

# The Tidings



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

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## Happy June Anniversary To:

- 2 - Steve & Ann Oakes
- 6 - Peter & Julia Shoup Coughlin
- 13 - Russ & Dianne Casson
- 14 - Leland & Sue Lewis
- 21 - John & Jeanette Rodenbaugh
- 25 - Mike & Debbie Lally

## Happy June Birthday To:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4 - Scott Colligan   | 23 - Joan Hensley    |
| 4 - Vicki Champion   | 23 - Fr. Jamie Jones |
| 7 - Donna Zegray     | 24 - Karen Jones     |
| 11 - Roger Wilcox    | 25 - Carol Schlueter |
| 16 - Janet Dearcopp  | 25 - Sid Yee         |
| 19 - Annette Freeman | 29 - Jim Kelly       |
| 19 - Les Hall        |                      |



## **Rector's Message**

### **Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow**

*by Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

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As we come to the close of what is generally referred to as the program year, the words the words of the Doxology best reflect my feelings. This past program year has been both exhausting but rewarding.

It began October with a very successful ministry fair and a stewardship campaign. It was then followed by another memorable School Golf Benefit in November, another glorious Christmas celebration in December, a fun-filled Parish Annual meeting in January, a Parish/School Picnic in February, the hiring of a new head of School in March, a spirit-filled Holy Week and Easter celebration in April, and most recently our inaugural Light the Path Banquet & Benefit and school graduation ceremonies. To God, indeed, be all the glory, honor and praise!

I am particularly grateful for all of you who made all this work possible. I am grateful for all the ministry teams – the Altar Guild, the Choir, the Ushers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Livestream Techs, Hospitality Ministers, Pastoral Care, InviteWelcomeConnect Team, Buildings & Grounds Team, The Facilities Taskforce, School Board, Adult Sunday School & Bible Study facilitators, Finance Ministry Teams, Vestry, Clergy, Staff, Teachers, Tutors, donors, the Light the Path Team, the Golf Benefit Team, and many more. It takes all of us to accomplish the work we do. I praise God for the privilege of partnering with you in this loving, liberating, and life-giving work.

As I think about the next few months, I am reminded of the scripture passage from Mark 6:30-31: *"The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat."* This passage reminds us of the need to take some time to slow down and rest a while.

While some critical ministries such as worship, pastoral care, and others must continue, we will be mindful of our need to rest and scale down on those activities that may not be as critical. I hope you will all have an opportunity to take some time to rest this summer. For those who will have the opportunity to travel, remember there is always a church near you. Strive to visit the church and let us know how you felt about it. We may learn a thing or two from your experience.

I wish you a blessed and restful summer.

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

***Robin Mitchell***

(352)350-1451 | [RobinMitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:RobinMitchell@yahoo.com)

***Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva***

(902)226-0050 | [rector@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:rector@holytrinityfp.com)

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

## Senior Warden's Report



The Invite Welcome and Connect ministry led by Judy Gygi continues to work on the plan for the rollout this fall of the Episcopal Churches newly envisioned Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) program at Holy Trinity. The new program equips our church with tools that are specifically designed to assist Episcopalians in engaging in the profound work of evangelism. This ministry's next meeting is scheduled for this coming Friday, June 6, 2025, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Grace Chapel.

Last month I briefed you on the review that the Vestry was doing of the 2025 Vestry

Diocesan Training Material and related point papers dealing with goals, risks, opportunities, and growth potential for our church. Based on that solid study, your Vestry has created a priority list of action items addressing various church issues, including administration, finances, work instructions, insurance, advertising, information technology, and church growth, just to mention a few.

In a real consensus-building process, each Vestry member proposed a number of tasks that were then discussed and posted as either "work on now," "important for later," or "nice to do." The plan is to assign these tasks to Vestry members (or designees) for action. Progress on these action items will be discussed at our next Vestry meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

As a result of one posting in particular, Father Samuel screened the church's website for comments and review. The Vestry commented very favorably on the layout and content and complimented our church administrator, Gisselle, for her superb work on this as well as the many other tasks she handles.

