



# 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 2

February, 2021

### Dear Holy Trinity Family,

#### **“Here I Am Lord, I Have Come to Do Your Will”**

*(Hebrews 10:9)*

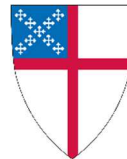
*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*



The writer of the letter to the Hebrews quotes this scripture from Psalm 40:7-9 and attributes it to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As those who strive to be imitators of Christ,

Rose and I, this scripture informs our perspective on this new chapter of our life and ministry. We consider it a great honor and privilege to have been invited to join you in doing God's will at Holy Trinity and beyond. As I write, it is only two days before we say our final good bye to our friends at Ascension Westminster, Maryland, and drive off to join you at Holy Trinity, Fruitland Park, Florida. Our one desire is to do God's will.

As I think about the journey that has brought us to this new beginning as fellow pilgrims and co-laborers in God's mission, I am reminded of the Invite Welcome Connect program which I understand some of you are familiar with. Invite



#### **For Pastoral Care Please Contact:**

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Welcome Connect is an evangelism program founded by Mary Parmer and based at the University of the South Sewanee, Tennessee. The idea behind this program is that the church is capable of meeting people's need for belonging and purpose; through invitation, welcoming, and connecting.

There is a sense that our own journey to Holy Trinity has been following this pattern. It begun with an invitation to submit my name as a candidate for the rector position at Holy Trinity. I gladly responded by submitting my name and praying that God's will might be done. My response was the same for every subsequent invitation from the Vestry; culminating in the invitation to become your next rector.

Since the invitation and the affirmative response, we have received many emails and phone calls welcoming us to Holy Trinity. We have also been learning more and more about some of the ministries in which you are involved; such as the Holy Trinity School. The more we feel welcome, the more we feel connected to your common life and mission. Even though it will be difficult to invite, welcome, and connect during this pandemic, we look forward to getting to know one another and forming enduring friendships and partnerships in God's mission.

As we join you on this journey, we are filled with a tremendous sense of gratitude for the privilege, but also with a deep sense of humility; knowing that there is a lot to learn and a lot to do. I believe that God's will and call for us at Holy Trinity is to invite, welcome, and connect as many people to Jesus Christ; and provide them with opportunities to grow in love and service to God and neighbor. May we our common response be "Here I am, I have come to do your will." Amen.

## **Sr. Warden – Dan Curtis**

Greetings, hoping this finds you all well, safe, and either vaccinated or soon to be. COVID fatigue is real, I think most of us are inflicted with it. I am sure we will learn more about this when it's all over, but it seems to me that many of us are really very tired of this and unfortunately that causes frustration and anger and we sometimes take that out on each other. It seems to me that people are more on edge, more apt to react negatively to one another. I don't have an answer except to suggest that we all take a collective deep breath, continue to pray, and focus on all that we still have to be thankful for.

As you all know the virus has really taken an upturn in cases, hospitalizations, deaths, positivity rates, etc. As a result of this our Diocese has reissued new more protective guidelines for each of our churches to follow. These guidelines go back pretty much to the original, Phase 1, Guidelines. The Vestry has continued to make safety the top priority for our in-person worship services and so is implementing a few changes to our guidelines so as to fully comply with the Diocesan guidelines.

These changes will have no effect on the congregation, other than to provide additional assurances of safety. Holy Trinity has been in compliance with the Phase 1 guidelines all along except for some relaxation on mask wearing for those on the Altar (use of shields for priest and organist, removal of mask to read lessons, etc.). To fully comply now with the Diocese, properly worn masks (covering mouth and nose), are required by everyone in the church at all times. This means Lectors, Organist, even soloists, will have to wear their mask at all times throughout the service. The issue with masks in the past has been that those wearing glasses and having to read could not do so because of fogging of their glasses. After some research, we have found and will provide products to prevent this fogging problem and allow the reading of music, lessons, prayers, and sermons without the issue of foggy glasses. It is very important that we continue our in-person worship services, and it is of upmost importance that we do so meeting all the most stringent safety guidelines.

