

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 August Anniversary To:



- 1 - Steve & Carol Mullen
- 1 - Gary & Joan Hensley
- 2 - Stephen & Elizabeth Knowles
- 11 - George & Cheryl Pringle

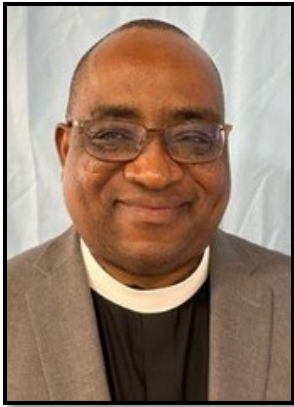


Happy August Birthday To:



- 1 - Cherrie Whetsell
- 9 - Rev. John Ferris
- 11 - Vicki Gordon
- 12 - Karen Hammen
- 16 - Judy Goodner
- 17 - Deb Siver
- 20 - James Foster
- 20 - Sally Scavone
- 25 - Liz Mustin





Rector's Message **Being a Vital Church**

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

A google search for the definition of "a vital church" comes up with the following definition:

A vital church is a thriving, Spirit-filled community that actively engages with its members and the wider community. It's characterized by a clear purpose, a focus on disciple-making, and impactful service rooted in justice and mercy. These congregations are not just places of worship but are active participants in the lives of their members and the surrounding area, seeking to make a meaningful difference.

It goes on to say that a vital church is "a community that is constantly seeking God's will and actively striving to live out the teachings of Jesus in tangible ways."

As I look at Holy Trinity, in light of this definition, I am encouraged to see that, to a certain extent, we fit this definition. I am particularly encouraged to see that a vital church is not a perfect church but one that is **"constantly seeking God's will and actively striving to live out the teachings of Jesus in tangible ways."**

It is important to note that even as we have slowed down some of our ministry activities during the summer, we have not stopped seeking God's will and ways to live out the teachings of Jesus in tangible ways. We have been quietly but actively reflecting, praying and planning for the upcoming program year. The following are some of the planned upcoming activities we hope will help us remain a vital church in our community and beyond.

CPR/AED Training: We will be providing a free CPR/AED Training on Tuesday, August 12 from 1:30pm-4:00pm in the Parish Hall. Certification is not provided, but you will receive all the training necessary to help any SCA victim. To sign-up scan the QR Code or contact Gisselle at the Church office!



VESTRY RETREAT: The Vestry will be holding a day-long retreat on **Saturday September 20**, to reflect on the mission of the church and how we may continue to grow in vitality. If you have something you wish the Vestry to consider, please contact Fr. Samuel or any other Vestry member.

2025 SCHOOL GOLF BENEFIT: Our annual school golf benefit is scheduled for **Monday October 20, 7:00am** at the **Continental Country Club** in Wildwood. Please talk to any golfers you know and encourage them to come enjoy a game of

golf and make a difference in the life of a child. Registration can be done online by visiting HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com or by filling out a registration form located in Parish Hall and turning it into the office. If you wish to volunteer, please contact **Gisselle** or sign up in the Parish Hall. Volunteers are needed to help with different aspects of the event.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY: The Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) team is planning a Back to Church Sunday sometime in the Fall which will be an opportunity for you to invite any of your unchurched relatives, friends and neighbors to come and see what God is doing at Holy Trinity. If you know someone who could benefit from being part of what God is doing at Holy Trinity, please begin praying for them that God will open their hearts to your invitation when the date is announced.

INVITE WELCOME CONNECT TRAINING: We have invited the Rev. Cynthia Brust, rector of Christ Episcopal Church Melbourne to come conduct an IWC training here at Holy Trinity on **Saturday, November 15**. The Rev. Cynthia is an advocate and trainer of the Invite Welcome Connect way of being church. She will share some of the IWC principles that have helped her church rise from near death to the vibrant church it is now.

According to Mary Palmer, founder and publisher of IWC resources:

Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers individuals and congregations to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging. Rooted in the Gospel directive to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), the vision of Invite Welcome Connect is to change the culture of Christian congregations to move from maintenance to mission.

The training is available for every member of Holy Trinity. Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of this important day.

In addition to these planned activities, we will be resuming most of our regular programming in September. These programs include the Choir, Wednesday Bible Study, Adult Sunday School and many others.

