



The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School*

*2201 Spring Lake Rd.
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Church Office: 352-787-1500
School Office: 352-787-8855*



Rector: Rev. Dr. Gregory Wilde

Volume 2, Issue 1

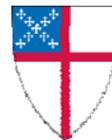
January, 2020

Senior Warden's Report

Christmas greetings and blessings from Erie, PA. I am here for Christmas with two of my daughters and their families (6 of my 9 grandkids). So far the weather is clear and not too cold, with still a little snow on the ground.

We at Holy Trinity have so many blessings to be thankful for this Christmas season. Our church community is increasingly more active and our school is becoming stronger all the time. I am closing out my second year on Vestry and as your Senior Warden, and I couldn't be prouder of the accomplishments of all of our various ministries. "Thank You" to all of you, who participate in our many important ministries, know that each and every one of you are making a difference. I want to especially thank our Vestry members as they have each taken on leadership roles, and invested significant time and creativity, to implement and improve our church and school community.

As we close out 2019 and look forward to 2020, I only see a positive outlook. We have significant financial challenges with getting our beautiful buildings refurbished, but with good planning and programs from our Vestry, and your continued support, we will meet these challenges as well as initiate programs that will help us be better prepared in the future. In 2020 we will also be putting more emphasis and creative ways to connect with church seekers new to our area. It is our Christian duty and it is



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key to our future to bring in more newcomers. God Bless all of you and Merry Christmas!

Dan Curtis
Sr. Warden

Vestry Minutes

December 16, 2019

Present: Rev. Dr. Greg Wilde, Rector; Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden; Pat McLaughlin, Jr. Warden; Gay Hensley, Secretary; Parker Bauer, Gail Hole; David Aldrich, and Jim Kelly

Absent: Deb Yee

Guests: Justin McCallister, Interim Head of School, Russ Casson, Treasurer, Peggy Barry, Admin/Bkpr.

Sr. Warden Dan Curtis called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Fr. Greg opened with prayer.

School Update: Justin McCallister (see attached report)

Justin reviewed his report the vestry had received earlier. He added some additional details which were added to his report.

School Support Team - Jim Kelly

His details are included in the school report. Jim added additional info about the new extended reading program. Tutors will be trained in the TLC program. They will meet with a small group of students, 4 days a week, two hours at a time, for 6 weeks. Then a different group of students will begin the same training.

Financial Reports—Russ Casson

Russ reported that with the arrival of the McKay Scholarship, in November, a surplus was created for the school. In early December the Step-Up checks were received. The school is in the black now and within their budget.

The church financials revealed that November, having five Sundays, resulted in a very strong month. The church still has a deficit budget. The financials were accepted as presented.

Team Updates:

Finance Team- Parker Bauer and Gay Hensley

Stewardship Status - Charlie Kraft has volunteered to chair the campaign next year, if we're interested. At our last finance meeting it was agreed to mail the pledges next year instead of hand delivering them. Peggy Barry compiled a list of all parishioners who indicated their interests in activities that were on the pledge sheet. They will be made available for the team leaders of those activities.

2020 Budget- We reviewed the proposed 2020 Budget. Much discussion followed. The proposed pledge budget was reduced to \$290,000 from \$314,900. A new line item will be added for additional gifts, and our Diocese Pledge will be recalculated. All other line items were agreed upon. When Russ adjusts the three areas, we will pass the budget with an e-vote.

**There was a motion by Gay Hensley to establish the special offerings, from Good Friday through Easter, to be distributed as: Ash Wednesday to Salvation Army; Good Friday to Diocesan request; Easter to Leesburg Food Bank and Camp Bogey Creek. David seconded it and all charities were approved.

**Parsonage allowance Resolution- Gay Hensley made a motion to accept a housing allowance of \$14,400 per year for the parsonage. Parker seconded it, and all members approved.

Sr. Warden, Dan Curtis, on 11/25/19, sent the following resolution via e-mail to the Vestry:

** The total compensation paid to Janice Gordon-Barnes shall be \$275 per Sunday served of which the lesser of \$12,000 or the annual compensation earned is hereby designated as a housing allowance (per suggestion of the diocese) pursuant to Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. The e-vote was unanimous for the resolution.

**Dan made a motion that Fr. Greg be reimbursed \$10,000 for the loss of his trailer, tools, and damage to their furniture during their move to Fruitland Park. It was seconded by Pat and the vestry all agreed. That amount will be added to the 2019 budget.

Building and Grounds- Pat McLaughlin

The church roof was patched last week. While doing so, the workmen knocked down some molding in the church. They asked for pictures, to be sent to them, showing the damage. Then, after viewing, they may reattach. They said the roof looks good for at least 2 years.

