



# The Tidings

A Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church & School

2201 Spring Lake Road Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Office Phone: 352-787-1500

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

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

*Inviting, Welcoming, & Connecting people to God and one another in Christ.*

Holy Trinity is a warm, welcoming, and Christ-centered community for all to belong, blossom, and bless.

## February 2026

### In This Issue

Rector's Message .....	2
Sr. Warden's Report.....	4
Parish News.....	5
Vestry News.....	7
Ministry News.....	9
Worship .....	15
Stewardship.....	16
School News .....	17
Beyond Holy Trinity .....	19
Upcoming Events.....	20
Contacts.....	21

### Happy February Anniversary To:

- 5** - Jim & Jane Kelly  
**20** - Ed & Anne Hankwitz  
**20** - Randy & Deb Siver  
**21** - Dennis & Wanda May  
**22** - Walt & Glenda Albers

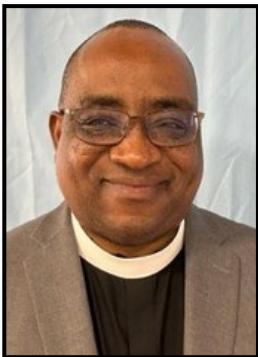
### Happy February Birthday To:

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>3</b> - Kathy Jones         | <b>12</b> - Ed Hankwitz     |
| <b>3</b> - Russ Casson         | <b>14</b> - Val Tuller      |
| <b>3</b> - Wanda May           | <b>19</b> - Dottie Noble    |
| <b>5</b> - Jeanette Rodenbaugh | <b>20</b> - Dr. Janice      |
| <b>6</b> - Nancee Wolbers      | Gordon-Barnes               |
| <b>7</b> - Bonnie Hultin       | <b>20</b> - John Turner     |
| <b>9</b> - Gary Sarto          | <b>23</b> - Montana Alger   |
| <b>10</b> - Judy Gygi          | <b>25</b> - Jeanne Nicolosi |
| <b>10</b> - Mark Welton        |                             |

**The Tidings** is a forum for sharing information and ideas beneficial to our parish life & mission. Please send all contributions for the Newsletter to: [office@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com). Please submit articles for the February Issue by **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**.

# From the Rector

---



## Moving Forward with Perseverance

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, ... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. ... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3).*

As I continue to reflect on the various aspects of our shared life and mission in this place, I am constantly being reminded of how far we've come. This year is particularly significant as we celebrate 140 years of our founding as a congregation, 30 years of our school, and 5 years of my partnership with you as your priest. I think of the joys and sorrows, successes and failures, finished and unfinished work; and realize that holy work is indeed hard work. No wonder the scriptures are full of words of encouragement, including the one quoted above. Because Holy Work is Hard Work, we are encouraged to persevere – not to grow weary and lose heart.

The wonderful thing is to realize how this reality continues to manifest itself from the very beginning to this day. I think of the perseverance of those who have sustained our church since 1886, those who sustained our school since 1996, and those of us who are striving to carry on the good work into the future. We are, indeed, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

This spirit of perseverance has most recently been manifested by those who have stepped forward in response to several initiatives aimed at revitalizing our church. Examples include the 40 people participated in our first IWC workshop and the 30 people who participated in the second one; leading to the formation of 3 complimentary taskforces – Invite, Welcome, and Connect. As I write, at least 2 of the 3 taskforces have already met to discuss their various tasks. Other examples include those who are part of our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team, our Banquet & Benefit team, our new Vestry members, and many other expressions of commitment and perseverance. While this holy work is hard work, you refuse to grow weary or lose heart.

## Three Principles

Even as I rejoice, give thanks, and encourage you to continue persevering, I am deeply aware that it is not easy. That is why I, once again, remind each one of us of the three principles that help us persevere to the end.

