

# Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1886-2024



*Celebrating our Past. Embracing our Present.*



2201 Spring Lake Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Tel. (352)787-1500

[office@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com)

[www.holytrinityfp.com](http://www.holytrinityfp.com)

## A Recap of Holy Trinity's History

**1883** A group of Englishmen settled in Fruitland Park and nearby Chetwynd to invest in citrus groves. About 80 signed up by a land company, Stapylton & Co., the head of which was Grenville Chetwynd Stapylton, from whom the colony took its name. The settlers included younger sons of the aristocracy, bankers and businessmen. They gave the colony and church they established an Anglican flavor which persisted through the years.

**1886** On July 3 a general meeting was called to take steps to provide a church and a rector

**The first service of Holy Trinity Mission was one of Evening Prayer. It took place at Stapylton's dining hall at 3 p.m. on Dec. 19, 1886, with 50 people in attendance.** Services alternated between the hall and Forest Club's Clubhouse. Only baptized & confirmed Anglicans could receive Holy Communion

**1887** January 23 (Sunday)- a temporary church was established in John Vickers-Smith's barn on Lake Geneva

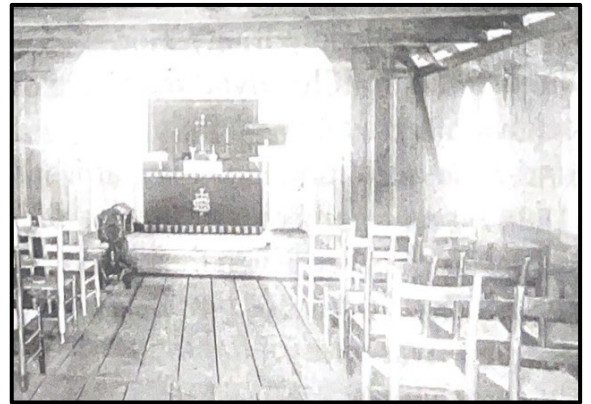


Figure 1- Inside the barn- the barn's altar hangings are now preserved in shadowboxes in the church

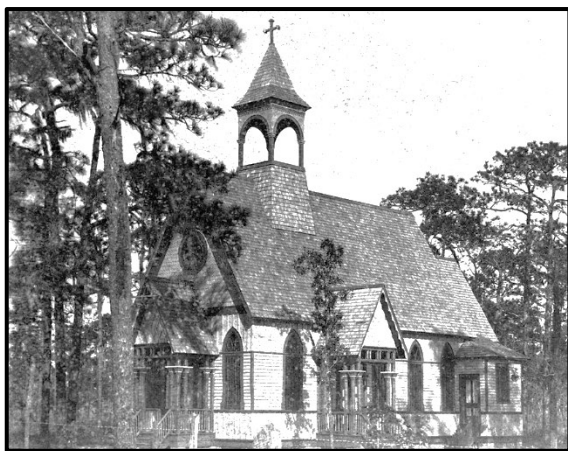


Figure 2- Holy Trinity Episcopal Mission, Chetwynd, FL, c1889

**1888** Church was Erected during the spring & summer; The total cost was \$2,500

At 3pm on **Dec. 2, 1888**, the first Sunday of Advent, Holy Trinity Mission of Chetwynd held its initial service in the newly constructed building. The congregation of 40 gave an offering totaling \$4.96

**1889** July 12 HT was consecrated; Lych Gate Constructed  
Sept. 28 First Wedding performed

**1894** 14 acres of land donated

June 1- First Confirmation Recorded

**1895** The town of Chetwynd disappeared following the Great Freeze. Temperatures dropped anywhere from 12-18 degrees, so most crops were destroyed. Many residents were discouraged to see their fruit frozen and fled in panic.

