

# FAITH & FAMILY

## Reunion brings family and friends together at old Holley school

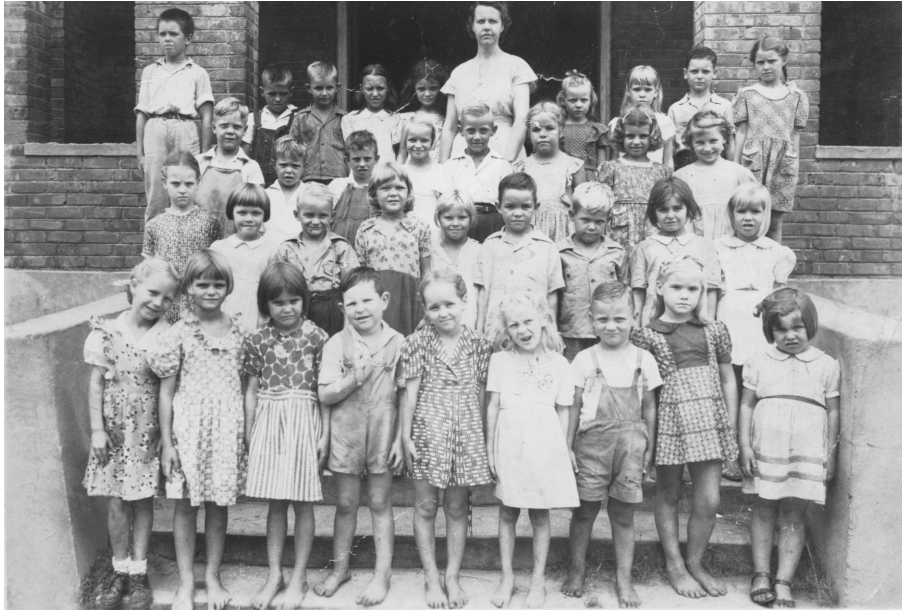


By Staff report  
news@navarrepress.com

Only memories and mostly black-and-white photos remain of the old Holley Elementary School, once the hub of the small community. Two generations ago the population of the area began to explode, creating a need to build a new facility in Navarre and eventually even more schools to accommodate area students. Although the old school was demolished, those with connections to Holley are planning to keep its memories alive at the 3rd Annual Holley Community Reunion. Organizers of the event are asking folks to bring a covered dish and memories to share at the potluck picnic, scheduled for Saturday July 20, at the site of the old school - now the county-owned Holley Ball Park.

"The old Holley school was our community social center. We did everything there. Carnivals to hurricane shelters, and softball games to voting booths. Everyone knew everyone in our community," said Kathleen Bunyan-Passmore, who coordinates the annual event.

"Some time ago I posted on Facebook, 'Oh Lord, how I miss the old fish fries we use to have at the old Holley Elementary School.' I closed down my computer and went to bed. The next night when I got back on Facebook, I found 57 posts



This photo shows students from an unknown class and year at Holley Elementary School. Do you recognize any of these students?

from others who also missed it," added Bunyan-Passmore, noting "Holley was, and remains today, a strong community because of its people. Holley has a rich history that needs to be shared."

Built in 1926, the five-room schoolhouse had a kitchen sink crafted out of one half of a 50-gallon steel drum. In the early years, classes were smaller and up to three grades shared a classroom with only one teacher. Substitute teachers were a frequent sight because finding teachers willing to drive the great distance to work at the school was challenging.

Many former students recall the auditorium's theater seating and velvet stage curtains. The third

Saturday of each month the auditorium became the community's theater, featuring western or horror flicks, or serials such as Tarzan. The cost of the movie was just 25 cents, and the theater curtains were bought with proceeds from an entertaining presentation of "The Womanless Wedding," through which raised enough money to fund the purchase.

The school also hosted

an annual Halloween carnival featuring cracker-eating and apple-bobbing contests, along with a popular cakewalk held outside the school. Girls and boys would hold hands and walk until a gun was fired. Those lucky enough to be standing on pre-marked spots when the shot went off won cakes. Another fun activity included girls selling boxed

lunches their mom's helped them make. Boys would bid on the lunches and also win the company of the young lady while they ate.

There wasn't a local high school years ago, so after the eighth grade, students were transported via an old Army ambulance to the high school in Milton. Chanley Tolbert later purchased a bus which his son, Raymond Tolbert, drove. Betty Hawkins, who attended the school and has lived in Holley all of her life, remembers how Tolbert

would tease and accelerate on purpose as she boarded.

It's fun-filled memories like those fondly recalled by Hawkins which have made the annual event popular with former students. However, anyone who has lived in Holley or has ties to the community is invited to come share past memories and create new ones. At least for one afternoon each year the site comes alive again with the sounds of children having fun, an experience which seems to never be forgotten.



Submitted photos

Sebastian Passmore (from left), Lance Smith and James Passmore enjoy being young at last year's reunion as the older generations relived their childhood through memory-filled conversations at the 2012 reunion.

**3rd Annual Holley Community Reunion**  
Holley Ball Park - 3146 Bob Tolbert Road  
Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Attendees are asked to bring chairs and a covered dish



The old Holley Elementary School was once the hub of the community. The building was demolished years ago, and the only remaining images are in memories and old photographs such as this one.

### Faith Briefs

**Yacht Club hosts Paddle for the Promise to benefit Covenant Hospice**

The Fort Walton Yacht Club will host the inaugural "Paddle for the Promise" stand-up paddleboard (SUP) race to benefit Covenant Hospice on Saturday, August 3 at the yacht club on Choctawhatchee Bay. A series of races for all skill levels and ages will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Registration fees are \$30 for each race entry and \$20 for the youth 1-mile race. For more information visit the event website at [www.eventsat-covenant.org](http://www.eventsat-covenant.org) or contact Jenni Perkins at [jenni.perkins@covenanthospice.org](mailto:jenni.perkins@covenanthospice.org) or 850-598-5003.

