

The Tidings



**2201 Spring Lake Rd.
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Table of Contents

Rector’s Message	2
Pastoral Care	4
Sr. Warden’s Report.....	4
Parishioner Spotlight.....	5
Treasurer’s Report.....	5
HTES Updates.....	5
Meet our New Members.....	6
Salvation Army	7
Holy Hackers.....	8
Church Walkway.....	8
Raffle Baskets	8
Raffle Baskets/Golf Benefit	8
Notes from Sharon	9
Upcoming Events	10
Contact’s Page.....	11

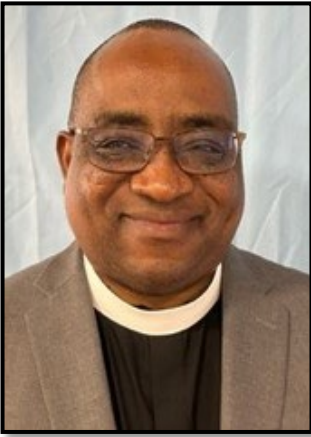
Happy September Anniversary To:

- 6** - P. Scott & Mary Louise Colligan
- 6** - Fr. Jamie & Karen Jones
- 7** - Roy & Jeanne Nicolosi
- 8** - Marke & Jaleh Welton
- 18** - James & Sally Scavone
- 20** - Mike & Nancy Browne
- 29** - Ray & Jane D’Auria

Happy September Birthday To:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 - Mona Merryman | 18 - Richard W. Tahara |
| 6 - Julia Shoup Coughlin | 21 - Bruce A.P. May |
| 7 - James Scavone | 21 - Bob Mustin |
| 13 - Robert Max Soeldner | 24 - Sherry Cunningham |
| 13 - Jillian Wagner | 25 - Deacon
Charlie Perrin |
| 14 - David Wahlquist | 26 - Leland Lewis |
| 15 - Diane Casson | 27 - Patricia Topping |
| 17 - Jane D’Auria | 28 - Donna Peterson |

Rector's Message



Living Faithfully in a Polarized Society

It seems to me that there is a consensus on the fact that we live in a polarized society. We are divided on almost every aspect of life - religion, politics, economics, ethics, etc. This became more apparent to me at a recent family and friends gathering where I realized that family members and friends were divided over what issues were most important to them as they considered which candidates to vote for in the upcoming election.

Indeed, the statement seems to contradict everything we know about Jesus as the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) at whose birth the angels proclaimed, "peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). St. Paul refers to him as our peace.

"... For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ... He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near." (Ephesians 4:13-17).

It seems to me that what Jesus meant in his statement was that his message and his

ways would be controversial and divisive for some people; even family members. We have numerous examples where faith in Jesus has led to divisions in families, communities, and nations.

While it would be expected that there would be divisions between believers and non-believers, it is saddening to note that these divisions are perhaps more prevalent among those who profess to be followers of Jesus. That is why we have over 33,000 Christian denominations in the world. No wonder, one of Jesus' last prayers was that all who believe in him might be one. (John 17:20-21).

What Shall We Do?

If division is inevitable even among believers, how are we to live faithfully in such polarized environments (churches, communities, nations, etc.)? I wish to offer at least three suggestions:

1. **Live at peace with everyone.** While real peace is when there is reconciliation, someone has to take the first step. That step begins by heeding St. Paul's advice that "*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*" (Romans 12:18). This is possible if we heed another of St. Paul's advice to "*Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.*" (Ephesians 4:26-27). In a polarized society we are bound to be angry about one thing or

another, but we need to be careful not to give the devil a foothold.

2. **Avoid unnecessary arguments.** In a polarized world, we will have different opinions over one issue or another. Serious debate may be necessary and helpful, but there comes a time when arguments turn into quarrels and cease to be constructive but destructive. Such arguments are unhelpful and unnecessary, and St. Paul warns Christians against them. *“Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”* (2 Timothy 2:23-26).

