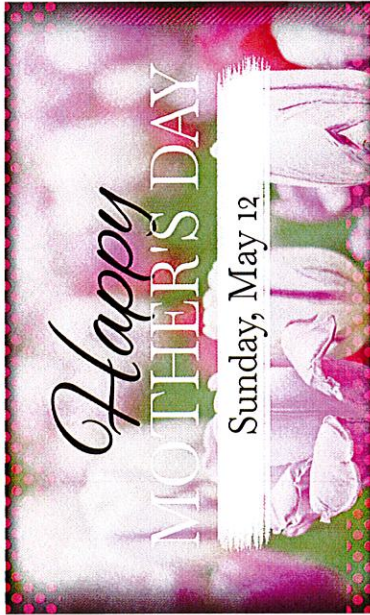


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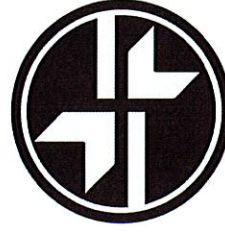
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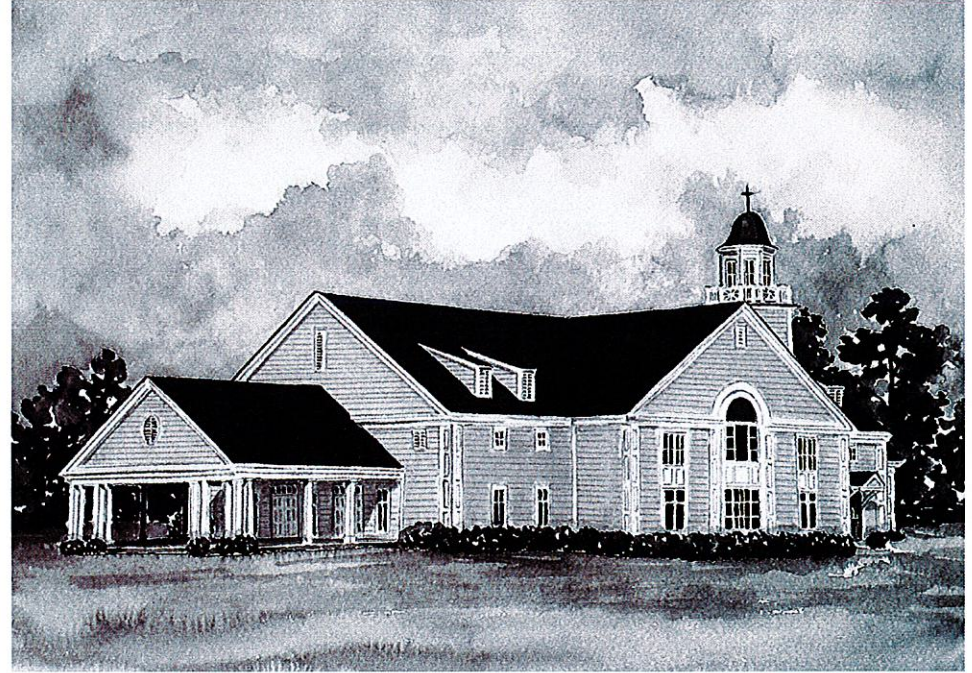
Next Newsletter deadline is May 20, 2024



**trinityepc**

gathering › making › going

May 2024



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Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
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# Pastor Matt Walton

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." (Acts 1:14)

What followed in chapter 2 was the coming of the Holy Spirit and 3,000 men coming to salvation and being baptized, not counting women and children. I'm just curious..... would we like to see 4,000 people come to salvation in our city after the preaching of just one sermon? Me too....

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42, 47)

After salvation spread like wildfire in Jerusalem the new believers devoted themselves to a number of things...but note that prayer was a key aspect of that. What resulted? "The Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved." Would we like to experience what it is like to have people come to salvation and become part of our community of faith every day? Me too...

