



# The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church and School*

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**Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

**Volume 5 Issue 9**

**September 2023**



## Table of Contents

Rector's Greetings .....	1
Senior Warden's Report.....	3
Vestry Highlights .....	3
Treasurer's Report .....	4
Meet New Office Administrator .....	4
Notes from Sharon .....	4
HTEC Tutor Report .....	5
Salvation Army Outreach .....	5
Salvation Army Breakfast Team .....	5
Conference of the Dechurched .....	5
Golf Benefit .....	6
Holy Hackers .....	6
Anniversaries/Birthdays .....	6
Poem – Bare Emotions .....	7
School Update .....	7
Pastoral Care .....	7
Parishioner Newsletter Spotlight .....	8
2023 Ministries .....	9
Upcoming Events .....	10
Farewell Luncheon .....	11
Golf Benefit Flyer.....	12
Contacts Page .....	13

## Invite, Welcome, Connect

By now many of us have heard about the “Dechurching” phenomena, either through the invitation to a recent event hosted by our bishop



at the Cathedral of St. Luke in Orlando, my recent sermon, or the various articles I have shared via our email hotline. According to a recent book by two Orlando based pastors, 40 million adults in the US who grew up going to

church have stopped going for various reasons over the past 25 years. The interesting part is that, moving to a new community, was the biggest reason why most people stopped going to church. On the other hand, of the 20 million who are willing to return to church, many of them are looking for opportunities to make new friends following a move to a new community.

As depressing the findings may seem, they also serve as inspiration for us as a church whose vision is to be a warm and welcoming Christ-centered community for all to belong, blossom and bless; and whose mission is to invite, welcome, and connect all people to God and one another in Christ. It is particularly encouraging

to know that we live in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, with thousands of people moving into our area every month. This means that we have a golden opportunity to invite, welcome and connect those who may be looking to reconnect with God and one another, following retirement and relocation.

### **Intentionality**

I have every reason to believe that most, if not all, of us agree with both our vision and mission statements as stated above. Everyone I know at Holy Trinity agrees that we strive to be a warm and welcoming church and would like to see more people join us. Everyone agrees that we should be in the business of inviting, welcoming, and connecting people to God and one another. Indeed, for the most part, we seem to be abiding by our vision and mission statements. What I cannot determine is how intentional we are about our vision and mission. All I know is that it is very easy to have a great vision and mission statement on paper and very little in practice. That is why I suggest that every one of us becomes more intentional about our vision and mission. More often than not, members of churches with a vision and mission like ours expects someone else implement them. They expect certain people to be warm, welcoming, and Christ-centered. They hope that someone will invite, welcome, and connect newcomers to the church. Usually that work is left to a committee of a few people. While committees like our InviteWelcomeConnect team can play an important role of visioning and strategic planning, everyone needs to participate if we are to accomplish our mission.

### **Inviting**

As we look forward to regular church programming, I pray that every one of us will be intentional about inviting someone to our worship and several other activities. Our upcoming Ministry Fair/Open House scheduled for Sunday October 1, will be an opportunity to invite someone you know is not currently going associated with a church. All we need to say is "Come and See." These three words were powerfully used to bring many to Jesus during his earthly ministry (John 1:39, 46).

### **Welcoming**

Welcoming is particularly tricky because of the variety of visitors' personalities. While some guests may prefer to simply come and go, most guests who visit a small church expect to meet new people. The best way to be warm and welcoming is to say "hello" to everyone you see whether you know them or not. If you know their name, greet them by name, if you've seen them before but don't remember their name, simply say "Hello, good to see you again. Please remind me your name." If you are not sure you've met the person before, simply say "Hello, Welcome! My name is Samuel. I am not sure we've met before." Most people will tell you whether they are visiting for the first time, whether they are new, or whether they are long term members who attend a different service. The goal is to make people feel welcome. Welcoming also involves inviting a guest to our Hospitality Hour following the 8 am and 10:30 am services in the Parish Hall. More importantly it involves encouraging them to grab something to drink or eat and sitting with them. One of the most embarrassing moments is to go into a Parish Hall and seeing a guest or guests sitting alone while regular members are busy chatting with their friends. Intentional welcoming involves paying attention to guests and ensuring their comfort.

