



The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School*

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Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

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Long Walk to Freedom

By The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva



As some of you have heard, I am not much of a movie person. I rarely go to movies or even watch them at home. When I do, I watch documentaries or movies based on real life stories. One movie I could not pass is "Long Walk to Freedom"

based on Nelson Mandela's autobiography. I was determined to watch this movie because of my admiration for Mandela, and the meaning I attached to the title of the movie. I am glad I watched it. Long Walk to Freedom speaks volumes.

Lent as I understand it, is a reminder, not just of the events leading to our Lord's suffering and death, but the suffering of many in our world, past and present. Indeed, during this particular Lenten season we have seen a lot of suffering – members and friends of our church family dealing with serious sickness, victims of recent severe storms around the country, victims of violence in Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Nigeria, and many other areas where there is turmoil, and many other forms of suffering.

Easter on the other hand, is a reminder of the triumph of good over evil. It is a reminder that, however bad things may be, and however long it may take, good will ultimately triumph. As one popular preacher put it, “It’s Friday but Sunday is Coming.” And as the young South Africans sung in the popular movie *Sarafina*, “Freedom is Coming Tomorrow.” Long Walk to Freedom may be a movie about Mandela, but it is a symbol of hope for all those who long and wait for freedom and relief. Unlike the disciples who helplessly witnessed our Lord’s long walk to Calvary without knowing what will happen next, we know how it ended. For Jesus, the journey did not end with the crucifixion but with the resurrection. It was a long walk to freedom on Easter morning.

I am deeply aware that for many of us the pain and suffering brought about by the powers of darkness is more real than imagined. For some, things may even get worse before they get better. Even, then my prayer and hope is that the hope of Easter will be even more real. You see, we believe in a God who can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). As St. Paul put it, “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.)

With that assurance, I invite you to our annual commemoration of our Lord’s death and resurrection during Holy Week. This year will feature some new activities including an Agape meal to be served in the Parish Hall on Maundy Thursday beginning at 5:00 p.m. We will also be honored to have, the Rev. James Nkumbuyimana as our guest preacher for Good Friday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Rev. Nkumbuyimana is a retired priest and Theology lecturer from the Anglican Church of Uganda. He will be sharing his reflections on the significance of our Lord’s death and resurrection on our own life today. On Sunday April 16, he will share with us more about the church in

Uganda at a forum from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

As we press on this Long Walk to Freedom from all that binds and burdens us, may we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith who endured such hostility from sinners, so that we may not grow weary or lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3). May we find hope in the assurance that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18), and that nothing, even death, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39). Amen.

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Time To Come Home

By Deacon Dick Labud

I was born in Pasadena, California, but from that time on, half of my time was spent in Florida since my father had business in both states. We moved here permanently when I was 10 years old, so I guess you could say that I am as close to being a native Floridian as you can get without actually being born here. I am also what you would call a “cradle Episcopalian,” but was not always an excellent model Episcopalian! Yes, there were many times in my younger days that I found my way out of church by the ear! As a teen, I got a bit more rebellious when it came to church matters. I wasn’t always the best at attending, and I certainly wasn’t interested in volunteering or being involved much at all. But God had plenty of patience with me because He knew what would be coming my way. In my upper teens I met my wonderful wife Lisa at college and knew instantly that we were meant to be. We were married in 1979 and have had a very blessed marriage. In 1985, our son Jonathan was born. He graduated from UCF as a computer engineer and now lives in Virginia working for the Patent Office. In 1988, our daughter Tricia was born. She graduated from UCF as a civil engineer and now lives in Mt. Plymouth, Florida working for the Florida Department of Transportation. (In April 2022, we welcomed our new son-in-law, Jordan, to the family).

After attending a few other churches, we came to Holy Trinity in late 1990 and immediately

knew it was home. Tricia was baptized here, and I was led to confirmation; never having been confirmed earlier in my rebellious teen years. Our family became very involved – Sunday school, youth group, acolytes, serving as a LEM, and I even had a tour of duty on the Vestry. As time went on, I felt that there was more for me to do, so I had several meetings with the Rev. Ernie Davis and as a result, decided to attend a few classes at the Institute of Christian Studies to learn more about the Church. It felt so right that I kept attending classes. Now, some people might say that this is when the Lord started talking to me, but it is when I started listening. It is amazing what happens when one goes quiet and actually listens! I was being led to the Diaconate but I was still trying to say, “Not me Lord, I am not good at dealing with others, I am not good at.....”, and the list goes on and on!

