



# The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church and School*  
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**Rector: The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

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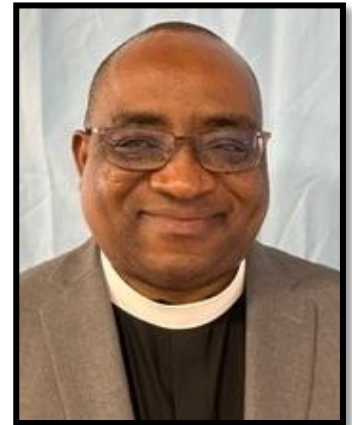
## Table of Contents

Rector’s Greetings .....	1
Senior Warden’s Report .....	3
Vestry Highlights.....	3
Treasurer’s Report .....	4
HTEC School Update .....	4
HTEC School Tutor Program .....	5
Pancake Breakfast.....	5
Salvation Army Food Bank Collection.....	5
Salvation Army Breakfast Team.....	5
Holy Hackers .....	6
Anniversaries/Birthdays .....	6
In Loving Memory.....	6
Altar Guild Update .....	6
A Special Thank You.....	7
Pastoral Care.....	7
Pictures of Parish Events .....	8
Upcoming Events/Activities .....	9
Contact’s Page .....	10

## Rector’s Greetings

*Blessed be Your Name*

The song “*Blessed be Your Name*” by Matt & Beth Redman is considered one of the most popular Christian songs of all time. It was very popular in my previous churches where we regularly sung contemporary songs.



For those who may not know the song, here are some of its lyrics:

Blessed Be Your Name,  
In the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow,  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name,  
When I'm found in the desert place,  
Though I walk through the wilderness,  
Blessed Be Your name

Blessed be Your name,  
When the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's 'all as it should be'  
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name,  
On the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out,  
I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
Still, I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name.

A few years back, as I was meditating on the song, the phrase *“when the world is all as it should be”* caught my attention. My immediate thought was that “the world is never all as it should be.” In my experience, there is always something that is not right. If it is not in our personal lives, it is with the family, community, church, or the world in general. However, the more I reflected, I realized that, indeed, sometimes our world feels like all as it should be - moments of great joy in our lives, manifestations of love, kindness, mercy, etc. Thank God for those moments.

The song, however, is not about those moments when the world is **all** as it should be. The song is also about those other moments when the world is **NOT** all as it should be. The song is a testimony of someone who has learned to bless the name of the Lord when life is good and when it is NOT good. It is a reminder of St. Paul's exhortation to give thanks to God in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

It is natural and easy to bless God's name when our world is as it should be – when the land is plentiful, when streams of abundance flow, when the sun is shining on you; when all is well. It is however very difficult to bless God's name when the world is **not** all as it should be –when you are found in a desert place, when you are walking through the wilderness, on the road marked with suffering, when there is pain in the offering, etc. Matt and Beth Redman are basically telling us that blessing God's name is a choice we need to make regardless

of the circumstances. *“My heart will choose to say, Blessed be Your Name.”*

More often than not, we experience times in our lives when our world is **not** all as it should be – when we find ourselves in a desert place, walking through the wilderness, on the road marked with suffering, when there is pain even in the offering. Under those circumstances, we could choose to either curse or bless God. When Job and his wife were faced with similar circumstances, Job decided to bless God's holy name (Job 1:21) and resisted his wife's advice to curse God and die (Job 2:9).

### The Secret

One would wonder how some are able to resist the temptation to curse or give up on God but instead choose to bless His holy name amid troubling circumstances. I think the secret lies in grasping the following truths:

1. **Our Struggle is against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms** (Ephesians 6:12): When we realize that our problems are the work of our spiritual enemy the devil, and that God is for us and not against us (Romans 8:31) then we are able to bless his name because He is our refuge in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1, 121:1).
2. **God's grace is sufficient:** It has been said that God responds to our pleas for help either by changing the circumstances or changing us. When God could not take away the thorn in St. Paul's flesh that was tormenting him, He gave him enough grace to help him not just endure but delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Cor. 10:13).
3. **The sufferings of this present time cannot be compared by the glory that shall be revealed (Romans 8:18).** It is always helpful to remember that life is experienced in cycles. As the Psalmist puts it, “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” (Psalm 30:5).