Please also note that the new school year will begin on **Monday August 11**. If you wish to tutor or volunteer with the school in any other way, please contact the school office at 352-787-8855.

May the rest of the summer provide you with opportunities to refresh physically, mentally and spiritually so that you may be ready to help our beloved church continue to be a thriving, Spirit-filled community that actively engages with its members and the wider community and making a meaningful difference.

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

Robin Mitchell

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

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

(902)226-0050 | rector@holyltrinityfp.com

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

Our Director of Music, Sharon Redding, has been collaborating with a donor who has generously funded the purchase and installation of a new sound system for our church. Stay tuned for an exciting upgrade to our system in the near future. And thanks Sharon for all your hard work.

If you noticed a white mini-bus in our school parking lot this weekend, you might be interested to know that it belongs to our school. After carefully considering various options, our school acquired the bus to support its newly introduced Transition Program. This program aims to assist high school graduates in navigating the job market and transitioning into adulthood. We'll share more details about this exciting initiative soon.

Although there was no formal Vestry meeting in the month of July, with God's inspiration and help, our work on a prioritized 2025 Diocesan Vestry Training action list of over 30 action items has continued.

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, or to sign up for IWC and CPR/AED Training, please contact Gisselle in the church office at (352) 787-1500

Jim Kelly, Sr. Warden

Senior Warden's Report



Our plans are on track for the presentation of the Episcopal Churches' newly envisioned Invite Welcome and Connect (IWC) program. Join us on Saturday,

November 15, 2025, as we welcome Cynthia Brust, the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Florida, to share valuable insights and expertise. I highly encourage you to secure your spot for this pivotal presentation.

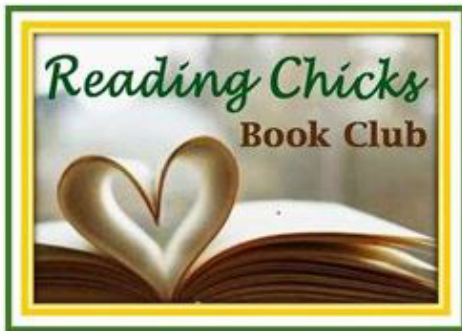
Please also consider signing up for the scheduled CPR/AED training to be offered on August 12th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. at our church. Remember, you don't necessarily have to be the person who administers CPR or AED to help out in an emergency situation. Just being familiar with the process and the equipment can make a difference.



READING CHICKS BOOK CLUB

Our women's book club kicked off on July 10th with 9 "chicks" attending. In addition to social time and discussion of our first book, suggestions and wishes for how the club might work were offered and discussed. We will meet once a month. Book recommendations from those expressing interest in the club are being compiled along with brief summaries and a reading list for the upcoming year will be available at our **AUGUST 14th MEETING from 3-5pm at the home of Judy Gygi**. Details are found in the image below. **The book club is open to all women of Holy Trinity!** Please email Deb Yee at debkhogan@gmail.com if you plan to attend in August.

Deb Yee, *Women's Ministry Coordinator*



Women's BOOK CLUB

Come to connect, build new friendships, and strengthen existing ones! We'll discuss books of various genres and enjoy snacks and assorted beverages. Our plan is to have rotating hostesses.

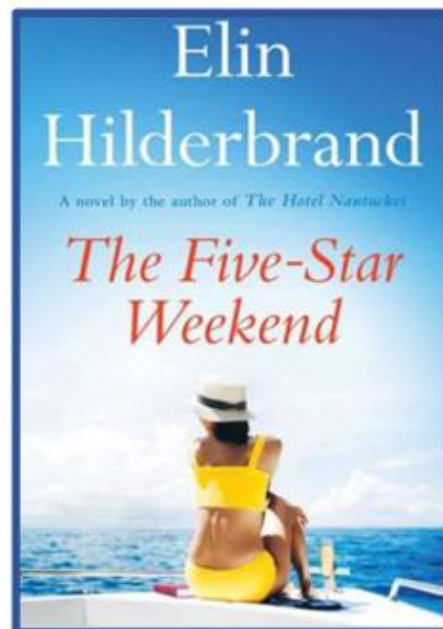
AUGUST Meeting!

