



The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School*

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Volume 6 Issue 1

February 2024

Celebration of Generosity




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For most congregations, the Annual Parish Meetings is seen as a required activity for the sake of electing new Vestry members and hearing about the financial condition of the congregation. While these are important tasks, the annual parish meeting should be about more. Very early in

my parish ministry, I felt that the Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to celebrate God’s faithfulness and our faithfulness in the previous year, and seek God’s blessing for the year ahead. At one of my previous parishes, the Annual Parish Meeting was preceded by a glorious Celebration of Ministry banquet, with almost every member of the parish in attendance.

This spirit of celebration was on my mind when we first started planning this year’s Annual Parish Meeting. I also felt that while there is so much to celebrate, the one word that summed it all was Generosity. Our generosity of time, talent, and treasure is what continues to make Holy Trinity a special church to belong, blossom, and bless. That is why this year’s Annual Parish Meeting was themed as a Celebration of Generosity.

Time & Talent: I think we all agree that time and talent go hand in hand. Time without talent is good but less impactful. Similarly, talent without time will not yield much. The beauty of our parish is to see so many of you generously offer both your talent and time to accomplish God’s mission. If we were to pay for everything that is done here, we would never be able to survive. I think of those who spend their time and talent taking care of our campus – cleaning, building, painting, repairs, etc. I think of those who prepare food for our hospitality/fellowship hour, those who visit the sick, set-up and clean-up for worship, assist in worship, greet our guests, count our offerings, teach our Adult Sunday School and Bible Study, serve on the Vestry and ministry teams, and many other aspects of our shared life. I think of those who spend almost 9 months planning and overseeing our annual School Golf Benefit, and those who serve breakfast at the Salvation Army or ring bells around Christmas to raise money for their many ministries. We truly have many reasons to celebrate the generosity our generosity.

Treasure: Beyond the generosity of time and talent, our generosity of treasure (money) has made it possible to fulfill our financial obligations. We were able to address much needed repairs to our buildings, install a security system, and respond to the needs of the less fortunate in our community and beyond. This generosity is most reflected in the continued increase in our giving levels. For example, total operating income for 2023 was up by 2.4% compared to 2022 while our pledges to the General Operating Fund for 2024 increased by 4% from 2023.

With this steady growth in our generosity of time, talent, and treasure we had every reason to focus our Annual Parish Meeting on the celebration of generosity. The response to this emphasis was amazing. On Sunday January 28, following a joint worship service, over 80 members of our church family gathered in the Parish Hall to share a delicious meal and hear reflections on generosity from some of our ministry team leaders notably Mark Welton, our Finance Ministry Team leader, Judy Gygi, our InviteWelcomeConnect (IWC) team leader, and Russ Casson, our treasurer. We also recognized all those who give of their time and talent in service to the Lord, including those who completed their term of office on the Vestry. Three new members of the Vestry were elected by unanimous acclamation.

It is my hope that this spirit of celebration will continue to inspire us to grow in generosity as we find abundant joy in the difference we are making in the lives of those we touch.

“So, let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing, if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:9).

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Sr. Warden’s Report

WHO ARE YOU? This is a question some of us ask ourselves while chatting with a fellow parishioner. We do not all go to the same service, but we can cross paths at coffee hour or Pancake Breakfast. That is why the I.W.C. Committee is asking all to PLEASE wear name tags.

We have been blessed this year with some new “family” members. Being a warm and welcoming community, we want to be able to address members by name. When we have meetings or events, it would be so nice to be able to just take a sneaky peek at a name tag and continue to chat like old friends. If you are in need of a name tag, you will find the forms in the parish Hall, or call the office and request one.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generosity with Christmas giving. It enabled our Outreach Committee to help the Salvation Army’s Backpack Program. That program gives children food to take home on weekends. These are the children that rely on the school for the breakfast and lunches.

