



# The Tidings

## Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

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Fruitland Park, FL 34731  
Church Office: 352-787-1500  
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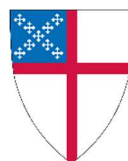


**Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

**Volume 3. Issue 3**

**March, 2021**

**Our rector** is available and eager to get to know as many of our members and friends as possible. Due to COVID precautions, he prefers meeting people on zoom or the phone but is also open to receive people in his office. If you are interested in a visit with Fr. Samuel, please contact him directly by emailing him at [rector@holytrinityfp.com](mailto:rector@holytrinityfp.com) or calling his cell phone at 920-226-0050.



### For Pastoral Care Please Contact:

Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva  
920-226-0050 - cell

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](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com)

## Dear Holy Trinity Family, New Beginnings

The last time I wrote for this newsletter, I was in the rectory office at Church of the Ascension in Westminster, MD. A little over four weeks later, I feel almost settled in this our new home and church at Holy Trinity Fruitland Park, Florida. The Celebration of New Ministry this past Sunday was a pivotal moment in what I hope to be a fruitful and fulfilling journey.



Rose and I are humbled and honored to have the opportunity to be part of the Holy Trinity family; and we are eternally grateful for the extraordinary welcome and well wishes we have received from many of you. We are particularly grateful to all of you who worked so hard to make our transition so smooth; and the celebration of new ministry such a memorable occasion. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58).

When I first realized that our Celebration of New Ministry would be held on the first Sunday in Lent, I thought that the idea of a celebration during Lent was somewhat of a misnomer. Little

did I know that both occasions actually fit together as opportunities for new beginnings.

On Ash Wednesday, we were invited to *“the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.”* (BCP p.265). Similarly, Bishop Brewer, at the Celebration of New Ministry, urged us to reflect on the meaning of our Holy Trinity name and how it shapes our character and witness in this community and beyond. It is an opportune time to reflect on who we are and what we are about; both as individuals and as a church family.

A genuine and deliberate self-examination by prayer and meditation on God’s Holy Word will, almost always, reveal aspects of our personal or corporate lives that are healthy and worth affirming, and others that call for special attention including change. Whatever the case may be, such a process leads to renewed health and vitality for individuals and groups.

I am delighted that this process is already happening on different levels. I have had the opportunity to interact with members of the Vestry, several ministry teams, and individuals; to reflect on our shared life and mission. In every case, we are being encouraged by the faithfulness of so many of you as you willingly offer your time, talent, and treasure in support of God’s mission at Holy Trinity and beyond. For all your faithfulness, I thank you and ask God to continue blessing you; for those who are faithful in little more will be given. (Matthew 25:23).

On the other hand, we have also found areas that need improvement at varied levels. In those cases, we are praying and searching for appropriate solutions. It is our hope that each one of us will engage in this process; individually and together. We are currently exploring more ways to involve everyone such as surveys and group conversations. We ask for your prayers, participation, and patience.

While these conversations are critical and commendable, I am even more encouraged by those of you who are reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word; either individually or as part of a group; such as our Wednesday and

Thursday Bible Study groups. The Wednesday group reads and discusses the forth coming Sunday readings while the Thursday group studies topics based on popular books by Christian authors. We are currently studying “The Crucified Life: Seven Words from the Cross” by Fr. Charlie Holt. Both groups are open to as many as may be interested and are held via zoom.

These studies based on the scripture are particularly relevant to us because as St. Paul puts it: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

May this Lenten season and the beginning of our shared ministry be an occasion for genuine self-examination, prayer, and meditation on God’s Holy Word, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for the work God has called us to do in this community and beyond. ***“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*** (Ephesians 1:3).  
*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

## **Vestry Minutes**

### **February 22, 2021**

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

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM with prayer by Father Samuel.

