



**Trinity Early Learning  
Center**

**A Great Place to Grow!**



**Fall 2011**

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## Message from Anne

### Trinity Early Learning Center Turns 25

Thanks to those of you who joined us in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TELC in September. We are proud to recognize this milestone with you and grateful to all the teachers, staff, families, and supporters from Trinity Presbyterian Church who have helped us throughout the years.

Recently Trinity Presbyterian Reverend Pam Driesell wrote some words about TELC and other organizations that are supported by Trinity Presbyterian in the September 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Trinity Times*. I found these words inspirational and borrowed a few passages of “Pam’s Ponderings” to share with you. I hope you enjoy the beautiful spirit of the words below.



“Have you read the Trinity Mission Statement lately? In part it reads, ‘we are committed as a spiritual community to nurture the whole person – mind, heart, and soul – throughout their lives, encouraging that continual exploration and insight which keeps us open to the new world God is always creating.’ This commitment is certainly one of the core values of Trinity Church and there are two vital components to it: attending to the WHOLE person throughout their WHOLE life!

“Faith communities are one place in our culture where the generations connect and it is a great joy to me every week in worship to look out and to see the young and the old and those in the middle years lifting hearts and voices to God...

“This month the Trinity Early Learning Center (TELC) turns 25 and Lifespan Resources turns 30 - thanks be to God! These two dynamic ministries are based here in the Trinity building and are tangible expressions of our mission. During the week, the Trinity’s halls are filled with the life and laughter of the young and the older as TELC nurtures the hearts, minds, and bodies of preschoolers and Lifespan does the same for people over age 55...

“Trinity friends, as we start another school year, I pray you will be intentional about building bridges with one another inter-generationally as well as seeking out friendships within your own demographic. When you do that, you are helping to fulfill Trinity’s commitment to nurture the whole person throughout their whole life so that we are all open to the new world God is creating! Together, we ARE Trinity church!”

## UPDATE: Sustainability

### Reading, ‘Riting, ‘Rithmetic... and Recycling!

The “Three R’s” mean more than reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic at TELC. As the center broadens its focus on sustainable living, ensuring that it creates the least amount of impact on the environment while meeting the needs of its staff, students, and parents, the “Three R’s” have also come to mean reduce, reuse and recycle. TELC continues to make positive changes in improving its sustainability while educating our children about their environment in the process.

- **Food Service.** In 2011, TELC stopped the use of disposable plates and plastic utensils and has reduced its use of frozen fruits and vegetables in exchange for locally grown, farm-fresh produce.

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## Sustainability continued from page 1

- **Recycling.** With the assistance of Trinity Presbyterian, TELC properly disposes of paper, cardboard, plastics, and aluminum that are collected in the school and uses paper made of recycled, post-consumer waste in its printers and copiers.
- **Outdoor Classroom.** Weekly lessons on the environment, including hands-on gardening, have been incorporated into TELC's summer curriculum and the daily outdoor classroom experience.

Additional changes at TELC including turning off classroom lights when children are outside or in the Play Place and using low-energy light bulbs in all classrooms – simple changes that we can all consider making in our own homes!

## FOCUS ON LEARNING: Games You Can Play at Home

### What's Missing?

Learning Skill: Paying attention to detail

1. Have your child gather 10-12 small objects (a paper clip, marker, rubber band, etc.)
2. Spread the objects out on the floor or on a blanket
3. Ask your child to close his or her eyes and sing a song while you remove some of the objects
4. When your child opens his or her eyes, ask them to name "What's Missing" from the objects

### Alphabet, I Spy

Learning Skill: Learning the sounds that letters make

1. One child chooses a letter from the alphabet ("B")
2. The child then scans the room and "spies" an object that begins with "B"
3. He or she says, "I spy something that begins with the letter B" (butterfly, bird, bicycle - anything that begins with the letter "B")
4. Another child or parent tries to guess the object, pointing out objects that also begin with the letter "B"

### Goldfish Bingo

Learning Skill: Recognizing letters and numbers

1. Create your own Bingo board featuring the letters or numbers your child is currently learning or use a standard Bingo board
2. Play Bingo normally, but use goldfish crackers to cover the spaces. Your child can eat a goldfish cracker when the letter or number of the space it is on is called.

