



# The Tidings

## Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School

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Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

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### Table of Contents

Rector's Greetings .....	1
Vestry Minutes Summary .....	2
Sr. Warden's Report ... ..	3
Treasurer's Report .....	4
Pastoral Care .....	4
IWC Report .....	4
Christian Education .....	5
HTEC School Board .....	5
Holy Hackers .....	5
Salvation Army .....	6
Stamps Wounded Warrior Project .....	6
From the Back Pew .....	7
History Corner .....	7
Poem – The Climb .....	8
Mark Your Calendar .....	8
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	9
Pictures – Coffee Hour .....	10 – 12
Save the Date – Charity Golf .....	13
Contact Page .....	14

### Belonging, Becoming, & Blessing

One month from now, Rose and I will be celebrating our sixth month anniversary as active members of this wonderful Christian community we call Holy Trinity. While we cannot claim to have experienced all that Holy Trinity is, we believe we have learned enough in the past five months to form an opinion of what it means to be part of Holy Trinity. For me, Holy Trinity is simply a Christ-centered community for all people to belong, become, and bless.



#### Belonging

Whenever I have a chance to ask any member of our parish how they decided to make Holy Trinity their spiritual home, the answer is almost always the same. Almost everyone tells me that when they first visited Holy Trinity, they instantly felt a sense of belonging even before they got to know anyone. That was my experience when I first visited; and even more so now after five months of active participation in its life and mission.

While I have not had an opportunity to count how many States and countries are represented at Holy Trinity, I know that the number is significant. Regardless of our geographical or cultural origin, our political party affiliation, our socio-economic class, our religious background, our intellectual abilities, we all have found Holy Trinity to be a place for us to belong.

This spirit of belonging is perhaps most profoundly felt by our students; many of whom came to our school because they did not fit in other schools due to their learning differences. Whenever you ask any one of them how they feel about the school, the undisputed answer is always: “Holy Trinity is the best school ever” – meaning the best school they have attended. When I asked the recent graduates whether there is anything they wish was different and would recommend to be changed, they unanimously said, “nothing”. While their answers may be subjective, they say a lot about what it means to be part of the Holy Trinity family.

### **Becoming**

In addition to being a place where people feel a great sense of belonging, many of the people I speak to tell me how much Holy Trinity has helped them become their best selves. Many testify to the fact that participating in the various ministries has helped them become more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more understanding and tolerant of people with different perspectives, more patient and kind, more self-controlled, and other fruits of the Spirit. In other words, belonging to Holy Trinity has made them more Christ-centered and less self-centered.

### **Blessing**

As would be expected, the sense of belonging and transformation that people experience at Holy Trinity makes them more aware of their blessings and their need to be a blessing to others. The sense of gratitude automatically leads to generosity of time, talent, and treasure. Examples of this spontaneous outpouring of love and generosity abound; most notably in the commitment of so many to our outreach ministries; including our school, the Salvation Army, and other mission partnerships.

It is my hope that this view of our church is shared by most, if not all, of us who call Holy Trinity home. I suspect that is why many of you embraced the Invite, Welcome, and Connect program when it was first introduced more than a year ago. Such a place is certainly one we would want to invite, welcome, and connect our relatives, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

As we look forward into the future, may we renew our commitment to pray and work to keep Holy Trinity the kind of place where every person who hears about us will want to belong and become the blessing they were created to be. To God be the glory! Amen.

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

## **Vestry Minutes Summary**

### **June 16, 2021 6:30 PM**

The meeting opened with prayer by Father Samuel.

Justin McCallister, Head of School, reported that 3 seniors graduated from the school on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Classes for 2021-2022 will open on August 16<sup>th</sup> 2021. There is a possibility of having 41 students for the coming school year.

Jim Kelly reported that the newly developed School Board had its first meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. The School Board will govern the affairs of the school based on the policies and procedures approved by the Vestry.

Training materials for tutors are being developed by Justin McCallister and Sara May. Training is planned for tutors prior to in-person tutoring beginning in September.

Fr. Samuel and Jim Kelly visited the Leesburg Salvation Army post. The Salvation Army is appreciative of the support provided by HTEC: food pantry, breakfast service and Holiday Season Bell Ringers.

The financial reports were reviewed and accepted as presented by Russ Casson.

