



The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School*

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Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

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Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

As I write this, some of us are still eating leftovers from our Thanksgiving meal. Memories



of having our families and friends around the table for a shared meal are still fresh. How I pray that the spirit of Thanksgiving will be manifest in all our relationships

throughout the year.

Thanksgiving took on a special significance for me when, during a particularly anxious time in my ministry some years back, I received what I still consider a revelation from the Lord. The revelation was based on the story of Jesus asking his disciples to feed five thousand people (Mark 6:35-44). When they told him they did not have enough to feed that many people, he asked them to go and see what they had. They said they had five loaves and two fish. We are told that Jesus: "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, **he gave thanks** and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied." (Mark 6:41-42).

Since that revelation I have adopted the attitude of giving thanks under all circumstances; and it has transformed my life and ministry. This does not mean that I don't take worrying and frightening events seriously. Indeed, there are several aspects of my personal life and ministry that are of concern. The recent revelation that there is a new COVID "variant of concern" to world health authorities; is certainly worrying and perhaps even frightening. However, regardless of the legitimate concerns, I choose to focus on the good things - signs of hope. By focusing on the signs of hope, I am able to believe that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28).

The General Thanksgiving prayer, on page 836 in our Book of Common Prayer, articulates this attitude by including thanks for "disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you [God] alone." The prayer concludes with thanksgiving for "Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life ...; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your [God's] kingdom."

As I write on this sunny fall afternoon, I am grateful for all of you, my Holy Trinity Church family. I am grateful for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure as most recently manifested through another successful another Stewardship Campaign. I am grateful for your resilience through the challenges of our personal lives and those of our shared life and mission. Above all, I am grateful for the grace of God that enables us to face each new day with faith, hope, and love.

As we begin this Advent season, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for all the blessings of your life – your family and friends, work and leisure, food and shelter, and above all for Jesus the Christ who came that you may have life in its fullness (John 10:10). Because of Jesus, who's first coming we commemorate, and whose second coming we anticipate, may you gladly sing:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich."

Because of what the Lord has done for us;

Give thanks.

Happy Advent!

Stewardship Campaign Update

Many thanks to all of you who have brought or mailed in your 2022 Estimate of Giving cards. As of this writing, Nov. 29, we have received 54 pledges and looking forward to many more.

We will continue receiving the pledges until everyone will have had the opportunity to bring or mail theirs. In 2021, we had 84 pledges and we hope to have about the same or more for 2022. If you haven't already sent in your card, please do so as soon as possible. For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Stewardship co-chairs,

Mark Welton 845-220-6206
markwelton72@gmail.com &

Pat McLaughlin 352-638-2000 or
pmclaugh7@gmail.com

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Vestry Minutes Summary

November 17, 2021

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

Liz Mustin via Zoom.

Fr. Samuel opened the meeting with scripture readings and prayer.

Sara May made a motion that the minutes from the October meeting be approved, second by Jim Kelly and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara May that payment for Rev. Janice Gordon-Barnes substitution on Sundays is designated as Housing Allowance,

which we have done regularly in the past, second by Mark Welton, approved unanimously.

Financial reports were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Church Administrator/ Bookkeeper Position.

The transition plan for the Church Administrator/Bookkeeper open position was discussed. Fr. Samuel has arranged for coverage for the office for almost every day until January 14. Some will be volunteering in the morning and some in the afternoon. We are currently advertising for the position and Deb Yee will do the screening of candidates. The following will help Fr. Samuel with the interviewing process: Dan Curtis, Mark Welton and Deb Yee. Fr. Samuel will make the final decision. The positions will be a part-time bookkeeper and a part-time administrator. Advertising has been done on our Facebook page and so far we have two applicants. Russ Casson made a request that he be a part of the interview for the bookkeeper position as he is the treasurer and would be working closely with the individual hired. Russ also suggested that we advertise in the newspaper.

Since the bookkeeper has left and she took care of the pledge cards, the finance committee, headed by Mark Welton will get the pledge cards and complete the information. Russ Casson is doing the bookkeeping for now.

Fr. Samuel and the volunteers will handle the scheduling on the computer and Peggy will be coming in for several days to train Fr. Samuel.

2022 Budget

The budget process was started by the finance committee and Russ Casson. They reviewed the previous year's budget and projections requests. They noted that the last 2 years budget showed a substantial deficit. The PPE did help last year. They feel it is necessary to have a balanced budget.

