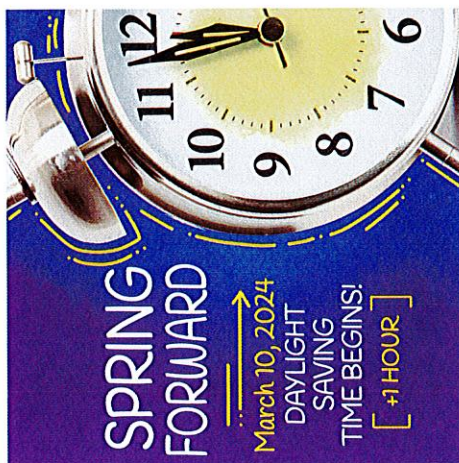


Visit the Trinity Presbyterian website [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com)



Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
1021 S. Ebenezer Road  
Florence, SC 29501

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #123



Jose Acosta & Maria Gonzalez  
Or Current Resident  
3902 Malabar Street  
Florence SC 29501

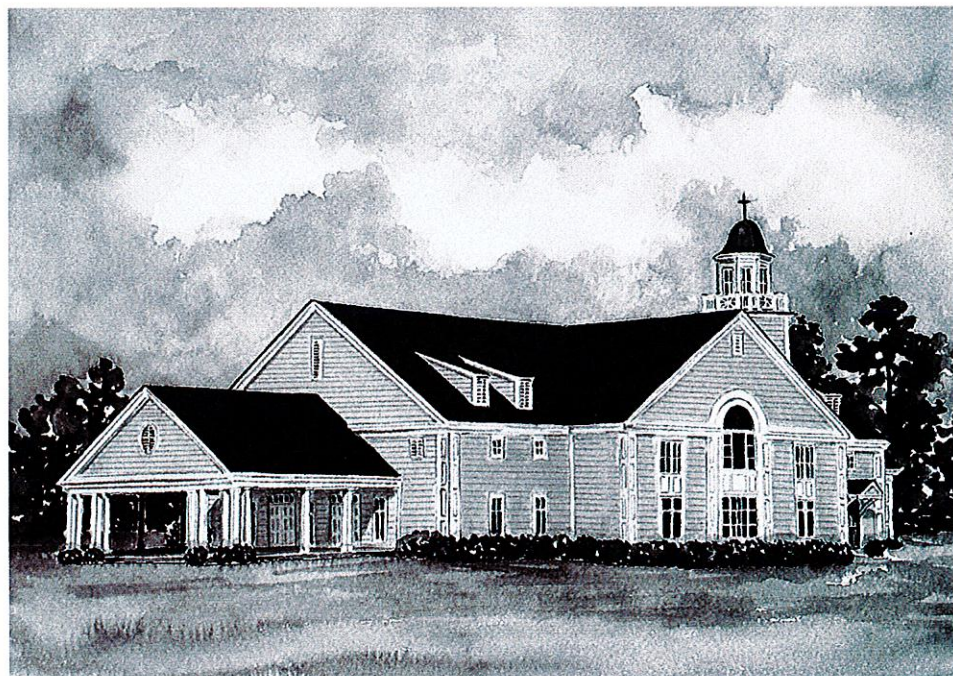
Next Newsletter deadline is March 20, 2024



# trinityepc

gathering › making › going

March 2024



1015 S. Ebenezer Rd., Florence, SC 29501

Mailing & Church Office Address

1021 S. Ebenezer Rd., Florence, SC 29501

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (843) 665-8022 Fax: (843) 665-8034

Website: [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com) email: [tpcepc@aol.com](mailto:tpcepc@aol.com)



# Pastor Matt Walton

I want to share some news with you that I hope encourages you as much as it has me.

Every year, at the end of the fiscal year, we place whatever surplus we have for that year in a designated surplus account that accumulates over time. Each year, your Elders and Deacons gather and pray over what to do with that surplus, if anything. The underlying premise is that we believe that the Lord entrusts us with surplus for a reason and our assumption is that He wants to invest in His Kingdom somewhere....we just need to discover where. Given all that the Lord blessed us with this year and what had accumulated in the past, we ended up with \$143,000 in our surplus account at the start of 2024! Praise the Lord! Thank you for your generosity and for entrusting your finances to Kingdom work through Trinity! But that's not what excites me the most.

What really has filled my heart to overflowing is what took place when our Elders and Deacons gathered this year to ask the Lord what seemed good to the Holy Spirit regarding that surplus. We have committed to finding out what pleases the Holy Spirit in 2024 and this was the first real test of that process. We had some idea that we would be looking at a surplus for 2023 all the way back in November so we began to pray at our leadership retreat that month about what we should do with it, if anything. So, when we gathered on January 16<sup>th</sup> to talk about what we had been sensing we were ready to go.

