



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

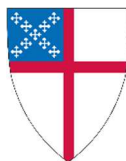


Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Volume 3. Issue 4

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

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Dear Holy Trinity Family, Happy Endings

Every time I think about Easter, I cannot help but think about the many stories I have heard and lived that ended well. Easter is the happy ending of the story of Jesus on his earthly journey.



We read that he grew up as an ordinary person. He had his ups and downs of life. He was a victim of jealousy, political and religious ideology, and many other sources of hatred and persecution. He was tempted in every way as

we are; except that he did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15). Easter reminds of the happy ending, when Jesus triumphed over every evil, including death, and rose victorious on the third day. What a story!

The beauty of the Easter story is that we can relate to it. I am personally reminded of my own story as a young man. At the age of 19, I was privileged to get a job as a mechanic in an American-owned tea factory in Rwanda. It so happened that my brief training after high school had been good enough to make me good at what I did. This and my ability to speak English in a predominantly native speaking environment made me a favorite of the high-level expatriate

executives. The executives started by-passing my immediate supervisor and assigning me jobs or demanding that certain jobs be assigned to me by the supervisor. This of course angered and threatened my supervisor who decided to get rid of me by any means. When false accusations fell on deaf ears, he decided to run over me with a car. I will never forget the morning when he tried to do exactly that with no success. I did not only survive that day but soon managed to negotiate a transfer to a different department as a supervisor with a much higher pay. I look back to that experience as a resurrection experience.

I believe there are many similar stories of survival and victory against odds such as sickness, financial crises, bitter relationships, etc. Those who contracted and survived COVID can certainly relate to the Easter story. Their stories serve as reminders that regardless of how bad things could get, there is always hope. There is always the possibility of a happy ending.

This was the sense St. Paul had when he declared:

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:10).

His testimony and exhortation are certainly worth noting:

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

(2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 14.)

As we celebrate Jesus' victory over hatred, betrayal, and death itself, may we rest in the hope that whatever we are going through, whatever may come our way, God will see us through. Indeed, we can even “rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering

produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:3-5).

May this Easter be an occasion for us to once again shout Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Vestry Minutes – by Zoom

March 17, 2021

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

Absent: Justin McCallister

The meeting was opened at 7 PM with prayer by Fr. Samuel.

Holy Trinity Episcopal School— Justin McCallister

1. Human and Capital Resources:

* Covid-19 Vaccine: Currently there are 9 out of 11 faculty members that are being vaccinated against Covid-19. Of the 9 that are vaccinated 6 have received their second shot and the other 3 have received their first shot. The last 2 faculty members are currently on the wait list and will be receiving their vaccines in March.

* Old School Building: The capital account that was opened earlier this year has started to gain a little bit of money. There are high priority items the school has that this account will be used for, such as; the old school building will need 2 new A.C. units that will cost \$6,000 each, the windows in the old school building are in need of replacement, the walkway between the new and old buildings will need to be covered, and the old school building siding will need to be updated.

* Insurance Claim – The school has received a new copier and the final invoice has been received regarding the lightning strike and resulting damage; an insurance claim will be filed now. We were informed by our insurance representative to wait until all items have been accounted for before filling a claim.

* New School Building – Factory inspectors are being sent out to examine the new modular building to determine if there were any errors in the creation of the building and if they are related to the leak. We are currently awaiting to hear back from them on their discoveries.

2. Students & Families:

*Covid-19 Positive Case: There was a positive case of Covid-19 reported on Feb. 24. The school followed its procedures and student who was on campus was sent home. The campus was closed for the recommended 14 days and everyone resumed virtual school. There was no interruption to our classes, and I would like to thank our staff for the smooth transition back to virtual school. School will resume in-person classes and virtual classes after Spring Break on March 22.

3. Finances:

* Scholarship Distribution – McKay, Step-Up, and Gardiner scholarships have been received and deposited.

School Support Team---Jim Kelly

On February 25th, 2021, the Rev. Scott Holcombe confirmed that he had received the bylaws for the school board and has forwarded them to the Chancellor and vice-chancellor for review. As of March 6, 2021, we have not heard any updates on the review process.

The school was closed for 14 days because of the COVID positive student and thus there was a delay in the new volunteer screening process.

Financial Reports - Russ Casson

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted. Russ will be doing a monthly report for the Tidings that will note the financial status of the church and school in a brief and easily understood manner.

