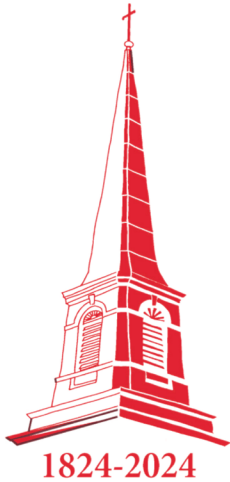


# Tidings



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

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

### The Story of the Bicentennial Banner at Trinity United Methodist Church

by Cecile Baker, Chairman of the Bicentennial Banner Committee

**P**rocessional Banners have been used for centuries in Christian churches to inspire worship, clarify themes, and help us celebrate. “We will rejoice in thy salvation and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.” (Psalm 20:5).

In a recent message received from the United Methodist Church, “Processional banners have never been neither commended nor prohibited in official Methodist ritual resources. We see no evidence in artwork or descriptions of Methodist worship into the early 19th century of the use of such banners. So, this probably started happening later in the 19th century for “big events” (such as a General Conference or an annual conference) or perhaps in very large congregations on festive occasions. In time the use of banners has become a bit more normalized in annual conference and General Conference use. It remains unusual for most UMC congregations, in the US at least, to use them at all - largely because most congregations simply do not have processional banners at all.” The use of processional banners to celebrate special occasions at TUMC coincides with the arrival of Rev. Dr. David Hortin and his wife Cinda in 1988. Cinda was a master banner maker who made many banners for churches in the conference beginning in the 1970s when they were assigned to Lakeland, Florida.

Trinity is celebrating an extremely significant anniversary this year - the Bicentennial or celebration of 200 years of Methodism in Florida’s capital city. As in keeping with recent tradition of having a banner for a milestone event in our history, the planning committee recommended that a special banner be constructed to tell the story of Trinity’s 200 years in Tallahassee. This banner would be used during bicentennial events and would be

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positioned in the sanctuary throughout the year. It will probably make an appearance in the parade of banners at the annual Florida Conference in June. A small committee formed and decided that the banner would illustrate the journey of Trinity from 1824 through 2024, incorporating our bicentennial theme, “Faith of our Founders...living still”, an adaptation of the hymn “Faith of our Fathers...” (Methodist Hymnal # 710)

All the members of this banner committee were novices with little to no knowledge of how to undertake such a daunting endeavor. We reached out to Cinda for guidance...and what a wonderful guide she was. The committee was presented with not only her extensive knowledge of banner making, but also with books, specifications from the Conference on banner construction, and fabrics and supplies from past projects. Two of her banners were also used as guides and examples of how this banner should be constructed. Her banners reflecting Trinity’s 175th anniversary in 1999 and the 150th anniversary of the 1845 establishment of the Florida Conference at Trinity are now on exhibit in the hall leading to the Yates Heritage Center on the third floor of Trinity Hall.



**Lynn McLarty and Barbara Ware**  
working on details of the  
Bicentennial banner



Our founders of 200 years ago - 88 years after John Wesley conducted the first Methodist service in the New World - envisioned bringing Methodism to this frontier town and growing it into a house of worship for the capital city. Methodism in Tallahassee started out with circuit riders from the South Carolina Conference. “The first assembly, noted as a Society, was on the last Sunday in September 1824. The meeting was said to have been “in the home of a Mr. Myers and the group consisted of 6 whites and 4 negroes.” (Dunkle, William F. QCM November 28, 1934). In 1825, the first church building was constructed on the SW corner of W. Park Avenue and Bronough, described as “a small wooden building, not ceiled or plastered, and with no glass in the windows, which were closed by wooden shutters. The building had a gallery for the Negroes.” (“Fifty-Two Years in Florida”, John C. Ley). To our knowledge, there is no photograph or drawing of this structure, so the image on the banner is a rendering of a cabin. Then, in 1840, the first church was built on the present location, the NE corner of W. Park Ave. and Duval



**The Bicentennial Banner was first processed on Sunday,**  
January 14, 2024.

Street. Eventually, in 1893, another church was built on the same location, and at about this time does our history find the name of our congregation as Trinity Methodist Church. In 1964 was the dedication of the present sanctuary and the Glenn Memorial Chapel.

