



# Lifeline

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February 2020

*The Church of the Holy Trinity*

*An Episcopal Church*  
*office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org*



A Message from Our Rector, *Fr. Kevin M. Cross*

## Who Me? Yes, You!

### We Are All Called to be Missional People

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Whom should I send, and who will go for us? And I said, Here I am. Send me."* Isaiah 6:8

I love this passage about the call of Isaiah. Isaiah as with most of God's prophets, felt inadequate to serve the Lord. Just



before accepting his call from God he had said, *"And I said; " Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of*

*unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts."* Isaiah 6:5

Isaiah's initial response is honest and profoundly human. *"I am unworthy. I cannot possibly be good enough to show others the way to life and light."* I know this kind of thinking often enters my thoughts and I expect it does for many of you as well. Yet each of God's prophets came from quite ordinary means, without any presuppositions of having extraordinary characteristics or skills. And, I think that is the point. God's call is to every one of us regardless of how inadequate or unworthy we may feel. God sees greatness in each and everyone of us.

I have often thought of God's proclamation at the baptism of Jesus *"This is my Son the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased"* Matthew 3:17 as being quite remarkable. Jesus incarnate as human flesh had not done anything remarkable that we know of at this time of his life. There are no biblical passages of Jesus as a boy and young man. We might make a fair assumption that during this time Jesus lived and grew into manhood as a normal young boy/man. God was

pleased with him not because of some great deed he had done. He was pleased with Jesus for simply being who he was.

God's love for us is the same. His love is the unconditional love a parent has for their child. You are loved for being yourself. Thus, God's call is not predicated on our passing a test of faithfulness or having great oration skills, brilliance, or great achievements. God calls us all collectively because we are loved, and we are all intended to work toward the revelation of God's kingdom in this world. We are ordinary souls called and equipped to do extraordinary work together.

One may question if they are equipped to lead a missional life. If we think that means we must have the skills to be gifted evangelists, we are missing the point. Each of us have our own unique skills to contribute to this world. Paul writes *"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."* Romans 12:6-8 Together we form a beautiful quilt that can cover the world with love of God. As with a quilt, each patch, each stitch, each thread is essential to make a quilt a quilt. If the attributes of each piece do not come together the all we have are patches and threads. God's dream, His tapestry of love, requires the gifts of each of us working together. *"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* 2 Peter 1:10-11



**Missions**

Blessings, Father Kevin



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- The Just Once Per Year Program would like to thank **Susan Wheeler, Midge Menzies, Connie Greenhawk, George Curlin and Rebecca Bell** for their generous donations to the Wednesday Lunch Bunch .
- Many thanks to **Bill and Elspeth Ritchie, Jim and Stacey Bredar, Katie Dodds and Gary Lewis, Kathy and Doug Becker, Cameron and Michelle Mactavish, and Steve and Jan Weissenberger** for hosting our coffee hours in January.
- Thank you to **Eric Harvey** for fashioning the beautiful new railings for our front entrance. Eric is refurbishing the former railings which will be installed at our side entrance
- Thank you to the **Altar, Flower and Usher Guilds** as well as our **acolytes and readers** for their ongoing essential services.
- Thank you to the **Rt. Rev. Bud Shand and Diaconal Postulate Lisa Webb** for their numerous contributions to the ministry of Holy Trinity.
- Thank you to **Cora, our choir and guests musicians** for their inspiring music.

Blessings.

Fr. Kevin

Not able to get to church on Sunday because of weather or illness? Not a problem. Our services are broadcast over the internet. See the reverse side of the calendar for instructions on installing the application for viewing.

### Daughters of the King Meetings

Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am

### WOMEN ON A JOURNEY

Next meeting is Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00–10:30

Any questions please contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or beverlyrohman@gmail.com

### January Fellowship Event



The potluck supper was well attended and fun was had by all.

### Finishing Touches on the Entryway



### Inquiring Believers

The sessions for the Men's Bible Study meets in the River Room on Monday nights at 6:00 pm.