All your ministry teams and Vestry members are dedicated to serving Christ. Their meetings provide opportunities for you to personally connect with your fellow parishioners and foster a stronger bond within the church. We would be honored and delighted if you could consider attending any of these meetings and providing your input. For dates and times of ministry meetings, please contact Gisselle in the church office at (352) 787-1500.

*Jim Kelly, Sr. Warden*



## Light the Path Banquet & Benefit

Our Banquet Committee, consisting of Rob Soeldner, Fr. Samuel, Becca Coulter, Scott Pennington, Elizabeth Knowles, Naomi Aldrich, Deb Holliday, Dr. Walter & Suzanne Zielinski, Seth Trees, Kate Fitzgerald and me- Gisselle, dedicated many hours of planning, strategizing and working to ensure this event was a success, and indeed it was!

When Fr. Samuel first introduced this idea of a Banquet & Benefit to our committee, we were excited, but knew we would face many challenges. With only 2 months to plan an inaugural event, we knew the expectations were high, but we were optimistic.

From the moment we began planning, members of our committee set off individually to spread the word about our event to family, friends and neighbors. We acquired sponsorships, basket donations, silent auction donations, 50/50 ticket sales, dinner ticket sales, and in-kind donations. We sent over 100 invites to local dignitaries and clergy. We originally expected ~150 guests. Two weeks prior to the event, less than 100 people had made reservations. Still hopeful, we continued to work on the event material and promoting. We were hopeful that a few more people would buy tickets. The week before the event we began to get last-minute reservations, and our list quickly grew.

On the day of the event, we arrived at the Venetian center at 2:30pm to begin the setup. Rob led the team as we organized table seating, placed event material, and set up the decorations. With the help of Mary Soeldner, Cameron, and Annabelle, I set up the curtains and created the balloon garland that took center stage. Elizabeth carefully placed the beautiful flower arrangements at each table, while Dave Aldrich, Judy & Gregg Monin, and the

parent group set up their tables for the silent auction and raffles. We finished with just enough time before guests started arriving.

As 6pm approached, the doorway began to clutter, the line grew out the door, and the room began to fill up. It was chaotic, but we were happy! The outcome completely exceeded our expectations. Nearly **230 guests** gathered at the Venetian Center to celebrate our special school!

Among those in attendance were the rectors of St. James, St. George, & St. Thomas Episcopal churches. We also welcomed Leesburg Mayor Alan Reisman and several philanthropic leaders. We were thrilled to see the familiar faces of our congregation who joined us for dinner, spread the word about our event, sponsored tables, and made donations.

We gave out awards to a few guiding lights, and heard speeches from a student, a recent graduate, a parent, and a volunteer. We also had incredible performances from the student choir, worship team, and pianist. At the end of the night one lucky winner from each table got to take home the flower arrangement, and several walked away with awesome baskets and auction items. It was truly wonderful!

We are humbled and grateful to have received so much support, compliments, and positive feedback. Our efforts helped raise close to **\$30,000** for our school's Specialized Learning and Instruction. We are excited to improve on next year's Banquet & Benefit, and we are already preparing for our **October 20<sup>th</sup> Light the Path Golf Benefit**. We know that together our efforts go a long way, so we hope that you can help us continue setting our students on a brighter path!

*Gisselle Martinez*







## Ministry Spotlight: Altar Guild



*Figure 1 Long-time Altar Guild head Dianne Casson has been a member at Holy Trinity since she was 19, her husband Russ since age 12.*

As a relative newcomer to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, I continue to feel an overwhelming sense of awe each time I cross its threshold. Every Sunday when I open those red doors, the first-time rush of awe, gratitude, and reverence fills me. Psalm 122:1 quickens in my soul. “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the House of the Lord.’”

I know that a building is not the church; it is the people who make up the church. However, the building does count for a lot, IMHO. Especially ours. Composed of wood and stained glass, it bids welcome to all who enter, whether they be long-time parishioners or guests visiting for the first time.

