

Tidings



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

A Pocketful of Prayers

by Amy M. Jones, Bicentennial Publicity Committee Member

Remember the joy you felt when you discovered, on Christmas morning, that Santa had gotten you exactly what you wanted most. Or the comfort you felt when you were sick and snuggled under the cover your grandmother made for you. Recall that peaceful feeling of satisfaction at the end of a very productive day or the love you felt from a good friend's hug. These feelings are some of God's many blessings. Did you ever imagine that all those feelings and more could be sewn into a small piece of fabric that you could carry in your pocket? Well, the members of the Trinity United Methodist Church Prayers and Squares did with the pocket prayer quilt.

The Trinity United Methodist Church Prayers and Squares is part of an international and interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Their purpose is to promote prayer through the use of knotted quilts where each knot represents a prayer offered for a person who has asked for prayers. When given to someone who requested prayer, the finished quilt is a quiet witness to the power of prayer, a true comforter. The motto of Prayers and Squares is "It's not about the quilts; it's about the prayers." The members of Trinity's Chapter 351, formed around 2005, believe strongly in the motto and their service to others through prayer. The members make the colorful quilts at home and feel God's presence as they work. Trinity's chapter doesn't know or care how many quilts they've made and given free of charge, but it is in the hundreds. For them, it isn't about the number of quilts but the prayers and God's power to comfort, strengthen and heal each quilt generates.

As Trinity's bicentennial approached the Prayers and Squares Chapter members thought about how they could contribute. The pocket prayer quilt seemed like the

In This Issue

A Pocketful of Prayers.....	1-2
Trinity Welcomes Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller	2
Capital Area Justice Ministry's Big Night.....	3
Accessibility Build Ministry: Helping Those in Our Community Facing Limited Accessibility	4-5
Trinity in the Early 20th Century ..	6-7
60 Years in our Sanctuary	7
The Preschool 50th Anniversary Celebration in Pictures!.....	8-9
Time to Celebrate!	10
Andrew Unsworth.....	11
Trinity Reflections	11

perfect extension of the chapter's prayer ministry. With the help of the internet, patterns were found. Each pocket prayer quilt is approximately 2" x 2" with a small cross stitched on the front. With the "new and improved" version using pinking shears, each pocket prayer quilt takes about 15-20 minutes to make. The pocket prayer quilts are often made using materials left over from prayer quilts making the members good stewards of the resources God bestowed on them. The pocket prayer quilt can be hand washed or machine washed if it inadvertently gets left in a pocket. The chapter members have made hundreds of the pocket prayer quilts and plan to continue making them after the bicentennial is over.

Pocket prayer quilts will be distributed to those who haven't yet received one at the 9:45 and 11:00 services on May 12. Slipped into your pocket, the pocket prayer quilt is a symbol of God's work at Trinity for the last 200 hundred years. As you touch it in your pocket or hold it in your hand, feel God's comfort, joy, peace, love and grace in each stitch made by grateful hands.

Trinity Welcomes Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller

by Sally Huggins, Member of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

To continue our Bicentennial Celebration we welcome the Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller to our pulpit on Sunday, May 12th, at the 9:45AM and 11AM services. (There will be no 8:30AM service that day.)

In 1988, Dr. David Hortin and Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller were appointed to Trinity. The date of their appointment is important to me for two reasons. First, not quite six months after they arrived in Tallahassee, my mother died. Dr. Hortin and Rev. Fogle-Miller conducted a funeral service that was truly a celebration of her life. It was a service that helped to lift my family out of the depths of grief. The second reason is a much happier one – about a year later, my dad found love again when he married my stepmother, who was a member at Saint Paul's UMC. Rev. Fogle-Miller and her husband, Rev. Jim Fogle-Miller, Saint Paul's associate pastor at the time, officiated at my dad's and stepmom's wedding. It was a joyous celebration, the joining of two families who had each suffered unique forms of loss, and we always remember the Fogle-Millers' part in such a happy time.