**Holy Trinity Episcopal School—Justin McCallister**

### **Human and Capital Resources:**

- **New Staff** – HTES has hired Lynn Petronella Dikmen. Her first day was Jan. 25, 2021. A new office administrator has been hired for mornings; her name is Kadie Chidester. Her first day was on Feb. 8, 2021.
- **Teacher and Student Furniture** – Vestry approved the purchase of new teacher desks and chairs, along with new student desks totaling \$3,734.64. We ordered 4 teacher desks and

chairs and 8 student desks. Thank you, Dan and Vestry, for your quick response and unanimous decision on this purchase.

- **ESSER Program Computers** – HTES will be receiving a call from UDT, a vendor who provides computers for Lake County, in order to receive new Chromebooks for the school. These Chromebooks will be owned by Lake County, but we will be able to use them for 2 years before they are collected.
- **Current Events** – Over the weekend of Feb. 6-7 there was a massive power surge in the new school buildings. There were multiple items that were damaged and required repairs or replacement, such as, the fire alarm, 1 projector, the internet network, which includes multiple routers and an access point, and the main copier in the school office. These items are currently being repaired and replaced in segments.
- **New School Building** – It was discovered earlier this school year that there was a leak in the new school building. Contractors were called and attempted to fix the issue, however recently the damage has become more noticeable and attempts to fix the leak have not worked. The building is out of warranty and the factory is being contacted about the damage. More information will follow.

## **2. Students & Families:**

- **Virtual and In-Class Students** – We currently have between 10-15 students on campus on a given week. Most of our families have decided to remain virtual

## **3. Finances:**

- **Capital Account** – Has been re-established to help HTES save money for future projects.
- **Scholarship Distribution** – McKay, Step-Up, and Gardiner are set to go out in February.

### **Holy Trinity Episcopal School (HTES) Support Team–Jim Kelly**

Jim stated that the individuals who have volunteered to be tutors from the fall newspaper ads were contacted to see if they were still interested in tutoring. Four of the individuals were no longer interested and the list of tutors is down to 22 individuals. The next step is to

screen and train the individuals to see who is qualified. The screening will be done in March and then will begin training. The target date to start tutoring program is fall semester 2021.

A copy of the By-Laws for the School Board was sent to Vestry members for review and approval of Vestry. Randy Siver made a motion to approve the By-Laws second by Barbara Cogley. Approved by 8 members, one Vestry member did not receive the email and abstained from voting. Vestry approved By-Laws will be forward to the Diocese of Central Florida for the Bishop's approval and when approved be implemented at Holy Trinity Episcopal School

### **Financial Reports: Russ Casson, Mark Welton**

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted. Pledges were short in January as expected. Maintenance expenses were more than budgeted due to a water line repair. However, the month did not show a deficit primarily because of the only clergy expense was for supply priests.

The revised budget for 2021 was presented by Mark Welton and Russ. The revised budget was developed by the Finance Team. The Vestry discussed the budget and the needs of the Church. The search committee budget (expenditures) was noted to be higher and that this where budget area cost for the new Rector was applied. It was decided to review the budget quarterly (during 2021) and the Vestry will continue to consider the needs of the Church with each review.

The Vestry and Treasurer will make a Capital Projects list to address major projects that need to be completed in the near future. This will include the sound and video system and new roof. This list will be shared with the parishioners when complete.

Fr. Samuel said that the Vestry needs to focus on Stewardship and increasing our revenue.

Russ asks that the Vestry reactivate the designation of last Sunday of the month open plate offering to the Discretionary Fund. Also, the Vestry designated that the Ash Wednesday collection be donated to Esther House, Good Friday collection to Dioceses of Jerusalem and

Easter collection to local food bank. Motion by Dan and Second by Deb—unanimously approved.

### **Old Business: --**

In person worship services— Dave Aldrich stated that the attendance has remained full each for 10:30 am service with a smaller group at 8 AM service.

Deb Yee and Fr. Samuel noted that a Task Force has been created to address the sound and video quality in our church's livestreamed services. This area is a high priority—parishioners in the sanctuary and worshipping at home with the live stream (or recorded video) must be able to hear all worship speakers and music clearly. We continue to adjust and reconfigure for the best quality from the speakers and technology currently in use; however, to get to where we wish to be will involve an investment guided by a professional assessment and quotes from firms experienced in working with sanctuaries. She noted the St. James (Episcopal) in Leesburg recently upgraded their sound and video camera technology with excellent results. They have offered to share their vendor contact and other helpful information.

