

# The Tidings



2201 Spring Lake Rd.  
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Church Office: 352-787-1500  
School Office: 352-787-8855



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

*Belong. Blossom. Bless.*

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### Happy December Anniversary To:

- 25** - Dave & Pat Fleming
- 30** - Rod & Kathy Jones
- 31** - Parker & Charlotte Bauer

### Happy December Birthday

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b> - Betty Torian          | <b>22</b> - Patsy Tyler   |
| <b>2</b> - Rod Jones             | <b>25</b> - Ray D'Auria   |
| <b>6</b> - Jean-Baptiste Alcenat | <b>27</b> - Gary Hess     |
| <b>10</b> - Madge Brown          | <b>27</b> - Mary Soeldner |
| <b>14</b> - Mandy Panlilio       | <b>28</b> - Anne Hankwitz |
| <b>18</b> - Randy Siver          |                           |

### In Loving Memory Of:

*Brandie Casson & James Wais*

May their souls rest in peace.



## A Word from the Rector

### Advent: A Season of Appreciation and Anticipation

*Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

Welcome to the season of Advent!

Advent as I have come to understand it, is a time to appreciate what God has done, and a time to anticipate what God will do in Christ Jesus. During Advent we look back with appreciation for the first coming of Christ to inaugurate God's Kingdom on earth and look forward with anticipation of Christ's second coming to fulfill God's Kingdom. On a personal level, it is a time to look back with appreciation, for what God has done in our lives, and look forward in anticipation of what God will do for us in days and years to come.

Even as we continue to live with the uncertainties of our time due to war, disease, political, social and economic instability, we at Holy Trinity have many good reasons to be grateful and hopeful.

Among the many reasons to be grateful is the status of our school. For those who may not know, Holy Trinity Episcopal School is fully owned by our church and considered our primary outreach ministry to our community. Indeed, many of our members chose us over other churches because they wanted to be part of a church that cares and serves our community in such an impactful way.

After almost two years of praying and searching, in April we welcomed Ms. Becca Coulter as our new Head of School; and the difference has been almost miraculous. She has brought stability and clarity of mission in ways not experienced before. In addition to offering special education to 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with learning differences, we have added an Extended Transition Program for those who need additional preparation before transitioning to college, technical school or employment. Due to limited space on campus, the program is hosted at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg and is thriving.

This, of course, would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of time, talent, and treasure from our members and friends. Notable among the various efforts were the Light the Path Banquet & Benefit in May which raised about \$30,000 and the Golf Benefit which raised a little over \$50,000. Through your generosity, we were able to acquire much needed material and human resources to implement the School Improvement Plan.

As we look forward into the future, we have reason to believe that God's grace which has sustained us thus far will continue to carry us through the joys and challenges of the coming year. We have reason to believe that the best is yet to come. That said, it is important to remember that our confidence in the God who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we ask or imagine through His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20-21), requires preparation on our part. Advent is not just about anticipation but more so about preparation.

## Preparation

At the heart of Advent is the call to prepare for God's appearing in our lives' circumstances. The words of the prophet Isaiah, as quoted by St. Luke, are particularly compelling:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.’” (Luke 3:4-6).

Preparing the way for the Lord begins with believing that God indeed has a good plan for humanity – us as individuals, our families, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. God's plan is to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Preparation begins by opening our hearts, eyes, and ears to what God is doing and joining Him in the mission.

I praise God for the many ways many of you are already opening your heart and participating in God's mission of spreading good news to the less fortunate. Our Christmas Outreach projects – the Operation Christmas Child, the Salvation Army Angel program, and the ongoing Salvation Army Bell ringing program are demonstrations of a community of faith committed to being heralds of good news. In addition, as is our custom, the Vestry voted to designate the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and the Episcopal Relief & Development to be the beneficiaries of this year's Christmas offerings.

May this Advent season truly be for us a season of appreciation, preparation, and anticipation for God's appearing in our lives, our communities, and our world. May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

**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@holyltrinityfp.com](mailto:rector@holyltrinityfp.com)

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

## Senior Warden's Report



The work on the parish rectory is complete. So, the good news is Fr. Samuel, Rose, and their daughter Rachel have returned home to the rectory and are no longer living in Airbnb accommodations. This has not been fun for anyone, least of all our Rector and his family. We are all happy to see them settled in their own nest again. Our Jr Warden, Steve Knowles, has been working hard with Fr. Samuel, various contractors, and the Church Insurance Company to get this done faster than anyone thought possible. Also, closely supporting this effort with expense tracking and insurance company interface has been our ever-vigilant Business Manager, Kathy Wolfe. Thanks so much, Steve and Kathy, for making this happen!

