



The Tidings

**Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church and School**

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Sowing Seeds of Kindness

*“Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.”*

Hymn by Knowles Shaw (1874)



Those who were able to be in church or joined our worship services online for the past few Sundays, will recall reading about Jesus’s parables on sowing. We read about the sower whose seeds fell on four different kinds of soils with only one allowing the seed to grow. We also read about another sower who sowed good seeds but an enemy came and sowed weeds in his garden. By the time you read this article we will or will not have read about a third parable about another man who sowed a mustard seed which, despite being the smallest of seeds, became the greatest of shrubs and a great tree that the birds of the air came and made nests in its branches. (Matthew 13:1-32).

As one who is familiar with sowing real seed and sowing the Word of God, I see why Jesus used these parables. In all three cases, the sowers did their best and hoped for good results. Indeed,



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despite some unfavorable circumstances, their labors were not in vain. Without sowing there can be no reaping.

Seeds of Kindness

The parables of Jesus and the hymn cited above are intended to encourage those of us who are called to proclaim the good news of God's love to a hurting world. The hymn refers to our mission as sowing seeds of kindness. One of my greatest joys of serving as a parish priest is seeing how much time, energy, and resources many of us spend in sowing seeds of kindness, in a variety of ways. Even in the summer, when we promise to slow down, I continue to see seeds of kindness being sown all around me. I see all those who are involved in worship, those who bring food for Salvation Army, those who take care of our grounds, those who host our hospitality/fellowship hour, and many other activities. Thank you for continuing to sow seeds of kindness.

Keep Sowing

If there is one lesson to learn from the gospel stories on sowing, it is the encouragement to keep sowing regardless of potentially unfavorable conditions. Yes, some seeds may fall along the path, rocky ground, or among thorns and never produce much fruit, but some seeds will surely fall on good soil and produce much fruit - a hundredfold, sixty, or thirty (Matthew 13:8, 23). The enemy may sow weeds (discouragement, distortion, illness, etc.) but the good seeds will endure. And yes, even a small act of kindness, as small as a mustard seed, may grow to bring so much joy and life to many. Think about the seeds of kindness you've sown in the past and commit to continue sowing.

As we approach the beginning of another program year, I invite you to reflect on the joy you have received from your seeds of kindness in the past, and recommit to continue sowing more seeds of kindness in the coming year. God is giving us a new season for sowing seeds of kindness in this community and beyond. My prayer is that every one of us will want to be part of the sowing team so that on the day of harvest, we will rejoice together bringing in the sheaves.

"Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves." (Psalm 126:6)

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9).

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Deacon's Report

Discernment

When I was in my teens, it was the late 1950s or early 1960s, Christ Church, Bay Ridge (Brooklyn), my home parish, employed a deacon who was taking classes at General Seminary in Manhattan.

I was intrigued by the differences between him and the Rector. He wore his stole over his left shoulder rather than over both shoulders as the Rector did, and his sole rubrical role in the liturgy was taking the collection from the ushers and passing it to the priest.

He was in the process of becoming a priest. For centuries, the diaconate had been used solely as a period of internship for those aspiring to the priesthood. The liturgies of the 1928 Prayer Book and its predecessors reflected this lesser status by limiting the deacon's liturgical role.

In those days I was active as a member of the boy choir, as an acolyte, and had over 10 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. I found the Church, its liturgies, and its mission fascinating. I felt that I was called to some sort of ministry, but it certainly wasn't the priesthood.

Back then, the priesthood was the only option. In fact, prior to our current Prayer Book (1979) this rubric was at the conclusion of the diaconal ordination rite:

"And here it must be declared unto the Deacon, that he must continue in that Office of a Deacon the space of a whole year, (except for reasonable causes it shall otherwise seem good unto the Bishop,) to the intent he may be perfect and well expert in the things appertaining to the Ecclesiastical Administration. In executing whereof if he be found faithful and diligent, he may be admitted by his Diocesan to the Order of

Priesthood, at the times appointed in the Canon; or else, on urgent occasion, upon some other day, in the face of the Church, in such manner and form as hereafter followeth."

So basically, the Church was telling everyone that unless a deacon became a priest, the diaconate was for losers.

Therefore, I kept my sense of call suppressed for about 20 years. Then in 1980, I made a Cursillo weekend. Once I had my faith reenergized, I found I also had to deal with my call.