1. Prayer: Prayer is based on the recognition that we cannot keep up going on our own. In prayer, we acknowledge our dependence on God's power, God's wisdom, and God's grace and mercy to keep going and achieving our goals. Without reliance on God, the risk of burn-out and frustration becomes inevitable. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed both for himself and for those who crucified him. In that regard, for our Lenten program, we will be offering what is known as The Prayer Course by 24/7 Prayer International. This 8-

week video series is based on the Lord's Prayer which Jesus taught his disciples in response to their request "Lord, Teach us to Pray." The course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30pm beginning on Wednesday Feb. 25. Each session will include a simple meal, a 20-25-minute video followed by a discussion. I hope as many of you will join us and I am sure the course will transform your prayer life.

2. **Participation:** Participation does not necessarily mean participating in every activity offered at church. It simply means making sure that we are engaged in the life and mission of our church in one way or the other. Each one is encouraged to participate as they are able; knowing that and every little time, talent, or treasure makes a big difference. When we participate in whatever capacity, we encourage each other to keep going. Perseverance is best done together.
3. **Patience:** Patience is the ultimate key to perseverance. This also means being patient with ourselves, with others, and even with God. Impatience only leads to frustration and giving up or discouraging others.

I believe these principles are what have enabled our church to be where it is today; and what will carry it into the future. Our part is to continue practicing them and encouraging others to do the same. Yes, holy work is hard work, but we can do anything through Christ who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13).

As we celebrate our past and embrace our future, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21).

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

*Robin Michell*  
(352)350-1451 | [RobinMichell@yahoo.com](mailto:RobinMichell@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.**

# *From the Senior Warden*

---



For starters, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our departing vestry members, Robin Michell, Debbie Lally, and Steve Knowles, for their hard work, commitment, and dedication. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those vestry members who are continuing on for another year and our new vestry member(s).

We have a lot to look forward to in 2026, this being our church's 140th anniversary. A ministry team headed by Peter Coughlin has promises to make this a year to remember.

In 2026, with full approval of the diocese and the vestry, Fr. Samuel will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical this summer and plans to travel to Africa with Rose and daughter Rachel for time with family. While Father is away, our church will be going to a single 9:00 a.m. service schedule, which was suggested and approved by the vestry.

Progress is being made on the invite, welcome, and connect initiative (IWC), led by ministry lead Judy Gygi. During the workshop held on January 17, 2026, the IWC has evolved into three subcommittees. These subcommittees will now move into the next phase of developing documentation, tools, and human resources to support church growth. For more details, please refer to the IWC section of this Tidings.

Another crucial focus in 2026 will be the 2025 diocese training we received. Based on this comprehensive study, your vestry developed a prioritized list of action items addressing various church issues, including administration, finances, work instructions, insurance, advertising, information technology, and church growth, among others. The work on these action items has just begun, and the plan is to continue and refine them as new opportunities arise. Furthermore, the Parish Vitality survey conducted last year will continue to be studied as a valuable source of opportunities for improvement.

Finally, and as always, your ministry teams and vestry members are dedicated to serving God, and their meetings offer opportunities for you to connect personally with your fellow parishioners and strengthen the church's bond in service to our Lord. We would be honored and delighted if you could attend any of these ministry meetings and share your inputs. For the dates and times of our ministry meetings, please contact Gisselle in the church office at (352) 787-1500.

*Jim Kelly, Senior Warden*

(913) 558-2636

# Parish News

## 2026 Annual Parish Meeting Report



About 60 of our members and friends gathered for worship in our beautiful sanctuary and thereafter proceeded to the Parish Hall for a delicious meal followed by the business session of our Annual Parish Meeting.

In his State of the Parish Address, Fr. Samuel shared some of the highlights of the past year. He cited the many accomplishments by all our Ministry teams and thanked all those involved. He informed the congregation that after more than 2 years of a

turbulent leadership transition in our school, it has now stabilized and is making tremendous progress under the impeccable leadership of the new Head of School, Ms. Becca Coulter. He also cited the many efforts aimed at strengthening the school's financial position; including the successful inaugural Banquet & Benefit in May, the record funds raised by the annual Golf Benefit, and some grants received from some foundations. He also mentioned ongoing efforts including plans for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Light the Path Banquet & Benefit scheduled for April 20 at the Venetian Center in Leesburg. He invited everyone to pray a role in this transformative work.

