

The Tidings



2201 Spring Lake Rd.
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

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

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Happy March Anniversary To:

- 7 - Rob & Mary Soeldner
- 22 - Robert & Helen Enyeart

Happy March Birthday To:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Mary Frances Hunt | 12 - Roy Nicolosi |
| 3 - Don Hausmann | 17 - Sue Romer |
| 4 - Nancy Wilcox | 18 - Parker Bauer |
| 5 - Gay Hensley | 19 - Paul Harmon |
| 5 - Terry Banks | 19 - Charles Sterbis |
| 9 - Anna Cottrill | 22 - Lynne Winer |
| 11 - John Canner | 29 - Mike Lally |
| 11 - Joan Portell | |

In Loving Memory Of:

Lee Stanton & Jonathan Hole



Rector's Message

Invitation to a Holy Lent *By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

Eleven years ago, I was privileged to attend a retreat that focused on assessing the state of the human condition in our rapidly changing world, and asking whether the Christian tradition has some wisdom to offer. Everyone seemed to agree with the premise that humanity is lost and in need of a guide, wounded and in need of a healer, ignorant and in need of a teacher. Unfortunately, it does not seem that much has changed since then. To some extent, the world is much more scary than it was eleven years ago.

On Ash Wednesday, when we officially begin the season of Lent, we will hear the following words: *"I invite you therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."* (BCP 265). In my opinion, the key word here is invitation. I believe Lent is that time of the year when we are invited to more intentionally listen to, learn from, and lean on the God who tells us not to be afraid.

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An Invitation to Listen

If you have ever felt lost, you very well know that the best way forward is not to speed ahead but to slow down or stop, establish where you are, and determine what to do next. Lent is a time to slow down to examine whether we are still on track according to God's purpose and plan for our lives. It is a time we need to listen to God's voice asking: "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9), "What are you doing here?" (1 Kings 19:9).

An Invitation to Learn

Lent is not only a time to listen but also a time to learn and re-learn the basic values that define Christians. The question is whether we are willing to learn new ways of listening and nurturing our spiritual lives. To help in this process, we are providing a variety of resources in a variety of ways. Some of the resources available this Lent include:

1. 40 Days of Community: Offered on Wednesday Evenings 5:00 – 7:00pm beginning Wednesday March 12, this is a video-based teaching by the renowned pastor and author Rick Warren, will remind us of the importance of Christian Community. The gathering will begin with a light soup and bread supper followed by a video teaching and discussion. This journey will conclude with the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday on April

17. If you wish to participate, please sign-up online or in parish hall. You may also sign-up to provide soup and bread. If desired, you may be reimbursed for supplies.
2. Episcopal 101 is a class designed for newcomers, those who wish to be confirmed or to reaffirm the vows they made at their confirmation. The class will be offered on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am -11:30am.

These and several other programs and resources are intended to help us nurture our spiritual lives and develop the resilience necessary to overcome the challenges that come with our rapidly changing world. It is my hope that each one of us will take advantage of one or more of these resources. Remember, man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

An invitation to Lean

While most observers and commentators may rightly paint a very pessimistic picture of our world, the Christian message reassures us to lean on the God who promises to be with us through it all. We, like the Psalmist, can be confident that even if we may pass through the shadow of the valley of death, we need not fear any evil, for God is with us (Psalm 23:4). Leaning on God will not only carry us through our own fears, but will enable us to be instruments of healing and hope in a hurting world. If we remain in Christ and his love, we will be able to produce much fruit. (John 15:4-8). Our world so desperately needs the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.(Galatians 5:22-23).

As we enter the season of Lent, may we have the grace to slow down and listen to God's voice, learn from his Word, and lean on his promises. May this truly be a holy Lent for you and me.

For Pastoral Care we welcome you to contact:

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

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva
 (902)226-0050 | rector@holytrinityfp.com

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

Treasurer's Report

January 2025

| | Actual | Budget |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Contributions | | |
| Pledges | \$37,950 | \$27,668 |
| Other Income | <u>\$ 3,677</u> | <u>\$ 3,625</u> |
| Total | \$41,627 | \$31,293 |
| Expenses | \$24,195 | \$31,293 |

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

Russ Casson, Treasurer

Senior Warden's Report



We've got a new vestry team in place, and guess what? In case you didn't know it already, I'm the new senior warden, Jim Kelly. With that said, I want to give you a quick rundown of some recent happenings and then chat a bit about my take on the role of Senior Warden.

