



The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School*

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Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

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Celebrating our Past, Claiming our Future

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6)



The end of the year and the beginning of a new one is always a time to look back and look forward. For us at Holy Trinity, the year 2023 is a significant milestone as we celebrate 135 years of gathering, worshipping, and being sent from this place. It is a year to reflect, give thanks, and affirm the faithfulness of God and the cloud of witnesses who came before us. It is a year to thank God for what he has done, and a year to renew our commitment to what God continues to do in this place for many years to come.

As I reflect on this 135th anniversary of worship in this place, I find myself echoing the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians; quoted above.

I thank my God every time

I thank God every time I remember that over 135 years ago a group of men and women answered God's call to start an Episcopal Church in this area. I thank God every time I look at our beautiful historic sanctuary and remember that much of the funds that paid for its construction were donated by Christians in England. It is a true reminder that *"In Christ, there is no East or West, no South or North, but one great family bound by love throughout the whole wide earth."* I thank God that a sanctuary intended to be a place of worship for young English colonists has become "a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7), including some Rwandans.

I thank God every time I remember that for 135 years God has called, inspired, and used men, women, and children to make his presence known in this place; to love and serve one another in the name of Christ, and to go out from this place to proclaim by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. I thank God for each one of them, particularly those of you who I have come to know and love as fellow laborers in God's mission; brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am particularly thankful for your faithfulness over the past year. Because of your generosity of time, talent, and treasure, so much was accomplished. In addition to being able to fulfill our church and school's financial obligations, we were able to respond to the needs of the less fortunate both far and near. Our Outreach to the local community through our partnership with Salvation Army, our support for the Sao Palo Mercy Ministry in Brazil, our participation in Operation Christmas Child, and our response to natural and man-made disasters in this country and beyond, has been significant.

I am thankful for our new members who have brought new ideas and great energy. Several of them have taken on leadership roles with significant impact. I am thankful for Deacon Charlie and his wife Angela and their contributions to our shared life and mission. I am thankful for our new staff members – our new Parish Administrator and both our outgoing and incoming book-keepers. This 135th anniversary of our church's presence in this

location is truly an occasion, to thank God for His faithfulness, and that of generations of people who have called Holy Trinity their spiritual home.

I am confident

When I think of what God has done during the 135 years of Holy Trinity's existence in this place, I am inspired to be even more confident about our future. I am confident that the God who started the good work in this place, and carried it on for the past 135 years, is willing and more than able to carry it on for the next 135 years. Remember, he is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or even imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20).

It is my hope that you who read this article share my gratitude and confidence in the God who has brought us thus far and promises to lead us into the future. It is clear that the 135 years of our history in this place were characterized by many ups and downs – trials and triumphs, successes and failures, joys and pains. Through it all, God's grace and the faithfulness of his people carried the day. No doubt, the next 135 years will be marked by challenges and opportunities. Our calling, just like those who came before us, is to be faithful in doing our part while trusting God to do his part.

Looking forward

Even as we celebrate our past, I hear the voice of God speaking: *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* (Isaiah 43:18-19). It is my hope that we will all hear and heed this voice and claim the future that God is charting for the future of our church.

May the 135th anniversary of worship in this place be an occasion for us to recommit ourselves to remaining thankful, confident, and faithful; knowing that he who began a good work in us, will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.

2023 Annual Parish Meeting

In accordance with our by-laws the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday January 29, 2023** following a combined worship service to be held at 9:30. We will elect 3 Vestry members to succeed those who have faithfully completed their 3-year terms. We will also elect one person to serve 1 year of an unexpired term.

The meeting is open to all active participants in the life and mission of Holy Trinity but only **Voting Members** will be eligible to vote or be considered for elective office. A voting member is:

- A confirmed (received) Episcopalian and recorded as such in the Parish Register. Confirmed Episcopalians who have not yet transferred their membership from their previous parish are not be eligible to vote until they do so.
- A confirmed Episcopalian 16 years and older
- A confirmed Episcopalian who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and is faithful in working, praying, giving for the spread of God's Kingdom at Holy Trinity and beyond.

If you are not sure about your status, please contact the rector.

Ministry Reports

We will also receive reports from the Rector, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and Ministry Team Leaders. The Treasurer will also present the **2023 Budget** as passed by the Vestry. Those concerned should submit their reports to the Parish Administrator as soon as possible.

