

Trinity Today

Vol. 23, No. 4

April 1, 2021

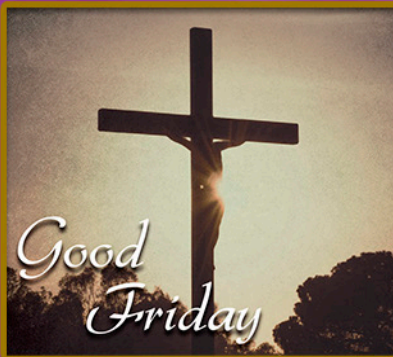
Holy Week at Trinity Downtown



April 1, 2021

Worship at
6:30 PM

(Rite of First Communion
will be celebrated)



April 2, 2021

Worship at
6:30 PM



April 3, 2021

Contemporary
Worship at 5:00 PM

April 4, 2021

Festival Worship at
9:00* & 11:00* AM

(In lieu of the Easter Sunrise Service, a special video from
the Trinity Cemetery will be available online beginning April 3.)

Reservations are required to attend in-person worship services.
RSVP at www.TrinityDT.org or call 713.224.0684.

All services will be livestreamed. (View on YouTube or www.TrinityDT.org).

***The 9 & 11 AM services are now FULL. You can sign up to be on the waitlist for your
desired service time on our website and be notified if space becomes available.**

Confirmation Class of 2021

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, the seven young people pictured below confirmed the faith into which they were baptized. We offer our congratulations and ask that God bless them as they continue their walk with Him.



**Benjamin Lee
Abby**
Psalm 3:3 (NIV)



**Braydon James
Abby**
1 John 4:7 (NIV)



**Anna-Sophia Leonora
Flaviani**
James 1:2-3 (NIV)



**Jacob Ray
Johnson**
Matthew 28:20 (NIV)



**Michael Aidan
Edward Menke**
Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)



**Elle Ann
Vandenberg**
John 14:27 (NIV)



**Joel Adan
Velazquez**
Psalm 139:14 (NIV)



Congregational Information Meeting

March 21, 2021

At noon on Sunday, March 21st, Pastor Dorn hosted a virtual congregational information meeting via Zoom. Kim Davis, the Governing Board Chair, opened the meeting with prayer, and Pastor Dorn led a discussion of Trinity's plans on "getting back to normal" as the COVID pandemic wanes, including the restart of in-person adult Bible studies and Sunday School. Haley Davisson, Matt Meier and Ron Lacy then presented an update on Trinity's Children and Youth Ministries, our Alpha outreach program, new upcoming Bible studies, and an operational and financial update.



The attendees were then given the opportunity to break into virtual small groups hosted by a Governing Board or staff member to discuss the information provided and provide feedback and questions.

After rejoining the main group, Pastor Dorn announced that Upbring, Trinity's partner in managing the Early Childhood program in the Education Center, had decided that they could no longer sustain the financial losses that their ministry was incurring. This was primarily due to lower enrollment caused by the COVID pandemic and an expected decrease in Federal and State funding of Upbring's other programs.

Pastor Dorn announced that LEAH, an association of three Lutheran schools in Houston, had decided to step in and assume the Early Childhood ministry. LEAH will lease the Education Center and aims at creating as seamless a transition from Upbring as possible for the parents, children and staff.

Pastor Dorn then introduced Randy Einem, the Executive Director of LEAH, who spoke about LEAH's existing programs and how LEAH's new "Downtown Academy" would be incorporated into their ministry.

The attendees were again offered the opportunity to break into virtual small groups to discuss the transition to LEAH and offer thoughts and questions.

The general tenor of the response to the transition to LEAH as a new strategic partner and the plans regarding resuming in-person activities were well received by the attendees.

New Sermon Series Beginning After Easter

We live in a selfie world. People take pictures of themselves all the time and in record numbers. The selfies are then posted on social media. As you scroll through your day, and you see the selfies of others, how do you feel? Does it seem like everybody else has the best job, cutest kid, happiest relationship, or most wonderful life? Social media has opened up so many opportunities for connecting with people. However, it can also make it challenging to live a Christ-focused life in a selfie-centered world.