**1901** 40 members listed (15 children) \$127.48 Total Receipts

**1914** Vestry votes NO to move church to a new lot in Fruitland Park

**1915** Jan. 22 Women's Guild Established



*Figure 3- Women of the Guild outside the Guild House, Dedication Day, 1922*

**1920** Guild Hall land donated, and additional pews installed (still used today)

**1925** March – church Tower removed for Safety

**1926** Good Shepherd-Stained Glass Window donated – Cost \$550

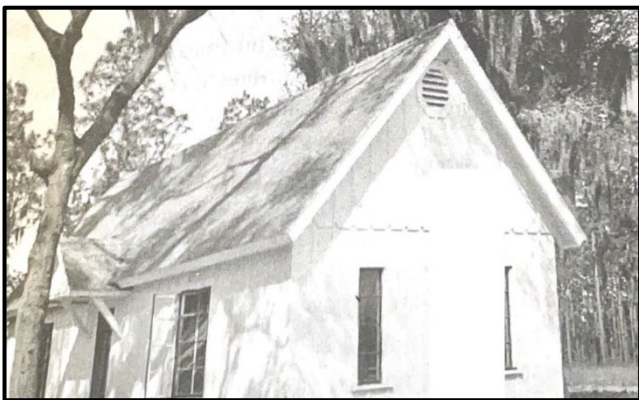
**1928** Dec. – 8:00 am service added

**1933** A bequest from Miss Louise Bosanquet on her death established a Perpetual Care Fund

**1939-1942** Electrical lighting installed

**1943-1960** Vestry minutes and service book was lost for this period

**1948** New roof & red carpeting installed



*Figure 4 - New Sunday School Building*

**1959** Dec. – Sunday School Building constructed

**1961** May – “Parish House” + Kitchen completed

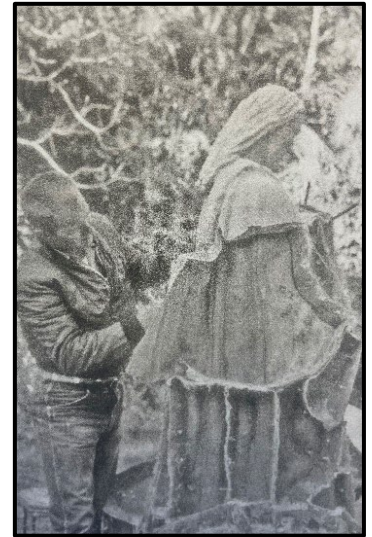
Trinity Tidings started

**1963** Addition built to parish house

**1964** New red carpeting & sprinkler system installed

- 1965** May – HT was received into full parish status – **no longer a mission**
- 1966** Christ the Good Shepherd statue donation commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> year- relocated to cemetery  
Flags mounted
- 1968** April – Thrift shop opened
- 1972** The first female vestry member was named  
Shadow boxes of altar hangings & stoles put up
- 1974** Circular driveway put up
- 1975** In October, the official sign was purchased  
The thrift shop closed
- March – Mortgage Burning ceremony to celebrate mortgage being paid off
- 1976** Air conditioners were installed in Parish Hall  
Handicap ramps were added to church
- 1978** First Female Lay reader
- 1980** First Female Vestry Warden
- 1981** Due to vandalism, the church doors were now locked
- 1982** New hymnals were used
- 1983** The sacristy was updated- closets and new cabinetry was installed. There was also a new roof, the exterior was painted, the windows repaired, and new carpeting (green instead of red)  
Cursillo movement introduced  
900 boxes of oranges sold from the HT orange grove for a \$2400 profit
- 1984** Orange grove froze, Lych Gate Gazebo installed at Paddock Point
- 1986** The church’s centennial celebration began on February 16. Festivities were scheduled to last over a three-year period, spanning the three years of the church’s beginning.
- 1988** A new educational building was added to the church grounds

*Figure 5- Gershon Bosanquet sculpting the Statue*



- 1990** Thrift shop started
- 1991** Motion lights were installed
- 1993** Feb. – Meg Ingalls, first Female Priest for HT and the Diocese  
Thrift shop closed
- 1994** Villages Land acquired for Episcopal Church – now St. George
- 1995** Eight-person delegation to Honduras

**1996** **School Opens** – HTES was established as a ministry of HTEC after Leesburg Christian Academy closed on Friday Afternoon. By Monday morning after an emergency vestry meeting, 40 children started school (because there was a building available and 3 of the children attended HT). Originally called “Spring Lake Christian Academy” – used to be preschool-12<sup>th</sup> & was Christian based

- 1997** School name changed to HTES, 12 students in grades 6-11
- 1999** A church van was purchased
- 2000** HT donated \$3900 to Habitat for Humanity

- 2002** The first Web page was designed  
HT assisted with the startup of Corpus Christi in Okahumpka
- 2005** Name tags used Holy Tees (This is how Holy Hackers started)
- 2006** Dec. 13 – 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated with 1894 chanted Evening Prayer (Evensong)
- 2007** HERITAGE improvements made to church/grounds

New Organ purchased; HT performed a commissioning ceremony for Corpus Christi Contemplative Prayer retreat held

**2008** Red doors painted – recycling program began



*Figure 6- The Honduras Group: Brad Ingalls, Richard Sutherland, Michael Tyler, Katie Bauer, Amber Meahl, Janet Galbreath, and John Tyler*