Old Business: -- The 8am Easter Service will be in the church with cleaning in between the services. Fr. Samuel was asked about the use of incense and he stated that we have been using special incense that is non-allergenic, also that he would only use this on high feast days. He will also discuss this with parishioners. David Aldrich has been told that St. George is using

some type of wand to disinfect between services and he will try to get more information on this device.

Following the February meeting, an email was sent to all Vestry members regarding the designation of the Easter Donation. The resolution was presented via email to donate all monies to the Leesburg Food Bank. Approved unanimously by all Vestry Members.

Team Updates

Building and Grounds—Randy Siver

*The stacked wall around the cemetery cross has rebuilt.

*The stacked wall project along the entrance from the parking lot has been completed.

*Siding has been replaced on the older school building. Painting will follow as the other side completed.

*The parish hall entry doors have been painted red by Bob Mustin to match the church.

*Bob is also painting the black hand railings along the parish hall walkway.

*4 Windows are now installed in the church and 3 more are in process.

*Our roofing on both the church and the parish hall were damaged by strong winds last year.

*We have placed a claim with our insurance company. We have enlisted the aid of an adjuster to help move this along.

Randy also reported that he is getting bids on repairs of the school and Parish Hall walls and that he has parishioners that will do the repairs once the supplies are purchased. Randy is developing a capital needs list of needed repairs at the School and Church buildings. He will present this to the Vestry and Treasurer as soon as it is complete. Randy also discussed the funding for completion of the window project and repair of the large round window above the front entrance door.

Invite, Welcome, Connect - David Aldrich

David stated that after the Zoom forum on Tuesday March 16th, he noted that numerous people would like the 8 AM Sunday service in the Church. The Diocese remains adamant that the Church or Parish Hall must be thoroughly cleaned between services. That is a tough obstacle to overcome.

The current diocesan guidelines allow the Preacher/Lector to remove masks if they are not closer than 12 feet from others. David thinks that we should find a way for that to happen. Masks are greatly affecting our sound quality and it varies greatly depending on who is the speaker.

Christian Ed---Liz Mustin

We are continuing on with the Crucified Life, seven words from the cross on Thursdays at 11:00. Because we started a week later than the start of Lent, we will be having two sessions next week so that our last week of this study will end on Thursday of Holy Week at our usual time of 11:00-12:00.

Next week we will be meeting on Tuesday and Thursday, March 23rd and 25th at 11:00. We will be studying the words, **Abandonment and Reunion.** The Holy Week word will be **Triumph.** I am still looking for someone who would be willing to lead the next six-week study called, Jesus, The God who knows your name, by Max Lucado. If anyone has any suggestions of who has facilitated sessions before please let me know so I can ask them.

Communications—Deb Yee

Communication Team members continue with their service to ensure parishioners are informed of parish news through parish emails, a monthly newsletter *The Tidings*, social media, and our website. Updates and enhancements to website content are underway.

As for audio/visual enhancements to our livestreamed worship: Dave Fleming, our Sunday camcorder operator, has purchased on trial a new videocam with current technology. Last Sunday's (Mar 14) 10:30am service was livestreamed on our church Facebook page using our 'old' (Yee's) camcorder; video from

the new camcorder was broadcast on David's personal Facebook page. The new camera enabled crisper visuals, supported movement of the priest from one lighting situation to another (during communion) much more effectively, and handled the sound well. It has other desirable features. David will be approaching the vestry with a recommendation to fund its purchase.

The afternoon of Monday March 15th brought an unexpected opportunity for Fr. Samuel and Sid Yee to visit St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg to view the new audio/visual technology they recently acquired to support their virtual worship. While the solution to serve Holy Trinity's needs will likely be much less involved (and less costly) the visit was instructive and helpful. We will pursue engaging a professional to visit, discuss our specific needs, guide us in spec'ing out a number of solutions (Good – Better – Best) appropriate for our needs, and identifying how to fund.

Parish Life—Barbara Cogley

Parish Life is in the process of contacting parishioners who have listed their anniversaries with the office. Jaleh Welton, Janet Callahan and Barbara Cogley are contacting the parishioners. We have the date of the anniversary but not the year. To notify parishioners of milestone anniversaries, we need the date. We will then update the office. While we are making the calls, we will ask if they are snowbirds and then should have a good start on making a list of parishioners who are gone for summer months.

A date will be set for some time in March to conduct CPR and AED training. We currently have 5 people who would like to do the training. The training will be done by Scott Colligan. He has a safe plan for the instruction online with in-person demonstration.