Last Saturday, February 22, 2025, we had a school picnic to nurture and build community between members of the church and school. The parents' group had some ruffle baskets to raise funds for the school. It was a really great success! It was amazing to see the community come together.

Last Sunday, we also had a lovely baptism at the 10:30 service. Atlas Ladislao William McCartin received the Sacrament of Baptism. Afterward, the Panlilio family hosted a reception in the parish hall. It was such a special moment!

And the icing on the cake? Two awesome volunteers stepped up to tutor at our school: one at the school picnic and one at the reception.

Now, let me tell you a bit about how I see my role as Senior Warden. I'm passionate about supporting our church and being a cheerleader for our community. I want to make it clear that I'm committed to working together with you all in Christ's work on earth. I believe that when we work together, we not only uplift our spirits but also our bodies and minds. In our loving church, we have the opportunity to identify, nurture, and develop our God-given talents and skills, so we can serve our communities and fellow church members. When we do this, I believe, we find greater happiness and peace.

To that end, I'll be reaching out to our Ministry groups. For starters, I've been chatting with our *Invite Welcome and Connect* (IWC) ministry, led by Judy Gygi. Their work is vitally important, and I'm thrilled to have the chance to **listen, learn**, and help out in any way I can. Our Church is the door to Christ's love, and the IWC ministry is key in spreading that love and making a real difference in people's lives and our community.

Jim Kelly, Sr. Warden

Newcomer Dinner

If you listen carefully, you can hear the happy noisiness of feast days running from biblical times up until this present moment, until every present moment. Just imagine, for a moment, sitting at the table spread before Jesus and the Twelve. They are gathered to celebrate the Passover, the emancipation of Israelites from bondage to the Egyptians. It was the ultimate happy meal. It was and remains to be a springtime event, a time for the Jewish nation to make a pilgrimage to the sacred city of Jerusalem. As devout Jews, Jesus and his apostles made their pilgrimage and prepared to celebrate as

their ancestors did. They celebrated for seven days or eight. They began with an afternoon sacrifice of a lamb without blemish. In the evening they made a meal of the lamb, adding unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and wine – a whopping four cups full. (We can be thankful that when Jesus and his Twelve were feasting, there were no cars to drive. The main danger when returning home would be that of falling off one's donkey. No DUIs in all the land.)

The Passover meal is steeped in symbolism. Stories are told, reflections made, connections celebrated. The meal as a whole commemorates the first Passover, the time the Israelites were led from bondage to the Egyptians – four hundred years' worth – into freedom. They left their homes in a hurry. The unleavened bread tells of the lack of time needed to let bread dough rise, the bread they surely needed on their trip westward. The bitter herbs represent the suffering of the Israelites under the cruel hands of their Egyptian overlords. And the four cups of wine carry four affirmations from the Lord: I will bring you out; I will deliver you; I will redeem you; I will take you.

So Jesus and his apostles gathered and celebrated. And so, too, we, His faithful ones, celebrate him as our forever sacrificial lamb, with unleavened bread, the communion wafer, His flesh; and the wine His blood.

While that is the ultimate feast, there are other happy occasions when friends gather to celebrate, coming together after a wedding, a graduation, a religious or secular holiday, a celebration of someone's life. The parishioners and clergy of Holy Trinity celebrate another feast – they welcome newcomers with a dinner. None of it is bitter; the

bread has risen (twice, no doubt); and the meat, at least this last time, is wrapped in a delicious casserole. The last such dinner was held January 31. We newcomers were treated to a lovely salad, an Italian casserole, and dessert. Baskets of garlic bread sat on each table, and pitchers of lemonade and iced tea awaited the thirsty. Father Samuel



introduced us to various church activities and began dinner with prayer.

The feast goers included Judy Gygi, Karen Hammen, Nancy Keane, Mary & Rob Soeldner, Fr. Jamie & Karen Jones, John and Beate Lucynski, Annette and Robert Freeman, Elizabeth Rizzo, Vicki Hunter, John Rhoads, Joan Ballard, Pat Casson, Dave Alrich, Father Samuel, and me, Cassie Journigan.



The manner in which Holy Trinity Episcopal Church's clergy and parishioners welcome newcomers surely pleases Jesus Christ our Lord. For your arms are open to embrace us

and your hearts pour forth a love you freely give us. I feel it, your unconditional love, your genuine faith, your faithfulness to your Lord. And I, along with all who walk through those open red double doors for the first time, know that we are truly welcome here.