Thur., Aug. 14th 3pm to 5pm

Where: Judy Gygi's
2876 Falls Ave., The Villages

Book: **The Five-Star Weekend**
By Elin Hilderbrand

RSVP: Deb 703-472-1573 msg/text
debkhogan@gmail.com



Treasurer's Report

June 2025

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$22,726	\$27,668
Other Income	\$ 894	\$ 3,625
Total	\$23,620	\$31,293
Expenses	\$23,305	\$31,293

To do good, and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Heb 13:16

Russ Casson, *Treasurer*

2025 Golf Benefit Promotion



The Golf Benefit has a new, one-time only promotion of **\$95 per golfer!** This promotion will run through **August 22**. Hurry before it ends! **To register, fill out a flyer located**

in Parish Hall and turn it in to the office, or visit HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com to register online.

Many people have donated to the Golf Benefit cause in the past. Your generosity is remarkable in helping make our Golf Benefit a success!

Although most of the proceeds are used to provide financial aid to students who need our specialized instruction, but cannot meet the cost of tuition, a 5% of donations are used to cover the cost of attractive prizes for the players. There will be prizes for the following contests in the tournament:

- Longest Drive- Men
- Longest Drive- Women
- Most Accurate Drive-Men
- Most Accurate Drive-Women
- Putting Contest

Prizes we have so far:

- Closest to the Pin- Dinner for Two at Paulie's Oaks (single use)
- Hole in One- Dinner for Two for 52 WEEKS at Paulie's Oaks (to be used once a week) *Items donated by Paulie Villareal*

We want to make our Golf Benefit a memorable experience for all who participate, & we know **prizes help set the HTES tournament apart!**

If you would like to donate a prize or know someone who could make an in-kind donation for a prize, please let us know!

OTHER FEATURES

- Liquor Basket, Wine Basket, Lottery Board
- Dunkin Donuts & Coffee (7am) for the golfers at registration
- Logo golf-balls- each player gets a sleeve of Holy Trinity golf balls

Remember: Donations of \$200, \$300, and \$500 earn a hole sponsor sign. And all donations are matched 1:1.

Thanks for all your help!

Jerry Huetz, *Golf Benefit Coordinator*, 802-233-3445

HTEC School Tutor Program

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

Jim Kelly, *HTES Tutor Program Coordinator*

Prayer Shawl Ministry - IT'S BACK!



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is back and looking for men, women and children who can knit or crochet. If you need yarn or a pattern, just let me know and I will assist you. Please call or email me to let me know that you are going to make a shawl.

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

Written in 1998 by: Janet Severi Bristow
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Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, knots are tied to the shawl by parishioners who are adding their prayers with each knot, then a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way.

If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl, contact Fr. Samuel or Robin Michell.

-Robin Michell
352-350-1451 or robinmichell@yahoo.com

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.

CPR/AED Training Aug. 12



Last Chance! We will be hosting a CPR/AED course on **Tuesday, August 12 from 1:30pm-4:00pm in the Parish Hall.** Certification is not provided with this class, but you will receive all the training and practice you need to participate in 'Neighbor Saving Neighbor Programs' and to help any SCA victim. This is a **free class**. To sign-up, click [HERE](#) or call the Church office and Gisselle will sign you up!

Holy Trinity's Christian Lending Library is now OPEN!

Come explore and strengthen your faith with study guides and DVD series plus individual books. We have Starting Point plus Better Decisions - Fewer Regrets by Andy Stanley, Short Stories by Jesus plus The Difficult Words of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine, You Are Never Alone plus Help is Here by Max Lucado, God's Crime Scene by Wallace, the series The Chosen, and so much more for you to choose from. All you need to do is fill out the sign out sheet, located with the library in the Parish Hall, with your name, what you are borrowing, the date you borrowed and then the date you returned everything borrowed. We pray that these resources will guide and encourage you on your Christian journey.