The Saturday, November 15, 2025, presentation of the Episcopal Churches' newly envisioned Invite, Welcome, and Connect (IWC) initiative was a great success. We welcomed the Rev. Cynthia Brust, the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Florida. She is a gifted speaker who shared valuable insights and expertise on this inspiring program. For further details and future plans, please see the IWC section of this Tidings issue. Credit and many thanks go to IWC Ministry Lead, Judy Gygi, for arranging this presentation.

Our efforts to improve the Holy Trinity worship service experience continue and have been expanded after reviews of Episcopal churches' infrastructures in our area. At the recommendation of Fr. Samuel and unanimous approval of the Vestry, we are working on installing four new speakers and an updated video system in our church. The new video system will be wall-mounted. Not only will it provide an improved worship experience for those in attendance at our Sunday services, but it will also provide an improved video experience for our homebound parishioners. After reviewing competing bids, Johnson Electric LLC has been contracted to assist in this project.

All your ministry teams and vestry members are dedicated to serving God. 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 meetings and share your input. For the dates and times of ministry meetings, please contact Gisselle in the church office at (352) 787-1500.

Jim Kelly, *Senior Warden*

## Income & Expense Report

As of October 31, 2025

<b>Operating Income:</b>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>%</u>
Pledges	211,263	207,972	-3,291	-1.6%
Other income	<u>106,997</u>	<u>71,033</u>	<u>-35,964</u>	<u>-33.6%</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>318,260</b>	<b>279,005</b>	<b>- 39,255</b>	<b>-12.3%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Staff Compensation & Benefits	167,837	179,250	+11,413	+6.8%
Other Expenses	<u>145,090</u>	<u>126,320</u>	<u>-18,770</u>	<u>-12.9%</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>312,927</b>	<b>305,570</b>	<b>-6,727</b>	<b>- 2.1%</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	5,333	-26,565	-	-10.2%

Income is behind budget by about 12% which is not unusual at this time of the year. With our expenses running about 2% lower than budgeted, we are running a deficit of about 10%. While we are still able to fulfill our financial obligations because of some reserves accumulated in most recent years, this would be a good time for those who may be behind and are able to catch-up on their pledges or those who are able to give more, to help us end the year in the black. We are grateful and praise God for your generosity.



**A LOOK  
at the  
BUDGET**

### IWC Workshop Overview



Approximately 40 people attended the Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) Workshop, where Rev. Cynthia Brust introduced Invite Welcome Connect as a ministry designed to transform churches from focusing on maintenance to embracing a mission mindset and revitalizing congregational engagement.

Rev. Brust underscored the importance of

being intentional when reaching out to others and inviting them to church. She emphasized that personal invitation is the most effective strategy for bringing new people into the church community. According to Rev. Brust, sharing personal faith experiences through storytelling and example is an especially powerful way to connect with others.



While acknowledging that evangelism may feel daunting for many Episcopalians, she

reassured attendees that, with the right tools and training, meaningful evangelism is attainable.

To better understand Holy Trinity before arriving onsite, just as a guest might do, Rev. Brust visited the church's website. She was impressed by its quality, presentation, and ease of use. She noted that social media is an effective physical tool for inviting people to church. Other useful tools include church name recognition within the community, clear signage, and invite cards. Rev. Brust stressed that although these physical resources are beneficial, training church members is equally important to help make personal invitations less intimidating and more effective. She reiterated that personal invitation remains the most successful method for getting individuals to attend church.

Rev. Brust explained that the "Welcome" component is often the most manageable for congregations to implement. Visitors form lasting impressions within minutes of arriving on church property and entering the building. Impressions are shaped by grounds and building condition, signage clarity, greeting quality, introductions, and fellowship invitations. She emphasized that hospitality requires every parishioner to take responsibility for ensuring guests feel seen and valued. Follow-up is also essential, with an intentional and consistent plan needed to acknowledge visits and encourage return attendance.