As part of Trinity's year-long Bicentennial celebration, we are delighted to welcome back Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller to the pulpit. Beth is a retired elder in the Florida Annual Conference. Married to Rev. Dr. Jim Fogle-Miller, who is also clergy, they have one adult daughter, Carlene. After graduating from

Candler School of Theology, Beth was appointed to a variety of churches, both rural and suburban, in every role from solo to associate to senior pastor. She and Jim also served several times as co-pastors, pioneering that model in the Florida Conference in 1991. Her final appointment was at Memorial UMC in Fernandina Beach, from which she retired in 2018 after more than 34 years in active ministry.



Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller

Beth says that serving at Trinity was formative for her in many ways. In her years serving with Dr. Hortin, he taught her much about the overall role of pastoral leadership as well as many practical aspects to church administration. He modeled for her "...how to live a life that includes, but is not consumed by, pastoral ministry." Daughter Carlene was born in Tallahassee and is named for Charlene Kammerer, former District Superintendent and retired Bishop, and also for Dr. Myron Carl Munday, Trinity's former organist. Beth says that Trinity's loving support of Myron until his death was a good example of how to be a loving church family. She says the way Trinity is always eager about its future, rather than anxious about it, is perhaps because a church with a 200-year history has learned to

trust God in changing times over many generations.

We welcome you back to Trinity, Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller!



Capital Area Justice Ministry's Big Night

by Rev. Bob Gibbs, retired clergy and Trinity Network Member for Nehemiah Action

On the evening of April 16, Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) held its 3rd annual Nehemiah Action at the Old West Florida Enrichment Center in Tallahassee. This event, supported by 20 local congregations and faith groups in the area, is patterned after the biblical account of the prophet Nehemiah gathering the people to publicly confront the leaders of Israel who were not fulfilling their responsibilities to lead and care for the people. CAJM brings people together in house meetings, researches local issues, meets with local officials individually, all in preparation for a Nehemiah Action at which we ask our officials to answer particular questions that relate to helping solve these issues in front of a large group of their constituents. This year we again are addressing the problems of gun violence in our community and the lack of affordable rental housing for the lowest income folks in our area.

On Tuesday night nearly 800 community members gathered in person and virtually to hear how our officials would respond to our concerns and to specific positive steps toward remedying these two problem areas. On the issue of gun violence interruption, the group heard from Royle King, Director of the Council on Men and Boys, who told of their program that includes inter-agency cooperation and assistance from the Criminal Justice Department at FSU. When asked, he committed to reducing the number of gun related deaths in our community by at least 10%. Then City Commissioner Curtis Richardson was brought before the group and asked if he would bring a proposal before the City Council to ensure funding for this program. The ask was for \$1 million a year for 5 years. Com. Richardson said that he would support the funding if Director King would request the funds from the city commission.

The spotlight then turned to affordable housing. Because CAJM felt the need to include both city and county commissions in approaching the need for low cost rental housing, all members of both commissions were invited to attend. Unfortunately, some chose, even at the last minute, not to attend. Absent on Tuesday evening were Mayor Dailey, City Commissioner Diane Williams-Cox, and County Commissioners Cummings, Caban, Maddox and Welch. In the interest of time we did not question all of the commissioners present. The decision was made to bring City Commissioner Richardson and County Commissioner Procter on stage to answer three questions on housing. The other commissioners were given the opportunity to stand to indicate a "yes" answer to the questions. Question number one asked if they would support establishing a very low income affordable rental housing land purchase and leaseback program. This would give the incentives necessary for developers to include low cost rentals in their developments. A program such as this has been successful in Pinellas County and been in effect for 9 years. Com. Richardson in effect said "no," until he could learn more about the Pinellas model. Com. Procter and all the other commissioners said "yes." That brought great cheers from the crowd. The second question asked if they would support amending the Blueprint Infra-structure Interlocal Agreement for a project on affordable rental housing. All said yes to this one. (On February 29 at the Blueprint Budget meeting they had all voted yes, as well.) The third question was asked in order to find more funding for affordable rental housing. The question was, if they would support using some of the money that the city and county receive from Blueprint for their infrastructure needs for affordable rental housing. Com. Richardson said "no" because he felt all of the money was already committed. Com. Minor could not say "yes" until he was sure that all other projects on the table were funded. All the other commissioners said "yes," another cause for cheering from the crowd.