With a heart full of gratitude, I thank each and every one of you for welcoming me to this wonderful church home.

Cassie Journigan, New Member

Poetry by Ron Whetsell

Toro Bravo

I smash through the brush
in the Hindu Kush, splattering cold rainwater,
with its melting ice shards perched peacefully
on green leaves, where the snow leopard
and two-inch thorns of the acacia honey locust
lay hidden. I blow through and look back
like the *toro bravo* suffering
the bullfighter's sword. The red cape drips
a blood river into muddy rivulets
cut by rain under monsoon moons.

I try to outrun the demon that drags me
through the snowcapped peaks of lost hope
but at my shoulder bone, the sting of the
demon's blade strikes with a smile
like we were fast friends floating
on the azure of Miami's Biscayne Bay,
but my prayers push him away
like holy air he cannot breathe. The demon
crashes into Ezekiel's valley of dead bones,
stabbed by the horns of salvation.

Ezekiel won't prophesy a rise
of these bones as their dust mixes
in the blood and mud of the rivulets' oblivion.
The Holy Spirit shouts,
"ole', ole', ole' *toro bravo*."

Ronald Whetsell
January 26, 2025

HOLY HACKERS



Saturday, February 8th turned out to be a beautiful day for the Holy Hackers, a vast improvement on the chilly conditions we faced in January and the scores reflected that. 17 golfers teed off at 10:00 A.M. and no team finished over par. Team #3, consisting of Mandy Panlilio, Mike Browne and Father Ted Koelln, sparked by Father Ted's spectacular putting and chipping, turned in the lowest score I have seen in my 7-8 years of Holy Hacking, a seven under par round, for nine holes. The research I could find shows that has only been bested once, quite a few years ago, by the late John Tyler, Dan Curtis, Mike Browne, and Mike and Nancy's close friend, the late Allen Myrden. That magical round was ten under par, or one better than "birdie golf".

Once again, almost all were able to join us for a great lunch and fellowship afterwards at The Grille at Pennbrooke Fairways, the pictures, as always, are courtesy of our wonderful photographer and golfer, Mandy.

We will be at it again in March, **second Saturday of the month**, as usual, all are welcome to join us for golf and/or lunch and fellowship.

Atlas's Baptism

Many thanks to all who joined us for the Baptism of baby Atlas, and CONGRATULATIONS to Atlas! May this be the start of a lasting faith that brings him comfort, strength, and guidance.

We pray that God fills him with love and happiness every day! -HT



“Thank you, FR. Samuel, Priestess Janice, and EVERY-ONE who put so much in to making this glorious day happen!!! It was simply Priceless!!! Family, and Friends that are Humble and Grateful!!! Lili Pad wore the dress that I have saved all of these years that I wore at St. James Episcopal Church when she was Baptized on her 1-year-old Birthday weekend!”
-Mandy Panlilio



Women's Spring Fellowship!

Saturday, March 15th
2:00pm
Parish Hall

Join us to learn about
Basketmaking:
One of the world's oldest arts
By our resident expert Mary Jo Neidow
- History, Methods, and a Demo -

Kindly RSVP Sign up in the Parish Hall
OR contact Gisselle 352-787-1500 office@holyltrinityfp.com
Bring a friend along! Refreshments served.

Annual Church & School Picnic



Although Saturday, February 22, was initially cool and cloudy, the weather conditions improved. The sun was shining, and temperatures were rising as parishioners, students, HTES staff, and parents gathered for the third annual church & school picnic.



The barbecue chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs were accompanied by delicious side dishes and desserts brought by those attending the event. After Fr. Samuel welcomed the attendees and said grace, everyone queued up for the food. As we ate, the Elderly Brothers Barbershop Quartet provided entertainment. One of the singers in the group is our own Don Hausmann.



There were games available, but these were enjoyed primarily by the students from the school. Most of the adults were content to just relax and enjoy the fellowship the picnic offered.



The HTES parent group had a large number of gift baskets which they raffled. Tickets were drawn at the end of the picnic to determine the winners. All proceeds from the sale of the tickets will support student activities at the school.

As the picnic ended, attendees headed for their cars, already discussing ideas for next year's event.

The IWC committee extends our sincere appreciation to everyone from the church and school who were involved in the planning, setting up, and cleaning up for this event. Your contributions were invaluable. The picnic would not have been as successful without your help.