Fortunately, by then things had changed. The movement to restore the Order of Deacons as full and equal to the Orders of Priests, and Bishops had begun. And the new diaconal ordination rite in the 1979 Prayer Book no longer had the above insulting rubric.

Now there was an alternative to the priesthood; an alternative that I found very appealing. I consulted the Canons and began the process by writing to my Bishop and letting my Rector know of my action.

Well, everyone was enthusiastic. And because of that I made my first misstep. I assumed that the confirmation of my call would be that the road ahead would be smooth and effortless (silly me).

The next step was to appear before the Diocesan Commission On Ministry. They would decide if I would be made a Postulant for Holy Orders. It was an overnight retreat-like gathering of the DCOM and those of us who were aspiring to Holy Orders. Most were aspiring to the priesthood except for me and this woman. We were the only ones aspiring to the diaconate.

Well, I was immediately met with skepticism. The only deacons in the Diocese back then were women. And they were deacons only because our Bishop would not ordain women as priests. The members of the DCOM could not understand why any man would want to be a deacon. Not expecting this reaction, I found myself unprepared to respond properly.

Needless to say, the DCOM rejected my aspirations and told me to look elsewhere for ministry.

I was devastated by that. It was the first obstacle I had hit, and it felt wrong. But it proved to be the best thing that could have happened. Because it motivated me as I had not been motivated before. The very next day after receiving the DCOM's judgment I wrote to the Bishop and, in so many words told him that the DCOM was wrong.

Shortly after that I got a very encouraging reply in which the Bishop advised me to keep going, which I did. I hit the books determined to be better prepared for the skepticism I had encountered, and that I would continue to encounter from postulancy, through candidacy, all the way to ordination in 1986.

And the moral of this story is: If you discern a call to ministry, the confirmation of that call will not be a lack of obstacles, but instead your ability to deal with the obstacles that will be placed in your way. If God wants you to do a certain thing, God will make it happen. Just don't expect it to be easy or quick.

Deacon Charlie Perrin

Sr. Warden's Report

It has been a very quiet month. We have been on summer mode. We are lucky we have such dedicated and organized ministries. Everything is running smoothly behind the scenes, which permits us this time to recharge our batteries, so we can be fully charged and ready for the rest of the year.

Weather permitting, the siding on the school will be completed before the start of the new school year. When the school is completed the trim on the Church will be taken care of. Our Junior Warden, Bob Freeman, had scheduled the repairs prior to his vacation.

We were very happy to see Randy Siver back on the mower, after successful back surgery. I am putting him on notice though – do not over do it. As great as the lawn looks, his health is more important.

As you probably notice, our Altar Guild, Music Director Sharon, and most of all Fr. Samuel did not take the summer off. Services must go on, and happily they do. Deacons Charlie and Dick help to keep services running smoothly.

Speaking of Ministries, our Ministry Fair will be on Sunday, October 1st this year. It gives our Ministries an opportunity to educate and solicit new Members. We will be calling it an Open House/Ministry Fair this year. We want everyone to come, not just those who think they might want to join. Many Members of Holy Trinity are not even aware of all the parts that it takes to help our Parish run. All Ministries will be represented, from Altar Guild to Salvation Army Bell Ringers.

Saturday October 7th will be Blessing of the Animals. So, be sure to mark that weekend down in your calendar – something for every member of the family.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Stay safe – stay hydrated.

Doris Brennan, Sr. Warden

Vestry Meeting Highlights

July 2023

There is no report from the Vestry as they did not meet this month.

Debbie Lally, Secretary

Treasurer's Summary Report

June 2023

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$16,779	\$24,113
Other Income	<u>\$ 668</u>	<u>\$ 3,370</u>
Total	\$17,447	\$27,483
Expenses	\$29,004	\$27,483

To do good, and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Heb. xiii. 16.

Russ Casson, Treasurer

Planned Giving, Endowment and Our Heritage Society

Our Holy Trinity Endowment continues to do well and is growing. This fall, we would like to recognize those of you who have made, or have planned to make, a contribution to our endowment, either as a lifetime gift, or in your

estate plan. We would also like to recognize you on our plaque in the Parish Hall.

