

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 May Anniversary To:

- 26** - Rob Pilkington & Janice Haake
- 28** - David & Marcella Gnau
- 30** - Robert & Julie Hilkemann

Happy May Birthday To:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 - Carole Haase | 17 - Terry Osborn |
| 7 - Deb Yee | 19 - Sharon Redding |
| 9 - Janey Pullen | 25 - Gregg Monin |
| 9 - Kathy Torian | 27 - Lili Panlilio |
| 11 - Helen Enyeart | 29 - Walt Albers |
| 16 - Neven Matthews | 31 - Ivan Ford |



**LIGHT
THE PATH**

**BANQUET
& BENEFIT**

\$40
per person

Venetian Center, Harris Room
1 Dozier Court
Leesburg, FL 34748

**RSVP by
May 9, 2025**



Use the QR Code or Contact
Gisselle: 352-787-1500

Monday, May 19, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm



Rector's Message

Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

One of the great joys of the Easter Season is the ability to say and sing Alleluia and not have to apologize for it. During Eastertide, all controversies around the appropriate use of "Alleluia" are suspended.

It is one thing to say or sing Alleluia because it is written in a prayer or hymn and another to say it from a heart full of praise. The word "Alleluia" is translated "Praise the Lord." In that case, I have every reason to praise the Lord.

First, I praise the Lord for our church family. The dedication, the love, the grace, and generosity of so many of you is reason not to just say but shout Alleluia! This was once again demonstrated during the whole season of Lent as we embarked on so many aspects of our shared life and mission.

Secondly, I praise God for His faithfulness. Throughout Lent we reflected on scriptures that emphasized God's promise of hope and healing to a hurting world. In many cases, we saw God's hand at work in our own lives. Many who were facing serious illness have seen renewed health and strength; and those not yet out of the woods have been sustained by God's grace which is sufficient under all circumstances.

Third, I praise God for our many ministries, particularly our school. After a long and exhausting process, we finally have a new Head of School, Ms. Rebecca Coulter, who is already proving herself to be the right person to lead our school at this point in its history. Her rich experience, her academic credentials, and spiritual maturity is exactly what our school needs in a leader. Most importantly, I praise God for the staff, teachers, tutors, board members, donors, and all who make our school such a loving, liberating, and life-giving institution.

Lastly, I praise God for the amazing response we've received in response to our first ever Light the Path Banquet and Benefit scheduled for Monday May 19 at 6:00pm at the Venetian Center in Leesburg. The Banquet is intended to be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our school and those who make it possible, to share our school's story, and to invite our community to join us in this transformative work. I am particularly grateful for the organizing committee which has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event. I praise God for the many of our members who have given generously in support of the event or gone out to solicit sponsorships from local businesses. If you haven't already secured your ticket, please do so as soon as possible before the deadline on May 9. Tickets are available for purchase in the office on weekdays Monday – Thursday, on Sundays at 9am or 11:45 in the Parish Hall, and on our church website anytime. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gisselle in the office.

As we walk through this Eastertide, I pray that you will have more and more reasons to sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise to His Name!

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.

Treasurer's Report

March 2025

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$22,948	\$27,668
Other Income	<u>\$1,308</u>	<u>\$ 3,625</u>
Total	\$24,256	\$31,293
Expenses	\$36,835	\$31,293

Be merciful after thy power. If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little: for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity. Tobit 4:8,9

Russ Casson, *Treasurer*

Planned Giving & Holy Trinity's Endowment

Planned Giving is opportunity for anyone who wishes to include our church in their estate plan (or lifetime gift) as be part of a lasting endowment for the long-term mission of our church. Our endowment is managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation and supervised by our Planned Giving Committee and Vestry. It is governed by Florida law to ensure careful and wise management. We have pamphlets available in the parish hall that will give you more information. You may

talk to Mark Welton, the Planned Giving "Shepard" for the program, or any members of our Endowment Committee: Mike Browne, Parker Bauer, and Paul Harmon.

Senior Warden's Report



Let me begin with a gentle reminder to RSVP by **Friday, May 9, 2025**, for our May 19, 2025, **Light The Path Banquet & Benefit** to

celebrate the guiding lights that set our students on a brighter path. Admission to the banquet includes dinner for just \$40.

Whether or not you can attend, please consider making a donation to Holy Trinity Episcopal School, which is specifically designed to meet the needs of our students in grades 6 -12 who experience learning differences related to Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, and other learning disabilities.

This month, instead of our regular Vestry meeting on April 24, our Head of the School Board, Dan Curtis, suggested that it would be a good time to have a combined meeting of the School Board and Vestry, especially with new Vestry Leadership and a newly hired Head of School, Rebecca Coulter. And indeed it was, starting right off with introductions all the way around the meeting room. I believe I speak for the entire Vestry in saying we were all very impressed with Rebecca. She has extensive educational

experience and will be an outstanding fit in her new demanding role.