Currently, the Church policies are being reviewed and updated as needed. The Disaster Plan Policy needs are being addressed. The areas that need to be completed: have a call list to contact parishioners following a disaster (the Pastoral Care Committee has been doing this during the COVID pandemic and would be willing to continue if needed), have a list of

snowbirds so we know when parishioners are gone from this area, photos/videos of all church and school property (Deb Yee is doing this), fire drills are conducted and documented monthly at the school. I am looking for a co-chairman for this plan.

New Business—Mark Welton nominated Russ Casson for Treasurer for the ensuing year. Second by Dan Curtis. Randy Siver nominated Barbara Cogley for Secretary for the ensuing year, second by Liz Mustin. Both were approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Open Forum by Zoom

The open forum with Fr. Samuel was done via Zoom on Tuesday 3-16-21, 21 individuals attended plus 2 on the phone.

Fr. Samuel opened with several prayers at 7:04pm.

He shared initially about his love of scripture. Especially [Ephesians 2:17-22](#) which he feels is a wonderful description of a Christian Community: A Household of God. Where there are no strangers, no aliens. A place where God is present. A Community which is Becoming more so.

He thanked the parish again for their welcome, hospitality, and patience as he and Rose settled in over the past 6 weeks.

Fr. Samuel shared a brief bio for those who hadn't read/heard. Born in Rwanda in an area that's considered the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Family moved to Uganda at 3 yrs. old. He returned as an adult to Rwanda and began work in a Tea Company. In 1984 he experienced a spiritual awakening and a reckoning with the life he was leading which had become unsatisfactory in his eyes. He trained in religion in Kenya but did not return to Rwanda because there was a war on. During the 1990's in Africa he became interested in trauma healing and peaceful reconciliation and travelled to refugee camps. In 1998 Fr Samuel came to the US. The Mennonites had offered training which paralleled his interests, particularly those of religion, peace, reconciliation. Due to the ongoing war, he couldn't return to his home country and his family joined him. He has 4

grown children (2 daughters, 2 sons). His mother and mother-in-law are both still alive.

Q: How did you affiliate with the Episcopal Church? Born into Anglican, actually. In 2003 transferred Canonical residence from Kenya to US Episcopal Church.

Fr. Samuel then provided a verbal review of overall summary responses. Emphasized that we must follow diocesan direction regarding numbers allowed in church, masking dictates, etc. Considering an additional service to enable more to worship in person.

Q: How about outdoor worship? Do you see us doing that? All for it. Yes, would love to do that. Logistics would have to be tackled.

Addressed sound/video improvement needs. Visit to St. James in Leesburg to see their new system. We must cost out various options suitable to our parish and determine funding.

Q: Will we continue recording/livestreaming services after the pandemic? Yes, for this is the new normal. Necessity caused our entry into using livestreaming enabling us to connect to those at home for whatever reason. Zoom is also a possibility rather than Facebook live. Would also allow a remote preacher.

Q: Will there be a return of Rite I to the early 8am service? Fr Samuel is very partial to Rite I, he loves it. So yes, depending on interest or perhaps a combination of Rite I and Rite II. Will go for consensus.

Q: What are your thoughts on IWC (Invite–Welcome–Connect) at Holy Trinity? By definition, this is what we should be doing. Invite is a set of intentional actions we take to convey “Come and See.” “We have found the one.” We must also create opportunities for those who are reluctant to attend a worship service at first but who may attend another type of gathering or event. Welcome is an area of strength for us and is continually being improved. Connect provides us a change to be more intentional. After someone attends for 3 or 4 weeks... What's next? What makes that person feel connected to the parish? He shared about the two types of “membership” at his former church: a member who is assigned a sponsor

and completes a form to formalize that; someone who wishes to be an Episcopalian member and confirmed in the church. Attend pre-confirmation classes and confirmed by Bishop during a parish visitation.

Q: If we were to add a 3rd service, are you thinking 4:15 on Saturday (as before) or an additional service on Sunday? Very accustomed to doing 3 services every Sunday is fine with this. Would consider Sat.

Zoom adjourned at ~8:10 after a closing prayer offered by Fr. Samuel.

Rector Report

It has been six weeks since I began my ministry as rector here at Holy Trinity. On one hand, I can't believe it is already six weeks, while on the other hand I can't believe it has been only six weeks. I can't believe it is already six weeks because there is a lot that I haven't done and can't believe it's just six weeks because Rose and I feel very much at home. Rose and I are grateful for your extraordinary hospitality and your patience as we continue to learn and grow with you. Below are the highlights of the past six weeks.

