann Lumsden (ann_lumsden@comcast.net)
- Historical Society – Rhonda Work (rhondawork@comcast.net), Lynn McLarty (mac@nettally.com)

The Church Through the Years

by Lynn McLarty, Chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee & Historian, Committee for the Preservation of Church History

Even though our history states the Methodist congregation built a log cabin church in 1825 at the southwest corner of Bronough and Two Hundred Foot Street (McCarty Street, now known as Park Avenue), there are no known photographs of its semblance. In 1837 three lots were purchased “up the hill” where Trinity has subsequently built three churches on that site.



1840

The Cornerstone of the new church at the corner of Duval Street and McCartney Street (now Park Avenue) was laid in May of 1840. Even though construction was not totally completed, services began at the new church. The 1840 church was a brick building, 40 x 60 feet, with a basement and a gallery. The construction deed required the building to look like the Presbyterian Church of the city. Richard A. Shine, the builder, was paid \$4,250 for his work. Another \$2,500 was paid to John G. Padrick for the roof, windows, gallery, and woodwork inside.

In anticipation of adding a steeple and a bell over the short portico of the 1840 church, a reinforcement project of the area took place in 1858. A two-story parsonage was built next to the church in 1859. With a war imminent, funds for a bell could not be assured.

Due to the persistence of the ladies of the church, a bell was obtained in 1875 from a firm in Cincinnati, Ohio. The bell weighed one thousand pounds, measured four feet across at the mouth, and cost \$170.

1875



1893

By June 1892, work had begun on an enlarged and classic new church, being built by Trinity members Foster Clinton Gilmore and George Igdaliah Davis. During construction, Presbyterians opened their church for our services on the second and fourth Sundays. On March 12, 1893, with Bishop O.P. Fitzgerald preaching, the congregation began worshipping in the elegance of the new church. In 1910, due to the rapid growth of the Church, the same contractors made a Sunday School addition to the north of the original building.

1964

The first service in the sanctuary of the new church was held on May 3, 1964. Bishop Arthur J. Moore (ret.) delivered the sermon. The senior pastor was the Reverend Dr. H. Melton Ware, and the associate pastor was J.P. Floyd, Jr. Payne H. Midyette, Sr. was the Chairman of the Building Committee. The church was designed by H. Hensel Fink of Philadelphia with Albritton-Williams as the contractor. The gilded stained-glass windows were designed, fabricated, and installed by the Willet Studio of Philadelphia.



Letters from our Leaders

Serving at Trinity United Methodist Church: Embracing History and Envisioning the Future



In July 2023, I began my second year serving as the Senior Pastor of Trinity. It seems like only yesterday that Joy, Ethan, and I were meeting with moving companies to prepare for our move back to Tallahassee. Having been away for over ten years we were eager to discover how Tallahassee had grown, flourished, and how best we would benefit the community. I remain deeply grateful to the Bishop and Cabinet of the Florida Annual Conference for affording me this ministerial opportunity. Not only is it an honor to serve in this capacity, Tallahassee offers a wonderful setting to raise a child and to be in community. Our family will never take this opportunity for granted.

As Trinity approaches our Bicentennial Year, it has been notable how you – the congregation – love the church and her ministry. The investment of your resources and gifts have proven to be significant as we nurture our vital institution and mission in the city of Tallahassee and beyond. Throughout the past 199 years, Trinity’s congregation has proven repeatedly that our downtown ministry is both vital and dynamic.

I invite you to join me in bringing to mind those things about Trinity that have affected your life and faith in positive ways. Our theme is Faith of our Founders...living still. Perhaps your faith was confirmed in Holy Baptism or it has been strengthened in Holy Communion or in singing the great hymns of the church. Perhaps you have participated in a wide array of ministry opportunities to deepen your faith and serve our community and world. When you have been ill, it could be that you have held on to a prayer quilt or shawl sewn by church members. Overall, God has used the people of Trinity to nurture your faith in God, who is Love.

