



JULY/AUGUST 2020

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KEEPING THE FAITH

Trinity restoration to return church's glory

LAKELANDS LEGAL

Greenwood firm has served area for over a century

GROWING THE FUTURE

Broadband revolutionizes agriculture



Taking the rural broadband story to the Senate

n mid-May, I appeared before the Senate Commerce Committee to discuss the status of broadband during this time of crisis that has so many Americans working, learning and socializing from home.

I have never been more proud of the broadband providers we represent, watching them move quickly and think outside the box to get the job done for their customers. It was a privilege to share with senators that NTCA's community-based broadband providers were well prepared to keep Americans connected during a crisis — thanks to their community commitment, their entrepreneurial spirit and the support of Congress, the FCC and RUS.

NTCA members have led the charge in building future-proof broadband networks for years and are doing all they can to keep everyone's internet lights on. But I reminded the committee that to do that, these providers need to keep their own lights on as well.

First, I reminded senators how important it will be to pass the "Keeping Critical Connections Act" to create a temporary emergency fund to keep Americans connected during the pandemic.

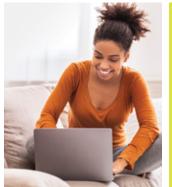
Moving forward, Congress should adopt a "Forever Connected" perspective when it comes to promoting broadband. No American should get second-class broadband service, or worse yet, no service at all.

I appreciated the opportunity to share with senators the story of NTCA members, the Smart Rural Communities they are helping to build, and what support they need to write the next chapter.

AMERICA'S RURAL BROADBAND PROVIDERS







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The six-second commute

Work from home policies boost productivity

Story by KALEIGH COX

ccording to a 2017 Gallup poll, 43% of employed Americans have spent at least some time working remotely. U.S. census data released in 2018 revealed that 5.2% of American workers are based entirely at home. Many employers, however, are reluctant to get on board with remote work. They worry that distractions at home and a lack of oversight could decrease productivity. But are those worries unfounded? One Stanford professor decided to find out.

In 2015, Nicholas Bloom conducted research as a Chinese travel agency tested a new work-from-home policy with half of its call center employees. Bloom found that productivity actually increased by an average of 13% thanks to fewer interruptions, shorter breaks and fewer sick days. With just a six-second commute to their laptop, employees were also less likely to start work late or leave early.

Little bits of time saved here and there added up to a big difference. Each employee completed roughly one extra shift's worth of work. And they were happier, too. Employee attrition, formerly a big problem at the company, decreased by an astounding 50%. The company in Bloom's study cut back on its office space in an expensive city and saved \$2,000 per employee.

Working from home is great for employers and employees alike, but there are challenges to keep in mind. At the end of the study, over half of the work-from-home employees decided they wouldn't want to work from home 100% of the time, citing isolation as a challenge. Fortunately, there are several ways remote companies can help employees overcome isolation and reap the benefits of working from home:

- Use technology to stay connected. Video meetings allow for face-to-face time and are more engaging than audio-only conference calls. Platforms like Slack encourage steady communication, even between meetings.
- **Consider flexible policies.** Working from home doesn't have to be all or nothing. Some companies opt for a mix of in-office and at-home days or start new employees in the office for smoother onboarding. The key is to consider the unique needs of the team and experiment with creative options as needed.
- Encourage team bonding. A sense of community can combat feelings of isolation and encourage team cohesion. Non-workrelated, group bonding activities — whether virtual or in person — can help teams feel connected and united even as they work from home.

Working from home can save companies time and money, improve employee satisfaction and improve retention rates — as long as they find ways to keep employees connected and engaged from wherever they call home.

Stay focused with the Pomodoro Technique

Named after the creator's tomato-shaped kitchen timer, the Pomodoro Technique is a simple time-management strategy widely used by work-from-home employees who need help staying focused. Here's how it works:

- » Select a task to focus on.
- » Set your timer for 25 minutes and work until you hear the "ding."
- » Take a short five-minute break to stretch or grab a coffee.
- » Repeat three more times, then take a longer break of 15-30 minutes.