Salvation Breakfast Team

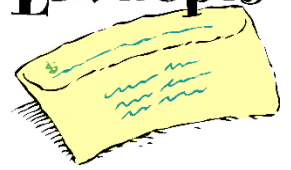


Besides Holy Trinity's contributions to the Salvation Army Food Bank via the Red Wagon, we also have a fun-loving and hard-working team of volunteers that provides breakfast service at the Leesburg Salvation Army post to a growing number of less fortunate people in need. You can be part of this mission 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

Giving Envelopes

We will soon be ordering envelopes. If you would like numbered envelopes for 2026, please let Gisselle know by responding to this email or calling the church office. There is also a sign-up sheet in Parish Hall that you can fill out. We will only be ordering envelopes for those who request them. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes



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

We also need volunteers to help deliver this food. **If you would like to volunteer to deliver the food pantry items, please contact the office.**



CPR/AED Training | Aug. 12 @1:30pm

We will be hosting a CPR/AED course on **Tuesday, August 12 from 1:30pm-4:00pm** in the Parish Hall. Certification is not provided, but you will receive all the training needed to participate in 'Neighbor Saving Neighbor' Programs' and to help any SCA victim. This is a **free class**. To sign-up, click [HERE](#) or contact Gisselle at the Church office and she will sign you up!

Reading Chicks Book Club | August 14 @ 3pm

AUGUST 14th MEETING from 3-5pm at the home of Judy Gygi. Details are found on page 5. The book club is open to all women of Holy Trinity! Please email Deb Yee at deb-khogan@gmail.com if you plan to attend in August.

Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) Meeting | August 15 @ 10am

Please join us on **Friday, August 15th at 10am** in Grace Chapel to learn about what the IWC team is doing at HT. Learn if the IWC is the right fit for you. All are welcome!

Blessing of the Animals | Oct. 4 @ 10am

We will be having our annual Blessings of the Animals in the church courtyard on **Saturday, October 4th at 10am**. All pets welcome! We only ask that they are on a leash or properly crated (pet carrier, cage, etc.). *We also ask that your pet's vaccines be current.* You may also bring a picture if your animal friends don't enjoy crowds or travel. Invite your friends and family!

Light the Path Golf Benefit | Oct. 20 @ 8:30am

Our Golf Benefit is scheduled for **Monday, October 20th** with an **8:30 am** shotgun start. Golf, lunch fee is \$95 per golfer or \$380 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. Proceeds will provide financial aid to our students!

Invite Welcome Connect Training | Nov. 15 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Join us on Saturday, **November 15, 2025**, as we welcome Cynthia Brust, the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Florida, to share valuable insights and expertise. This innovative program is meticulously designed to equip our church with specialized tools that will empower Episcopalians to engage in the profound work of evangelism. More info to come!

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

Cell: 920-226-0050

The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes –

Assisting Priest

janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com

The Rev. Dr. James Jones – Assisting Priest

jamesjones1454@outlook.com

The Rev. Charlie Perrin – Deacon

charlie-perrin@outlook.com

The Rev. Dick LaBud – Deacon

rjlabud@gmail.com

Staff:

Gisselle Martinez – Office Admin.

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark – Housekeeping

Becca Coulter, Head of School

bcoulter@htepiscopalschool.org

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

strees@htespiscopalschool.org

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com

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

FB: 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 | 913-558-2636

Steve Knowles – Jr. Warden

steveli2@yahoo.com | 352-504-8921

Debbie Lally – Secretary

michaellally@comcast.net | 386-748-2747

Pat Casson-Fleming

Trisha12552@aol.com | 352-406-9586

Russ Casson - Treasurer

rhcasson@embarqmail.com | 352-255-2234

Judy Gygi

Jgygi2876@gmail.com | 407-461-5647

Robin Michell

robinmichell@yahoo.com | 352-350-1451

Scott Pennington

Skypilot513@yahoo.com | 352-396-9984

Mark Welton

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

Altar Guild

Dianne Casson: 352-787-0508

dcasson@embarqmail.com

Adult Sunday School

Ron Whetsell: 817-368-4618

rwhetsell04@yahoo.com

Bible Study

Rob Soeldner: 978-895-6937

rmsoeldner@gmail.com

Choir- Sharon Redding

352-267-6990

sredding10@comcast.net

Invite Welcome Connect

Judy Gygi: 407-461-5647

jgygi2876@gmail.com

Outreach

Jim Kelly: 913-558-2636

jimkelly8143@gmail.com

Men's Group

Sid Yee: 703-966-2615

sidney1949yee@gmail.com

Holy Hackers

Dave Aldrich: 203-258-9643

aldrichkp@gmail.com