The leaders of CAJM all felt that it was a successful night. Yes answers were received from most of the officials who attended and the door continues to be open for more positive action on alleviating gun violence and providing affordable rental housing in our community. The work of justice continues.

Accessibility Build Ministry: Helping Those in Our Community Facing Limited Accessibility

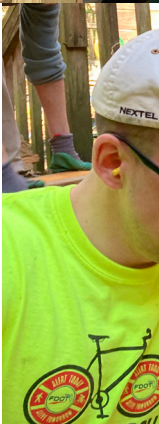
Accessibility Build Ministry completes another project in our community

January Update

On January 21, 2024, 15 of Trinity's Accessibility Build Ministry (ABM) volunteers gathered at the home of the Smith family in our community. The goal was to improve this family's quality of life by building safe access into and out of their home so that they could have the freedom to enjoy their home and surroundings. This Saturday project also provided an opportunity for volunteers that are not able to participate in our monthly third Thursday projects.

Our volunteers worked into the early afternoon to complete the project which consisted of three separate components. We started the day by removing deteriorated deck boards from an existing deck off the rear of the home which was unsafe for use by family members. Once the old boards were removed, the support structure underneath could be evaluated and "beefed up" to support the new deck boards. Our volunteers quickly went to work with hammers and nails to secure the new 14 ft long boards. The steps coming off of the deck also had to be rebuilt to allow family members safe access to their back yard.

At the front of the house, a new set of half steps with handrails was built off the existing landing to allow family members with diminishing accessibility, safe entry into and out of their home. Upon completion of the project, family members expressed their gratitude to Trinity United Methodist Church and its accessibility build volunteers who are living the call to be "the hands and feet" of Jesus.



Helping those in our community facing limited accessibility

February Update

Trinity's Accessibility Build Ministry (ABM) team has again gone out into our community and completed a project that will help a homeowner who is experiencing mobility challenges. This project included building a landing with a set of half steps that will enable the homeowner to use a walker and give him the freedom to enter and exit his home safely. Nine of our dedicated ABM team members showed up with smiling faces ready to measure, cut, sand, and assemble the pieces that produced the structure that you see in these pictures.



Living independently at 96 March Update

Last month's Accessibility Build Ministry (ABM) project was requested by the family of a 96-year-old Tallahassee resident. This resident wanted to stay in her home and continue living independently. Safe access in and out of her home were essential in this regard. The solution was to build a set of half steps off the side of her front porch. You may ask what half steps are. Simply put, the rise on a half step (4") is half the rise of a standard step (8"). This helps persons with limited leg and joint strength to navigate the steps with much less effort and minimize the chance of a trip or fall. Half steps also have deeper and wider step platforms which enable persons using walkers or rollators safer access in and out of their homes.

Join the team!

If you know someone seeking greater independence or safer accessibility, please contact Ray Diaz at raydhhs@msn.com. You can become a part of this ministry by joining Trinity's ABM volunteer team and helping us to build half steps and wheelchair ramps for people in our community. No experience is necessary to join the team, only a willing heart for helping others. You can also support this ministry by making a donation using Trinity's online giving and clicking on the Accessibility Build Fund MN-ABM.



Trinity in the Early 20th Century

By Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

The opening of Trinity's third building in 1893 led to a time of active growth for the church. Church membership increased from 247 in 1890 to over 1,000 by 1930 and exceeded 2,000 by 1943, due in part to revivals and an emphasis on evangelism. An Epworth League for young people was established in 1896 and continued to attract new members for several decades. The League was divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Leagues that met on Sunday afternoons for programs and social activities and engaged in service projects during the week. To accommodate the growing League and Sunday School, an addition to the church building was completed in 1910. In the early 1840s the church was rearranged internally to allow for more congregational seating. Partitions that had allowed for Sunday School rooms to be in the back of the church were removed, and Sunday School classes were moved to the old parsonage next door. These accommodations were used until Trinity Hall, the church's education building, was completed in 1949.

