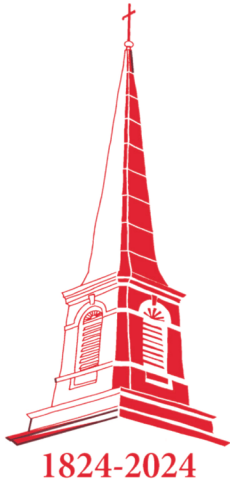


# Tidings



## Trinity United Methodist Church **BICENTENNIAL** *Faith of our Founders...living still*

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

## Let the Celebration Begin!

by Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

**W**hat a year we have in store as we reflect on Trinity's presence and witness in downtown Tallahassee for the past 200 years and as we continue to build on that tradition! As I've asked people to consider what Trinity means to them, certain words keep coming up – home, community, family, service, love, commitment, comfort, welcoming, inclusive, worship, music, spiritual growth. They capture so much of the essence of Trinity and are reflected in the plans for this year.

Get your 2024 calendars out, make note of these special upcoming events, and invite your friends to come! You can also keep up with events on the new Bicentennial website at [www.tumct.org/bicentennial200](http://www.tumct.org/bicentennial200). In the words of Rev. John Willis, "You won't want to miss them!"

Trinity's outstanding music program has planned many concerts and performances throughout the year. It will kick off the year-long celebration with a concert of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" on January 9, followed by a concert by St. Olaf Choir on February 2. Three organists from the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City will perform organ concerts on March 9, May 4, and September 21. Our choirs and other musicians will offer a variety of music, including Faure's "Requiem" on March 17 and a concert of contemporary worship music on April 12.

Each month on the second Sunday we will welcome a guest clergy to Trinity's pulpit. Some of these are former Trinity pastors and others are officials or Bishops of the United Methodist Church. For some of us it will be a joyous reunion with people who hold a

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### Memorial Gifts

Trinity received the following gifts from November 11-December 10.

- In memory of **Lois Ann Bower** from Leslie Peebles.
- In memory of **Larry Baird** from the Trinity UMC Circle 1.

special place in our hearts, but for all of us it will be inspiring to hear from so many prominent United Methodist clergy. On January 14, we welcome Rev. Judi New, Archivist of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Following the 11:00 service, we hope that you'll stay to greet Rev. New and enjoy the fellowship of other Trinity members at a special reception in the Parlor and Prayer Garden.

Lay Academy will be offering a four-week course on Trinity's history beginning January 17. At the first session, Rev. John and Pat Willis will look back on their experiences at Trinity over the years, and Dr. Lynn McLarty will lead us through an exploration

of Trinity's past 200 years in the following weeks.

Part of Trinity's ongoing legacy is its service and commitment to the Tallahassee community, and there will be many opportunities for service throughout the year. In this tradition, we are dedicating ten percent of the generous gifts for the Bicentennial, a tithe, for a gift to the community.

More information about events will be forthcoming during the year, but be sure to save the date of September 29, the 200th anniversary of the church's founding and our Celebration Sunday. **Now, let the celebration begin!**

# Trinity Welcomes Rev. Judi New

*by Lynn McLarty, Chair of the Bicentennial Planning Committee*

With the turn of the calendar into the long-awaited bicentennial year for Trinity United Methodist Church, we begin one aspect of our celebration on January 14, 2024. We welcome the Reverend Judith M. New as our first guest minister of the year in the pulpit on the second Sunday of each month during the year. As with others who will follow her in the coming months and have experienced this revered setting, this will be Judi's first opportunity to stand in the shadows of so many renowned Florida Methodists clergy.