Last month, I mentioned the Invite Welcome and Connect (IWC) ministry led by Judy Gygi was scheduled to have a meeting on March 4, 2025. Well, I was able to attend this very informative gathering. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss how to plan the rollout of The Episcopal Churches newly envisioned Invite Welcome Connect program at Holy Trinity. The new IWC program equips our church with tools that are specifically designed to assist Episcopalians in engaging in the profound work of evangelism. This ministry's next meeting is scheduled for this coming Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Grace Chapel.

Although we did not have our regular April Vestry meeting, that doesn't mean that the work on the diocesan Vestry Training topics has not continued, and in fact, progress has been made on several fronts. The training covered a wide range of topics of vital importance to the Episcopal Church, including subjects such as:

- Church Size and Dynamics: The Impact on Size, Leadership, Culture, Growth, and Conflict
- Designing with Purpose: Simplifying Social Media and Website Strategies for Your Church
- From Headwinds to Full Sail: Being a Courageous Church in Uncertain Times
- From Surviving to Thriving: Casting Vision and Leading From the Front
- Investment and Cash Management
- Risk Management and Insurance Basics

- Roles of Deacons with Congregation and Vestries

Your Vestry members are carefully reviewing this training material and related point papers. As we investigate the issue, share insights, and suggest potential action items, we will soon be able to create a priority list based on solid research and consensus. The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Grace Chapel.

All your ministry teams and Vestry are dedicated to serving Christ. Their meetings provide additional 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 would consider attending any of these meetings and providing your input. (Please check with the church office ((352) 787-1500) for exact times and dates for any other Ministry meetings you may be interested in attending.)

Jim Kelly, *Sr. Warden*

Light the Path Banquet Tickets:

Last Chance to buy tickets from Naomi! This coming Sunday, May 4 is the last Sunday before the Banquet to buy 50/50 tickets and dinner tickets after the Sunday services. Dinner tickets will be available on-line or from the office through May 11, 2025. The 50/50 tickets will be sold at the event. Thanks to all who have already purchased their tickets.

Naomi Aldrich – 203-258-6010
aldrichn13@gmail.com

HOLY HACKERS



Our Holy Hackers outing for April took place on Saturday, April 12th with a 9:30 A.M. tee off at Pennbrooke Fairways. 24 golfers turned out for the day, tying September for our largest group of the season.

Again, the weather turned out to be beautiful for the morning and the scores were all quite good, with all groups finishing under par. Barbara Turner's foursome of Barbara, Valeria McGathy, Molly McGlone and Gloria Metzger tied with the foursome of Deb & Randy Siver and their guests Kathy & Gary Weber at four under par. Barbara's group ultimately prevailed for official first place on the third tie breaking hole. We also welcomed as guests for the day Susan Olds and Ray Jurgens, guests of Janey Pullen and Terry Osborn.



Just about all of us stayed for lunch and fellowship afterwards at The Grille at Pennbrooke Fairways. We will tee it up again, on the second Saturday of May (**May 10**) with a 9:30 tee off. That will be our **last outing for the season**. We will resume again in September. As always, all are welcome to join us for golf and/or lunch and fellowship afterwards at the Grille, at about 11:00. Guests are always welcome too. Once again, thanks to Mandy, as always, for the photos.

Dave Aldrich

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal



I love the way Holy Week begins; ours at Holy Trinity began in the courtyard – with the waving of the palms. Our mood was celebratory, a welcome change from the austerity, the self-made deprivations of Lent.

Jesus and his disciples strode triumphantly into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday. He chose two of his disciples to go ahead of the others. He instructed them to find a donkey to carry him into the city. Likewise, two of his disciples were enlisted with procuring a room for the Passover celebration. In the early church this would become an agape meal, a love feast intended to boost community. You might say the Passover meal Jesus presided over began as such a love feast. It became a

tradition in the early church to share a meal before the celebration of Holy Eucharist. And while the Eucharist itself would consist of bread and wine, the meal leading up to it provided food to quell the appetites of the hungry faithful.



The agape meal was a frequent occurrence in the early church. And once again, it's celebrated today. The intent now, as in the early church, is to draw people into fellowship, harmony, and good will.

Traditionally, agape meals were simple. Our meal at Holy Trinity included foods that might have been found on early Christian tables.

When Holy Trinity disciples – yes, we can consider ourselves as modern-day disciples – arrived for our own feast of love, we found the door to the Parish Hall closed. Upon opening it, we were greeted with a darkened room. Profuse tea lights glittered on each of

the tables. Pitchers of wine and water likewise awaited us. A wine goblet and beverage glass completed each place setting. The tables also bore platters of food: pita bread representing the Passover unleavened bread, hummus, grapes, dates, nuts, and cheeses. Servers brought meal-goers bowls of lentil soup. Conversations were cordial and subdued. I think it's safe to say we each felt ourselves to be a part of something central to the church. We felt ourselves to be participants of the Last Supper.