3. **Embrace Ambiguity** –In a small book entitled *“A People Called Episcopalians: A Brief Introduction to our Way of Life”* the authors talk about “ambiguity” as one of the characteristic ways in which Episcopalians think and behave. They describe Ambiguity as a theological category that makes possible living with what may appear to be irreconcilable differences. They go on to claim that:

When we are faced with new

experiences or complex issues, we will remain open to various interpretations and demonstrate a willingness to live with uncertainty of meaning until a resolution can be found. Episcopalians affirm an openness to all experience and believe in the developed capacity to be sensitive to and accept what our senses tell us even when it does not fit into a neat, comprehensible established category - whether it is ambiguous, incomprehensible, obscure, or strange. We are able to tolerate theological and ethical messiness; we do not need to have everything settled or resolved immediately. With a developed sensitivity we tend to be more inductive and pragmatic than deductive and systematic. We are willing to live with trial and error as a means toward establishing truth. Episcopalians believe that conflict, when handled in reconciling ways, is healthy and not to be avoided. Indeed, conflict is a necessary aspect of how Episcopalians theologially discern tasks, whether they involve ethical, social, liturgical, or political decisions. This ability to live with ambiguity helps us to deal with situations in which two or more biblical texts, theological principles, or ethical norms appear logically incompatible. When this does occur, we are able to wait patiently – neither fleeing the situation or fighting it - to pray with a discerning heart, and to listen with an open mind

until the conflict can be reconciled through the aid of the Holy Spirit.

While the authors' description of how Episcopalians manifest ambiguity may not necessarily match our own experiences, it is, nevertheless, a very helpful prescription. How I long to see Episcopalians and Christians in general, embrace ambiguity as a faithful way of thinking and behaving.

It is my belief and my prayer that, by striving to live at peace with everyone, avoiding unnecessary arguments, and embracing ambiguity, we can live in ways that reflect the loving, liberating, and life-giving gospel of Christ Jesus. I believe it is possible to live as faithful disciples of Jesus in polarized churches, communities, and nations of our world.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9).

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

Robin Mitchell

(352)350-1451 | RobinMitchell@yahoo.com

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

(902)226-0050 | rector@holyltrinityfp.com

OR call the church office Monday-Thursday during office hours.

Sr. Warden's Report



FORE!!! Now that I have your attention, I would like to remind you that the Holy Trinity Episcopal School Golf

Benefit will be on **Saturday, October 5, 2024** at Harbor Hills. This is the single largest fund raiser we have for the School. Our School depends on scholarships and the generosity of our Holy Trinity Family in order to function. This year, the Benefit will begin at 1pm. \$100 will get you “golf cart, dinner fees and event day contests”. If you wish to just join us for dinner, you can do that for \$30. You can register online at HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact **Judy Monin**. If you cannot participate in the Benefit by golfing, you can be a part of the festivities by making or contributing to the creating of a raffle basket. The “Basket Raffle” is wonderful source of generating more funds for the school. If you would like to help in this area, please contact Naomi Aldrich.

Speaking of our School, it has begun, and we have welcomed several new students as well as our returning scholars. Our staff came in with expectations of a successful year with their pupils.

We want to thank all of our Holy Trinity Family Members who took an apple and

fulfilled a teacher's wish for their classroom.

September is going to be a rather quiet month. This will give Fr. Samuel an opportunity to recharge his batteries as he prepares for October and the many activities planned, as well as the resumption of Saturday Services.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and have a happy and safe Labor Day Weekend.

Doris Brennan, Sr. Warden

Parishioner Spotlight:



*Gregg and
Judy
Monin*

Our Spotlight for this month is on Gregg and Judy Monin, and

they will indeed be in the spotlight as we approach October's School Golf Benefit. The Monin's have become very active at Holy Trinity in the three years they have been attending here. They are full time Florida residents and make their home in Harbor Hills.

Judy was born in Barberton, Ohio and Gregg in Buffalo, New York, and they have four adult children. Both Judy and Gregg are retired insurance agents and have lived in Florida for about 10 years.