Expenses for 2022 were discussed and the suggested budget reviewed. Roof and window projects were not included in the expenses for 2022. Reducing the budget was discussed. There is not much variable dollars to spend. The proposed budget will be presented with

adjustments at the December meeting for approval.

Meeting closed at 9:10 PM with prayer by Fr. Samuel.

Next Vestry meeting is December 15, 2021 at 6:30 in the Parish Hall.

Respectively submitted:

Barbara Cogley

Vestry Secretary

Team updates are available in the church office with current minutes for review.

Sr. Warden's Report

Dear Friends;

When you read this newsletter Thanksgiving holiday will have passed. I pray you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving filled with gratitude and love. Now as we enter the Advent season and the celebration of the birth of our savior I am reflecting on some of what Fr. Samuel has preached during the 4 weeks leading up to Advent. These were the weeks of our 2022 Stewardship focused campaign. The theme this year being "Every Perfect Gift – comes from God above". This year's messages, especially those given by Fr. Samuel, have been much more impactful on me this year. Maybe because of all the divisiveness in our world, or that I am coming to the end of a 4-year journey as Sr. Warden of your Vestry, or that I just had my 73rd birthday and I have lost several very close friends since March..... maybe it is all these life experiences. The result has been that my sense of gratefulness has grown enormously this fall and the message of *Generosity comes from Gratitude* really hits home for me. While I could dwell on the anger that persists in our world or be bitter about the loss of so many good friends, I find myself instead being grateful for all the Perfect Gifts God has given me, including those friends who have departed this life. I am blessed with a wonderful family, a deepening faith, a loving companion, warm and loving friends, my extraordinary church family, and the ability and opportunity to *share* time, talent, and treasure. I find myself wanting to share more because of my gratitude, and ironically the more I share the more gratitude I seem to feel for Holy Trinity

Church and School and positive difference we make in people's lives. A very Blessed Cycle, I pray each of you experience this cycle during this season of gratitude.

Discernment – a word that Fr. Samuel often uses during sermons about giving and serving. He has said our personal decisions regarding stewardship pledging and serving on Vestry are a result of a process of discernment. I thought I generally understood the word but have been feeling I did not in the way that I hear Fr. Samuel use it, or I heard Canon Holcombe use it during our Rector Search process last year, so I finally decided to research its meaning more deeply, I found I was right, I did not have a sufficient understanding.

In the simplest terms, discernment is wisdom. The dictionary defines discernment as, "the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure" In the Christian faith, it is a similar concept, but it is bestowed by the Holy Spirit. True discernment starts with prayer. God smiles on those who ask for it. In the New Testament, there are many verses about the difference between worldly wisdom and true discernment, asking Christians to lean on the Spirit for guidance rather than what the world says is right and wrong.

Things in our world may say giving more or serving more, such as Vestry, is not right for us. Fr. Samuel is asking each of us to pray on these decisions, allow the Holy Spirit to guide us rather than what the world around us says is right and wrong. For me, I believe my sense of gratitude and increase in generosity, as was my decision to serve on Vestry 4 years ago, were a result of guidance from God, my discerning what was right for me. If you are considering at all increasing your generosity and / or serving on Vestry I echo Fr. Samuel's call to follow the process of Discernment, allow your decision to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

On November 10th the Vestry held a "Vestry Overview" in the Parish Hall for any members interested in seeking the Vestry or just interested in learning more about it. In addition to most of our Vestry, it was attended by 6 parish members. After presenting an overview of our

organization, responsibilities, and priorities for the last 4 years, Vestry members shared what serving has meant to them. Good questions and discussion followed. As I discussed above, if you have any potential interest in serving, please pray on this and seek guidance. If you have any particular questions about Vestry please do not hesitate to ask any current member or contact me directly at dan.curtis57@gmail.com or at (618) 694-5560. All that is needed is to let a member of the Nominating Committee (Deb Yee, Jim Kelly, Barb Cogley, Dave Aldrich, Sara May, and myself) know by January 5 that you have decided to seek election in the January 23 election, then submit a short Bio by January 10 (for the January 23 Annual Meeting Report). Six (6) new members will be elected at the Annual Meeting and an Organizational Meeting will follow on the 26th to transfer information, elect Jr. Warden and Secretary, and for Fr. Samuel to announce his selection of Sr. Warden. Speaking from experience, serving on your Vestry has been very rewarding, something I am very grateful for.