The Bicentennial banner depicts a circuit rider starting out on the road to build a substantial congregation of Methodism in Tallahassee. The road progresses on to the 1825 cabin, then to the 1840 church, to the 1893 church and finally to the 1964 church and chapel buildings. These buildings represent the evolution of both the congregation and the church involvement in the community. The road beyond the 1964 structure is open and widening to incorporate progress of the past 60 years and the anticipated growth of the church’s influence in Tallahassee and beyond in years to come.

The members of the committee other than myself were: Lynn McLarty, Planning Chair of the Bicentennial and master banner standard maker; Barbara Ware, member of Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry and chief seamstress and technician; Barbara’s sister Gail Hill, expert letter maker; Doris Mathis, designer, and gluer; Susan Mick, chief cheerleader and encourager.

Very special contributors to this project were Patsy Scott and her son Dan, members of Trinity and proprietors of Tallahassee Decorative Fabrics, who not only guided us in selection of fabrics, but also generously donated the fabrics, and Margaret M. Cooke, AIA, architect daughter of Lynn and Miriam McLarty living in Tampa who produced the renditions of the buildings for reproduction on the banner.

# Holy Week and Easter

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

**No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. God sacrificed God's self for the redemption of the world and offers that all can be made new. Trinity will walk the final steps of Jesus and his companions during Holy Week. All are welcome to be a part of this journey of Holy Week services and opportunities for reflection.**



## Maundy Thursday | March 28

### 6:30 PM | Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the great Easter celebration. The word “Maundy” is said to be derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, the first word of the Latin phrase, “*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*” (“A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you”). Jesus uses this statement in John’s gospel to explain the significance of washing the disciples’ feet. Maundy Thursday is also the night that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper with the words, “Do this in remembrance of me.” As a way to remember that night, all the worship articles and adornments are removed from the altar. This removal symbolizes both the suspension of Holy Communion, which is not celebrated on Good Friday, and the abandonment and humiliation of Jesus Christ.

## Good Friday | March 29

### 12:00 Noon | Sanctuary

Good Friday is the day Christians recall the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross. Although Good Friday is one of the saddest days of the Christian year, many church traditions have continued to call it “good,” believing that Christ’s suffering and death were not in vain, but served to liberate humanity from sin and death. Scripture tells us that Christ died at the “sixth hour,” or at noon. On Good Friday, remember with deep sorrow the suffering and death of an innocent man who is revealed to be the Son of God.

Our Traditional Music Ministry will present the “Stabat Mater,” a thirteenth century hymn that portrays the suffering of the Virgin Mary as she experienced the crucifixion of her son. This moving and emotional piece is arranged by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and includes various readings for reflection throughout.

### 6:00 PM | Contemporary Service

A contemporary service will be held in Moor Hall with music and reflective readings to commemorate the sundown of Good Friday. Our contemporary worship team will provide a meaningful experience to connect with the abandonment of Good Friday at the conclusion of the day.

## Easter Sunday | March 31

Contemporary Sunrise Service | 7:00 AM | Prayer Garden

Liturgical Service | 8:30 AM | Sanctuary

Contemporary Service | 9:45 AM | Moor Hall

Choral Liturgical Service | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

Easter Sunday is the principal feast of the liturgical year—the day Christians celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion.

The resurrection of Christ has been a focal point of Christian confession since the early church; it has always been understood to be the central witness of God’s radical action in human history.

Jesus, God incarnate, went to the depths of the earth and overcame the power of death so that we might have life eternal.



# Trinity History: Turbulent Times for Trinity

by Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee



Trinity UMC 1840 building (with 1875 bell insert)

In many ways Trinity thrived during the 1840s with its new building, stirring revivals, growing membership, fervent advocacy for temperance, and growing excitement surrounding Florida's impending statehood and the prospect of the state having its own conference. At the 1844 General Conference held in New York, a proposal to divide the Georgia Conference and establish a Florida Conference, which would include part of South Georgia, was approved and scheduled to take effect in 1845.