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:29-31)

After their leaders had been arrested and told not to speak in the Name of Jesus any more under threat of physical harm and imprisonment the believers gathered for prayer. Notice what they prayed. Not that the persecution would stop. Not that they would be delivered from their enemies. They prayed for more boldness and for the Lord to do miracles so that the Gospel would be believed by the lost. What happened in that prayer meeting? The place was shaken....the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit....and they spoke the Word of God boldly out in the world. Would we like to see our prayer gatherings shaken? Would we like to be filled with the Holy Spirit together as a community of faith? Would we like to have a new boldness to speak the Word? Me too...

If we want to see all these things take place among us, we must pray.

Acts is the historical account of what happens when believers gather together and pray. We focus on the results but not the hard work that preceded them. The hardest work was not the preaching. It wasn't standing against persecution. It wasn't solving the logistical problems that came with explosive growth. The hardest work was prayer. And it resulted in the greatest move of God the world has ever known.

I've failed you. As your pastor I haven't prioritized prayer in our community. But over the last two years the Lord has moved on me to pray as the first and hardest work I do as your pastor. I'm not perfect but I'm praying. I'm convinced prayer must be the first work of the Church, the most important work of the church, and seen as the greatest source of all our power.

Now I'm calling you to pray. I'm calling on our Elders and our Deacons. I'm calling on our Staff and our volunteers. I'm calling on you in the pews. WE MUST BECOME PEOPLE OF PRAYER!

# Announcements

## March 2024 Financial Report

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<b>Receipts</b>		
General Fund	102,255	229,519
Hispanic Ministry Offerings	5,129	18,544
<b>Total Receipts</b>	107,384	248,063
Expenditures	83,228	239,587
Surplus/(Deficit)	24,156	8,476

Ladies Tea  
 Saturday, May 11  
 10am - 12pm  
 TKA Gym  
 All ages welcome!

**"Fill My Cup"**

**Psalm 23: 5b-6**

Sign up in the narthex or online at  
[www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com).

Join us at the Flamingo's Game for  
**"Rewind the Clock with Fireworks"**

Friday, June 7

Gates open at 6pm, Game starts at 7pm

Cost of tickets - \$16 per person

Includes Flamingo Hat & unlimited food & drinks (hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken sandwiches, chips, cookies Coca-Cola products & bottled water for the entire game). Sign up and pay for tickets in the narthex beginning Sunday, May 5, or online at [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com).



# May Birthdays

Day	Name	Day	Name
1	John Van Pennington	14	Evelyn Wilson
2	Carter Hamilton	17	Robbie Fleschner
2	Kaleigh Roberge	18	Brooke Connors
2	Agnes Rosa	18	Greyson Hill
4	Scott Carter	19	Neily Arevalo
4	Caroline Stokes	19	Tommy Dyer
5	Heydee Wagner	19	Carolyn Roberts
6	Rob Creveling	20	Diane Timbrook
7	Oliver Budde	21	Benjamin Harris
8	Liam Smith	22	Will Maxey
9	Brooke Turner	23	Ricky McCutchen
11	Kelleigh Huneycutt	24	Keri Margita
12	Steve Bridges	26	Isaac Gray
12	Charlie Clarke	26	Richard Stiglbauer
14	David Conner	27	Morgan Brock
14	Natalie Mahaffey	27	Quinton Phillips
14	Amy Pennington	28	Sivannah Dwyer
14	Laura Sansbury	30	Roxanne Hardwick



# Pastor Matt Walton

Imagine miners seeking to unearth diamonds with pick axes but never using dynamite first! Ridiculous! Yet I believe we've led you to do the impossible work of God using mostly human energy while leaving the dynamite of the Holy Spirit and the Gospel in the shed. Prayer unlocks the shed and lights the fuse.

I'm not telling you this because we have some grand scheme to restructure all we do around prayer. I'll be honest with you...I have no idea what the next steps to take within our community are. But I believe they will become known to us **as we pray**.