### JUST ONCE PER YEAR

We are currently working on the present quarter and have every week spoken for except for the last two in March: March 24<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have the time on either of these two days, would you please sign up to provide the groceries for our Lunch Bunch clients? You can add them right to your shopping basket as you shop for yourself and the cost is usually \$100.00 or less. We provide lunches for around 35 clients each week and the members of our congregation have been taking turns, (Just Once Per Year!) providing the groceries needed. Will you take a turn? If yes, please contact Sharon Paz at 410-690-4472.

## Mission

### Sunday School

This month the Sunday School children will continue working on their Holy Communion booklets. During Lent the children will once again be collecting change for their Change for Change project. There will be more about the project in the March Lifeline. In the meantime, please be saving your change to help others. Thank you.

### Youth Group Feeds the Hungry

*“Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God’s love be in that person if he doesn’t bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.”* 1 John 3:17-18

On Jan 25 the youth group, along with about 100 other volunteers from several Rotary clubs, Interact clubs, the baseball team, and various other groups, met to package 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. We learned that there are still 821 million hungry people in the world. Rise Against Hunger is a wonderful organization that has as its mission to eradicate that hunger by the year 2030. There are several prongs to their approach. The part we helped with was the packaging of meals that will be sent overseas, often to Africa, and given to the schools, so any child that comes to school can have a hot meal. This is also a way to encourage school attendance, so the next generation will have more opportunities.

To watch the process in action is awesome. It looks like mass chaos, but then turns into amazing work being done. The music was rockin, and the meal packets came together seamlessly. Some in our group placed a vitamin packet in the bag, others measured out soy, vegetables, or rice.



Then there were the runners that brought the packet to the next table, where another group would weigh the food, add or subtract as needed to make it exact, and then pass it to the sealers. Finally, the packets were marked and boxed. The gong would ring every time 2000 meals were complete – time to take a short break and celebrate! It was incredible to see how fast everyone became at doing their jobs. A good time was had by all, and a sense of doing something so important for our hungry brothers and sisters. The Trinity Youth Group brings together the youth of Holy Trinity and Trinity Cathedral on a monthly basis to learn about our faith and deepen our relationship with God through experiences in nature and service. – Dr. Lisa Pagano, Diaconal Postulant

For more information, see <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

## Senior Warden's Letter

A year ago January 27, our beloved Marshall Blume unexpectedly passed on, but his legacy lives on in so many ways. Marshall truly set the bar high for each of us to aspire to benefit as many people as we can. I can attest that, frequently, throughout the past year, I have referred to Marshall in both humor and admiration for all that he taught me regarding economics and finance. His wisdom and counsel continue to resonate at Holy Trinity, Oxford Community Center, and The Wharton School, where he is held in particularly high esteem.

This morning, The Star Democrat featured a front-page article on Mid-Shore Scholars, a pre-college program, which Marshall and Loretta founded in 2018 to create a unique curriculum that's all about getting into college and staying there to earn a degree. Marshall and Loretta recognized that many young people can never aspire to go to college for financial, cultural and social reasons, notwithstanding the fact that they are qualified to attend college, if given the chance. In the final year of Marshall's life, he and Loretta worked diligently to oversee the creation of a unique curriculum and program that's all about getting into college and staying there to earn a degree. In just one year, the program has grown from four Scholars to 12, with 30 in the pipeline and countless more, who have yet to be identified. Marshall's legacy will live on and continue to have an impact upon the lives of the youth of our community for years to come. It is hoped and expected that, having been given the opportunity to attend and complete their college education, these young people will come back to Talbot County and "pay it forward," as Marshall's legacy lives on.

Let Marshall and Loretta be examples for all of us to seize every opportunity to do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

Gordon Fronk

Sunday  
School  
children  
making  
Valentines  
for Lunch  
Bunch  
Group.



### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study remains strong with a devoted, caring and prayer filled core of women. We have tackled topics and personalities of the bible as they translate to our world today. Please think of joining as we search for God's word revealed through study, reflection and prayer. The discussion for Feb. 3, 2020 "Fix Your Eyes on Jesus." \$7 for student guide and runs 4 weeks. For March 2nd, "By His Wounds We Are Healed." \$7 for student guide and runs 4 weeks.

Questions call Linda Wilson 410-226-1340.