Sr. Warden's Report

'Twas six days before Christmas, and all through the Church, not a creature was stirring except for the three wise men installing the new Loop System for the Holy Trinity.

What is a Loop System? "A loop system is a special type of sound system for people who use hearing aids. The loop system provides a magnetic wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to the T-setting (telecoil). Many hearing aids are equipped with this technology." Check with your audiologist if you are not sure if you have the T-coil. What if you have an issue with your hearing, but you do not have hearing aids? We have two pairs of headsets that will pick up the signal and allow you to hear all that is being said at the services. Ask an usher to supply you with one.

Besides the installation of the Loop, we have a number of events planned in the coming year. The Ladies' Group, "Plus One" (Fr. Samuel), seems to be picking up momentum. We are planning a neighborhood get together in March.

The Church looked beautiful for the Christmas Services. We thank the Altar Guild for their dedication to Holy Trinity. The grounds and the School reflect the hard work our Volunteers put into making Holy Trinity a place people want to worship and children want to learn.

With the coming New Year, we pray for Holy Trinity's many blessings to continue. We pray for the continued support in "Time, Talent and Treasure" that our parishioners have provided. We pray our children continue in their progress to learn and prepare for successful lives. We especially pray for the safe return of Fr. Samuel and Rose from their well-deserved vacation.

May God Bless us all this coming year.
Doris Brennan, Senior Warden.

Jr. Warden's Report

First of all, this is the end of my tenure as your Junior Warden. It has been fun, challenging and a real honor to serve this place and all of you for the past three years.

I am looking forward to continuing with anything that I can help with in any way. Thank you for allowing me to do what I am best at, which is working the grounds.

As for the last month we have had a slower schedule since grass grows very slowly in the winter.

Air filters have been changed at the church and school. Smoke alarms have been checked out.

Work continues on the front of our oldest school building including painting (two coats) and continuing work on stacked wall construction.

Decking material for the front of the school has been delivered and we are looking for a builder to put it on.

Respectfully submitted, in Christ's name

Randy Siver, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Summary Report

November 2022

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$21,015	\$21,527
Other Income	<u>\$ 1,501</u>	<u>\$ 4,459</u>
Total	\$22,516	\$25,986
Expenses	\$26,510	\$25,986

Ye shall not appear before the LORD empty; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee. *Deuteronomy 16:16,17*

Russ Casson, Treasurer

School Board Report



Hard to believe another year is about to pass. With it we are losing our beloved School Board Chair, Sara May. After spending more time working directly with the students, including this year's Christmas Pageant Sara has resigned from the Board and decided that spending her limited time with the students is where her passion and her heart are. She explained in her notice to the Board.....*"her heart has been captured"*. While we are all very sad to see her leave our team, and we will miss her leadership,

we are also very happy for her, and also for the students to have the good fortune to spend more time with Mrs. May.

Sara was one of the co-founders of our School Board and was instrumental in creating the Policies and Procedures for the formation of the Board and how it operates. Her leadership and contributions have contributed significantly to the success of the school over the past several years. When you see Sara please thank her for her service to our most important mission..... and ask her what plans she has for the next big school musical or pageant.

At the January Board meeting a new Chairperson will be elected.

Thank you Sara..... Have a Happy New Year!!

Dan Curtis

Holy Trinity Episcopal School Board

Naomi Aldrich, Doris Brennan, Laura Bustin, Robin Brown, Dan Curtis, Terry Osborn, Fr. Samuel, and Justin McCallister

Pancakes and Sausages help HTES students with learning LIFE SKILLS



Do you remember how you learned:

- ... to fix a leaky faucet?
- ... to square a rectangle box?
- ... to diagnose why a car would not start?
- ... to stain a piece of furniture?
- ... to sew on a button?
- ... to pay monthly bills?



These are some of the things our generation learned in shop class, at home or what used to be home economics class, but is no longer readily available in our school systems. But thanks to Mr. John Vernitte's LIFE SKILLS class, which is in its second year at HTESchool, the children are learning skills that will serve them well once they begin to establish their independence after graduation.

Thanks to the proceeds from the monthly Pancake Breakfast Hour, we were able to supply the school with tools and materials from Home Depot and Lowe's for the LIFE SKILLS class. Recently, the students completed a project sanding & staining/refinishing a bench. Soon after the Christmas holidays, Mr. Vernitte will be introducing the class to how a four-cycle engine works.