The primary topic at the 1844 General Conference, though, was a discussion of slavery. After lengthy debate, a Plan of Separation was agreed upon, and the Methodists became the first denomination to split over slavery. Southern and Southwestern churches gathered in Louisville the following year and formed the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This dispute that was roiling the nation was also an issue for Trinity, many of whose early leaders and members were slaveholders. Trinity became a member of the new denomination, and this affiliation lasted for 94 years until 1939 when it rejoined the Methodist Church.

According to census records, the number of Blacks in Tallahassee outnumbered Whites during the years prior to the Civil War. While there were a few free Blacks, the majority were enslaved. The Methodist Episcopal Church emphasized the importance of spreading the Gospel and saving the souls of enslaved people, and in 1824 it added this section to the Discipline: "All our preachers shall prudently enforce upon our members the necessity of teaching their slaves to read the word of God; and to allow them time to attend upon the public worship of God on our regular days of divine service." From the church's beginnings, enslaved people attended worship at Trinity, though they sat in a gallery, separate from the White parishioners. Sunday afternoon services allowed enslaved people to follow some of their traditional practices.

According to prominent Tallahassee educator John G. Riley, a member and trustee of St. James Colored Methodist Episcopal

(C.M.E.) Church, Trinity helped organize the church about 1845 "as a place of worship for slaves who believed and practiced the Methodist Doctrine; notably there were no other Christians among white churches in this community who made such provision for the moral and spiritual betterment of the slaves." In 1853, Trinity purchased two lots on the corner of Bronough and McCarty (Park) for its first mission church, which became St. James C.M.E. Church. In the years following the Civil War, Trinity helped to establish and oversee a day school to educate former slaves. It was later run by Lydia Smith, wife of James Smith, the first Black pastor of St. James. In 1869, Trinity deeded the two lots on McCarty (Park) and Bronough, including buildings, to the C.M.E. Church.

Few records exist about Trinity during the Civil War years. Reports indicate that at the end of the war, Tallahassee was desolate with empty stores and deteriorating buildings. Trinity's building was no exception, and it held services in the Capitol in 1867 while renovations were made to the church. At the end of the war, Trinity's membership had dwindled to 152 White members. Most Blacks in the South left parent White churches and established their own. In Tallahassee, this primarily affected Trinity since other churches had few Black members. Many of Trinity's Black members joined the C.M.E. Church or the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. One exception was Memory Adams, one of the few Blacks who had been part of Trinity prior to the Civil War, who continued to attend Trinity.

Just prior to the start of the war, Trinity had built a parsonage between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches facing Park Avenue, now the location of the Glenn James Chapel. The first pastor occupied it in 1860, and it was used as a parsonage until it was converted to Sunday School rooms and offices in 1936. Plans for adding a church bell predated the Civil War, but sufficient funds were not available at that time. In 1875, the women of the church raised funds to purchase a bell that cost \$170, weighed 1,000 pounds, and measured four feet across.

The tradition of holding an annual picnic for Sunday School students and their families continued during the Civil War and in its aftermath. During the post-war years, the church held several revivals that drew additional members. One of the largest took place in 1873 and lasted four weeks. That same year, Trinity sponsored a concert and lecture to support the church. In 1878 the church held a celebration of its centennial, giving members an opportunity to look back at the church's survival and all that it had accomplished.

For more information on St. James C.M.E. Church and Trinity's role in its early years, see the articles in the July and October 2018 and January 2019 issues of *Crossroads*. The January 2024 issue of *Crossroads* has Part I of an extensive article on the beginnings of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

# Trinity Welcomes Rev. Phil Roughton

by Palmer Williams, Member of the Bicentennial Planning Committee

To continue our Bicentennial Celebration, we welcome the Rev. Phil Roughton (retired) to our pulpit on March 10th.