One more short plea, we are in need of volunteers to help with Hospitality Coffee Hours following our Sunday services. With the cooler weather and our sun shades in place we are able now to do this outside, but we need volunteers to help with the very easy tasks of setting up simple refreshments and then putting items away. We are fortunate to have many newcomers and visitors, these fellowship hours are a wonderful way to get to know them and welcome better as well as to reunite with old friends and fellow worshippers. If you could help, please contact Barb Cogley our Parish Life Team Leader, she can be contacted at barbcpg@gmail.com or at (352) 874-1307.

Thank You and Bless you All
Dan Curtis, Sr. Warden

Treasurer's Summary Report

November 2021

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$198,213	\$216,667
Other Income	<u>\$ 27,122</u>	<u>\$ 21,733</u>
Total	\$225,335	\$238,400
Expenses	\$272,062	\$295,567

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Russ Casson, Treasurer



Invite, Welcome, Connect

The IWC Team hosted the most recent Newcomers Gathering on Friday, November 19th at 5 P.M. in the Parish Hall. The gathering was open to all who had not attended a previous Newcomers Gathering. Attending were Bob & Sherry Duvall, Karen Hammen, Gregg & Judy Monin, Frank & Marilyn Pfefferle, Michael Quinlan, and Tom Synon. They were joined by Father Samuel and six other members of the Vestry & various ministries.

We all had a chance to chat for a while, then after a prayer from Father Samuel, we had a light dinner, before getting a chance to for each of us introduce ourselves and talk a bit about how life brought us here to where we are today.

Father Samuel concluded the gathering by welcoming all our guests, explaining the process of becoming active members and/or voting members of Holy Trinity and inviting all the guests to be part of our next "Welcoming of New Members" ceremony on Sunday, December 5th if they felt ready and wished to do so. After a prayer we all departed a little after 7 P.M.

Bob, Karen, Frank & Marilyn generally attend the 8 o'clock service, Gregg, Judy, Michael & Tom generally the 10:30 one. If you haven't met them yet, please look for them and introduce yourself.



The Adult Sunday school will begin on Sunday, Nov.28th at 9:15 -10:15 in the Parish Hall. This is an Advent Study named, "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine. Amy shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament, highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasize4s the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. This will be lead by Ron Wetzel. Mark your calendars and join us for Adult Sunday school.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Mustin

HTEC Salvation Army Bell Ringers

As part of Holy Trinity's mutual support agreement with the Leesburg Salvation Army we will again this year be Ringing Bells at the Belk department store at 1020 Bichara Blvd., in Lady Lake on November 26 - 27 and December 17 - 18. We have a total of 18 volunteers helping us who will be providing 32 hours of their time to help those in need living on the margin of life who are trying to feed their families and pay their bills with limited resources.

Respectfully submitted:
Jim Kelly
Coordinator

SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION

Hello Everyone,

Please take a minute to check out this Advent Calendar that I found. It gives some great ideas for food items for us to bring in this month as we all celebrate Advent. No, I am not expecting you to bring in all these items this month. What I am doing is asking you to consider bringing in a few items each week this month from this list as we

celebrate Advent. These are only suggested items.



We have hunger around us and this is a way to help those being helped by the Salvation Army Office in Leesburg.

Thank You for your consideration,
Annette Freeman

See picture page in back.



What is the best way to describe today's Holy Hackers outing? Two ways - blessed and

fantastic.... I say blessed because we beat the rain. The rain held off until we were on the way home, and I say fantastic because a very dear friend who has promised me, for like forever, that she would play joined us today. Yes that's right - the fabulous, fantastic, and multi-talented Annette Freeman was on the course with us this morning. In fact, she and her husband, Bob, joined Gerry and I on TEAM #4 this morning. I must say that her performance was absolutely out of this world. I do believe she must have taken some lessons from a professional golfer. All of her tee shots landed on the green not too far from the hole - welllllll let's just say for the most part they did. Of course, it was not always the green we were supposed to be playing, but it was a green. Her performance was quite exceptional. Her drives; her chips, her putts could only be described as beyond the realm of imaginability. In fact, on three of the holes I truly thought she was going to make a hole in one. On all three occasions she missed it by mere yards. Thanks so much for joining us today Annette, and I look forward to seeing you on the course again real soon. One of Annette's many pet projects is "Wreaths Across America" This is a program where for only \$10 a Christmas Wreath is provided for a Veteran's grave in our cemetery. We have 69 Veterans buried in Holy Trinity's Cemetery. To purchase a wreath simply make your check out to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and in the "FOR" section of the check put "Wreaths Across America".

