



The Tidings

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

2201 Spring Lake Rd.
Fruitland Park, FL 34731
Church Office: 352-787-1500
School Office: 352-787-8855



Volume 3, Issue 1

January, 2021

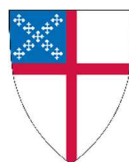
Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Sr. Warden's Message

Happy New Year my friends! I pray this finds you all well and safe. This may be one of our happiest of a New Year just because it means 2020 is over..... phew, what a year. But we made it through 2020 and there are high hopes for 2021 as we can finally see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. 2021 the year of "*Renewal, Revitalization, and Reunion*"

We start 2021 with a busy schedule that we have begun planning for. Our new Rector, Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva, joins us at the end of January, just in time for our Annual Meeting on January 31, the Diocesan Convention follows on February 6, and the Celebration of Ministry for Fr. Samuel follow on February 21. Typically these events take quite a bit of planning and preparation, but like everything else this past year, much more planning and work by many is necessary to conduct these events safely and with as many parishioners participating as possible.

Our Annual Meeting on January 31st, will be conducted similar to our streamed services except it will be conducted using Zoom so that interaction can occur. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall, with similar seating used for 9 am worship services, this will allow about 24 parishioners to attend in person while all others can participate via Zoom and be present on the



For Pastoral Care Please Contact:

Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes
443-435-6812

Mike Browne – 352-259-4195
Pastoral Care Team Leader

Holy Trinity Office – 352-787-1500
office@holytrinityfp.com

large screen TV. An initial meeting has been held with a Diocesan staff member that has conducted several of these types of large group meetings.

The Diocesan Convention this year will be conducted entirely via Zoom. Where voting is required, they will be using an application that facilitates on-line voting. This year our meeting will not require voting as the Diocese has determined that our Vestry must stay intact for one more year to provide continuity for Fr. Samuel. This means at the 2022 Annual Meeting six (6) new vestry members will be elected.

Our Worship Services continue to go well and Christmas Eve was very well attended in our

beautifully decorated Church and Parish Hall. There were only a few empty chairs. Thank you, Rev. Janice and Fr. Ted, for a wonderful service. It was great to see so many of us back together again. Hopefully, many of you who have yet to come to service will give it a try one of these Sunday's. There are many who work hard to make our services as good and safe as they are, but I want to give a special "Thank You" to Pat Casson's fiancé Dave Fleming. He has done a remarkable job working with a tangled mess of cables, wires, and equipment, including a recent failure of our main amplifier, so that "the show can go on". Thanks, Dave, for your talents and commitment to keeping us connected.

Each week we pray for the students and staff of our school, in January please say a special prayer for them as the students come back in-person on January 4th. This is state mandated, and since our funding predominately comes from the state, we must comply. Justin McCallister, Head of School, has done a great job of preparing a plan and personal protection for this return, but an additional prayer may help to assure their safety and wellness.

Please stay diligent and remain safe and well until we can all Reunite again. Hopefully, that is not too far off.

Peace of the Lord,
Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden

Vestry Minutes

December 14, 2020

Present: Dan Curtis, Randy Siver, Deb Yee, David Aldrich, Jim Kelly, Liz Mustin, Mark Weldon, Sara May, Peggy Berry, Russ Casson, Jason McCallister, Barbara Cogley. Presenters: Eric Youngblood and Jason Dean.

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM with prayer by Randy Siver.

The presenters have evaluated the roof of the church and parish hall. They discussed the problems with the roofs and ceiling inside the church. The company Dean Adjustment-Contractor had several suggestions and recommend that the roof be replaced. They also recommend that we claim the roof damage with our insurance company and will assist us in that

endeavor. They have the documented dates of wind damage. It was suggested that we also have them inspect the Rectory. Randy will move ahead with the roof project.

Holy Trinity Episcopal School—Justin McCallister

1. Human and Capital Resources:

- **Covid-19 Supplies** – Covid-19 supplies have been and are currently being ordered to make sure the school has enough for its Spring Reopening.
 - **Masks** – The school currently has over 300 masks that have been donated by both Lake County and Florida Health Departments.
 - **Disinfectants** – Automatic hand sanitizer machines have been ordered and will be placed in the office and classrooms. Multiple quantities of wipes have been ordered and will be provided for teachers and their classrooms.
 - **Desk Shields** – Once the CARES Act budget has been approved, student desk shields will be ordered.