1. Weekly meetings with the Wardens – We meet every Thursday morning (9 am–10:30 am) to discuss a variety of topics including the possibility of a retreat soon after Easter.

2. Occasional meetings with Rev. Janice – I have met Rev. Janice on several occasions to learn more about the life and ministries of this parish.

3. Monthly meetings with Ministry Teams – I have met with the Pastoral Care Team, the Christian Education Team, the Altar Guild, The Invite/Welcome/Connect Team, and the Audio/Visual Team.

4. Engagement with the Parish - I conducted a parish-wide survey to gather information regarding worship patterns and preferences. The information gathered is helpful for our worship planning. A follow-up open forum is scheduled this Tuesday March 16, 7:00 pm via Zoom.

5. Engagements with Individual Parishioners – I take every advantage to engage with parishioners either in person, phone, or zoom. I responded to an invitation to bless a

parishioner's new home, and have had coffee with a parishioner on two occasions. As a result, I believe I can recognize, by name, over 20% of the people I have met in person. Recognition of individuals has been complicated by the wearing of masks.

6. Engagement with the School – I have had several informal conversations with the head teacher, the school support team leader, attended a staff meeting, and visited with students during lunch on several occasions. I feel I have a sense of where the school is and the possibilities for growth.

7. Engagement with neighboring churches – I had an opportunity to meet Fr. Tom Trees of St. James, Leesburg, who connected me to his son who is responsible for their live streaming operations. Sid Yee and I were able to visit St. James and given a tour and the story of how they got to their impeccable live-streaming operation. While we may not necessarily need what they have, there is a lot to learn from them.

8. Engagement with the Diocese – I had an opportunity to speak to the bishop before and during his recent visit and agreed to continue regular conversations about Holy Trinity's mission in this community and beyond. On March 25, I will begin a one-year continuing education program called Ministry, Leadership, & Mission (MLM) offered to clergy new to the diocese. The program will be held every fourth Thursday of the month at the Diocesan office in Orlando.

Overall, my time as your Rector has, so far, been very fulfilling. I look forward to continued grace in our shared life and mission. Please feel free to contact me any time with feedback of any kind (comments, suggestions, questions, constructive criticism).

Meeting closed with prayer by Fr, Samuel at 8:50 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Cogley Vestry Secretary

Sr. Warden – Dan Curtis

Happy Spring! I hope this finds you all well, safe, and optimistic that we shall all be back together again relatively soon. As more of us are

vaccinated and the COVID numbers are declining there finally appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. I have thought often about how much I miss seeing all of you and worshipping together, I will appreciate my Holy Trinity family even more when we can reconnect in person.

If you have not been to the church in a while, come by and see how beautiful it is looking with fresh paint, new windows, refurbished landscaping. The Building and Grounds Team, led by Randy Siver, has worked hard to make our beautiful church and school inviting and welcoming for you, and visitor returns. The Parish Hall has been refurbished as well by a Team led by Barb Cogley, again to make it more welcoming. Many have been working hard to prepare for Holy Trinity to reopen and reconnect.

You should have received an email and letter that details our re-establishment of a CARE Fund and the addition of a new Capital Fund. As our government distributes the third wave of COVID Relief payments, we pray that many of you will consider donating a portion of your payments, or an additional donation if you are fortunate enough to not qualify for the payment, to one or both of these funds. As described in the letter, the CARE Fund will be utilized to assist school student families, economically effected by the pandemic, with fulfilling their tuitions and fees, with the remainder of the fund going to the Leesburg Salvation Army and Fr. Samuel's Discretionary Fund. The Capital Fund will be applied towards the many projects that are needed to complete the refurbishment of our facilities (additional window replacement, church wiring replacement, upgrading our Audio/Visual System, building siding replacement, roof replacements, and so on). Please consider donating what you can to one or both of these very important funds.

On April 23 and 24th, a HTEC Leadership Retreat will be held off site. This will include Fr. Samuel, Vestry, and several ministry leaders. The objectives of this retreat will be to build a stronger leadership team, clarify and define our mission and vision, and develop strategic plans for moving forward. We will also discuss the

process and needs for reopening, hopefully sometime later this summer or fall. We will summarize and communicate to you our outputs from this two-day session.

