



# The Tidings

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Church and School*

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**Rector: Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva**

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## Table of Contents

Rector’s Greetings .....	1
Three Days in March .....	2
Senior Warden’s Report.....	3
Vestry Highlights .....	3
Treasurer’s Report .....	4
HTEC School Tutor Program .....	4
Salvation Army Food Bank Collection .....	4
Salvation Army Breakfast Team .....	5
Outreach Ministries .....	5
Parishioner Spotlight .....	5
Holy Hackers .....	6
Easter Lilies .....	6
Our United Thank Offering.....	6
Anniversaries/ Birthdays .....	7
Fruitland Park Day .....	8
Clean-Up Day Painting/Mowing .....	9
Clean-up Day Raking .....	10
Palm Sunday .....	11
Parishioner Spotlight Form .....	12
Upcoming Events .....	13
Contacts Page .....	14

## Easter is Here!



I am writing this article only a few days from our Holy Week and Easter commemorations. As always our Lenten practice of reading and meditation on God’s Holy Word has focused on the person, life, and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. This week, we will once again be reminded of his suffering, death and resurrection.

Our Lord’s suffering reminds us of how he identified and continues to identify with human suffering. In light of immense human suffering around the world, as most vividly displayed on our TV screens, Jesus’ own death and resurrection offers us hope.

Throughout the scriptures, we are reminded that we have a God who sees human misery, who hears our cries, knows our suffering, and is working to rescue us. (Exodus 3:7-8). In Lent, we are reminded that Jesus was tempted in every way as we are but did not sin; and that by His grace we are able to triumph over every evil and to live no longer for ourselves alone but for him who died for us and rose again (BCP.379).

Easter, is in essence, a demonstration of God’s power to rescue all who suffer. When it seemed like the powers of evil had had their way, God raised Jesus

from the dead. Easter is a reminder that evil does not have the final word. God has the final word.

As the apostle Paul reflected on his own suffering from a prison cell, he had this to say:

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:10).

Because of the assurance of the resurrection, he was able to testify that:

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. (2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 14).

As we conclude our Lenten journey and celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may we rest in the hope that whatever we are going through, whatever may come our way, God will see us through. May we have the grace to even:

... rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-5).

This year's Easter, for us at Holy Trinity, will bring with it several other reasons to rejoice. We will be rejoicing with 5 of our newest members who will be presented to the bishop for confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation on Sunday, April 28. They have been busy reviewing and reflecting on what it means to follow Jesus in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. On that Sunday, we will be joining them in renewing our baptismal covenant by affirming our belief that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. And that, as St. Paul rightly reminds us, "*No one who believes in him will be put to shame.*" (Romans 10:11).

Samuel+

*By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva*

## Three Days in March

By Deacon Charlie Perrin

From Thursday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup> through Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> right after sunset, the Church will be observing the Triduum. Triduum is from the Latin for "three days."

The first of these days is Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday to some. The word "maundy" is derived from the Middle English and Old French translation of the Latin "Mandatum" and refers to the "mandate" given by Jesus when he said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Now there are four words in Greek for our single word "love." They are "eros" which is romantic love; "philia" which is companionship or the love among friends; "storge" which is familial love; and "agape" which is selfless love. "Agape" is the word used for "love" in Jesus' "new commandment" quoted above.

On Maundy Thursday we recall two things. The Last Supper, which is celebrated in the Church as the very first Eucharist, and the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus.

In those days, foot washing was a necessity, because many people walked around either barefoot or in sandals. And one's feet would get very dirty. But not only was it a necessity, it was a job relegated to the lowest of servants.

So, when Jesus started washing his disciples' feet after their meal it was quite scandalous to them. It was an act of selfless love. So, when we share food and drink and then wash each other's feet, these are acts of selfless love or "agape."

The second of the three days is Good Friday. This is the day when we commemorate Jesus' crucifixion and death. It is a solemn day, and the liturgy reflects this solemnity. The chancel is free of any adornments, having been stripped of them the night before after the Maundy Thursday celebration, The Ministers enter in silence, There are readings from the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament) a Psalm, a reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, and then the Passion from John's Gospel. A sermon is preached, and the service concludes with the Solemn Collects, other prayers, and the Lord's Prayer.