It is my hope and prayer that your world is all as it should be. If so, may you turn every blessing into

praise. It is also possible that you find yourself walking in the wilderness. In that case, I pray you will find comfort and encouragement in the fact that God is for you, and not against you; that His grace is sufficient, and that whatever it is you are facing will come to pass.

Meanwhile, may you have the grace to not just turn every blessing into praise; but even when the darkness closes in, to still be able to say: “Blessed be Your Name.”

May the name of the Lord be praised, this day, this summer, and always. Amen.

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

## **Sr. Warden’s Report**

This is going to be short, but sweet. It has been a relatively quiet month. Things have been uneventful at Church, but the Vestry has been quite busy with meetings.

We had a joint Vestry/School Board Retreat at the beginning of the month. Our new Head of School, Angela Heffernan, presented her goals for our school. Angela has an impressive background and experience working with children with learning difficulties. We were happy to see her desires for the school and success for our students reflects that of the Board and Holy Trinity Family. We are looking forward to a smooth transition this school year under her guidance.

The Vestry is also scheduling needed repairs. Right now, we are looking to repair the sidewalks around the Church. We have a plan to pave and have the paving painted and designed like the path we have.

If any of our Family Members wish to contribute to help with funding, please see Fr. Samuel or Bob Freeman.

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer. I hope you all rest up and re-charge your inner batteries for what we hope will be a dynamic and blessed year at Holy Trinity.

*Doris Brennan – Sr. Warden*

## **Vestry Highlights**

### **A. Joint Vestry/School Board Retreat:**

On Friday and Saturday May 31-June 1, 2024, the Vestry held a joint retreat with our school board at the Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center here in Fruitland Park to discuss matters of importance to our school. The retreat facilitator was Mr. Paul Garcia, Head of School at St. Barnabas Episcopal School in Deland. Our focus was on what it means to be an Episcopal School (Episcopal Identity), and how Episcopal Schools are governed. After much reflection, the Vestry and the School Board voted to:

1. Begin the process leading to the incorporation of our school as a separate non-profit Episcopal Parish school. If approved by the Bishop, the school will remain a ministry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church but with its own articles of incorporation and by-laws to simplify its operations such as fundraising, liability, etc. Most Episcopal Parish schools are separately incorporated but fully owned by the sponsoring parish.
2. Begin the process of developing a campus master plan considering our current and future space needs. As we seek to explore ways to address our current church and school needs, we want to ensure that any potential solution keeps in mind potential future needs as we envision the growth of our church and school. A campus master plan will ensure that whatever developments we undertake are consistent with a long-term plan.

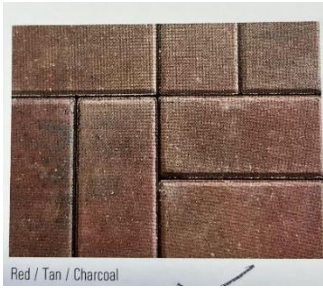
### **B. Vestry Meeting – June 20, 2024**

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

1. The Vestry reviewed and approved the proposal to replace the current church entrance walkway with pavers like the ones in the church courtyard. This will be significantly more expensive than the previously proposed concrete sidewalk but

will address both the safety and aesthetic concerns of the walkway.

- The Vestry reviewed and voted to table the proposal to pave the school parking lot and repair the road to the rectory. It was decided that we currently cannot afford the cost of undertaking the projects. We will continue to explore our options.



- The Vestry voted to allocate the funds from the Lee & Charlotte Shawcross Estate as follows:
  - Holy Trinity Endowment Fund - **\$75,000**
  - Building Fund (Capital Improvements) – **\$25,000**
  - Holy Trinity School - **\$20,000** to establish a Performing Arts Fund in memory of Lee Shawcross.
- The Vestry reviewed and accepted the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Both the Income and Expenses are within budget.

## Treasurer’s Summary Report

May 2024

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$19,056	\$25,167
Other Income	\$ 976	\$ 3,558
Total	\$20,032	\$28,725
Expenses	\$31,978	\$28,725

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

*Russ Casson, Treasurer*

## School Update

### *A Heartfelt Thank You*



A heartfelt thank you for welcoming me to the Holy Trinity Community, and for entrusting me to lead in the advancement of our mission-to provide students who have learning differences the opportunity to excel academically, socially, spiritually, and independently.