Even large tasks feel manageable when you only have to focus for 25 minutes at a time. Set a kitchen timer, use your phone's timer or download a Pomodoro app to try this "time-tested" technique for yourself.

Thank you to our farmers

There are many ways this year's pandemic is going to change the way America thinks about things. One of those ways, I hope, is that we remember those who keep our society running.



JEFF WILSON Chief Executive Officer

Last issue, I outlined how broadband has provided an essential service during the pandemic for the millions of people who've had to adjust to working or attending school online. But in this issue, we're focusing on something even more essential: the farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers who put food on our tables, lumber in our houses and clothes on our backs.

A steady supply of food and other agricultural products at the store is something many of us frequently took for granted. But the spiking demand and supply chain disruptions this year have made me appreciate when there is chicken in the meat case, fresh vegetables in the produce department and stocked shelves on the paper products aisle.

I think our nation's farmers — including those right here in South Carolina — have become some of the most underappreciated but absolutely critical people in this country.

So in light of that, I want to take this space to say thank you.

Thank you to all of the folks in our area growing and cutting timber. A sincere thank you to the local folks raising and butchering cattle. Thanks to all of the small growers selling at the farmers markets around our region. Thank you to all the fruit growers and peach pickers in the orchards around our state. Thanks to the row crop farmers and the dairy farmers for their long days of hard work. Thank you to all of the beekeepers tending to their hives, the hay farmers storing their bales and the egg farmers in their chicken houses. Thank you to all of the extension agents who help share knowledge between all of those groups.

Whether they're producing beef or beans, cotton or canola, pumpkins or peanuts, our agricultural producers deserve our appreciation.

Every growing season they risk their financial future, and they must pray for the right weather and good yields. But they're also adapting to changing demands and industry trends.

For anyone who hasn't been out on a farm lately, you might be surprised to find how much technology is in the fields and barns. Farmers use sensors to check soil and moisture conditions, watch temperatures in chicken houses, monitor levels of chemicals in their tanks, order seeds and parts, keep up with commodity prices and find new markets to sell their products.

In this issue, we're happy to highlight the hard work farmers put in to keep America moving and the growing role technology plays in helping their operations run smoothly. It's important to remember that many of the founders of our cooperative were farmers who realized the need for telephone technology, just as they appreciate the need for broadband today.

I'm thankful for all of the members of our local agriculture community and proud to still be their technology partner. \Box



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is a member-owned cooperative dedicated to delivering advanced telecommunications technology to the people of Abbeville, Anderson and McCormick counties.

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On the Cover:



Abbeville's Trinity Episcopal Church is undergoing a \$3.5 million renovation thanks to the efforts of a nonprofit group. See story Page 12.



3 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 17, at Long Cane AME Community Center, 8 Long Cane AME Road, Abbeville. You are invited to attend.



Remember to call 811 if you're digging

Are you working on any projects in your yard this summer? Be sure to call 811 several days before any digging project. Hitting an underground utility line while

digging can cause serious injuries, could disrupt service to entire neighborhoods and will result in a repair charge. WCTEL Fiber cuts will result in a minimum repair charge of \$100 assessed to the homeowner or contractor when 811 isn't called prior to the project. For more information on 811, go to https://call811.com. We appreciate your cooperation!



Common Ground Alliance

WCTEL enacts safety plans during COVID-19

As the community starts to recover physically, economically and socially from the recent pandemic, WCTEL will continue to remain cautious with its procedures.

WCTEL believes we are all in this together, and the cooperative will continue to post updates at wctel.com/covid-19 and on social media.