The Reverend New comes to our congregation appreciative of the history of Methodism in Tallahassee and its historical significance to the Florida Conference. Since the spring of 2019, Judi has been the Director and Archivist of the Florida United Methodist Heritage Center and Archives on the Florida Southern College campus in Lakeland. She is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference, with her Master of Divinity from Duke University. Additionally, she has her Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern and both her Certificate of Archival Studies and her Master of Library and Informational Sciences from Louisiana State University. She has prepared herself very well to follow in the footsteps of her renowned predecessor Nell Thrift, who was the daughter of Florida Southern President Charles T. Thrift, Jr., and Conference Archivist for 23 years. Judi has worked in many areas of church life as a senior minister, as an associate minister, and as a director of children's ministries. Since high school her parallel interests have been in national and local politics. She is presently preparing to run for a Commission seat in Polk County.

Judi is married to Ed New, an ordained Florida Conference minister. After serving as Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland for three years, he then served as Director of Advancement at All Saint's Academy in Winter Haven. He is now the President of the Florida United Methodist Foundation. They have three children: Riley (15), Bailey (11), and Shelby (almost 8), who attend public schools in Polk County.



*Trinity Historian, Lynn McLarty, along with Archivists, Rev. Judi New and Nell Thrift at the Florida United Methodist Heritage Center on Florida Southern's campus in Lakeland.*

# IRC Co-Sponsorship Team Concludes Engagement with Refugee Family

by Rachael and Daniel Diaz, IRC Co-Sponsorship Team Members

Trinity's refugee co-sponsorship team concluded their engagement with our client family from Syria last month. Co-sponsorship is a partnership with the International Rescue Committee in which community organizations are paired with a refugee family to assist with their resettlement and path to self-sufficiency. On the afternoon of December 3rd, our team gathered with our client family for a picnic lunch to spend time together one last time before saying goodbye. After spending over 600 hours guiding, encouraging, and advocating for our family, our time together has come to an end, and we are proud of all the progress our family has made since arriving here in June. They have created a cozy home in their apartment, the children are attending school, and both parents are employed. They are able to have simple conversations in English and have made friends in the community.

Our hearts were heavy as we shared a meal of eggplant, lentils, hummus, halal meatballs, and homemade desserts. We conversed through our mobile translation apps and shared our final sips of hot black tea sweetened with sugar – a treat that we've delighted in with nearly every visit to our client's household. There is a special bond that is formed in the space outside of your comfort zone. There were many places and experiences for our team and for the family that were, honestly, uncomfortable. With frequent exercises of courage and determination, we embraced the discomfort, and a beautiful thing happened. We were equipped by God to navigate the uncomfortable moments together.



Saying goodbye is never easy, but saying goodbye to someone with whom you've shared challenges and navigated adversity is even more difficult. These are experiences through which relationships develop and bonds are formed. We began as two groups of people of different cultures, who spoke different languages and had different life experiences, but we ended as one group of friends. While our hearts are heavy, we walk forward changed. We are changed in the way we understand what it means to love our neighbor and changed in our knowledge of what God can do when we trust Him.

It has been a privilege and a joy to know and serve this beautiful family. Please join us as we continue to pray for our client family as they continue to build their life and their home here in Tallahassee.

## 2024 Executive Church Council

**Thank you to all who went through our nominations process and agreed to serve.**

**Church Council Chairperson:** Paula Smith

**Church Council Recording Secretary:** Diane Bower

**Church Treasurer:** Robert McDonald

**Financial Secretary:** Laurie Atteberry

**Lay Members to Annual Conference:** Marti Chumbler, Stewart Fleming, Linda Fleming (alt.)

**Lay Leaders:** Marti Chumbler, Kathy Drake

**Membership Secretary:** Dawn Adams

**Interpreter of Connectional Giving:** Laurie Atteberry

**Campus Ministry Representative:** Steve Kleuver

**Camps and Retreats Representative:** Irene Gonzalez

**Children's Home Representative:** Renee White, Glen Squire

**President, Women in Faith:** Sandy Frazier

**Staff Parish Relations Chairperson:** Susan Koehler

**Finance Committee Chairperson:** Benson Green

**Board of Trustees Chairperson:** Appointed in January 2024

**Nominations and Leadership Chairpersons:** Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Kathy Drake

*In addition to these Executive Committees, Trinity has numerous Advisory Committees that represent our many meaningful ministries.*

**THANK YOU**  
to each and every  
member who has agreed  
to serve in 2024!

A full list of executive and advisory committees can be found on our website or by contacting the church office.