The "Connect" component centers on cultivating a sense of belonging and meaningful relationships within the church. Rev. Brust encouraged integrating returning guests into church life by listening to their stories and learning about their natural abilities,

professional experiences, spiritual gifts, and personal passions to help them find their ministry. This approach helps move individuals from simply attending church to becoming actively involved participants.

### Next Steps – Saturday January 17, 2026

Rev. Brust has agreed to return to Holy Trinity on Saturday January 17, 9am – 3pm to help us with the next steps. Activities will include breaking into three groups - Invite (evangelism), Welcome (hospitality), and Connect (belonging). Each group will be led by a facilitator and tasked with generating creative ideas for further developing and implementing these three components at Holy Trinity.

### Recommended Resources

- Invite Welcome Connect by Mary Palmer – Copies available in the Holy Trinity Library or on Amazon
- [invitewelcomeconnect.com](http://invitewelcomeconnect.com)
- *Introducing a Practical Theology of Episcopal Evangelism* source: [www.episcopalchurch.org/evangelism](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/evangelism)

Judy Gygi, IWC Team Leader



## Holy Hackers



Fifteen Holy Hackers teed off at Pennbrooke Fairways at 9:30 Saturday morning, November 8th for another round of golf and fellowship. Again, almost all of us stayed & adjourned to The Grille for lunch & fellowship afterwards and were joined there by non-golfer (at least for that day) Barbara Turner. Mandy, as always, provided the group photo(s). If you don't recognize anyone in the photo, just ask me. Most of us finished a bit over par this time, except the team of Paul Harmon, Charlie Perrin and Marty Smith, who finished at four under. We definitely have to break them up next time!

At lunch I handed out copies of the complete "The History of Holy Hackers" which Pat McLaughlin, who ran Holy Hackers for 18 years, provided me. I am still working on editing this amazing, but lengthy, document for inclusion in a future Tidings, hopefully next time.

We are playing again on Saturday, December 13th, always the second Saturday of the month, with a 9:30 A.M. tee off, weather

permitting, all are welcome join us then for golf or just lunch & fellowship afterwards at about 11:00, guests and friends are always welcome too. If you wish to join us the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or call/text or e mail me, Dave Aldrich, at 203-258-9643 or [aldrichkp68@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichkp68@gmail.com)"

## December Poetry

### **New Heaven and A New Earth**

As your people cry and children wail,  
Of hunger, death, and life's dark tales,  
For their rescue now we ask you go,  
Relieve their storms of grief and woe.

Protect them in the midst of war  
Shield them from foul nature's roar,  
If thirst or illness test their faith,  
Give them hope in spirit safe.

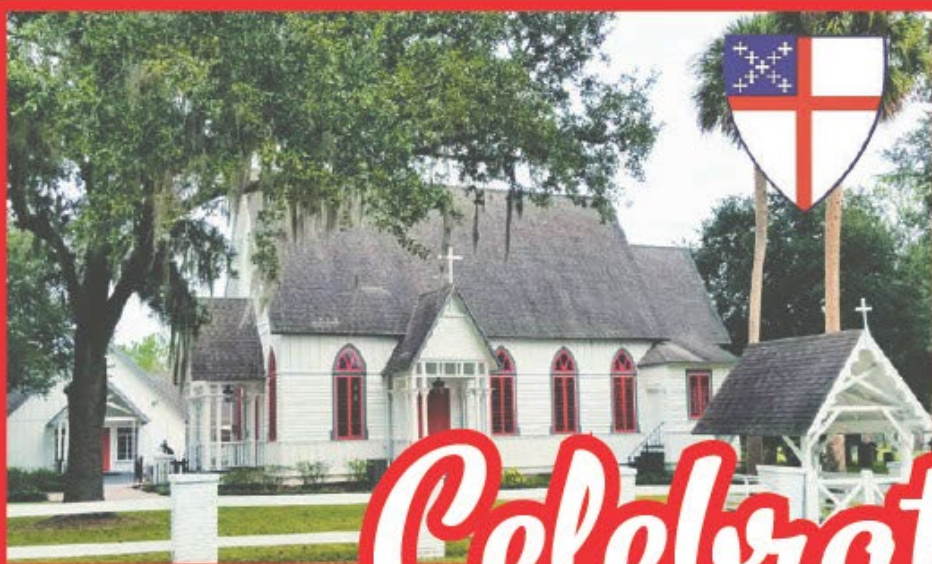
We lift them to your graceful hands,  
O'er stars and moons, 'cross glistening sand,  
Top mountain's snow and wind scored rock,  
Grant them all discerning watch.

