



# The Tidings

**Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church and School**

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**Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

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## Advent: Already and Not Yet

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ... They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9).*



The above words designated for the second Sunday of Advent in liturgical year A, point to a vision of the world that is yet to be realized. Indeed, the current events on the global scene seem to push the vision further into the realm of impossibility.

Advent is a season when we look back to God's fulfillment of His promises and look forward with hope to those promises not yet fulfilled. It is a time when we look forward to another celebration of what God has done and is doing in our midst; even as we eagerly await what God will do in the near and distant future. It is a time of hopeful expectation.

Throughout the season, we will read about both the prediction and the actual coming of Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. We will read about John the Baptist who urged the people to prepare the way of the Lord. Most importantly, we will learn what it

is like to prepare for the Lord's coming into our own situations.

We will once again be reminded that, like those who expected the Messiah to free them from the oppressive socio-economic and political systems of their time, Jesus is more interested in freeing us from the things that separate us from God and one another. We will be reminded that fixing what many consider our unjust or corrupt social, economic, and political systems begins with each one of us developing a right relationship with God and one another.

That is exactly what John the Baptist meant when he challenged those who came to be baptized in preparation for the coming Messiah, to produce fruit worthy of their repentance (Luke 3:8-14). It is about persevering in resisting evil and whenever we fall repent and return to the Lord. It is about continuing in the apostles teaching, the prayers, and the breaking of bread. It is about proclaiming the good news by word and example, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being.

The message of Advent for all of us who expectantly wait for God to intervene in our personal and corporate situations is that God is faithful and will do what He has promised (Hebrews 10:23). It is also an invitation for us to be faithful in preparing the way, removing the things that hinder God's intervention in our situations.

As I think about the meaning and significance of Advent, I realize that we at Holy Trinity do not just practice Advent during the four weeks of Advent on the liturgical calendar, but we practice Advent all year round. We are a people who are grateful for what God has done and look forward to more. Most importantly, we do not simply wait in expectation for God's intervention, but we actively prepare the way in word and action.

This work of preparing the way of the Lord has most recently been demonstrated through your generous contributions of time, talent, and funds for various activities including, but not limited to, the record-breaking Golf benefit for our school, donations to purchase wreaths for the 73 veterans in our cemetery, donations to Operation Christmas Child, bell ringing for Salvation Army, Salvation Army Christmas Angels, and perhaps most significant, the ongoing

response to our annual Stewardship Campaign. God is truly at work in us, and through us, many hopes and dreams are being realized.

May this Advent be for you a time to once again *"Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy."*  
Hymn 436 – Hymnal 1982

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING one and all. It is Thanksgiving Day as I write this. It seems appropriate to reflect on all I am grateful for today and share them with my Holy Trinity Family.

I am grateful the pandemic threat has dissipated. It has allowed us to recommence so many activities and add some new ones. This year we introduced the Parish/School Picnic. This gave parishioners and students a chance to meet and learn more about each other. Our Christian Education and Bible Studies classes are thriving. We have been able to hold several New Member Dinners, and that is because we have welcomed so many new members to our Family.

I am thankful we were able to undertake and complete so many projects. We have our new roof. We have put new siding up. We have given our school a great "Make Over" with new siding, paint and ramps. The students are completing the beautification by planting flowers in the front of the school.

What I am most thankful for is all of you. It is your love and generosity that has enabled us to achieve all we have. It is the generosity you display that allows us to keep our "Home" thriving and inviting. It is your bigheartedness that permits us to continue with projects to upgrade and improve Holy Trinity.

I am especially thankful for all the time and effort many of you donate. I know the source of that is your love for Holy Trinity. I am thankful to be part of such a generous and loving Community. I am thankful that on Sunday the warmth I feel at Church is generated by the love and kindness each one of you brings. It is

that love and bounty of time and donations that helps sustain the church, the school and all of us who are Members of The Holy Trinity Family.