In addition to the many successes, Fr. Samuel also cited the challenges we are facing as a parish. He particularly cited the declining numbers in membership, Sunday attendance, and giving. He mentioned that for the first time in 5 years, we ended the year with a deficit; but thanks to some reserves accumulated over the past few years, we had enough to meet all our financial obligations and remain debt free at this point. He also mentioned that because of shortfalls in our stewardship campaign, the Vestry passed a deficit budget of about \$7,500.

While these challenges are not unique to Holy Trinity or the Episcopal Church, it does not have to be that way. Some churches have been able to overcome them and are growing. We are committed to learning from them, stabilize and turn around. He noted that, like many churches our size, we realize that donations alone may not be sufficient to cover the full cost of operating our church in a mission-oriented and transformative way. That is why we are constantly exploring alternative sources of funding for our critical ministries.

Fr. Samuel stated that he remains hopeful that the God who began a good work in this place will carry it to completion on the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). God will provide all we need to accomplish His purposes in this place and beyond. Ours is to pay attention and respond to the Spirit's guidance.

Fr. Samuel took the opportunity to thank everyone who gives of their time, talent and treasure in support of our shared life and mission. He highlighted the work of our clergy, staff, Vestry members, ministry teams, and all our members and friends. He specifically recognized Steve Knowles, Robin Michell, and Debbie Lally for their faithful completion of their 3-year terms of service on the Vestry. The meeting also included the election of Karen Hammen, Elizabeth Knowles and Judy Monin to fill the 3-year terms, and Ed Hankwitz to fill a 1-year unexpired term.

Following the new annual meeting, the new Vestry members joined the continuing members for a special Vestry meeting to appoint the officers. Jim Kelly was reappointed as Senior Warden, Elizabeth Knwoles as Junior Warden, Russ Casson as Treasurer, and Mark Welton as Clerk.

The year 2026, being our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, is poised to be filled with a lot of activities as we celebrate our past and embrace our future. Our desire is to continue proclaiming God's love in our community and beyond by inviting, welcoming, and connecting more and more people to our warm, welcoming, and Christ-centered community for all to belong, blossom and bless.



# Vestry News

## Meet our new Vestry Members



**KAREN HAMMEN** - Prior to retiring five years ago in The Villages, I have lived my whole life in Wisconsin on a farm near Oconomowoc. My family attended Zion Episcopal church where I was baptized and confirmed. We have a family area in the Cemetery going back to the early 1800's, about the same era as Holy Trinity was established.

I have a Master's in Management degree from Cardinal Stritch University, and a business degree from Marion University. My career has focused mainly on Logistics and Material Management. I have been a Director of Logistics for private companies and traveled extensively internationally for business. My last years of employment were for the Federal Government writing and administering contracts for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I have had oversight on the building ground up of several large hospitals and clinics, including establishing the day to day facility operations. My husband Rick, is a retired Mechanical Engineer and our son Michael in Georgia is the same. We have a daughter Krista who is a teacher in Chesham, in the U. K. Her husband Paul is a financial planner. Our other daughter Kayla, is in Wisconsin and a Certified Veterinary Technician. We have three Grandchildren, Dean 7, Emily 5, and Charlotte 2.

We live in the Village of Richmond near Brownwood. I like to golf, attend and play various Village games or activities with friends, and read. I facilitate a Bone Builders Exercise class and a Walk Away the Pounds class. Rick and I are traveling more, especially to visit our Grandchildren. My goal is to visit the Holy Land in the near future. I have Canterbury crossed off from my list and love the historical cathedrals in Europe.

I started attending Holy Trinity at the end of Covid, and felt welcomed from the very beginning. The church setting reminds me of the small rural churches in Wisconsin. I hope I can continue to follow the traditions of the church using my skills to help Holy Trinity grow and "blossom" for future generations and another one hundred and forty years to come.

### ELIZABETH KNOWLES

My name is Elizabeth Knowles. My husband, Steve, and I have been attending Holy Trinity for about five years. We were confirmed in 2022. We had been members of a Methodist Church for over 35 years and then Covid hit. When it was time to go back to church, we decided we wanted to start



something new and Holy Trinity was a great fit since Steve's maternal family has a long history with it.