Celebrating the joy of MaryAnn Hensinger



Commissioning  
the 2020  
Vestry  
members  
and  
officers



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us for our  
annual Community  
Pancake Supper on  
Tuesday, February  
25 at 5:30 pm

## February Fellowship Events

**“Vestry Meet and Greet” on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Parish Hall!**

Come and meet the new Vestry members. Learn more about the various ministries and activities of Holy Trinity. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in an area of your interest.

Brunch will be served. Questions: contact Nancy Roberts at

[Nancy\\_Roberts@verizon.net](mailto:Nancy_Roberts@verizon.net)

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper” on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm!**

Come to the annual Pancake Supper. Eat a variety of pancakes (of course), eggs, sausage, baked beans, applesauce, and the traditional King Cake. Enjoy good food and fellowship as we prepare to move into the Lenten season.

## Ash Wednesday Service

A Holy Communion Service with imposition of ashes will be held at 8:30 am on Wednesday, February 26.

**Librarian Sarah Hughes hard at work organizing, cataloguing and beautifying our bookshelves.**

Sarah Hughes, daughter of Doris Hughes, is a skilled church librarian. As a gift to Holy Trinity Sarah volunteered to organize our lending library. She has been busy cataloguing our collection. Sarah expects to be finished with this project in the next few weeks. We thank Sarah and invite you to utilize our evolving library.



## MUSIC

### *MUSIC AT HOLY TRINITY*

Holy Trinity has been blessed to have an active choir for many, many years. As times goes by, people move away or experience life situations where they are not able to continue to sing in our choir. Presently, we are in that situation. Our numbers are small yet we continue to enhance the worship experience as best we can. Would you consider singing with us? Even if it is only once a month, we would love to have you join us. You don't have to be an opera or a rock star - we will make it work for you! Come join our team! Please talk with Cora on Sunday mornings.

#### THE AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE IS ON THEIR WAY!

Public Concert

Friday, February 28th

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary, Holy Trinity

The American Spiritual Ensemble was created in the 1990s by Dr. Everett McCorvey of the University of Kentucky. Over the years, the Ensemble has grown to a membership of 100 renown opera singers, prominent music theatre artists, leading faculty and Music Department Chairs of leading music schools nationwide. A couple of times a year, 25 singers come together and tour nationally/internationally with Dr. McCorvey sharing spirituals, jazz works, classical music, and world music. Holy Trinity is extremely grateful the Ensemble requests to return to our village and experience the hospitality of our congregation when they are performing nearby.

This year Holy Trinity is hosting a morning of choral workshops and private coaching sessions for public school choirs and interested local singers. Three choirs will come from Dorchester County Public Schools, one choir from Talbot County Public Schools, and a local women's ensemble for a 75 minute workshop led by Ensemble members. Workshops will be hosted by Holy Trinity, St. Paul's (Jenny Stanley), Lee Phillips, and Al Smith. Nine individuals will have private coaching sessions in homes of Oxford residents. Lunch will be furnished to all participants and volunteers at the OCC. This is a once in a lifetime experience for our area youth. They will see and experience that they too can follow their dreams and make music a significant part of their lives. We will need lots of volunteers to make this morning work! Gordon Fronk is managing the logistics and volunteer efforts. Please see him if you are interested in volunteering.

Please bring a friend or neighbor and attend Friday evening's concert. If you have never experienced the American Spiritual Ensemble in concert, you will be amazed at the incredible music they share. A freewill offering will be taken to defray the Ensemble's expenses. Donations are also welcomed, please give them directly to Gordon or Cora.

**A Blessing and song from Rt. Rev. Bud Shand and Father Kevin on Cora's retirement from 31 years of teaching music.**





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*The Church of the Holy Trinity*



*Lifeline*

**Save the Date: February 28th.  
American Spiritual Ensemble  
Concert**

#### **MISSION**

The Church of The Holy Trinity, an Episcopal Parish in Oxford, Maryland: a caring Christian community dedicated to growing in God's love through worship, study, service and fellowship.

#### **Who We Are**

We are a small parish with a big heart comprised of committed people willingly sharing their talents to help those in need.

We are all seekers on a spiritual journey; encouraging of others also on the journey, and non-judgmental of where one might be on that journey.