# New Members: A Year in Review

**We are thrilled to have welcomed 149 new members to the most exciting church in Tallahassee in 2023!**

## *Trinity UMC*

Gingir Andrews  
Marvin Andrews  
Angela Barnes  
Corwin Barnes  
Barrett Barnes  
Linda Bianco  
Robert Park  
Broome  
Becky Brymer  
Bob Brymer  
Fran Buie  
Rick Burnette  
Lois Burnette  
Kristin Campion  
Tim Campion  
Ellington Campion  
Margie Clay  
Starr Clay  
Randy Clay  
Brent Coughlin  
Stephanie Coughlin  
Carol Culbreath  
Mark Delegal  
Ginger Delegal  
Daniel Diaz  
Rachael Diaz  
Ray Diaz  
Evie Diaz  
Ellie Edwards  
Clark Evans  
Chelsey Falb  
J. Fogarty  
Diane Fogarty  
Janice Foley  
Stephanie Foley  
Irene Gonzalez  
Marilynn Hallman  
Camden Hand  
William Hughes  
Sharon Hutchinson  
John Morgan  
Hutchinson  
Kris Ivester  
Mark Ivester  
Josh Jordan  
Georgia Jordan  
Johann Kell

Amery Keller  
Justin Kendrick  
Cara Klotz  
Tony Lancaster  
Miley Lancaster  
Lily Lancaster  
Cami Lancaster  
Karen Large  
Robert Large  
Emily Large  
Lachlan Large  
Tom Lekanang  
Jackie Livingston  
MaryJeanne Lykes  
Mike Marschall  
Elizabeth  
Marschall  
Sid Matthew  
Linda Matthew  
Ellie McCall  
Frank Mercer  
Midge Mercer  
Russ Mick  
Meghan Mick  
Hallie Mick  
Kasey Mick  
Lowell Mick  
Susan Mick  
Melissa Nelson  
Kelley Olson  
Bert Price  
Amy Price  
Jason Roper  
Jayme Roper  
Meghan Roper  
Allie-Blay Roper  
Alan Rowan  
Karen Rowan  
Harry Sharp  
Nancy Sims  
Bob Sims  
Alana Smith  
Erica Staehling  
Fred Staubit  
Diane Staubit  
Kelly Staubit  
Pat Striplin  
Vivian Stroman



Kathy Tindale  
Midge Tindale  
Ryan Truchelut  
Isaac Truchelut  
Scott Trulock  
Jamie Trulock  
Tom Watts  
Sandy Watts  
Jennie Wheeler  
Brian Wheeler  
Patty Jean Williams  
Rich Wilson  
Joan Wilson  
Madelyn Zajac  
Ashley Zajac

## *Open Hearts UMC*

Rick Anderson  
Jeri Anderson  
Nan Baughman  
Virginia Blow  
Hines Boyd  
Janegale Boyd  
Nan Burton  
Jeannie Carraway  
Ava Corley  
Buster Corley  
Jessica Corley  
Max Corley  
Cindy D'Entrement  
Larry Freeman

Diane Freeman  
Jennifer French  
Julianna French  
Bill French  
Will French  
Linda Harmon  
Tom Harmon  
Eleanor Hawkins  
John Hawkins  
Catherine Higgins  
Pat Inmon  
Betty Messer  
Jim Messer  
Kathleen Neely  
Alice Stadin

Corrine Stephens  
Connie Swiggard  
Dottie Taylor  
Martin Thigpen  
Butch Thompson  
Shelby Thompson  
Mary Ann Van  
Kleuven  
Charles Walker  
Sylvia Walker  
John White  
Martha White  
Erin Wilder  
*\*Not all named are  
photographed*