To ease their pains, our prayers be heard,  
As the Spirit whispers Gospel words,  
Grant them strength to long endure,  
And join us there with Jesus pure.

Ronald C. Whetsell  
November 14, 2025

### **BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE UPDATE:**

We are back on both December 3rd and 10th after which we break for Christmas. Bible Study will return for the New Year on Wednesday, January 14th. Questions, call/text Rob Soeldner at 978.895.6937



# Celebrate Christmas at

## Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

**Christmas Eve – Dec. 24th  
at 4:00 & 8:00 p.m.**

**Christmas – Dec. 25th at 10:30 a.m.**

2201 Spring Lake Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34731  
352-787-1500 [www.holytrinityfp.com](http://www.holytrinityfp.com)



## Poinsettia Donations

The Altar Guild will once again be decorating our beautiful church with Poinsettias this Advent Season. Parishioners are invited to



participate by donating a Poinsettia in honor, remembrance, or thanksgiving for someone special in their

lives. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews as well as on the information table in the Parish Hall. Simply fill out an envelope with the appropriate details and submit your donation. As in previous years, a special bulletin will be published to recognize those in whose name a Poinsettia has been donated. To ensure that your honoree's name appears in this bulletin, please make your donation by **Dec. 21st**. The suggested donation for each Poinsettia is **\$15**.

## Thoughts for the Soul

"The most earth-shattering miracle of the Bible is also the quietest: God becoming man. When accepted, this miracle changes our identity, our heart, our future-- everything. Yet oftentimes we forget the magnitude of this miracle. Maybe in our busy routines we, like the innkeeper, don't make much room for it, and we miss out on the promises of the incarnation. We depend on our own power instead of the promised power of Christ in us. We face our fears alone, forgetting that God is with us. (Immanuel) The miracle of Christ coming to earth was not a one-time miracle. It's an everyday miracle offering us everyday promises. So let's make room for it, remember it, and ask God to help us rely on it." *Max Lucado*

Alfred Edersheim concluded that there at least 456 passages in the Old Testament that Jewish Rabbis historically have interpreted as being about the Messiah (365 if the duplicates were removed) JESUS fulfilled over 300 hundred of these prophecies. The following article explains the odds If Jesus only fulfilled 8 of these as stated:

Silver Dollars All Over Texas!  
December 21, 2016

by *Bill Perkins*

Suppose we filled the entire State of Texas with 100 trillion silver dollars. That would make the entire state about two feet deep in coins. Then we mark only one coin.

Next we stir-up the state full of coins so they are thoroughly mixed and random. The marked coin could be anywhere in the state in the two foot deep coins. Finally we blindfold a man and let him travel the entire state to choose one random coin. What would be the odds of him finding the marked coin in one try? He would have the same chance the prophets had for those eight prophecies being fulfilled. Which is virtually no chance.

But that was only eight of the over 300 prophecies! Figuring the odds of fulfilling all 300 Bible prophecies is ridiculously astronomical. Simply incalculable-- except that the real author of these prophecies knew the future. The God Who created the universe out of nothing was in total control and knows the past, present AND future.

## New Chairs in Parish Hall



We now have new chairs for our Parish Hall! The chairs were donated by Morrison United Methodist Church Thrift Store, thanks to the efforts of **Elizabeth Knowles**. Our previously used chairs are available for taking before we dispose of them. These are stacked by the stage, and available for anyone who may be interested. Thank you, and we hope you love the new chairs as much as we do!

## 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 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.

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

## Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank



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.

## School News

Merry Christmas to everyone at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church! We are so thankful for your enduring support of our mission and school. Your gracious support allows us to



meet a great need in our community for a school that provides a safe and nurturing environment for students with unique gifts and challenges. Our parents and stu-

dents are so grateful to discover our school and frequently report finding no other options for a school placement that truly meets their needs. I am proud of all the mighty things that our little school is able to accomplish through God's abundant grace.