### **Connecting**

Connection may be as simple as introducing the guest to a few other people but more so about getting to know the person a little better. This usually happens at the second or third visit when you are sure the person is interested in becoming part of our church family. On a ministry team level, we usually invite regular guests to a newcomer gathering followed by an invitation to consider becoming a participating member which involves filling out a new member information form, being included in the directory and the email list, and an official welcome ceremony during the worship service. At that point, new members are invited to consider joining any ministry of their interest so they can begin to blossom and bless.

As we consider how we may be more intentional about inviting, welcoming, and connecting all

people to God and one another, it is important to note that these principles are not linear but cyclical. We are constantly inviting, welcoming, and connecting to God and one another with hopes of achieving greater levels of belonging, blossoming, and blessing. We praise God for how far we've come and for the promise of more to come. May the Holy Spirit grant us the wisdom and grace to joyfully invite, welcome, and connect all people to God and one another in Christ.

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

## **Sr. Warden's Report**

This month has been HELP WANTED at Holy Trinity. We lost two valuable members of the Holy Trinity School Family. The first was the School Administrative Assistant. As we prepared our "Help Wanted" advertisement, we received word our Head Master was leaving for colder weather. Mr. McCallister was offered a job, at a Boarding School, with residence on site – anyone else thinking Goodbye, Mr. Chips? So, our search began.

We filled the School Administrative Assistant easily. Tara, the Church Manager, applied for the school. That was a great move. Tara knows the kids, making the transition easy for them, and the system. Good for the school – not so much for us. We now had to find a replacement for her. We had two incredible applicants for that position. Patricia, our new Office Manager, started this week. Stop by and welcome her to the family. We are still in need of a Head Master. The opening of school has occurred and our students are adapting to the changes. We are looking for an Interim Head of School as we seek a permanent one. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to fill this essential position.

Speaking of Help Wanted, we need people to volunteer for coffee hour, especially for 8am. It is fine if some bring the food and others set-up. Please consider helping out. Sign-ups are in the Parish Hall.

October 1<sup>st</sup> we will have our Open House/Ministry Fair. This gives all the Ministries an opportunity to display what they do for our Holy Trinity Family and consider being a part of one or more of them. We

encourage everyone to join us for this worthwhile event and bring a friend.

October 7<sup>th</sup> is our annual Blessing of the Animals. Lady and I will be there, and we hope to see as many of our furry, and feathered, friends as possible.

Enjoy the coming month and stay safe and well.

Doris Brennan, Sr Warden

## **Vestry Meeting Highlights**

August 2023

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023 to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

Members Present: Fr. Samuel, Doris Brennan, Debbie Lally, Mandy Panlilio, Russ Casson, Steve Knowles and Robin Michelle

Members Absent: Bob Freeman, John Canner

1. The Vestry reviewed the minutes from our meeting in June. The minutes were accepted.
2. The Vestry affirmed the following upcoming events, so please add these events to your calendar:
  - a. October 1<sup>st</sup> Ministry Fair
  - b. October 7<sup>th</sup> Blessing of Animal
  - c. October 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday Service at 4:15 Resumes
  - d. October 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Resumes
  - e. October 21<sup>st</sup> School Golf Benefit at Harbor Hills
  - f. October 22<sup>nd</sup> Stewardship Campaign Begins
  - g. November 19<sup>th</sup> Consecration Sunday
3. The Vestry reflected on reports from the various ministry teams. Items discussed included:
  - a. Security cameras/system for the church, school and rectory...The task-force is waiting to receive another quote before a recommendation can be made.
  - b. New gutters all the way around the Parish were completed.
  - c. An AC unit in the church was repaired.
  - d. Two classrooms are in need of repair due to mold. The insurance company

has assessed the situation and we are waiting for a response. The siding on the old school building is being replaced. Once completed, a new ramp will be built on the East side of the building.

4. Fr. Samuel discussed the following topics in his Rector's Report
  - a. School Leadership Transition-The position of Interim Head of School has been posted online and in the local newspaper.
  - b. New Office Administrator-Patricia O'Steen has been hired and began on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Online Giving- currently on the website
  - d. Vestry Nominations-There will be 3 open positions to be filled at the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.
5. The Vestry discussed and accepted the treasurer's report.
6. The Vestry discussed the ways to hear ideas from parishioners concerning the church. It was decided that a written explanation in would be best. The ideas would be discussed at a Vestry meeting and the parishioner would be notified of the decision. When necessary, the parishioner would be invited to say more about the idea at a Vestry meeting. Also, our Vestry meetings are open to parishioners who may wish to attend. Vestry meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
7. The Vestry meeting ended with a closing prayer from Fr. Samuel.

