The Tidings



2201 Spring Lake Rd. Fruitland Park, FL 34731

> HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL Belong. Blossom. Bless.

Table of Contents

Rector's Message
Vestry Elections 3
Treasurer's Report 5
Senior Warden's Report 6
School Field Trip 7
Christmas Poinsettias 8
Salvation Army9
Discount Cards
Holy Hackers 10
Women's Fellowship 11
Vestry Highlights
Events & Contacts 14&15

Happy January Anniversary To:



Church Office: 352-787-1500

School Office: 352-787-8855

- 21 Jordan & Val Tuller
- 22 John & Barbara Turner

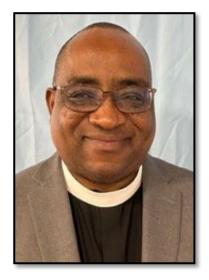
Happy January Birthday To: 📥

2 - Lisa Hall 23 - Marcella Gnau **3** - Bob Freeman 24 - Steve Oakes 8 - Joan Ballard 24 - Sue Lewis 9 - Pam Hulsey 25 - Pat Casson-Fleming 11 - Naomi Aldrich **26** - Charlotte Bauer **26** - Samuel Nsengiyumva **14** - Jonathan Hole 16 - Patrick McLaughlin 31 - Sophia Vallee 17 - David Fleming 31 - Gary Hensley

In Loving Memory Of:

Donna Bott

Rector's Message



GRATEFUL & HOPEFUL

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

For many people, the end of the year and the beginning of another is marked by mixed feelings. On one hand, there are

feelings of gratitude, contentment and joy for the good experiences and accomplishments of the past year; coupled with excitement and hope for even better things to come with the New Year. On the other hand, there may be feelings of regret, discontent, and sometimes a sense of guilt for things not accomplished, coupled with a sense of anxiety about the future. I wonder how you feel about the past year and what your hopes or fears are for 2025.

For me, this fourth year as your rector was wonderful in many ways. I continue to be amazed at how wonderful you, the people of Holy Trinity are, and how blessed I am to serve our Lord with you. And so I end 2024, filled with a great sense of gratitude, contentment, and joy; and begin 2025 with a greater sense of hope and excitement about our shared life and mission.

Because of your dedication and commitment to our shared life and mission, we were able to accomplish so much in 2024. I was particularly touched by the greater sense of community that exists among our members and friends. I see and hear of genuine friendship and care for one another. At our recent pastoral care meeting, I was amazed at how many people had signed up to be part of our pastoral care ministries – sending cards, preparing meals for the sick, offering transportation, visiting and taking communion to the home bound, and many more. When one of our own needed help buying a car to enable him go to work, many of our people responded in amazing ways; and we were able to help him buy a reliable car.

Once again, our commitment to our common life and mission was demonstrated by our response to the needs of our church. When we needed funds to repair the walkway to our beautiful sanctuary, many of you responded and the work was completed within a few weeks. Due to the tireless efforts of some of several of our members, our annual School Gold Benefit raised over \$28,000 for our school. Because of your generosity, we were able to pay off approximately \$35,000 of the debt we owed to the diocese. The response to our annual stewardship campaign is another testimony to your dedication to God's work in this place. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Beyond our campus, we were able to respond to the needs of so many. We honored our commitment to the Sao Paulo Mercy Ministry which ministers to the homeless population in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, we continue to financially support Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) efforts across the globe, Operation Christmas Child, the Hurricane Relief efforts, etc. More importantly, we continue to respond to the needs of the less fortunate in our community, particularly through our partnership with local agencies such as Salvation Army and the Leesburg

Food Bank. We are literally proclaiming God's love locally, nationally and globally. To God be the glory!

Among the many blessings of the past year, are the new people God has added to our number. Many of them came to us with gifts and a passion to serve the Lord and are already having an impact. I pray they will continue to find Holy Trinity to be a place to belong, blossom, and bless; as they join us in inviting, welcoming, and connecting others to God and one another in Christ.

Like any other year, this year was not without its challenges. I am particularly reminded of those among us for whom the past year was very difficult and those whose struggles continue through the New Year. This past year was particularly difficult because of the death of some of our dear friends. They are greatly missed. We continue to pray for comfort and strength especially for those who lost their spouses, siblings or parents. Whether you had a good or a bad year, I hope God's grace was sufficient to carry you through each day.