We were also honored by the presence of two brand new Holy Hackers - Linda & Jack Bambury who are neighbors of Deb & Randy Siver. Thanks so much for joining us today, and I hope to see you back again next month. Oh - and you can bring Deb and Randy back with you as well (as you know we sort of like them).

And now about today's golf. We played the longer of the two short courses today - the "Oaks Course". This course proved to be no challenge for at least two of the Holy Hacker teams because they both shot a (2 Under Par) 28. And just who were these two teams you ask... Well, that would be TEAM #3 - Barbara Cogley, Father Ted Koelln, Terry Banks, and the most famous Leo Oxberger; and TEAM #5

Barbara Turner and Valeria McGathy along with their two friends Gloria Metager and Molly McGlone. Their playing expertise forced me to utilize the Handicap Holes to determine a winner. As it turned out that was not much of a chore at all - because TEAM #5 scored a "Birdie" on the #1 Handicap Hole and TEAM #3 merely "Parred " it. Congratulations Barbara, Valeria, Gloria, and Molly on a job well done. You ladies have won the bragging rights for the month. 3rd Place was taken by TEAM #3 - the illustrious Deb and Randy Siver along with their neighbors Linda and Jack Bambury - who recorded a (1 Under Par) 29 on their scorecard. Now that right there boys and girls is some good golf. The rest of the Holy Hackers also did quite well today... TEAM #1 - Gail & Jonathan Hole; and Naomi & David Aldrich; TEAM #4 - Annette & Bob Freeman, Gerry Howell, and Pat McLaughlin; and TEAM #5 - Nancy & Mike Browne; Rev. Janice Gordon Barnes, and Ray Vallee.

Thanks so much to everyone that came out today - your partaking in the monthly Holy Hackers Golf Scramble is so very much appreciated. As I tell you each month - you folks are the very essence of the Holy Hackers and without you we would not and could not exist. I truly appreciate each and every one of you! You are the greatest!!!!

We are on the verge of bidding farewell to another year and that means that the last Holy Hackers Golf Scramble for 2021 is right around the corner. Yep that's right - the December Holy Hacker Outing is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th. The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall tomorrow morning after the 10:30 AM Service. If for any reason you cannot get to the Parish Hall to sign-up simply send me an e-mail telling me that you would like to play and I will take care of it. WOW! I cannot believe that I am getting ready to close out my 17th year with the Holy Hackers. It seems like only yesterday when I became involved with this great group of Holy Trinity golfers.

Well boys and girls that is about all I have for this month so I will sign off for now. Have a

great weekend and I will see you in Church and on the course next month.

In Christ's Name
Your Golf Guy
Pat McLaughlin

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

Reservations for 10:30am Sunday Service

To reserve your 10:30am seat(s)
please click [here](#).

If you prefer, call the church office at
352-787-1500 prior to 3pm on Thursdays.

**Typically, there are ample open seats so if in
doubt, just come!**



William and Eleanor Frame were members of Holy Trinity.

William was s Sr, Vice President with Florida Telephone Corporation based in Leesburg.

Eleanor taught Latin and English at Leesburg High School.

Eleanor died after her husband in April, 1965.
Both are buried in the churchyard (Cemetery)

Her will established a Trust which has become known as the Frame Estate.

Beneficiaries of the income from this perpetual Trust include University of the South Seminary, Bishop's Gray Inn, Camp Wingmann, and Holy Trinity.

The 2021 distribution to Holy Trinity from the Frame Estate was \$17,066.

Next month: What happened to the Holy Trinity Guild House?



Betty Torian
Rod Jones
Eve Timchula
Madge Brown
Madeline Panlilio
Randy Siver
Patsy Tyler
Ray D'Auria
Anne [Hankwitz](#)



Russ Casson

Happy
Anniversary

Terry & Nancy Mitchell
Jack & Patricia Koller
George and Mary Jane Kaufman
Rod and Kathy Jones
Parker & Charlotte Bauer

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

