



# Lifeline

VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 7

July 2020

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church  
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

A couple of months ago, I read the following quote at the start of my sermon:

*“Beloved brethren, what is it, what a great thing is it, how pertinent, how necessary, that pestilence and plague which seems horrible and deadly, searches out the righteousness of each one... to see whether they who are in health tend the sick; whether relations affectionately love their kindred; whether masters pity their languishing servants; whether physicians do not forsake the beseeching patients.”* Though this quote seems like it could have been written yesterday, it is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. For twenty years a plague swept across the Roman Empire. From Ethiopia to Scotland, it devastated the populations of both city and countryside. At that time, St. Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage. He wrote a sermon of reassurance to his flock titled *“De Mortalitate.”* This sermon is the oldest written account of a plague. Cyprian did not cause the plague, nor did he discover it but because he wrote about it, that plague has forever been known as the plague of Cyprian. And, it is St. Cyprian’s brief descriptions that have allowed epidemiological historians to postulate that his plague was, in all likelihood, either some form of viral hemorrhagic fever—like Ebola—or a highly contagious virus causing acute respiratory disease, like our Covid-19. His quote keeps coming back to my mind. We are in quite a different place than many of us expected to be at this point. The pandemic has never entirely subsided. It keeps coming back at different times and different places. Like in the time of St. Cyprian, uncertainty and fear live amongst us each day.

I have come to understand Covid 19 as a great equalizer. More than ever this pandemic should bring us to the realization that we are in the same boat. If we do not row in the same direction, we get nowhere. If one of our crew (the world) is ill or at danger, we are all in danger. God’s creation is one of interdependence in all things.

The fact that society has erupted in hate and violence at this time should not come as a surprise. Fear is powerful. It is a force that compels us to act in

irrational ways. The pandemic has shed a spotlight on the inequities in society. These inequities have been proven beyond a doubt to increase individual and group vulnerability to the pandemic. Unfortunately, much of society has seemed to have ignored this basic truth. Tribalism and independence have replaced mutuality, tolerance, and compassion. The pandemic has been subsumed into geopolitical and cultural wars. Fear has driven us to extreme behavior that is clearly not the way of God. It is not the way of love. It is not a true reflection of who we are created to become in life.

An important question looms before the world today. It is a simple one: How much do we value the lives of others? Cyprian states the *“plague which seems horrible and deadly, searches out the righteousness of each one...to see whether they who are in*

*health tend the sick; whether relations affectionately love their kindred.”* Cyprian cautioned his flock not to give into the desire to retreat from the world and hold back compassion for others. Instead he exhorted them to flood the world with love, care, and healing. Cyprian’s challenge is a call to true discipleship to the ways of Jesus. Fear can be vanquished by compassion. Hate can be overcome by love.

We can with determination, pull back from the polarizing rhetoric of the day. We can try to see the world from another’s perspective. We can walk in another’s shoes for a while and gain understanding of the fear that some live with every day of their lives. This is not an impossible task. It is very possible. Mother Teresa once said *“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”* That is a good place to start but I suggest we must go beyond the nearest. **These times** challenge us to **start with the person furthest from us.** In all things Jesus would tell us to avoid starting with judgment. Instead start with compassion. Start with *“sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.”* If we start from a place of interdependence and mutuality, we can find understanding. And, with understanding we can move ourselves and others toward healing speech and action. *“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* 1 Corinthians 13:13

Blessings,  
Father Kevin





## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

## Service Broadcasts

- Thanks to Dick Deerin, Gordon Fronk, Cameron and Michelle Mactavish, John Pepe, Dennis Roberts, Ray Stevens, Tim Wilson, Simon Arnstein, Susan Delean-Botkin, Tom DeMarco, Tom Reynolds, Barbara Cross, Lisa Webb and Cora Bruner for making our outdoor services a success.
- May tropical breezes bless Richard Semper and his Trinidad Tobago Baltimore Steel Drum Band for gracing our June 28 service with a delightful taste of the Caribbean. He even brought a cool island breeze with him when he played.
- Thank you for Larry Denton, Lee Phillips, Linda Sattler and Cora Bruner for accompanying our July 5<sup>th</sup> service with the sounds of Americana.
- Thank you to everyone who donated to the Camp Wright restoration fund .
- Appreciation to our Flower Guild and our flower donors for beautifying our Sunday Services.
- Great appreciation to all of our parishioners who have kept their pledging up to date and for all those who have contributed additional financial assistance so that the ministries of Holy Trinity can continue.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

### Holy Trinity Milestones

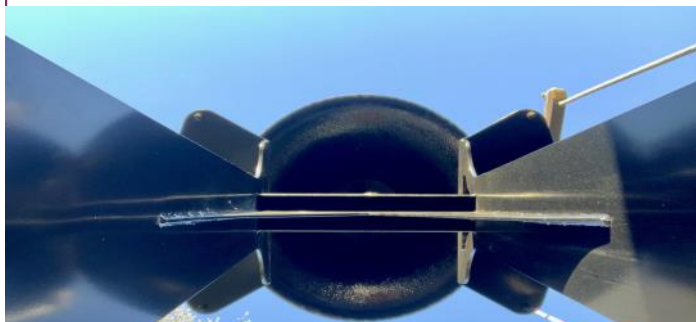
#### Baptism:

Vivian Ann Mathias Brian June 20

Passed on: Jim Cooney

#### Mystery Photo No guesses

Lynne Mitchell was first followed by Heather Pusey to guess this is the bell tower as you look up.



We began broadcasting our services in March with the onset of the pandemic. This use of technology was new to us and we appreciate your patience as we learned to optimize it .

