



Worship

Grow

Serve

Monthly  
**Tidings**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

Volume 48, Number 1, January, 2021

*Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.*

## The Missing Kings

*Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt  
Lead Pastor*

***As we prepare to celebrate Epiphany on January 6, I wanted to share a true Epiphany Story that happened a number of years ago...***

Most people know that United Methodist pastors move. When I was a child, I can remember our pastors moved every four years — just like clockwork. We loved getting to know all of our pastors. It was exciting when they came and sad when they moved. Until I became a pastor myself, I didn't understand how much work went into moving; the emotional work of letting go and the physical energy of packing everything you would take with you.

When we moved from Southside UMC in Jacksonville, Florida, after almost eleven years of ministry, we had a house full of furniture and had collected way too many things. As good-bye parties increased and my free time decreased, we needed help to get everything packed up for the moving van.

The moving deadline drew closer and closer, and we began to panic and got several people to help us pack framed paintings, photographs,

mirrors, books, vases and all sorts of things we had accumulated over the years. Instead of being organized, it was more of a mad-dash to the finish line.

Everything made it into the truck, except live plants and my propane gas tank. The moving truck was barely able to close its door and off we went to Orlando having no time to inventory our belongings.

We unpacked in Orlando and the months went by. Christmas arrived on schedule but most of our Christmas decorations were still in boxes in the garage. As we began to unpack them and decorate for our first Christmas party, I realized a certain item could not be found.

One particular decoration we loved was a brass rendering of the three wise men. Ramona's aunt and uncle had given it to us and we always enjoyed having the Magi standing near the doorway. We enjoyed celebrating Epiphany after the busyness of December.

For seven years we searched for the missing kings and wondered where they might have gone. No matter how many Christmas boxes we looked in, the Magi were not there. I truly did miss them.

After those seven years I was appointed to serve on the extended cabinet and we began to prepare for our move to Lakeland. It was the first time in 25 years that we were moving as empty nesters. We held an estate sale and sold about two-thirds of our belongings. Being efficient, we successfully downsized.

We lived in two more houses before we landed on the one that felt like home. That home had a beautiful fireplace. We thought that the fireplace needed a mirror hanging over the hearth and I remembered we had one packed away in a box in the closet that had never been opened in nine years. When I began to remove the brown paper wrapping, guess who appeared taped to the back of the mirror but the missing kings!

We cheered! We celebrated! After nearly a decade, our kings had found their way home! (They were actually there all along, just hiding.) It was a great celebration in our new home, especially for Epiphany. The Kings found their way to our front door to welcome all our Christmas and Epiphany visitors.

***“Field and Fountain, Moor and Mountain. Following Yonder Star!”***

This Epiphany has been an exciting time to view the Bethlehem Star shining brightly since its last appearance some 800 years ago! My

hope is that this has been a reminder to all of us of God’s faithfulness and sovereignty. A Reminder to us all of the power of God’s creation. I am reminded of Psalm 8, “O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.” May you follow his star into this new year with Hope and Perseverance as we make our way into the Light of a New Year!

***Happy 2021!***



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## January 2021 is National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

*Robin Hassler Thompson*  
*Executive Director of the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center*

Did you know that sex and labor trafficking happen right here in North Florida — not just in big cities? Did you know that youth are more vulnerable to human trafficking online, and that this has gotten worse since the pandemic began? Did you know that the private sector: businesses, hotels, restaurants, healthcare and more all have a role to play in ending human trafficking and, do you want to know more?

January 2021 marks National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and there are many events you can attend to learn about these issues and more. For example, the Rotary Club of Tallahassee and the International Rescue Committee will both feature programs on human trafficking of youth an important topic, especially during this time of COVID-19. Why? Because although staying home is the best way to keep everyone safe, isolation increases vulnerability.

Children may not be attending school, where teachers can observe them, and report suspected abuse or trafficking. Also, many people, especially low-wage earners such as dishwashers, housekeepers, agricultural workers and day laborers, are losing jobs or are being exploited and forced to work in unsafe conditions. The need for all of us to be aware of how to spot both sex and labor trafficking and work together to support survivors and those who are at risk of being trafficked due to economic insecurity is only going to increase in the months ahead.