Please let me, or Father Samuel., or anyone on the Vestry know if you have made a commitment, in any amount or fashion, to our endowment. There is of course no need to do so, but we would certainly like to recognize you and your support of our wonderful church and parish community.

Thank you!

Mark Welton

HTEC School Tutor Update



Under the training and leadership of our Head of School, Justin McCallister, our 2023-2024 school year volunteer tutors have an interesting year to look forward to.

Initiatives planned by Justin include Tutor Questionnaires, Tutor Policies and Procedures Sheet, Tutor Appreciation Luncheon, School News Letter, and Periodic all Tutors meetings. He plans to finish up the tutor documents in the next week or two before school starts.

All our tutors are returning in the next school year and we have added two more, but our students need your help. Test scores nationally show American students are slipping further behind. It has been three years since the pandemic hit, and researchers say student test scores continue to fall. If you or someone you know has the required math background and has 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.)

Jim Kelly

Salvation Army - Outreach

Salvation Army Cereal Collection

Hello Everyone,

The July update on Sunday Cereal Collection is as follows. We have collected an additional 55+ Boxes of Cereal. This is wonderful! The Outreach committee wants to Thank Every Person who contributed. If you still want to help this month, please bring your boxes of cereal in any Sunday this month.

By the end of July, we will be wrapping up our summer Cereal Collection campaign, but we will still be asking you all to contribute to the Salvation Army food bank by making deposits of nonperishable food in the little red wagon at the front of the church on Sundays.

The Holy Trinity Outreach Committee, the Leesburg Salvation Army and those who turn to them in need are all deeply appreciative.

For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ please contact Annette Freeman (352) 406-7608.

Thanks,
Outreach HTEC

HTEC Salvation Army Breakfast

Besides Holy Trinity's contributions to the Salvation Army food bank via the Red Wagon we also have a team that provides breakfast service at the Salvation Army post in Leesburg. You can be part of this mission by joining the HTEC Salvation Army Breakfast Team serving breakfast just once a month.

For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ please contact Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636.
Jim Kelly

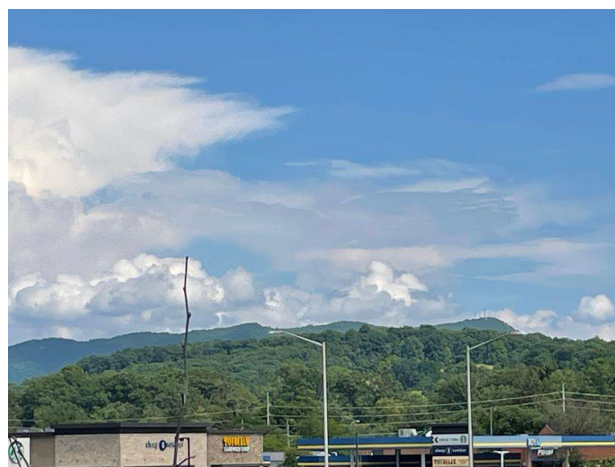
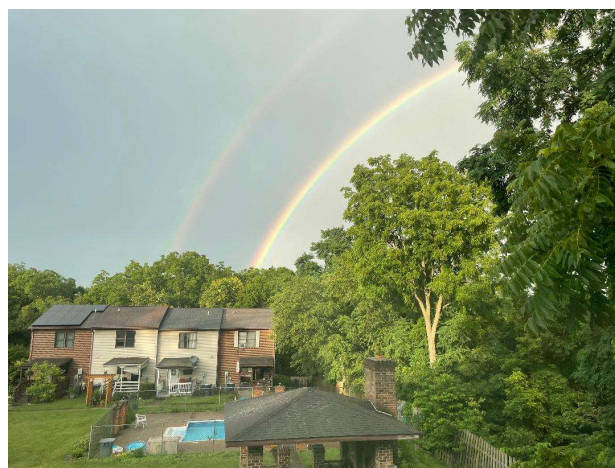
Holy Trinity School Golf Benefit

I'm sure you know the Holy Trinity Episcopal School Golf Benefit will be held at Harbor Hill County on October 21, 2023. It may seem early in the game, but in reality we are already running late.

We especially need help with Sales and Marketing. It's not hard, really 😊. As always we look for volunteers. If you have already volunteered, Thank You. There are pieces in the parish hall that can be used to assist you in this effort. Or I would be glad to email you a copy these 3 items. Remember. No donation is too small.