### **Old Business**

In-person worship service COVID remain the same for the present time, masks are to be worn when singing, are optional at all services. Reservations are not needed for any of the in-person services. Communion is given at the alter

by Fr. Samuel wearing mask and gloves and handed to the parishioner in a paper cup.

### **Team Updates**

Randy Siver stated that the circular window above the main entrance to the church will be addressed after all the other windows in the church are completed. There are 4 more windows to be done and he noted that the builder doing the windows has donated one window to the church.

The **IWC team** led by David Aldrich and Liz Mustin continue work on developing the welcome program for new people attending our services. They also are pursuing plans for Bounce Back Sunday scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The areas that are being addressed are: communications, publicity, food, worship service, set up, crowd control and parking. Members of the congregation will be asked to help in one of these areas.

**Parish Life** team noted that Coffee Hour has resumed and appears to be going well. Parishioners are visiting after not seeing many of the congregation during the COVID restrictions. The team is searching for parishioners to assist with the coffee hour. Contact Barbara Cogley if you are willing to help one Sunday a month. 352-874-1307 or [barbcpq@gmail.com](mailto:barbcpq@gmail.com).

A yard sale will be planned for the spring of 2022.

**Communications:** Deb Yee reported that an initial consultation meeting has been scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> to assess the current functionality of the technology in the Church and Parish Hall: sound/ audio and livestreaming video. Seth Trees will offer recommendations for a phased in approach to improve each to the level necessary to best serve our parish, Mr. Trees manages the recently upgraded worship technology at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg and has offered his services as a gift.

Meeting closed with prayer by Fr. Samuel.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Cogley  
Vestry Secretary

### **Sr. Warden – Dan Curtis**

Greetings my friends, I hope this finds you all well. Hard to believe that 2021 is half over already. In my Tidings report in January of this year I said we were finally seeing the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel and that 2021 would be a year of “*Renewal, Revitalization, and Reunion*”. Now, half-way through this year, that light has become much brighter and we are finally beginning to reunite and renew. It is so wonderful to see more people in church as our services are now fully open, we are even able to have coffee together after, and Holy Hackers has restarted, it renews my appreciation for how important fellowship is to all of us.

The Vestry is preparing to revitalize many of our ministries this fall, such as ECW, Men’s Group (including “Pancake Breakfasts”), Christian Ed Classes between services, and our “Invite, Welcome, Connect” process. The Vestry (through the leadership of Jim Kelly and Sara May) has also just implemented a School Board which will provide more focused leadership on the growth and development of our school. The Board, which has already met a couple of times, will include stakeholders in the school (such as students, parents, parishioners, and outside supporters). We are very excited about the new board and its ability to lead our school toward fulfilling its Mission and Vision.

While we are excited about the future and finally feeling the revitalization of our church community, I do want to step back and recognize a couple of individuals that have been instrumental in getting us to this point and preparing for our reunion. Each year the Vestry awards a scholarship to a worthy student at our school, this award is done also in honor of a parishioner who has made significant contributions to our church and school community the past year. This year the scholarship is going to Jasmine Carr, a 2021 graduate, who is attending Culinary school this fall. The scholarship was given in honor of Deb Yee this year. During the pandemic Deb has been instrumental in providing continual high-quality communication in an effort to keep us all connected. She led the implementation of live streaming and recording our Healing and

Sunday Worship services, as well as our Christian Ed session, again instrumental in keeping us all connected. As I mentioned when I presented her the plaque, she is also in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of her 3year term on Vestry (necessary because of the search for Rector last year). When you see Deb please give her a big thank you for all she has done for Holy Trinity, especially during the pandemic. The second person I want to mention is Randy Siver, he along with of our Sexton Chris Redding, has done a remarkable job in revitalizing our buildings and grounds and preparing them for a very positive reunion. As we are able to return to our church and school we are returning to the beauty of freshly painted buildings and landscaped grounds that truly welcome and invite. Thank you Randy and Chris, for all your hard work and loving care.

Have a great July, I am headed to my cottage on Lake Chautauqua in western NY to be with family and old friends for the month, this year I will now be able to still worship with you all via FaceBook. I look forward to seeing, really seeing, you all this fall.

God's Peace,  
Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden

## Treasurer's Report

For all things come of Thee,  
and of Thine own  
have we given Thee.