Somewhere on the horizon, he will be teaching the boys and girls sewing, and will probably need supplies for this endeavor. So, know those extra calories you are treating yourself to on that last Sunday of each month is supporting a very noble cause. So, encourage your fellow

parishioners to come out and support HTES, as they enjoy fellowshiping with members of the HTEC congregation.

Sidney Yee

Heritage Society Dinner

As most of you know by now, anyone or couple who have either contributed to our Endowment, or has made provisions to include Holy Trinity's Endowment in their estate or lifetime giving plans, is a member of our Heritage Society. This coming Spring your planned giving team intends to host a recognition and appreciation dinner for members of the Society.

If you have not informed a member of the vestry or endowment committee and team (Mike Browne, Parker Bauer, Paul Harmon, and Mark Welton) of your eligibility for the Society, we encourage you to do so. We would love to put your name(s) on our plaque in the Parish Hall, and invite you to our dinner this coming spring.

Our Endowment is growing and will eventually provide an important source of financial stability and growth for our Church. Thank you!

Mark Welton

Grief Support Group Meeting

All of us have experienced grief at some time in our lives, whether it is the loss of a parent, sibling, spouse, child, special friend etc. On **Monday, January 9th, 2023** a group will be meeting from **10:30 - Noon**, in the Chapel, for learning, support, "normalization" of feelings, etc. Judy Rogers, retired LCSW, will be leading the group. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those interested in participating. Feel free to put your first name, and a phone #. As the group will be no larger than 9 people there will also be a waiting list if more people wish to participate. If you have any questions email janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com.

Janice Gordon-Barnes



Wreaths Across America 2022

Our Wreaths arrived at HTEC early on Wednesday morning. Our 11 boxes of Wreaths were unloaded and stored till time to place them. I want to **thank** Bob Freeman and Bob Mustin for coming out and helping set up the stands that would hold our Wreaths.

Our Wreaths were placed on our Veteran Graves last Sunday after each of our Sunday Services. I hope everyone will take a look at our cemetery and see the beautiful Wreaths and the way we are showing our respect for those who Served our country and each of us. I **thank** each person who contributed to this Ministry this year. We have Remembered, Honored and Taught.

With Many Thanks.
Annette Freeman

HTEC 2022 Salvation Army Bell Ringers; Well Done

Thanks, and God bless all the HTEC volunteer Salvation Army Bell Ringers for their effort this Holiday Season. The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and School service team of 22 volunteers put in a combined total of 64 hour in support of Salvation Army Bell Ringing this year.

At this moment we do not know the exact amount of money we were able to raise, but we all know how generous shoppers were and how full our bucket was. In a few months our service team will be invited to the annual Salvation Army Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and at

that time we will find out the results of our efforts.

Our team's efforts serve as an encouragement and perhaps even a recruitment opportunity for parishioners who might be available and interested in getting involved next year; who knows we may have enough volunteers to add a day or two to our bell ringing schedule in support of our partners in faith, the Salvation Army.

Note: Please see pictures in the picture section.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Kelly

CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, November 19, 2022

It was a while coming, but the cool weather finally arrived. CLEAN UP DAY finally arrived on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Frankly it was a little chilly when the day started at 8:30 am, but a dozen plus parishioners ventured out to work on the cemetery grounds and the landscaping surrounding the school campus. The team divided itself up into power washing, painting, edging and hedge trimming, in addition to general raking of all the loose debris brought about by our recent storms.

Below are a few photographs of these hardy souls - led by Randy Siver - beautifying our campus.

This is not a "one & done" event. There will be another opportunity in the future for others to experience the joy of "working the land". We hope you will come out to lend a hand and discover the pleasures of Holy Trinity fellowship.

Note: Please see pictures in the picture section.

Sidney Yee
703-966-2615

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL?

Christmas carols ... we all know them, but it is a short season; never enough time for your favorite one. Well, come to the 10:30 service on the



*first Sunday after Christmas, **January 1st**, and you'll all have an opportunity to sing it. There will be a series of lessons and between each one, shoot up your arm. When I call out your name, say the first line, or the hymn #, and our magnificent Music Director will play it.. But BEWARE! If anyone chooses "O come all ye faithful" your favorite English priest will sing it in Latin!*

Janice Gordon-Barnes

Attention golfers, and non-golfers.

It's over!! We won't be asking you to golf until the next Benefit.

For all those that attended and participated in this event, we would like to Thank You for all you have done. It is because of you that it was a success.