Since retiring, Judy stays busy with golf and women's clubs, while Gregg enjoys tennis. At Holy Trinity, Judy and Gregg

are both ushers and Gregg is active in the Men's Group. But you'll hear from them the most this time of year as they put their hearts into the School Golf Benefit for our school. Their hard work has paid off not only in meeting their goals to raise funds for the school but also providing a fun event enjoyed by so many. They are truly dedicated to serving Holy Trinity Episcopal Church & School.

By Joan Hensley

Treasurer's Summary Report

	July 2024	
	Actual	Budget
Contributions		
Pledges	\$24,010	\$25,167
Other Income	<u>\$ 4,187</u>	<u>\$ 3,558</u>
Total	\$28,197	\$28,725
Expenses	\$21,890	\$28,725

He that soweth little shall reap little; and he that soweth plenteously shall reap plenteously. Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Cor. 9: 6,7

Russ Casson, Treasurer

School Update

What an exciting start to the 24-25 school year! Wow! Have we ever been busy! Students have settled into their schedules and are fully involved in all kinds of learning activities. I have the privilege of visiting classrooms and watching them learn about number arrays, Mesopotamia,

Iaasic Newton, Greek roots and suffixes - ology and ologist, and so many other things!

We welcomed Ms. Bethany to our office staff and sadly this week we say goodbye and best wishes to Ms. Main. I have had some wonderful conversations with several qualified applicants for the Math Teacher position, and I am anticipating hiring a new Math Teacher soon.

Our HTES Family Group is having its first meeting the second week of September and we are excited to be welcoming 8 new families to our school this year!

This Labor Day Holiday weekend will prove to be restful and relaxing, so that students and staff can come back to school on September 3rd feeling recharged and ready for more learning!!

As always, thank you for your support of our school.

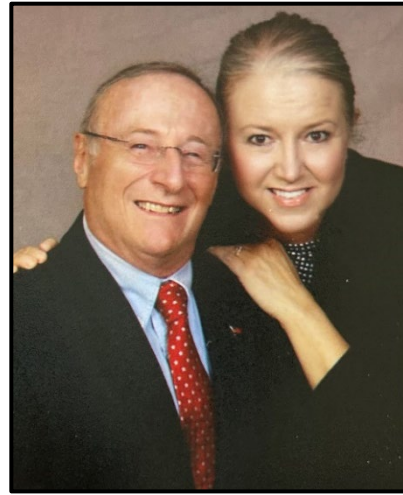
By Angela Heffernan, Head of School

HTEC School Tutor Program *Make a difference in a child's life*

If you or someone you know wants to make a real difference in a child's life, please call (913) 558-2636 or email jimkelly8143@gmail.com. No formal academic certification is required. Tutor training and instructional materials are provided. Snowbirds are welcome.

Jim Kelly, HTES Tutor Program Coordinator

Get to know our Newest Members



*Mary Love
and Rob
Soeldner*

Mary Love and I met on a blind date. Our life's journey together seems to have flown by at the speed of light. It is hard to believe we have been each other's best friends for over 38 years. Our early years were spent serving in the US Army where I was an armored-cavalry officer. While I soldiered, Mary took care of the wives and children of the units we were part of. Upon deployment to Desert Storm, Mary took care of the many young families that were missing their dads. Our final assignment was as commander of the historic Seventh Cavalry. As the commander's wife, Mary took great care of the over 1200 ladies and children of the squadron. Upon retirement we joined the civilian world where most of our time was spent working in energy related companies. Over the years we worked in Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. We also traveled to many countries including almost all Western Europe, Israel, Greece, New Zealand and Australia. Retiring from the work force we moved to Texas to be with our two sons, Max and Jake. Max is an attorney and lives in Midland, TX. Jake lives in Austin, TX and works as a project manager for Google. After five years in Texas, friends

invited us to The Villages, where we found a house and moved in April of this year.

Mary Love was born in South Africa because her parents worked for the US State Department and lived in Turkey, South Korea and New Zealand. Her passion is art especially in the watercolor medium. However, she can do almost anything with a piece of paper and paint whether it's oil, watercolor or crayons. She is amazing. Right now, she is illustrating a children's book about an Emu who needs to learn to say "I'm sorry" when she upsets her friends.