Our goal this year is \$35,000 so you know we need everyone's help. The kids need your help.

Thank you,
Judy and Gregg Monin



Julie Sligh Has Moved

Greetings and blessings from northwest Virginia. I am very happy to be in the mountains where the air is cooler and the breeze is pleasant. I am settling in at my new home, which is a 2 story, 2-bedroom townhouse very near the downtown of Harrisonburg, Virginia. This is a university town, which is evident by the many cultural opportunities and the diversity of the

population. Harrisonburg is a small city, large enough to offer every convenience and small enough to make everything accessible. An old family friend lives near me. She has been a great resource and a willing companion if I want to go exploring.

I found an Episcopal Church about a mile from me which I attended within 3 days of moving here. The music was out of this world. There is a music school at the university (James Madison University) and the section leaders in the church choir are all paid professionals. Sharon would be jealous.

I miss my Holy Trinity family but I fully intend to visit at least once or twice a year. I am grateful for all the love I experienced in my 17 years in my church home and I'm deeply grateful for the loving send off on June 11.

My new mailing address is P.O. Box 242, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. My phone number and email haven't changed. I'd love to hear from my friends and hope to keep abreast of any church news.

Fondly, Julie Sligh



WHETSELL, Cherrie

WHITE, Louise

FERRIS, John

GORDON, Vicki

HAMMEN, Karen

HANSON, Arthur

SIVER, Debbie

FOSTER, James

SCAVONE, Sally

HARMON, Deborah

MUSTIN, Liz

WHITE, Dan

KOLLER, Patricia



MULLEN, Steve & Carol

TAHARA, Richard (Wayne) & May Ann P.

WANG, Jerry & Carol

PRINGLE, George & Cheryl

WHITE, Richard & Louise

PASTORAL CARE

**For pastoral care
we welcome you to contact:**

**Robin Mitchell
(352-350-1451) or**

Robinmitchell@yahoo.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**

2023 MINISTRIES

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

1. Altar Guild
2. Ushers
3. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)
4. Lectors
5. Live-Streaming
6. Music Ministry (Choir, instrumentalists, etc.)

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES (CHRISTIAN FORMATION)

1. Adult Sunday School
2. Wednesday Bible Study
3. Confirmation/New Member Class

COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES

1. Holy Trinity Hot-line (email)
2. Bulletin Announcements
3. The Tidings Newsletter
4. Social Media (Facebook & YouTube)
5. Advertising
6. Website

PASTORAL CARE

1. Calling Tree
2. Home/Hospital Visitation
3. Lay Eucharistic Visitors
4. Transportation
5. Emergency Meals
6. Prayer Shawls
7. Card Ministry
8. Intercessory Prayers

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRIES

1. InviteWelcomeConnect
 - Sunday Hospitality & Fellowship
 - Newcomer Gatherings
 - Parish Events
 - Community Engagement
2. Ladies Fellowship (ECW)
3. Men's Group
4. Holy Hackers

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

1. Buildings & Grounds
 - Cleaning & Maintenance
 - Major & Minor Repairs
 - Cemetery

2. Financial

- Annual Stewardship Campaign
- Budgeting
- Counting/Depositing
- Bookkeeping
- Endowment Fund/Legacy Society
- Planned Giving

3. Human Resources

- Clergy
- Staff
- Vestry
- Ministry Teams

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

1. School Board
2. Tutors
3. Annual Golf Benefit
4. Financial Support

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

1. Local Outreach
 - Holy Trinity School Supplies
 - Salvation Army Food Collection & Delivery
 - Salvation Army Angel Tree
 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing
 - Salvation Army Breakfast Volunteers
 - The Haven of Lake & Sumter Counties
 - Leesburg Food Pantry
 - Financial Assistance (Rector's Discretionary Fund, Christmas & Easter Offerings).
2. National
 - Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) - Disaster Relief, etc.
 - United Thank Offering (UTO) – Miscellaneous development projects
 - Wreaths Across America
3. International
 - Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) – Ukraine Relief, Haiti Relief, etc.
 - Sao Polo Mercy Ministries (Brazil)
 - Operation Christmas Child

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY HOT PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Summer Recess until September 24, 2023.

HEARING LOOP:

Our sanctuary is now 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.