## Treasurer's Summary Report July, 2023

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$20,201	\$24,113
Other Income	<u>\$ 3,963</u>	<u>\$ 3,370</u>
Total	\$24,164	\$27,483
Expenses	\$25,584	\$27,483

He that soweth little shall reap little; and he that soweth plenteously shall reap plenteously. Let every man do according as he is disposed in his

heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. ix. 6, 7.

Russ Casson, Treasurer



## Meet our New Office Administrator - Patricia O'Steen

We are pleased to announce that Patricia O'Steen has joined our staff as the new Office Administrator. Patricia comes with a wide experience working in offices including a serving in a church office. Patricia is in the office Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

Patricia is a native Floridian. She grew up in Gainesville but spent many years in Atlanta. She recently moved to Fruitland Park to be close to her family.

## Notes From Sharon

### Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La-Ti-Do

Most of us remember the words from the great musical "The Sound of Music" -- "*Do, a deer, a female deer; Re, a golden drop of sun; Mi, a name I call myself; etc....*" I can hear you singing! Others simply remember the words as the musical scale. Why mention this?



## THE CHOIR IS STARTING!!

We begin rehearsing on the Wednesday after Labor Day, September 6, 2023. There will be a brief party in the Parish Hall at 6:30 to say "hi"



to returning members and welcome new members, with rehearsal to follow in the Choir Room.

All parts are needed, so don't be shy. As one of the older TV game shows announces, "come on down!" Remember, I can hear lovely singing voices every Sunday so the excuse about not being able to sing isn't true for everyone.

During the normal choir year, rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. The first week we will have the party. Please call or email me (my info is in the directory) and I will have an idea of the number for the food.

Looking forward to another great choir year!

Sharon Redding

## HTEC School Tutor Update



### HTEC School Tutor Update

Our tutor program will be starting up again after labor day this year. The good news is that all of last year's tutors are returning and we have added two more, Judy Hilkemann being the most recent addition. But, still more tutors are needed. If you or someone you know has just one hour 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

Schools are now back in session and we have wrapped up our summer Cereal Collection campaign that took in over 150 Boxes of Cereal. This is wonderful!



The Outreach committee wants to say "Thanks" to every one of you who contributed, 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.

For more information, please contact Annette Freeman (352) 406-7608.

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 on the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636.

Jim Kelly

## Conference On The Dechurched

Bishop Justin Holcomb hosted a conference on "Who are the Dechurched? How Can We Welcome them Back?" on Saturday August 19, 2023 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke in Orlando. Bishop Justin Holcomb and the authors of The Great Dechurching, Jim Davis and Michael Graham, presented a talk about the largest and fastest religious shift in US history.

Fr. Samuel and a few others parishioners drove down to attend the event. For more information on this timely event, please go to

<https://www.ccslorlando.org/newsevents>



## 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



After our Summer break, Holy Hackers will resume play on Saturday September 9th at 9:30 at Pennbrooke Fairways. Lunch follows afterwards at about 11:00 at Double T's Bar & Grill, located at the golf course in the same building as the Proshop. All are welcome to join us for Lunch and fellowship, you do not have to be a golfer. Double T's had been closed for lunch on Saturdays over the Summer, due to lack of business, but will be open September 9. The September signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or you can call or text me, David Aldrich, at 203 258 9643 or email me at [aldrichkp68@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichkp68@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there.



**COLLIGAN, P. Scott & Mary Louise**

**JONES, James & Karen**

**NICOLOSI, Jeanne & Roy**

**WELTON, Mark & Jaleh**

**SCAVONE, Sally & James**

**BROWNE, Nancy & Mike**

**D'AURIA, Jane & Ray**



**MERRYMAN, Mona**

**SCAVONE, James**

**COUGHLIN, Julia Shoup**

**WAGNER, Jillian**

**WAHLQUIST, David**

**CASSON, Dianne**

**TAHARA, Richard (Wayne)**

**MAY, Bruce A. P.**

**MUSTIN, Bob**

**CUNNINGHAM, Sherry**

**PERRIN, Charles**

**LEWIS, Lelan)**

**TOPPING, Patricia**

**ROBBINS, Donna**

## Bare Emotions

Feelings given to guide our way,  
To lead intended paths each day,  
They dream in sleep to speak awake,  
Push idle minds a course to take.