By the time you read this Fr. Samuel will have taken the Rector reigns and started his tenure here at Holy Trinity. The Vestry is very excited about Fr. Samuel's arrival and beginning to work directly with him. 2021 will be a challenging year, as was 2020, we look forward to having our spiritual leader and rector that will help lead us forward. You will see in Fr. Samuel's Tidings message that he is a believer in the *Invite, Welcome, Connect* ministry that we have communicated about in the past. We will be utilizing the principals of this ministry on all other ministries as a means of improving what we do to, in all ways, to be more inviting to church seekers, being more welcoming to those that visit, and then being more open and active in helping them to connect with Holy Trinity in a purposeful way.

Speaking of *Inviting*, I want to clarify for everyone that restoring our church and school buildings and grounds is important to us, not just because it is needed, but as a very important step to being more inviting. We planned on church projects and raised funds specifically for window restoration. You will see other projects going on as well that were not in the operating budget, but are projects that have been

separately funded by parishioner donations. These projects may seem to be of lower priority, and they may be from a restoration perspective, but they are being funded by specific donations. New school signs, improvement in the landscaping between church and parking lot, new landscaping in front of school office. These projects are funded by individual parishioners that want to make Holy Trinity even more attractive and inviting. Knowing that our growth mission depends on our ability to attract those in our community seeking a warm and loving church. We know that to be the case on the inside of the buildings, we want to show that on the outside as well.

I pray you all remain well, and hope to see you very soon.

God's Peace,  
Dan Curtis

## **Vestry Minutes**

January 25, 2021

Present: Dan Curtis, Randy Siver, Deb Yee, David Aldrich, Jim Kelly, Liz Mustin, Mark Welton, Sara May, Peggy Barry, Russ Casson, Justin McCallister, Barbara Cogley.

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

### **Holy Trinity Episcopal School—Justin McCallister**

In person school started on Jan 4, 2021. We had 13 to 15 students attending. We have 6 families that tested positive for the virus. The remaining students are doing virtual classes. Students must test negative for the COVID to return to school and all students are to wear masks and sanitize their hands. We have approximately 2 weeks of COVID supplies on hand and will order more as needed. The desk shields have arrived from Lake County. They are a good size and we will be finding a way to put on the desks.

Scholarship monies have been received and the next funds are expected in February.

### **School Support Team—Jim Kelly**

To relieve the Vestry of the administrative burden of direct management of the school, a

School Support subcommittee composed and submitted to the Senior Warden Dan Curtis, a draft copy of Bylaws for the governance of Holy Trinity Episcopal School. This document is currently under review.

Approval of the Bylaws would form a Board of Directors of the School. The subcommittee consists of Sara May, Terry Osborn, Gay Hensley, Floyd Cogley and Jim Kelly. These individuals will also be the first Board Members.

The approval of the Bylaws needs to have Diocese approval per Dan Curtis and he recommended that we table the approval of the Bylaws until after Fr. Samuel arrives and adjusts to the church and school.

Jim noted that the tutor program is on hold for now.

### **Financial Reports; Russ Casson**

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted.

### **Old Business**

In person worship service--Dave Aldrich reported that services continue with the max of 30 at the 10:30 service and about 5-8 at the 9 am service. The 9 am service will change to 8 am on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Our COVID worship procedures were updated on January 20, 2021 to comply with Diocesan updated guidelines which were issued January 11, 2021. Dan Curtis stated that masks must be worn by all in attendance for the entire service, soloist must wear masks while singing and no face shields are to be worn in place of masks.

Sound System, --Efforts continue to improve the worship service sound particularly for those attending at home via Facebook. Several additional parishioners with sound tech background, Roy Nicolosi and Bruce May are partnering with Sid Yee and David Fleming to identify how to best use and adjust our current equipment for clarity, volume, and reduction of background sound/buzz. This team also gathered for a dry run of the technology needed to offer an in-person and virtual Annual Meeting. Sara May has identified another resource at a local church who is willing to come and assess our sanctuary system and share lessons learned.

Preparation is underway for the arrival of Fr. Samuel and Rose. Peggy Barry has installed and tested the Wi-Fi and phone in the rectory. The Smart TV and phone are loaners from the school and church office.

CARE fund—as of this date, additional donations of \$ 2400 have been received.