Care fund update by Peggy Barry- amount is \$5077.00

### **Team Updates**

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

\*This month has seen the completion of the painting of the Parish Hall by our beloved parishioner Neven Matthews and his crew.

\*Also, with the generous donation from a few parishioners we have been able to add some beautiful landscaping to the church and school.

\*The Church window project is proceeding with 3 already installed and 4 more in process.

\*The older school classrooms have new LED ceiling fixtures, which have really improved the brightness in them.

\*Plans are underway to widen the front stairway to the main school entrance.

\*The much-needed siding on the school's south side is being contracted out for completion.

\*Our sexton is in the process of refurbishing the stone wall around the cross in the cemetery area.

\*A new ceiling fan will be installed on the back deck of the rectory.

\*The lawn has been treated with a weed and feed product.

\*Spring time trimming is also underway on all shrubs and crepe myrtle.

\*New exterior night lights are being installed on the church and parish hall to ensure night time safety.

\*Randy is working with the insurance company regarding new roofs for the Church and Parish Hall.

\*He is also getting estimates for needed repairs in the Parish Hall.

\*Deb Yee will be taking pictures of the church property and items in the church inventory for insurance purposes.

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

The next meeting of the IWC team will be March 5<sup>th</sup> and will be a Zoom meeting. They continue to work on getting information from new people attending church services.

The Lenten Christian Education series will be The Crucified Life. This will begin 2/25 at 11 am and be led by Ron Whetsell and Fr. Samuel. This is a Zoom session. A discussion ensued about the possibly recording the session and putting on line so individuals can view at other times. Vestry will see if we can possibly do this.

### **Communications—Deb Yee**

Deb will meet soon with Fr. Samuel to discuss communication issues including business cards for him and for parishioner give-away, the website especially a welcoming message from the Rector for home page, our street-side sign, pamphlets/brochures and most importantly enhancing the quality and clarity of our livestreaming and video. She will train several ushers who can serve as backups in the Parish Hall for livestream monitoring in the event of her absence.

## **Parish Life—Barbara Cogley**

A Parish Life committee will proceed to develop a plan to celebrate milestone anniversaries of our parishioners. We will get anniversary dates from Peggy and then contact the individuals for the year so that we can follow thru to celebrate the event. Announcement will be sent to all parishioners, asking them to send cards via email or snail mail. When we are able to meet in person again, we will develop a plan to honor couples in church and social time.

Policy review—I am looking for individuals who are willing to help review and update church policies. This review and update will be done in a short time period. I will be calling individuals to ask for help or you can call me. 352-874-1307 or [cogleyfb@aol.com](mailto:cogleyfb@aol.com).

Disaster policy has been reviewed and I am looking for a co-chairman to head the committee with me. There are four areas that need to be addressed to update the policy. These areas are to make a Vestry call list to contact all parishioners following a disaster event. Another group in our parish is also doing calls and we will work with them. Also, need to establish a list of snowbirds so that we know who is gone for summer months. Photos of all buildings are needed for comparison following damage. We now have an updated inventory of Church, Parish Hall and school. The school needs to have 2 documented fire drills per year. Classes for CPR AED and Fire Extinguisher use will be planned.

Policies are to be reviewed yearly.

We would like to find a volunteer willing to type policies in new format.

Job descriptions need to be reviewed and updated and this should involve the person who is responsible for the employee.

**New Business** - Fr. Samuel thanks all parishioners for the welcome that he and Rose received. He said it was an amazing welcome to HTEC for which they are grateful. He feels that he and Rose are fitting in at Holy Trinity. He stated that he will be making some small changes to services over a period of time. Any changes would be within the Diocesan guidelines. He said that he is very flexible as a

Rector. Also, is very optimistic about the future of the church and school. He stated that there is good support in the church.