The Villages Woodworking Shop may be interested in doing the frame repair work on the church windows, working alongside Gent Windows who will work on the glass. That would reduce the Gent bill to around \$9,268. They require half of the money before they begin. After discussing, **Gail Hole motioned to allow Pat McLaughlin to be given the \$9,268 after Jan. 1st, to move ahead with the project. Dan seconded and all concurred.

Due to the much needed church and other building repairs, painting, etc., that are required in 2020, the possibility of a capital campaign and or loan were discussed. A course of necessary action will be pursued in early 2020.

Membership & Men's Group- David Aldrich

The Newcomer's Reception held on December 13, 2019 had only four new people attend. The event needs to be reviewed and perhaps it needs to be held only once a year. Their next team meeting will be on January 3rd.

The Men's Group had a good turnout this month. Dr. Rev. Jonathan Hole shared his bio. The group is working on a Trivia social event for the church along with a meal.

The men are providing two full days of bell ringing for the Salvation Army this month for the Christmas season.

The breakfasts are still being served the last Sunday of the month.

Communications- Deb Yee (absent)

The new website will go live on Friday.

Christian Education- Gail Hole

Gail reported that this week will be the last of Annette Freeman's presentation of Jesus through the eyes of Mary. They have averaged about 20 people per week. On January 5, 2020 the class will begin again with the study of "A Crazy Holy Grace," presented by Ron Whetsell, which will last four weeks.

Old Business-

We reviewed the names of the Vestry candidates and Peggy Barry will notify them to turn in their bios to be entered into the annual report. Gay will notify all activities leaders to turn in their annual reports to Peggy as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events-

Annual Meeting & Election- Jan. 19, 2020

January Vestry Meeting- Jan. 20, 2020

Deanery Mtg. will be on Jan.18, '20 at St. George's

DCF Convention- Jan. 24-25, 2020

Vestry retreat- Feb. 26-27, 2020

Dan Curtis adjourned the meeting and Father Greg concluded with prayer at 9:20 pm.

Submitted by Gay Hensley

Vestry Secretary

Episcopal Church Women - (ECW)

The December gathering of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) was held on **Friday, December 13, at 1pm in the Parish Hall** with 17 ladies in attendance. In keeping with the Christmas season, the birth of our Heavenly King, the focus of the gathering was an exploration of the 134 year old organization for women called The Order of the Daughters of the King. Founded in the Episcopal Church in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin, the mission today is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to

others, and to become reflections of

God's love throughout the world. This is accomplished

by prayer,

service, evangelism and ministry. Explaining more about the Daughters of the King was a guest speaker, Karen Adderly Clark, who is the diocesan president of the Daughters of the King. Our own Holy Trinity member, Liz Mustin, is a Daughter of the King and arranged for a showing of a short video to further explain about this organization. Liz discovered that there once was an active group of Daughters of the King here in our church and hopes to generate interest and "re-energize" it. She will be arranging an introductory meeting in January for those ladies who are feeling the calling or who would like to learn more about the Daughters of the King and this special group of prayer warriors and spirit filled women!

A short business meeting was led by Vice President, Nancy Mitchell. It was agreed to



start using some of our treasury money for some worthy causes. Esther House and our own Holy Trinity School will receive some initial donations.

To further celebrate the Christmas season at this meeting, each lady contributed a plate of seasonal treats to share on the refreshment table.

And coming next month...

The ECW will have their monthly gathering on **Friday, January 10, at 1pm** in the Parish Hall. The guest speaker will be World War II veteran, **Irving Locker**, who landed in Normandy on D-Day and fought in five major battles en route to Berlin. Irving is a very engaging speaker, bringing historic visual aids, along with PowerPoint visuals to recount his experiences in World War II. Earlier this year, Irving was recognized and honored at the President's State of the Union address in Washington D.C. In addition, Irving returned this year to Normandy for the 75th anniversary of the battle. Quite a feat for a man 95 years old! **EVEYONE** at Holy Trinity, (**including men and guests**) are invited to attend and listen to this special guest.



Nancy Mitchell
Vice President

Men's' Group

The Holy Trinity Men's Group will meet next on **Tuesday, January 7th at 9 A.M.** in the Chapel. This will be our third meeting at our new day & time, the first Tuesday of the month at 0900. This new time has proved quite successful, we meet no more than an hour then just about all of us adjourn for breakfast. The first two have been at Rae Rae's in Fruitland Park, and have been really good.