2. Students & Families:

- **Covid-19 Reopening Procedures** – Justin McCallister has created reopening procedures for HTES that will be implemented in January. They will provide guidelines for returning students, families, and faculty to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- **Update Executive Order and Spring Reopening Plans** – The Governor on Nov. 30, 2020 updated Emergency Order 20-52 which stated that all brick-and-mortar schools must be opened Monday-Friday no later than January. The

update included parental options to have their students return to in-class instruction or to remain virtual.

- **HTES** – We are set to reopen on Jan. 4th, 2020. We will be open Monday-Friday and will provide in-class instructions to parents who have requested it. This will be in compliance with the updated Emergency Order. We will also continue virtual classes for students and families who remain home.

3. **Finances:**

- **Scholarship Distribution**
November saw the final deposit of McKay Scholarship checks, Step-Up, and Gardiner scholarships. The next release of scholarship checks will not be until February.

Financial Reports: Russ Casson

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted. After discussion, it was decided that Russ will put an article in the Tidings regarding the financial status of the church each month.

Old Business: David Aldrich

The In-Person services are going well. Attendance at the 10:30 service in the church remains near, but not at our max, we have not had to turn anyone away in the past month. Wasps were a major problem this week, flying throughout the church, bothering and alarming parishioners. I killed about eight during the service, we killed many more afterwards, and fortunately nobody was stung to my knowledge. There is a problem with our sound system which others will address. The 9:00 service in the Parish Hall has completed four weeks; typical attendance is about 7-9. It has gone well; both services are attended mostly by the same core of people. We have had no new visitors, outside of a couple of family guests, just a few returning “snowbirds”. We are now comfortable with using just two ushers.

Team Updates

Building and Grounds—Randy Siver

Window replacement project is underway. We should see the first window this week or next. I visited the contractors shop last week and the pieces were all built and being put together for installation of glass and painting.

Painting of the church will be completed this week. I also had the painters do the high peaks of the Parish Hall and the parishioner/volunteers will do the lower half. The painters had the equipment to do the high peaks and this was much safer than having volunteers to the high painting.

School siding has been started and will continue for the next several weeks.

The new television has been installed in the parish hall and will ready to use for Christmas Eve service.

The Rectory work has been completed and is ready for Fr. Samuel and Rose.

Finance Team—Mark Weldon

The latest pledge numbers are - Offerings \$202,234, Building Fund \$6625, School \$240.

From Sid Yee, and for vestry approval, are the recommended Golf Tournament amounts to be transferred to the school's budget, and the amount to be set aside for next year: Of the \$13,932.89, that is available, I'm recommending \$12,132.89 be transferred to the school's operating budget. I'm asking \$1,800 be reserved for the 2021 tournament's initial expenses as follows:

Fee to BirdEase.....	\$300
Golf Ball Purchases.....	\$500
Tournament Banner & Tee Signs....	\$700
Miscellaneous.....	<u>\$300</u>
TOTAL	\$1,800

For vestry and Treasurer discussion: It has been suggested that we include a brief financial report in the monthly Tidings, so that parishioners have a better idea of our financial situation. It might look something like the chart included in the monthly Lamplighter at a church in Wisconsin

at http://www.emmanueloshkosh.org/20-11-NOVEMBER_LAMPLIGHTER.pdf. It basically lists income, expenses, and surplus/deficit (just totals) for the most recent month and for year to date.

I have received an inquiry about making a bequest to our endowment fund. As discussed, some time ago, until the threshold of \$10K is reached we will need to hold any such bequest in a local account. After the New Year I will review our planned giving program, reconstitute the committee, and make plans for a rollout of the program hopefully soon after Father Sam is in place and we can begin to meet in person when it is safe to do so.

Communications—Deb Yee

Rectory visits were completed with 5 visitors over the three hours. Deb has been working on setting up the technology for the use of the TV in the Parish Hall for Christmas Eve service.

The sound amplifier went out and equipment was borrowed by from Fruitland Park Lions Club for the service. Lori was able to borrow the needed equipment. Sid Yee has been in contact with Marion Music regarding the repair or replace; the amplifier will need to be replaced. Sid is pricing the different brands and will need to decide on replacement after the first of the year. We are able to provide effect sound through the Christmas season.

