



The Tidings

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Church and School*

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The Holy Spirit: God’s Gift to Believers

“Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised ...” (Acts 1:4).



As I look forward to the month of May, I am thinking about the major events happening during the month and reflecting on the meaning and significance of each of them. I am thinking about Mother’s Day (May 12), Pentecost Sunday (May 19), and our school’s Graduation Day (May 17). Each one of these events is significant in our individual and shared lives. In this article, I wish to share my thoughts on the significance of the Day of Pentecost scheduled for Sunday May 19.

Like many feast days, Pentecost seems to come and go; leaving little or no impact on us. That was certainly not so with the disciples and all those who witnessed the first Pentecost in Jerusalem. For many, it was a life-changing experience. It was the beginning of a new way of thinking and living; a new life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, it is described by many to be the birthday of the church. No wonder Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem before they could experience this outpouring of God’s gift to believers. (Acts 1:4).

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was so significant that it changed the dynamics of the disciples individual and group life. Before Pentecost, they had been preoccupied by concerns personal privilege and safety; now they were concerned with everyone's wellbeing. They certainly were not afraid of anything. They had been given both the desire and the power to be Christ's witnesses (Acts 1:8); loving one another, learning from one another, sharing with one another, and praising God together (Acts 2: 45-47; 4:32-35).

What is interesting is that every time the disciples gathered, there was some recurrence of the Pentecost experience. When the disciples gathered in prayer following Peter and John's persecution, "the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 4:31). When Peter visited Cornelius's house, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." (Acts 10:31). When Paul met and laid hands on some believers in Ephesus "the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:6).

It is clear to me from these examples, that the gift of the Holy Spirit was not poured unto the believers once for all on the day of Pentecost; rather, it was meant to be a regular occurrence every time the believers gathered in love and anticipation. Pentecost is and should be an ongoing experience. No wonder Paul urges the Ephesians to continually "be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18-20).

The need for a continuous outpouring and demonstration of the Spirit's presence does not in any way negate our belief that all baptized people received the Holy Spirit at their Baptism. At baptism God "anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). The question here is, therefore, not whether the Holy Spirit lives in us or not, because Jesus made it clear when he told his disciples that "When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." (John 14:20). The real question is whether the Holy Spirit who has been deposited in us is active in our daily lives; comforting, teaching, convicting, empowering,

sanctifying, and transforming us into the kind of people we are called to be – people who are bearing the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22).

The good news we get from the early, and some modern, believers alike, is that there are things we can do to allow the Holy Spirit to become more active in our lives. There are things we can do to experience Pentecost over and over again. I will share just a few:

Humility: The first thing we need before we can experience the outpouring and manifestation of the Holy Spirit is humility. Pride is the greatest obstacle to experiencing the outpouring of God's Spirit. We need the humility to admit that we are not where we need to be; and that we cannot get there on our own. We need to admit that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us in order for us to be and do all that God has intended for us. This kind of humility is best demonstrated by the believers in Ephesus who were asked by Paul whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they first believed. They were humble enough to admit that they did not even know that there was such a thing as the Holy Spirit. (Acts 19:2). Once they understood that there was indeed such a thing as the Holy Spirit, they were more than willing to let Paul lay hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

Desire: The second thing we need to experience Pentecost over and over is a desire for more of God and all he has to offer. Remember the disciples had received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them after the resurrection. (John 20:22). They could easily have argued with Jesus that they already had the Holy Spirit when he told them not to leave Jerusalem before receiving the Holy Spirit. Because they desired more of God, they were willing to wait till the day of Pentecost; and what they experienced was no where close to what they had experienced before. Do you desire more of God's Spirit?

Availability: The third thing we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit is availability. In our busy world, we tend to want things to happen on our own timing. Notice that Jesus did not tell the disciples to wait until a certain day. He told them to wait in Jerusalem till they received the promise of the Father. It did not matter to them how long it would take. They were available. We see the same attitude

in the story of Peter's visit to Cornelius. Cornelius said to Peter, "Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." (Acts 10:33). No time limit. Experiencing Pentecost will undoubtedly involve some unspecified waiting.

As we look forward to the feast of Pentecost, may we be humble enough to admit our need for more of the Spirit's work in us; may we develop a hunger and thirst for more of the Spirit, and may we avail ourselves for the outpouring and transforming work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us. May this year's feast of Pentecost be for you and me, a life changing one; just like the first Pentecost. Come Holy Spirit, Come!

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

Sr. Warden's Report

The next couple of weeks are going to be busy, so I hope you all have the following events scheduled on your calendars.

Sunday, April 28th, we have Confirmation at the 10:30 service. Bishop Dabney Smith will be here to Confirm Gary Hess and Debbie Holliday. Janell Bromeisl and Jo Ann Portell will be Received and Peggy Scholl has chosen for Reaffirmation. There will be a reception after the service. Please be sure to sign-up for the reception. We all congratulate our candidates on this special day.

Tuesday, April 30th, we will be visited by Bishop Justin Holcombe. Bishop Justin will be visiting with the Vestry and School Board. After lunch, he will be touring the school. We look forward to showing the Bishop our students and their achievements.

Saturday, May 4th, we will have our Second Annual Parish/School Picnic. We will have the chance to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill – compliments of the Men's Group. Last year we had a wonderful assortment of sides and desserts that were provided by the parents as well as some parishioners. The students are working on the games and activities. I am sure we will see Fr. Samuel display his expertise at the corn-hole toss again this year. Please be sure to sign-up for this event. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to meet and visit with our students.