By this time, Holy Trinity had a new priest, the Rev. Margaret Ingalls. Through my meetings with her, it was fleshed out that I should start the process towards the Diaconate. It was a blessed journey through discernment committees, diocesan committees, and of course, all my meaningful times with Bishop John Howe. I was ordained to the Diaconate on November 11, 1995 at a place some of you might have heard of - Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Fruitland Park Florida. Upon ordination, I was assigned to St. Thomas Church in Eustis and served there until early 2020. So many years, so many memories! Lisa was the Parish Administrator at St. Thomas for 16 years, keeping that place running like a well-oiled machine.

In 2009 I was asked to consider taking on a ministry at the assisted living section at Lakeview Terrace in Altoona – it was supposed to be a short-term ministry – once a month - maybe half a year or 1 year - tops. Fast-forward to the present - I still go there every two weeks (it didn't last long at once a month!), it is a ministry that has been more of a blessing to me than I could have ever imagined! We have a healing service, along with communion, and lots of love and friendship.

Lisa and I both work for the Department of Transportation, commuting together, saving fuel (that helps a lot with the way gas prices are

nowadays), and enjoying quality bonding time. We love to go camping at state campgrounds, but with the reservation systems and the rising popularity of camping, we don't get to go as often as we would like. I have come back to Holy Trinity by the gentle whisperings in my heart. I knew I was home the first morning as soon as I walked through the door. In time, I look forward to meeting each and every one of you, and to being part of this loving group that calls Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Fruitland Park Florida, home. You are always in my thoughts and prayers.

In His Name, Deacon Dick Labud

Sr. Warden's Report

Well, Spring is here, and with Spring comes a full calendar of events taking us through the end of March through April and into May. Our first commitment is to Fruitland Park Day. By the time you read this, we will have already spent the day there manning the Holy Trinity Booth. We will have informational brochures on the Church as well as the school. It gives us an opportunity to mingle with our neighbors. It will give us all a chance to learn more about each other and how we can all serve the Community better.

April we have Holy Week followed by Easter. This year we are going to have an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday. The Agape Meal will be in the Parish Hall. We will have the option of foot washing along with prayers and a simple meal. It will be done to give us a better sense of Holy Thursday and The Last Supper. That will be followed by Eucharist in Church and then the stripping of the altar. Good Friday will have The Stations outside, at noon. There will be a service Friday night as well. On Holy Saturday we will hold the Easter Vigil at 8pm. Easter Sunday we will have our regular schedule of services at 8am and 10:30am.

On Saturday, May 6th, we are going to have a Parish/School Picnic. We originally had one planned two years ago, and then COVID put the squash on it. This year we are looking forward to meeting our students and their families and experiencing an entertaining day together. It will be from 10am to 2pm. Our Men's Group has

volunteered to cook. We are planning some fun activities we can all participate in. We will be working with the Parents Group to make this an event that will hopefully be enjoyed by all. Please mark the day on your calendar – May 6th.

One of our goals this year is to create a closer bond between our Parish and School. We fear not enough of our Parishioners are aware of how special our school is and how amazing our students are. We want everyone to be aware of the work done all year for our students, and not just when the Golf Benefit is held. The joint picnic will bring more awareness to this mission.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Spring Events.

Doris Brennan

Junior Warden's Report

Building & Grounds Work Day

Saturday April 1, 2023

8:30 to 12:00 Noon

You Are Cordially Invited

To Come Out & Join Me

As I Lead a Work Day At

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

We Will Be Raking & Picking Up Leaves,

Trimming & General Yard Work

Please Bring Your Rake

Thank You,

Bob Freeman

Vestry Meeting Highlights

March 16, 2023

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023, to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

Members Present: Fr. Samuel, Doris Brennan, Debbie Lally, Russ Casson, Steve Knowles, John Canner, Robin Michell. Members Absent: Mandy Panlilio and Bob Freeman

1. The meeting began with an opening prayer from Fr. Samuel.

2. The Vestry spent time reading and meditating on writings from the book Meditation for Vestry Members.
3. Vestry members presented reports from the various ministry teams. The Vestry reflected on the various reports.
4. The calendar continues to be filled with many activities. Please note the following dates on your calendar for the following annual events.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service with foot washing

Good Friday-Noon and 6:00PM

Saturday-Great Vigil at 8:00 p.m.