Meeting closed with prayer by Fr. Samuel at 9 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Cogley Vestry Secretary

## **Sr. Warden – Dan Curtis**

I pray this finds you all well and safe. Hopefully we are moving more quickly towards being able to all be together again.

Hard to believe it has been a month already that Fr. Samuel has been here. He and his lovely wife, Rose, have settled into the new Rectory and appear to be very happy there. Rose has even planted a large vegetable garden already. Fr. Samuel is quickly getting to know Holy Trinity. It is wonderful to see his excitement and enthusiasm about our church and school. This past Sunday was his induction as our new Rector, what a beautiful ceremony it was. Having the Bishop preside is always a special day, I especially appreciated Bishop Brewer's sermon on kindness, what a perfect message for these troubled times we live in. It is only disappointing that we could not have more of a "Celebration of New Ministry" after the service; maybe in the future.

We continue to struggle with our limited audio-visual technology as we try to live stream our services. Sid Yee and Dave Fleming have worked so hard and spent countless hours trying to patch our system together to bring services to you at home. I cannot thank them enough for their commitment and perseverance. Unfortunately, the reality is we have to upgrade our system and get professional assistance to design and implement a system that provides consistent and reliable high-quality video and audio streaming. We greatly appreciate the patience of you at home that rely on our streaming for your worship service. Please continue to have patience as we work through this and find a way to fund a new system.

Speaking of funding, the Vestry met this week and passed a revised 2021 Budget. One that forecasts a large deficit at the end of the year.



Our pledges for 2021 are down significantly but expenses are not. Our expense budget has very little variable or discretionary spending; it is predominately payroll, and fixed expenses like utilities, insurance, and routine maintenance. We begin 2021 with a financial challenge while we still struggle to address the building and infrastructure refurbishment that has been so badly needed for many years. Fr. Samuel and the Vestry have vowed to stay the course we have been on to grow and deepen our ministries, while increasing our ability to worship together. We have faith that these efforts will lead to church growth, especially in preparation for the time we can return to in-person worship, fellowship, pastoral care, and ministry volunteering. I strongly believe that Holy Trinity is a wonderful investment opportunity, I always get much more in return for the time and funds I give. There is no better place of worship, or church family, where one has the opportunity to be engaged in doing God's work and directly observing the difference that gifts of time, talent, and wealth make in the lives of those in need in our community. Pass the word!

God's Peace,  
Dan Curtis - Sr. Warden

## February Building and Grounds Report

- 1) This month has seen the completion of the painting of the Parish Hall by our beloved parishioner Neven Mathews and his crew.
- 2) Also, with generous donations from a few parishioners we have been able to add some beautiful landscaping to the church and school.
- 3) The church window project is proceeding with 3 already installed and 4 more in process.
- 4) The older school classrooms have new LED ceiling fixtures, which has really improved the brightness in them.
- 5) Plans are underway to widen the front stairway to the main school entrance.
- 6) The much-needed siding on the school's south side is being contracted out for completion.

- 7) Our Sexton is in the process of refurbishing the stone wall around the cross in the cemetery area.
- 8) A new ceiling fan will be installed on the back deck of the rectory.
- 9) The lawn has been treated with a weed and feed product.
- 10) Spring time trimming is also underway on all shrubs and crepe myrtles.
- 11) New exterior night lights. On the church and parish hall are being installed to ensure night time safety.

Respectfully Submitted  
Randy Siver, Junior Warden



Greetings, beloved.

This week our hearts go out to Texas and all those affected by the devastating [winter storms](#). Although the weather has warmed up, residents continue to deal with burst pipes and unsafe housing conditions. Please consider sharing the [blurb](#) below, available in both Spanish and English, in your bulletin or newsletter this week and continue to keep all those affected in your [prayers](#).

With gratitude,  
The Engagement Team

The February 2021 winter storm, which devastated communities in Texas, Oklahoma and beyond, continues to wreak havoc. The ice and snow are melting and power has been restored to many, but the region continues to deal with burst pipes, lack of safe water supply and uninhabitable housing. The US Disaster Team at Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting affected dioceses as they respond. Please [donate today](#). Your gift will help provide emergency shelter, groceries and other supplies in affected areas.