Thank you to everyone who supported the school by coming out to eat at Huey Magoo's and Fresh Jalapenos in November. We will have a fundraiser at 2 different Papa John's Pizza locations in **Leesburg December 1st-4th**. When you bring the attached flyer to Papa John's on those dates, they will donate **15%** of the sale to our school.

We recently held our 3rd Parliament event for students with good attendance, effort, and behavior. The majority of our students were eligible to join the fun as we watched a movie under the stars and roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. We also had a fantastic field trip to SeaWorld in November. For many students this was their first time seeing a whale or a walrus or going on a roller coaster. They had an amazing time and represented our school well with excellent behavior. We have worked as hard as we've

played this past month and are eager to demonstrate our work in an upcoming Semester One Showcase event on Friday, December 5th. We will be sharing our projects with our parents and families with pride in our students' accomplishments. We also held Student Council elections and will begin a new season for Student Council that will include training to become ambassadors for the school, leading tours and guiding new students. Finally, we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Feast with students, staff, and school board members on Thursday, November 20th. We are very thankful for all of God's blessings.

Our Extended Transition Program continues to provide transition services to help our ETP students become independent. They recently toured the Special Hearts Farm in Winter Garden which is a possible place of employment for some of our students in the future. It also gave us more ideas of new projects to try in our own program!

You are cordially invited to attend our **Christmas Pageant** to celebrate the birth of our Savior on **Friday, December 12th**. Students have been working hard to prepare a retelling of the Nativity Story. Please plan to join us in **Parish Hall from 6:00-7:00pm** with refreshments afterward.

Hope to see you then! Merry Christmas!

Becca Coulter, *Head of School*

## 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



December 1st to December 4th, 2025



1714 US - 27 N  
LEESBURG, FL 34748

15% OF ALL SALES WILL BE  
DONATED TO  
HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

(352)787-7272



Holy Trinity  
Episcopal School



December 1st to December 4th, 2025



10300 US-441 #5  
LEESBURG, FL 34788

15% OF ALL SALES WILL BE  
DONATED TO  
HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

(352)343-3333



Holy Trinity  
Episcopal School





# Christmas Parade & Festival

Join Holy Trinity Episcopal School as we participate in the Leesburg Christmas Parade, and Christmas festival (1-6 pm)! HTES will have a booth to sell some really great items, and a raffle to help raise money for the school!

The theme for this year's parade is "The Gift of Christmas."  
The students have worked incredibly hard on the float and would greatly appreciate your participation and support!

**PARADE-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 6-8 PM**

**PARTICIPANTS MUST ARRIVE BETWEEN 3:30-5 PM TO WALK IN THE PARADE**

**FESTIVAL WITH VENDOR BOOTHS 1-6 PM**

**Begins on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, ends on  
Canal Street in Leesburg.**

**Please email [School.htes@gmail.com](mailto:School.htes@gmail.com)  
with questions.**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Christmas Offering Designation:** At their recent meeting, the Vestry voted to designate this year's Christmas Offering to the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and the Episcopal Relief & Development agency.

The Wildwood Soup Kitchen serves the poor, the hungry, and the lonely by providing healthy, nutritious and appetizing meals to all who request it. They deliver meals to shut-ins and others who are unable to come to the Soup Kitchen and is open in-house dining 3 days a week. Every person who seeks assistance is welcomed, without regard to race, sex, age, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or income. They are raising money for a new location and we felt the need to help.

The Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) agency is the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church and serves victims of natural and man-made disasters domestically and globally. It works with partners worldwide to create lasting change in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. They currently need funds to respond to recent floods in the United States and hurricanes in the Caribbean.

**ADVENT STUDY - A CHILD IS BORN** by A.J. Levine. Join us as we explore Jesus's birth through the lens of ancient Nativity stories. Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. The video series discuss the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story. Transform your Advent season with fresh insights and inspiration from A Child is Born.

**2026 ESTIMATES OF GIVING:** Many thanks to all of you who were able to bring or mail your Estimate of Giving cards. So far, we've received **62 pledges** in the amount of **\$213,644** for the General Operating Fund, and **25 pledges** in the amount of **\$28,730** for the Building Fund. If you are yet to bring your card, please do so to help us with the budgeting process.