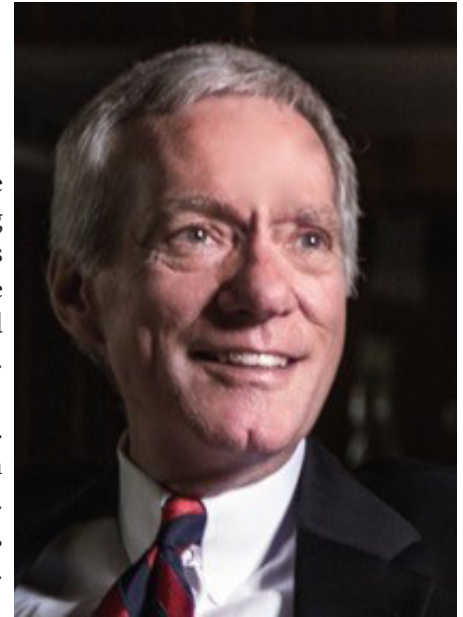
Phil was fresh out of Asbury Theological Seminary when he became our Associate Pastor in 1975. Phil recalls he was as “green” as he could’ve been and knowing virtually nothing about the daily work of being a pastor. He remembers, after getting his office set up, calling his wife, Mica, and saying, “Okay, so what do I do now?” Phil says he was unusually blessed to be mentored by Rev. Ed Norman and Rev. Gene Zimmerman. Ed taught me how to preach, and Gene lived and modeled the central tenet of Wesleyan theology and Christ’s church: GRACE.

At Trinity we learned that Phil was an accomplished musician on the guitar and as a singer. He was a Cast Member in UP with People’s international cast, and performed concerts in 48 states and six foreign countries. Phil served as our Associate Pastor from 1975-1980. His pastoral appointments followed at Boca Grande UMC (1980-1983); First UMC, Largo, FL (1983-1988); First UMC, Ormond Beach, FL (1988-2004) and Christ Church UMC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (2005-2013).

In a recent conversation with his older son, Keller - who was born in Tallahassee, and is now a principal with a commercial architectural firm in Boston - he said, “Dad, you’ve got a great job.” Phil responded, “Yes I do, but I’m guessing designing huge skyscrapers is pretty rewarding too.” “Yeah,” Keller said, “but you have a job that God uses to change people’s lives.”

Phil’s experience and leadership are extensive. He served as a Trustee at Bethune-Cookman University; Chaired Boards of Ordained Ministry and the Administrative Review Committee for the Florida Conference. He was President of the Florida Conference Institute of Preaching. At the Candler School of Theology he was a member of its Advisory Committee and a Fellow of the Marcy Fellowship. He was a Delegate at General and Jurisdictional Conferences for five years.

Phil was born in Ft. Pierce, FL in 1949. He is married to Mica (retired school teacher). They have two adult sons, Keller (Gina) and Collin (Diana), and four grandchildren: Jack, Ellie, Sam and Calder. Phil’s grandfather, father, brother and two uncles are/were United Methodist pastors. *After 44 years welcome back to Trinity, Phil and Mica!*



## Trinity Reflections

*Compiled by the Bicentennial Publicity Committee*

*“For us, Trinity is a place where we are equipped to be active participants in ministry. It is a blessing and a joy for us to be able to serve alongside so many faithful and gifted people from a diversity of generations.”*

*- Rachael and Daniel Diaz, Trinity Members*

*“In 1942 following Sunday School session at the FSCW Wesley Foundation, a bus would drive us to church at Trinity. After hearing Rev. Jack Anderson preach and learning about the way WWII service men were supported, Trinity became the church for me. In 1959, after living in other cities and supporting the churches there, my family moved back to Tallahassee, and it has been Trinity ever since.”*

*- Dot Binger, Trinity Member*



# Bicentennial Memorabilia: The Ornament

Our Trinity 200th Ornament was made by Beacon Design by Chemart. Founded in 1976 by a U.S. Veteran, Beacon Design is the leading ornament manufacturer in America. Renowned for producing ornaments of the finest etched detail and quality craftsmanship.

Our ornament was 100% designed for Trinity. Rex Adams provided the beautiful pictures of our windows and members of Mary-Martha Church Circle advised on the design. The ornament was tooled and manufactured, hand assembled, and packaged within the state-of-the-art facility located in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

- Etched from solid brass using a photo tooling process and finished in 24KT Gold
- 100% made in the U.S.A.

These Trinity 200th Ornaments will first be available for sale on March 10, 2024 in the Welcome Center following the 9:45 Contemporary Worship Service. Also on March 10, the ornaments will be sold following the 11:00 Worship Service in the conference Room during the Rev. Phil Roughton reception. The ornament will be sold for \$12 each: cash or check to Trinity United Methodist Church.