# Trinity Reflections

Compiled by the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

*"For more than 200 years Trinity Church has remained an integral part of Tallahassee, a source of comfort and loving support in both good and bad times. As Trinity begins its third century it continues as 'The Church with a Heart for the City.'"*

- Sam Rogers, Sr., Trinity Member

*"Trinity's legacy of love and commitment to community are inspiring. Opportunities to serve and to grow in the way of the Word abound."*

- Linda Fleming, Trinity Member

## Trinity History: Beginnings

*Adapted by Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee, from an article by Carol Dadisman published in the February 2004 Tidings*

The date was January 7, 1826. Tallahassee, the new capital city of territorial Florida, was not yet two years old. Construction was about to begin on the first real capitol building, temporary log cabins having housed earlier meetings of the territory's Legislative Council.

After the cornerstone for the first wing of the permanent capitol was laid near the site of the present State Capitol, Tallahassee's leading citizens proceeded to the Methodist Church for the official cornerstone-laying ceremony. The church, later to become Trinity Methodist Church and then Trinity United Methodist Church, was chosen because it was the only meeting place in the frontier village.

In "The Cornerstone of the Capitol," Mary Lamar Davis describes that early ceremony in the Methodist meeting house. She writes that David B. Macomb, one of Tallahassee's original citizens and later a judge and postmaster, "delivered an appropriate oration, after which the brethren partook of a splendid dinner prepared by C. Pindar" (Charles Pindar, another original resident). Obviously, Trinity's reputation for fine oratory and abundant food goes back to the beginning!

We trace our Trinity history to Methodist circuit riders John J. Triggs and John Slade, sent to territorial Florida by the South Carolina Methodist Conference. In Antebellum Tallahassee, Bertram H. Groene writes that Triggs and Slade gave occasional sermons in the new capital "which probably were the first ever preached in the city." The Conference later sent James Tabor and Isaac Sewell to replace Triggs and Slade.

In 1825, Josiah Evans served as the pastor of the newly formed Methodist society that became Trinity. By that time, it had expanded its ranks and collected resources sufficient to build Tallahassee's first church – described by a later minister as "a small wooden framed house, neither ceiled nor plastered, with no glass in the windows which were closed by solid shutters." That church was at the corner of what is now Park Avenue and Bronough Street, a block from our current home.

As we start this 200th year, we remember Trinity's "Heart for the City" – our unique service to Tallahassee and Florida – which began as early as that original congregation, hosting the cornerstone dedication for Florida's first permanent capitol.



**Monthly Tidings**  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Volume 31, Number 1, February 2004

*Trinity's Mission: We will be a relevant community of faithful disciples joyfully continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ.*

**Come let Trinity's Lenten Journey change your life!**  
*Special undertaking aimed at knowing Jesus' Heart for the City*

A spiritually ambitious project is being launched this month at Trinity, and the entire congregation is invited to participate on a very personal level. The *Lenten Journey*, the theme of which is *Knowing Jesus' Heart for the City* will take members through the 40-day period of Lent. It will involve everyone in studying the exact same chapters of the Bible through at-home reading, reflection, journaling and prayer, and through weekly small-group study. The same scriptures will be the focus of Rev. John G. Willis' sermons in weekly worship services.

"My primary hope for this Lenten Journey is for each of us to come to know Jesus better and discover how he had 'a heart for the city,'" said Rev. Willis. "I believe if we're faithful to the process of the 40-day Lenten Journey, this spiritual growth will happen."

Rev. Willis says this is the most comprehensive, integrative spiritual program he's ever been involved with, throughout his 30-year ministerial career.

Sign-ups for small group participation began Jan. 25, and continue through the month of February – you may sign up by filling out bulletin inserts, or by contacting the church office at 222-1120. Sunday worship on Feb. 1 and 8 will include lay speakers explaining how participation in a small group can enrich your Lenten Journey. Groups will range in size from about six to 12 people, with a trained leader to facilitate discussion and study.