Both WFSU’s “Perspectives” call in radio show and a program on “Human Trafficking and the Law: Looking Through a Wider Lens” feature former Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Martinez who will discuss how both the criminal and civil sides of the justice system can be mobilized to bring justice to survivors and hold traffickers accountable for

their crimes. She and others from FSU College of Law will also discuss how the private sector can act to make sure that supply chains do not include goods and services produced by enslaved people. We will also learn more about what the hospitality industry must do to recognize and report trafficking and how we can work and learn from Georgia’s anti-trafficking efforts.

All of these programs are brought to you free and online from Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC), the Big Bend Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and we hope you will join us! For more information, visit [SurviveandThriveAdvocacy.org](https://SurviveandThriveAdvocacy.org) or call 850-597-2080.



## A Note from Lisa ...

Lisa Prasse  
Youth Director

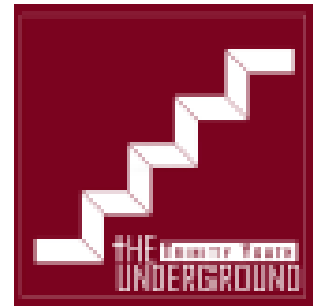
As we kick off another New Year down here in the Underground, I first want to thank everyone who helped us during the month of December. This December was a very different month for our youth. Even so, our youth have worked hard to raise funds that will go toward their mission trips this summer and are off to a great start! The youth and I would like to personally thank everyone who helped out with our Christmas tree fundraiser and for everyone who was still able to support us even during Covid. We say it every year, but we literally couldn't do the things we do without you, our church family!!! So THANK YOU! Now we covet your prayers that we will be able to go and do this summer as we have in years past and that we will not be restricted by the Covid virus or any other. We are moving forward in faithfulness, trusting that the Lord goes before us, knows our needs and that we can do the things we need to safely to continue the hands and feet work our youth group has come to be known for doing.

Our confirmation class studied the liturgical calendar and how Advent and Christmas work into that this past month. We are still holding our "Sunday" school classes via ZOOM on Wednesdays and a few weeks ago delivered a purple goody bag to each confirmand with all the fixins for each youth to make their very own little

Advent wreath, while we discussed the meaning of each candle and what it symbolizes. I love learning with these kids.

The Underground is preparing to resume activities this month. Be on the lookout for information regarding exactly when and how. We will continue our Wednesday night Youth Bible Study via ZOOM for now, but we will host UMYF beginning two Sunday nights a month. We will take all the necessary precautions to stay as safe as possible, so things might look a little different, but at the very least, we will be together a bit more frequently. Again, we continue to pray over this vaccine and the complete eradication of Covid. Meantime, I can't wait to be with my youth again.

*Happy New Year and welcome 2021!!*



**Mark your calendars:**

**January 13**

**Youth Bible Study resumes**

**January 17**

**UMYF in the Underground!**

**Check out the youth website  
for more information:**

**[http://www.tumct.org/connect/  
community/youth/](http://www.tumct.org/connect/community/youth/)**





# BFC Updates

Beth Curry

## Looking for Some New Year Exercise? Come ZOOM with us!

Did you make a resolution to get some exercise in 2021 but don't want to chance the gym yet due to the pandemic? Come join the BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Series Exercise program. Classes have been taught via ZOOM since March 2020 and are going strong! Zooming will continue through at least the end of March 2021. You'll find fun, fellowship and get fit too in class!

Pick from any of these terrific options:

### Staying Strong (9:30-10:30 am – Tues) – Beth Curry

- An easy basic exercise class using a seated or standing format. Great for beginners or those just resuming exercise.

### Variety Mix (11:00 – noon -Tues & Thurs) – Beth Curry or Amy Leach

- A full body workout including cardio, strength and flexibility using a variety of equipment. May include floor work. Intermediate to Advanced.

### Flexibility for a Better You – NEW!! (Thurs 12:30 pm) – Ruth Ann High

-A wonderful new class with a total body flexibility workout. Includes floor work.