My family moved to Leesburg in 1968 after my father retired from the Air Force. I have lived in Leesburg since then with the exception of four years in college and three years living in South Florida, post college. I met Steve in 1985 and promptly moved back to Leesburg. We have been married 40 years. We have three children and four grandchildren.

The better part of my professional experience was spent in real estate property management. I am still working part-time, but I believe I have enough time to devote to Vestry service. I believe my property management background will be a plus for this position.



### **ED HANKWITZ**

Edward (Ed) Hankwitz. Born in Fond du Lac, WI in 1943. Worked as a mechanical engineer and sales engineer. In 2000, joined the Peace Corps and spent 1 1/2 years in rural Senegal, West Africa. In 2009, married Anne and moved to The Villages. Anne is a devout Catholic, so together they attend two churches most weekends.

Their blended family includes 6 adult children, 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. As a couple, they volunteer at St. Timothy's Food Pantry and Wildwood Soup Kitchen each week. Other favorite activities include brisk daily walks and bicycling.



### **JUDY MONIN**

I am totally in awe of the resumes of the current vestry and nominees for this year. Mine will be much shorter.

Gregg and I have been members of Holy Trinity for four years. During those four years we were co chairs of the Golf Benefit. We were fortunate to have many volunteers helping us reach our goals.

In the past years I have been president of two homeowners associations. I have also been active in volunteering for golf benefits in honor of my niece and her mother. The profits from these benefits went directly to ALS. My sister in law passed from one of the most horrible diseases that I know of. I have also been president of our Harbor Hills ladies garden club. My first year as president I and our board, and spouses, completely designed a park honoring our veterans. I am still active in maintaining our beautiful park.

If elected to our vestry I will try to bring my organizational skills to help achieve our goals.

# Ministry News



## Invite Welcome Connect

### Invite Welcome Connect Workshop – Part II Recap

Twenty-seven parishioners welcomed Rev. Cynthia

Brust on January 27<sup>th</sup> as she returned to facilitate Part II of the Invite Welcome Connect Workshop. Building on the foundational framework and concepts introduced in Part I, this workshop concentrated on evaluating our collective perceptions regarding Holy Trinity's effectiveness in each of these core areas. Those attending were involved in collaborative brainstorming to identify opportunities for improvement, with all the suggestions documented. Attendees then formed three focused subcommittees, each dedicated to one of the core areas. Each subcommittee designated a leader responsible for scheduling future meetings, facilitating the prioritization and implementation of proposed initiatives and serving as a liaison to the IWC Committee. Subcommittee leaders are Invite – Peter Coughlin Welcome – Deacon Charlie Perrin, and Connect – Robin Michell and Rob Soledner (co-leaders). If you missed the workshop but want to join a subcommittee, contact the subcommittee leader or the church office.

### Newcomer Dinner

A dinner is planned for **February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30PM in the Parish Hall to welcome newcomers and give them an opportunity to meet Vestry members, Ministry leaders and members of the congregation that want to attend. This social setting gives us all a chance to get to know each other better, to share our faith stories and information about Holy Trinity.

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for a Mardi Gras themed Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **February 17th**. Attendees are encouraged to wear Mardi Gras colors—green, gold, and purple—and strings of beads. The event will begin in the Courtyard at 5 PM with the ringing of the Church bell. As part of Holy Trinity's 140th anniversary celebrations, students from HTES will share historical insights about Shrove Tuesday traditions. Palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday will be burned, and ashes will be used for the Ash Wednesday service. Fr. Samuel will then lead the group into the Parish Hall, where the Men's Group will serve pancakes & there will be King Cake for dessert.

**Invitation:** Come join us at the next IWC meeting on **Feb. 6** at 10-11:30 AM in Grace Chapel.  
Judy Gygi, *Ministry Leader*





Holy Trinity's  
**SHROVE TUESDAY  
 PANCAKE SUPPER**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 5PM**

All are welcome! Invite your  
 Friends & Family!

Attendees are encouraged to wear Mardi  
 Gras colors-green, gold, purple-and  
 strings of beads!