In order to ensure the safety of customers and our team during the pandemic, WCTEL enacted precautions that are continuing during the COVID-19 threat:

- Canceled all domestic business travel.
- Practice social distancing. All meetings with outside vendors and business partners or those that involve large groups have been canceled or are now conducted remotely as conference calls or videoconferences.
- Distributed hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, and regularly disinfect and deep clean company offices.
- Use internal communications to keep WCTEL employees updated on the latest news of the virus, keep them informed on how to prevent the spread of the illness and answer their questions.
- Shared specific instructions with employees regarding the importance of washing their hands and staying home if they feel sick.

SWEET &

Simple Gerbera daisies are a

Gerbera daisies are a colorful burst of sunshine

hey start out so colorful and add such a happy touch to your outdoor setting, but with the heat of summer, gerbera daisies begin to lose their appeal. Their healthy, green leaves brown as the heat rises.

But all is not lost — your daisies can come back to life with a little love and flower power on your part.

Gerbera daisies are a popular flower for both the home and garden. You can cut them and make a stunning, multicolored bouquet. They put on quite a show with their rainbow of colors, which is one of the most distinctive qualities of gerberas. They range from beautiful reds, cheery yellows, bright pinks and vivid whites to perfect purples, soft peach and more. And while you may see blue and green gerberas, those are most likely victims of artificial coloring.

"They really are a customer favorite," says Cole Webster, general manager of The Barn Nursery in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "They're bright, fun and an iconic bloom. When I think of summer and warm weather, I think of gerbera daisies."

With proper care, though, these blooms can last well past spring and through the heat of summer — and possibly through the cold of winter.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS WEBSTER OFFERS TO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL:

- * Gerbera daisies should be watered every couple of days. It's easy to tell if they're desperate for a drink. The leaves sag, and the blooms wilt. "I like telling people to water them whenever you think about it," Webster says.
- * The best time to water is in the morning. But if you forget, water in the afternoon. Don't wait until the next day. If you're thirsty, you don't tell yourself you'll wait until tomorrow to get something to drink.
- * Fertilize every three weeks. For container plants, Webster recommends a product like Scotts Super Bloom or some other plant food that has a high phosphorus level to help promote big blooms. If you plant your daisies in the ground, a slow-release fertilizer is your best bet.
- Gerberas are sun-loving plants, but sun is too much of a good thing when temperatures climb to 90 degrees and higher. This is the time of year you should limit

their sunning to mornings, moving them into the shade in the heat of the afternoon.

- * Gerbera daisies can come back next year if you winterize them. In the South, particularly those areas where mild winters prevail, mulch the daisies well, and they'll reappear next spring. In areas that suffer through freezing winter temperatures, bring the daisies inside and place them in a bright window or greenhouse, watering and fertilizing as needed. Note, however, gerberas are more likely to come back and rebloom if they are planted outdoors. They can last for two to three years.
- * Use gerberas in an arrangement for a stunning, colorful showpiece. Their stems are hollow, allowing a wire to be inserted into them if needed for stability.
- If you plan ahead, you can start gerberas from seed, but it will take about six months for them to reach maturity. Plant seeds around Thanksgiving for spring blooms.

A few things you might not know about gerbera daisies

Not only are gerbera daisies among the most popular flowers, but they also have an interesting history. They enjoy longevity, have medicinal uses and are made up of a surprisingly complex structure.

- Dutchman Jan Frederic
 Gronovius wished to honor a
 German botanist and physician,
 Traugott Gerber, when naming
 the genus Gerbera in the 1700s.
- Gerberas can last in a waterfilled vase for two weeks, making them among the longest-lasting cut flowers.
- The plant is also believed by many to have health benefits, pulling carbon dioxide and other toxins found in the air and discharging oxygen. Some people even place gerberas by their bedsides.
- * The structure of the gerbera is complex. At first, the flower seems to be a single flower head with many small petals. However, the gerbera flower actually consists of a huge cluster of hundreds of tinier flowers.
- Scientific researchers have examined the daisies as they study the formation of flowers. And the flower is resistant to fungal diseases.
- Similar to sunflowers, gerber daisies track the sun. The flower turns as the light moves from east to west.
- About 40 documented species of gerberas exist.