Whenever I walk onto the campus of Trinity, I am deeply moved by the compassion and forethought of past generations. We know that God has entrusted us with these spaces to be used for Christ-centered worship and service of the Triune God. Trinity’s magnificent and well-appointed Sanctuary is a testimony to our forbearer’s commitment to us. In the present, you are taking monumental strides to care for not only our Sanctuary but our entire church campus. Trinity is indeed our heritage and its maintenance is our challenge. If we are to pass on to future generations the inspiration that has been freely given to us, our church must be vitally alive and adequately equipped. I am very proud to say that we are vitally alive and adequately equipped because of you!

With hearts of gratitude, Joy, Ethan and I are very honored to say that Trinity is our faith community. To be able to raise our son in this vital congregation is a real privilege and gift. To serve as your Senior Pastor is the honor of my lifetime and ministry. As we continue to approach our Bicentennial Year, may God equip us for our next 200 years of loving God and our neighbors.

I am very proud to be your pastor,
Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor

Having Trinity United Methodist Church of Tallahassee be my first appointment has been a blessing in more ways than I ever could have imagined. In a time of so much uncertainty in the United Methodist Church, it is inspiring to be at a church where there is so much joy, so much hope, and so much love. Coming out of the pandemic, Trinity has been eager to embrace new ways of doing church while still staying true to the integrity of who we are. And with the Bicentennial celebration next year, it has been a privilege to see a church community come together to not only celebrate the past, but to welcome the future of where God is calling us to go.

I could not be more honored to be in a place and with a congregation that has allowed me to find who I am as a pastor and as a person. This church brings so much life to the world, and I cannot wait to see where God is calling this church to go in the future!

Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor

As I reflect on my personal journey at Trinity United Methodist, I cannot help but acknowledge the profound privilege of having previously served as your Senior Pastor from 2008 to 2016, and now returning as your Minister of Pastoral Care. For both Beth and me it has felt like coming home, reuniting with familiar faces, and embracing the familiar warmth of Trinity's community. This unique perspective has allowed us to witness firsthand the incredible growth and transformation that is taking place, while also bringing a renewed sense of commitment to this wonderful congregation. Indeed, the most exciting church in Tallahassee!

Being a part of Trinity as we plan for our Bicentennial next year is an awe-inspiring experience! It is a time when our collective hearts are filled with gratitude as we remember the remarkable journey that has brought us to this significant milestone. The festivities planned will serve as a reminder that we are not just individuals, but a part of something much larger than ourselves, a narrative that has unfolded over the course of 200 years.

While acknowledging our church's rich history, we must also recognize that the future lies in our hands. I invite each member to join me in embracing this pivotal moment as an opportunity to rejuvenate our commitment to enriching lives, forging connections and inspiring change. Equally essential is ensuring that Trinity's tradition of reaching beyond our walls and impacting the wider community remains vibrant and meaningful. May we each embrace our unique roles within Trinity's story, being both stewards of the past and architects of the future. It is my prayer that together we can create new chapters, write new narratives and continue to inspire generations to come.

Beth and I are filled with boundless gratitude for the privilege of being in ministry together with you. Together, let us honor the legacy of those saints who have come before us while also embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. May Trinity United Methodist continue to be a sanctuary of love, grace and hope for years to come as we live into our vision of "being a diverse Christian community, shining as a beacon of God's love and actively engage as the heart, hands and feet of Christ in the world."

And, of course, always remember how much You Are Loved!

Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care

Memorials

Given to Trinity UMC from July 11 - August 10, 2023

Memorials:

In memory of **Dottie Roberts** from Harry and Carol Morrison.

In memory of **Linda Yates** from Julian Smith, Jr., Dr. Orson Smith, and Bill and Paula Smith.

In memory of **Eleanor Smith** from Palmer and Leslie Williams, and Harry and Carol Morrison.