As a church, I can say that our challenges were few but significant. Our hopes for our new Head of School were not realized. Consequently, the search for a head of school continues into the coming year. Please continue to pray for the process that God will lead us to the person he has chosen for this role.

As I look forward to what God has in store for us in this New Year, I am aware that it will come with its own opportunities and challenges. The secret to our success is a stronger sense of Christian community. Bound and committed to one another in love, we will overcome whatever personal or corporate challenges we will face. That is why there is no such a thing as a solitary Christian. My hope is that we all will have the willingness and ability to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, discipleship, outreach etc. scheduled for this year.

With the gratitude for the past year and hope for this new year, I am confident that God, "who began a good work in you [us] will carry it to completion ..." (Philippians 1:6). He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20).

Have a truly blessed 2025!

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

Robin Mitchell

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

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva (902)226-0050 | rector@holytrinityfp.com

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

Vestry Elections 2025

At our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 26, 2025, we will need to elect three individuals to fill three Vestry positions to be vacated by current members who will have completed their three-year terms and are ineligible for re-election. We are therefore seeking candidates for the above positions that will become vacant in January 2025.

2025 Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday January 26, 2025

A Celebration of Christian Community

➤ Combined Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Luncheon 11:00 a.m.

➤ Business Session 11:45 a.m.

All are Welcome!

RSVP: Gisselle Martinez office@holytrinityfp.com

What is a Vestry?

A Vestry is a body of elected congregational leaders. Congregations that have been granted parish status by their diocese are governed by their rector and the vestry. 'Traditionally, and by canon law, the vestry, consisting of wardens and other members, is the legal representative of the parish "in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy," except as may be provided by state law or diocesan canons (Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church, 1.14.2.). The number of vestry members and term of office varies from parish to parish. At Holy Trinity, we have 9 elected members.

Most vestries have the following officers:

The Presiding Officer is the rector.

There are usually two wardens. The senior warden traditionally chairs the vestry in the absence of the rector and leads the congregation between rectors. In many parishes the senior warden is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has a particular responsibility for church property and buildings.

A treasurer and secretary or clerk who may or may not be vestry members, may be chosen. The treasurer deposits and disburses funds and oversees financial record keeping. The secretary keeps the minutes, gives notices of meetings to the

parish and maintains vestry records.

Some vestries have an Executive Committee of the rector, wardens, treasurer and committee chairs. They oversee implementation of decisions and plan the agenda.

The responsibility of the vestry, like that of the governing body of any organization, is to:

- Help define and articulate the mission of the congregation;
- Support the mission by word and deed;
- Ensure effective organization and planning;
- Ensure adequate resources in leadership and in financial stewardship;
- Manage resources effectively;

- Determine that appropriate programs, policies, and procedures have been developed and are followed;
- Assess its own performance.

Though the vestry has some similarities to a board of directors, it is important to remember that this ministry of leadership is exercised in the church. The success of a congregation is not measured in terms of numbers of members or size of the endowment, but rather in the degree to which it is working toward the fulfillment of the mission of the church.

Responsibilities of Individual Members of the Vestry

- Regularly prepare for, attend, and participate in vestry meetings;
- Learn about the mission, goals, programs, services, activities, strengths, and needs of the congregation, diocese, and national church;
- Maintain confidentiality on sensitive topics;
- Serve the congregation as a whole rather than any specific group;
- Encourage complainants to talk directly with the person(s) involved; avoid taking sides; inform rector or senior warden of serious concerns;

From the Vestry Resource Guide by the Episcopal Church Foundation 1997

A Suitable Candidate for vestry must be:

- A committed Christian who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his or her life.
- A confirmed communicant at least 18 years of age.

- An active voting member of Holy Trinity's parish for at least two years.
- One who understands the vision and mission of Holy Trinity and is willing to promote it in word and action among other members and the community at large.
- One who supports the life and mission of Holy Trinity by sharing his time, talent and treasure
- One who is involved in one or more ministry teams
- One who is willing to commit to one or more monthly vestry meetings and at least one annual training/retreat event
- One who is willing to provide leadership in every other aspect of our church life and mission.

If you or someone you know may be a good candidate, please talk to Fr. Samuel or any Vestry member.