**WOMEN'S WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE DEC. 6:** There will be a Women's Fellowship Gathering on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at **2:00pm** in Parish Hall. All women of Holy Trinity are invited to a White Elephant Gift Exchange with festive refreshments. Please sign up in Parish Hall or email/call Gisselle in the church office. Questions? Contact Deb Yee [debkhogan@gmail.com](mailto:debkhogan@gmail.com)

**POINSETTIA DONATIONS:** The Altar Guild will once again be decorating our beautiful church with Poinsettias this Advent Season. Parishioners are invited to participate by donating a Poinsettia in honor, remembrance, or thanksgiving for someone special in their lives. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews as well as on the information table in the Parish Hall. Simply fill out an envelope with the appropriate details and submit your donation. As in previous years, a special bulletin will be published to recognize those in whose name a Poinsettia has been donated. To ensure that your honoree's name appears in this bulletin, please make your donation by **Dec. 21st**. The suggested donation for each Poinsettia is **\$15**.

**VESTRY NOMINATIONS:** Nominations are open for any who may be feeling a nudge from the Holy Spirit to serve on the Vestry of our church. If you or someone you know have the gifts for discernment and collaborative leadership, feel free to contact our Fr. Samuel for more information on how you may be part of this important ministry.

**Used Laptops & Smartphones Needed:** If you have a used smartphone or 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 and 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 along 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.

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### **Vestry Meeting Highlights**

*Thursday November 20, 2025, 6:30PM*

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

1. Dan Curtis and Terry Osborn (Chair & Vice Chair of the School Board) briefed the Vestry on ongoing initiatives including Facility Expansion and separate incorporation. The Facility Expansion Task Force is reviewing proposals for a potential design for a campus master plan. A Board member who is a lawyer is reviewing the draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the School. It was recommended that the whole congregation be regularly informed on these initiatives.
2. The Rector reported on the Stewardship Campaign and noted that we are still receiving Estimate of Giving (Pledge Cards).
3. The Rector noted that even though we continue to receive new members, our average Sunday Attendance has noticeably declined. He cited the recent InviteWelcomeConnect (IWC) workshop as part of our revitalization strategy.
4. The Vestry discussed and approved a proposal to purchase and install a digital sign to enhance our Community Engagement efforts. Funding for the digital sign will come from the Jack Cunningham bequest.
5. The Senior Warden (Jim Kelly) reported on continued efforts to improve our audio and livestreaming systems, and presented a proposal to purchase and install new speakers and

livestreaming cameras in our sanctuary. The vestry approved the proposal with funding to come from the Buildings Fund.

6. It was noted that some parishioners were not aware that the rectory mortgage loan had been paid off. It was recommended that such important milestones be widely publicized to eliminate any confusion. All donations to the Building Fund are reserved for major capital projects.
7. The Junior Warden (Steve Knowles) reported that work on the rectory had been completed, and Fr. Samuel and his family had returned home after 3 months of renting. Church Insurance is expected to cover the total cost.
8. The Vestry noted that the IWC workshop on Saturday Nov. 15 had been a great success with 40 parishioners in attendance. Rev. Brust will be back on January 17 to facilitate discussions on the next steps.
9. The Vestry voted to approve a proposal to amend the terms of service for trustees of our Endowment Fund.
10. The rector reported on the ongoing efforts to nominate delegates to represent our parish at the Diocesan Convention in Orlando on January 23-24, 2026.
11. The rector encouraged Vestry members to assist in recruiting candidates to fill the 3 vacancies on the Vestry beginning January 25, 2026.
12. The rector encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for our 2nd Annual Light the Path Baquet & Benefit scheduled for April 20, 2026 at the Venetian Center in Leesburg. Volunteers for the Planning Committee are being assembled.
13. The rector reminded the Vestry that we will be commemorating our Parish's 140th anniversary in December 2026. Volunteers are needed to be part of the 140th anniversary planning committee.
14. The Vestry reviewed and approved the financial reports for October 2025.
15. The Vestry reviewed and discussed the proposed draft 2026 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The Vestry will review it again and vote at the December meeting.
16. The meeting concluded with prayer.

# 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

Debbie Lally – Secretary

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

Pat Casson-Fleming

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

Russ Casson - Treasurer

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Judy Gygi

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Robin Michell

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Scott Pennington

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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

[rwhetsell104@yahoo.com](mailto:rwhetsell104@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)