I also thank you for your big-heartedness with your Stewardship pledges of money and time. Because of your generous commitments to Holy Trinity, we will be able to continue the improvements and repairs we started this year. We are hoping to replace the sidewalks to make them more accessible.

Most of all, I want to thank you for the love and financial support you give to our kids at Holy Trinity

Episcopal School. We hope you all take the opportunity to get to meet and know them. They are our investment for the future.

Thank you all for a wonderful year and the promise of a prosperous and successful 2024.

Doris Brennan, Sr. Warden

Vestry Meeting Highlights

January 18, 2024

The Vestry met for the monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 18, 2024** to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

Members Present: Fr. Samuel, Doris Brennan, Russ Casson, Mandy Panlillo, Robin Michell, Bob Freeman and Steve Knowles.

Members Absent: John Canner and Deb Lally.

1. The meeting began with a prayer.

Building Report

1. The siding on the school will be finished next week.
2. The enhanced Security System is in.
3. We received one estimate for new sidewalks. Bob is waiting for another estimate.
4. New ramps have been installed at the school.

.Rector's Report:

1. Annual Meiring is Sunday – January 28th. This year's theme is Celebration of Giving. There will be one service at 9:30am and the meeting and luncheon will follow in the Parish Hall.
2. Nominations for the Vestry will be presented at meeting followed by the election.
3. A brief organizational meeting for the Vestry will follow the Annual Meeting.

Finance:

1. The Vestry went over the proposed balanced Budget for 2024.
2. Russ reported the pledges were more than budgeted.

Meeting ended in prayer, led by Fr. Samuel, at 8pm.

Treasurer's Summary Report

December, 2023

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$30,767	\$24,113
Other Income	<u>\$ 3,056</u>	<u>\$ 3,370</u>
Total	\$33,823	\$27,483
Expenses	\$25,345	\$27,483

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

Russ Casson, Treasurer

HTEC Salvation Breakfast Team



Breakfast Service: The Holy Trinity Salvation Army Breakfast Service Team of 12 fun loving and hard-working volunteers provides breakfast service at the Salvation Army post in Leesburg to from 24 to 40 homeless and needy people on the second and fifth Tuesday of every month. Typically, breakfast service takes about 2 hours, starting at 7:00 AM with preparation, followed by food service and then cleanup finishing at about 9:00 AM.

Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringers

The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Service team of 32 volunteers put together a combined total of 64 hours of Salvation Army Bell Ringing this year. Of the various organizations that volunteer to be Bell Ringers, Holy Trinity was recognized by the Salvation Army Volunteer Coordinator, Major Marie Harris for being the Top Church Group Bell Ringers for 2023 raising a total of \$2,655.21 in support of our partners in faith, the Salvation Army.



(Photo of Bell Ringers: Karen Jones and Gregg Monin.)

Operation Christmas Child \$500.00

This year we collected only for the shipping of our 50 Shoeboxes that our Outreach Members put together. This amount was \$10.00 per Shoebox.

Salvation Army Christmas Angels

16 Angels, (children ages 3 months to 11 years) were taken and bought for from each child's wish list and then were delivered to Leesburg Office of Salvation Army.

Wreaths Across America Program \$864.00

This allowed us to purchase 72 Wreaths, one each for the 72 Veteran Graves in our church cemetery.

Outreach Chair,
Annette Freeman HTEC

Parishioner Spotlight

Outreach Christmas Ministries



Our Outreach News is all good and it is all due to our generous Parishioners YOU GAVE and TOUCHED SO MANY THIS CHRISTMAS. I just want to say Thank You.

Christmas Offering \$3,195.00

This money was evenly divided between the Episcopal Relief Fund to use toward their many ministries and the Leesburg Food Bank "Back Pack Program" that feeds local children on weekends and school holidays.



Randy and Debbie Siver are very recognizable faces around Holy Trinity as year-round parishioners since their move to the Villages 13 years ago from Wisconsin. Randy serves as a LEM, Lector and works on the grounds, while Debbie serves as an usher.