We have been hard at work these first weeks of summer, learning and preparing for the opening of the 2024-2025 school year. Looking back at the past 6 weeks, it is amazing what has already been accomplished. I have had the opportunity to engage in exhilarating one-on-one conversations with teachers, to reflect and be inspired with our school leaders at a weekend long leadership retreat, and to meet and welcome new students and their families to our school.

Together with the staff, I have been working tirelessly in the office to prepare the Holy Trinity Episcopal School 2024-2025 School Calendar, Master Class Schedule, teacher assignments, and Family Handbook. I have been working closely with our dedicated school board to ensure the success of our school, the best outcomes for our students, and the continuation of our mission. Each day brings inspiration. Holy Trinity Episcopal School celebrates many heartwarming traditions which I am excited and honored to become a part of. In an unwavering quest for excellence, many teachers have shared their insights as to how we can continue to shape and refine our important work. I am inspired to lead this amazing school team forward, as we continue to improve our school and to refine our work as educators.

During my long career as an educator, I have acquired the skills and knowledge to lead school teams in the education of students with learning differences. It is my intention to strengthen our instructional practices by using assessment to inform educational decisions and to inform the

selection of academic curriculum and intervention. We are thrilled to have acquired comprehensive assessment tools that provide us with detailed data about how our students learn best. Our work going forward is to use that assessment data to implement targeted instruction and individualized intervention, to give each student the opportunity to accelerate their learning in reading and math.

Similarly, I am working to secure assessment tools and curriculum that will allow us to empower students with skills and resources to overcome their challenges with social communication, executive functioning, and emotional regulation. I am most excited to provide our teachers and staff with Professional Learning Opportunities, where together we can learn, share, reflect and study to expand our repertoire of instructional methods and strategies as we investigate the educational topics that most impact our students.

The position of Head of School at Holy Trinity Episcopal School is truly an enormous responsibility. My promise to you, who so generously support our school in countless ways, is that I will lead with true compassion for our students and a steadfast commitment to furthering our mission.

*In Gratitude,  
Angela Heffernan*

## HTEC School Tutor Program

Our new head of school, Ms. Angela Reid Heffernan continues to get her feet on the ground. She brings a wealth of experience and academic credentials to our school. In the state of Florida, she is a Certified Educator specifically for Exceptional Student Education, Elementary Education, Reading, English for Speakers of other Languages, and autism spectrum disorder.

When announcing Ms. Heffernan appointment, Fr Samuel said, “Adding someone with Angela’s credentials to our staff is a big step in fulfilling our Mission to educate students who learn differently....”

You too can become a part of our Mission effort by volunteering just one hour a week of your time as

a Tutor. If you or someone you know wants to make a real difference in a child’s life, please call [\(913\) 558-2636](tel:9135582636) or email [jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:jimkelly8143@gmail.com). No formal academic certification is required. Tutor training and instructional materials are provided. Snowbirds are welcome.

## Pancake Breakfast

The pancake breakfasts prepared by the Men’s Group will resume the last Sunday in September.

## Salvation Army Food Bank Collection

*Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank*



During the summer months school lunch programs are not available to the neediest of God’s children so, now is the time to give. 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](tel:3524067608).

## 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](tel:9135582636).



## Holy Hackers

Holy Hackers will again be taking the Summer off, resuming in September.

Everyone is always welcome to join us for golf and/or lunch and fellowship the second Saturday of the month.



*David Aldrich*

## Anniversaries/Birthdays



- Bob & Liz Mustin 7/01
- Lee & Debbie Stanton 7/10
- Roger & Nancy Wilcox 7/26



- Janice Haake 7/01
- Sheri Hudson 7/02
- Mary Ann P. Tahara 7/06
- Janell Bromesl 7/08
- John Rodenbaugh 7/12
- Jane Kelly 7/18
- Rose Nsengiyumva 7/19
- Judy Huetz 7/24
- Liam Knowles 7/25
- Carol Mullen 7/27
- Doris Brennan 7/31

## In Loving Memory



- ❖ John Neidow
- ❖ Joanne Dearcrop
- ❖ Lileth Jackson
- ❖ Carol Wang
- ❖ Bob Disinger
- ❖ Tom Synan

## Altar Guild Update

It has long been the tradition at HTEC to sponsor flowers for friends and family on special occasions such as in remembrance of loved ones and other special anniversaries. Unfortunately, over the years, along with other living costs, the price of the flowers has increased. I have investigated these costs by contacting several local florists and concluded that Southern Tradition in Leesburg continues to offer the best value. From the 1st of June, the price has increased to \$80.00 for two arrangements plus a \$10.00 delivery fee, bringing the total \$90.00. If roses are required, the cost is \$4.00 per stem, while lilies will cost \$7.00 per lily.