*Figure 7- HTES in 1996*

- 2009** Rectory renovated
- Church significantly vandalized for the first time, with damages of nearly \$7,000 with a hammer; as a result a security system was installed
- A brick paver patio was installed between the church and parish hall
- 2010** A large wooden cross surrounded by Bosanquet Lilies was placed at entrance from patio to cemetery
- 2011** Stained glass windows (Made by parishioners under the instruction of Fr. Ted Koelln) were dedicated in the chapel
- 2014** School enrollment was 22 students, tuition was \$6000, school budget was substantially supported by the church
- 2014** The chapel space was named “Grace Chapel”
- 2015** First school Golf Benefit organized by Jim Kelly. Since then, benefits lead by Jim (3 years), Sid Yee (4 years), and Judy & Gregg Monin (3 years) have provided more than \$200,000 to the school
- 2018** 2 modular buildings and 4 new classrooms installed on campus thanks to a \$200,000 gift from Thomas Alles
- 2019** Pet Cemetery was completed
- 2021** Feb. 1 Father Samuel becomes new Rector
- March - Parish Hall entry doors were painted red, and the stacked wall project along the parking entrance was completed
- May 26 – Formation of School Board, enrollment grew to 43
- Sept. - Window project (16 windows) was completed, total cost was \$68,068
- 2022** Vestry voted on the Vision & Mission Statements
- 2024** Walkway from the parking lot to the church was replaced with pavers
- Lych Gate was repaired after damage to one of the post’s bases



Figure 8- Spring fling dance in the courtyard, 2009



Figure 9 & 11- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Present Day

### Verified Founders of Holy Trinity Episcopal Mission

George R. Back, Augustus P. Bosanquet, Eugene P. Bosanquet, Louis P. Bosanquet, Hugh S. Budd, Alexander P. Cazalet, Robert F.E. Cooke, Francis R.L. Cosens, W.C. Earle Geary, Charles & Amanda Gomperts, Charles Gomperts Jr., Clarence Gomperts, Gertrude Gomperts, Laura Gomperts, Jonathan and Maria Josephine Luther, James and Rose Jane Routledge, Elizabeth Smith, James Vickers & Mary Smith, John Vickers Smith, Margaret Smith, Sarah Smith, Villiers Chernocke Smith, Granville & Elizabeth Stapylton, Kenneth R.S. Streatfield, Ernest B. Thompson, Thomas A. Vincent, Wilfred P.P. Western

This timeline was made possible by **Karen Hammen**, with the help of **Ivan Ford's** *Coming Home* 2013 book and Vestry Minutes as references, and by interviewing several members here at HT. Designed by Gisselle Martinez, office admin.

*In loving memory* of **Donna Bott**, who recently passed. She did most of the research for Ivan's book, thus providing us with much of the knowledge we have of HT's history.

If you are interested in purchasing Ivan Ford's *Coming Home*, for a more in-depth look at Holy Trinity throughout history, scan the QR Code:



\*We tried to make this bulletin short and sweet, while making sure to include as many significant events as possible. If you have anything you would like to add to the timeline please send it to the office email: [office@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com)

## **Priests**

<b>1886-1887</b>	John Campbell Wheatley Tasker
<b>1888-1892</b>	Joseph Earnest Julian
<b>1893-1894</b>	James Taylor Chambers
<b>1895-1896</b>	A. Kinney Hall
<b>1897-1898</b>	Joseph M. McGrath
<b>1898-1899</b>	James Neville Thompson
<b>1900-1901</b>	William Johnson
<b>1902-1905</b>	Clarence M. Frankel
<b>1905-1906</b>	S.W. Moran
<b>1907</b>	A. Rickers
<b>1908-1911</b>	Aykroyd Stoney
<b>1912-1921</b>	George Henry Ward
<b>1922-1927</b>	Francis J. Wilson
<b>1928-1939</b>	Randolph Fairfax Blackford
<b>1939-1942</b>	Frank E. Pulley
<b>1942-1945</b>	James H. MacConnell
<b>1945-1950</b>	William Martin Hargis
<b>1950-1955</b>	Lloyd Ashley Cox
<b>1952-1960</b>	Herber Edson Covell
<b>1961-1981</b>	Frederick Norris Paddock
<b>1982-1985</b>	William H. Walters
<b>1985-1991</b>	Ernest Percival Davis
<b>1993-2007</b>	Margaret Eileen Fowler Ingalls
<b>2009-2015</b>	Theodore Frank Koelln
<b>2015-2017</b>	Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes (Interim Priest)
<b>2017-2020</b>	Gregory Wilde
<b>2021-Present</b>	Samuel Nsengiyumva

## **Associate Priests**

Sara Dover, E. Michael Rowell, Marnie Silk-Wright  
Joan Watson, Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes, Dr. James Jones