In their working careers, Randy worked in printing and sales and is kept busy with outdoor work around their home. He has always had a love for landscaping. Debbie is a Respiratory Therapist whose hobbies include cooking, crochet and knitting. In the earlier days, with three babies within 20

months, Debbie worked as a hair stylist out of their home.

The Sivers met in the first grade! They dated off and on in high school, and married a year and a half later. As a family. Randy and Deb have three daughters, having lost one daughter to cancer, and they enjoy five grandchildren. Their family is rounded out by a Goldendoodle named Brinn and a Labradoodle, Daphne.

KICKING OFF LENT 2024



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but is preceded by the traditions of FAT TUESDAY (aka Shrove Tuesday) whereby families traditionally prepare to fast by using all the ingredients in their kitchen - usually eggs, milk and flour - everything needed to make pancakes!

Come join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Pancakes, sausages and some sweets will be served as we prepare for a lean Lenten observance. The men of our church will be hosting the event. The supper is free but donations are always welcome, which will go toward the school. To help us with preparations, please indicate your interest in attending by signing up on-line: Click here to RSVP <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BABAD2CA3FBC16-47448112-shrove> guests are welcomed). You are also welcome to bring any pastries or fruit to share. If you wish to help, please contact Dave Aldrich or Sid Yee.



BOGGIA, MaryAnn

KELLY, Jim & Jane

VALLEE, Raymond & Sophia

NEIDOW, John & Mary Jo

HANKWITZ, Ed & Anne

SIVER, Randy & Debbie

MAY, Wanda

ALBERS, Walt & Glenda



CASSON, Russell

JONES, Kathy

MAY, Wanda

KOLLER, Jack

RODENBAUGH, Jeanette

BOGGIA, MaryAnn

HULTIN, Bonnie

SARTO, Gary

GYGI, Judy

WELTON, Mark

HANKWITZ, Ed

NEIDOW, John

TULLER, Val

SCHNEPFE, Nancy Lee

VALLEE, Raymond

NOBLE, Dottie

GORDON-BARNES, Janice

TURNER, John

ALGER, Montana

NICOLOSI, Jeanne

SYNAN, Thomas

A Celebration of Generosity Annual Meeting January 28, 2024



**New Vestry Members
Judy Gygi, Jim Kelly, Pat Fleming**





Parishioner Newsletter Spotlight

Joan Hensley, one of our newest members, has graciously agreed to serve as our Member Spotlight newsletter contributor. This is intended to help in our connection process as we learn more about each other. We hope that as many of you will volunteer your information and help us to know you. Joan has designed a basic format to help you organize the information. Please look at the format below and send your information to joan.hensley95@gmail.com

Parishioner Spotlight Information Form

Name (s): _____

Email Contact (to send proof/review of article):

Phone Contact: _____

How long have you been attending Holy Trinity?

What community do you live in?

Are you here year-round or return north for the summer?

Tell us about your family . . .

Pets. . .

Where were you born/raised? How long in Florida?

What is your occupation (s) (If retired, list prior)

What hobbies or interests keep you busy?

What Social or Civic clubs do you belong to, active in, and how?

What church activities are you involved in, either at Holy Trinity or at the church you previously attended?

What is one thing you would want most people to know about you?

UPCOMING EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST that is hosted by Men's Group will be postponed for the months of November and December to allow for holiday activities. They will resume on **Sunday, February 25th**.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: A confirmation class for those who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion is scheduled to begin on Tuesday **February 20**. There will be 8 sessions to be held on **Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:45am**. The class is also appropriate for those who were confirmed long ago and wish to reaffirm their commitment to follow Jesus. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall and online.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Adult Sunday school will resume next **Sunday February 4, at 9:15 am**. We are studying a DVD series entitled **"The Short Stories by Jesus"** by AJ Levine. In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. She analyzes these "problems parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them and interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader.