The third and last day of the Triduum is Holy Saturday and after sunset, by the very ancient way days were marked, we shake off Lent and enter into the joyous season of Easter by way of the Great Vigil of Easter, where the Pascal Candle is lit from new fire, and brought into the church by the Deacon who then blesses it by chanting the Exultet. If one listens carefully, one will hear parallels between part of the Exultet and the Great Thanksgiving which begins the Eucharist. And the Pascal Candle will be lit for every liturgy throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

Deacon Charlie Perrin

## Sr. Warden's Report

Busy, busy, busy – that is what we are, and will continue to be as Easter approaches. There will be many opportunities for the Holy Trinity Family to get together and share some quality time and God's Blessings.

We started this week off by participating in Fruitland Park Day. For the first time, our students were involved in the parade. We were so proud to see them walking behind the jeep of one of our students. Riding in the jeep was Oulio the Owl, our school mascot. I think the kids enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed seeing them. We spent the rest of the day sharing information about our Church and School with many of the Fair partakers.

Palm Sunday was celebrated with the passing out of palms and reading of the Passion Story. Now, Fr. Samuel will have two days to get ready for "The Easter Marathon".

Maundy Thursday will begin in the Parish Hall at 5pm. We will have prayers and the washing of feet, followed by the Agape Meal. The meal is a simple one. It is an attempt at duplicating The Last Supper. We will dine on meatless soup, pita bread, cheese and an assortment of fruits. There will be wine, grape juice, water and coffee. After the meal, we will go to the Church for Service and the "Stripping of the Altar". This is a very moving ceremony in our Church. We lead up to Christmas with happy celebrations and decorations. The "Stripping of the Altar" is a stark reminder of what we will be remembering, a very solemn time in Christ's life. I believe it captures the sadness and gravity reflected the next two days in the Church.

Friday The Stations will be done at 12pm. The Stations will begin outside and work its way into the Church. There will be a Good Friday service at 6pm.

Saturday, the most important of all services in our Church – The Easter Vigil. The Vigil will begin outside with the lighting of the Paschal Candle. The celebrants will then proceed into the Church. This service begins at 8pm.

Easter Sunday will be like all Sundays – services at 8am and 10:30.

We can all take a breath and relax, at least for the first week of April.

Doris Brennan, Senior Warden



## Vestry Meeting Highlights

**March 21, 2024**

The Vestry met for their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 to discuss matters of importance to the life and mission of our church.

1. The meeting began with an opening prayer from Fr. Samuel followed by the Vestry meeting prayer said in unison.

2. The Vestry reviewed the minutes from our meeting in February. The minutes were unanimously accepted by the Vestry.
3. Fr. Samuel's Rector Report included the following:
  - a. The vestry was informed that Sara Milidonis had been hired as our Office Administrator. Eileen will stay on as Communications Assistant on a casual basis until further notice.
  - b. Canon Dan visited Holy Trinity on February 28, 2024. This was an opportunity for Fr. Samuel to show him around, see our school, review our books/budget and see what a wonderful place we have in Fruitland Park, FL.
  - c. Confirmation, by Bishop Dabney, will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Bishop Justin will visit on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Vestry and School Board Members will hold a one-day retreat in the Spring. Fr. Samuel will work on scheduling a date for that event.
5. Ministry Liaison Assignments are as follows:
  1. Invite, Welcome, and Connect-Judy Gigi and Mandy Panlilio
  2. Building and Grounds-Bob Freeman
  3. School Board-Doris Brennan
  4. Outreach-Debbie Lally and Jim Kelly
  5. Finance-Steve Knowles
  6. Pastoral Care-Robin Michelle
  7. Christian Formation-Robin Michelle
  8. Hospitality-Pat Casson
  9. Worship-Fr. Samuel and Pat Casson
6. Important Dates on our Parish Calendar:
  1. April 28<sup>th</sup>- Confirmation by Bishop Dabney
  2. April 30<sup>th</sup>-Bishop Justin's Visit
  3. May 4<sup>th</sup>-School and Church Annual Picnic
  4. May 17<sup>th</sup>- Holy Trinity School Graduation to be held at St. George Episcopal Church-5:00 PM
7. The Vestry reviewed and approved the treasurer's report for February.

The Vestry meeting concluded with prayers according to the Order for Compline.

## Treasurer's Summary Report

February, 2024

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$28,110	\$25,167
Other Income	<u>\$ 1,827</u>	<u>\$ 3,558</u>
Total	\$29,937	\$28,725
Expenses	\$27,423	\$28,725

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts xx, 35

Russ Casson, Treasurer

## HTEC School Tutor Program

While the 2023-2024 school year may be winding down, it's not too early to start planning and staffing up for next year's Tutor program. 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) (Snow Birds are welcome and no formal academic certification is required and training is provided.)