RSVP BY PHONE/EMAIL  
 OR IN PARISH HALL



**IWC Workshop Pt II: Thank you to everyone who attended!** If you would like to be a part of the wonderful work being done by the IWC teams, contact one of the subcommittee leaders or Gisselle to find out more info about team meetings & initiatives!



## Follow us on Facebook

One of the easiest ways to Invite, Welcome & Connect others to Holy Trinity is by following us on Facebook and sharing our posts. Here is a step-by-step guide on how to follow us and turn on our post notifications so you don't miss any posts!

**The more people who follow, the better chance we have of being seen. Please feel free to add positive comments.**

1. Go to the [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fruitland Park](#) FL Facebook Page and click the word FOLLOW
2. Tap "Following": Tap the button that says "Following" (or "Friends").
3. Select "Follow Settings": From the menu, tap on "Follow Settings" or directly on "Notifications".
4. Adjust Content:
  - o Under "News Feed," set to Favorites to see more posts.
  - o Under "Content," select Standard or All Notifications for posts, videos, and live videos to get alerts for everything.
5. Click Update to ensure your changes are made

**You can share our posts by clicking the Share button under any post.**



## Holy Hackers January 2026



## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is pleased to announce that, thanks to your generous support in purchasing poinsettias for Christmas, we were able to both decorate Holy Trinity and allocate



funds to replace the kneeling cushions at the altar rail. While current cushions, handcrafted by members of Holy Trinity, are beautiful, they have become worn and no longer provide sufficient comfort for those kneeling during communion and need to be replaced. A representative from the selected cushion manufacturer will visit next month to take measurements and discuss fabric choices with the Altar Guild. Further details will be shared after the Altar Guild meets with this vendor. Sign-up sheets for altar flowers and bread and wine sponsorships for

worship services in 2026 are now available on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

Thanks for your continued support,  
*Holy Trinity Altar Guild*

## School Banquet & Benefit Planning Team:

Meetings to plan our 2nd Annual Banquet & Benefit have begun. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday Feb. 24, 3:30pm** in Grace Chapel. If you have a passion for the school and are available to help, please consider joining our team. Contact Gisselle for more info. Samuel.

## Thoughts for the Soul:

Jesus never said to worship Him, he said to Follow Him. -Deacon Charlie Perrin

“Prayerlessness is an insult to God. Every prayerless day is a statement by a helpless individual, ‘I do not need God today.’ Failing to pray reflects idolatry-a trust in substitutes for God. We rely on our money instead of God’s provision. We rest on our own flawed thinking rather than on God’s perfect wisdom. We take charge of our lives rather than trusting God. Prayerlessness short-circuits the working of God. Neglecting prayer, therefore, is not a weakness; it is a sinful choice.” Ben Jennings.

## Come Support Our School on FEB. 21:

I am a member of Stampers in Paradise ( a cardmaking/paper crafting club in The Villages). Each year in February we present a Showcase and Sale at Laurel Manor Rec Center (open to the public and free of charge).

### You're Invited to....

**Stampers In Paradise**  
8th Annual Showcase and Sale of  
cards, card making supplies and assorted  
paper crafts.

→ **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

In the Lincoln Theatre Room at  
**Laurel Manor Regional Rec Center**

**This Showcase and Sale is open to the  
general public. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Club members will be displaying and selling  
handmade greeting cards for as little as \$2  
(cash or check preferred).



There will also be new and gently used card  
making supplies at very reasonable prices.,  
**raffle baskets**, and idea display board.

**Come join the fun, learn a lot, and purchase  
some beautiful cards you'll be proud to send.**

Greeting card sample



For more information call  
Jean at 954-290-6397.

At this Showcase our members sell their hand-crafted greeting cards, paper creations and new or gently used supplies for cardmaking and scrapbooking. We also have raffle baskets (both stamping and non-stamping themes) with a percentage of the ticket sales going to a local charity. This year our members voted to donate/support Holy Trinity Episcopal School. I will be having 3 tables of my greeting cards and supplies for sale. If you purchase cards/supplies from me

and mention Holy Trinity, I will also donate a percentage to Holy Trinity Episcopal School. I hope to see you there to support our school and also find some wonderful, handcrafted cards to send to friends and family.