National social and political events impacted Trinity during the first half of the twentieth century. As the U.S. entered World War I, the Senior League felt the loss of young men who left to join the army, and the Sunday School raised funds to support the war effort. When the flu epidemic struck in 1918, churches in Tallahassee were closed for short periods of time, and Trinity's pastor reported disorganization throughout the church. Quarterly Council minutes from the 1930s indicate that the church and parsonage needed repairs, but otherwise Trinity seems to have been spared from major repercussions of the Great Depression.

After the U.S. entered World War II, Trinity welcomed servicemen who were training at Dale Mabry Field and Camp Gordon Johnston in Franklin and southern Wakulla counties. Some servicemen from these bases and others in the geographical area attended services at Trinity, and church members sometimes hosted them for Sunday dinners. It became a custom to take a group picture of the soldiers in front of the church, which was sent to their families back home. Trinity newsletters

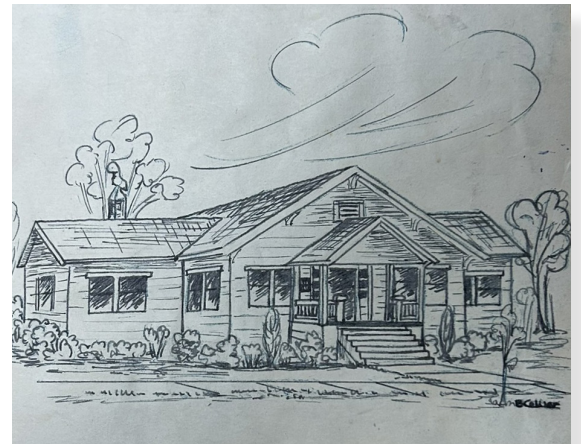


Group photo of WWII servicemen following a service at Trinity. The 1893 church and the old parsonage are in the background.

and bulletins were sent to service members stationed overseas and stateside, and judging from the letters they sent back, this communication was much appreciated. Nine members of Trinity lost their lives in the Second World War. Trinity member Vincent Parramore recounted that "A service flag hung from the organ pipes over the altar. When a Trinity member was killed in action, a gold star replaced one of the blue stars placed on the flag for each member in service to his country." The names of those who lost their lives are inscribed on a memorial plaque in the Yates Heritage Center.

As Tallahassee grew, Trinity started two mission churches in 1908. One was just east of the city limit in Tallahassee's first subdivision Magnolia Heights. The other was on the corner of St. Augustine and Boulevard Streets. Trinity member John Humphress donated land for the Magnolia Heights Mission, and construction was completed in 1909. A tornado destroyed the church three years later, and the land was sold back to the Humphress family. The Boulevard Methodist Church was built where the Civic Center is now located. By 1914, though, Trinity's pastor, Rev. T. J. Nixon, encouraged Boulevard members to move their membership back to Trinity because "only one Methodist church was needed in Tallahassee." The building was rented for several

years and eventually sold in 1920 to Pilgrim Congregational Church attended by many FAMU professors.



Drawing of the Methodist Student House adjacent to the campus of the Florida State College for Women. This is the predecessor of the FSU Wesley Foundation.

While these mission churches that Trinity helped start only survived for a short time, the church went on to found most of the Methodist churches in Tallahassee. Trinity was instrumental in building a home with spaces for worship and recreation for the Methodist Student Union (now Wesley Foundation) adjoining the campus of Florida State College for Women in 1927. Just over a decade later, Trinity sponsored the Southside Methodist Church, which went through several name changes and is now known as New Life United Methodist Church. In 1947, Trinity

sponsored the organization of Tallahassee Heights Methodist Church and five years later St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Other memorable events that took place during these years included the centennial celebration for Tallahassee and Trinity in 1924. The 1939 union of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Conference of the St. Johns River Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Florida Mission Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church formed the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church. It was at this time that the word South was dropped from the name of the church. In 1944 the Florida Conference met at Trinity to celebrate its founding at Trinity 100 years earlier in 1845. For more extensive information on the Epworth League, see the October 2022, January 2023, and April 2023 issues of Crossroads.