Beginning on the weekend after Easter (April 10-11), this five-week series will address "How to Live in a #Selfie World." Topics covered in this message series include compassion, authenticity, relationships, contentment, and rest. Now more than ever, people are using social media, especially during the pandemic when gathering in-person is more difficult. Followers of Jesus need to know how to make the best use of social media without it getting the best of them. Invite your friends to join you for worship or send them a link to join you online as Pastor Dorn addresses this timely topic.



If God Already Knows Everything, Then Why Pray?

Earlier this year, Trinity's Stephen Ministry embarked on a new study of Philip Yancey's classic study entitled "Prayer". At our twice-monthly meetings, we are digging deep to answer questions that we all have, including:

- Is the purpose of prayer to change God's mind?
- If God already knows everything, what's the point of praying?
- How is prayer supposed to change us?

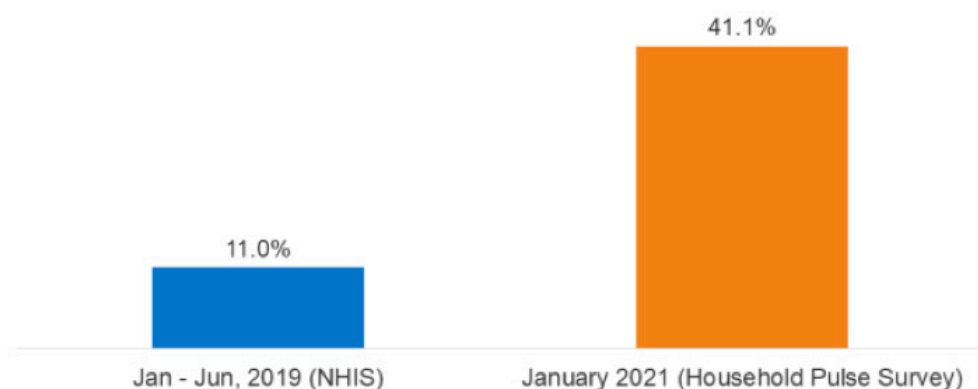
Everyone is welcome to join us as we study how to deepen our prayer life. The Stephen Ministry meets (virtually via Zoom) on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please join us! You can send your request for the Zoom credentials to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org.

Stephen Ministers are laypeople in our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. They listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support. They often work in cooperation with licensed counselors, psychiatrists and other professional caregivers to help those suffering from depression.

With the ongoing pandemic and its associated economic pressures, it's no wonder that recently released research indicates that a great many adults are suffering from an increased level of anxiety. This is what the Kaiser Family Foundation recently published:

Figure 1

Average Share of Adults Reporting Symptoms of Anxiety Disorder and/or Depressive Disorder, January-June 2019 vs. January 2021



NOTES: Percentages are based on responses to the GAD-2 and PHQ-2 scales. Pulse findings (shown here for January 6 – 18, 2021) have been stable overall since data collection began in April 2020.

SOURCE: NHIS Early Release Program and U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey. For more detail on methods, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/ERmentalhealth-508.pdf>

KFF

Do you have an issue that you need to bring to the feet of our Lord in prayer? If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.

Finance Corner - April 1, 2021

...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38 ESV

The first two months of 2021 saw a significant decline in Trinity's tithes and offerings income. Through February 2021, discretionary offerings were 13% lower than our budget, and were 20% lower than what we received in the first two months of 2020. While this decrease does not (yet) threaten our financial position, it is something to be watched. I pray that God will continue to bless Trinity with financial health through the gifts of His people.

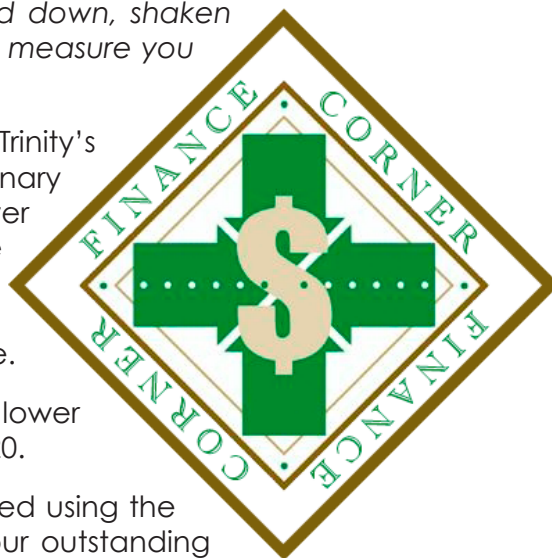
Our operating expenses in January and February were 2% lower than our budget, and 11% lower than the same period in 2020.