So here's my first ask: will you begin to pray? This isn't a guilt trip...it's a call to action. Let's set aside our lack of prayer in the past and lay down condemnation. Let's repent together and start praying. Start small and let the Spirit build you up. 5 minutes of prayer today is more powerful than no prayer yesterday! Ask the Lord to teach you to pray. We'll be doing our best to refocus us on prayer from the pulpit and from our programs. Trust that the Lord will train us if we will submit. Let's do this together.

Imagine what we will become together if we will only prayer!

*Matt*

Joy Studio Presents - "Selah: Psalms in Movement

Saturday, May 25 - 3:00pm

Pee Cee Cooperative Auditorium at SIMT

1951 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC 29501

Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at <https://dancestudio-pro.com/tickets/>



Please join us for a  
*Better Together*  
*Ladies Breakfast*  
 Saturday May 4th  
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 Trinity EPC G Building

Our speaker will be Melek Arevalo  
 with music by Cathy Aydin.

Please RSVP on the church website.

One of the true blessings in life, is the gift of a friend who  
 laughs with you, cries with you, prays for you,  
 and pushes you closer to Christ.  
 Bring your blessing with you as we grow together.

# Annette Diaz

*As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Philippians 1:13*

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

One of my favorite preachers since the beginning of my Christian walk is David Jeremiah. His devotionals and books have deeply touched my heart. I was reading in one of his devotionals that the fact of being a witness for God originated in the Old Testament, not the New. It says that in Isaiah 43:10, 12; 44:8), God told the Jews that they were to be "my witness" among the nations. Witnesses to the fact that God was the only true God among the impotent idols worshipped by others.

Jesus gave that same responsibility in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We are blessed to be surrounded by people who fulfill this mission by serving in our International Ministry in different ways and other churches of healthy doctrine that are reaching the world with the gospel here in Florence. Thank you brothers and sisters.



Mauro Diaz & Greg Stuckey



Liz Perez & Mary Kay Belissary

Dios te bendiga,

*Annette*



Latha Pashula, Edna Rodriguez & Kathy Percy



Ladies Bible Study - Led by Diane Wolff



Gary & Shand Lesemann

# Susan Starling

Dear Friends,

It really is a great joy to be part of God's work here at Trinity and in our community. I am continually blessed to serve and to see you all serve.

Last month I delivered goodies to the employees at the gas station beside the church. I was given the money to buy the goodies from one of our members. When I explained I was from Trinity - the church next door and that we just wanted to bless them, I wish you could have seen the look of surprise on their faces. It amazes me what a small gift and gesture can really accomplish. They truly seemed surprised!

You can be a part of this ministry! Four people are needed per month and you can get more information in the narthex on Sunday. It isn't hard to share the love of Jesus. Try it - you'll see.

Every month there are opportunities to serve and love those in our community. Jesus is coming back. Not only should we look busy, we really should be busy. And about His business. Will you join me?

**UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

- Surcies for Businesses near the church (Get more info in the narthex.)
- May 11th - Volunteer Work Day at Tenacious Grace Office 10am - 12pm
- May 22nd - Volunteer at OM Ships Warehouse 10am - 12pm
- June 26th - Volunteer at OM Ships Warehouse 10am - 12pm

See you soon in the narthex at the sign up table!

In His Service, *Susan*



**The 1st Love Project**

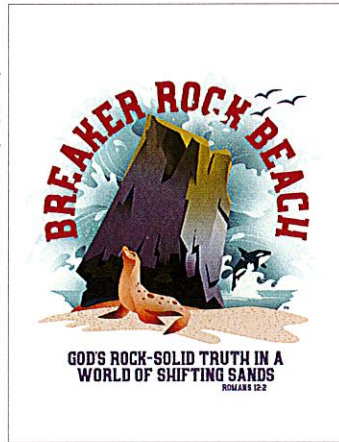
May 5 - Congregational Prayer & Praise  
4pm - 6pm - Sanctuary

We would love to hear testimonies of what the Lord does through The 1st Love Project. If you would like to share your testimony please email it to [tepcflorence@gmail.com](mailto:tepcflorence@gmail.com) by noon on Friday, May 3. We will be reading these during the Congregational Prayer & Praise on Sunday, May 5. We will not share any names.