HOLY TRINITY LADIES FELLOWSHIP TEA – FEB.10: A Ladies Fellowship Tea has been scheduled for Saturday **Feb. 10, 2:00-4:00pm**. This is an opportunity for the ladies of our church to meet each other to make and nurture Christ-centered friendships. **To RSVP, a sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall or email Deb Yee at debkhogan@gmail.com**

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER FEB. 13: Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper hosted by our Men's Group is scheduled for **Tuesday Feb. 13, at 5:00pm**. Pancakes, Sausages, and sweets will be served. This is an opportunity to invite your relative, friends and neighbors to experience Holy Trinity Hospitality. The supper is free but donations to support our school will be gladly accepted. Feel free to bring pastries or fruit to share. If you wish to help, please contact Sid Yee or Dave Aldrich. Check the Weekly E-News to sign-up online.

VOORHESE COLLEGE GOSPEL CHOIR AT ST. GEORGE'S FEB.18: The Voorhees College Gospel Choir will be performing at St. Georges Episcopal Church in the Villages on **Sunday February 18, at 4:00pm**. No tickets

needed but donations will be gladly accepted. Voorhees College is an Episcopal historically black college in South Carolina.

PRAYER LIST POLICY & UPDATES: If you submitted your name or someone's name to be included on the prayer list, please update us on the condition of the person being prayed for so we may know which list to put them. Only persons on the urgent prayer list are prayed for by name during Sunday worship services. Persons on the long-term list are prayed for at the Wednesday Healing service and during private prayer time. Initial requests will be put on the urgent list for two months after which names will be transferred to the long-term list unless otherwise instructed.

SCHOOL DISCOUNT CARDS: Our school's parents' group has embarked on a major fundraising initiative by producing and selling discount cards to **16 local businesses**. Each card costs \$10 and allows you to get significant discount at the local businesses. You may order your cards by asking Fr. Samuel or filling out a form in the Parish Hall.

PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: - A ministry that strives to provide a loving and caring environment to those among us who may be experiencing hardships of many kinds. We need at least 3 more people to volunteer to call other members 3 times a year, to send out cards and to either cook or buy a meal when required. Can you share your gifts and talents with us? **Please call Robin Michell at 352-350-1451** or email me with your interests at **RobinMichell@yahoo.com**.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AT HOLY TRINITY: After some time of exploration, we now have made it possible for those who wish to give electronically in a variety of ways:

1. **Website/Facebook page**
2. **TEXT to Give:** the word "Funds" to 844-527-0098
3. **Mobile App:** Download the **Vanco Mobile** app from mobile store
4. **QR Code:** Scan the QR Code to access our eGiving page.



OPEN POSITION: We are actively searching for a long-term **Head of School** to help carry on the mission of our school beyond the transition. A suitable candidate must be someone with a heart for students who learn differently and guided by our baptismal commitment to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and respect the dignity of every human being. This is a full-time position with benefits. A resume and letter of interest may be sent to: debkhogan@gmail.com

HEARING LOOP: Our sanctuary is now installed with a hearing loop for the benefit of those with hearing difficulties. If your hearing aid has a T-Coll, you should be able to hear clearly. Headphones are also available for those with compatible hearing aids. Talk to the usher if you need headphones.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY: Those who wish to donate food items or sign-up to help clean-up are encouraged to sign-up on the bulletin board. Thank you!

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

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janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com

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charlie-perrin@outlook.com

Deacon Dick LaBud – Deacon
rjlalud@gmail.com

Carole-lynn Petronella Interim Head of School
clpetronella@hstepiscopalschool.org

Church Staff:

Eileen Alvarez – Church Office Administrator

Tara Casamasima – School Office Administrator

Kathy Wolfe - Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

In-Person & Livestream Services:

Saturday 4:15pm (Sanctuary)

Sunday 8:00am (Sanctuary)

Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)

Wednesday Healing 11:30am (Chapel)

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com

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

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruitlandpark

Newsletter Articles:

Please submit by 25th of each month

Sheri Hudson, shudson53202@gmail.com



Vestry:

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