



# The Tidings

*Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church and School*

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**Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

**Volume 6 Issue 1**

**January 2024**

## Grateful & Hopeful



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For many people, the end of the year and the beginning of another is usually marked by mixed feelings. On one hand, there are feelings of gratitude, contentment and joy for the good experiences and accomplishments of the past year; coupled with excitement and hope for even better things to come with the

New Year. On the other hand, there may be feelings of regret, discontent, and sometimes a sense of guilt for things not accomplished, coupled with a sense of anxiety about the future. I wonder how you feel about the past year and what your hopes or fears are for 2024.

For me, this third year as your rector was wonderful in many ways. I continue to be amazed at how wonderful you, the people of Holy Trinity are, and how blessed I am to serve our Lord with you. And so, I end 2023, filled with a great sense of gratitude, contentment, and joy; and begin 2024 with a greater sense of hope and excitement about our shared life and mission.

Because of your dedication and commitment demonstrated by your generosity of time, talent, and treasure, we were able to accomplish so much in

2023. Our buildings and grounds are in much better shape than they were at the beginning of the year. Our historic sanctuary and our parish/office building received much needed new roofing. A leaking roof on one of the new school buildings which caused some damage and displaced two classrooms has been repaired and the students are back in their classrooms. Several parts of the school and office buildings that needed new siding have received it. Beyond that, we were able to raise around \$35,000 for our school through our annual school golf benefit. The response to our annual stewardship campaign is another testimony to your dedication to God's work in this place.

Beyond our campus, we were able to respond to the needs of so many. We honored our commitment to the Sao Paulo Mercy Ministry which ministers to the homeless population in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, we continue to financially support Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) efforts across the globe, Operation Christmas Child, etc. More importantly, we continue to respond to the needs of the less fortunate in our community, particularly through our partnership with local agencies such as Salvation Army and the Leesburg Food Bank. We are literally proclaiming God's love locally, nationally and globally. To God be the glory!

Among the many blessings of the past year, are the many new people God has added to our number. Many of them came to us with gifts and a passion to serve the Lord and already having an impact. I pray they will find Holy Trinity to be truly the place to belong, blossom, and bless; as they join us in inviting, welcoming, and connecting others to God and one another in Christ.

Like any other year, this year was not without its challenges. I am particularly reminded of those among us for whom the past year was very difficult and those whose struggles continue through the New Year. This past year was particularly difficult for those of our members who lost their loved ones and those who are dealing with illness or caring for family members who are ill. Others of us might have had financial or relationship issues. Whether you had a good or a bad year, I hope God's grace was sufficient to carry you through each day. As a church, I can say that our challenges were few but significant. The sudden departure of our Head of School came as a surprise. Fortunately, due to the

dedication of so many of our members who give so much of their time and talent to the mission of the school, we were able to handle the transition smoothly.

As I look forward to what God has in store for us in this New Year, I am aware that it will come with its own challenges. The secret to our success is a stronger sense of family. Bound and committed to one another in love, we will overcome whatever personal or corporate challenges we will face. That is why there is no such a thing as a solitary Christian. My hope is that we all will have the willingness and ability to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, discipleship, outreach etc. scheduled for this year. We hope to continue doing the things we've been doing well as well as try new ones. We also welcome ideas you think would enhance our vision and mission.

With the gratitude for the past year and hope for this new year, I am confident that God, *"who began a good work in you [us] will carry it to completion ..."* (Philippians 1:6). He *"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us..."* (Ephesians 3:20).

Have a truly blessed 2024!

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

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

As I stood outside the Church two days ago, I could not help but admire how beautiful it looks from all the renovations we were able to do this year. I was picturing the improvements we have planned for the coming year and smiled.

My smile was brought on by my love and gratitude for being a part of such a loving congregation. I was reflecting on the generosity shown to our school and most of all our Church. I thought of the pledges that have been submitted and knew we could continue with our ministries. I considered how such a small Church makes such generous commitments to the community and to the school and fulfills them. I thought of the plans we have for the coming year and was happy knowing we could see them through.

I was thinking of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Those are days when you traditionally feel the love and good will from all we meet. I love being a member of a Church where those feelings are felt all year. Every Sunday I feel I get to spend time with my

“Family” and bask in the love and warmth they radiate. I look forward to facing the coming year knowing, under Fr. Samuel’s leadership, we will continue being a source of comfort and safety to those in need. We will continue to care for our Family Members, who are unable to join us in person, as well as those just having a bad day.

My New Year’s Resolution is to continue to work at being the best version on me I can be. I want to continue to work to help Holy Trinity thrive and grow. I wish all of you wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and love.