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!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

The INVITEWELCOMECONNECT ministry team is in need of someone with an interest in learning and writing brief profiles about our members. The person would be responsible for interviewing and writing short stories about our long-term and new members so that we may be able to know a little more about each other. The short stories will be shared in the Parish Newsletter. For more information on this exciting ministry, please talk to Fr. Samuel.

MINISTRY TEAM PLANNING:

Ministry Teams leaders are humbly encouraged to consider scheduling planning meetings to review their work in the past program year and plan for the coming year in time for the upcoming **MINISTRY FAIR** scheduled for Sunday **October 1, 2023**. The planning events will seek to answer they what, why, how, who, and when of each proposed ministry activity. If you are not already part of a ministry team, we encourage you to prayerfully consider which one the Lord may be calling you to join.

SCHOOL BENEFIT – GOLF TOURNAMENT BASKETS

Thank you for those who have donated items for our Coffee Basket. Now onto the next idea: “Italian Night” Suggested Items: Bamboo Cutting Board, Nicole Miller Pot, Spoon Rest,

Bamboo Utensil Set, Lombardo Olive Oil, Glass Oil & Vinegar Set, Rigatoni, Set of 4 Large Ceramic Pasta Bowl. If you can bring one or more of these items on Sunday and leave it on the Stage or drop it off to the Church Office Mon.-Thurs. Any Questions Please Contact Naomi Aldrich at 203-258-6010 or aldrichn13@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC GIVING AT HOLY TRINITY:

After some time of exploration, we now have made it possible for those who wish to give electronically in a variety of ways:

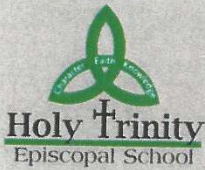
1. **Website/Facebook page:** A link is now available on our website and Facebook page.
2. **TEXT to Give:** 844-527-0098, text this number with the word “Funds” and follow the step-by-step instructions.
1. **Mobile App:** Download the **Vanco Mobile** app from the Play Store for Android users or the App Store and search for Holy Trinity Episcopal, Fruitland Park.
2. **QR Code:** This QR Code will be available on all our publications to scan and access our eGiving page. All you need is a QR Code reader on your smartphone.



STAFF TRANSITIONS:

Justin McCallister will be leaving his position as our Head of School to pursue other opportunities in Vermont. His last day is Monday August 7. A luncheon is scheduled on Monday August 7, 12 noon to celebrate his faithful service to our school and wish him every blessing. Please RSVP by calling 352-787-1500 or emailing office@holytrinityfp.com. Fr. Samuel will assume the role of Acting Head of School assisted by Jeanne Nicolosi as Acting Assistant Head of School.

Tara Casamasima will assume the role of School Office Administrator, replacing Kadie Chidester who will be leaving the area to pursue her college education. The process of hiring a replacement for Tara is underway.



Holy Trinity School Golf Benefit

*With Ongoing Generous Support from
Blackston Financial Advisory Group*



Transform a Child's Future with a Great Day of Golf!

Join us October 21, 2023 at Harbor Hills Country Club

Holy Trinity Episcopal School is a Non-Profit Private School for Students who struggle to learn and make friends in a typical school environment. Students have Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia or other learning disabilities. When our students graduate they are prepared for college, vocational schools or to set out into the working field. Our Mission at HTES is to equip each student with the tools they need to live a rich and independent life.



How does the Golf Benefit help the students?

Proceeds from the 2023 HTES Golf Benefit will provide Scholarship opportunities for many of our students whose families are unable to afford the tuition and fees. Your support will let HTES help children who otherwise could not attend HTES.

Please Visit our Website to Register to Play, You can Save some Cash Money by registering by October 1st. If you do not want to play there are many sponsorships available.

HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com

Contests

Ladies & Men's Hole in One
Ladies & Men's Longest Drive
Ladies & Men's Most Accurate
Ladies & Men's Closest to the Pin
Putting Contest

Some of our Prizes Include:

\$10,000 for Hole in One
Calloway 300 Range Finder
Guaranteed Spa or Golf Day
Free Golf Cart

There will be some Fabulous Baskets to Bid on as well.

If you are unable to join us, please consider a tax-deductible donation to benefit scholarships for our Students. Holy Trinity School is a ministry of Holy Trinity Church which is a Charitable Institution as defined by IRS Chapter 501 (c) 3.