# Corey Fowler

Hello and Happy May!

VBS is right around the corner, and it is ever present on my mind! Choosing a VBS theme isn't an easy process. There are so many choices for programs and there are wonderful things about each one. When praying about what would be best for Trinity's VBS 2024, it was clear to me that Breaker Rock Beach VBS was the right one. Let me explain why... Over the last six or so months, the Lord has really been impressing the following into my heart:



The world and culture push TOO MUCH onto our families and our children; things and ideas that are not biblically sound or true.

We need to push back on what the world and culture is throwing at us, while speaking and living the truth in love!

As believers, we are called to be different from the world – like noticeably different!

Our words, actions, behaviors, and lifestyle should be dramatically different and should DISPLAY that we have Him in us – in our hearts, in our minds, dwelling in us.

All of that to say, when I saw that the theme verse for Breaker Rock Beach VBS is Romans 12:2, I knew without a shadow of a doubt, that it was the VBS for 2024. Romans 12:2 states "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." I am so incredibly excited for this to be the focus of our VBS because kids really need to hear this word and truth from God! Breaker Rock Beach VBS will look at what the world says vs what God says in His word. I believe that this is going to be not only a fun and exciting week for children in our congregation and community, but it is going to have an impact on their lives!

VBS is one of our biggest community outreach events. Please pray for the planning, preparation, and execution of VBS. Even more so, please consider serving in one of the many roles that we need filled to help make VBS a success! You can register online to volunteer or in the Narthex during the first few weeks of May!

# Corey Fowler

In addition to VBS, here is a list of upcoming Children's Ministry events:

- May 11<sup>th</sup>: Fill My Cup Tea Party from 10 AM – 12 PM  
Join us for tea, treats, and a special program in the TKA Gym
- May 17<sup>th</sup>: TWEENS Social "Ice Breakers and Ice Cream" from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Rising 4<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend  
Bring your favorite ice cream topping!
- May 26<sup>th</sup>: TWEENS Worship Service at 10:30 AM
- June 9<sup>th</sup>: VBS Volunteer Snack and Set Up from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Brief meeting in the TKA Cafeteria  
Set up all rooms/areas for VBS
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>: Breaker Rock Beach VBS  
Stay tuned for more details regarding VBS 2024!
- NEW THIS SUMMER! Summer Socials –Join us at the waterpark, movie theatre, bowling alley, and more! Stay tuned for details!

Thank you for praying for, serving, and supporting Trinity's Children's Ministry! It is truly a blessing, and I am thankful to be serving alongside of you during this season of ministry!

Cheerfully in Christ, *Corey*

## ***Prayer Needs Continued From Page 7***

- John Wagner** (Heydee Wagner's husband) for continued healing and improvement in his kidney function and heart function. He is on dialysis a few days a week.
- Ben McLaughlin** (Pastor of Lake Swamp Baptist Church) for healing and effective treatment as he battles pancreatic cancer. He recently began a clinical trial in Texas for his treatment. Pray for strength as he travels and for grace and peace for Ben and his family.
- Callie Weatherford** for grace and strength for Callie and her family as she has reached the end of her options for treatment of her brain tumor.
- Laura Glennon** (mother of one of Lennie Mize's students) for healing of stage 3 breast cancer.
- Andy McDonald** (son of Allan) ongoing prayer coverage for Andy.
- Sheila** (Aarthi Dortman's aunt) pray for healing and strength as she battles stage 4 uterine cancer. Pray for grace for Aarthi as she ministers to her and for God's will to be done.