God's Peace,
Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden

March Building and Grounds Report

- 1) The stacked wall around the cemetery cross has rebuilt.
- 2) The stacked wall project along the entrance from the parking lot has been completed.
- 3) Siding has been replaced on the older school building. Painting will follow as the other side is completed.
- 4) The parish hall entry doors have been painted red by Bob Mustin to match the church.
- 5) Bob is also painting the black hand railings along the parish hall walkway.
- 6) 4 windows are now installed in the church and 3 more are in process.
- 7) Our roofing on both the church and the parish hall were damaged by strong winds last year. We have placed a claim with our insurance company. We have enlisted the aid of an adjuster to help move this along.

Respectfully submitted, in Christ's name
Randy Siver, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Church Financial Giving

	Received	Budget	Difference
Pledges	\$46,200	\$43,333	\$2,867

Pledges received through February are more than Budgeted.

Thanks to our Parishioners for your faithful giving.

Russ Casson
Treasurer

School Support Team Report

Teacher Appreciation:

As a token of our appreciation for our Holy Trinity school teacher and the challenges they have faced this school year the Vestry had an Edible Arrangement delivered to the school on March 26, 2021. The choice of snack and time of delivery was suggested by Head of School, Justin McCallister.

School Bylaws:

The diocesan review of the Bylaws submitted by the school support team pursuant to commissioning a School Board for our school continues. Correspondence from Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development, The Rev. Canon Scott T. Holcombe indicates we should expect feedback within the next week.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jim Kelly
Vestry, School Support Lead

Pastoral Care Committee

"The Pastoral Care Committee recently completed another round of telephone calls to members of Holy Trinity. Since the start of the Covid epidemic, we have made four separate calls to our membership during the past year. The comments have been very positive, and it is hoped that we have helped communications within the parish."

Michael Browne
Pastoral Care Team Leader

Holy Hackers Golf Scramble

Please add a blurb to the Tidings about the Holy Hackers. The Holy Hackers Golf Scramble for the month of April will take place on Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 AM at the Pennbrooke Fairways. If you would like to join us for a bit of golf and some great Fellowship just send me an e-mail (pmclaugh7@gmail.com) asking to be added to the list of players and I will take care of it.

Patrick McLaughlin

Volunteers Needed

Holy Trinity is in need of facilitators to lead upcoming Christian Education classes! Ideally, we would like to build a rotation of 3 Leaders to serve periodically, assisting each other and

rotating as new sessions begin. Our



IMMEDIATE NEED is for someone to lead the next class beginning April 8 and continuing for a total of six

successive weeks on Thursday 11:00am - 12:00noon.

Facilitators are provided with all the assistance needed both on-line via Zoom and when we resume person-to-person sessions on our church campus, date TBD. Please don't let the technical part of Zoom on-line deter you. You will receive the assistance needed to get comfortable with it. You will NOT be abandoned!

No previous facilitation or "teaching" experience is required. All the materials needed to conduct the classes are provided to you including a Leader's Guide with questions and scripture references, the book, and short DVD.

These classes fill an important role in helping to improve and enrich our personal walk with Christ. The next series on Max Lucado's, "Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name", will be especially beneficial. As a bonus, previous facilitator's feedback attest to the extra benefit they receive in preparation and delivery of these classes.

So, pray for a willing heart! Ready yourself to step forward and answer God's call to serve yourself and your church community. Again, our immediate need is a leader for the April 8 class. Whether that session works for you or you would like to become part of the rotation of Leaders for future sessions, please reach out and let us know.

Please contact our Christian Ed Program Team Leader, Liz Mustin at 262-894-4412 or email her at Immaui88@gmail.com to join the team or ask questions. Thank you.

Liz Mustin
Christian Education Team Leader

Holy Week Services

Remember to call to sign-up for seats for all services at 352-787-1500 Monday through Thursday from 9am to 3pm.

Wednesday, March 31, 11:30am – Healing service in Grace Chapel

Thursday April 1, 6:00 pm– **Maundy Thursday** with Stripping of Altar

Friday April 2, 12 noon – **Good Friday** with outside Stations of the Cross

6 pm **Good Friday** prayers in church

Saturday April 3, 7:00pm **Easter Vigil** service

Sunday, April 4, 8:00am & 10:30am **Easter** Services in the church

Schedule may change based on seat requests.

Happy
Anniversary

Kenneth & Shirley Herring

Happy
Birthday

Amy Rowell
Debbie Stanton
Jeanette Richardson
David Gnau
Graham Sligh
Debbie Lally
Nancy Browne
Charlotte Barringer
Bob Pilkington