Annual Meeting January 31, 2021. Dan reported that plans are complete for this meeting in person and via Zoom. Rev. Janice will do opening prayer and Fr. Samuel will do closing prayer. Parishioners who wish to attend in person are to contact Peggy at the office before Thursday. January 28, 2021.

## **Team Updates**

### **Building and Grounds—Randy Siver**

#### **2020 Building and Grounds Report**

**Church-** Window project is progressing well. The first was installed on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The second is going to be ready the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Due to a dramatic increase in cost, there will only be 4 or 5 windows completed, for now.

Painting of the church was completed in December. This included replacing rotted wood where needed. Also included were all cement stairs and handicap ramp.

One new HVAC unit was installed.

**Grounds-** Brick fencing has been painted as well as the Lynch Gate.

Trees have been removed and or trimmed. Shrubs around the building have been thinned out and weed mat and gravel have been added to enhance the look as well to keep the weeds in check.

Our tool/storage shed has been completely cleaned and cleared of all unwanted trash. A new push mower was purchased. The very large mounds of dirt that stood next to the shed have been completely leveled and used to fill the new planter in front of the school.

Lawn irrigation system has been repaired and set for proper watering schedule.

All grounds have been cleared of weeds and unwanted shrubbery.

Cemetery has been maintained by way of mowing, trimming, and power washing of all headstones.

**Parish Hall-** Barb Cogley set up a committee to clean up this area. The room is now cleared of literature tables and new wall racks for this have been installed. A “Smart TV” was installed for use with streaming and for displaying various parish news. The walls have less photos and pictures which allows for a school area for promotion of student projects. NOTE: every weekend our staff uses CDC Guidelines to clean tables and chairs for Sunday service and re-cleans them again after the service and sets up for the students who come in on Mondays.

The Rector’s office was completely redone, from painting to shelving removal, and new flooring. (generously donated by a few parishioners) Many Thanks to our Master Painter Bob Mustin.

**School-** Restrooms in the older building have been repainted and intensively cleaned. Again, many thanks to Bob Mustin.

Siding on the school was removed and still needs to be finished.

Handicap ramps were rotten and needed to be replaced. Hand rails still need to be added.

A raised bed stack wall was built in the circular drive and decorative gravel was added.

New signage was added to our entrance and school office. Looks very professional and inviting.

**Rectory-** We did yard cleanup, installed a new ceiling fan, repaired rotted wood and painted, cleaned all windows and frames, and power washed the front. NOTE: a new HVAC system was installed.

**Plumbing repair-** After years of weak water pressure to our buildings we now have a very strong flow to all sinks, faucets, and toilets. Everything is fed from the 2” line that was installed to our newest school buildings two years ago. The only sink still using the “old” 1” line is the church sacristy.

## **What's being planned for 2021?**

New stairs at the entrance to the school office along with landscaping to further enhance our look in front.

Buried ethernet cable from the old school building to the new one for a better computer signal.

Completing the siding and handrails on the school.

Painting the outside of the Parish Hall. Nevin Mathews has it half done as of this report.

Freshening the landscaping in front of the church. This will begin the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Repairing and or replacing the brick paver walkways where needed.

Note: The painting of the windows and doors "Red" was discussed. The painting of the windows "Red" had been previously discussed and approved by the Vestry. It was the Vestry decision in this meeting to paint the side entries doors to the church red as well as the main entry to the Parish Hall (double doors). All other doors shall remain white.

### **Finance Team—Mark Welton**

The finance team has not met.

Stewardship Chair Charlie Kraft reported that the pledges are down as of January 6, 2021, 127 people were contacted and 84 responded. He suggested that the stewardship campaign should be a yearlong project. The dollar amount of 2021 pledges to the church is \$203,400.

### **Communications—Deb Yee**

See comments under Old Business regarding Sound System improvements.

Live streaming of Wednesday's Healing and Holy Eucharist service will resume on January 27<sup>th</sup> in response to requests from parishioners.

A press release with hi res photos will be issued to the Daily Commercial (Leesburg) and Daily Sun (Villages and environs) newspapers by mid-February to publicize Fr. Samuel's arrival. We must all ensure that we're prepared as a parish to warmly welcome newcomers who are drawn

by his presence-whether they be in person or online.