Easter-8:00 AM and 10:30 AM with brass quartet

1. The construction of our new roof should begin in March and be completed by Easter.
2. The Vestry is looking into adding cameras to various areas around the church enhance the security of our members, students, staff and guests.
3. The Vestry reviewed and accepted the amended minutes from February's meeting.
4. The Vestry reviewed and accepted the March financial report. A copy of the report is posted in the Parish Hall for those that may be interested.
5. Fruitland Park Day, March 25, 2023 will be planned by IWC
6. The Vestry meeting ended with a closing prayer from Fr. Samuel.

Debbie Lally

Treasurer's Summary Report

February, 2023

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$17,330	\$24,113
Other Income	<u>\$ 714</u>	<u>\$ 3,370</u>
Total	\$18,044	\$27,483
Expenses	\$23,911	\$27,483

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

Russ Casson, Treasurer

The Church at Prayer

By Jonathan Hole

Starting after Easter on the first Thursday, April 13, persons who are interested may gather in the sanctuary to pray together from 10 AM to 11 AM. Subsequent Thursdays will also hold the opportunity for church people to gather for prayer at the same hour.



Why do this and what are our resources? We understand that your prayer life is both private and public. There are important times for your private devotions. But the community should gather together at specific times to pray. It allows us to focus on the needs of the congregation and the word. Mention of prayer needs jolts us into realization that there are areas we never considered before.

We are blessed to have our major resource called The Book of Common Prayer. Paging through you will discover prayers from all occasions and needs. The catechism states that prayer is “responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.” Our treasured book is full of prayers which help us focus.

The format for each hour will include an introduction about one the various aspects of prayer. Time will be given for silence. Persons who wish to request certain prayers will be encouraged. People may pray silently or out loud. Prayers from the Sunday worship bulletin will be noted. Each session will end with the Lord’s Prayer.

Please consider joining us.
Jonathan Hole



HTEC School Tutor Update

Under the training and leadership of our Head of School, Justin McCallister, the tutors have been working hard this school year to provide our students with opportunities to improve their reading fluency and math abilities.

Many of our tutors go above and beyond. In particular, Kathy Warner has recently decided to volunteer additional time to assist some of our students with Speech Therapy as she is a certified Speech Therapist. She will be working with additional students in a small group to determine what assistance she can provide.

If you are interested in tutoring and have just a few hours a week to work one-on-one with a student please contact Jim Kelly at (913) 558-2636. (No formal academic certification is required.)

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Kelly

Endowment Committee Report

Have You Remembered Holy Trinity In Your Estate Plan?



One of the many beneficial ways to support the ministry of our church is to include Holy Trinity in your estate plan.

This can take many forms. One of the simplest ways is to make a bequest – in any amount – in your will to our Endowment Fund. Our fund is growing, and your contribution will provide memorable and lasting support to our church for decades to come.

We have information and resources available on planned giving, including bequests in wills and estate plans, from the Episcopal Church Foundation. In addition, you may ask any member of our Endowment Committee – Mike Browne, Parker Bauer, and Paul Harmon – as well as myself for information about this and other ways to support our church through planned giving..

Mark Welton

Salvation Army - Outreach

Holy Trinity - Salvation Army
Working Together



Of the many services that Holy Trinity provides to those in need in our community one of the more pressing right now is food services. Holy Trinity participates in this vital mission by working with the Salvation Army food bank and providing breakfast service at the Salvation Army post in Leesburg once a month. You can be part of these compassionate works by placing nonperishable food in the Red Wagon at the front of the church before and after church services or by joining the HTEC Salvation Army Breakfast team serving breakfast. For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ please contact Annette Freeman (352) 406-7608 or Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Kelly



UNITED THANK OFFERING

Dear Parishioners,

We are now a month into our UTO Ministry. I hope it has opened your eyes, as it has mine, to just how I am blessed by my Lord and Savior. I have always felt and thought that I was blessed, but when thinking on it on a daily basis and with Bob really expressing my thanks out loud as I add my coins daily to our UTO little blue box, I have truly felt the love of my Lord. I hope there are others who are having similar experiences. I would love to hear your thoughts on your walk through this Ministry. Feel free to share when you see me or you could text or email me.

More information will follow on our collecting of little blue boxes after Easter. May we each continue to recognize our daily blessings.

Annette Freeman
Outreach HTEC

EASTER OFFERING

I am writing on behalf of our Outreach Committee to present the two Vestry approved recipients of our HTEC Easter Offering. Our Collection will be split between Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria (ERD) and locally the “Back Pack Program” run by the Leesburg Food Bank. These two causes are in great need right now.