60 Years in our Sanctuary

By Gloria Colvin, Chair of the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

May 3, 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the first service held in Trinity's current sanctuary. It was built on the same site as two of Trinity's previous churches. The 1893 church was used for almost 70 years and had been renovated several times. By 1960, it was clear that the building was deteriorating structurally, and committees were appointed to begin planning and raising funds for a new building. Payne H. Midyette chaired the Building Committee, which engaged A. Hensel Fink of Philadelphia, a well-known church architect, to develop plans for the building.

Dr. Glenn James, pastor at the time, agreed to remain until the new church was completed, but he died suddenly in February 1962. Dr. H. Melton Ware was appointed to serve as the next senior pastor, and he continued to see the project through to fruition. Albritton-Williams was hired as the contractor for the project, which included the sanctuary, fellowship hall, four classrooms, parlor, offices, and chapel. The Willet Studio of Philadelphia designed, fabricated, and installed the gilded stained-glass windows in the sanctuary.

The last service in the 1893 church was held in July 1962.

During construction of the new church, services were held at Opperman Music Hall on the Florida State University campus. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on May 3, 1964 with Bishop Arthur J. Moore delivering the sermon and consecrating the church. The chapel to the right front of the church was named the Glenn C. James Chapel in memory of the pastor who had led the initial planning for the new church.



Payne Midyette, Chair of the Building Committee, at the laying of the cornerstone in February 1964.



The cornerstone is located on the front of the church.

Photo above: Signing of the contract for the construction of the church.

The Preschool 50th Anniversary Celebration in Pictures!



Legacy walk dedication



Rev. Matthew Williams & Stacey Duggar, Director of Trinity United Methodist Preschool



Group shot



Group shot



Group shot



Candace Duclos with former students Polina and Lydia McLane



Sarah Godwin and Lynn McLarty (Lynn was a preschool parent and served on the Advisory Board)



Kathy Trapp, Sarah Godwin, Carol McDaniel (some of our early teachers!)



Four friends



Group shot



Memorabilia table



Staff through the years



Pam Rosenberg, Victoria Tettey, Carol McDanie



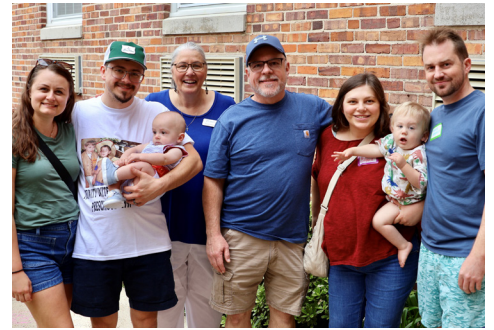
Victoria Tettey and preschool students



Some of the current preschool staff and Brett Ingram - party set-up!



McClure family



Stacey Duggar and family



Candace Duclos (former TUMP teacher and parent and now current Director of Christian Education at TUMC), Lisa Hight (TUMP teacher), and RuthAnn High (preschool parent and church member)



Mary Forrester (former TUMP teacher), Victoria Tettey (the longest employed TUMP staff ever!) and Jennifer Hopgood (current TUMP teacher)



The Mitchells and the Rosenbergs - (both men are UMC retired pastors)



Time to Celebrate!

By John Harris, Chair of the Bicentennial Campaign Committee

In April 2017, the Trinity Steeple Committee, led by Sam Rogers, Sr., was established to raise funds to repair our church steeple. With support from many Trinity members, all funds needed for the repair were received within six months. It was a surprising and exciting accomplishment!

Recognizing there were many other long-needed Capital improvements at Trinity, and after experiencing the success of the steeple campaign, a new committee was formed, the Capital Campaign Committee. Their task was to fundraise to complete needed capital improvements in time for the 200th Anniversary in September 2024.