Doris Brennan – Senior Warden

## **Vestry Meeting Highlights**

November 2023

The Vestry met for the monthly meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023 to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

1. The Vestry reviewed and approved the October Vestry meeting minutes.
2. The Junior Warden reported that:
  - a. the school was notified of the plan to install a security system for the school to be paid for by the church.
  - b. the siding on the school and church office buildings have been replaced. Now the siding needs painting.
  - c. a lift will be needed to repair the lightning rods on the church as well as a light by the Altar and repairs for the stained-glass window above the church doorway.
3. The Vestry was updated on the upcoming events which include:
  - a. January 27<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention-Our 3 delegates from the Vestry will be Mandy, Bob and John. 3 alternate delegates are needed. If interested, please talk to Fr. Samuel.
  - b. January 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting
4. Fr. Samuel informed the Vestry that:
  - a. nominations are open to fill 3 positions, each for a 3-year term, on the Vestry. These terms will begin in January 2024.
  - b. the HTES Golf Benefit was an amazing success.
  - c. the InviteWelcomeConnect team would like to have events that would excite and involve parishioners in its mission.
  - d. Pastoral Care is looking for advocates to serve as primary contacts for those who are homebound.

5. The Vestry unanimously voted to appoint Judy Gygi to serve as Assistant Treasurer in charge of Altar Guild finances, and Joan Ballard as co-signer to the Church's Altar Guild bank account.

6. The Vestry reviewed and approved the Treasurer's report as amended.

7. The Vestry reviewed and discussed the preliminary budget draft for 2024.

## **Vestry Elections 2024**

At our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 28, 2024, we will need to elect three individuals to fill one vacant position and to replace two current occupants who have completed their terms and are ineligible for re-election. The two vestry members will complete their three-year terms in January. We are therefore seeking candidates for the above positions that will become vacant in January 2024.

### **What is a Vestry?**

A Vestry is a body of elected congregational leaders. Congregations that have been granted parish status by their diocese are governed by their rector and the vestry. 'Traditionally, and by canon law, the vestry, consisting of wardens and other members, is the legal representative of the parish "in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy," except as may be provided by state law or diocesan canons (Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church, 1.14.2.). The number of vestry members and term of office varies from parish to parish.

### **Most vestries have the following officers:**

The Presiding Officer is the rector.

There are usually two wardens. The senior warden traditionally chairs the vestry in the absence of the rector and leads the congregation between rectors. In many parishes the senior warden is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has a particular responsibility for church property and buildings.

A treasurer and secretary or clerk who may or may not be vestry members, may be chosen. The treasurer deposits and disburses funds and oversees financial record keeping. The secretary keeps the minutes, gives notices of meetings to the parish and maintains vestry records.

Some vestries have an Executive Committee of the rector, wardens, treasurer and committee chairs. They oversee implementation of decisions and plan the agenda.

The responsibility of the vestry, like that of the governing body of any organization, is to:

- Help define and articulate the mission of the congregation;
- Support the mission by word and deed;
- Ensure effective organization and planning;
- Ensure adequate resources in leadership and in financial stewardship;
- Manage resources effectively;
- Determine that appropriate programs, policies, and procedures have been developed and are followed;
- Assess its own performance.

Though the vestry has some similarities to a board of directors, it is important to remember that this ministry of leadership is exercised in the church. The success of a congregation is not measured in terms of numbers of members or size of the endowment, but rather in the degree to which it is working toward the fulfillment of the mission of the church.

### Responsibilities of Individual Members of the Vestry

- Regularly prepare for, attend, and participate in vestry meetings;
- Learn about the mission, goals, programs, services, activities, strengths, and needs of the congregation, diocese, and national church;
- Maintain confidentiality on sensitive topics;
- Serve the congregation as a whole rather than any specific group;
- Encourage complainants to talk directly with the person(s) involved; avoid taking sides; inform rector or senior warden of serious concerns;

From the Vestry Resource Guide by the Episcopal Church Foundation 1997

### A Candidate for vestry must be:

- A committed Christian who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his or her life.
- An active voting member of Holy Trinity's parish for at least two years.
- One who understands the vision and mission of Holy Trinity and is willing to promote it in

word and action among other members and the community at large.

- One who supports the life and mission of Holy Trinity by sharing his time, talent and treasure
- One who is involved in one or more ministry teams
- One who is a good example in financial stewardship and generosity
- One who is willing to commit to one or more monthly vestry meetings and at least one annual training/retreat event
- One who is willing to provide leadership in every other aspect of our church life and mission.