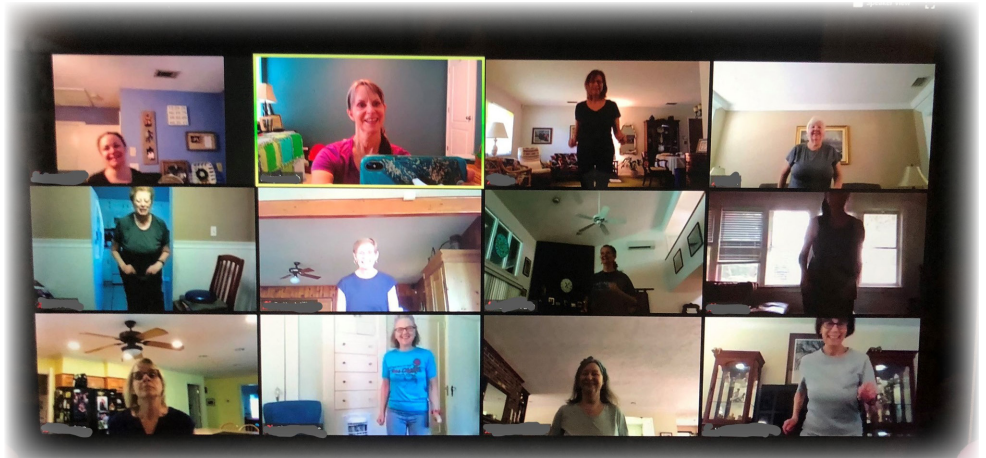
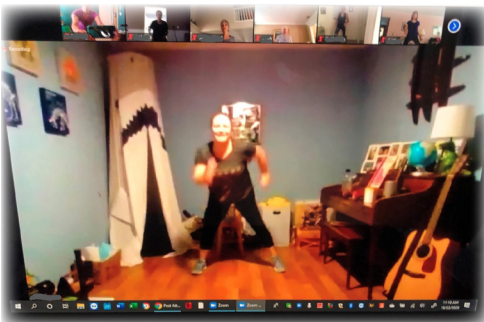
If you don't have exercise equipment at home — no worries! All classes may be taken using simple household items like water bottles, soup cans, paper plates, tennis balls, rolling pins and belts.

For more information or to register as a new class participant and receive an email with the Zoom links, please email [BFCSeries@yahoo.com](mailto:BFCSeries@yahoo.com). The members of the BFC Instructor Team volunteer their time so there is no charge, but a donation of your choice may be made to Trinity marked BFC Exercise if you wish. One hundred percent of all donations go to community service — locally and globally. Over \$60K has been raised since the BFC program started in fall 2008.

Most recently contributions have been made to CCYS, local teacher appreciation during COVID, and Welcome Baskets for the Kearney center.

The BFC Instructor Team looks forward to Zooming with YOU in 2021.

*Beth Curry, Jacqui Griffith, Ruth Ann High and Amy Leach.*





# A Special Thank You from the Kearney Center

Holly Bernardo  
Chief Development Officer, CESC

This holiday season has been extremely different for most of us and this is especially true of the clients and staff at the Kearney Center. Typically, the Kearney Center is full of volunteers making special holiday meals, leading holiday activities, and spreading Christmas cheer to our clients. As the pandemic continued, we realized we would be unable to have volunteers in our kitchen for the rest of the year. Churches also realized they would not be able to host our clients for any special Christmas events, including your church's annual community Christmas meal. Trinity saw the lack of services and asked how they could help provide a special Christmas meal for each of our 400 plus clients. Thanks to you and the funds you provided, we will serve a traditional holiday meal: ham, baked potatoes, honey glazed carrots, cinnamon apples, bread, and dessert. To top it all clients will receive homemade cookies lovingly baked and packaged by members of your congregation.

Your kindness and care this season punctuates a year of support for us, including helping us move people into homes of their own. When I think about the challenges of moving 400 plus clients out of emergency congregate shelter and giving them a safe non-congregate HOME, I don't know how we would have done this work without the support of our community partners like Trinity United Methodist Church. Your congregation has stood beside us to help us cross whatever hurdle we were facing next. Fairly early in the pandemic we learned that we would need to make major changes to the Kearney Center and can only safely move back 185 clients.

Quickly, we began accessing new CARES funding and working to find safe and affordable housing for our clients. Our case management team faced this monumental challenge and recognized our clients would need much more than just a roof over their heads. Our case management team put together a list of "Welcome Home" supplies they would like for clients to have as they moved to their first home since leaving homelessness. Trinity has lovingly wrapped its arms around some of the most vulnerable members in our community by providing sheets, towels, blankets, mops, dishes, and other essentials for having a home. Your gifts say we see you and believe you have value. We will help give you a fresh start.

I am so deeply grateful for Trinity's support. Knowing you believe in the work we are doing and care about the clients we are serving is a huge blessing. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus for the often overlooked and underserved in our community.