When we walked out that night we had agreed to invest \$50,000 of that money in 5 different church plants that we have relationship with; \$10,000 each. Four of those are EPC church plants in our Presbytery and the 5<sup>th</sup> was the church plant that Sabdiel and his father Hector planted here in town. I was floored by the generosity but most of all by the unity between all present with that decision. But we didn't stop there.

We also agreed to set aside \$20,000 to place back into your hands during an upcoming ministry project that you'll hear more about after Easter.

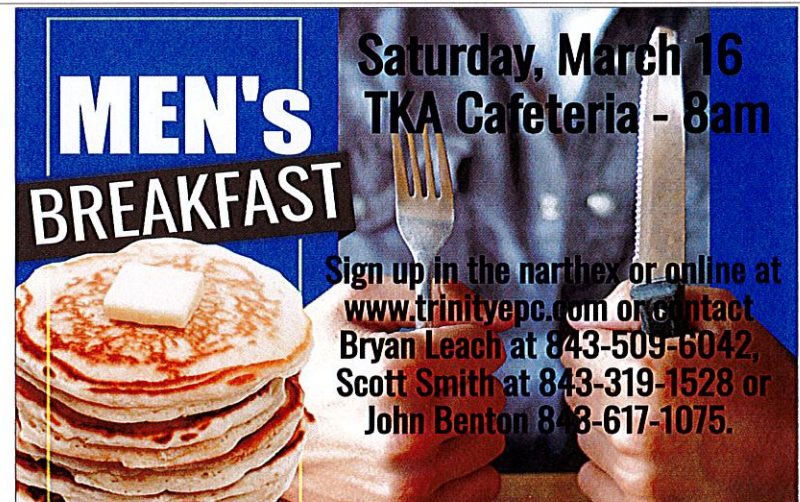
Then we agreed to set aside \$20,000 to update our Narthex and make it more conducive to ministry and more visitor friendly. We've all been blessed to see how many of our folks have begun to get plugged into the variety of ministry opportunities that Susan brings to our attention each Sunday morning during the ministry minute. She's done a great job of making it work given our current set up but we want to do everything we can to put our ministries on better display and to make sign ups even easier. We also want our visitors to have a clear understanding of how to get information and feel welcomed as they arrive. We are praying through how to do that well and the \$20,000 will give us some resources to make those changes.

With \$90,000 allotted, we discussed some additional projects but agreed to take a month and pray them over before committing. We gathered again on February 13<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the list again. What encouraged me was that we altered the previous list somewhat because of how different people in the Diaconate and the Session had received ideas from the Lord. We had some long discussions about what we were hearing but we walked out having committed to the following expenditures in addition to the \$90,000:

# Announcements

## January 2024 Financial Report

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<b>Receipts</b>		
General Fund	67,619	67,619
Money Market Interest	000	000
Hispanic Ministry Offerings	11,151	11,151
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>78,770</u>	<u>78,770</u>
Expenditures	75,667	75,667
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,103	3,103



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, March 16**  
**TKA Cafeteria - 8am**

Sign up in the narthex or online at [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com) or contact Bryan Leach at 843-509-6042, Scott Smith at 843-319-1528 or John Benton 843-617-1075.



Save The Date

Ladies Tea

Saturday, May 11 - TKA Gym

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this special event.



# March Birthdays

Day	Name	Day	Name
1	Jose Acosta	12	Rhonda Eckhardt
1	John Benton	12	Lonnie Gerschutz
2	Cheri Jordan	13	Christyn McLaughlin
3	Denise Parnell	14	Scottie Rivera
4	Ben Prince	14	Alison Salley
4	David Wolff	16	Charlie Calder
6	Gracia Alvarenga	16	Diane Collins
6	John Curl	17	Genysa Acosta
6	Martha Hunt	17	Will Barnett
6	Leah Norwood	20	Chris Brock
6	Karl Peters	20	Austin Patterson
6	Donna Phillips	21	Rachel Fleschner
7	Wyatt Crosby	21	Jennifer Myrick
7	Emmett Hill	22	Karen Hoogenboom
8	Ashley Cole	23	Clarice Gardner
8	Linda Spurling	25	Mauricio Diaz
8	Peyton Watson	25	Malissa Nowling
9	Anna Barnett	26	Janice Bullard
9	Ashley Hill	27	Jeremy Groom
9	Cris Prince	27	Gage Morris
10	Kathleen Curl	28	Jim Allen
10	Walken Hill	29	Adelyn Fowler
10	Nicky Maxey	31	Benjamin Carbajal
10	Miriam Smith	31	Jayce McLaughlin
11	Elizabeth Branch	31	Vicki Walker



## Pastor Matt Walton

\$22,000 investment in The King's Academy as they seek to build the Kingdom right here on our campus. We freed them to use the money however they desire.

