

OUR STORIES

Strengthened in Grace from Ave Wenzel

*An inspiring story from our parish to fill
your day with joy.*



Generosity Stories

We are delighted to share that our Stewardship Team is working with a program hosted by the Lutheran synod called Stewardship for All Seasons. As a part of this program, our overall goal for our congregation is to build a culture of generosity. We have so many wonderful stories of generosity right here in our own community, and we will be sharing those with you on a more consistent basis. Be on the lookout for "Our Stories" in your email, in our Weekly Announcements, on our website, and on our Facebook page. We are grateful for those who are sharing their stories to help get this important ministry started.

As retirement neared for Bill and me, we looked for a more relaxed area than where we lived on Long Island. A friend, Ginny Watson, invited us to visit their home on Smith Mountain Lake and took us to worship with the ecumenical group which was soon to become Trinity. We were quickly involved in moving to the lake. We found our lovely home and soon became involved in the ministries as charter members of Trinity Ecumenical Parish.

When I told some people with whom I worked that we were becoming involved in an ecumenical worship group which started as a Bible Study group and was working toward establishing an ecumenical church there were several, including a bishop, who said it would never work! Many of the group members worked formally and informally to set up a working church, despite the skepticism from many sides. We have continued to worship as a single parish, strengthened by our common practices and beliefs, and accepting with grace all the differences from our backgrounds and differing worship experiences.

Starting a Sunday School with a congregation made up almost exclusively of newly retired people was a daunting responsibility. We had far more teachers than students! I am so grateful to see the fine programs that have evolved to produce church education as a part of worship, youth activities, and intergenerational programs.

I have been involved in Trinity Ecumenical Parish as a Parish Council member, taught classes and led group discussions, and taken two mission trips to Mississippi after Katrina. I served as a volunteer at Lake Christian Ministries and was a Stephen Minister for several years. I am still a member of the Bible Study group which was the first activity I joined at Trinity.

Trinity is our church home and our church family. I am grateful to be part of this active, effective ministry.

-Ave Wenzel