John (Coach) Zabatta will be doing his bio for us on January 7; Jonathon Hole did his in December. These have proven to be a big hit, giving all of us a chance to get to know each other better. Any men, who haven't given us a try, please come January 7th & try us out. All you have to lose is an hour of your time; you can just listen, if you wish.

We will be discussing our planned professionally presented Trivia event, open to parishioners, friends and family scheduled for Saturday, February 15th. The time will be 12 P.M. for some food followed by Trivia from 1-3. Trivia events are widely held throughout The Villages and are often filled with waiting lines to join. ECW recently did a Bible Trivia Event, which I was able to attend and really enjoyed. Trivia will be a new experience for some of us in the Men's Group too, so again we hope you will give us a try.

Dave Aldrich
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203-258-9643

Christian Education

New Years' Resolution: Join Sunday Morning Study!

After Christmas responsibilities have passed, and we have taken a week off, join in as we return to our regular Sunday Morning class refreshed and renewed.

Beginning January 5th Ron Whetsell will lead us on an exploration: A Crazy, Holy Grace, The Healing Power of Pain and Memory, by the well respected theologian, Frederick Buechner. When pain is real, why is God silent? This four-week study will examine the

healing power of memories and listening for the quiet voice of God.

We meet in Grace Chapel from 9:30-10:15. Please join us as we come together to share our faith and spiritual journey.

Submitted by Gail Hole
Adult Christian Ed Team Leader

School Update

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church School is about to kick off a twelve-week Dyslexia Remediation Pilot Program. Accordingly, School Support Team members Floyd Cogley and Sara May administered the San Diego Quick Assessment of Reading Ability diagnostic tool to our entire student body of 31 students (Grades 6 - 12) on Monday, December 16, 2019, in order to establish a base line of student reading levels.

In support of this initiative, Interim School Head Master Justin McCallister has hired Melissa Zrinski and secured the volunteer services of Loy Garcia to serve as tutors for the duration of the program, tentatively scheduled to start on Jan. 13, 2020. We are extremely fortunate to have the services of these two highly trained and certified individuals available for our program.

The School Support Team additionally plans to administer the nationally recognized Kaleidoscope Profile® student learning styles program shortly after the Dyslexia Pilot program is kicked off. While these are two distinctly separate programs, they complement each other and will be a valuable aid to our school staff and tutors in working more effectively with our students. This initiative is also being administered by Floyd Cogley and Sara May.

In the meantime, the HTEC School Volunteer Tutor team is pleased to announce that it has picked up a new member in the person of parishioner Ron Whetsell. Ron's arrival is, regrettably, coincident with Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hole's retirement from the tutor team after a long and distinguished career. Jonathan's

contribution to our tutor program will be deeply missed.

Submitted by Jim Kelly
School Team Leader

Treasurer's Reminder

Retirement Distributions and Holy Trinity



Many of us are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from our Retirement accounts each year so that Uncle Sam can tax us on pre-tax contributions and earnings that have not been taxed.

Have you considered designating a part of your RMD as a contribution to Holy Trinity in order to meet your Pledge? This designated amount counts as part of your RMD but is not included in the taxable box of your retirement 1099-R that you receive from your retirement trustee at the end of the year and therefore saves on income taxes. Each person's situation is different, so please consult with your tax preparer and financial advisor.

Russ Casson
Treasurer



Wreaths Across America and at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

*Our Mission was
To Remember
To Honor
To Teach*

Thanks to all who contributed and helped placed the wreaths.

The Lord's Blessings,
Annette Freeman

Anniversaries

Jonathan & Gail Hole	Jan 2
Jordan & Val Tuller	Jan 21
John & Barbara Turner	Jan 22

Birthdays

Bob Freeman	Jan 3
Mary Ellen Willis	Jan 6
Gregory Wilde Rev.	Jan 7
Joan Ballard	Jan 8
Pam Hulsey	Jan 9
Susan Pittelli	Jan 9
Naomi Aldrich	Jan 11
Jonathan Hole	Jan 14
Patrick McLaughlin	Jan 16
Virginia Lee Carmon	Jan 22
Terry Mitchell	Jan 22
Sue Lewis	Jan 24
Pat Casson	Jan 25
Charlotte Bauer	Jan 26
Jan Anthony	Jan 27
Jan Wilde	Jan 29
Sophia Vallee	Jan 31

Weekly and Recurring Events:

Sunday: Adult Christian Education
Grace Chapel 9:15am

Sunday: Men's Group Breakfast
Last Sunday of Month

Monday: Vestry Meeting
Third Monday of Month

Tuesday: Men's Group
First Tuesday of Month
Grace Chapel – 9am

Wednesday: Bible Study
Grace Chapel at 10 am

Wednesday: Healing Service
Grace Chapel – 11:30am

Wednesday: Confirmation Classes
Starting January 22nd and 29th
Parish Hall – 5:30 pm – 7pm