Bicentennial Music Aspirations

by Yuliia Billa, Director of Music

As a part of the yearlong celebration of our bicentennial, the music department has exciting aspirational plans. As you recall, earlier this year, our very own, Viktor Billa performed a stirring recital earlier this year at the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Given this relationship, we have invited three world-class organists from the Salt Lake Tabernacle to perform recitals during the Bicentennial year.

In addition, via compliments of an anonymous donor, a special piece of music is being composed in memory of Myron Munday, former beloved organist here at Trinity. We plan to debut this piece sometime next year!

The liturgy and processional for the Bicentennial Celebration service, scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2024, will begin at the site of the first church (the southwest corner of what is now Bronough Street and Park Avenue) with prayer and bagpipe music. The Chancel Choir and Brass will perform "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me" by C. Hubert H. Parry and "Gloria" by John Rutter. Viktor Billa will close the service with "Finale" from "Symphony for Organ No. 1" by Louis Vierne.

In 2024, as part of our bicentennial year, we intend to have two Orchestra Sundays: March 17th with "Requiem" by Gabriel Fauré and in early to mid December with Beloved Christmas Carols.

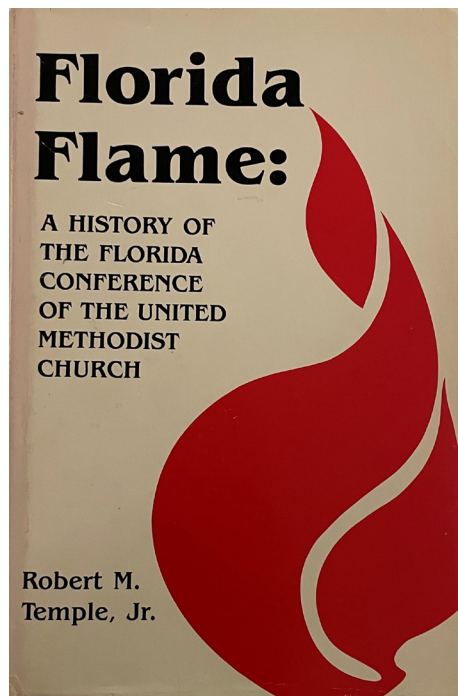
Explore the History of Trinity and Methodism in Florida

by Gloria Colvin, Trinity Librarian

For those interested in learning more about Trinity's history, check out the book *Trinity United Methodist Church: Tallahassee's First Church 1824-1999* available in Trinity's McKenzie Library (287.609 Tri). As part of the church's 175th anniversary celebration in 1999, this book covers the various periods of Trinity's history from its founding through 1999. It was written by Trinity members Norman Booth, Rubie Plant Butterworth, Vernon Parramore, Christine Puckett Moody, and Linda Yates who also served as editor. Marti Chumbler is writing an update of the book that will cover the years from 1999 to the present. It will be available soon after the 200th anniversary celebration in 2024.



**Trinity United
Methodist Church**
Tallahassee's First Church
1824 - 1999



Trinity also figures in *Florida Flame: A History of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church* (287.09759 Tem), an in-depth look at the beginnings and development of Methodism in Florida written by Robert M. Temple, Jr. who grew up in Trinity. Rev. George Foster, a former Trinity pastor, contributed to an earlier book on the history of *Methodism in Florida, From Saddlebags to Satellites* (287.09759 Bro).

The online catalog of Trinity's adult and children's libraries is searchable online. Look for the Church Library link (<https://www.tumct.org/grow/mckenzie-library/>) on the Trinity website under the Community heading. The libraries have books on a broad range of topics, and they can be checked out for 3 weeks. The library is open on Sunday mornings, but church staff can unlock it during the week.

In Other Celebratory News:

Happy 15th Anniversary to BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Exercise!