## Treasurer's Summary Report

October 2023

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$25,193	\$24,113
Other Income	<u>\$ 3,735</u>	<u>\$ 3,370</u>
Total	\$28,928	\$27,483
Expenses	\$35,637	\$27,483

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. *St. Matt. v. 16.*

Russ Casson – Treasurer

## 2024 Estimate Of Giving

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our stewardship campaign and brought in or mailed your Estimate of Giving (pledge) cards to be consecrated (set apart) for God's mission in this place in the coming year. So far we have received the following:

**General Operating Fund** = 61 Pledges = **\$218,150**

**Building Fund** = 18 pledges = **\$ 13,940**

**Total Amount pledged** = **\$232,090**

If you have not had a chance to return your Estimate of Giving card, please do so as soon as you are able, so we may be able to finalize our budgeting process.

## HTES Report

Hello!

The faculty, staff, and students at Holy Trinity Episcopal School would like to thank everyone who participated and volunteered in the Golf Tournament,



Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a great success. The funds raised will be used to help HTES continue to thrive. We appreciate your unwavering support.

Next, we are thrilled to announce that this year HTES will be walking in the Lady Lake Christmas Parade! Come cheer us on as we make our way south down 1st Street, then east down County Road 466, then south down Old Dixie Highway until Griffin View Drive. The Christmas Parade ends at Griffin View Drive.

Lastly, HTES invites you for an afternoon of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 PM to be held at our church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Peace and blessings,  
Ms. Carole-lynn Petronella  
Interim Head of School.

## HTEC School Tutor Update



If you or someone you know wants to make a real difference in a child's life and has just one hour a week to work one-on-one with a student as a tutor please call (913) 558-2636 or email [Jimkelly8143@gmail.com](mailto:Jimkelly8143@gmail.com). (No formal academic certification is required and training is provided.)

Jim Kelly

## Salvation Army Food Bank Collection

The Outreach committee is 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.

Specifically, the Salvation Army is asking for peanut butter, bags/boxes of rice, instant potatoes and canned vegetables. As food prices continue to climb the need is most painfully felt by those in need at this



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

## Outreach Christmas Ministries

Your Outreach Committee is thankful to be able to announce that the funds were collected to pay for the shipping of our 50 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. These Shoeboxes were delivered to a local church to be shipped to a Samaritan's Purse Distribution location.



We are also thankful to be able to announce that all funds were collected to sponsor our 73 wreaths for the 73 Veterans buried in our cemetery. The order has been placed. Our wreaths coming from Wreaths Across America will be delivered the week of Dec. 11th. We will place our wreaths on Sunday Dec. 17th following our two Services.

We are also thankful for the families here that chose to choose a Salvation Army Angel to buy for this Christmas. Our families are buying for 16 local children who otherwise would have very little for Christmas. These gifts are due at the Salvation Army Leesburg Office by Friday Dec. 8th. Or here at HTEC by Noon on Wed. Dec. 6th for transport down to the Salvation Army Office. We wish to thank Dianne Casson for doing this transport for us.

We only needed to ask and our people answered the needs we had. We thank each of you.

Annette Freeman  
Outreach HTEC

## HTEC Salvation Breakfast Team

Besides Holy Trinity's contributions to the Salvation Army Food Bank via the Red Wagon, we also have a fun loving and hard-working team that provides breakfast service at the Salvation Army post in Leesburg to typically 25 to 35 people in need.

You can be part of this mission by joining our breakfast team on the second Tuesday of the month. For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ please contact Jim Kelly at (913) 558-2636.

## Holy Trinity Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringers

Holy Trinity is committed to making a difference in people's lives and this is just one way we do it. As part of our mutual support agreement with the Leesburg Salvation Army post our Holy Trinity Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringers just finished their first two days of bell ringing at Belk Department store in Spanish Springs this Nov. 24th and 25th.

Dave Aldrich, the head of our Men's Group and his wife Naomi having fun while making a difference working the Kettle at Belk.



In the next couple of weeks, we will be scheduling volunteers to work December 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23. We have a total of 20 time slots to fill over these 5 days. Each 2-hour time slot is intended to have 2 people present for a total of 40 wonderful volunteers. Coordinator: Jim Kelly, 913-558-2636

## School Fund Raiser



For the third year in a row Holy Trinity School Support Team agreed to partner with Belk department store for their Fall Charity Sale held Nov. 1st to the 5th. The result was a great success; we were able to raise \$1,274.00 for the school. Thanks goes out to those

volunteers who helped out on this occasion. Our volunteers have done a wonderful job for our students and teachers.