Save the Date!  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual



March 24, 2012

For information on corporate sponsorships or volunteer opportunities, contact:

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## SPOTLIGHT: Our Fabulous Teachers!

How long has Ms. Roz taught at TELC? Where is Ms. Tanisha from? Get to know more about some of the amazing teachers at TELC through a questionnaire we created with the help of TELC children. In this newsletter, we spotlight teachers from the Dogwood, Marigold and Lily classrooms; upcoming newsletters will feature our other fabulous teachers!



### Rosalyn Woodard, “Miss Roz” – Dogwood (3 – 4 years old)

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** Born and raised in Atlanta

**Q: What's your favorite color?**

**A:** Yellow

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

**A:** Fish/seafood

**Q: How long have you been at TELC?**

**A:** 17 years

**Q: What is your favorite activity or game?**

**A:** She loves to let the children do open-ended art projects. The teachers provide the materials, and they just let the children go for it! They do everything from tie-dying to pasting to painting.

Another game that she likes to play is good for the imagination. It's called, “What if...” Miss Roz names a scenario and the kids have to answer what they would do in each scenario. Examples: “What if the whole world was made of water?” “What if we had to jump everywhere instead of walking?” “What if dinosaurs still lived on the earth?”

**“The relationships that I build with children and parents last a lifetime.”**

**Q: Do you have a memorable story about working here at TELC?**

**A:** Miss Roz was talking to some of the girls in the classroom about princesses, and each girl was choosing which princess to play-act. One said Cinderella, another Snow White, and one picked Princess Leia. Miss Roz chose Jasmine, and one girl said, “Jasmine wears her belly button out all the time.” Miss Roz promptly decided to choose a different princess.

**Q: What makes working at TELC special?**

**A:** Miss Roz says that the fellowship goes beyond this building. “The relationships that I build with children and parents last a lifetime.”

**Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, which TELC teacher or staff member would you want with you and why?**

**A:** She would bring Lucille. Miss Roz said, “We go way back. Lucille thinks out of the box and she'd figure things out. She'd try a lot of things until she accomplished her task.”



### Tanisha Riley – Marigold (4 – 5 year olds)

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** Detroit, Mich.

**Q: What's your favorite color?**

**A:** Black

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

**A:** Pasta

**Q: How long have you been at TELC?**

**A:** Two years

**Q: What is your favorite activity or game?**

**A:** Miss Tanisha loves to play “Bug in a Rug.” All the kids sit in a circle. One child leaves the room while another child hides under a blanket. When the first child comes back into the room, he (or she) has to figure out who is under the blanket (who is the “bug in a rug”).

**Q: Do you have a memorable story about working at TELC?**

**A:** “Miss Lynn dancing. She is a GREAT dancer.”

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Teachers continued from page 3

**“Teaching is in me. I feel like I didn’t just choose it; it chose me.”**

**Q: What makes working at TELC special?**

**A:** The children and my wonderful co-workers.

**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

**A:** “Teaching is in me. I feel like I didn’t just choose it; it chose me.”

**Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, which TELC teacher or staff member would you want with you and why?**

**A:** Miss T (Tineja Leslie). “Because she is fun to be around and she is hilarious.”



**Tineja Leslie, "Miss T" – Marigold (4 – 5 year olds)**

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** Born in Atlanta, lived in the West Indies, moved back to Atlanta at the age of 12

**Q: What's your favorite color?**

**A:** Light Blue

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

**A:** Seafood

**Q: How long have you been at TELC?**

**A:** Since October 2009

**Q: What is your favorite activity or game?** She loves to play “What’s Missing,” which is described in the “Focus on Learning” on page two!