## Salvation Army Food Bank Collection

### Little Red Wagon Salvation Army Food Bank

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 breakfast cereal, peanut butter, bags/boxes of rice, instant potatoes, canned vegetables and canned meat. 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 of volunteers 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 for just 2 hours on the second and fifth Tuesdays of the month. For more information about helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact Jim Kelly (913) 558-2636.



## Outreach Ministries

It is not too late to contribute to our Easter Offering.

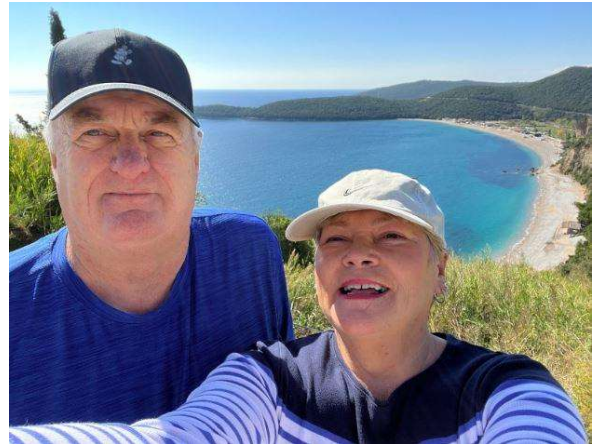
Did you hear that our Offering this year would be split between The Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center and The Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.

The Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center is located in downtown Leesburg. This organization coordinates the investigations, treatments and prosecutions of child abuse cases. They are here to care for the most vulnerable, the children of Lake and Sumter Counties who find themselves in need of these services.

The Episcopal Diocese of Honduras is still in need of help from hurricanes that hit their country in 2022 and 2023. Our Diocese has requested we help them if we could.

Thank You,  
Annette Freeman  
Outreach HTEC

## Parishioner Spotlight



**Bob and Annette Freeman** are well known around Holy Trinity, as they have attended here since February 1983. And it's been a busy 40+ years of giving their time to the church! Bob is currently on the Vestry, serves as Junior Warden, and is a LEM. Annette chairs the Outreach Committee, is a member of the Finance and Pastoral Care Committees and serves as a Lector and a LEM.

The Freeman's live in Lady Lake. Bob was born in Gardiner, Maine and moved to Florida in 1983. Retired in 2022, Bob owned and operated F & W Plumbing Incorporated in Eustis for 33 years.

Born in Oneonta, Alabama, Annette moved to Sumter County, Florida with her family when she was four years old. After retiring from the Department of Transportation for the State of Florida, Annette now works two days a week as a companion to a special needs young lady.

While not snowbirds, the Freemans enjoy traveling throughout the year. Along with traveling, Bob enjoys golf and is a member of Holy Hackers. In addition, a lot of his time is spent at Holy Trinity serving as JR Warden. "There is always work to do."

Annette is a 20-year member and currently the Treasurer of Central Florida Woman's Club and continues the projects she headed up with Bertha Hereford Hall Chapter of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) before their Chapter closed last year. She is now a Member at Large with DAR. She also stays busy with volunteer work for two community Woman's Clubs.

Annette says she loves her Lord Jesus, and she strives to live for him. She says it is a blessing to her to know and serve the people at HTEC. Bob says he is blessed by the work he does at HTEC. And from their list of accomplishments, Holy Trinity is blessed to have them both as part of our community.



Eight golfers and one rider (injured) gathered at Pennbrooke Fairways at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, March 9th for our March Holy Hackers outing. We had a couple of late cancellations due to illness or injury, but once again, the weather was beautiful, and Pennbrooke Fairways is in excellent shape. We played in smaller groups than usual so many of us hit more than one shot on certain holes. The golfing again varied from pretty good to very good. Randy & Debbie Siver, playing as a twosome, just dominated the rest of us coming in at 5 or 6 under par. The rest of us came in close to even par, somehow I did not get all the scorecards this time. Pennbrooke Fairways had a car show going on so we were sent off to the National Anthem & other music playing.

Most of of us were able to make it afterwards to a very nice lunch again at Piesanos Stone Fired Pizza. Again, the food and service were excellent. We are at it again on Saturday April, 13 moving tee time up to 09:30 tee off. All are welcome to join us and bring guests, or just join us for lunch. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or you can call, e-mail, or text me.