Thank You. -Judy Huetz

PS My 3 tables will be the 2nd set of 3 tables on your right as you enter the room at Laurel Manor.

## THE PRAYER COURSE FOR LENT

One of the Lenten disciplines is Prayer. This year, we are planning to follow Jesus' disciplines who asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and he taught them what we know now as The Lord's Prayer. The Prayer Course is an 8 session video series -based on the Lord's Prayer intended for everyone who desires a closer relationship with God through prayer. The course will be held in the Parish Hall on **Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm beginning February 25**. Each session will begin with a light meal (soup & bread) followed by a 20-25 minute video and an open 14 discussion on the topic. Volunteers are needed to provide soup. Sign-ups can be done online or on paper in the parish hall.



# The Prayer Course

## Calendar & Content

### **February 25: Session 1 - Why Pray?:**

**“Lord, teach us to pray”**

This first session of The Prayer Course, we’ll unpack the importance of prayer and the different topics covered across the course.

### **March 4: Session 2 - Adoration**

**“Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name”**

In this session we’ll explore how we can enjoy God’s presence in praise and worship.

### **March 11: Session 3 - Petition**

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

In this session we’ll unpack the significance of asking God in prayer.

### **March 18: Session 4 - Intercession**

**“Your kingdom come”**

In this session, we’ll explore the power and importance of praying on behalf of others.

### **March 25: Session 5 - Unanswered Prayer**

**“Your will be done”**

In this session we’ll be tackling the challenges and realities when our prayers aren’t answered.

### **April 1: Session 6 - Contemplation**

**“On earth as it is in heaven”**

In this session, we’ll discover how spending time with God in silence can enrich our relationship with Him.

### **April 8: Session 7 Listening**

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**

In this session, we’ll unpack the practical ways we can tune into hearing God’s voice.

### **April 15: Session 8 - Spiritual Warfare**

**“Deliver us from evil”**

In this session, we’ll look closely at the ways we can pray God’s kingdom come in the midst of a spiritual battle.

# Worship

**Florida Freeze of 2026:** The 2026 commemorates 140 years since Holy Trinity was founded. And just like our forefathers in 1886, our congregates made do on February 1, 2026 when a major freeze descended onto Central Florida. There was insufficient heat in the Church, so our hearty parishioners adapted and shifted to the Parish Hall for worship services.



## 140<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Task Force:

Meetings to plan the 140<sup>th</sup> church anniversary have begun. If you would like to join this team, please contact Fr. Samuel or Gisselle at the church office. Meetings are held in Grace Chapel, and all are welcome!



# Stewardship

## Treasurer's Summary Report December 2025

	Actual	Budget
Contributions		
Pledges	\$34,894	\$27,668
Other Income	\$ 847	\$ 3,625
Total	<u>\$35,741</u>	<u>\$31,293</u>
Expenses	\$29,741	\$31,293

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. 1 Chron. 29: 14.

### Potential Thrift Store Exploration Team

We are looking for volunteers to help explore the possibility of acquiring a Thrift Store as a potential alternative source of funding for our ministries. If you have some experience with small business and would like to be part of a Task Force to explore the possibility, please contact Fr. Samuel. Thank you!



**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) to be part of a lasting endowment for the long-term mission of our church. Our endowment is managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation & supervised by our Planned Giving Committee & Vestry. It is governed by FL law to ensure careful & wise management. We have pamphlets available in parish hall that will give you more information. You may talk to Mark Welton, the Planned Giving "Shephard" for the program, or any members of our Endowment Committee: Mike Browne, Parker Bauer, & Paul Harmon.

**Contribution Reminder:** Please remember, if you wish for your donation to appear on your Church Giving Statement, please write your check out to " **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**" with your contribution type (school donation, golf tournament, etc.) in the description. Your donation will be entered into our system, and the funds will be transferred into the designated account. We appreciate your cooperation in facilitating this process, and we thank you for your contributions!



**Additionally, 2025 Annual Giving Statements have been emailed. If you DID NOT receive your statement, please contact Gisselle in the church office. Thank you!**

# School News

---



## From the Head of School

Happy Valentine's Day! Thank you for the love you show our school, staff, students! The passion with which you serve this mission is wonderful and we couldn't meet our students' needs without your kind support.