Source: flowerweb.cor



HI! I'M AMANDA CLARK

In this column, you'll learn about technology and read simple tips to get the most out of your electronics. For more tips or help with your devices, be sure to read this column in future publications. I'm always happy to help!

DEVICE OF THE MONTH



Oculus Quest

If you've been looking to take a very real plunge into virtual reality, you can't go wrong with the Oculus Quest. The key difference between the Quest and other headsets is that it doesn't require you to be tethered to a powerful PC to run, although there's an optional cable available for PC gamers. You can also share your VR experience with others who can follow what you see using a TV or smartphone. Its simple setup, wireless gameplay and comfortable hardware make the Quest the best all-around VR device. \$399 MSRP 64 GB version, \$499 for 128 GB.



Level up

The old saying "a watched pot never boils" speaks to how slowly time can seem to pass. A newer saying, "a watched file never downloads," may mean you need to upgrade your internet speed. As more and more of us work from home, participate in videoconferencing, stream high-definition content and take up online gaming, a slow connection may become a bottleneck.

The Federal Communications Commission considers broadband internet to have a minimum download speed of 25 Mbps and a minimum upload speed of 3 Mbps. This is the standard set for minimum broadband speeds.

So, how do you determine what speed is right for you? It really depends on the services you use and how many household members take advantage of them. If all you do is general browsing or email, you can get away with lower speeds. Demand spikes, however, once you start launching high-demand applications such as HD video, multiplayer games, or frequent file downloads and uploads.

Even with their baseline of 25 Mbps download speeds for broadband, the FCC recommends faster speeds if you have two or more users or devices running those high-demand applications at the same time. For example, families need higher speeds if a parent in the

Match your need with your speed

living room watches Netflix while the kids play Fortnite or stream YouTube videos in their bedrooms. If you add more users or devices, the need for faster connections becomes higher, even if they aren't running those high-demand services.

As our homes become smarter and we have more and more devices connected to the internet — smartphones, tablets, digital assistants, security systems, game consoles, etc. — higher speeds are necessary to get the most out of those devices.

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW: MBPS

Mbps means "megabits per second," and it is how internet speed is usually measured, although it's best thought of as how much data may be transferred. Latency refers to the time it takes for information to get from one point to another. Your internet speed is a mix of both. When you're downloading a file, think of it broken down and packed into a fleet of delivery trucks. Even if the trucks are fast (low latency), more of them can get to you on a six-lane highway (high Mbps) than on a country road (low Mbps).

Legal eagles

Greenwood law firm roots date back more than a century

Story by JOHN CLAYTON +

illiam H. Nicholson Sr., a former state senator and criminal defense attorney, started what is now known as the Nicholson, Meredith and Anderson law firm that continues to serve the Greenwood area.

More than a century later, his grandson, W.H. "Billy" Nicholson III, carries on the family tradition of practicing law at the Greenwood firm, as did Billy Nicholson's father and uncle before he became a circuit court judge. Working with Nicholson and his partner, Lena Meredith, are two associate attorneys, both with family ties to the office with its seven-member support staff.

"Some form of this firm has been here for around 100 years," says Meredith, who joined the practice in 2005.

Like many small-town law firms, Nicholson, Meredith and Anderson handles all case types, ranging from criminal defense to personal injury and estate planning. The



support staff members aid the attorneys in separate areas of practice.

"We basically designate each person to a certain practice area, and that way, if one attorney does multiple areas of practice and that particular person is out of the office for a period of time, those areas of practice don't go down," Meredith says. "We can have people cross-trained to fill it."