\$6,000 to support our former pastor, Bryan Slater's work in training African pastors this year. This is not money that will support Bryan himself but will go to provide directly for those pastors to attend the trainings and support their families while they are gone.

\$5,000 was sent to House of Hope as they continue to address the homeless population in Florence and those with substance abuse issues.

We allotted an additional \$5,000 for Susan Starling to use as she leads us to go out into our community and minister as the Lord leads. This will continue to help us get off of our campus and lift our eyes to the needs around us.

And finally, we made an additional \$10,000 one-time investment in Tim and Debbie Vinzani as they settle into their new work in the country of Georgia overseas. They were given one budget when they planned to go to the field but inflation has skyrocketed with the Ukraine war and they were falling well short of their goals. This will allow them to address their shortfall immediately and keep them focused on the work at hand.

With all that said, we invested \$118,000 in kingdom work outside of Trinity's ministry and \$20,000 to enhance our efforts to minister beyond our walls and welcome those who are coming to visit. \$138,000 of kingdom investment rather than keeping that money in our bank account. I have never been so encouraged by the faith of our leadership! They clearly were modeling the "No Risk it, No Biscuit!" mentality of kingdom investment for us. I hope it breeds as much confidence in their ability to hear the Lord and step out to obey Him as it has for me.

Thank you again for your generous investment in the Kingdom at Trinity! We know you have a thousand other choices when it comes to spending your money so we are honored that you believe in the Lord's work enough to invest it here. I believe the best is yet to come! Let's recommit to finding out what pleases the Holy Spirit above all things and then obeying what he reveals.

*Matt*

**You Can Discern The Voice of God!**  
**March 9 & 10, 2024 - G Building**  
**Saturday, March 9 - 8:30am - 12:30pm**  
**Sunday, March 10 - 4:00pm - 6:00pm**  
**Cost - Free**

No childcare provided for Saturday, March 9.  
 Sprouts and youth activities will be taking place during  
 the Sunday, March 10 session and your children and  
 youth are invited to attend.

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



## International Ministry

# Annette Diaz

*This means that everyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life has passed, a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I would like to share something that my brother Sergio Handal, who is a pastor at Great Commission Latin Americana in Monterrey, Mexico, shared on the communication networks and it seemed good to me to continually remember. "If you have believed that Jesus died on the cross for all your sins, then you are a new person. You are not the same anymore. You have elements in you that can make big differences. You are more than a victorious person."



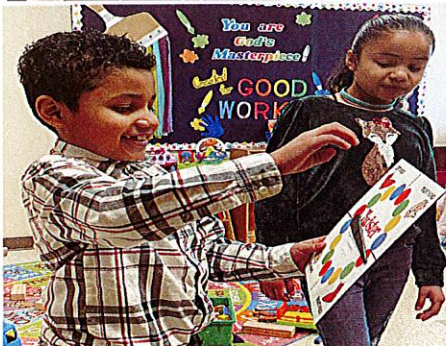
When the Holy Spirit comes into our life, a positive transformation is inevitable if our desire is to honor Him with our obedience. When I trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, I could not understand that His grace was enough to pay for my sins and that He loved me and accepted me as I was. It was not the works that I had done that were going to save me, it was His grace!



God has commanded us to make disciples here and around the world. It is our prayer that God will continue to use our International Ministry to share the good news and share love and grace with those who don't know Him.

Dios te bendiga,

*Annette*



# Susan Starling

On March 20, 1928, the man who calmly entertained children for decades was born. In every episode of his show, he entered his "home" and put on his cardigan and tennis shoes. By now I feel certain you have figured out who I am talking about.....Mr. Rogers.

Fred Rogers was not only a beloved television star, he was also a musician. But what you may not know about him is that he was a good 'ole Presbyterian minister. Yep. However, he didn't openly share about his faith on the show. He didn't really have to speak about his faith. He was living it out on the screen for the world to see. He spoke about kindness, accepting others as they are, caring for the vulnerable and loving people right where we find them. With the love of Christ.

For you and I, that means Florence County or wherever you reside. Loving our neighbor isn't about handing out Christian literature or quoting scripture. Loving our neighbor is about living out the Christian life in front of those we come in contact with on a daily basis. I've found people are drawn to us when they see us love, serve, spread kindness and meet practical needs of those around us.