Jeanette and John Rodenbaugh at our sales table. They were just two of the enthusiastic team of fourteen hard working volunteers that made a difference.

Jim Kelly

### Christmas at Holy Trinity

Due to the fact that this year's Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, services will be held as follows:

#### 4 Advent

Saturday Dec. 23, 4:15 pm: – Holy Eucharist Rite 2

Sunday Dec. 24, 8:00 am: - Holy Eucharist Rite 1

#### Christmas Eve

Sunday Dec. 24, 4:00 pm – Holy Eucharist Rite 2

8:00 pm - Holy Eucharist Rite 2 *with Choir & Guest musicians*

#### Christmas Day

Monday Dec. 25, 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist Rite 2



**KOLLER, Jack and Patricia**

**JONES, Rod & Kathy**

**BAUER, Parker & Charlotte**



**TORIAN, Betty**  
**JONES, Rod**  
**ALCENAT, Jean-Baptiste**  
**BROWN, Madge**  
**PANLILIO, Madeline**  
**SIVER, Randy**  
**TYLER, Patsy**  
**D'AURIA, Ray**  
**HANKWITZ, Anne**  
**SLIGH, Mary Julie**

#### **PASTORAL CARE**

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

**Robin Michell**  
**(352-350-1451) or**  
**[Robinmichell@yahoo.com](mailto:Robinmichell@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 Spotlight**



Mark and Jaleh Welton are our Parishioner Spotlight for November. Mark and Jaleh have been attending Holy Trinity for 10 years. Jaleh serves on the Altar Guild, while Mark is on the Finance Committee and has also served on the Vestry.

Jaleh went to Mills College and majored in chemistry, but then did graduate work in accounting and that was her career until working and teaching in the Foreign Language Department at West Point. Mark attended Stanford University, and then did two masters degrees and three law degrees at Georgetown and the University of Virginia. He served as a judge advocate in the Army doing international law, until retiring and then teaching law at West Point.

Retired in the Villages full time, the Welton's enjoy travelling, golf and pickleball. Mark continues to lecture and write in his spare time.

Mark and Jaleh love to explore different places, meet different people, and to quote them, "most importantly," continue to learn.

Joan Hensley

**Remember to complete your Parishioner  
 Spotlight that is included in The Tidings.**





**Welcoming our New Members**



**Actor Deacon Charlie playing a game of cards in a show near his home.**



**Men singing during service**



## 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?

## Lili Panlilio



Our own Lili Panlilio honored on the BUCS Field in Tampa sworn in to the Coast Guard November 12th, 2023!!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** that is hosted by Men's Group will be postponed for the months of November and December to allow for holiday activities. They will resume on **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**HTES in LADY LAKE CHRISTMAS PARADE:** Come cheer us on as we make our way south down 1st Street, then east down County Road 466, then south down Old Dixie Highway until Griffin View Drive. The Christmas Parade ends at Griffin View Drive. The event will be held at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, December 2nd**, on Old Dixie Highway between Guava Street and Griffin View Drive.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS:** HTES invites you for an afternoon of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 2:45 PM to be held at our church. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SCHOOL DISCOUNT CARDS:** Our school's parents' group has embarked on a major fundraising initiative by producing and selling discount cards to **16 local businesses**. Each card costs \$10 and allows you to get significant discount at the local businesses. You may order your cards by asking Fr. Samuel or filling out a form in the Parish Hall.

**PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** - A ministry that strives to provide a loving and caring environment to those among us who may be experiencing hardships of many kinds. We need at least 3 more people to volunteer to call other members 3 times a year, to send out cards and to either cook or buy a meal when required. Can you share your gifts and talents with us? **Please call Robin Michell at 352-350-1451** or email me with your interests at **RobinMichell@yahoo.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**
2. **TEXT to Give:** the word "Funds" to 844-527-0098
3. **Mobile App:** Download the **Vanco Mobile** app from mobile store
4. **QR Code:** Scan the QR Code to access our eGiving page.



**OPEN POSITION:** We are actively searching for a long-term **Head of School** to help carry on the mission of our school beyond the transition. A suitable candidate must be someone with a heart for students who learn differently and guided by our baptismal commitment to seek and serve Christ



in all persons, and respect the dignity of every human being. This is a full-time position with benefits. A resume and letter of interest may be sent to: [debkhogan@gmail.com](mailto:debkhogan@gmail.com)

**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.