Parish Life—Barbara Cogley

The Parish Hall Decoration committee has just about completed the work. The TV will be set up for streaming and other uses after the Christmas Season; it will be set up for Sunday service for Christmas. Diane Casson and the Altar Guild will be deciding which of the older pictures to place back on the wall and the school will developing their bulletin board when they return to school in January. I want to thank the committee for all their work: Nancy and Terry Mitchell, Rod Whetsell, Jeanne Nicolosi, and Diane Casson.

A committee will be formed to decide on the welcoming for Fr. Samuel and Rose. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this committee. We will meet after the first of the year to make plans. I will be working with

the IWC committee also. Date of a welcoming reception is subject to the status of the virus and safety of parishioners.

Invite, Welcome, Connect—David Aldrich

The Invite, Welcome, Connect committee met December 4th. Nancy Browne has updated the visitor gift bags and will do that on a regular basis. We have had a few of our post cards returned as undeliverable. I am not aware of anyone yet attending live services as a result of our mailing but some could be looking at us on line. At this time, with finances as they are we have no more cards/stamps in the works.

Father Samuel is familiar with the IWC, in fact he personally knows Mary Parma, the leader and founder of the ministry. He had people set up to attend an IWC workshop at his current church when the COVID hit so we have high hopes for the coming year.

We also discussed some ideas of how we could welcome the new priest and family. One of the ways suggested was have a service and after the service have three areas set up with coffee and serve finger sandwiches on paper plates and they could walk from place to place to meet people. We could put flowers and fruit on the counter in their house with a welcome card. There were suggestions to put some breakfast stuff in the refrigerator so they can have breakfast. At some point there will be an installation and hopefully we can have a bigger celebration at that point.

Some discussion came up to get our name around town maybe buy golf shirts with our church name. It would be good advertising at the golf tournament. Something to think about in the future.

Christian Education—Liz Mustin

Christmas series will end in two weeks and the next class will begin on January 14th. Rod Whetsell will teach this 6-week class on Thursdays at 11 AM.

Special Projects-- Sara May

Hearing Loop Project

I met with Matt King, Project Manager of Complete Hearing Solutions, LLC on Wednesday, December 9 to determine the

feasibility of installing a Hearing Loop in Holy Trinity Church. He laid coil on the perimeter of the interior of the church (not including the section where the choir normally sits) and determined through various measurements that we would have excellent gains in sound for attendees who have a t-coil enabled hearing aid. I am expecting a proposal to come near the date of the Board meeting and will forward it on. A typical cost for a church of our size is \$5,000-\$6,000.

Deb had provided an excellent start to the project. I spoke with several people from each of seven churches in or close to The Villages. Complete Solutions was the only vendor who received rave reviews. I asked for the names of companies that were asked to bid on the project when Complete Solutions was selected and was given several, but none was recommended. These vendors don't appear to be in business at this time.

Should we sign a contract with Complete Solutions, they will give me the name of an individual who provides a grant to churches like ours amounting to 10% of the cost. Matt felt our getting this grant was more than likely. Should this occur, I will complete the paperwork.

New Business

Annual meeting - the plans will be for meeting on January 31st and a virtual session. There will be no election of Vestry as they will remain the same for another year because of calling a new Rector as per Diocese regulations. Details will follow in early January.

Meeting closed with prayer by Randy Siver at 9 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Cogley Vestry Secretary

Jr. Warden's Report

This year has seen quite a few projects as I hope you have been able to see. I have listed the ones I can think of.

1) Painting of the church building, walkways and steps, and the 4 highest peaks of the parish hall. NOTE: We are going to paint the remainder of the parish hall ourselves.

2) Removal of the 2 "mountains" of soil from the back of the church property by Nevin Mathews. (The man has his own tractor)

3) Building of the "horseshoe" walled/raised garden in front of the school. Many thanks to Nevin, Bob Mustin, Bruce May, and Syd Yee.

4) Painting of school bathrooms. Bob Mustin did a fantastic job.

5) Remodeling of the rector's office. Bob Mustin, again did a yeoman work on this project.

6) Working with Barb Cogley's team we were able to complete a "cleanup" of the parish hall including mounting a new 55" T.V. Also providing a new space for our school to present themselves and their projects for our viewing.