I am happy to report that the Governing Board has approved using the cash surplus we accrued last year to completely pay off our outstanding operational debt. Our only remaining debt is the mortgage on the Education Center.

Average in-person attendance in February was 134, compared with 151 in January, and total attendance for February was 415 compared to 448 in January. (The decrease was due primarily to the mid-February freeze.) Our Lenten devotional video series has garnered an average of 176 daily views, and our "Drive up" communion services on Wednesday and Saturday continued to be popular. Attendance at our online adult Bible studies averaged 102 each week in February, with 29 children and youth attending online Bible studies.

Your faithful giving is making a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God works His work among us during this Lenten season.

Joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO



amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional money.

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It's very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of www.amazon.com): <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won't change the cost of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

2021 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Kim Davis (Chair)
Cindy Deere
Delvin Dennis (Elder)
Thomas DeVries
Pastor Michael Dorn
Tim Grady (Elder)
Cassandra McGarvey
Dan Krueger (Vice-Chair/
Elder)
Janet Mueller (Secretary)
Cynthia Roney

Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

Youth and Adult Virtual Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our weekly virtual Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org.

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

Online Kids Interactive Experience. (Note: To join this class go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/youth-ministries/>.)

High School Class (7th-12th grades)

Led by Elizabeth Oliver - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Study of the book of Psalms.



SUNDAYS - ADULT

James: Life on the Ground (Begins April 11)

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We all can use very practical help living out our faith. Join us as we sit at the feet of James, soaking up what he has to say about how life really works and even more importantly, how it should work. Discussion-oriented.

Nineveh Tails: It's Not Just About a Big Fish

Led by Thomas DeVries - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Parables and Proverbs (Begins April 11)

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"Parables and Proverbs" - examples of Jesus using the wisdom of Proverbs to emphasize the points of His Parables.

The Gospel According to Mark

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The Gospel of Mark proclaims in bold and certain terms that the reign of God has come in Jesus Christ. It's good news for a world looking for hope.

WEDNESDAYS

Bless These Lips (Women's Study)

Led by Jan Case - 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Make over your words to influence the world! *Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal* examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes.

A Longer Look at the Lessons of Easter (Women's Study)

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study is currently on Zoom studying "A Longer Look at the Lessons of Easter." These are stand alone lessons so feel free to pop in and out as you are able.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or bfisch@aol.com.



Youth and Children's Ministry Update

Hey, Trinity Family!

What a whirlwind March! We had several successful events and some major faith milestones to celebrate! It's amazing to see that we had over 15 families involved in our different activities with up to 30 kids participating in one event! I'm hoping to see this trend grow as we keep moving forward!

Now, we look forward to April! We will have another youth event April 11th and a children's ministry event April 24th! Our youth space is starting to take on a new identity with a fresh coat of paint and new style! We are so excited to continue to do ministry together! Lastly our first "in a box" for children's ministry was a great success at Easter! We will have another box coming soon! Weekly we still have Zoom gatherings for 5th and 6th graders as well as 7th-12th grade!

As our confirmation class is taking a break for the summer the 7th & 8th graders are invited to join the high school experience! We are having a great time studying God's word together! Thank you again for all your support and encouragement!



Blessings,
Haley Davison
Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dan Krueger.....	dwkrueger5@yahoo.com	901.258.4029

Greetings from Westfield House, Cambridge!

Here's the bad news...the pubs won't reopen until right after we leave. I know, I know...we're already in sackcloth and ashes for Lent! What more can we do?

Joking aside, we are looking forward to returning home. As I write this, we are three weeks away from our scheduled return flight. I still need to follow up with Expedia regarding a questionable email that indicated that the airline had cancelled the scheduled flight, but I don't anticipate any problems getting back. We are now finished with classes, though Stephanie still has one supervision that was delayed by the tutor. Otherwise, we have three weeks to...sit around and read. Well, not exactly. We are anticipating some outings with our principal. Although stores and restaurants won't open until after we leave, some of the restrictions will be loosened at the end of March and we are hoping to visit Dover and perhaps a few other locations within reasonable distance. We'd like to finally take a stroll down to Grantchester and hopefully get into the American Cemetery down the road.