Our neighbors. The people who live in our neighborhood. They're the ones we start with. Would you like to be a part of loving our neighbors? Here are two ways:

1. On March 10th, after the worship service, there will be Blessing Buckets/Information forms in the narthex for people to take and give out to someone struggling with homelessness. You can keep the bucket in your car so you have it when you encounter someone to bless. Please be sure to fill out the information form and return it to me after you have gifted the bucket to someone.
2. Second Week "Surcies". The second week of every month we will take treats to the gas station and Jiffy Lube next to the church. There will be an ongoing sign up sheet in the narthex for people to take something to bless our neighbors, once per month. Would you consider being a part of this opportunity?

To reach our neighbors - we will have to work together. I love the opportunity I have to love people with ya'll!

"I believe that appreciation is a holy thing - that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred." Fred Rogers

In His Service,

*Susan*



# Announcements

## Women's Breakfast

Saturday, March 2  
9:00am - 9 Building

Sign up in the narthex, online  
at [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com) or contact  
Amy Pennington at 843-616-2550.

Childcare provided by request for 3rd grade and younger.

## 55+ Ladies Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, March 11

10:00am - 11:30am

At the home of Theresa Leach  
3308 Stockton Drive  
Florence, SC 29501

## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28  
6:30pm - TKA Gym

Reservations are required and can be made  
by filling out the insert in the bulletin, online  
at [www.trinityepc.com](http://www.trinityepc.com), call the church office  
or email [tepcflorence@gmail.com](mailto:tepcflorence@gmail.com). Deadline  
to sign up is Monday, March 25. Childcare  
provided for 5K & under.



# Corey Fowler



Happy March!

Over the last few weeks, I have been reading and studying two different resources that pertain to parenting. I am following along with a daily devotion called Parenting By Design and reading Paul David Tripp's book Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family. There are several ideas that have really stuck with me and have made me think, pray, and reflect in new ways. I felt compelled and led to share and it is my hope that in some way this speaks to you or gives you encouragement in whatever season of parenting you are in!

God's design for parents is for us to be His ambassadors, faithfully representing the message, methods, and character of God.

God desires for parents to be a principal, consistent, and faithful tool for the purpose of creating God-consciousness and God-submission in our children.

Parenting isn't easy! It is challenging in so many facets and we will likely experience feelings of regret, inadequacy, and moments when we feel like we've completely blown it at this parenting gig! But, God gives us GRACE! In each moment of parenting, God gives us grace! The more we understand this grace, the more we will extend this grace to our children, and the more our children will begin to understand what God's grace is all about!

Sometimes it is really hard to see our children go through hard things. We want to rescue or save them at times, so they don't have to experience the disappointment, sadness, frustration, etc. of a moment or situation. But, just as God uses trials to grow and mold us, as adults, trials give our children the opportunity to grow, build character, and learn to hope and depend on God.

As parents, we need to let go of what we desire for our children – their behavior, actions, words, character, skills – and surrender the results to God because He is the one who will ultimately grow our children into His design. While it isn't easy to let go of our design and surrender our kids to God, it is God's will that our children will grow less dependent on us and more dependent on Him.

We want our children to be followers of Jesus, to love God, and to grow up to be a godly people. However, we cannot make this happen. So, what can we do? Be a godly parent.

Trust God. He knows what is best for us and our children. Quit trying to figure it all out and control it all (speaking to myself!) and just trust in Him – His timing, His ways, His plan, His methods, His will.

# Corey Fowler

Be on the lookout for a new parent resource wall in the G Building entryway! My desire is to share and provide devotions, book suggestions, and a variety of resources to help with parenting, discipleship, and encouragement for parents!

In other news, here is a list of what is coming up this month and the next few months! Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

March 10<sup>th</sup>: SPROUTS Easter Egg Hunt from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

March 17<sup>th</sup>: SPROUTS SERVE at OM Ships from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

We will meet at the Florence OM Ships office and help to organize and sort books.

March 24<sup>th</sup>: TWEENS Ministry Worship Service 10:30 AM

April 13<sup>th</sup>: SPRING FLING Community Event from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We need volunteers to help with games, activities, and food! This is going to be a fun community event and we are looking forward to all our congregation participating, serving, and joining in on the fun!

June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>: Breaker Rock Beach VBS

Stay tuned for more details regarding VBS 2024!

Looking forward to all that the Lord has in store for us as we pursue Him, seek to hear His voice, and serve to glorify Him!

Cheerfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corey".