7) During the past 3 weeks we have been working with a plumber to track down our "low" problem. They seem to have a handle on it and we will be testing some things next week to see where we are.

8) The rectory has been repaired and put in living order for Fr. Samuel and Rose.

9) The Church window project has been quite the challenge but things are on the right track now. The 1st window set will be installed in early January.

10) A complete parish inventory was done.

11) Bob Disinger agreed to head up our disaster preparedness program. Scott Cogley agreed to teach CPR/AED classes. All of this is on hold due to Bob's health and the COVID-19 crisis.

12) New signage was added to our school/office.

13) Brick fencing and the Lynch Gate were painted.

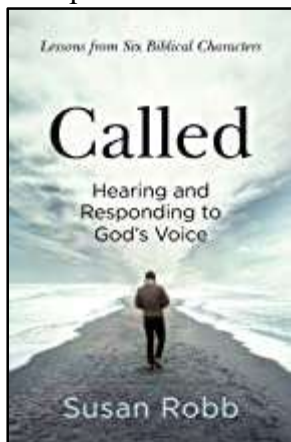
14) The residing of the east wall of the school has stalled but shows promise in the near future.

In Christ's name
Randy Siver

Christian Education

Christian Education will continue on Thursday, January 14th at 11:00 on Zoom. The book we will be studying is entitled "*CALLED*", by Susan Robb.

This is a book about hearing and responding to God's Voice. In *Called*, the author Susan Robb shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. And she shows us that the same God who called six of the Bible's most iconic characters—Abraham, Samuel, Ester, Jonah, Mary Magdalene, and the Beloved Disciple—calls us, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world. It will be led by Ron Wetzell. So be sure to mark your calendar so you won't miss any of the six weeks.



Liz Mustin, Christian Education Leader

Treasurers Report:

I wish to thank those Parishioners who have submitted their 2021 Pledge Cards.

At this point, the Pledge total is short of the amount Budgeted for 2021.

I encourage any Parishioner who has not yet submitted their 2021 Pledge to mail it to the office as soon as possible.

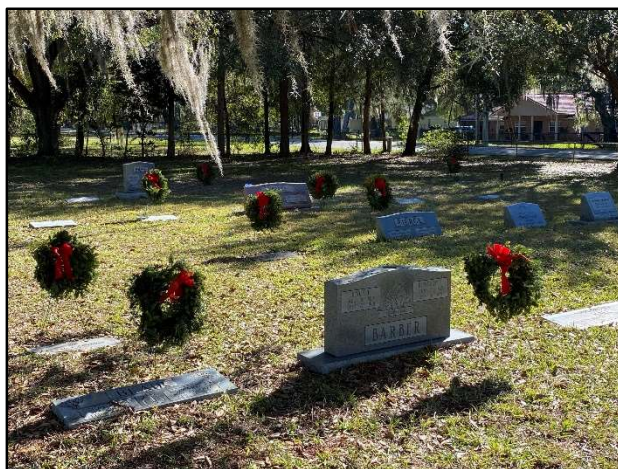
Thank you for supporting Holy Trinity.

Russ Casson, Treasurer

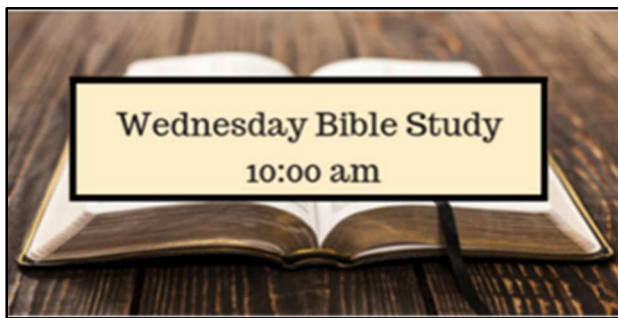
Wreaths Across America

Our Wreaths arrived on Dec. 16th as scheduled. We secured them and our team met on Dec. 18th and placed them on their stands in our cemetery. It was a cool morning in the 40's, but we enjoyed the work that we did. We each stood and looked with pride at our work of recognizing our veterans who rest in our cemetery. We want to thank you for your unwavering dedication to the Mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. Because of the donations across this country, 1.7 million veterans' wreaths were placed. We were just 1 of 2,557 participating location that chose

this ministry to Honor those who served us all. We will do it all again this next year. Thank you,
Annette Freeman



Bible Study Returns in January!