A permanent solution for the interior of our on-street sign is being researched. The plastic insert letters used previously in the slotted background were melted by the Florida sun. In the meantime, we will continue to use printed contents.

### **Parish Life—Barbara Cogley**

The Parish Hall continues to look neat and uncluttered. Jeanne Nicolosi has been contacted about having the students add some things to their bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

I worked with the Invite, Welcome, and Connect team to plan for Fr. Samuel and Rose's arrival to have food and Welcome basket for their arrival.

The disaster plan was reviewed and updated; Randy Siver was provided with a list of needs to have the plan up to date.

### **Invite, Welcome, Connect—David Aldrich**

David reported on the upcoming Diocesan Convention and the Northwest Deanery Pre-convention meeting that he attended virtually. The convention will be a full virtual convention this year, all taking place on February 6, 2021 via Zoom. Julie Sligh, Gary Sarto, and I will be attending as Holy Trinity Delegates. Parker Bauer is our alternate. Julie, Gary and I attended the Northwest Deanery meeting via Zoom on January 13, 2021. We elected Rev. Lisa Wimmer to fill the last year of Rev. Kelly's term as dean. He resigned, as well as resigning as Rector of St. George's. We were given no prior information on the candidates nor have I yet been able to find any minutes of report of the meeting. The balance of the meeting was going over some of the procedures to be followed at the convention at the convention.

### **Christian Education—Liz Mustin**

The IWC team met on January 8, 2021. The vast majority of the time was spent discussing getting ready for the arrival of Fr. Samuel and Rose. They will arrive with some friends helping with the move on January 26, 2021. After the gathering of suggestions and ideas, Barbara Cogley was to speak with Rose and feed back to Liz what might be needed of the IWC team members.



Nancy Browne agreed to be the contact for any newcomers in the coming month and also to update the Tidings issues which are included in the Visitor bags.

Christian Education continues on Thursdays at 11 AM with Ron Whetsell leading the group on the book titled "Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice" by Susan Robb. Liz is planning for a Lenten study series.

**New Business**— A Celebration of New Ministry for Fr. Samuel will be on February 21, 2021 with the Bishop and Canon Scott Holcombe to doing the service. Dan is coordinating the event with the Alter Guild and Music Director.

Next Vestry meeting is February 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting closed with prayer by Randy Siver at 8:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Cogley, Vestry Secretary

## Salvation Army Food Collection

Salvation Army 2021

I visited the Salvation Army Office recently, taking your food down to them. They asked that I please relay their many thanks to our congregation who is so supportive of them. They gave me the results of their Angel Tree Ministry and said it was very successful thanks to the many from the community, like us who helped by taking a name and buying for that person. 300 Seniors were gifted items they needed and over 2,100 children were gifted with items they wanted. I know we helped put smiles on many faces Christmas morning.

They also told me about a new program they started in 2019. It had a rough year in 2020 with Covid19, still it is in the works. The program is called Pathway of Hope. The objective of the program is to help families and individuals break the cycle of poverty once and for all.



Thank You My HTEC Family for all you do to help Salvation Army help those in our community who need help.

God Bless You All,  
Annette Freeman

## THANK YOU



The out pouring of love following the death of my dear husband, Bill, has been overwhelming. I can't thank you enough. Each phone call, each card, each email, has been like a "hug." I feel blessed that the memory facility allowed me to be with him over the last two days and so I was with him, holding his hand, as he died. It was very peaceful.

An obituary can be found on the website of the funeral home [baldwincremation.com](http://baldwincremation.com) and once the COVID-19 has died down then we'll have a service at Holy Trinity. Again, many, many thanks to all of you.