**First Baptist Church Navarre**

■ Sunday morning worship services at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday



morning Bible studies for all ages at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.

**Navarre Beachside Church**

A non-denominational Christian church offers contemporary worship every Sunday morning, rain or shine, at 8:30 a.m. in the summer and 9 a.m. in the winter. For more information, call the Rev. John Kerns at 850-939-1533 or visit [www.beachsidechurch.com](http://www.beachsidechurch.com).

**Coastline Calvary Chapel**

Coastline Calvary Chapel Gulf Breeze will host the following events:

■ 7 p.m. Tuesdays - The Most Excellent Way (substance-abuse support meet-ing) is designed for those who battle addiction. Meetings are held in the Christian Education Building. Child care is available.

■ Young adults between the ages of 18-30, single or married, are invited to join Coastline Young Adults group at 7 p.m. Tuesday nights in the Coastline Coffeehouse.

■ "The Book" club invites all women to embark on a journey into God's Story - a chronological reading of the Bible

through the year - at 5 p.m. at 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 14. For more information, call 850-932-8197.

■ Sunday services begin at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Children's ministry for infants through fifth-graders is available during both services; junior and senior high school youth meet during the 10:30 a.m. service.

**Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church**

■ Chick-fil-A's Winshape C3 Camp will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on July 15-19 at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church. Children who have completed 1st-6th grades are invited to a life-shaping summer camp with a combo of sports, cooking, arts, worship, recreation, drama, music, and fun; it's got something for every camper.

■ July 30: GBUMC will have a Family Night at the Blue Wahoos game on July 30. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the game starts at 6 p.m. Bring your family, a ball cap and some blankets and join us for our first GBUMC Family Night at the Blue Wahoos. Tickets available online at [GBUMC.org](http://GBUMC.org) or at all campuses on July

14 and July 21. Tickets will be available through July 22. For more information, contact [psimmering@gbumc.org](mailto:psimmering@gbumc.org).

■ College-Aged Girls' Bible Study Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, Fairpoint Campus, Room 6. For more info, contact Clint at 850-777-8345 or Casey at 850-712-1022.

■ "Life of Messiah" Sunday, 10:45 a.m. or Wed., 6 p.m., Fairpoint Campus. If you are looking for a great summer study, consider this course on the life of Jesus, based on the context and culture of first century Israel. The study examines all four gospel accounts of Jesus's life and ministry from a Jewish perspective, shedding light on the Jewish theology and customs that surround our Messiah. For additional information, contact Donna Jordan: [djordan625@earthlink.net](mailto:djordan625@earthlink.net). All programs of the church are open to the public. For more information on these or any other activities of the church, call 932-3294, 916-1660, or visit our website at [www.gbumc.org](http://www.gbumc.org).

**Navarre Presbyterian Church**

■ A low-impact exercise class meets

from 8-9 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Navarre Presbyterian Church, 1870 Lowe Road, Navarre. The class also meets at 8 a.m. Fridays at the Navarre Butterfly House to walk for the hour. The public is invited and everyone is encouraged to participate at their own ability level. For more information, call Mary Smith at 932-5770 or Margie McGaughey at 939-2068.

**St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church**

■ The Great St. Augustine's Yard Sale will be held from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 20. There will be a yard sale, cake sale, car wash, playground and more.

■ The "A Splash of Spirit" auction will be held on October 12. For more information visit the church office, go to [www.staugustinesnavarre.org](http://www.staugustinesnavarre.org) online or call 850-939-2261.

**Midway First Assembly of God**

Sunday Worship is held at 10:30 a.m., and Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. ■ Wednesday Youth Service and Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

■ Food Pantry Program: Second Wednesdays of each month from 9:30 to noon

■ The Midway First Assembly of God Thrift Store is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Proceeds are used for the church's food pantry program. Donations are accepted, and pickups can be scheduled by calling Debbie at 850-293-0674. Midway First Assembly of God is located at 5649 East Bay Blvd., Gulf Breeze. For more information, please call the church at 934-3033.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

■ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's Evangelism Committee will host a "Salad and Ice Cream Social" on Sunday, July 14, beginning at noon (immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service) in the Christian Life Center. Attendees can build your own salad and ice cream sundae, as well as enjoy socializing with the members and friends of our congregation. Holy Trinity is located at 363 Miracle Strip Parkway (Hwy. 98), across from Liza Jackson Park.

**Navarre United Methodist Church and Preschool**

**The Bridge Beach Gathering**  
Dolphin Pavilion  
Sunday June 23 - Aug 4  
5:00 p.m.

**Worship Times**  
Early Service:  
7:45 a.m. in Hildreth Hall  
Contemporary:  
9:00 a.m.  
Traditional:  
10:42 a.m.

**(850)939-2028**  
9474 Navarre Parkway • Navarre, FL 32566  
To Develop Each Person into a Fully Devoted Disciple of Christ

**BILLORY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday School 9:45 am  
Service 11 am

Wednesday prayer meeting  
6:30 pm

8162 Stillwater Cove • Navarre, FL 32566  
(Located on Highway 87 S)  
**850-939-2849**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran ELCA**

*Sunday Worship*  
8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages  
9:40 am

**850-243-0788**  
363 Miracle Strip Pkwy. - Fort Wall Beach, FL  
(Hwy. 98 - Across from Liza Jackson Park)