Would Jesus have taken advantage of ZOOM technology if there was no other way of getting people together? I'm sure He would have. So, let us try it. Put **Wednesday, January 13th, 2021, at 10:00am**, on your calendar; sit in front of your computer, phone or tablet and we will study the lessons for the following Sunday.

If you are interested in joining this study. Please contact Gail Hole at gailspencerhole@gmail.com so that she can add your name to the invitee list.

The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes

Salvation Army Food Collection

My heart is full as I sit down to write this article. There has been an outpouring of love for others which has led to larger amounts of food being brought in for Salvation Army than is normal. This tells me that people care, even as we deal day to day with this pandemic. We recognize there are families with little to nothing to eat right here in our area. I made a trip down to deliver our food to the Salvation Army Office on Fri. Dec. 18th. Then on Mon. Dec. 21st. in the afternoon I got an email letting me know there was another load of food ready for me to take down to Salvation Army. I went and picked it up on Tues. it took me 3 trips to get it all into my vehicle and once



I was down at the Salvation Army Office our food filled a large cart and half of a second cart. The office area there was busy. A long line of people were seeking assistance. A little girl of about 4 years old spoke to me as I walked by pushing one of the carts filled with our food. She asked where did you get all that food. I stopped and told her that my friends at church gave it to me to bring down here to share with others. She smiled and seemed satisfied with my answer.

I thank each person who shares some of what they have so that others can eat. Every year after Christmas there seems to be a slacking off of donations to all causes. I ask if you can continue to share something, will you do that? These are difficult times for so many families.

Annette Freeman

Christmas Angels, Indeed!



THANK YOU to all the Holy Trinity Angels who supported so generously the 2020 Salvation Army Angel Tree Program! Together our parish adopted 35 local Angels: 30 children and 5 seniors in need. The collected gifts, purchased from wish lists, ranged from basic household necessities for the seniors such as a toaster oven and warm comforter, to bikes, baby dolls, Legos, Hot Wheel tracks, puzzles, books and more – to diapers for the wee ones. Each Angel also received at least one clothing item. Our ECW (Episcopal Church Women) treasury was able to assist as well.

This huge undertaking was coordinated by volunteers Jaleh Welton and Julie Sligh who did an outstanding job of ensuring each receiving Angel was provided for. Logistical Elves Mark

Welton and Dan Curtis lent their hands to the effort. Everything was stored temporarily in the Rectory and the crew delivered all to the Salvation Army for distribution. Jaleh reported, "It took 2 cars -- Julie's sedan and our SUV packed -- and two trips to make the deliveries! We're so grateful to everyone who was able to participate."

Your efforts enabled the sharing of much love and joy at the end of a grim year for these Angels. Thank you, donors and volunteers, for your time, talent, and treasure given so freely!

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Save The Date!

Sunday, Jan 31st 11:45am

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:45am.

This year's Annual Meeting will be conducted by a combination of Zoom and in-person seating in the Parish Hall for 15 parish members. Those wishing to attend in person will have to reserve seating by calling the office during the week of Jan. 25-28. There will NOT be a 9:00am service on the 31st. There will be one service held that day at 10:30am.

All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to participate. If you do not attend in person you will be able to join the meeting via Zoom. All parishioners on the Hotline email distribution will receive a "Zoom Meeting Invitation / Link" which will connect you to the meeting. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks. You will be able to email questions ahead of the meeting and you will also be able to text questions during the meeting. All questions will be addressed during a Q&A section of the meeting.

This year's meeting will not have an election of any new Vestry members. In accordance with our Diocesan Canons (laws) a Vestry is "frozen" until the Annual Meeting "following" the installation of a new Rector. Since Fr. Samuel starts on February 1st the current Vestry shall remain in place for the remainder of 2021; six new Vestry members will be elected at the Annual meeting in January of 2022.

More details to follow! Please place January 31st at 11:45am on your calendars and jot down any questions you might have about the coming year.

Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden

Supply Clergy Schedule

January will be our last month of supply clergy prior to our new Rector Fr. Samuel's arrival on Feb. 1, 2020. We are grateful for the support of the clergy below during the past five months.