It is also still largely a family business, with associate attorneys William H. "Will" Nicholson IV and Jennings B. Anderson involved. Anderson is the son of a former partner, the late J.P. "Jim" Anderson, who practiced with the firm from 1974 until 2011. Jennings Anderson joined the firm in 2007. Will Nicholson came on board in 2014, becoming the fourth generation of Nicholsons to be part of the family firm.

"It has been very much a family business, and that was one of the things that attracted me to the firm," Meredith





says. "We have very much a team concept. It is not just a bunch of individuals practicing together, and we enjoy handling cases together. Mr. Nicholson and I often handle cases together. So, you don't just get one of us if you hire the firm. You get all of us."

The firm joined forces with WCTEL earlier this year, just before the COVID-19 pandemic caused businesses across the state and nation to either shut down or implement a remote system, to ensure its employees could work from home. WCTEL's Voice over IP system and high-speed internet kept the law firm team in touch with one another and clients.



Meredith also conducted as many as five remote depositions via Zoom on different days as she worked from home.

With WCTEL each employee could now have their own extension at home and could directly intercom other extensions as well as answer the phone from home," Meredith says. "That was one of the best things to keep us connected throughout the pandemic, apart from having the bandwidth we needed to be able to work from home."











Technology in the growing field

Innovations in automation help farmers work more efficiently

Story by LAZ DENES

N ever has technology been more important to the agriculture industry than it is today. As farmers and ranchers face challenges such as diminishing sustainable farmland, rising costs of supplies and equipment, workforce shortages, and ever-changing consumer preferences, they must find ways to produce more without breaking the bank.

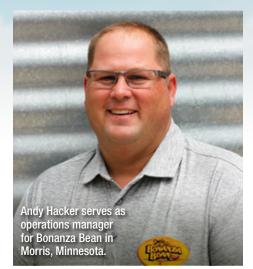
Fortunately, technology enables farmers to shave hours, days and even weeks off some of the most time-consuming tasks to make their operations more efficient than ever.

Corey Poss, an agronomist with the Rutherford Farmers Cooperative in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, oversees an operation that offers satellite and drone technology to help map, monitor and analyze crop fields. Another solution is a forecasting tool that can predict the yield of a particular crop to within 10% — before seeds are even planted.

"Crop ground is getting swallowed up every day, and we've got more people to feed, so we have to apply technology everywhere we can to be as efficient as possible and not waste time and money," says Poss, who is in his sixth year with the Rutherford co-op after graduating with an agribusiness degree from Tennessee Tech University.

"A lot of our larger growers are participating with us free of charge," he says. "The technology originated in the Midwest — the Corn Belt. I don't ever have to step in the field. We can get a much more accurate look from above. We can identify problems with water, nutrient deficiency and disease on a wide scale, and we can advise the farmer so he can apply his fertilizer accordingly. With our satellite and drone technology, we can cover as much as 1,000 acres a day."





PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Poss and his crew of four agronomists use the fast fiber optic network at their Woodbury and Smithville locations to process analytics that farmers then load into their automated equipment to enable a precise distribution of fertilizer, pesticides and nutrients on every square inch of a growing field.

It's a practice called "writing prescriptions," something with which Texas farmer Spence Pennington has become all too familiar. Five years ago, he returned to his family farm in Raymondville after serving as an Air Force aircraft maintenance officer. He and his family grow cotton, grain sorghum, corn, sugarcane and sesame seed. They also raise Brangus cattle in Willacy, Cameron and Hidalgo counties in the Rio Grande Valley. Pennington appreciates the ability to pinpoint the varying requirements of his family's farmland through technology.

"I have 10 to 12 systems — my tractors and all my equipment — and I can link them all together to make them all sync, thanks to the broadband at my house," he says. "I can run my agriculture systems, security systems, monitor my equipment. I can literally see the water temp in the radiator of one of my tractors, all from home. When I'm at home, I'm still connected to my farm."