Treasurer's Report

November 2024			
Contributions	Actual	Budget	
Pledges	\$34,787	\$25,167	
Other Income	\$ 1,106	\$ 3,558	
Total	\$35,893	\$28,725	
Expenses	\$29,742	\$28,725	

Ye shall not appear before the LORD empty; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee. Deut. 16: 16, 17

Russ Casson, Treasurer

Senior Warden's Report



As my threeyear term is coming to an end, I would like to encourage you to think about serving

on the Vestry. I know it may seem daunting and a great demand on your time, but it is not that. It is an opportunity to work together, with other members, to ensure the spiritual mission of Holy Trinity is met, as well as maintaining the property and finances of the Church.

The Vestry functions under the concept of "shared ministry". Fr. Samuel, as well as the Vestry members, are part of a team with the responsibility for oversight of Parish Life and the various ministries managed by Holy Trinity. We work with other Parishioners in a variety of leadership and supportive roles. Those roles include: upkeep of Holy Trinity property; oversee business affairs of the Parish; ensure adequate resources in leadership; financial stewardship and manage resources effectively. So many members of our Holy Trinity Family take part in these ministries. No single group of people could do all that needs to be done without the volunteers giving their time and talents.

The Vestry members are elected representatives of the Parish. Vestry is there to help

with improving situations and addressing problems that need to be addressed. The Vestry is there to help Fr. Samuel tackle issues that may confront the Church.

Ultimately, you will find serving on the Vestry to be a gratifying experience. The best part is it gives you the opportunity to truly connect with Fr. Samuel as well as the rest of the congregation. So, give it some serious thought and prayer, and I promise you will find it rewarding.

Doris Brennan, Sr. Warden

A Baby Shower for Teacher Katie!



A handful of HTES teachers and staff are pictured at the baby shower for ESE (exceptional student education) teacher, Katie Newsome. Hosted by our Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC) ministry on Dec 9th, the luncheon/shower provided Katie lots of much needed items including a double stroller and a bassinet/playpen, while offering those attending a chance to relax and connect!

Deb Yee, IWC

School Field Trip



On December 10th the students, along with some faculty and guardians, spent the day at Kennedy Space Center. Once we arrived by bus, groups of 4 students, along with 2 chaperones, went their separate ways to experience all the wonders at the Center. There were various simulation experiences along with viewing the Atlantis Space Shuttle. Some groups took the bus tour of the Vehicle Assembly Building. There was too much to be able to see in just a couple of hours, but the students certainly had a lot to share and talk about on the trip home. We want to thank the Parent Group for their contribution and support. We thank The Board for their continued support. WE look forward to our next great adventure.

Doris Brennan



All the students enjoyed the trip for many different reasons. They were all well behaved on the 2 hour trip to and from Kennedy Space Center. We broke up into groups of 4 students and 2 chaperones. Each of the groups went on their own and experienced different parts of the park. Many students experienced the Atlantis exhibit and thought it was great seeing the actual Atlantis Space shuttle right after watching a video presentation. Many of the students enjoyed the various simulation experiences and the bus tour to Vehicle Assembly Building. All in all the trip was a great success! We look forward to the next opportunity for a school-wide field trip. We'd like to thank our Parent Group and Board of Directors for all of their support for this adventure and their continuing support throughout the year.

Anne Marie Webber & John Prudente





Christmas Poinsettias

As Christmas neared, the Altar Guild members showed up at church on a Saturday in our work clothes ready to unpack the decorations, set up the aisle candles, fluff the garland and wreaths, and add the bows before hanging them in the church. The red and white Poinsettias, that you parishioners so generously donated, were delivered and placed on the altar and other areas of the church. They brightened up our beautiful church.



The Altar Guild enjoyed being together and taking part in this ministry of decorating the church in anticipation of and the celebration of Christ's birth.

We would like to thank you for all the positive comments that the Altar Guild received about the ambience and beauty of the church with the Christmas décor.