As you will note, there are some pictures included in the last issue of the Tidings. They are of the students, golfers, and worker bees. The students were the hit of the outing. They worked hard (with the artful help of Justin McCallister and his team) and interacted with the players. Everyone was able to see what the Benefit was all about. They made us proud. The students at our school are enjoying the fruits of our labor.

Judy Morin



Unity

Rivers flow between us,
Rapid waters not to cross,
“My meadow seems the greener,
Join me here lest you be lost.”

After prayer, upon reflection,
We come to realize,
Higher callings that unite us,
An accord in Jesus Christ.

United by our identity,
A triplicity in faith,
As children of the same God,
Eternal souls his love creates.

Our purpose like our destiny,
Undeniably the same,
You and I united,
In God's goodness to proclaim.

May 31, 2022

Ron Whetsell



Christmas Nativity Scene

We want to thank Gregg and Judy Monin for donating this beautiful Nativity Scene. It has been placed in front of our church. Thank you also to Bob Mustin for all his hard work in putting this nativity together. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to visit during this Christmas season.



New Members

Please welcome our new members to Holy Trinity. Charles and Janell Stereis and George and Susie Hardesty and Elizabeth Pike.

PASTORAL CARE

For pastoral care
we welcome you to contact:

Deacon Charlie Perrin
(917-856-7987) or
charlieperrin@outlook.com,

Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva
(920-226-0050) or
rector@holyltrinityfp.com;
or call the church office Monday
through Thursday during office
hours.

Please continue to phone or email
your prayer requests to 352-787-
1500 or office@holyltrinityfp.com



William "Bill" Horan moved to Fruitland Park in the early 1960's and established the American Cheerleader Academy (ACA) on Lake Geneva. Bill was an accomplished gymnast and many High School and College cheerleaders from across the South would attend the Cheerleader camps during the summer.

Holy Trinity's Rectory is also located on Lake Geneva making the Academy a neighbor. Bill met the Rector, Fr. Fred Paddock, and became a member of Holy Trinity. Bill passed in 2005 and is buried in our Cemetery.

The site of the ACA is now known as Camp Geneva.

Next month: What is the story about the single grave in the NE corner of the Cemetery?

Russ Casson

Happy
Anniversary

Beth & Bruce Major
Gail & Jonathan Hole
Jordon & Val Tuller
John & Barbara Turner
George & Susie Hardesty

Happy
BIRTHDAY

Bob Freeman
Robert Disinger
Mary Ellen Willis
Joan Ballard
Pam Hulsey
Beth Major
Naomi Aldrich
Jonathan Hole
Patrick McLaughlin
David Fleming
Sue Lewis
Steve Oakes
Pat Casson
Charlotte Bauer
Samuel Nsengiyumva
Sophie Vallee

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist –
Rite 2 *(with no music)*

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 1
(with no music)

10:30 a.m.– Holy Eucharist Rite 2
(with Organ Music)
(Live-streamed on Facebook)

Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - Healing Service
with Communion (Live-streamed on Facebook)

Ladies Fellowship Gathering



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY HOT PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Join us the last weekend of the month for the monthly hot breakfast in the Parish Hall served by our Holy Trinity Men's group, from 9:00am – 10:30am. We will be serving pancakes, sausages, eggs, coffee, juices, etc. Volunteers are needed for this important ministry.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS: On **Monday, January 9th, 2023** a group will be meeting from **10:30 - Noon**, in the Chapel, for learning, support, "normalization" of feelings, etc. Judy Rogers, retired LCSW, will be leading the group. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those interested in participating.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: On **Sunday, January 29, 2023 around 11:00.**

The meeting is open to all active participants in the life and mission of Holy Trinity but only **Voting Members** will be eligible to vote or be considered for elective office. Please look for important announcements as to the time.

ONLINE SURVEYS AND SIGN-UPS

PICTURE DIRECTORY PROJECT: We will be taking pictures for our proposed pictorial Directory in the Parish Hall following each of our three worship services. We encourage you to have your picture taken so it may be easier for us to recognize each other. You may sign-up on the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4babad2ca3fbc16-photo>

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT (ERD) DISASTER FUND

In response to the various disasters around the country and beyond, ERD has established a Disaster Fund. To donate to the fund, please click [here](#). Thank you!

Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, November 19, 2022



Clean-up #2



Holy Trinity Bell Ringers



Pictures taken by
Sidney Yee
Thanks, Sid