We have recently gained more support from some of Florida's Congressional leaders as well! Dr. Zielinski, Seth Trees, and our Student Council President, Gavin Skinner, just made the trek to Tallahassee to seek support for our funding application. They met with people from the offices of State Representative Nan Cobb as well as Senators Truenow, Hooper, and Burgess. Our HTES delegation received a warm reception from every office. Senator Truenow's office announced that HTES is their number one project to support for funding! His influence is going a long way toward garnering the support of other Congressional members. We will make one more trip to connect with a few more Congressional leaders that Senator Truenow's office recommended we meet. Then we wait while our application makes its way through subcommittee and committee meetings. We are very humbled and thankful for this opportunity and the amazing support we have received. If we receive the funding we requested, we will use it to try to alleviate the crowding in our classrooms and bring our Extended Transition Program back to our campus. We are also working to partner with several foundations for more support.

We have begun to hold meetings with our committee for the Light the Path Banquet. We are excited to make this an annual event. We already have an amazing speaker from the Brotherton Foundation and many other exciting plans! We hope to see you all there on Monday, April 20th at the Venetian Gardens event center.

We have been busy recognizing students who had all As or As and Bs as well as those with perfect attendance and those who best demonstrated our character trait for December (being respectful) and January (being responsible). The second semester is well underway and students are hard at work in core classes as well as new intensive math and reading classes and electives. Students are also looking forward to new clubs. This semester they will be gardening (and visiting a local orchard to pick oranges), crocheting & crafting, and singing karaoke among other fun clubs. Students had a Bingo for prizes and ice cream sundaes for the January Parliament event. They'll be working hard to earn their next event at the end of February.

Our Parent Teacher Group is busy as ever! They will be hosting a creative and fun Paint Night for adults as well as students on Friday, February 20th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For just \$30 Ms. Hull will guide budding artists through the painting of their own masterpiece! All supplies and refreshments will be included and we'll raffle off some amazing handcrafted items for only \$1 a ticket. Please come and join us!

Becca Coulter, *Head of School*

## 2nd Annual Light the Path Banquet & Benefit

We are excited to announce that registration for the 2nd Annual Light the Path Banquet & Benefit is now open! **You can buy your tickets any Sunday through the Offering.** Simply write "Banquet Ticket" in the memo line. Our counters will deposit your payment and Gisselle will include you on our list. No need to sign up online or use a registration form. For online signups, scan the QR Code:



We are also accepting donations and sponsorships. If you know any business who may want to sponsor our event, please let Gisselle know so she may contact them accordingly. We also have sponsor forms available in Parish Hall or [HERE](#) if you would like to personally contact a local business and share our material. We would greatly appreciate your help with this. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at our 2nd Annual Banquet & Benefit!



**Holy Trinity**  
Episcopal School

*Invites you!*

**\$40**  
per person

RSVP by  
April 10, 2026

**LIGHT**  
**THE PATH**

**BANQUET**  
& **BENEFIT**

Celebrating the Guiding Lights who set our students on a brighter path!

**Monday, April 20, 2026 | 5:30pm - 8:00pm**

Venetian Center, Harris Room  
1 Dozier Court  
Leesburg, 34748

ENJOY:

- Dinner
- Silent Auction
- 50/50 drawing
- Student performance
- Fellowship
- And more!

Buy tickets on Sunday by placing checks/cash in the offering w/ '26 Banquet in the memo line. We'll add you to the RSVP list.

Proceeds benefit our Specialized Instruction & Services

# Beyond Holy Trinity

## Healing Conference at Grace Church, Ocala

MARCH 6 - MARCH 8, 2026

Grace Episcopal Church invites you to join its Healing Conference. Featuring Fr. Nigel Mumford, we will spend two days together learning more about healing and having the opportunity to receive healing prayer.

This conference is based on the biblical charge to pray for the sick by the laying on of hands. That is what we will do. But we do not heal. It is Jesus Christ who heals. And the range of healing in Jesus' Name is vast: physical ailments, emotional pain & trauma, lifelong hurts, wounds because of relational brokenness, & much more. You are therefore invited to bring your full self.