Just look at our church with the eyes of a first-time visitor. The dark wood, the high peaked ceiling, the walls filled with stained glass and old, sacred linens behind glass, the Stations of the Cross, the pews that have provided seats to generations of churchgoers, the

baptismal font beckoning those new into relationship with God, whether they be infants, kids or adults. But there is no greater focus than that provided by the sanctuary, the area above the steps and beyond the altar rail. One is drawn in by color – the stained glass, of course, the flowers, the gleaming brass, the frontal and banners. All those sacred objects serve to highlight the central focus point, the altar.

How many look at the sanctuary and all its elements and wonder who sets the table for the Lord's Supper? Who changes the colors of the frontal and banners, inserts hymn numbers, and keeps the brass polished? This behind-the-scenes sacred work is the privilege and duty of our Altar Guild. Guild members are called to a ministry of service – service especially to the priest, deacons, and the many others who make up our church. Guild members set up for Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and all the special services held throughout the year.



*Figure 2 The ladies of Team II were kind enough to let me join them last Saturday as they prepared for Sunday service. Pictured left to right: Team leader Joan Ballard, my sister-newcomer Nancy Keane, Debbie Stanton, and Jaleh Welton.*

At Holy Trinity, the Guild is divided into three teams. Each team serves for two weeks, with about an hour needed to set up, and then slightly less to clean up. Each team serves for two weeks and then rotates off for the next team's turn. Each team has about a month off. The exception to this is Holy Week, when, as Altar Guild head Dianne Casson says, "It's all hands-on deck. The sheer number of services and their variety requires everyone's effort."

Setting up the sanctuary and then cleaning it up is a sacred ministry, one to be taken by those who feel God's call to serve Him and His faithful in this way. Team II leader Joan Ballard puts it this way: "Save casual chatter for Fellowship Hall. You must approach Altar Guild service respectfully. No gossiping in the sanctuary." Indeed, it is truly a privilege and an honor to care for the sacred symbols of our faith, and by giving your full attention to your duties, you are quite simply engaging in active prayer.

If you feel a tug to join in this ministry, know that your service is vital. "We have a great group of people serving on our Altar Guild. Everyone works together. All my ladies – and Rob! – are truly blessings to our church," Dianne said. "If you feel called to join us, we would love to have you. You can speak to me or Father Samuel to get started.

*Cassie Journigan*

## **HOLY HACKERS**

Our Holy Hackers monthly golf scramble and fellowship for May took place on Saturday, May 10th, 2025, with a 9:30 tee off. This was our final event for the season and 19 hackers turned out. Once again, the weather cooperated, and all our teams again finished under par. Our winning team this month was our

guest team consisting of Linda Rambury, Doug Jensen, Ruthie and Neil Maiden, guests of the Sivers. They came in at four under par. Again, just about all of us stayed for lunch & fellowship afterwards at The Grille at Pennbrooke Fairways.

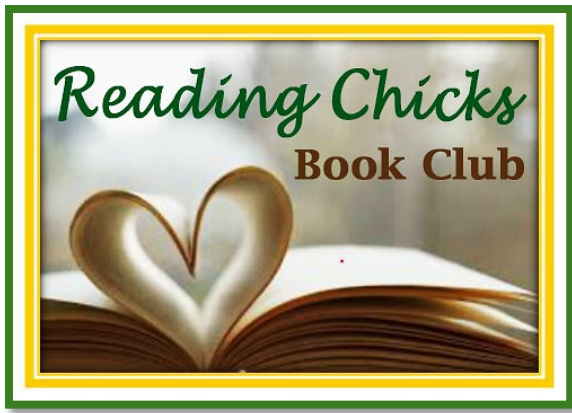


We are taking a break from the heat for the Summer and many of our players are either snowbirds or taking Summer getaways. I am grateful to all our players for a great season, thanks to all who brought guests, and special thanks to Mandy for all the pictures all year. We will resume play on September 13, our usual second Saturday of the month, hope to see you all then. We always welcome new players and guests, or just join us for lunch and fellowship after golf. Have a great Summer!