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Leader

On September 2nd, Becoming Fit at Church (BFC) Exercise will celebrate 15 years since its first class held in 2008! Over 300+ people have participated and better yet - over \$80,000 has been raised for local and global community service projects since the start of the program. Not only have the lives of participants been changed by improving health and fitness but lives around the world have been touched by the generous donations of the faithful participants over the years. Happy Anniversary to all who helped BFC Exercise reach this amazing accomplishment! Check out the bulletin board in the Welcome Center hallway for all the details.

There is exciting news this fall as the BFC Ministry program continues to expand: BFC Exercise will offer a NEW Thursday evening INDOOR walking/exercise class – BFC 10-10-10! The Becoming Fit Outdoors (BFO) walking group had so much fun when the heat forced the group to walk and exercise INDOORS that the BFO Team decided to continue this very successful format this fall! Join us for this fun, fast paced class on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Alternate 10 minutes of different walking patterns with 10 minutes of upper/lower body exercise or a fun neuroplasticity (brain) or team game. Walk at least ½ mile and challenge your balance and brain! Every five to six weeks the group will share a healthy meal together too!

BFO will switch from weekly outdoor walking to special kayaking, cycling and hiking events. Join us on the second Saturday each month for a bike ride at the St. Mark's Trail, or the fourth Saturday for a kayaking or hiking trip! Details and location will be provided closer to the date.

Come have FUN, FELLOWSHIP and get FIT! Please visit Trinity's BFC website for details or email BFCSeries@yahoo.com to be added to our email list and stay up to date on these happening!



Flash Back to 1973

by Stacey Duggar, Preschool Director

As a part of the preschool's 50th anniversary, enjoy this flashback to 1973, the year the preschool was founded!

Flash Back 1973

Fun Facts

- The average family income was \$12,900
- A new house cost around \$32,500
- The retail price for a gallon of gas averaged 39 cents
- Minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour
- Eggs were 69 cents a dozen
- Oreos were 59 cents for a 19-ounce package
- Peanut butter was 99 cents for a 2½-pound jar

Best Film Oscar Winner

The Godfather (presented in 1973)

Top Ten Baby Names of 1973

Jennifer, Amy, Michelle, Kimberly, Lisa, Michael, Chris (Christopher), Jason, James, David

Top toy for Christmas

Curious George



- The Senior Pastor of Trinity was Edward W. Norman.
- Trinity United Methodist Preschool opened its doors for the first time in August of 1973!
- Mary Blackburn and Claire Nash opened the preschool! The preschool was open for 3 hours a day on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday only.

1973 Most Popular TV shows

1. All in the Family (CBS)
2. The Waltons (CBS)
3. Sanford and Son (NBC)
4. M*A*S*H (CBS)
5. Hawaii Five-O (CBS)
6. Maude (CBS)
7. Kojak (CBS)
8. The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour (CBS)
9. The Mary Tyler Moore Show (CBS)
10. Cannon (CBS)

Miscellaneous events of the year

- The World Trade Center opened
- The first mobile phone call was made

Sports

- World Series Champions: Oakland Athletics
- Superbowl VII Champions: Miami Dolphins
- NBA Champions: New York Knicks
- Stanley Cup Champs: Montreal Canadiens
- U.S. Open Golf: Johnny Miller
- Wimbledon (Men/Women): Jan Kodes/Billie Jean King
- NCAA Football Champions: Alabama & Notre Dame





Monthly Publication from
Trinity United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1086
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 222-1120 www.tumct.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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

MINISTRY STAFF

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

Irene Gonzalez, *Director of Youth Ministries*
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*
Dr. Nick Quinton, *Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries*

TIDINGS TEAM

[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

Let's stay in touch!

- Sign up for our News & Notes weekly email newsletter on our website www.tumct.org
- Like us on [Facebook](#) @TrinityUMCTallahassee
- Follow us on [Instagram](#) @umctrinity
- Listen on [Spotify](#) Trinity United Methodist Church Tallahassee