Link for online giving:

[https://support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters?ID=210200DWMD50100&utm\\_medium=modal&utm\\_campaign=fy21coldresponse&utm\\_source=210200DWMD50100](https://support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters?ID=210200DWMD50100&utm_medium=modal&utm_campaign=fy21coldresponse&utm_source=210200DWMD50100)

Or send checks directly to

The Episcopal Relief & Development Fund  
815 2nd Avenue  
New York, NY 10017



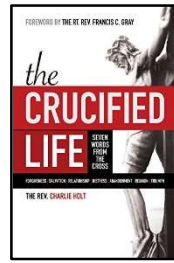
## CPR and AED TRAINING CLASSES

Anyone interested in attending classes for CPR & AED (automatic external defibrillator) training please contact Barbara Cogley at [cogleyfb@aol.com](mailto:cogleyfb@aol.com) or 352-874-1307. A parishioner certified in CPR & AED -- Scott Colligan has volunteered to conduct our class. This will be done in a safe manner to comply with the COVID restrictions. The class will be conducted in two sessions:

- Session I will be online using Microsoft Teams (similar to Zoom), essentially a PowerPoint presentation including lectures and videos.
- Session II will happen in a common meeting place (like our Parish Hall) where students will work one-on-one with the instructor. The one-on-one sessions will be scheduled in 15-minute time slots, assuring social distancing with the instructor and student (only) present during that period. All practice materials will be sanitized between students.

This is a great opportunity for those who have never been trained, and also for those who need a refresher class; the new protocol is compression-only (or hands-only) with no rescue breaths. Once a group of students has been identified, a date for classes will be confirmed for the on line and one-on-one session. Get the training – help save a life!

## Lenten Program



The Lenten Program started last Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. Join us at 11:00 on Thursdays to study “The Crucified Life,” Seven words from the cross, by Rev. Charles Holt.

As we consider His words, we understand and identify with His sufferings in a way that challenges us, transforms us, and ultimately brings us hope. For thirty-three years Jesus felt everything you have ever felt. Weakness, Weariness, Sadness, Rejection. His feet got tired. And his head ached. He was tempted and his strength was tested. And you know why? Because in becoming human, Jesus made it possible for us to see God. This class will be led by Ron Whetsell and Fr. Samuel.

At the end of Lent, we will be starting a book by Max Lucado entitled, “Jesus: The God who knows your name.” It comes with a DVD and leaders manual. I am in need of someone to lead this class by Zoom. If you have the gift of teaching and would like to lead the class, please contact Liz Mustin at 262-894-4412.

## Invite, Welcome, Connect. (IWC)

How many times have you gone to a new church and no one greeted you or came up and introduced themselves to you? How did that make you feel? It made me feel very unwelcome. Have you invited someone to church with you? It takes courage to invite someone to church or ask a stranger if they would like to come with you to the ECW meeting or join the choir? This is what this committee is about to help us all feel more comfortable doing these things. For this to work it needs the whole church family to be involved and we want it to feel natural. Some may be involved in helping us find ways to invite people, some may be in the welcoming area calling up new people who attend and due to COVID-19 we can't physically visit people now but we can call and welcome them and explain what Holy Trinity is about and what activities go on here. We make up our small bags for new people with brochures, a card to fill out their information and give to them at church. When

we can physically visit people, we take a loaf of bread with us to welcome them. Those who have an interest in a particular group and want to connect these new people to that group can explain what you do in that group. Fr. Samuel has some experience with this and also knows the person who wrote the book. We are looking for more interested members to join us as we learn that evangelism is not about recruitment but about transformation. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at church but we may try Zoom at 10:00. If you want more information, contact Liz Mustin, [Lmmaui88@gmail.com](mailto:Lmmaui88@gmail.com).

Living into our Baptismal Covenant is a lifelong process, and it begins with prayerful intentionality and a conscious decision to become reflections of Christ in our actions and reactions to life.