## Treasurer's Summary Report May, 2021

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$106,055	\$108,333
Other Income	<u>\$ 21,814</u>	<u>\$ 19,067</u>
Total	\$127,869	\$127,400
Expenses	\$134,189	\$151,433

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Russ Casson, Treasurer

## For Pastoral Care Please Contact:

Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva  
920-226-0050 - cell

Mike Browne – 352-571-4441  
Pastoral Care Team Leader

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

## IWC Report



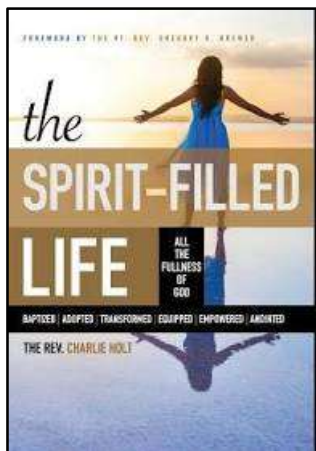
We discussed changing our meeting date back to the First Friday of the month which seemed ok with everyone. Fr. Samuel will compose a letter to send out to new people to welcome them to the church. We talked about new business cards and didn't decide if we will use the picture of the church as before or something new. We talked about what should go in the visitor bags, and that only one should be handed out per family. Deb Stanton will take over filling the bags.

We discussed further plans for our "Bounce Back Sunday" on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. We categorized what areas we needed to pull this event off. They are communications & publicity, food, worship, set up, crowd control, and parking (Dave volunteered the men's club) and recreation. Each of our members along with the Hospitality committee will chair one of these areas and ask members of the congregation to help. Food will be provided by the church as far as meat, and iced tea, lemonade, water. We are also looking into having it catered and what the cost of that would be. Liz will be meeting with Deb Yee to work on publicity for the event.

Liz Mustin & Dave Aldrich, Team Leaders



## Christian Education Report



Christian Education is being led by Fr. Samuel on the “Spirit Filled Life” by Charlie Holt. It will be done on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We will take the summer off and resume again in September. The Christian Education Committee will meet in August to discuss

what we will present in September. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know and I will bring them up to the committee in August. Hopefully we will be able to meet at church in the chapel as we did in the past.

Liz Mustin, Team Leader

## HTEC School Board

### Contract Renewal for Head of School

At the June 17, 2021 School Board meeting the 2020 Letter of Agreement for Head of School was closely reviewed and revised for the 2021-2022 school year. After lengthy discussion and consideration of information on private school principal salaries in Florida, Jim Kelly made a motion that the salary for the Head of School be increased by ten percent. Paul Harmon seconded the motion which received unanimous approval. Following the meeting the Head of School, Justin McCallister accepted and signed the revised contract for the coming 2021-2022 school year.

### Development of the Long-Range Plan

As a top priority, Terry Osborn, Long Range Planning Director, Paul Harmon, Finance Director and Justin will continue laying the groundwork (primarily financial at this point) for a Long-Range Plan. They are assembling information about the Florida scholarship (McKay, Gardiner, etc.) changes with recent legislation. They will report more fully at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Kelly  
Vestry, School Support Team Lead  
HTEC School Board, Chair