The Earthquake that struck southern and central Turkey as well as northern and western Syria was a 7.8 magnitude. On February 6th, many lives were changed forever. Reports say as of March 20th, 57,300 are dead, more than 50,000 in Turkey and around 7,200 in Syria. Damages

are estimated to be 104 billion in Turkey and 5.1 billion in Syria.



The “**Back Pack Program**” run by the Leesburg Food Bank is a local program that feeds school age children on weekends. I spoke to one of its leaders, Brenda Duff.

She gave me the latest numbers on what they are currently doing. They are serving seven (7) schools in Leesburg which are Leesburg Elementary, Beverly Shores Elementary, Treadway Elementary, Rimes Early Learning Center, Carver Middle, Oak Park Middle and Leesburg High. The total number of children being served by this program is 340. Brenda said their budget more than doubled this year, due to more children being on the program and the cost of food going up. This Program sends a Back Pack home each Friday with each of these 340 children. There is food for 2 meals and a snack plus juice for Saturday and Sunday.

These two Programs touch on the needs of people and children. Please pray for these needs.

With Prayers,
Annette Freeman
Outreach Chair HTEC



There was no Holy Hackers outing on March 11th as there was the Memorial Service held at Holy Trinity for Leo Oxberger and the Holy Hackers were in attendance.

In Christ's Name
Your Golf Guy
Pat McLaughlin

Change A Life

*A kiss can release emotion,
Promote conversation,
Relieve hesitation,
End repression.*

*A hug can change a mind,
A friendship illicit,
Will raise a spirit,
Better future inherit.*

*A kindness can spawn a smile,
Birth a new outlook,
Sad chasms brook,
See new roads took.*

*So, kiss a cheek,
Hug a neck,
Do a kindness,
Change a life.*

Ron Whetsell
February 23, 2022



In 1967 the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) initiated Holy Trinity's May Festival. This replaced the annual "Silver Tea" the women used as a fund raiser.

The event was built around the theme of an English Country Garden. Visitors came to buy crafts, homemade baked goods, and take tours of the historic Church. The festival became very popular in the 1970's and 1980's with activities expanded to include pony rides, face painting and a dunk tank.

In the 1990's, the ECW became dormant and the festival was allowed to expire.

Next month: Have there always been 3 services at Holy Trinity?

Russ Casson



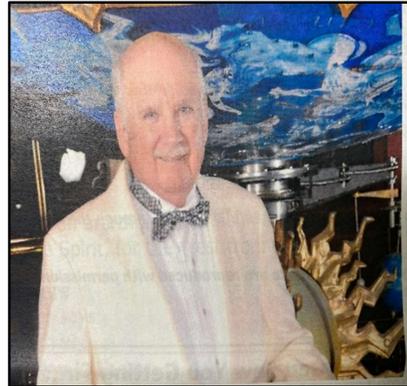
EASTER LILIES The Altar Guild will soon be ordering Easter Lilies to decorate the Church for Easter. You may designate your gift: *In Memory of, In Thanksgiving for, or In Honor Of* by indicating that on the Lily envelopes in the pew.

The suggested donation is \$15 for each Lily. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Altar Guild with Lily or Lilies in the memo line.

*in loving
memory*

Leo Earl Oxberger

July 2, 1930 – January 8- 2023



*Happy
Anniversary*

Samuel & Rose Nsengiyumva

Kenneth & Shirley Herring

**Happy
BIRTHDAY**

Amy Rowell

Christine Perry

Debbie Stanton

Jeanette Richardson

David Gnau

Graham Sligh

Debbie Lally

Nance Browne

Charlotte Barringer

Rob Pilkington

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@holytrinityfp.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@holytrinityfp.com



THANK YOU: Many thanks to Neven Matthews for rebuilding and painting our cemetery cross. Thanks also to his daughter Valerie and others who helped with the project. We praise God for you!

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)*

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.

LENTEN SOUP & MOVIE PROGRAM: Wednesdays 5:00pm – 7:00pm

This is a time to share a simple meal, watch a movie, and share insight from the movie as it informs or challenges your faith. Deacon Charlie will facilitate these evenings on Wednesdays **March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29**. They will be held in the Parish Hall here at Holy Trinity. Two volunteers are needed each week to provide 1 pot of soup with meat and 1 vegetarian. Bread will be provided.