2025 ANNUAL CHURCH & SCHOOL PICNIC



Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank

The Salvation Army's food pantries are looking like Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. If you would like to help, the Outreach committee is asking you all to contribute to the Salvation Army food bank by making deposits of non-perishable food in the Little Red Wagon at the front of the church on Sundays. Specifically, the Salvation Army is asking for:



Peanut Butter
Jelly (No glass jars)
Canned fruit and fruit cups
Spaghetti sauce
Thin spaghetti pasta
Canned Soup
Mac & Cheese
Canned Beefaroni, ravioli, spaghetti
Canned meat; Tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage
Box meals; Ham helper, Tuna helper, etc
16oz bags rice
Mashed potatoes
Ramen noodles
Single serve grits & oatmeal
Snacks for kids

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

HTEC Salvation Breakfast Team

Besides Holy Trinity's contributions to the Salvation Army Food Bank via the Red Wagon, we also have a fun-loving and hard-working team of volunteers that provides breakfast service at the Leesburg Salvation Army post to a



growing number of 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 information about serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636 or email jim-kelly8143@gmail.com.

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, HTEC Tutor Program Coordinator

Christmas 2024 Red Kettle Bell Ringers

The HTEC Service team of 40 amazing volunteers spent a whopping 56 hours ringing Salvation Army bells in 2024! And guess what? They were recognized again at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on February 14th by the Volunteer Coordinator, Major Marie Harris. Holy Trinity Church was crowned the Top Church Group Bell Ringers for 2024, raising an incredible \$4,317.50 to support our faith partners, the Salvation Army. Way to go, team!





Upcoming Events:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | MARCH 4 @ 5pm

Please join us for some delicious pancakes on Tuesday March 4th in the Parish Hall at 5pm.

Ash Wednesday Services | MARCH 5

There will be three Ash Wednesday services at **11:30am**, **2:30pm** with students, and **6pm**. Please join us for any of those services as we begin our Lenten observances.

Holy Hackers | MARCH 8 @ 10am

All are welcome to join us at our next outing for golf and/or lunch on **Saturday, March 8th, 2025**. Sign-up in Parish Hall or contact David Aldrich: 203-258-9643 | aldrichkp68@gmail.com

Fruitland Park Day | March 29 from 10am-3pm

Come support our church & school at this annual outreach event! Sign up in Parish Hall!

Confirmation Classes | Every Tuesday during Lent @ 10:00am

We will be offering a Confirmation/New member Class on **Tuesday mornings** during Lent from **10:00am – 11:30am beginning Tuesday March 11**. We will review the basics of the Christian Faith from an Anglican/Episcopal Perspective followed by a study of the unique characteristics of Anglican/Episcopal theology, practice, and polity

Lent Program: 40 Days of Community by *Rick Warren* will be our Lenten Program this year. The program will be held on **Wednesday Evenings 5:00-7:00PM**. We will begin with a simple soup and bread meal followed by a DVD presentation and a discussion. Volunteers are needed to provide soup and bread for the 5 Wednesdays – 3/12, 3/19/, 3/26, 4/2 & 4/9. The series will culminate with the Agape meal on Maundy Thursday April 17. While not required, a **40 days of Community Devotional** is recommended. It is available on Amazon and other book sellers for **\$8.82** per copy.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Committee | MARCH 23

Join the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Committee as they celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King. The Ecumenical Service will take place on **Sunday, March 23rd at 4pm** at the Christian Worship Center on 1414 E. Main St. Leesburg, FL. Open Invite!

Bible Study | Every Wednesday @ 10:00am

Join us for Bible Study Every Wednesday at 10:00am in Grace Chapel. Bring your own Bible.

Healing Service | Every Wednesday @ 11:30am

Join us for Healing Service Every Wednesday at 11:30am in Grace Chapel.

Adult Sunday School | Every Sunday @ 9:15am

Join us Sunday mornings at **9:15 am - 10:15 am** in the chapel. Father Samuel allows the fellowship breakfast to be brought in so grab something and join us!

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 &
Acting Head of School

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 Administrator/ Com-
munications Assistant

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

strees@htespiscopalschool.org

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruit-
landpark](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruitlandpark)

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

In-Person & Livestream Services:

Saturday 4:15pm (Sanctuary)

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)(FBLive)

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

Vestry:

Jim Kelly – Sr. Warden

jimkelly8142@gmail.com | 352-571-5531

Steve Knowles – Jr. Warden

steveli2@yahoo.com | 352-504-8921

Pat Casson-Fleming - Secretary

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Newsletter Articles:

Please submit by 25th of each month

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