**Chuck Ridley,
Seminary Student**

We are definitely looking forward to returning to Texas for family, friends, and food. It seems Stephanie has been having visions of Whataburger, Tex-Mex, and Blue Bell dancing in her dreams. We have enjoyed the food here, but nothing has quite nudged out any of our favorites from home. I will probably miss English crumpets and proper scones with clotted cream the most. They still don't compare to beef fajitas from Lupe Tortilla or Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla on warm cobbler.

But we won't have long in the Lone Star State before we head back to the Show-Me State. We'll need to reacquaint ourselves with the cats and get settled in to finish our essays. No, our work is not finished. Lectures are done, but we still have extended essays to read for and compose. We have a reflection exercise essay to complete for our Practical Theology course and, of course, our dissertations loom large in the distance. Each of these requires another supervision or two. Mid-to-late May holds the due dates for those essays and the two weeks following those dates hold our exams. I look forward to celebrating Call Day and Commencement with my classmates to some extent as they prepare to move on to their first calls while I have another year ahead of me. I feel sorry for my friends who have had a rather bare year, missing out on the very formative communal activity that is normally part of the seminary experience. I'm hoping that next year is more 'normal' so that my family can benefit from the community that is formed between the students and faculty and staff.

Using the word 'family' was intentional. For those who may not have seen Stephanie's Facebook post (because all communication seems to be done through social media these days), we are expecting a baby in early September! We are very excited and looking forward to being in a more familiar setting with family around to help. Stephanie doesn't like all the usual attention, but I guess she'll just have to deal with it for a while. The baby will absorb all the attention soon enough. Prayers for a healthy pregnancy and birth are greatly appreciated, though!

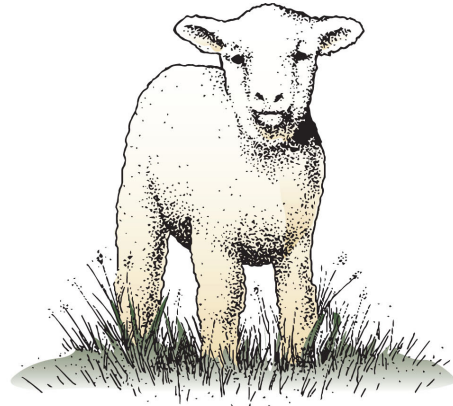
While I have often pondered and struggled with thoughts about how we would have been better off financially and emotionally had we stayed in the States over the last six months and just worked on this program from there, I am reminded daily of my creatureliness and the limitations that come with it. As I try to analyze the pros and cons of various situations, I am overwhelmed by the complexity of life and the amazing provision of our Creator. I am amazed at how much we can mess up our lives and the world around us, yet still be redeemed by the blood of Jesus on the cross. I marvel at how much we get tangled up in the things of the world and our drive to fix everything when in fact Jesus is already Lord over all creation. I am constantly reminded to live the 'receptive life', as Luther described the Christian's life. That is, I am reminded to let go of trying to control everything and get 'my best life now'. I am reminded to receive what God would give me and be thankful for it, regardless how I think it compares to anyone else's experience. I think, maybe, I am developing the virtue of gratitude, as Gilbert Meilaender describes it in his book *The Theory and Practice of Virtue*.

As we conclude Lent this year and celebrate the wondrous miracle of Easter, I pray that you would gladly receive the gifts of our gracious Lord – the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation; the gifts of meaning, purpose, and peace amidst a world and society that promises these things, but never delivers. I pray that you would be grateful for all that God gives you, however great or small, however good or bad. That is, that the good would not lead you to forget that it is from God and that the bad would not drive you to despair in yourself but drive you into the loving arms of Christ, your Savior. The Lord bless your Easter celebrations and keep you in Easter joy now and into the life to come.

"Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree--
So strong His love--to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now His grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended.
Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other!
Alleluia!"



"Behold,
THE LAMB OF GOD,
who takes away
THE SIN
OF THE WORLD!"

JOHN 1:29, ESV

("Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands", LSB 458:5-7 - Text: Public Domain)

In Christ,
Chuck Ridley



First Communion

Congratulations to the following students who will
receive their First Communion on April 1.