Each session will include healing prayer. \$20/person registration fee, lunch included.

More information and registration: [HEALING CONFERENCE | Grace Church](#)



## Salvation Army Mutual Support:

As many of you, but perhaps not all, may be aware, Holy Trinity and the Salvation Army

Leesburg Post, for some time now, have had a mutual support agreement. The agreement was established in order for us to be able to turn to them for help in dealing with individuals and families in need whose circumstances far exceed our small congregation's limited financial and administrative ability. In return, we were asked to help with Holiday Season Bell Ringing. (In addition to the

contributions to the Salvation Army food pantry that we were already making, we also took on breakfast service two days a month at the Leesburg facility.)

During the 2025 holiday season our parish provided bell ringers for the Salvation Army's Holiday Season Bell Ringing campaign and raised over \$4,190.16 this year as part of our mutual support agreement. Last year we also provided the Salvation Army with breakfast service kitchen support in feeding over 1,080 individuals & families in need. Holy Trinity provides all this support on top of non-perishable food donations, Christmas Angel Program, and in several other ways as the need arises. If you are interested and available to participate in any of this ministries please email, text/phone your Senior Warden, Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636.

## Used Laptops & Smartphones

If you have a used smartphone/laptop you don't need, please consider donating it to Taraja Resource Network, Inc. Taraja is a non-profit organization founded by Fr. Samuel that seeks to break the cycle of poverty in the African Great Lakes Region through education, micro-enterprise, mentoring and networking. One of the ways Taraja helps poor students in Rwanda and Uganda is by donating new or used laptops/smartphones to help them with online research. If you have a used one you can donate, please let Fr. Samuel know so he can take it when he visits Rwanda in June. Smartphones must be unlocked from the original carrier, reset to factory settings and where applicable, removed from the owners Apple account.

# Upcoming Events

## February Events

Newcomer Dinner	Friday, February 13
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	Tuesday, February 17
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 18
The Prayer Course Begins	Wednesday, February 25

## Other Events

Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 29
Easter	Sunday, April 5
Light the Path Banquet & Benefit	Monday, April 20

### Wednesday Bible Study:

Bible Study meets every **Wednesday at 10:00AM** in the Chapel. Together, we read the appointed passages from the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and Gospel and then discuss how they apply both to our individual lives and as integrated members of our communities. This is a way to “Invite, Welcome, and Connect”. Please come and share your thoughts with us. Questions? Call/text Rob Soeldner at 978.895.6937

### 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: [jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:jimkelly8143@gmail.com). No formal academic certification is required. Tutor training and instructional materials are provided. Snowbirds are welcome.

**Adult Sunday School:** Join us in the Chapel every **Sunday at 9:15AM** for the current series by Ray Vander Laan as he explores the turbulent history of Israel’s prophets and kings and draws lessons from their stories that can build our devotion to and trust in God today.

# Contact Information

## 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  
[rjlabad@gmail.com](mailto:rjlabad@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@htepiscopalschool.org](mailto:strees@htepiscopalschool.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  
Elizabeth Knowles – Jr. Warden  
[ejknowles61@yahoo.com](mailto:ejknowles61@yahoo.com) | 352-504-7360  
Russ Casson - Treasurer  
[rfcasson@embarqmail.com](mailto:rfcasson@embarqmail.com) | 352-255-2234  
Mark Welton - Clerk  
[markwelton72@gmail.com](mailto:markwelton72@gmail.com) | 845-220-6206  
Karen Hammen  
[karen\\_hammen@yahoo.com](mailto:karen_hammen@yahoo.com) | 262-617-9641  
Judy Monin  
[moninjudy@gmail.com](mailto:moninjudy@gmail.com) | 440-725-0973  
Judy Gygi  
[jgygi2876@gmail.com](mailto:jgygi2876@gmail.com) | 407-461-5647  
Ed Hankwitz  
[ehankz@hotmail.com](mailto:ehankz@hotmail.com) | 352-431-0921  
Scott Pennington  
[skypilot513@yahoo.com](mailto:skypilot513@yahoo.com) | 352-396-9984

## 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)