**Q: Do you have a memorable story about working here at TELC?**

**A:** It was transition time for one of the little girls, and the little girl said to Tineja, “You mean, I won’t be in this classroom tomorrow?” Miss Tineja said, “Nope, you’re a big girl now.” The sweet little girl replied, “But I just started loving you.”

**Q: What makes working at TELC special?**

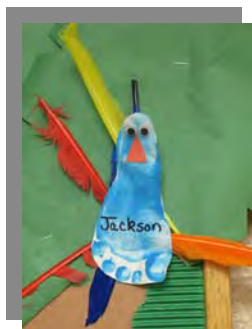
“The children and my co-teacher Tanisha Riley. We finish each other’s sentences. She is funny and makes it fun to come to work.” Miss Tineja also notes, “what other job can you have where you laugh all day and get to have fun?”

**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

**A:** She loves every child and said that there is something fulfilling about teaching children. She loves to see the light bulb go on in their brains and watch their face light up.

**Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, which TELC teacher or staff member would you want with you and why?**

**A:** She would bring her co-teacher, Tanisha Riley. She said that Tanisha would be resourceful: in the classroom, Tanisha finds creative ways to accomplish tasks and she comes up with great last-minute games.



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**Danielle Robinson – Lily (4 – 5 years old)**

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** Born and raised in Atlanta

**Q: What's your favorite color?**

**A:** Purple

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

**A:** Mexican

**Q: How long have you been at TELC?**

**A:** Three years, since March 2008

**Q: What is your favorite activity or game?**

**A:** She loves to play kickball and Bingo. Her very favorite game is “Go Fish.”

**Q: Do you have a memorable story about working here at TELC?**

**A:** Miss Danielle has two stories:

1) In class, the students were learning about doing things in sequence. Danielle asked, “What do you do in the morning?” One little girl answered, “On Saturday you go to Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts, and then you go to the airport. Then you go home.”

2) The students were learning about parts of the body and their functions. Miss Danielle asked, “What does your heart do?” and Heather replied, “It makes you love people.”



**Q: What makes working at TELC special?**

**A:** The children, of course. Danielle also said that she loves the fact that at ages 4 and 5, students are learning how to read.

**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

**A:** “[The kids] bring smiles to my face.” She continues, “I was younger I used to line up my stuffed animals— Barbies, teddy bears—and pretend I was the teacher. And it stuck with me for all those years. I was so lucky – the thing I really wanted to become, it happened.”

**Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, which TELC teacher or staff member would you want with you and why?**

**A:** Tiffany Embry. She would be good with directions (and Danielle claims that she is not good with directions). Tiffany helps when Danielle has a problem and needs some support.



**Vickie Watkins – Lily (4 – 5 years old)**

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** Flint, Mich.

**Q: What's your favorite color?**

**A:** Purple

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

**A:** Tacos

**Q: How long have you been at TELC?**

**A:** Three and a half years

**Q: Do you have a memorable story about working here at TELC?**

**A:** Vickie likes hearing the kids tell jokes. One boy “told a great one, ‘why did the star use the bathroom? Because it wanted to twinkle!’”

**Q: What makes working at TELC special?**

**A:** The kids!

**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

**A:** When her children were little, Miss Vickie started a daycare in her home. She loved it and later decided that she would work in a daycare outside of her own home.

Teachers continued from page 5

**Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, which TELC teacher or staff member would you want with you and why?**

**A:** Susan, because she is always telling jokes and she would keep the situation humorous. Vickie said, "Susan is always laughing. We would just laugh and laugh until someone found us."

## TELC Upcoming Events

### November 2011

18 Thanksgiving Family Feast – 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
24 – 25 School closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

### December 2011

1 Pictures with Santa  
16 Holiday Sing, 4:00 PM – Williams Hall  
23 – 26 School Closed – Christmas Holiday  
30 School Closed – New Year's Holiday

### January 2012

2 School Closed – New Year's Holiday  
16 School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
24 Parent Council Meeting – Open to all!

### March 2012

24 *Miles for Smiles* 5K Run, 1K Fun Run and Tot Trot