Dave Aldrich

[aldrichkp68@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichkp68@gmail.com)

Cell phone: 203 258-9643



## Easter Lilies

The Altar Guild will soon be ordering Easter Lilies to decorate the church for Easter. You may designate your gift: *In Memory Of*, *In Thanksgiving For*, *Or In Honor Of*, on the Lily envelopes on the offering table or in the church pew. The suggested donation is \$15 for each Lily. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Altar Guild with Lily or Lilies in memo line.

## Our United Thank Offering Ministry

Dear Parishioners,

We are now a month into our UTO Ministry. I hope it has opened your eyes, as it has mine, to just how I am blessed by my Lord and Savior. I have always felt

blessed, but when thinking about it daily and with Bob, I am really expressing my thanks and add my coins daily to our UTO little blue box and truly feel the love of my Lord. I hope there are others who are having similar experiences. I would love to hear your thoughts on your walk through this Ministry. Feel free to share when you see me or you could text or email me.

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

Annette Freeman  
Outreach HTEC





**NSENGIYUMA, Samuel & Rose**



**ROWELL, Amy**  
**PERRY, Christine**  
**STANTON, Debbie**  
**RICHARDSON, Jeanette**  
**GNAU, David**  
**SLIGH, Graham**  
**LALLY, Debbie**  
**BROWNE, Nancy**  
**BARRINGER, Charlotte**  
**PILKINGTON, Rob**

# FRUITLAND PARK DAY

## Saturday, March 23, 2024

The church and school teamed up once again to participate in Fruitland Park Day on Saturday, March 23rd. This has become an annual event for us as it provides an excellent opportunity to reach out and connect with our neighbors. Those who stop by our booth learn first-hand about our school and are invited to visit our welcoming church; the families who come to view the parade see our students marching with pride behind their school banner and mascot. Much appreciation goes to those who staffed the Holy Trinity booth for braving the initial showers along with the winds that followed! Volunteers included: Judy Gigi, Doris Brennan, Gary Sarto, Scott Pennington, Karen Hammen, Dave Aldrich, Deb and Sid Yee, along with Interim Head of School Carole-lynn Petronella and parent Dot Lafever.

Submitted by Deb Yee, on behalf of the Invite/Welcome/Connect Ministry





# SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

March 2024

Painting & Raking



# SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

## March 2024



# palm SUNDAY



## 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**

### **EASTER OFFERING DESIGNATION:**

This year's **Easter Offering** will be split between the **Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center in Leesburg** and the **Diocese of Honduras recovery efforts**. Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center provides a child-friendly, community-based facility where a child victim can be safely interviewed, provided with crisis counseling, receive medical exams and long-term specialized therapy, when needed. The diocese of Honduras is our companion diocese with a variety of needs. The funds will go towards St. Patrick's Church in the city of El Progreso which is struggling to recover from two back-to-back hurricanes in 2020 and recent floods that left the church building severely damaged.

### **CONFIRMATION VISITATION APRIL 28:**

**Bishop Dabney Smith**, our Assisting Bishop, will be at Holy Trinity on Sunday **April 28, 10:30 am**. to confirm, receive, and reaffirm those who have expressed their desire.

### **CURSILLO WEEKENDS April 12-14 (Men) & April 26-28 (Women):**

Cursillo is a movement in the Episcopal Church whose mission is to help those in the church understand their individual calling to be Christian leaders through the use of a specific method that equips and encourages them to live out their Baptismal Covenant. The weekends will be held at Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo. Please pray for one of our members has registered to attend the women's weekend on April 26-28. For more information, speak to Fr. Samuel or visit the Central Florida Cursillo at website [www.cfepiscopalcursillo.org](http://www.cfepiscopalcursillo.org).

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Join us on **Sunday mornings 9:15am -10:15am** for Pastor and Author Andy Stanley's six-week video bible study titled, **Better Decisions - Fewer Regrets**. The critical questions he teaches you to ask are designed to serve as a decision-making filter that will set you up for success in every season of life.

### **HTES COOKBOOK:**

Do you have a fabulous recipe that you would like to share? HTES students will be making and selling cookbooks. If you are interested in sharing your recipe(s), please pick up a recipe card in the Parish Hall or email Tara at [school.htes@gmail.com](mailto:school.htes@gmail.com).

### **ELECTRONIC GIVING AT HOLY TRINITY:**

We 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



**QR Code:** Scan the QR Code to access our eGiving page.