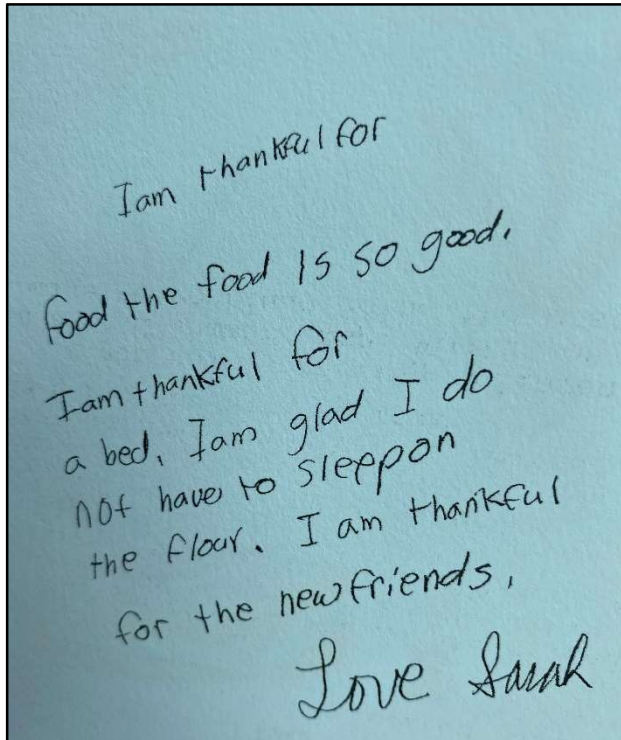
## Holy Hackers Golf for July Cancelled



The timing for the Holy Hackers next outing will be a bit different than usual. We normally meet on the second Saturday of each month, but next month the Memorial Service for our dear friend and fellow parishioner Bill Barnes will be held on that date (July 10). The folks at the Pennbrooke Fairways worked with me on trying to change the date to the third Saturday in July. However, they have two other golf scrambles scheduled for that date, and the only available course is the Sanctuary Course which is 1000 yards longer than the two courses we normally play, and it also has two long par fives on it. Because of this and the July heat, I have decided to cancel the July outing. Therefore, the next Holy Hackers golf outing will be held **Saturday, August 14th**. I will also be moving the tee off time one half hour earlier to 9:00 AM just to give us a little relief from the heat. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, August 14th at 9:00 AM and join us for a morning of fantastic golf and outstanding fellowship. If you wish to sign-up to play in August just send me an e-mail requesting to be added to the list of players and I will take care of it, or you may put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. And I will be sending out a couple of reminders throughout the weeks between now and then as well. That is all I have this month folks - so I will see you in church on Sundays and on the golf course August 14th. Love you all.....

In Christ's Name  
Your Golf Guy  
Pat McLaughlin

## Salvation Army



The Salvation Army of Lake and Sumter Counties Lt. Chris Doborwicz, Corps Officer at Leesburg, Florida Office sent a letter saying and I quote "We're in a difficult situation." It is summer time and so donations automatically drop. July and August are always a hard time for them to receive the food they need to distribute. Add in job and housing problems and summer of 2021 will be especially difficult. Still the note above from a young girl named Sarah offers hope. Her hope comes from people like us, who bring food items in weekly and put them in our Red Wagon.

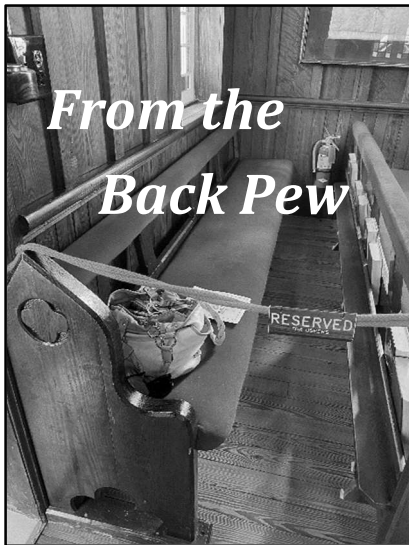
Thank You Everyone,  
Annette Freeman  
Salvation Army Coordinator

## Stamps For Wounded Warrior Project



In recent days I have been asked about my box that sits in the Parish Hall. I know some of you know I collect stamps in that box and you save them for me. My box is labeled Stamps for Annette. Right now, it is on a cart in our kitchen. I am not sure where it will officially end up as we return to pre-pandemic days. I have included a photo of some stamps I have had donated to me. Some are canceled and some are not, I take them all. Please notice I need a little bit of trim left on each stamp. Stamps should be left together if they were used as multiples on an envelope. "What does she do with those stamps you might ask?" Well, I trim and then count them. Then I mail them off to Wounded Warrior Project through my Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter. Our Soldiers use them in projects including occupational therapy and art projects. So, won't you join me and others and bring in your stamps and either give them to me or put them into my box?

Thank You Everyone,  
Annette Freeman



## From the Back Pew

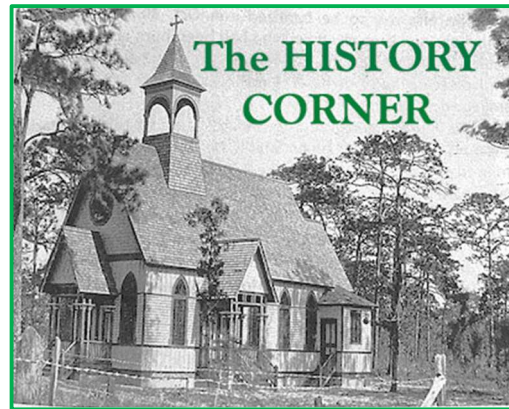
Holy Trinity's Cemetery is located on land received from the Tasker family in 1894. The Rev. John Campbell Wheatley Tasker conducted services for Holy Trinity from its founding in 1886 until 1888 when the Rev. Joseph E. Julian became the Priest of St. James in Leesburg and was therefore responsible for services at Holy Trinity Mission. Between 1888, when the Church Building was completed on the original acre of land, and 1894 burials were made adjacent to the Church on the original acre. These early burials included James Smith and his wife Mary who were among the founders of Holy Trinity and the aforementioned Rev. Joseph Julian. All were re-interred after 1894 in the current Cemetery. In addition to Julian, other priests that served Holy Trinity are buried in the Cemetery and include the Rev. Randolph Blackford, Rev. Lloyd Cox, Rev. Herbert Covell, Rev. Fred Paddock and Rev. E. Michael Rowell.