Pennington and his wife, Emily, an Iowa native he met while on active duty in Ramstein, Germany, also rely on broadband technology to help them stay



on top of their continuing duties as Air Force reservists. Pennington is a lieutenant colonel and commander of the 433rd Maintenance Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. His wife, a nurse practitioner at a local regional hospital, still serves as an Air Force major. Stationed at Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis, she is the chief nurse of the 932nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"We live multiple lives, and we have to cover a lot of ground," Pennington says. "After working 12 to 13 hours a day on the farm, I come home and have to take care of business as commander of my unit. I'm responsible for 250 people remotely, and I'm logging into a very encrypted system.

"Having fast internet has literally changed our lives, and we've gotten so much family time back," he says. "No more headaches, and everything is so much quicker. We've been married just over three years, and we have two kids now, so we can really appreciate being able to take care of our military duties that much more quickly and efficiently."

MAKING THE GRADE

Reliable broadband service also is a valuable tool for the Bonanza Bean farming operation headquartered in Morris, Minnesota. The company processes black beans and three varieties of kidney beans and sells to national and international companies from its state-of-the-art facilities in Minnesota and Arizona.



The company touts its magnetic dirt separator, which uses magnets to remove dirt with high concentrations of iron from the beans. It also sells a state-of-the-art, infrared-camera technology for sorting that can differentiate a black bean from a dirtball.

"That machine has really changed our industry," says Andy Hacker, Bonanza Bean operations manager. "The needle machine picks out anything that has a sprout or a skin defect or anything that we can catch with a needle. At Bonanza Bean, we never let anything leave our facility that doesn't make USDA Grade No. 1. With our cleaning facility, we're able to accomplish that."

About 60 million pounds of beans roll through its processing plants each year, with particular emphasis on international sales. Broadband service allows its sales staff to monitor up-to-the-minute market data and communicate with its vast array of customers.

PRESERVE & PROTECT

Saving Trinity Episcopal Church for everyone

Story by JOHN CLAYTON | Photos by MATT LEDGER



Significant renovations are needed to rehabilitate the facade of the church.

n Christmas Eve, Trinity Episcopal Church was always filled for a midnight mass. The small number of Trinity parishioners, which had dwindled to around 20 over the past decade, welcomed neighbors of all denominations into the historic church.

"The interesting thing about it is there's a lot of Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians around, but they all consider Trinity to be their church, too," says Lewis Ashley, Trinity's senior ward. "Midnight mass on Christmas Eve is a very important event for Anglicans all over the world, and our midnight mass was always our most popular program."

It was an annual event until the historic Gothic Revival church, consecrated in 1860, closed in January 2017 due to structural failures. Water, wind and age damaged the timbers that buttress the church's iconic steeple, which towers 125 feet above Abbeville. "The timbers in the tower became unstable, and the architects decided that we simply could not allow people in the church until that was corrected," Ashley says.

Enter Preservation South Carolina and its Saving Sacred Spaces initiative, which is dedicated to the restoration of the state's historic churches. Trinity is the initiative's first project, and organizers expect it to cost \$3.5 million, says Mike Bedenbaugh, executive director of Preservation South Carolina. The project began with the stabilization of the 125-foot spire and should proceed through much of 2020 as funds continue to roll in for the project. "We're really looking forward to making this place a success," Bedenbaugh says. "It's just such a phenomenal property, and Abbeville is such a wonderful community that deserves this. They have some of the best historic resources in the state for a town its size, and we're honored to be able to be a part of the restoration of what we believe is their Mona Lisa and Eiffel Tower all rolled into one."

HISTORY LESSONS

Bedenbaugh says the Trinity Church project was "aspirational" from the very beginning. Despite having only 28 paying members and being located in the small county seat of a largely rural county, its 1850s congregation hired prominent Columbia architect George Walker. Gothic Revival churches elsewhere — namely New York City — inspired Walker to build a pink stuccoed brick cathedral.

