

# NEWS FROM THE ARK

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## August 2023

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## A Legacy Lives On

In 2006, Shawn Bridges gave her God given talent to paint the incredible mural we have in the children's building. Shawn, an accomplished artist had always felt a "calling" to use her gifts for the Lord. As she painted the building, it was obvious from the response of the children who would walk in every Sunday to a new animal on the wall and then upstairs for a new Bible story to come to life in front of their eyes that children were truly going to "walk into the Bible" when they entered the doors of Trinity Baptist Church. As Shawn said as she painted, "if I could be God's paintbrush it would be the greatest gift of my life."

Now as with gifts sometimes there are conditions, and that was true with Shawn. Her only request was that we begin an art ministry for children at TBC. She wanted children who were artistically gifted to know they had a talent that could be used for the Lord.

So last month, for one week, over 70 kids would come excitedly through the doors for our 15<sup>th</sup> art camp. I heard story after story from parents and grandparents who expressed deep gratitude for the experience that was received. As per Shawn's dream, this camp truly reaches the community as over 65% of the children were not Trinity attendees.

One morning a group of moms were expressing the community feeling that they felt when their kids came to art camp and they wanted to find a church where their children could experience this every week. Another story was from a single mom whose kids were invited by one of her



**FOR ALL AGES**  
**SUNDAYS**  
**10:15AM**



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The Dr. Deb Show TBC

co-workers. They did not know anyone, but she brought her kids. She trusted her kids to our church. As they entered the doors reluctantly on Monday morning, the many leaders who use their gifts to make every child feel welcome transformed this family's view of church. At the end of the first day the person who invited them called me in tears and said, "My co-worker just called me about what happened at art camp today, her daughter said, 'Mom, everyone knew us at camp and talked to us. We were like rock stars!'" The last day her son said, "Can we please have art camp for another week?" The vision of a lay person almost 20 years ago is alive and well, the leaders that serve in this ministry need to know that you made a difference in the lives of many children and changed some of their perspectives of what church is. Each of you who served, showed kids the face of Jesus. As I got off the phone with this Trinity member of many years, he said, "I am so proud of my church for the mission of reaching kids through art camp."

Shawn Bridges' legacy lives on in a most powerful way. And it is a reminder that we all have a calling we just need to step up and find the place God wants us to serve. You never know how the Holy Spirit will use you to accomplish His work.

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- Aug 30**      **Parent/Child Orientation**
- Sep 6**        **Faith Family Night Begins**
- Nov 15**      **Family Showcase**
- Nov 29**      **Christmas Sing-Along Bingo**
- Dec 6**        **Gingerbread House Contest**

### Faith Family Nights

Faith Family Night meets Wednesday evenings from 6p-7:15p on the Mulberry Campus. We hope you join us for a time of community, worship, and special classes. PreK4 and Kinder will participate in music. 1st-6th grade will have a choice of Art, Ukulele, or Productions. Join us on August 30 at 6pm to find out more of each of these classes and to sign up for the class you want!