We really need to thank those parishioners who have been working so hard to keep our grounds looking

wonderful. We are blessed to have so many members of our Holy Trinity Family who are able to donate their time and talent.

The central window, over the entrance, will be repaired this coming month. Again, we thank for our Family for their love through their pledges. That has enabled us to do all the necessary repairs and replacements the past couple of years.

Thank you all for your generosity and love and hope to see you many of you at the picnic.

Doris Brennan – Sr. Warden

Vestry Meeting Highlights

There were no Vestry Meeting Highlights received for this month.

Treasurer's Summary Report

Treasurer's Summary Report March, 2024

Contributions	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$41,139	\$25,167
Other Income	<u>\$ 3,874</u>	<u>\$ 3,558</u>
Total	\$45,013	\$28,725
Expenses	\$29,150	\$28,725

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

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 (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.



Parishioner Spotlight



Two very familiar faces around Holy Trinity are **Russell and Dianne Casson** as both have been attending here since the 60's, Russell in 1960 and Dianne in 1969. Russell was part of building the church, so he has been part of the parish since its beginning!

Something you don't find very often is that both Russell and Dianne were born and raised in Leesburg, Florida, true Floridians. And they still call Leesburg home year-round and share it with their two cats. The Cassons have one son and two grandchildren.

Russell served in the Army as a helicopter pilot, and then chose accounting for his career. His hobby is numismatics, a study of coins and medals, and he volunteers with the Fruitland Park Lions Club.

Dianne is a registered nurse and volunteers as a Chaplain at UF Hospital in Leesburg and with the Education Foundation of Lake County in their Applemart program.

We see Russell every Sunday singing with the choir. He has served on the Finance Committee and as Holy Trinity's Treasurer. Dianne is more behind the scenes as Directress of the Altar Guild and serves on the Pastoral Care Team.

Interesting to note, Russell and Dianne were married at Holy Trinity in 1971 by Fr. Paddock. Their son and their grandchildren were baptized here in the church. They are truly one of Holy Spirit's founding couples!

Scripture

As I sail an ancient ocean,
To see what the apostles see,
A serpent creeps in the water,
To impose his ways on me.

I am helpless to kill the serpent,
Put it down and rid the sea,
Of its pernicious presence,
Nor from it can I see.

But I hold this holy weapon,
Of parchment from Father and Son,
Its words of courage and power,
Will pray the serpent gone.

August 19, 2021

This is the story of the COVID infecting my daughter's family. It began with husband Nick coming home sick and it rolled through the house. This theme is equally applicable to any illness, malady or challenging situation that may afflict a family. The serpent could also be the devil himself.

Ron Whetsell



HAASE, Carole
YEE, Deb
PULLEN, Janey
TORIAN, Kathy
GRAY, Dorothy Ione
ENYEART, Helen
MATTHEWS, Neven
OSBORN, Terry
REDDING, Sharon
MONIN, Gregg
PANLILIO, Lili M.
ALBERS, Walt
FORD, Ivan
SULLIVAN, Karen

In Loving Memory

Albert Neil Groty, a former Senior Warden here at Holy Trinity, departed this life on **Monday April 14, 2024 in Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania**, following a long illness. Please pray for his wife Carol and the family during this time of grief. Cards may be sent to:

Mrs. Carol Groty,
5368 Oak Leaf Dr.
Mt. Joy, PA 17552



WHITE, Dan & Jay Summers
HAAKE, Janice & Rob Pilkington
GNAU, David & Marcella



Eleven Holy Hackers gathered at Pennbrooke Fairways for a round of golf and fellowship at 9:30 Saturday April 13th. Again, the weather was beautiful, Pennbrooke Fairways in beautiful condition and the golf was pretty good too. Our First Place team was the Oakes and Sivers at one under par, followed by the Aldrich's and Marty Smith at even par, and Mike Browne, Charlie Perrin, Mandy Panlilio and John Wrinkle at two over. No hole in one's to report this month, but we all had a great time.

After golf, seven of us gathered again at Piesano's Stone Fired Pizza for a delicious lunch. The weather was so nice, we were able to eat outside. We are at it again 9:30 Saturday, May 11th, please join us for golf, lunch or both.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

The Pancake Breakfast is hosted by the Men's Group the last Sunday of the month. Come and join us for a delicious pancake breakfast from 9am -9:45am. The cost is \$7.00 and the proceeds benefit the Holy Trinity Episcopal School.

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. Please pray for these candidates as they reaffirm their renunciation of Satan and their commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Join us on **Sunday mornings 9:15am - 10:15am** for a new series on "**LUKE**" - **Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws** by Adam Hamilton. In this six-session series, we explore the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Luke tells us of Jesus's care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts.

BIBLE STUDY:

Join us every **Wednesday at 10am** in the Grace Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes. Bring your bible. No previous "Knowledge: of the Bible is necessary, we are all learners. Any questions you may email Rev. Janice at Janice.gordonbarnes@yahoo.com.

PARISH/SCHOOL PICNIC:

Let's join together on **May 4, 2024 at 11:00am** for fellowship, food, games. and opportunities to tour the school or church. Last year's success was due to all who attended and shared their favorite dish. Our Men's Group will be working the grill and preparing Hamburgers & Hot Dogs. Water, Lemonade, and Iced Tea will be available.

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.