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO):

The Outreach Ministry Team invites you to participate in the UTO program. The Blue Boxes for you to put your daily thank offerings are available in the Parish Hall. The United Thank Offering was founded over 125 years ago to help Episcopalians develop and deepen a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude by noticing the good things that happen daily and then giving thanks to God for the blessing while making a thank offering in your own personal Blue Box. All the thank offerings will be collected and blessed at the Altar after Easter. One hundred percent of all thank offerings is then given as grants to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. In the past, UTO granted Holy Trinity a grant to purchase a church van that was used to transport parishioners.

HEARING LOOP:

Our sanctuary is not installed with a hearing loop for the benefit of those with hearing difficulties. If your hearing aid has a T-Coll, you should be able to hear clearly. Headphones are also available for those with compatible hearing aids. Talk to the usher if you need headphones.

LENTEN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Continues every Sunday 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Topic: "The Difficult Words of Jesus." All are welcome.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY:

Those who wish to donate food items or sign-up to help clean-up are encouraged to sign-up on the bulletin board. Thank you!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION FUNDRAISER:

If you are able and willing to help raise funds for our school through the BOX TOPS program, please contact Gay Hensley at for more information. She can be reached at Gay Hensley 501-256-7858. gay.hensley1@gmail.com



Easter Schedule

MAUNDAY THURSDAY:

5:00 P.M. - AGAPE MEAL with Optional
Foot-washing in Parish Hall

6:30 p.m. - HOLY COMMUNION followed
by Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY:

12 NOON - OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS
followed by Prayers in the sanctuary

6:00 p.m. - GOOD FRIDAY PRAYERS in the
Sanctuary

HOLY SATURDAY:

8:00 P.M. - GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER with
lighting of the Paschal
Fire and renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER SUNDAY:

8:00 A.M. - EASTER CELEBRATION with HE RTE 1

10.30 A.M. - H.E. RTE 2 with Special Music
by ANTIQUE BRASS

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

MAUNDAY THURSDAY:

5:00 P.M. - AGAPE MEAL with Optional Foot-washing in Parish Hall

6:30 p.m. - HOLY COMMUNION followed by Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY:

12 NOON - OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS followed by
Prayers in the Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. - GOOD FRIDAY PRAYERS in the Sanctuary

HOLY SATURDAY:

8:00 P.M. - GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER with lighting of the Paschal
Fire and renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER SUNDAY:

8:00 A.M. - EASTER CELEBRATION with HE RTE 1

10.30 A.M. - H.E. RTE 2 with Special Music by ANTIQUE BRASS

Invitation to Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

As part of our Holy Week commemorations, we have planned to have an Agape Meal with optional foot-washing. The meal is scheduled for Thursday April 6 at 5:00 p.m. and will be hosted by the Invite Welcome Connect team in collaboration with the Altar Guild.

What is an Agape Meal?

The word, “agape,” is the Greek word used in the New Testament for the highest and broadest kind of self-giving Love, the kind of Love that is our source, our true life in this life and our eternal reality. We have no word capable of describing the God who is Love in any language, but agape calls attention to the limitless and overflowing fullness of Divine Love—Love Incarnate, who suffered death on a cross.

In the early Church, agape meals were a time of fellowship for “People of the Way,” as the early Christians were called. The Eucharist, our Christian sacramental celebration instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper, was often a part of these meals, but they are not the same thing. Probably between the late 1st century and the mid-3rd century AD, the two feasts became separate.

An Agape Meal is a ritual meal that does not require an ordained person and yet acknowledges our koinonia, which in Greek refers to the fellowship of Christ’s Body. Such meals seek to strengthen communal bonds and foster a spirit of harmony, goodwill and congeniality. They usually include an opportunity to acknowledge our need for forgiveness and reconciliation. The meal is another way of living out Jesus’ mandatum (as in Maundy Thursday) or commandment that we love one another with the same self-emptying love, mercy and forgiveness with which he has loved and still loves us. Washing feet, therefore, can be part of this meal when it is celebrated.

We hope as many of our members and friends as are able will join us for this holy ritual. To help with the planning, you may sign-up on line or on a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. You may also call the office. If you need to assist in set-up or clean-up, please contact Deb Yee at debkhogan@gmail.com or 703-472-1573. We look forward to seeing you.

A Celebration of Life for Leo Earl Oxberger July 2, 1939 – January 8, 2023