All of the grave sites in the Cemetery face west which is opposite of the Anglican tradition of graves facing east. The one exception is the grave of Beverly Hail Luther which faces east. Luther's gravesite is also unique in that it is the only stone that lies flat and the date of death is 1882; four years before the founding of Holy Trinity. The ornate inscription on the stone reads "In Memory of" so although there is no

documentation, it is likely the stone is a memorial instead of a gravestone.

Next month: Why does Spring Lake Road bend away from the Church before it reaches the curve?

Russ Casson



## Rev. Meg's Prayer

Our first female rector (and also that of the Diocese of Central Florida's) was The Rev. Margaret (Meg) Eileen Fowler Ingalls (1993-2007). According to *Coming Home, The History of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fruitland Park, FL*, Ivan Ford, June 2003, the following prayer was said at nearly every service during her tenure. AMEN!

*We rejoice to welcome those have been brought here by the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for all the many blessings in our lives, especially those named by our congregation this day. We give thanks that out of many, we are one holy people – preaching, teaching, reaching others in the name of our Lord. We vow to uphold this church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. We vow to be proponents of reconciliation, peacemakers in the midst of crisis, healers in the midst of pain, and bearers of Christ to all the world. Amen.*





MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

## **The Climb**

We ascend to the sky, lost in rhyme,  
Riding the wave in a steady climb,  
Regular beat of the pounding drum,  
My body moves but feeling numb.

Beauty awaits around each bend,  
Mountain and stream, nature my friends,  
Camp and fireside, day's end brings rest,  
Tomorrow anew, my spirit to test.

Tears arrive as I shake my head,  
Wondering why I'm being led  
To such strong feelings of love and loss,  
Back and forth my soul is tossed.

For guidance I pray every day,  
Asked and answered, "this is the way",  
Life is brief, one never knows  
When the last day comes, then it goes.

A most precious gift of time I live,  
It's not really mine but His to give  
And take away in his chosen time,  
Though he gives me strength for the final  
climb.

Ron Whetsell

Oct 2 **Blessing of the Animals**

Oct 3 **Bounce Back Sunday!**

Oct 30 **Annual Golf Tournament –**

A Fundraiser for Holy Trinity  
Episcopal School



Happy  
Anniversary

Bob & Liz Mustin  
Cesar & Dottie Noble  
James & Sandy Foster  
Lee & Debbie Stanton  
Arthur & Arlene Hanson  
Floyd & Barbara Cogley  
Roger & Nancy Wilcox

Happy  
Birthday

Janice Haake  
Sheri Hudson  
Leo Oxberger  
John Rodenbaugh  
Jim Callahan  
Jane Kelly  
Peter Finch  
Jay Summers  
Robin Brown  
Judy Huetz  
Charlotte Shawcross  
Doris Brennan  
Jordan Tuller

# Welcome Back for Coffee Hour!!









# Come Join Us!!!

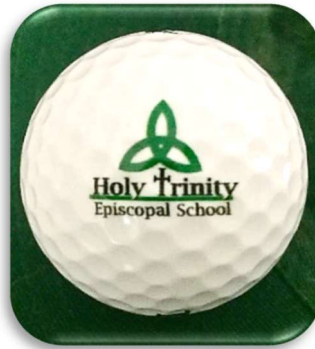


# **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>**

## **Our Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

**A Benefit for Holy Trinity  
Episcopal School**  
our primary ministry



**Harbor Hills Country Club**  
Lady Lake, FL  
overlooking Lake Griffin

Registration opens  
this summer! Not a golfer?  
Many parish volunteers are  
needed to ensure a fun, safe,  
and successful day.

2021 Tournament Chair  
Sid Yee  
sidney1949yee@gmail.com