Groups will meet at Trinity, in people's homes, at local gathering points (a coffee shop or café, for example) – when you sign up, you can indicate what time and day of the week work best for you. The plan is to have enough options that everyone has a convenient time and place for their weekly small-group experience.

A special Lenten Journal has been created as an invaluable tool for those on the Lenten Journey. Distribution of the journals will take place the Sunday mornings of Feb. 15, 22 and 29 and the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 25. A \$3 donation is requested to cover the costs of printing this journal, although anyone may have one, regardless of their ability to pay.

The first gathering of the Lenten Journey will be Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 – dinner is at 5:30 p.m. in Moor Hall, followed by the traditional service at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity's sanctuary. This will begin the 40-day period of Lenten study, prayer and reflection that will culminate with Easter services on April 11.

The process for planning the Lenten Journey has been extensive. It began early in 2003, with conversations in the Education Ministry Team meeting, and with input from Rev. Willis, Executive Pastor Art McClellan and Minister of Programs Barbara Potter. Design of the Lenten Journal took place in the fall of 2003, involving the ministerial staff and Director of Communications Leslie Knight. Recruitment of small group leaders began in November, with formal training in January.

All who have helped Trinity's Lenten Journey get off to a promising start cordially invite you to get involved – make this the most important 40-day journey of your life!

**WILLING GUIDES FOR THE JOURNEY** - Small group leaders gathered in January to review the Lenten Journey materials, and receive training in facilitation of small group study. Several of these volunteers were captured by the camera's lens (left to right): Nancy Korte, Pat Willis, Bill Kappes, Miriam Peters, Gary Mabius and Kathy Drake.

Cover of the February 2004 Issue of Tidings

# Encounter, Experience, Action

by Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski,  
Associate Pastor

**W**e here at Trinity UMC have had the wonderful experience of collaborating with First Baptist and First Presbyterian during Advent on lunches that help us “Encounter, Experience, Action” with those in our community who are unhoused. Throughout our lunches, we formed a community that strives to answer God’s call to care for all of our neighbors. As a result, I am thrilled to announce that First Baptist and First Presbyterian have decided to join hands with Trinity and our snack pack ministry. In the New Year, between these three downtown churches, we will be offering snack packs five days a week!

During this luncheon series we worked closely with Grace Mission Episcopal Church and met several congregation members from Grace Mission who shared their experiences of being housing insecure. In our final luncheon, we packed backpacks with blankets, hats, gloves, hand warmers, granola bars, water bottles, and bus passes for Grace Mission to hand out. It was a powerful experience to see how three different traditions worked together to be in community with each other and those in our community and to answer God’s call to love each other as God loves us. We look forward to more collaborations with the downtown churches in the future!



## Start the Year Off Right by Joining BFC

by Beth Curry, BFC Team Lead

**Are you looking to start your year off by adding fitness to your life? BFC Ministry has just the thing for you!**

**BFC Exercise Classes** - Join us in-person or via Zoom for one of our four weekly daytime BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) exercise classes. Why is BFC Exercise different than going to the gym? BFC offers a non-intimidating atmosphere filled with FUN, FELLOWSHIP, and FITNESS (and sometimes FOOD) to help our participants become stronger, healthier, and better able to FUNCTION on a daily basis. One of the best parts - one hundred percent of all suggested donations (\$3/class) go to community service locally and globally! Now in our sixteenth year, BFC has raised over \$80,000. Come get fit while helping others! Classes resume Thursday January 4, 2024.

**BFO Pickleball Training – NEW!** On Thursday evenings, beginning January 11, BFO (Becoming Fit Outdoors) will offer a six week Pickleball Training class for beginners. Not only will participants learn how to play the game, but also what equipment to use, strategies for playing a better game AND drills and skills to prevent injury -which can be a big issue for unconditioned players. After the first six-week session the plan is to invite more seasoned players to form a Trinity Pickleball Team and engage in games with FSU Wesley students and other groups. Cost is \$10 for full six-week session. Please contact Beth Curry at BFCSeries@yahoo.com if you are interested in training OR would like to be on our Trinity Pickleball Team. Space is limited for this training session, but a waiting list will be started for the next six-week session which will begin toward the end of February.