Mikayla Elizabeth Duch-Solomon
Jacob Ray Johnson
Charles William Klawinski
Gavin Thomas O'Reilly
Ethan Tyler Rodriquez

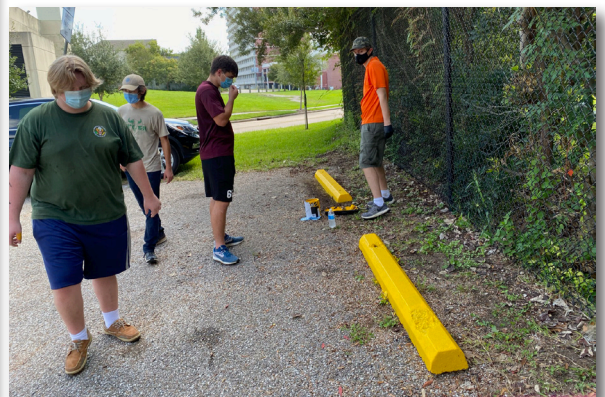
Jacob Michael Rodriquez
Jocelyn Paige Rodriguez
Shay Frances Sonneborn
Avery Elizabeth Tallinger
Johann Victor Theiss

Henry Reinhardt — Awarded Eagle Scout

Henry Reinhardt was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on February 27th after completion of his service project at Trinity's Cemetery. Henry met with John Stoerkel and Pastor Dorn several times before beginning the project which he would plan, organize, lead, and manage. The project included refurbishing the preexisting benches, installing new benches, adding stone pavers, repainting the main gate and repainting the parking lot stoppers.

After months of planning, meeting with church and troop advisors, soliciting donations in excess of \$1,500 (from outside of the congregation), the bulk of the work was done on the weekend of Septembers 26-27, 2020. Henry led the Scout and parent volunteers to complete all of the tasks. This work was a big blessing to Trinity's historic cemetery on the eve of its 140th anniversary — established January 31, 1881.

Only four percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout which includes a lengthy review process and 21 merit badges in addition to the required service project. Thank you Henry and CONGRATULATIONS!



40 Days for Life



Nine people came out to pray on Thursday, March 18th, at Planned Parenthood on the Gulf Freeway. Thank you to: Pastor and Audrey Black, Mary Campbell, Jan Case, Delmas Heinke, Jeanine Hembree, Anthony Humphrey, Ethelene Marshall and Jean Minsch.

God gave us a glorious day to pray for the end to abortion. In the current climate abortions are on the rise and the age when a baby can be aborted is increasing. Our prayers are needed more than ever. Money is also needed to keep the Big Blue Bus and the Baby Bus running and on site. The Houston Coalition for Life would appreciate any money you could send. Send donations to 2925 T C Jester Blvd #5, Houston, TX 77018. And, of course, prayers are always needed.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH

2021-2022 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

lutheranhighnorth.org/apply

Life Thoughts in the Church Year - April 4 – Resurrection of Our Lord

"Sinful selfishness made human flesh an agent of death. Jesus Christ's resurrection claims our bodies as instruments of life again. Since abortion and assisted suicide do not bring life, they cannot come from God—or from God's people. Receiving life as His gift sometimes means waiting (Isaiah 25:9), but this wipes away tears from every face (Isaiah 25:8)."



From LifeDate, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life - www.lutheransforlife.org.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH

SUMMER CAMPS!

JUNE 7-11
JUNE 14-18
JUNE 21-25

Baseball, Basketball, Coding, Drama, Football, Soccer, Strength & Conditioning, Volleyball

1130 W 34TH ST, HOUSTON, TX 77018

Registration Details
WWW.LUTHERANHIGNORTH.ORG



Drive-Up Holy Communion

Wednesdays
11:00 am - 1 pm

Saturdays
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Call the Church Office
at 713-224-0684
8:30 am - 2:15 pm
Monday - Friday
to RSVP

STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

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Donald G. Black . . . 713.229.2917

Chief Financial Officer
Ron Lacy 713.229.2970

Dir. of Administration
and Human Resources
Trinity Garrett . . . 713.229.2937

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Mary Voigt 713.229.2922

Director of Youth and
Children's Ministries
Haley Davisson . . . 713.229.2910

Director of Discipleship
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Angela Avant . . . 713.229.2963

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Stefanie Bowman . . 713.229.2950

Hostess (Fridays)
Sarahai Flores . . . 713.229.2950



*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving
Love With All People Now!*



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Article submission deadline is **April 12** for articles to be published May 1, 2021.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.