# Trinity Music Updates

Chris Titko  
Music Director

The choir room and music library will be back in use this month. Scriptures are being placed by Mike Corrigan and an interactive monitor is being set-up for talks with composers and disseminating information to the choir and groups that use the room.

Choirs begin Wednesday, January 13. Our Pan group ministry is having an organizational meeting January 17 at 6pm.

Chris Titko is also spending time with our preschool. Fun and educational music is the goal using boom whackers and rhythm instruments.

There's a place for you in the music ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church. Contact Chris Titko, Director of Music, if you are interested, email [ctitko@tumct.org](mailto:ctitko@tumct.org) or call 862-221-1432



## Christmas Eve Highlights





# Celebrate Altar Guild

*Mary Ann Moore*

The Altar Guild of Trinity United Methodist Church is a dedicated group of individuals who glorify and beautify the sanctuary weekly with fresh arrangements of flowers and greenery. The congregation is most fortunate to have the wide variety of talent that this 30 member committee lends to the life of the church.

The Guild is characterized by their generosity of spirit. Each week the members beautify the altar with floral arrangements. Many members have planted their own personal gardens with varieties of plants and flowers that can be used in arrangements. Joyfully, they share cuttings from their yards with other altar guild members when the need arises. Among the Guild members there is a real love of their work and they are more than willing to share their talent with others.

Altar Guild encourages all Trinity members who love working with flowers to participate in the life of this committee. We invite anyone who would like to participate to join us. Simply contact one of the 3 chairmen, listed at the end of this article, to indicate your interest. Workshops will be offered to help new members.

Each month, two members of the Guild work together. In some instances, one person works on the mechanics of the arrangements and the other on the design, or both design together. Ferns are placed in the urns for the first week of the month, Communion week. The following weeks, the team works together, creatively deciding what containers they will use from the storeroom/sacristy, designing with flowers/branches that are blooming

in Tallahassee. The Guild members carefully choose flowers that make a strong visual statement and are cost effective.

Two of the main responsibilities each year, Christmas and Easter, are the placement of memorial or honorary flower gifts in the sanctuary windows and Altar. Trinity members are encouraged to purchase , through the church office, poinsettias or lillies to enhance the decoration of the sanctuary during Advent and Lent. Without the purchase of these plants, the Altar Guild is limited in its ability to beautify the sanctuary.

Families and individuals often request altar flowers honoring or memorializing individuals,

celebrations, anniversaries, births or graduations. Requests for such altar arrangements can be made by calling the church office. The cost for this service, which consists of two large arrangements is \$100.00.

The Guild feels it is a privilege to glorify Trinity and God while beautifying the sanctuary. We are a wonderful corps of friends willing to provide time, talent, and most of all, love to and for our church. Won't you please join us?

## **Chairmen:**

*Dot Hayward (850) 933-9111*

*Cynthia Smith (850) 443-3292*

*Mary Ann Moore (850) 556-8520*



## Gifts to Trinity

*in  
Loving  
Memory  
-of-*

November 11 – December 10

In honor of Laurie Shiver from Gail Melton.

In memory of Janie Whitehead from Betty Kirby, Colin and Phyllis English, Mark Bishopric and Mary Hill Midyette, Aren and Ward Moncrief, Payne Midyette, and Northeast Georgia Health System Auxiliary.

In memory of Albert Ferkany for Grandma Millie's Dresses from Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Bill and Germain Fritchman, Jimmy and Diane Richerson, Karen Russell, Donie Ann Henderson, Duncan and Mary Ann Moore, Bill and Paula Smith, Larry and Earline Adkison, Bill and Sandy Kappes, Foy Winsor, Brooks and Almema Pettit, Dalton Allen, Joe and Gail McGlothlin, Bob and Beverly Burleson, Glen and Cindy McDuffie, Jenny and Marty Gottesman, Dick and Pat Winchester, Dot Binger, and Mart Hill.

In memory of Marianne Short from Donie Ann Henderson and Gary Landrum.



Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt, Senior Pastor  
Neal Avirett, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education  
Spencer Schrowang, Director of Communications

## A Note of Gratitude

On behalf of the Ferkany and Curry families we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our Trinity church family for the cards, emails, calls, meals, gifts, and contributions following the death of Millie's husband, and Beth Curry's Dad, Albert Ferkany in late November.

Millie moved to TN in December to live with other family members but continues her mission to sew as many dresses as she can for little girls in need.

Your kindness, care and concern have surely helped us though this difficult time. You have made us feel "We are loved!"