### Holy Hackers on March 13<sup>th</sup>!

Boys and girls,

Rain and cold temperatures caused the cancellation of our planned Holy Hackers outings in January and February. But we are like a bad penny - we are going to try it again in March! Hopefully we will see warmer temperatures and dryer weather. The Holy Hackers outing for March is scheduled for **Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM at the Pennbrooke Fairways** off Route 44. If you would like to be a part of this fabulous fellowship outing and play with the Holy Hackers (all levels of play are welcome!) **simply send me an email at [pmclaugh7@gmail.com](mailto:pmclaugh7@gmail.com) and I will add your name to the list of players.**

Your Golf Guy,  
Pat McLaughlin



### CAT COMPANION SEEKS LOVING HOME

Would you enjoy a Furry Friend to share your home and warm your heart during this challenging season? I am about 2 years old, a very friendly and lovable female cat, with all my shots, a microchip, and have been spayed. (I'm ready to go). They gave me the name KiKi, but you can change that if you like. I have beautiful

black short hair, and love to curl up on laps, or in a little spot for a nap. I am at Leesburg Humane Society (352-669-3312), or e-mail; [leesburghumanesociety@gmail.com](mailto:leesburghumanesociety@gmail.com), and would love for you to give me a "forever home". My adoption fee for all my vet work is only \$80. dollars. Please call and come see me,

LOTS OF PURRS, KiKi

Janet Dearcopp



### Milestone Anniversary Dates

The Parish Life team is planning to celebrate the milestone wedding anniversaries of our parishioners. If you have not previously provided the *date and year* of your wedding anniversary to the parish office, we ask that you email that information to Barbara Cogley, Parish Life



Team Leader at [barbcpg@gmail.com](mailto:barbcpg@gmail.com). We want to ensure we have a complete and accurate list! Thank you.

Happy  
Anniversary

Charlie & Judy Kraft

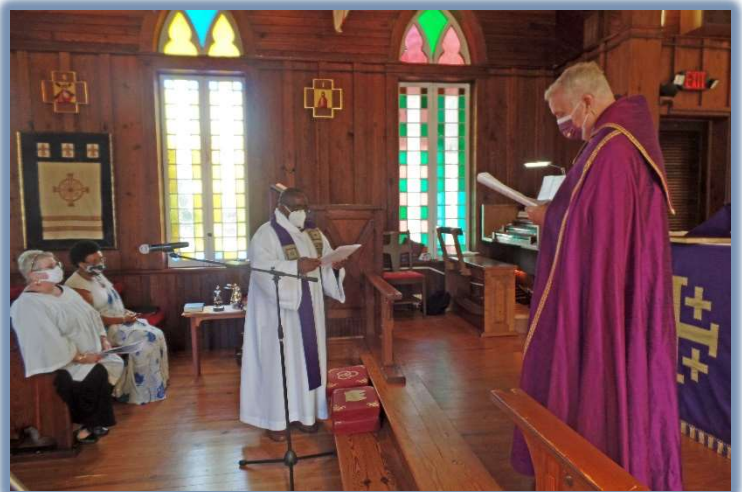


# Happy Birthday

Shirley Buzzell  
Mary Frances Hunt  
Gail Hole  
Nancy Wilcox  
Terry Banks  
Gay Hensley  
Anna Cottrill  
John Canner  
Roy Nicolosi  
Joe Bogovich  
Carol Wang  
Yvonne Pardieu  
Sue Romer  
Parker Bauer  
Paul Harmon  
Jerry Wang  
Lynne Winer  
Mike Lally



*THE INSTALLATION OF CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY  
OF THE REV. SAMUEL NSENGIYUMVA  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021*









*To our well-beloved in Christ*

***Samuel Nsengiyumva***

*Presbyter*

*Greetings*

*You have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow Presbyters as a pastor, priest and teacher, and to share in the councils of the Church.*

*Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been selected to serve God as Rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fruitland Park, Florida.*

*This letter is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop.*

*Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.*

*May the Lord, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.*

*Given under my hand and seal in the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, on the 21st day of February, 2021, and in the ninth year of my consecration.*



*Gregory O. Brewer  
Bishop of Central Florida*