Jan. 3 – **Fr. Ted Koelln**, both services (9am, 10:30am)

Jan. 10 - **Rev. Canon Scott Holcombe**, both services

Jan. 17 - **Fr. Ted Koelln**, both services

Jan. 24 – **Rev. Janet Richardson**, both services

Jan. 31 - **Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes**, *one service at 10:30am.*
Annual Meeting follows at 11:45am.

Happy
Anniversary

Jonathan & Gail Hole
Jordan & Val Tiller
John & Barbara Turner



Bob Freeman
Robert Disinger
Mary Ellen Willis
Joan Ballard
Naomi Aldrich
Jonathan Hole
Patrick McLaughlin
Virginia Lee Carmon
Terry Mitchell
Marcella Gnau
Sue Lewis
Pat Casson
Charlotte Bauer
Sophia Vallee

Christmas Eve 2020

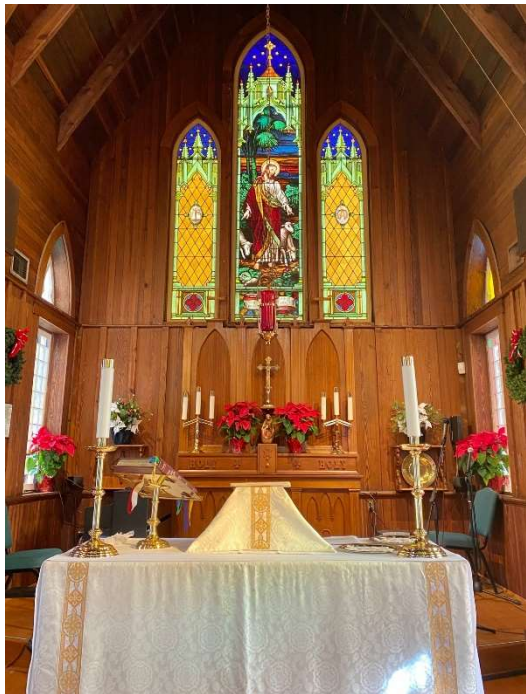


Christmas or Bethlehem Star

On December 21, 2020, if one looked up to the night sky, you would notice this extraordinary spectacle that has not been seen in over eight centuries. This happens when the planets of Jupiter and Saturn join together to form what is sometimes referred to as the “Christmas Star” or the ‘Star of Bethlehem. Picture taken in South Africa.



Christmas Eve 2020



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

2201 Spring Lake Road
Fruitland Park FL 34731

Office Phone: 352-787-1500
School Phone: 352-787-8855

(vacant - parish in search) - Rector
The Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes – Priest

Church Staff:

Justin McCallister – Head of School
Russ Casson - Treasurer
Peggy Barry – Parish Administrator &
Bookkeeper
Sharon Redding – Music Director
Bob Burton – Sexton
Lori Clark - Housekeeping

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 3:00pm

In-Person and Livestream Services:

Sunday 9:00am (Parish House)
Sunday 10:30am (Sanctuary)
Wednesday Holy Eucharist & Healing 11:30am

In-Person Prayer Meeting:

Tuesday 11:00am

Contact Information:

Email: office@holytrinityfp.com
Announcements Hot Line:
holy-trinity-hot-line@googlegroups.com

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

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/holytrinityfruitlandpark

Newsletter Articles:
Sheri Hudson, shudson53202@gmail.com
Deb Yee, debkhogan@gmail.com



Vestry:

Dan Curtis – Sr. Warden
dan.curtis57@gmail.com
618-694-5560

Randy Siver – Jr. Warden
siverr1950@gmail.com
352-430-0050

Dave Aldrich – Invite & Connect Team Leader
Aldrichkp68@gmail.com
352-461-0969

Barbara Cogley – Vestry Secretary;
Parish Life Team Leader
cogleyfb@aol.com
352-357-8018

Jim Kelly – School Support Team Leader
Jimkelly8143@gmail.com
913-558-2636

Sara May – Special Projects
scmay@att.net
847-848-4690

Liz Mustin – Christian Education Team Leader;
Welcome/Newcomers Team Leader
lmmaui88@gmail.com
262-894-4412

Mark Welton – Finance Team Leader
mark72@gmail.com
845-220-6206

Deb Yee – Communication Team Leader
debkhogan@gmail.com
703-472-1573