## Introducing Betsy Gingery!

Hello everyone, I am Betsy Gingery, Culinary Director of Trinity United Methodist Church! I am originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and yes, I am a diehard Eagles fan! I have lived in South Florida, Los Angeles, and Oregon but always came back to Tallahassee! I have one amazing daughter who lives in North Carolina with her husband who is in the Army.

I graduated Culinary School in 2001 with honors. I worked at Bella's restaurant in Havana and have been the Executive Chef in numerous assisted living communities here in Tallahassee. I served as the kitchen coordinator for Saint Paul's United Methodist Church for over 16 years, and have my own catering business, "Catering by Betsy".

A fun fact about me is I absolutely adore Snoopy and my dog, Kamper!

I am so excited to be here and can't wait to get to know all of you!



# Bicentennial Music Notes

by Yuliia Billa, Director of Music

**This month is very special for our church from the point of view of music events. We have two extremely unique and special performances. You don't want to miss it, as it's happening only once in the church's lifetime.**

## March 9 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary



Brian Mathias is one of three full-time organists for the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, where he performs regularly on the famed V/206 Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Salt Lake Tabernacle and the V/130 Schoenstein organ in the LDS Conference Center. In this capacity, he appears frequently on the Tabernacle Choir's \*Music and the Spoken Word\* radio and television broadcast. He was also a frequent recitalist for \*Piping Up!\*, a COVID-19 pandemic-inspired series of online organ recitals that originated on Temple Square and aired on YouTube weekly from 2020-2023.

Prior to his appointment as a Tabernacle Organist in 2018, Mr. Mathias served as an adjunct faculty member at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he taught applied organ and carillon as well as undergraduate and graduate courses in organ literature, service playing, and accompanying. Previously, he held positions at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition to his frequent performances on Temple Square, he has performed solo recitals in many venues across the United States, including the Cathedral of the Madeleine (Salt Lake City, Utah), Washington National Cathedral (Washington, D.C.), BYU-Idaho (Rexburg, Idaho), and Texas A&M International University (Laredo, Texas).

Mr. Mathias holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah) and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas). He and his wife, Alicia, have two daughters.

## March 17 | Orchestra Sunday “Requiem” by Gabriel Fauré

Fauré's Requiem is unique. The anguish, loss, and horrors of Death and Judgement Day are left by the wayside. Fauré concentrates on the true meaning of the word “Requiem” or “rest.” His Requiem is about peaceful acceptance and release, and the music is serene, elevating, and comforting.

## March 29 | 12:00 PM | Sanctuary | Good Friday “Stabat Mater” by G. Pergolesi

The Stabat Mater is a 13th-century Christian hymn to Mary that portrays her suffering as Jesus Christ's mother during his crucifixion. “Stabat Mater” is a Shakespearean sonnet and is associated with love poetry, the love of a mother to her son. Giovanni Battista Pergolesi composed Stabat Mater in 1736, in the final weeks of his life. It has twelve movements for soprano and alto soloists, violin I and II, viola and basso continuo. On Good Friday, it will be performed by Yuliia Billa singing soprano, Liza McDaniel Foltz alto, and Viktor Billa on the organ.



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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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Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*  
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*  
Viktor Billa, *Organist*  
Yuliia Billa, *Director of Music*  
Zachary Cramer, *Technical Director*  
Candace Duclos, *Director of Christian Education*  
Sarah Duclos, *Sexton*  
Stacey Duggar, *Preschool Director*  
Betsy Gingery, *Financial Assistant and Culinary Director*

Sofia Fernandez, *Director of Contemporary Worship*  
Irene Gonzalez, *Director of Youth Ministries*  
Melanie Gonzalez, *Church Operations Administrator*  
Patti Groh, *Sexton*  
Brett Ingram, *Facility Director*  
Charlotte Mathews, *Sexton*  
Alexis McEntire, *Children's Ministries Assistant*  
Katelin McLeod, *Sexton*

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## TIDINGS TEAM

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[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

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- Listen on [Spotify](#) Trinity United Methodist Church Tallahassee