*Dave Aldrich*



## Women's Book Club



**We are excited to announce the launch of a women's book club at Holy Trinity, *Reading Chicks!*** It is designed to be an opportunity to come together in a relaxed and welcoming way to connect, build new friendships, and strengthen existing ones. We will gather informally to share thoughts and experiences around books of various genres while enjoying snacks and beverages. Our hope is to have rotating hostesses.

Here's the info for our first meeting:

- **Date:** Thurs, July 10th at 3pm
- **Place:** Deb & Sid Yee's,  
1002 Pickering Path, The Villages
- **Book:** The Women by Kristen Hannah \*

What to expect:

- We'll start by introducing ourselves
- We'll have an open discussion about the book
- We'll enjoy snacks and beverages (coffee/tea, lemonade, wine)
- We'll plan our next meeting and select the next book!

**RSVP** to Deb Yee [debkhogan@gmail.com](mailto:debkhogan@gmail.com) or 703-472-1573

Please reply by July 5th so we have a head-count.

\* Available at Amazon, Walmart, Barnes &

Noble, libraries (paperback incl. large print, audiobook, eBook/digital)

## IWC Note

As I review the cards filled out by guests to our church, I continually see these written comments: what a beautiful church, everyone is so warm and welcoming, everyone is so friendly. These comments make me so proud to be a member of HTEC. However, occasionally as the ministry leader of IWC, I hear from a guest or even parishioner, that they went to coffee hour, or other church activity and went unnoticed. I think that we sometimes get so caught up in talking with friends that we do not recognize that someone is not acknowledged or welcomed. Inclusiveness can be as easy as saying, "I don't think we have met," "come join us," or adding another chair around the table.

I want to share a quote that is attributed to Maya Angelou "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel." This points out the fact that our interactions with others have a lasting impact. I don't think that any of us would intentionally ignore a parishioner or a guest, but it does emphasize the importance of creating positive emotional experiences and being inclusive in our fellowship opportunities.

*Judy Gygi, IWC Ministry Team*

## Planned Giving & Holy Trinity's Endowment

Planned Giving is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to include our church in their estate plan (or lifetime gift) as be part of a lasting endowment for the long-term mission of our church. Our endowment is managed by



the Episcopal Church Foundation and supervised by our Planned Giving Committee and Vestry. It is governed by Florida law to ensure careful and wise management. We have pamphlets available in the parish hall that will give you more information. You may talk to Mark Welton, the Planned Giving “Shepard” for the program, or any members of our Endowment Committee: Mike Browne, Parker Bauer, and Paul Harmon.

## 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](mailto: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*

## 2025 Golf Benefit



The time, date, and location for our “Light the Path” **Golf Benefit** has been set. It takes place on **Monday, Oct. 20, 2025**, at the Continental Country Club in Wildwood with an 8:30am shotgun start. Golfers will be limited to 112 golfers (28 foursomes), first come first served. Golf, lunch fee is \$110 per golfer or \$440 per foursome. After October 1st the fee will be \$125 per golfer. Lunch will be served at Paulie’s Oaks restaurant at 1pm and will include chicken parmigiana, Caesar salad, pasta, rolls & butter, soft drinks & cookies. Alcohol is available at the bar. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for lunch at \$30 per person.

When registering, donations and sponsorships are also available and will be recognized on our website as well as a hole sponsorship sign. **DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED 1 FOR 1 FOR THE TOURNAMENT.** Thus a \$100 donation will become \$200, a \$500 donation becomes \$1000, and so on.

Donations go directly to benefit the HTES in support of software programs, personnel that focus on the learning deficits in verbal and math skills and social skills that are lacking in the student population. Many thanks and let’s have a great tournament! - *Jerry Huetz*, 802-233-3445

## Golf Benefit Committee Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in being a part of this year's Golf Benefit Committee, contact Gisselle at **352-787-1500** or [office@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com). We need volunteers to help with planning and promoting the benefit and to handle the registration table and sales on the day of the event. If you have some free time and want to help us raise funds for students' financial aid, please join us! Meetings will begin in mid-July. Thank you!