The agape meal concluded with a foot washing. Volunteers submitted to having their feet washed by Father Samuel or a fellow congregant. Others sang.

With the meal finished, we proceeded to the sanctuary for Holy Eucharist and the stripping of the altar. With that the evening ended. We left in silence, knowing that the meal we had participated in brought us closer together. United and humble, the meal indeed brought us closer together, in awe of our Lord who surrendered his will, his life so that we could join him with our Father in his kingdom.

We give thanks to those who lovingly prepared the meal for us: Judy Gygi, Pat Fleming, and Sid and Deb Yee.

Cassie Journigan

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

School Banquet & Benefit

Our school's "Light the Path" Banquet & Benefit on **May 19** is quickly approaching! This event is an opportunity to bring awareness to and celebrate our special school. If you haven't done so already, you can buy your tickets this weekend May 4 from Naomi after both services. You can also turn in checks or cash during the offering or through the office mail slot by May 9, and Gisselle will add you to the RSVP list. If you prefer to pay in person, visit Gisselle during office hours (Mon. – Thurs. 9-3pm).

If you are writing out a check, please make sure to put '25 Banquet in the memo line.
Thank you!

Holy Trinity
Episcopal School

Invites you!

LIGHT THE PATH

BANQUET & BENEFIT

RSVP by
May 9, 2025

DINNER:

- Baked Chicken
- String Beans
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Tossed Salad
- Rolls & Butter
- Carrot Cake

A premier inaugural event created to celebrate the Guiding Lights who set our students on a brighter path!

Monday, May 19, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Venetian Center, Harris Room
1 Dozier Court
Leesburg, FL 34748

Naomi Aldrich will be selling tickets after both services. You can also buy tickets from Gisselle in the Church office!

Proceeds benefit our Specialized Instruction & Services

Easter Lillies & Flowering of Cross



We want to thank all who contributed to the purchase of Lillies and other decorations for the beautification of our church for Easter. Thank you to the Altar Guild for their hard work in ensuring our church looked beautiful!

Thank you also to those who participated in the Flowering of the Cross. Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter Offering. This year's offering totaled **\$2,165**. Thank you!



2025 Golf Benefit

match donations!
1+1=2

SAVE THE DATE!
MONDAY, OCT. 20, 2025

LIGHT THE PATH
2025 SCHOOL GOLF BENEFIT

Help us set our students on a brighter path!

SCAN NOW

Continental Country Club
71 Continental Blvd
Wildwood FL 34785

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

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

Donations go directly to benefit the HTES in support of software programs, personnel that focus on the learning deficits in verbal and math skills and social skills that are lacking in the student population.

Many thanks and let’s have a great tournament! - *Jerry Huetz*, 802-233-3445

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



Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank



The Salvation Army's food pantries are looking like Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. If you would like to help, the Outreach committee is asking you all to contribute to the Salvation Army food bank by making deposits of

nonperishable food in the Little Red Wagon at the front of the church on Sundays. Specifically, the Salvation Army is asking for:

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

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

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



Holy Hackers | May 10 @ 9:30am

All are welcome to join us at our next outing for golf and/or lunch on **Saturday, May 10th**. Sign-up in Parish Hall or contact David Aldrich: 203-258-9643 | aldrichkp68@gmail.com

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.

Light the Path Banquet & Benefit | May 19 @ 6pm

Come support our school at our inaugural event! Admission is \$40 and includes dinner. Tickets are on sale in the office or online using the QR Code or this [LINK](#). You can also RSVP by placing payments in the offering. Gisselle will add your name to the RSVP list, and you will simply provide your name upon arrival at the event. *Proceeds will benefit our Specialized Instruction & Services for students with learning differences.*

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. /Communications Assistant

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark – Housekeeping

Becca Coulter, Head of School

bcoulter@htepiscopalschool.org

Seth Trees, HTES Operations Coordinator

strees@htepiscopalschool.org

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com

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

Facebook: 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

jimkelly8143@gmail.com | 913-558-2636

Steve Knowles – Jr. Warden

steveli2@yahoo.com | 352-504-8921

Pat Casson-Fleming - Secretary

Trisha12552@aol.com | 352-406-9586

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Judy Gygi

Jgygi2876@gmail.com | 407-461-5647

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Skypilot513@yahoo.com | 352-396-9984

Mark Welton

Markwelton72@gmail.com | 845-220-6206

Newsletter Articles:

Please submit by 25th of each month

Gisselle Martinez, office@holytrinityfp.com