Born in NYC, I joined the Army at 17 then graduating from West Point. My initial duty was along the East-West German border after which I attended Johns Hopkins School of International Studies; and subsequently taught at West Point in the Social Science Department.

Mary Love and I were received into the Episcopal Church at St Thomas in Savannah, GA over nine years ago. With our moves we attended four churches where I served as LEM, LEV and lector. I graduated from the four-year Education for Ministry program offered at Sewanee's School of Theology. Subsequently I attended the Episcopal Relief and Development's Disaster Relief Chaplain program which greatly assisted me while serving for the past five years as a Chaplain in the Texas State Guard. This chaplaincy proved to be an exhilarating experience as we ministered during COVID, two Texas hurricanes, an ice storm and a two-month

period of civil unrest in the state capital two summers ago. I also served six months on the Texas-Mexico border ministering to troops and those affected by the ongoing humanitarian situation.

Mary Love and I feel exceptionally blessed by our Lord God whom we believe led us to Holy Trinity, Fr Samuel and this compassionate and loving congregation and school. We offer our thanks for the loving welcome we received since coming here in May. Now that we "belong", we look forward to "blossoming" while praying that we can be a "blessing" as well.

By Rob Soeldner

Salvation Army Food Bank Collection

Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank

The Outreach committee is asking you all to contribute to the Salvation Army food bank by making deposits of nonperishable food in the Little Red Wagon at the front of the church on Sundays. Specifically, the Salvation Army is asking for breakfast cereal, peanut butter, bags/boxes of rice, instant potatoes, canned vegetables and canned meat. For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact **Annette Freeman (352)406-7608**.



HTEC Salvation Breakfast Team

Besides Holy Trinity's contributions to the Salvation Army Food Bank via the Red Wagon we also have a fun loving and hard-working team of volunteers that provides breakfast service at the Leesburg Salvation Army post to a growing number of people in need. You can be part of this mission by joining our breakfast team for just 2 hours on the second and fifth Tuesdays of the month. For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact **Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636**.



Holy Hackers

Holy Hackers will resume for the season on **Saturday, September 14** with a 9:30 tee off, lunch to follow. All are welcome, golf, lunch or both. The sign up sheet is up in the Parish Hall. For questions, contact David Aldrich at aldrichkp68@gmail.com

Sidewalk/ Walkway Project

We are happy to announce that work on our church entrance walkway was completed this week. We are grateful to the many who donated generously to make this new sidewalk possible. Special thanks to the anonymous donor who provided the \$5,000 matching grant which enabled us to raise all the needed funds. We also want to thank **Bob Freeman** who took on the role of overseeing the project. Thank you all!

Raffle Baskets

for the School Golf Tournament

Do you have gift cards that you are not using? The School Golf Benefit could use these cards for raffle basket stuffers. Please let me know if you have any type of donations for the school. Many thanks to those who have donated so far. We will have great baskets to bid on. Come for golf and dinner, dinner only, or stop by to see the baskets (you don't have to be present to win). Naomi Aldrich – aldrichn13@gmail.com – 203-258-6010

School Golf Benefit

EVERYONE please find a way to help make this year's School Golf Benefit a success. Our kids need you.

I know all of you have heard our pleas for golfers, donations, help getting sponsors, and more. We truly thank those of you who have stepped up to the plate (or tee 😊) to help some way.

We will be using an environmentally friendly ball at Harbor Hills country club on Oct 5.

We have planned a few new “games” on the course to make it extra fun. A lady pro will be trying to beat you getting the closest to the pin. Another pro will be hitting the ball for you on a long hole.

PLEASE go to our website: HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com. and enter your donation, golf foursome, dinner or sponsorship so we can make our goal of \$37,000 - this

is not a misprint!! Please contact us with questions.

Thank you.

Gregg, greggmonin3@gmail.com or Judy Monin, MoninJudy@gmail.com

Notes from Sharon

For the 50+ years I have regularly had to remind our members of the need for silence during preludes. Ideally, when the prelude music starts, talking is expected to cease. I have to say that it is not always the case.