Altar Guild





2025 Estimate of Giving

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our stewardship campaign and brought in or mailed your Estimate of Giving (pledge) cards. So far we have received the following:

General Operating Fund:

77 Pledges \$253,516 Building Fund: 31 pledges $\frac{$25,310}{$}$ **Total Amount pledged:** \$278,826

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 Service

Those of you who have been there know what a difference the meals we serve makes in our lives and in the lives of those less fortunate brothers and sisters we serve. If you would like to find out more about getting involved, please call (913) 558-2636 or email jimkelly8143@gmail.com.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers







Pictured above (left to right): Annette Freeman & Jim Kelly, Les Hall, Sid Yee & Jaleh Welton

Holy Trinity signed up to cover both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays again this year. Specific dates included November 29, 30 and December 13,14,19, 20, and 21. Thank you all for taking the time to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters this busy time of the year. We all

had a fun time and were all impressed with the generosity and diversity of the giving we witnessed. Thank you Holy

Trinity Salvation Army
Bell Ringers.

Outreach
HTEC

Pictured left to right: Jim & Jane Kelly, Jaleh Welton, Bonnie Hultin







School Family Group Fundraiser

Our school's Family Group is selling **discount cards** (for 16 local businesses) for \$10! All proceeds will help provide funding for student projects! You may buy your discount cards from Fr. Samuel or Kathy Wolfe in the office. Please make checks payable to HTES.





HTEC School Tutor Program

If you or someone you know wants to **make** a **real difference in a child's life**, please call (913) 558-2636 or email jim-kelly8143@gmail.com. No formal academic certification is required. Tutor training and instructional materials are provided. Snowbirds are welcome.

Jim Kelly, HTES Tutor Program Coordinator

HOLY HACKERS

Our Holy Hackers monthly golf scramble and fellowship took place on Saturday, December 14, 2024 with a 9:30 Tee Off and lunch following at 11:00 at The Grille at Pennbrooke Fairways.

The weather cooperated and again was beautiful. We had fifteen golfers out on the course, several of our regulars were out with medical issues and hope to be back in January. Our low scoring group for the day at five under par was Randy Siver, Naomi Aldrich & Dave Aldrich. This was Randy's second consecutive time atop the leaderboard, he will be much in demand as a partner at our January outing. All four of our groups came

in under par this month. All of our golfers again joined us for lunch and fellowship afterwards at The Grille at Pennbrooke Fairways.

Our next outing is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th and we will move to a 10:00 tee off time for the rest of the Winter. All are invited to join us for golf, and lunch & fellowship afterwards, or if you are not a golfer please consider joining us for the lunch at about 11:30 at the course.

David Aldrich





Fun Women's Christmas Fellowship

A lighthearted fellowship gathering of ~16 Holy Trinity women (and guests) was hosted by our IWC ministry on Sat. afternoon, Sat Dec. 7th. Everyone brought a present and a fun White Elephant Gift Exchange ensued! Some chose to keep the gift they picked from the stack while others delighted in "taking" a gift previously opened! Afterwards, some holiday refreshments were enjoyed by all.

If you are interested in helping to plan and host a few women's *gatherings during 2025*, *please contact Deb Keeler Yee at <u>debkhogan@hmail.com</u> or 703-472-1573 (call/text). Thanks!*











Office Admin on Weekdays, Event Decorator on Weekends

I know I am pretty new in my role here as Office Administrator, and some of you may not know a lot about me. For this reason, Fr. Samuel has asked me to share with you all a little bit of what I do outside of Holy Trinity.

On some weekends, when I am not working at Holy Trinity, you can find me decorating different events such as birthday parties, weddings, grand openings, etc.





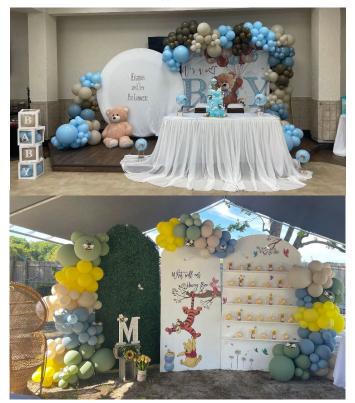
A year ago, I decided to start an event rentals and decorating business. I rent chairs, tables, linens, and centerpieces, and unleash my creativity by making balloon garland backdrops. Although I've only been doing this for a little over a year, I have an immense passion for it! I started off with very

little knowledge, but after having done 12+events, I have learned new hacks and found what works for me.

I love what I do for Holy Trinity and what I get to do when I am not here as well. And while this article won't be quite as interesting as Joan's Parishioner Spotlight, I hope you enjoy reading a little bit about me and seeing some of the work I have done. If you or anyone you know needs any type of event décor or table/chair rentals, you know who to call \mathfrak{S} .