If flowers are needed, please indicate your wish by adding your name and specific request to the sign-up sheet in the parish hall, ideally at least two weeks prior to the date that the flowers are required. It would be most helpful, if checks are made out to "Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Altar Guild" and indicate "Flowers" on the bottom of the check.

For more information you may call Joan Ballard [352-661-3613] or Dianne Casson [352-255-5444] directly.

*Joan Ballard*

## A Special Thank You



Our thanks to Sheri Hudson who for the past five years has compiled and published The Tidings. Sheri had to resign from this volunteer position due to progressive age-related macular degeneration. She enjoyed doing this because she felt it gave her a good working knowledge of church and school events and activities.

Sheri is hopeful that there will be a volunteer to take on this job. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact Fr. Samuel.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

For pastoral care  
we welcome you to contact:

**Robin Mitchell**  
(352-350-1451) or  
[RobinMitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:RobinMitchell@yahoo.com)

**Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva**  
(920-226-0050) or  
[rector@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:rector@holytrinityfp.com);  
or call the church office Monday  
through Thursday during office  
hours.

Please continue to phone or email  
your prayer requests to  
352-787-1500 or  
[office@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com)

## Welcome our new Office Administrator!



We are pleased to welcome Gisselle Martinez as our new Office Administrator/Communications Assistant. Gisselle is a graduate of Umatilla High School and the University of Florida where she majored in Telecommunications with a minor in Business Administration.

She lives with her family in Leesburg and has lived in Lake County all her life. She loves dogs, soccer, and food! Gisselle prides herself in her work ethic, creativity, and willingness to help. She is excited to be a part of the Holy Trinity family!

## Happy Fourth of July!



## Pictures of Parish Events

Pentecost Sunday



Figure 1-Randy Siviers carrying the dove on Pentecost Sunday

History



Figure 2-This is a picture of Steve Knowles' parents, Blanche and Joe, when they were married at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on June 30, 1948. This picture was taken under the Lych Gate.

## Congratulations

A celebration in the Parish Hall of Lili Panlilio's graduation from The Villages Charter School



Figure 2-Recent grad, Lili



Figure 4-Celebration for Lili



Figure 5-Lili and Mandy, her mother



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Holy Trinity Episcopal School Golf Benefit**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**OCTOBER 5, 2024**

**Please help us continue supporting our wonderful students  
and staff at**

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

**Where : Harbor Hills Country Club in Lady Lake**

**What time: Registration 12:00PM**

**Shotgun Start 1:00PM**

**Register now at: [HolyTrinitySchoolGolfBenefit](#)**

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### **ELECTRONIC GIVING AT HOLY TRINITY:**

We have made it possible for those who wish to give electronically in a variety of ways:

1. **Website/Facebook page**
2. **TEXT to Give:** the word "Funds" to 844-527-0098
3. **Mobile App:** Download the **Vanco Mobile** app from mobile store

**QR Code:** Scan the QR Code to our eGiving page.



# 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

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

Cell: 920-226-0050

The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes –

Assisting Priest

[janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com)

The Rev. Dr. James Jones – Assisting Priest

[jamesjones1454@outlook.com](mailto:jamesjones1454@outlook.com)

Deacon Charlie Perrin – Deacon

[charlie-perrin@outlook.com](mailto:charlie-perrin@outlook.com)

Deacon Dick LaBud – Deacon

[rjlabud@gmail.com](mailto:rjlabud@gmail.com)

## Staff:

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Gisselle Martinez – Church Office Administrator

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Angela R. Hefferman – HTES Head of School

[ahefferman@htepiscopalschool.org](mailto:ahefferman@htepiscopalschool.org)

Tara Casamasima – School Office Administrator

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

## In-Person & Livestream Services:

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary & Livestream)

Wed. Healing 11:30am (Chapel & Livestream)

## Contact Information:

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

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

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruitlandpark](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruitlandpark)

Newsletter Articles:

*Please submit by 25<sup>th</sup> of each month*

Judy Gygi, [jgygi2876@gmail.com](mailto:jgygi2876@gmail.com)

## Vestry:

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[dabmag@hotmail.com](mailto:dabmag@hotmail.com)

352-751-5406

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