Janice+

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Jane Kelly  
Leo Oxberger & Mona Merryman  
Raymond & Sophia Vallee  
John and Mary Jo Neidow  
Ed & Anne Hankwitz  
Randy & Debbie Siver  
Dennis & Wanda May  
Walt & Glenda Albers



Russell Casson  
Kathy Jones  
Wanda May  
Jack Koller  
Jeanette Rodenbaugh  
Bonnie Hultin  
Gary Sarto  
Judy Gygi  
Mark Welton  
Annette Hall  
Ed Hankwitz  
Charlie Kraft  
John Neidow  
Val Tuller  
Nancy Lee Schnepfe  
Raymond Vallee  
Dottie Noble  
Janice Gordon-Barnes  
John Turner  
Jeanne Nicolosi

## Welcome Fr. Samuel & Rose!!

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**Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**

**One service at 10:30!**

**Annual Meeting at 12noon**

**Sunday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Return of 8am Service!**

**Fr. Samuel's first Sunday!**





DOING THE  
MOST GOOD

William Booth, Founder  
Brian Peddle, General  
Commissioner Kenneth Hodder, National Commander  
Commissioner Willis Howell, Territorial Commander  
Lt. Colonel Kenneth Luyk, Divisional Commander  
Lieutenants Christopher & Elyse Doborwicz, Corps Officers

January 7, 2021

Dear Angel Tree Sponsor,

We wanted to take this opportunity to recognize and thank you for helping us Rescuing Christmas for a record 1,109 families who were in need across Lake & Sumter Counties this Christmas season.

2020 brought us great challenges and an even greater need in our community as we served 300 more families than we did in 2019. Through your participation as an Angel Tree Sponsor, 2,485 children's Christmas mornings were filled with joy as they unwrapped their new toys and clothing! 125 senior citizens were also blessed with gifts and basic necessities! In addition, each household received a Christmas food box to help alleviate their burden during the holidays.

We want to thank you for taking on the responsibility of being an Angel Tree Sponsor and promoting it so that we could accomplish such a huge endeavor as well for your flexibility with changes to the program this year. Your efforts not only brought joy to children and seniors in our community, but it also brought hope to their families as they received much needed clothing and other basic needs. That is what Angel Tree allows us to do for our community...bring hope and meet needs! Thank you for your part in making that happen!

This October, we will begin our Angel Tree program again and look forward to working with you once more. Together, we can bring even more Christmas joy to families in need across our community in 2021!

God's richest blessings and a Happy New Year,

**Lieutenant Elyse Doborwicz**  
Corps Officer

**The Salvation Army Leesburg**  
**Serving Lake & Sumter Counties**

2605 South Street | Leesburg, Florida 34748  
(352) 365-0079

[Elyse.Doborwicz@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Elyse.Doborwicz@uss.salvationarmy.org)

2605 South Street · Leesburg, Florida 34748 · (352) 365-0079  
P.O. Box 491265 · Leesburg, FL 34749-1265





**2020 Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 31, 2021 - 12:00 p.m.**  
**Parish Hall and online via Zoom**

This year our Annual Meeting will still be held in the Parish Hall yet with limited safely spaced seating due to the pandemic. The meeting will also be accessible on Zoom for those not wishing to meet in-person and in the event those who wish to come exceed available seating.

All wishing to attend the meeting in person must call the office at 352-787-1500 and make a reservation with Peggy. Please note that our pandemic protocols will be observed: masks will be required throughout the meeting and ushers will seat everyone according to our guidelines and seating chart.

If you would like to attend via Zoom, please connect through the following link. It is suggested that you “join” the meeting 10 to 15 minutes in advance of the 12:00pm start time. Participation on Zoom requires that you first download the free Zoom software; please contact Deb Yee if you need help.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3444893231>

Meeting ID: 344 489 3231

No password is required.

You will receive a separate Hotline email message providing the Annual Report for your review as soon as it is ready. Questions for the Vestry and Treasurer are welcome. Following are the ways in which questions can be submitted.

**Prior to the Meeting:** please email your question(s) to [dan.curtis57@gmail.com](mailto:dan.curtis57@gmail.com)

**During the Meeting:**

Those in Parish Hall: simply raise hand. Whoever is presenting at the time will repeat the question (to assure all those on Zoom hear the question) before answering.

Those on Zoom: Zoom has a feature called “Chat” by which an individual can send a comment or question to the “Host” of the Zoom Meeting (in this event the Host is Deb Yee). The host will relay the question on behalf of the zoom participant.

Following are instructions for using the “Chat” feature on Zoom.



Start by clicking the “Chat” icon on the bottom right of your Zoom screen.

- Use the three dots to select that you want to send your message/question to the host only.
- Type your question in the window and then send (hit ‘enter’ on your keyboard)

Thank you, I hope to see you at the meeting

Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden