



Lifeline

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The Church of the Holy Trinity

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

This is not my typical Easter letter but these are not typical times. However, the lessons of Easter are fundamental to its message.

Love Conquers All

“One never knows what challenges will be encountered on this journey through life.” I started out my October letter with this thought as I wrote about my cancer diagnosis. Since that time, this phrase has turned out to be a truth for all of us and it came to be in a most dramatic fashion. Other generations have faced times of world-shattering crises. Now our generation is experiencing its own unprecedented time of fear and uncertainty. Our world has been turned upside down by the Coronavirus, Covid 19.

The unique nature of this crisis is the *isolation* that has been imposed on all of us. Let’s face it, we are hardwired to be in relationships with each other and with all of God’s good creation. This pandemic has undermined a fundamental element of what it means to be human - relationships. We need each other. Especially at times of worry, doubt, and fear, we need each other. The challenge for our generation is how do we help each other make it through a time when all the usual ways we have used to connect with each other seem broken. In the ‘90s Bob Dylan wrote one of his most insightful songs which has turned out to feel eerily prophetic “Everything is Broken.”

My faith tells me while it may feel like everything is broken, this is not a truth that has to be meekly accepted. God created us to be vibrant, creative beings. We have the means to get through this time with our humanity intact and perhaps, just perhaps, strengthened. The one major tool we have to get through tough times is simple. That tool is “Love.” Especially in times when we need His love the most, we need to embrace the truth of our faith – that God is here amongst us. God knows intimately what it is like to be human. Jesus experienced this life from



birth through death and all of the joys and challenges in between. As his disciples we can continue to make known his love through our acts of compassion. We may need

to apply some outside of the box thinking to how we can express our love for others but that is what we as people are empowered by God to do. God’s universe works on the principle that love conquers all.

University of Houston research professor and author, Brene Brown writes *“We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and*

powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honor the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect,



kindness and affection.” “Spiritual connection” is the key. While the world may demand social distancing, such a limitation cannot break all connections between God’s people. There is more to us than just our physical appearance. As Jesuit priest and theologian Teilhard de Chardin once wrote *“You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience.”* We are connected to God and all of His creation through a spiritual connection. The spiritual cannot be boxed in by physical limitations. Prayer transcends physical distancing. Love transcends physical distancing. Caring, support, encouragement, friendship cannot be limited. We simply need to allow ourselves to be vulnerable and allow ourselves to express our affection for one another in bold, creative ways. As Brene Brown writes we are at our most powerful when we allow our vulnerable selves to be seen. There is nothing weak about asking for support. There is nothing weak about expressing our love for one another. So, let’s get creative and help one another through this crisis.

Jesus Christ overcame death. The love of God broke through the darkness of the world, that Easter morning. God’s love is strong. We are strengthened by our faith in our God of love. Do not hold back God’s love in you. Do not hide your light under a basket. Let God’s love working through you resurrect life to this world again and again and again. Praise God and celebrate this Easter the wondrous love of God that conquers all.

Blessings, Father Kevin



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to **Shirley Grubbs, Deb Smith, and Tot O'Mara** for funding and shopping for the Wednesday Lunch Bunch groceries.
- Tremendous gratitude to our crisis team **Dr. George Curlin, Susan DeLean-Botkin CRNP, Bill Dial, Disaster Recovery expert, Gordon Fronk, Esquire, Dr. Thomas DeMarco, Dr. Bill Ritchie, Rich Wagner Phd, and Dr. Daniel Wright**. They have been invaluable resources to help guide us through this uncertain time. God bless them.
- Much appreciation to **Heather Hall, Louise Thorndike, and Marie Davis** for introducing us to a variety of prayer practices and creatively continuing their work through this time.
- Thank you to **Dr. Lisa Webb** for initiating our journey through the way of Love on Sunday mornings. We hope to be able to resume this journey with her in the near future.
- Thank you to **everyone who has been involved with our food ministries**. We will resume our activities as soon as possible.
- Great appreciation to **Gabriel's Messengers** for carrying forth the good news to our parishioners and ensuring we get through this time with the support of each other.
- Thank you to our **Vestry** for their extraordinary leadership.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Can you sew a mask?

If you have a sewing machine and would like to sew surgical masks for a small stockpile if and when they're needed, please call Suzanne Beyda. Materials, instructions, and patterns will be brought to your home, using safe-separation and handling methods, and completed masks will be picked up later. All you have to do is cut and sew. Surgical masks like these are being sewn at home in many places around the country. These are not the high-quality N95 masks used for many things in hospitals, but in some situations they may be useful. If they're needed, they'll be needed badly, so getting a head start will be important. Masks you sew will be stored for possible distribution in Oxford, if needed, or donated to Talbot County health care facilities. For materials and information call: Suzanne Beyda, 410-226-1112.

Letter to Father Kevin and Barbara

Dear Fr. Kevin and Barbara:

St. Patrick's Day 2010 proved to be a very lucky day for Church of the Holy Trinity, the Diocese of Easton, the Town of Oxford, and the entire mid-shore community. It was ten years ago that you joined our community and have been making history ever since. Your love, commitment and devotion to the Parish and the entire community has had an incredibly positive impact on all the lives you have touched...and they are countless.

Under your direction and tireless efforts, Holy Trinity has grown and flourishes, not only in spiritual life, but importantly in its outreach to the greater community and throughout the world, whenever the need arises, due to disease, disaster and displacement. While the adult parishioners have grown under Fr. Kevin in numbers, their faith and outreach to others, our youth have grown under Barbara, from a few pre-schoolers to a very active Sunday School, and has now evolved into a thriving youth group, led by Fr. Kevin and Lisa.

Your impact stretches far beyond the Parish. As Chaplain to the Oxford Volunteer Fire Company and the Oxford Police, you not only bless them for their service, but you also are at their side whenever tragedy strikes and a calming influence is needed. In St. Michaels, you bless the fishing fleet and christen restored historic vessels and, at home, you bless all the pets of Oxford every year. At all hours of day and night, 24/7, you are available to attend to the needs of anyone who is ill, whether in body, spirit or soul.

Words cannot express how much you are respected, admired, appreciated and loved by our community. Thank you for the past decade; we look forward to the next decade. And, though you be an Irish lad, we take this opportunity to wish you a Happy St. Patriot's Day.

Your Faithful Flock.

Finance

We have all changed our daily routines in an effort to guard against the potential harm from the COVID- 19 virus. Frequently washing our hands, traveling less, and social distancing are all part of the new normal for daily life. Unfortunately, we continue to incur most of our monthly expenses at the Church of the Holy Trinity. Your effort to continue your generous pledging routines will help us meet our continuing financial obligations. Thank you for your consideration. Holy Trinity, POB 387, Oxford, MD 21654.

David Wangsness

Sunday School

CHANGE FOR CHANGE UPDATE

The Sunday School Change for Change Project is on hiatus until we no longer need to be concerned about the Corona virus -COVID 19. We thank you for your generous support before this pandemic erupted and look forward to resuming this meaningful project.



When I looked at this Sunday School collage in the shape of a church that our talented, caring, loving, enthusiastic teacher Linda Wilson made, I immediately thought of the children's fingerplay about the church.

"Here is the church
Here is the steeple
Open the door
And see all the people!"

This caused me to reflect on "where are all the people?" This can be a very confusing time for children in addition to adults. None of us have faced anything like this pandemic before and the behaviors it requires for us to keep not only ourselves, but others safe. This is truly an example of how our actions impact others.

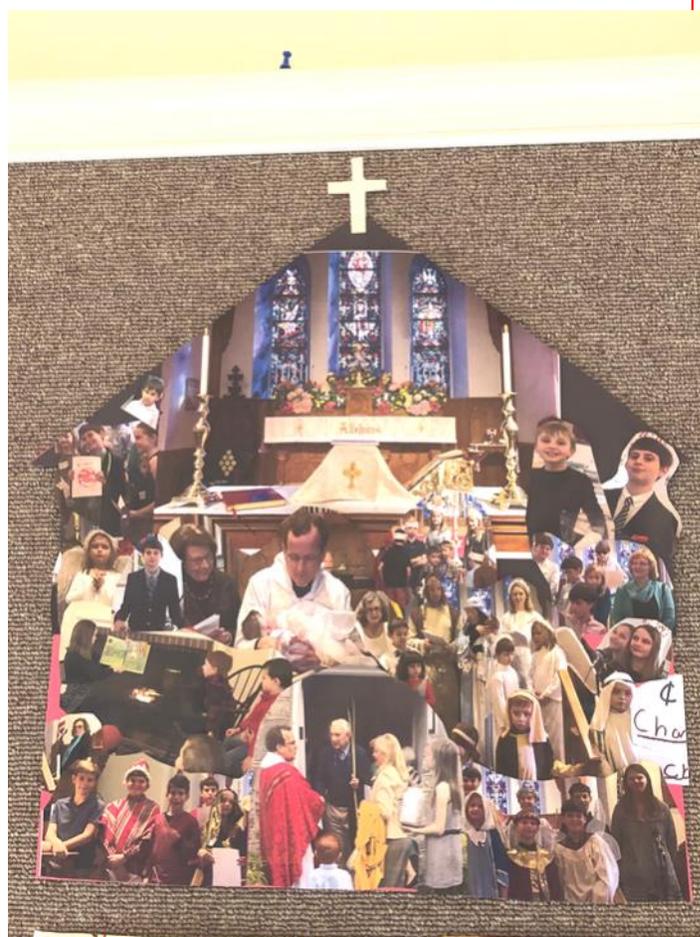
Jesus taught us to care about everyone. He was constantly reaching out to the marginalized. Jesus came to show us how God wants us to live and to know that each of us is one of God's children. God loves us unconditionally. What a gift! God is always there for us.

At this time when our lives have changed so dramatically, I suggest that you might want to do one of our practices we do at Sunday School. We go around in the circle and thank God for something. It is important at this time of unease, that we remember that we have much to be thankful for and that we let God know we are thankful. Your children are such thoughtful, spiritual beings. I think you will find this a joy filled opportunity.

Although we are not together physically, we are in each other's thoughts and prayers. I think of when Ms. Pucky was out, the children would ask for her. This is an excellent example of how even though she was not with us physically in Sunday School, she is in our hearts. We are still a community even though we cannot gather together during Sunday School.

This time off is a wonderful opportunity to read stories from the Bible. I have many children's Bibles and for the younger children my favorite is Archbishop Desmond Tutu's "Children of God Storybook Bible." If you would like recommendations for older children, please let me know.

Be safe. Take care of yourselves and others. Remember you are loved.
Barbara



Community Mission of Note

One afternoon two professional musicians were talking and an idea was born. An amazing project: music making for area youth coached by world renown musicians. Dr. Cora Bruner was determined to realize her idea of giving others the gifts given to her: music coaching/lessons, education, and performance opportunities through the service of others. The Church of The Holy Trinity jumped in! The American Spiritual Ensemble and Dr. Everett McCorvey committed to serve. Pianists from the area answered the call – Easton Chick-fil-A and McDonalds donated student lunches – local Oxford chefs started cooking! Gordon Fronk, Amy Morgan, and Rev. Kevin Cross worked to make all the logistics come together for 175 musicians. We were off to a day filled with students and adults working together to experience the beauty of music, community, and realizing strangers cared about them.



On Friday, February 28th 2020, the tour bus for The American Spiritual Ensemble (ASE) pulled into Holy Trinity's property full of internationally and nationally acclaimed opera singers, conductors, music theatre stars, music professors of leading music schools, and Lincoln Center's own Dr. Everett McCorvey. Village residents and businesses opened their homes and buildings for choral work-from Maces Lane Middle School, South Dorchester and Allegra met with Dr. presenters for a morning of vocal repertoire coaching. Sprin-homes of residents and mem-(youth and adults) worked son setting on vocal tech-ing, and repertoire coaching.



shops and private lessons. Choirs School, North Dorchester High High School, Easton High School, McCorvey and his team of pre-and choral master classes and kled throughout the village, in the bers of Holy Trinity, individuals with ASE singers in a private les-nique, collegiate audition coach-Pianists from Talbot and Dorches-ter counties volunteered their time and talents, assisting workshop presenters and coaches. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone. Rarely is there the opportunity for music students, singers, and pianists of the Eastern Shore to have such an intensive music learning experience with highly acclaimed musicians of our lifetime. Not only did the musical sound change instantly but so did the confidence of the singers. Youth were experiencing the joy and power of music with leading opera and Broadway singers that looked like them, grew up in the same economic situations, worked their way to and through advanced music degrees just like they will be pursu-ing. An amazing opportunity to experience the love of music and how music transforms all barriers giving us the strength to endure, pursue our dreams, and be better citizens.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, the Village of Oxford, Oxford Community Center, St. Paul's Wesleyan, Chick-fil-A, McDonalds, and The Pauline F. and W. David Robbins Charitable Foundation Trust joined together to support this day and the youth of Dorchester and Talbot Counties.-Dr. Cora Bruner





All services will be broadcast.

Palm/Passion Sunday– April 5

9:30 am Holy Eucharist with dramatic reading of Matthew’s Passion *

Tuesday – April 7

5:00 pm Prayer Practices: Visio Divina **

Maundy Thursday– April 9

6:00 pm Taize Meditation Service *

Good Friday– April 10

Noon The Way of The Cross**

Easter– April 12

9:30 am Easter Holy Eucharist *

* To join these services go to www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the broadcast button

** To join these services go to: zoom.us/j/4251462368

Food Ministries

During this time of crisis, we are as committed as ever to do whatever we can to feed and take care of those who are hungry and in need. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions now in place we are unable to continue our ministries as usual. While we are unable to deliver food to the Neighborhood Service Center Food Pantry, we have made a donation to that organization so that they can continue to provide food to those in need. Additionally, we do have some frozen soups in our freezer if you know of anyone in need please call the office. Grants from the rector’s discretionary account have also been made.

MUSIC

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE (ASE)

Cora Bruner's connections in the world of music are nothing short of amazing. Please join me in thanking Cora for her extraordinary effort to bring Dr. Everett McCorvey and the American Spiritual Ensemble not only to Church of the Holy Trinity, but to the entire mid-shore community. Planning for the ASE's outreach program began in mid-November 2019 and concluded with a magnificent performance in our Sanctuary on Friday, February 28. Cora worked incessantly to coordinate ASE's visit to provide choral instruction from the 27 members to a half-dozen individuals, hosted in homes in the Oxford community, and to 130 students from four public school choirs, hosted in our Parish Hall and Sanctuary, Jenny Stanley's Wesley Church, and the Oxford Community Center. Dr. McCorvey commented that, in his 25 years of leading ASE, this was the most successful "residents' outreach" he has ever experienced, and has asked, "What are we going to do to top this next year"?



ASE arrived at 9:30 Friday morning, to be treated to scrumptious breakfast in Parish Hall, served on red table cloths, decorated with white lacy placements, and white sailboat centerpieces, prepared and hosted by Nancy and Dennis Roberts, Anne and Tom DeMarco, and Larry Paz. At 10:30, choral workshops were hosted by Corrie James, in Holy Trinity's sanctuary, Lorretta Blume, in Parish Hall, Susie Dial and Donna Richards, in Jenny Stanley's St. Paul's church, and Bill Dial, in the Oxford Community Center, while private lessons were hosted in the homes of Al and Eleanor Smith, Steve Weissenberger and Jan Nelson, Linda and Ray Sattler, Ray and Margaret Munsch, Ian and Glynis Scott, Mary Claire, and Sally and Gordon Fronk. At noon, 130 students, 27 ASE members, the [Allegra](#) Choir, 30 chaperones, and several bus drivers gathered at the Oxford Community Center. John Wesley Wright led the choirs in a group sing, after which the students enjoyed nuggets, parfaits and cookies provided by Chic-Fil-A and McDonald's, while the adults were hosted by John and Trish Malin to a sumptuous lunch of baked potatoes, with many delicious toppings. Transportation and cleanup support were provided by Bill Ritchie, Susie Wheeler, Gary Lewis, Mickey Terrone, Nancy Vangulick, Phil Russell, Kathy and Doug Ridgely, Katie Dodd, Barbara Cross, and Connie Greenhawk, as well as ten accompanists.



At 1:30, the students departed for their schools, while the ASE held a rehearsal, then took a break and changed for dinner. Returning to Parish Hall, the men in tuxedos and the women in evening gowns, the ASE entered a décor, changed from scarlet red to elegant white table cloths, accented with black napkins and decorative center pieces, where once again they were treated to the culinary extravagance of Anne, Tom, Nancy, Dennis, Larry, and desert chef, Gary Lewis, who outdid themselves to assure that our guests were welcomed and very much appreciated.

With the sanctuary filled to SRO and another 30 or so settled in Parish Hall, the ASE entertained for nearly two hours, with voices that rocked the rafters. It was an extraordinary performance and beautiful ending to a wonderful day that truly engaged our community and provided our youth the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the talents of top professionals. No doubt, some young persons were inspired to pursue a musical career.



THANK YOU, CORA. Gordon Fronk

MUSIC

Hymns of Comfort and Support

In the quiet of the early mornings, song fragments pop into my inner ear – often hymns. Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Songs My Grandma Sang*, re-appeared in my music library collection this week when I was organizing a bookshelf. Have you noticed every time Bishop Curry preaches or does a video clip he *always* refers to or recites a hymn text? In his book, Bishop Curry shares the songs and stories his Grandmother shared of her faith, God's love, and hope.

We sing many of these hymns at Holy Trinity: *Amazing Grace, I Want Jesus To Walk With Me, This Little Light of Mine, Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Go Tell It On The Mountain. Walk Together Children*, one of our favorite Negro Spirituals, encourages us to work together in times of adversity, celebration, and community. Sing a verse or two of your favorite hymn – you'll feel good, others will join in, and the world be a better a place .-Dr. Cora Bruner

Our Holy
Trinity Team
Leading
Broadcast
Services on
Sundays

Services:

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all activities at Holy Trinity have been suspended. Services are being broadcast. Information on our broadcasts can be found at www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org





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The Church of the Holy Trinity



Lifeline

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.

Happy Easter