"He built one of the largest Gothic churches in the country," Bedenbaugh says of Abbeville's most iconic landmark, noting its distinct resemblance to Trinity Wall Street Episcopal Church in New York City. "It has the tallest spire in South Carolina outside of Columbia."

The Gothic Revival style was more than an aesthetic choice. Bedenbaugh says part of the architectural movement included the belief that only Gothic Revival style was befitting of cathedrals and that Classical Greek architecture was inappropriate for houses of worship.

"In 1858, there were no brick structures in town except the courthouse and maybe the jail," he says. "Everything else would have been stake-built homes of wood around the square, and Walker was looking down what is now Trinity Street. I have a hard time imagining that he did not show the members of the congregation a lithograph that exists and was very common at the time of Trinity Wall Street Church."

The Abbeville church's stained glass windows, created by "the father of American stained glass," William Gibson, reportedly were brought to the town after merchant sailors dodged a Union blockade to deliver them to the South Carolina coast as the Civil War loomed. The church's large tracker organ, one of only three surviving creations of Charleston's John Baker, will need to be restored. Bedenbaugh says work on the priceless organ will be part of phase three of the project.

HOW TO HELP

Donate online at restoretrinity.org.

The website also offers the option to donate through the purchase of Bill Fitzgerald's book, "Sacred Spaces of South Carolina." Proceeds go to Preservation South Carolina's Saving Sacred Spaces initiative.

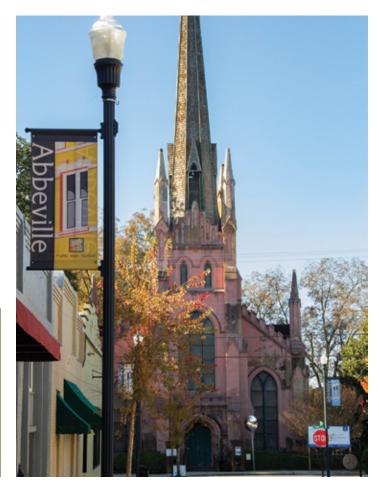
Or, mail a check to: Restore Trinity Fund P.O. Box 448 • Abbeville, SC 29620

THE FUTURE

By late spring, about 40% of the \$3.5 million to complete the Trinity Church project had come in. Crews had stabilized the tilted steeple and continued to make other renovations to the exterior of the church during the first of its three renovation phases. "I've been a member of this parish for 30 years, and we've had a rough three years since we've been out of the church," Ashley says. "They're making good progress now, and we just have high hopes that fairly soon we can get back to the business that we're supposed to be about."

Preservation South Carolina is also working with local leaders to help the church's members develop a business plan to ensure its viability. With seating for hundreds and an abundance of Gothic charm, the church is a perfect wedding and tourist destination, and Bedenbaugh says those things can help ensure its future. "Part of what we're going to do is build an event and wedding business in the church so they can maintain its place as a preeminent tourist attraction and a big, functional space where people can gather for weddings and events," he says.

Increasing the church membership will also be key. Ashley says most of the church's congregation is aging, and an infusion of younger members and families will be necessary to secure Trinity's future. Bedenbaugh agrees. "What's happened to Trinity in Abbeville in the past years is what's happened to a lot of smalltown churches," he says. "Congregations have diminished as social norms and religious views have changed."



Chillingly delicions No one can resist ice cream

There was a time when ice cream came in just a few flavors — primarily chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. But step inside It's All So Yummy Cafe in Knoxville and you'll find that the quintessential summer treat we all know and love has gone rogue. Watermelon Chip, Roasted Golden Beet and the popcorn-flavored Movie Night certainly don't sound like ice cream flavors, but they're among the many Kim and Wade Wilcox have created since buying the cafe eight years ago.

The menu features sandwiches, salads and other foods typical of most cafes. However, with the purchase of the eatery came an ice cream machine, and the couple decided to use it. But there was a learning curve.