What is the purpose of the prelude in a church? The prelude is a time for prayer and preparation for worship. To quote the words of Music Director Zachery Duell: “upon entering the church, one is greeted by gentle sacred music, colored light filtering through stained glass, lighted candles on the altar, and perhaps the smell of incense from past services. “

In general terms, the history of preludes (and postludes) in worship, is quite simple. We inherited our tradition of preludes/postludes from a 17th century Dutch tradition of concertizing before and after worship. Interesting fact—church organs, at that time, were owned by the city council, and organists were hired by the city. At the early part of the Reformation in the Netherlands, there was no place for music at all in the Dutch Reformed church services, but since the Dutch people enjoyed organ music, and organs were still in church from days of Catholicism, the city hired organist to play concerts before and

after worship. Thus, preludes and postludes morphed into what we do today.

Some reasons for being quiet during preludes include:

- Preparation and prayer
- Hearing God’s voice
- Respecting others
- Showing reverence

Courtesy and common sense strongly suggest keeping a reverent, silent atmosphere in church. Our church building is meant to be a sacred place where people can come to be in the presence of God—in a focused way. People prepare themselves for worship by silently meditating and praying. The prelude is an offering from the musician to God on behalf of the congregation.

The prelude can also help people focus and transition from their busy lives into a sacred place.

It is my hope that we will be able to remain silent during preludes and postludes to give each other an opportunity to quietly meditate and pray.



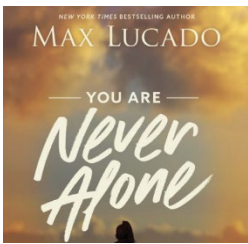
By Sharon Redding, Director of Music



Upcoming Events



SEPT. 4 Choir Resumes | 6:30PM in the Parish Hall
We will have dinner & rehearsal will follow. Our small choir needs additional members! Please consider joining our group to sing praise to our Lord—all parts are needed. Call Sharon Redding at **352-728-3003** or **352-267-6990** and let her know you will be attending. The choir needs **YOU!**



SEPT. 8 Sunday School Resumes | 9:15AM in the Chapel
We will begin a six-week series by Max Lucado, "You Are Never Alone." The series focuses on the Gospel of John. In the midst of the trials John faced, he looks back on the miracles of Jesus and how he came to realize he was never alone. Jesus was with him every step as He is with us. Please join us for one or all of these stand-alone sessions.



Sept. 18 Bible Study Resumes | 10:00AM in the Chapel
This fall we will be studying the O.T., N.T & Gospel passages that will be read the following Sunday. Hopefully these discussions will enrich your worship time. You need no prior knowledge for these classes, just a Bible, an open mind, an enquiring heart, and a good sense of humor. Have questions? Please call the Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes, **443-435-6812**



OCT. 5 Holy Trinity School Gold Benefit
Registration: 12:00PM | Shotgun Start: 1:00PM
Where: **Harbor Hills Country Club in Lady Lake**
Please help us continue supporting our wonderful students and staff at Holy Trinity Episcopal School. Register now at: HolyTrinitySchoolGolfBenefit

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

2201 Spring Lake Road

Fruitland Park FL 34731

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Clergy

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva – Rector

rector@holytrinityfp.com

Cell: 920-226-0050

The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes –
Assisting Priest

janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com

The Rev. Dr. James Jones – Assisting Priest

jamesjones1454@outlook.com

The Rev. Charlie Perrin – Deacon

charlie-perrin@outlook.com

The Rev. Dick LaBud – Deacon

rjlabud@gmail.com

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Gisselle Martinez – Office Administrator/ Communications Assistant

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Angela R. Hefferman – HTES Head of School

ahefferman@htepiscopalschool.org

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

strees@htespiscopalschool.org

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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

In-Person & Livestream Services:

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)

Wednesday Healing 11:30am (Chapel)

Vestry:

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dabmag@hotmail.com | 352-751-5406

Bob Freeman – Jr. Warden

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Debbie Lally - Secretary

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Newsletter Articles:

Please submit by 25th of each month

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