Have a blessed new year.

Gisselle Martinez, Office Administrator





Vestry Meeting Highlights

December 19, 2024

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024 to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

- 1. The Vestry appointed Bob & Annette Freeman along with Rob Soeldner to serve as delegates representing Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at the Diocesan Convention to be held on January 24 and 25, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach, Florida.
- 2. The Vestry reiterated that the Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 26, 2025 at 11:00 am. There will be only one worship service at 9:30 am followed by a luncheon and business meeting at 11:00 am. All participating members are welcome.
- 3. The Vestry was informed that no nominations had been secured to fill the 3 vestry positions that will become vacant when current occupants' terms expire on January 26, 2025.
- 4. The Vestry was informed that the Stewardship Campaign had been successful. As of December 18, 2024, we had **75 Pledges** for a total of **\$244,776.00** for the Operating Fund and **23** Pledges for a total of **\$20,870** for the Building Fund.
- 5. The Vestry reviewed and accepted the treasurer's report for November 2024.
- 6. The Vestry reviewed the draft of the 2025 proposed budget. The Vestry will vote on the final budget at their meeting on January 16, 2025.
- 7. The Vestry was informed of a water leak that went undetected until so much water had been lost. We are working with the water company for a settlement on the water bill.
- 8. The Junior Warden reported on the ongoing repairs and maintenance projects including the replacement of handrails on the church and pruning of trees.
- 9. Fr. Samuel reported that the school is beginning to stabilize following the hiring of additional staff. The search for a new Head of School is ongoing.
- 10. The meeting concluded with An Order for Compline (found on p.127 in the Book of Common Prayer).



Deborah Harmon's Celebration of Life | JAN. 11 @ 2pm

Please join us on Saturday, January 11th at 2pm for Deborah Harmon's Celebration of Life.

Holy Hackers | JAN. 11 @ 10am

All are welcome to join us at our next outing for golf and/or lunch on **Saturday, January 11th**. We look forward to seeing you then. The sign-up sheet is in Parish Hall or contact David Aldrich: 203-258-9643 | aldrichkp68@gmail.com

Donna Bott's Celebration of Life | JAN. 18 @ 10:30am

Please join us on Saturday, January 18th at 10:30am for Donna Bott's Celebration of Life.

Annual Parish Meeting | JAN. 26 @ 11am

Mark your calendars! The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday**, **January 26**th, **2025**, in the Parish Hall. We will start off at **11am** with lunch, and the meeting will follow. We hope to see you there!

Note: There will only be one service on that Sunday, which will be at 9:30am.

Adult Sunday School | Every Sunday @ 9:15am

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 am - 10:15 am in the chapel. We will be studying a video series entitled "Starting Point: A Conversation about Faith" by Andy Stanley. According to Andy, Everything has a starting point - your life, your relationships, your education, your career. Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point as well. Welcome to Starting Point - an 8-session small group conversation about faith. It's a place where your opinions and beliefs are valued, and no question is off limits.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

2201 Spring Lake Road Fruitland Park FL 34731

Office Phone: 352-787-1500 | School Phone: 352-787-8855

Clergy

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva – Rector & Acting Head of School

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

Staff:

Gisselle Martinez – Office Administrator/ Com-

munications Assistant

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

strees@htespiscopalschool.org

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com

Website: https://www.holytrinityfp.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruit-

landpark

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

In-Person & Livestream Services:

Saturday 4:15pm (Sanctuary)

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)(FBLive)

Wednesday Healing 11:30am (Chapel)(FBLive)

Vestry:

Doris Brennan – Sr. Warden

dabmag@hotmail.com | 352-751-5406

Bob Freeman – Jr. Warden

Captbob147@gmaiL.com | 352-753-0025

Debbie Lally - Secretary

michaellally@comcast.net | 352-561-4961

Pat Fleming

Trisha12552@aol.com

Judy Gygi

Jgygi2876@gmail.com | 407-461-5647

Jim Kelly

jimkelly8142@gmail.com | 352-571-5531

Steve Knowles

steveli2@yahoo.com | 352-504-8921

Robin Mitchell

robinmitchell@yahoo.com | 352-350-1451

Mandy Panlilio

Mandy0710@yahoo.com | 352-408-7106

Newsletter Articles:
Please submit by 25th of each month
Gisselle Martinez, office@holytrinityfp.com