The Committee began its work in November 2017, asking Trinity's staff to submit a list of capital needs for the Trinity campus. Once the list of needs was compiled and costs were estimated, the challenge was accepted. The Capital Campaign Committee began its work. In addition to pastors and staff, the dedicated members agreeing to take on the challenge were John Harris, chair, Susan Thomas, Benson Green, Sam Rogers, Paula Smith, Lawton Langford, Beth Langford, Richard Wise, Russ Morcom, Bill Gunter, Chris Kraft, Beverly Burleson, Harry Hanson, Chip Huggins, Eddie Long, Amber Pendleton, Brian Smith, Glen McDuffie, and Marti Chumbler.

In honor of Trinity's 200 years of faithful service to our community, in September of 2023, the Church Council voted to

reserve 10% of all funds raised during the formal campaign be allocated to a special community project to be determined by the Missions Committee.

The Capital Campaign Committee set an ambitious goal to raise \$1.2 million to fully fund all the projects approved by the Board of Trustees. Today, praise God, all the needed capital improvements are in progress or have been completed. The members of Trinity supported these improvements with pledges and gifts. As of March 8, 2024, we have accomplished the goal and look forward to finalizing the financial challenge with \$1.6 million in continuing pledges or gifts expected in 2024.

With your generous participation, this list of projects will be completed for our 2024 Anniversary:

1. Entire exterior of Trinity UMC repaired and painted.
2. Installation of new chiller for the HVAC system.
3. Entire sanctuary repaired and painted, including the windows and window shutters.
4. The Chapel has been repaired and completely repainted.
5. The carpeting and flooring in the sanctuary and chapel have been replaced.
6. All pews in the sanctuary and chapel have been refurbished.
7. The pews in the sanctuary have been redesigned to accommodate walkers and wheelchairs.
8. The carpeting on the first and second floor have been replaced.
9. The kitchen is in the process of being redesigned and remodeled, with new paint, stainless steel cabinets and surfaces, fixtures, and new appliances. This work is scheduled to begin later this month (May 2024).
10. The Memorial Garden has been greatly enhanced with the addition of a pergola, fans, landscaping, new fountain, and sound system.
11. A new wrought iron fence has been installed in the courtyard adjacent to the education building for additional security.
12. New wiring has been installed for dependable WIFI service.
13. New LED lighting throughout entire building.
14. Upgrade to camera and fob systems.
15. A permanent outside commemorative plaque of 10 + 2 Commandments message for foot traffic walking by Trinity will be installed. Completion date to be determined.
16. Approximately \$13,000 has been set aside to be dedicated to a special community project, pending the recommendation of the Missions Committee.

The Capital Campaign Committee has now completed its work. All capital improvements approved by the Board have been fully funded, in addition to a wonderful slate of activities occurring throughout our 200th celebration. Also, a special project, to be determined, will take place in the community. Trinity's 200th Anniversary is well celebrated! Thank you, Trinity members, for your continued love and faithful contributions as we head into our next 200 years!

Tabernacle Organist

Saturday
May 11, 6 pm

Andrew Unsworth

Trinity United Methodist Church
120 W Park Ave

Trinity Reflections

Compiled by the Bicentennial Publicity Committee

“I love that everyone at Trinity is welcoming and welcomed. There’s never been a moment where I didn’t know how much God and Trinity love me.”

—Sarah Duclos, High School Senior

“Coming from a small rural church to a large church in the center of Tallahassee, I was pleasantly surprised to find a similar love for community and service among the members here. Love and opportunities abound at Trinity, and the worship experience is enhanced greatly by the many music ministries.”

— Stewart Fleming, Trinity member



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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

Laurie Atteberry, *Business Administrator*
Ben Armstead, *Sexton*
Dori Barton, *Financial Assistant*
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, *Culinary Coordinator*
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*

TIDINGS TEAM

[Melanie Gonzalez](#), *Editor*

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