**There is also other exciting news: Nursery Spots – NEW!** BFC Exercise is excited to announce - On Thursday mornings a small infant/toddler/preschool nursery will now be available during the 11:00 AM Variety Mix exercise class! To reserve a spot please email Candace at cduclos@tumct.org.

### BFC Ministry 2024 Schedule

**Tuesday 9:45 AM - Staying Strong**  
Basic gentle total body exercise.  
Standing/seated. Beginner.

**Tuesday 11:00 AM - Variety Mix**  
Full body workout-cardio, strength, balance, flex. Standing/floor.  
Intermediate to Advanced.

**Thursday 11:00 AM - Variety Mix**  
Nursery available by advanced reservation.

**Thursday 12:15 PM - Staying Strong**

**Thursday 6:30 PM - BFO Pickleball Training**

Visit the website at [www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church](http://www.tumct.org/serve/bfc-becoming-fit-at-church) or email [BFCSeries@yahoo.com](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com) for registration details for both BFC and BFO.



# A Letter from your Local Missions Committee

by Pat and Lyn Bevis, Local Missions Committee Co-Chairs

Dear Trinity,

As we begin 2024, the Local Missions Committee wants to encourage you to get involved. Service is a vital part of our commitment as United Methodists and the committee works hard to make multiple service opportunities available each year for all our members. Right now, we are signing up volunteers for Meals on Wheels on January 15, Martin Luther King Day. You can sign up to prepare cold meals or to deliver the meals or both! Please contact me with questions at bevis.pat@gmail.com or use this QR code to sign up TODAY!



We are also looking for new committee members. We need people who have a vision and a heart for any one of these groups and will serve as a committee member to advocate, stay in touch with and lead mission projects for a particular ministry in our community. Currently we need the following advocates for projects and contacts already in place:

- The downtown unhoused community, through Grace Mission with other downtown churches.
- The Open Hearts Congregation in Monticello, to advocate for their mission projects and involve them in ours.
- Our ongoing work in the Frenchtown Community through Sowing Seeds, Sewing Comfort Ministry.
- Our Angel Tree Project that has so successfully brought our church together to provide Christmas for many children in our area the last two years.
- FAMU Impact and FSU/TCC Wesley Programs, two wonderful campus programs that are nearby and need our help.


We also welcome new members to the committee to bring new ideas and new projects, so please come and join us. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 PM (unless it's a holiday - then we meet on the second Monday!)

We send you all our thanks for your support in 2023 and look forward to the work to come in 2024.

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**As a member of Trinity, you get access to early registration at the preschool.**





**2024-2025 School-year Registration information**

**Currently enrolled families may enroll February 1-2, 2024**

**Legacy families may enroll February 5, 2024**

**Church members may enroll February 6, 2024**

**Open enrollment begins February 7, 2024**

Please call Stacey Dugger at 850-224-8992 to pick up an application or to arrange for a tour.

**The St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will perform at Trinity United Methodist Church on Friday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Tickets available at [stolaf.edu/tickets](https://stolaf.edu/tickets).**



Monthly Publication from  
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 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](http://www.tumct.org) for viewing links

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## PASTORAL STAFF

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

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## MINISTRY STAFF

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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*  
Sarah Duclos, *Sexton*  
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*

Betsy Gingery, *Financial Assistant and Culinary Coordinator*  
Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Contemporary Worship*  
Irene Gonzalez, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
Melanie Gonzalez, *Office Administrator*  
Patti Groh, *Sexton*  
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*  
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*  
Alexis McEntire, *Assistant to the Director of Children's Ministries*  
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*

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## TIDINGS TEAM

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[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

### *Let's stay in touch!*

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