## 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 less fortunate people in need. You can be part of this mission by joining our breakfast team for just 2 hours on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. For more info about serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact *Jim Kelly* (913) 558-2636 or email [jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:jimkelly8143@gmail.com)



## Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank



The Salvation Army's food pantries are looking like Old Mother Hubbard's

Cupboard. If you would like to help, 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:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly (No glass jars)
- Canned fruit and fruit cups
- Spaghetti sauce
- Thin spaghetti pasta
- Canned Soup
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Beefaroni, ravioli, spaghetti

- Canned meat; Tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage
- Box meals; Ham helper, Tuna helper, etc
- 16oz bags rice
- Mashed potatoes
- Ramen noodles
- Single serve grits & oatmeal
- Snacks for kids

For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact Annette Freeman (352) 406-7608



## Upcoming Events:

### Reading Chicks Book Club | July 10 @ 3pm

All ladies are invited to the launch of a women's book club at Holy Trinity, *Reading Chicks!* The first meeting will be on Thurs, July 10th at Deb & Sid Yee's, 1002 Pickering Path, The Village. The book will be *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. For more info and to RSVP contact Deb Yee [debkhogan@gmail.com](mailto:debkhogan@gmail.com) or 703-472-1573.



# 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)

The Rev. Charlie Perrin – Deacon

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

The Rev. Dick LaBud – Deacon

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

## Staff:

Gisselle Martinez – Office Admin.

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark – Housekeeping

Becca Coulter, Head of School

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

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

[strees@htespiscopalschool.org](mailto:strees@htespiscopalschool.org)

## Contact Information:

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

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

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

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

## In-Person & Livestream Services:

Saturday 4:15pm (Sanctuary) (Nov-April)

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)(FBLive)

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

## Vestry:

Jim Kelly – Sr. Warden

[jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:jimkelly8143@gmail.com) | 913-558-2636

Steve Knowles – Jr. Warden

[steveli2@yahoo.com](mailto:steveli2@yahoo.com) | 352-504-8921

Pat Casson-Fleming - Secretary

[Trisha12552@aol.com](mailto:Trisha12552@aol.com) | 352-406-9586

Russ Casson - Treasurer

[rhcasson@embarqmail.com](mailto:rhcasson@embarqmail.com) | 352-255-2234

Debbie Lally

[michaellally@comcast.net](mailto:michaellally@comcast.net) | 386-748-2747

Judy Gygi

[jgygi2876@gmail.com](mailto:jgygi2876@gmail.com) | 407-461-5647

Robin Michell

[robinmichell@yahoo.com](mailto:robinmichell@yahoo.com) | 352-350-1451

Scott Pennington

[Skypilot513@yahoo.com](mailto:Skypilot513@yahoo.com) | 352-396-9984

Mark Welton

[Markwelton72@gmail.com](mailto:Markwelton72@gmail.com) | 845-220-6206

## Ministry Leaders Contact Info:

If you wish to be involved in any of these roles, please contact the ministry leaders

### Worship Assistants

Pat Casson: 352-406-9586

[Twofus9600@aol.com](mailto:Twofus9600@aol.com)

### Altar Guild

Dianne Casson: 352-787-0508

[dcasson@embarqmail.com](mailto:dcasson@embarqmail.com)

### Adult Sunday School

Ron Whetsell: 817-368-4618

[rwhetsell04@yahoo.com](mailto:rwhetsell04@yahoo.com)

### Bible Study

Rob Soeldner: 978-895-6937

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

### Choir- Sharon Redding

352-267-6990

[sredding10@comcast.net](mailto:sredding10@comcast.net)

### Invite Welcome Connect

Judy Gygi: 407-461-5647

[jgygi2876@gmail.com](mailto:jgygi2876@gmail.com)

### Outreach

Jim Kelly: 913-558-2636

[jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:jimkelly8143@gmail.com)

### Men's Group

Sid Yee: 703-966-2615

[sidney1949yee@gmail.com](mailto:sidney1949yee@gmail.com)

### Holy Hackers

Dave Aldrich: 203-258-9643

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