After they had been making ice cream for several years on a smaller scale than they do now, Wade Wilcox decided to learn more — so he went back to school. He didn't enroll in just one of many online courses, though. He took part in Penn State's prestigious ice cream course, an intense, weeklong program that draws people from around the world, teaching them all about the manufacturing of commercially sold ice cream. "It gave me a more rounded, in-depth knowledge of the chemistry that goes into making ice cream," he says. "And it gave me a good chance to make contact with other people in the industry and share ideas."

The Wilcoxes, originally from Iowa, have lived in Knoxville for 23 years. They started out selling about 30 flavors of ice cream. Now, that number has risen to well over 50, but not every flavor is available every day.

"Many of them are seasonal that we only do at certain times of the year," Kim Wilcox says, adding that making these types available once in a while "keeps people wanting them more." For example, during Girl Scout Cookies season, they'll make ice cream with the treats right after the cookies are delivered. When it's gone, it's gone.

Popular year-round varieties are Death by Godiva Chocolate and Butterfinger. "My personal favorite?" she says. "I don't know that I have one. My favorites change all the time, but I do like all of our coffee-based ice creams."

Ice cream sold at It's All So Yummy Cafe goes by the name Hilton Head Ice Cream, and there's a story behind it. Years ago, the man who first opened the cafe went to Hilton Head and fell in love with the ice cream at the shop Hilton Head Ice Cream. He liked it so much, he convinced the owner to let him open a store in Knoxville. "Part of the deal was that he needed to call it Hilton Head Ice Cream,

and that's how Knoxville has always known it," Wilcox says. "We use the same process that the original Hilton Head Ice Cream shop uses."

Now an expert in the field of frozen delights, she offers one important tip for those less skilled in the making of ice cream: "Don't be afraid to experiment with flavors. Ice cream should be fun." Kim Wilcox and her husband, Wade, created the It's All So Yummy Cafe in Knoxville, Tennessee.





ANNE P. BRALY IS A NATIVE OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

LET'S GO TO THE FAIR Supplae

Cotton candy (available in many stores — or at the fair!) Vanilla ice cream M&M's Chocolate syrup Sugar wafer cookie Rainbow sprinkles Whipped cream Maraschino cherry with stem

Make a bowl out of the cotton candy. Put the ice cream in the bowl. Working quickly, add M&M's, chocolate syrup and sugar wafer cookie. Top with whipped cream, sprinkles and a cherry on top. Serve immediately. Makes one sundae.

PUMPKIN WHOOPIE PIE ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups pure pumpkin puree
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla

Suggested ice cream flavors: pumpkin, French vanilla, butter pecan, cinnamon or dark chocolate.

Heat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In a large bowl, whisk the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and cloves. Set aside. In another bowl, whisk the brown sugar and oil until well combined. Add the pumpkin puree and whisk to combine. Add eggs and vanilla until well mixed. Add the flour mixture 1/2 cup at a time, and stir until combined. In 1/3-cup scoops, put the cookie dough



on the baking sheets. They will spread a little, so leave some space between them. Bake for 11-13 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Remove from the oven and let cool before removing from the pan. Once cooled, wrap them individually and freeze.

When ready to serve, take one cookie and place a big scoop of your favorite ice cream on it. Then, top with another cookie and enjoy.

SALTED SESAME CARAMEL

A mouthwatering topping for most any ice cream.

- cup sugar
 Pinch of cream of tartar
 tablespoons water
- 1/4 cup tahini

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup toasted sesame seeds
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Bring sugar, cream of tartar and water to a boil in a medium pan over medium-high heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Boil until the sugar begins to caramelize in spots. Stir with a heatproof spatula and cook until the color of honey, 5-7 minutes. Reduce heat to medium low and cook, stirring occasionally, until caramel is a deep amber color, about 5 minutes.

Remove caramel from heat and whisk in the tahini and butter. Then add cream, sesame seeds and salt.

Cool before serving. This sauce may be made ahead of time and refrigerated. 📿



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