Make careful use in passing seasons,  
Of things like hate for painful reasons,  
Worry and fear will steal your peace,  
As disappointing days increase.

A rawness marks the damage done,  
Prevarication of truth begun,  
To calm yourself take time in prayer,  
Not hard to do, not hard to care.

Listen before you choose your way,  
Speak fewer words to help you stay,  
On joyful paths, life consecrate.  
The Spirit's will to anticipate.

Ron Whetsell  
October 18, 2020

## SCHOOL UPDATES

As many of you have heard, our Head of School, has taken a new position in Vermont. To ensure institutional and operational stability, I was asked by the school board to serve as Acting Head of School and appointed Mrs. Jeanne Nicolosi, the guidance counselor to serve as Acting Assistant Head of School. Tara Casamasima was transferred from the church office to the school office. The new academic year begun on August 10 and so far everything is going according to plan. All teachers are back this year and hard at work doing what they do best. We currently have 42 students enrolled and 11, and 3 staff. The process of hiring an interim Head of School is open and we are

beginning to receive some names. Interviews are scheduled to begin soon. Please continue to pray for a smooth transition.

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

### PASTORAL CARE

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

**Robin Mitchell  
(352-350-1451) or  
[Robinmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:Robinmitchell@yahoo.com)**

**Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva  
(920-226-0050) or  
[rector@holytrinityfp.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@holytrinityfp.com)**

## Parishioner Newsletter Spotlight

**Joan Hensley**, one of our newest members, has graciously agreed to serve as our Member Spotlight newsletter contributor. This is intended to help in our connection process as we learn more about each other. We hope that as many of you will volunteer your information and help us to know you. Joan has designed a basic format to help you organize the information. Please look at the format below and send your information to [joan.hensley95@gmail.com](mailto:joan.hensley95@gmail.com)

### Parishioner Spotlight Information Form

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Contact (to send proof/review of article):

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending Holy Trinity?

What community do you live in?

Are you here year-round or return north for the summer?

Tell us about your family . . .

Pets. . .

Where were you born/raised? How long in Florida?

What is your occupation (s) (If retired, list prior)

What hobbies or interests keep you busy?

What Social or Civic clubs do you belong to, active in, and how?

What church activities are you involved in, either at Holy Trinity or at the church you previously attended?

What is one thing you would want most people to know about you?



## 2023 MINISTRIES

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### 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:**

**Pancake Breakfast begins September 24, 2023. Hope everyone will join us.**

### **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!

### **MINISTRIES TO RESUME SOON:**

After a summer hiatus, the following ministries are scheduled to resume on the following dates:

#### **HOLY HACKERS:**

Holy Hackers will resume play on Saturday, **September 9th** at 9:30 at Pennbrooke Fairways. Lunch

follows afterwards at about 11:00 at Double T's Bar & Grill. Contact David Aldrich at 203 258 9643

or e-mail at [aldrichkp68@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichkp68@gmail.com).

#### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

On Sunday, **September 10** - By Ron Whetsall

#### **BIBLE STUDY:**

On Wednesday, **September 13** by Rev. Janice Gordon-Barnes

### **MINISTRY TEAM PLANNING:**

A Ministry Fair/Open house is scheduled for **Sunday, October 1, 2023** following each service. Ministry Teams leaders are expected to highlight their ministries to share what they do and provide opportunities for any who may wish to participate. This is an opportunity to invite friends to come and see what the Lord is doing at Holy Trinity. 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](mailto:aldrichn13@gmail.com)

### **BLESSING OF ANIMALS:**

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** is the annual Blessing of the Animals.

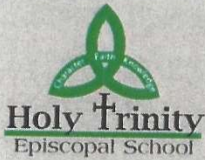
# Justin Mc Callister Farewell Luncheon

August 7, 2023

Friends, teachers, tutors, students, parents, staff and parishioners gathered to wish Justin McCallister well as he begins a new chapter in Vermont.







## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not want to play there are many sponsorships available.

[HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com](http://HolyTrinitySchoolGolf.com)

#### Contests

Ladies & Men's Hole in One  
Ladies & Men's Longest Drive  
Ladies & Men's Most Accurate  
Ladies & Men's Closet 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.

**12:00pm Registration, 1:00pm Shotgun Start, 12:30pm Putting Contest Opens**