Wednesday: Choir Practice
Choir Room – 7 pm

Friday: Newcomers Team
First Friday of the Month
Grace Chapel - 10 am

Friday: Episcopal Church Women (ECW)
Second Friday of Month 1pm

Saturday: Altar Guild
First Saturday of Month
Parish Hall 9:30am

Saturday: Holy Hackers Golf Scramble
Second Saturday of the month

Saturday: 4:15 pm Service

Events & Notices

**Make a New Year's Resolution and
Support Holy Trinity
when you Shop!**

Do you use Amazon.com?

Consider Using AmazonSmile Instead

Why? AmazonSmile offers the same products, deals, and shopping experience as Amazon and Amazon Prime. The only difference is Amazon donates a portion of the purchase price (at no extra cost) to the charitable organization of your choice – like Holy Trinity!



Many of us will purchase some Christmas gifts on Amazon this year. Please set up your account below – it's easy, promise – and that's all you need to do to generate .5% of your eligible purchases to Holy Trinity, a 501C3 charity throughout the year.

Here's How to Set Up Your Amazon Smile Account

Easiest: Go to the church's homepage and click on the Amazonsmile icon. **OR** Simply visit the website at www.smile.amazon.com.

Step One: Go to www.smile.amazon.com and log in using your email and password as if you were on amazon.com. From there you can select the charitable organization you would like to support.

Step Two: Select *Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fruitland Park*

Step Three: Shop! Amazon Smile will remember the charity you selected and will always donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to that charity.

Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support charity!

Thanks for joining me and other parishioners who are already using this method to support Holy Trinity.

Every bit helps!

Deb Keeler Yee
Communications Team

A New Online Presence for Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity's Redesigned Website has launched

One of your Vestry's goals this year was the redesign of our parish website. This has been done, through donated funds and a contracted firm specializing in church sites, over the past four months. Our new design enables the use of larger and multiple images which are so important to capturing the interest of those seeking a new church home. You will also notice the navigation is simplified and several content areas have been added. Visit our new site: <https://www.holytrinityfp.com/>

Please, dear parishioners understand this is a work in progress. There is much editing still to do – pictures to add, outdated ones to replace, content sections to add, content to revise and

tweak as some of it was inserted as a “placeholder”. We are making progress through that which needs to be done and look forward to announcing a website fully populated with basic content at our Annual Parish Meeting in January! Our site will be kept current and fresh through maintenance requests to the firm referenced above.

Please join me in extending a huge Thank You to our webmaster of the past ~15 years, Terry Banks, for his dedicated service, exceptional technical skill, training and advice. We will continue to rely on his expertise yet in a reduced fashion, as he is now able to pass the webmaster baton. Thanks for your patience, Terry! Our thanks also go to Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper, Peggy Barry, for her problem solving and patience during our launch and for her work in updating our former site.

Deb Keeler Yee, Communications Team Lead

Confirmation Classes

Message from Father Greg:

Classes will start Wednesday, January 22nd and will proceed on 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, and if needed, 2/26. They will happen at 5:30 pm in the parish hall and there will be snacks, coffee, other drinks available, but not a meal. Sessions will end by 7:00 pm at the latest. At this point, it is unknown if a Bishop's visitation is scheduled for Holy Trinity in 2020, or if one is for us. It is not unusual for people to travel to other congregations to be confirmed or received when the bishop is at those other locations, if they are convenient. It is also not unusual for the bishop to plan evening confirmations during weekdays.

David Aldrich

**Annual Parish Meeting
January 19, 2020
11:30am
9:30am one Eucharist**

A December 6th Newcomers Gathering hosted at the home of Janet and Jim Callahan welcomed four newcomers to our fold.





ECW Meeting – December 13th – Christmas Gathering and Daughters of the King speaker



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Wilde

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574-286-6762

Office Phone: 352-787-1500

School Phone: 352-787-8855

The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes – Priest



Church Staff:

Justin McCallister – Interim Head of School

Russ Casson - Treasurer

Peggy Barry – Parish Administrator &
Bookkeeper

Sharon Redding – Music Director

Dwayne Shufelt – Sexton

Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 3pm

Services:

Sunday 8:00am

Sunday 10:30am with choir music

Christian Education 9:30am

Wednesday Bible Study 10:00am

Wednesday Holy Eucharist & Healing 11:30am

Contact Information:

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