Doris Brennan – Sr. Warden

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

December 14, 2023

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023 to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

1. The Vestry reviewed and approved the November meeting minutes as submitted.
2. The Vestry discussed the upcoming **Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Sunday January 28, 2023** and agreed on the following:
  - a. The theme of the annual meeting will be “Celebration of Generosity” in thanksgiving for our generosity of time, talent, and treasure in support of God’s mission in this place.
  - b. There will be **one Sunday worship service at 9:30 am** to accommodate members who attend either service. The Saturday service will be offered for those for whom the 9:30am may be an inconvenience.
  - c. There will be a celebration luncheon at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The luncheon will be paid for from the church budget. All are welcome.
  - d. The business session will begin at 11:45 am.
3. The Junior Warden reported that:

- a. The security system for the school will be installed during the Christmas break.
- b. Carpenters for Christ (a local Christian volunteer group) will install a new ramp at the back of the school in January.
4. The Vestry discussed the need for a handicapped bathroom and decided to further explore the possibility as a matter of priority.
5. Fr. Samuel reported that:
  - a. A Newcomer/Confirmation Class will begin sometime in February with a possible confirmation in the Spring of 2024.
  - b. So far there are no candidates for the 3 open positions effective January 28, 2024
6. The Vestry reviewed and approved the treasurer’s report for November.
7. The Vestry voted to approve the 2024 Budget of \$344,700.00 as proposed by the Finance Committee 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, 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

# **2024 Annual Parish Meeting**

**Sunday January 28, 2024**

## ***A Celebration of Generosity***

➤ Combined Worship service **9:30 a.m.**

➤ Luncheon **11:00 a.m.**

➤ Business Session **11:45 a.m.**

***All are Welcome!***

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**RSVP: Annette Freeman at: 352-467-7608**

**or email: [net389@aol.com](mailto:net389@aol.com)**



### **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**

November 2023

There will be no Treasurer's Summary Report as Russ Casson is out of town.

Russ Casson, Treasurer

### **HT Episcopal School Report**

Dear Community Members,

As we conclude 2023, and break for the winter holiday, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who help make HTES an amazing school. Our collective collaboration to raise the whole child is filled with commitment and compassion and we believe our efforts will have a positive, lasting impact in the future for all. Together with families, staff, and our volunteers, we continue to accomplish our goal and that is to prepare our students for the future. Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

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.

### **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 Bell Ringing 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 six days of bell ringing at Belk Department store in Spanish Springs covering the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Volunteers worked November 24 and 25 and December 15, 16, 21, and 22. We filled 48 time slots over those 6 days. Each 2-hour time slot had 2 volunteers representing Holy Trinity for a total of 96 hours of volunteer work. Total donations for the 2023 holiday season are not available yet, but last year we raised \$4,130.44. Coordinator: Jim Kelly, 913-558-2636



Holy Trinity Bell Ringing team member,  
Karen Jones, making a difference.

## Outreach Christmas Ministries



**R**emember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Above all else, **giving draws our heart to Christ.**

Your Outreach Committee wants to thank one and all for your gifts to our Christmas Ministries. We pray each of you were blessed as you gave.

Annette Freeman  
Outreach HTEC

## Bible Study Resumes

At 10:00 am, on Wednesday January 3rd, Bible study resumes. We will continue to explore the book of **Genesis**, reviewing our memories of Noah - the who, what, and why - and proceeding to explore the great Covenants between our Creator God and us. Bring your own Bibles, any translation, and if desired copies of the New Collegeville Bible Commentary on *Genesis* are available for purchase (\$9.9).

The discussions are always stimulating, fun and challenging - I do hope you will join us. More information?

E-mail [janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com)

Rev Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes

## Skin Deep

Forget that he's black,  
With views you cannot see,  
His world painted by others,  
Stories told that cannot be.

Forget that she's brown,  
That she arrived a different route,  
She seeks the same as you,  
Love and safety in pursuit.

Forget that he's white,  
The world dancing to his tune,  
Life leaning to his favor,  
Steeped in privilege, you assume.

We need a change of heart,  
Not only seek to understand,  
We must love one another  
God's created soul of man.

September 28, 2022



MAJOR, Beth & Bruce  
HOLE, Jonathan & Gail  
TULLER, Jordan & Val  
TURNER, John & Barbara  
HARDESTY, George & Susie



FREEMAN, Bob  
WILLIS, Mary Ellen  
BALLARD, Joan  
HULSEY, Pam  
MAJOR, Beth  
ALDRICH, Naomi  
HOLE, Jonathan  
MCLAUGHLIN, Patrick  
FLEMING, David  
GNAU, Marcella  
LEWIS, Sue  
OAKES, Steve  
FLEMING, Pat  
BAUER, Charlotte  
NSENGIYUMVA, Samuel  
VALLEE, Sophia

### 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@holyltrinityfp.com](mailto:rector@holyltrinityfp.com);  
or call the church office Monday  
through Thursday during office  
hours.

Please continue to phone or email  
your prayer requests to 352-787-  
1500 or [office@holyltrinityfp.com](mailto:office@holyltrinityfp.com)



# Christmastime at Holy Trinity





## 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?

## **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>**.

**CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS:** On **December 31**, there will be a service of Christmas Lessons & Carols. This will be an opportunity to request your favorite carol. If you wish to help with reading the lesson. Please contact the office at [office@holytrinity.com](mailto:office@holytrinity.com).

**VESTRY NOMINATIONS:** Nominations are requested to fill 3 positions of the Vestry, for a three-year term. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Father Samuel.

**2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** On **Sunday, January 28, 2024**, will be a Celebration of Generosity. There will be a Combined Worship Service at 9:30am, Luncheon at 11:00am, and the Business Session at 11:45am. All are Welcome! RSVP: Annette Freeman at 352-467-7608 or email [net389@aol.com](mailto:net389@aol.com).

**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](mailto: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!