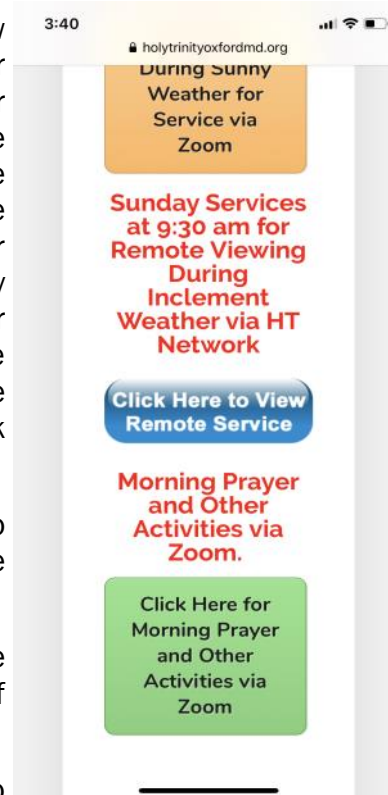
Our indoor services are broadcast using an LP camera which gives us quite a bit of flexibility to redirect the focus of the broadcast to specific images of the various parts pf the service. While it cannot replace the experience of actually sitting in the church, we hope it creates a more involved opportunity than just a single unchanging image. Once we moved outside our use of technology had to change. Once again there has been a learning curve. As we have learned how to maximize the experience using an iPhone as the camera and Zoom broadcast technology we have had to make adjustments along the way. Too often the broadcast was disrupted by attendees coming and going and unmuted participation. Fortunately we have found a solution that was implemented on Sunday July 5th.

The Sunday service is now being webcast as a webinar which gives the broadcaster (Holy Trinity) much more control over the quality of the viewing experience. We have made changes to our webpage to provide easy access to any of our broadcasts. Shown in the image to the right are the three main broadcast link buttons.

The **Orange button** links to the outside Sunday service broadcast.

The **Blue button** links to the broadcast on days of inclement weather.

The **Green button** links to Morning Prayer, church study groups and meetings. These are posted on [www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org](http://www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org)





## Outdoor Services July 5 2020



This past spring, a large limb broke off from one of the trees in the Columbarium and fortunately caused no damage, but alerted us to the fact that good stewardship requires that we remain vigilant respecting the health and stability of all trees on our property. We sought the advice of two certified arborists, each of whom visited our property and observed several trees that required attention, including the red maple at the end of the Columbarium; two large silver maples on the Rectory's back lawn near the water and bordering on Al Smith's property; a cluster of silver maple goldenrain and mulberry volunteers near the Rectory; and the Southern magnolia in front of the Rectory. Each arborist proposed that the red maple and magnolia be trimmed and that the two large silver maples, which were diagnosed as dying and diseased, be removed, as they no longer had the ability to transfer nutrients from the ground to the upper parts of the tree. Naturally, we did not want to have to remove the two large silver maples; however, they posed a threat to fall on Al Smith's residence, particularly as they were diseased and susceptible to the effect of strong winds coming across the Tred Avon.



Consequently, following Vestry approval, Economy Tree Service was retained to attend to the trimming of the red maple, the magnolia, and a few other trees, and the removal of the two large silver maples and the volunteer, which was leaning toward the Rectory. Below are photographs of the crew working in the trees. Barbara Cross was present to watch when the trees were felled and described the eight-men crew as having moved as though in a ballet. Although it is sad to see the large trees removed, the work was performed so efficiently and well that it is barely perceptible that they had ever been in place, and the views of the river are even better than before.

Whenever trees are removed from within 100 feet of the water, it is necessary to secure the approval of the Town, which requires that replacement trees be planted on either our property, if we have room, or other property, designated by the Town. In the near future, we will select the species and size of the replacement trees and may seek some financial donations to assist in absorbing the cost.

## Missional Discipleship

*“For whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”. Matthew 10:42*

While the pandemic caused us to put our in-person mission activities on pause, our commitment to provide service to our brothers and sisters in need has continued. Like so many areas of life we had to re-invent how we provide assistance. To date that has taken the form of us providing financial assistance from our mission fund to organizations who are providing frontline services to those in need. These times have strained the resources of many of these organizations as needs have increased while many of their usual sources for funding have dried up. We feel a particularly strong calling and commitment to do even more to help during this crisis.

### Funding:

The Neighborhood Service Center (NSC), Talbot Interfaith Shelter, Hospice, Mid-shore Scholars, the Talbot Care Pack program, and World Central Kitchen are among the recipients of our donations. Through the Rector's Discretionary account, we have also provided assistance to help alleviate individual housing, food scarcity, and medical needs. In addition, our recent campaign to raise funds for emergency repairs on the Camp Wright shoreline has raised over \$25,000 to date.

### In-kind Donations:

The Food Pantry at the Neighborhood Service Center has always been a major focus of our activity. Unfortunately, the pandemic made the collecting and delivering of food items to the NSC a risky endeavor and for a time, the NSC stopped accepting food donations. However, we have just been informed that the NSC has resumed accepting food items. While it is still too risky to resume our activity to collect and deliver food items, you are invited to drop off food items in the container at the entrance to the Center. The NSC is located at 126 Port St., Easton, MD 21601. The hours are Mon.-Fri. 9-4.

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) could use donations of clothing (infant – adult), household supplies and food (See list posted on this page). TIS is one of the few shelters that provide services to families. Our Mission team has decided to adopt the Shelter as one of our primary relationships this year. You may drop off donations at: 107 Goldsborough St., Easton, MD 21601.

You are a generous people who know that our faith is about discipleship and true discipleship is about service to others. Let us strive to continue to be good disciples and caring companions of God's family. Thank you. Bless you.

## Talbot Interfaith Shelter Donation List

Before you drop off items, please call 410-253-5414 to let them know you are coming. When you arrive at TIS, 107 Goldsborough St., to drop things off, park out front, put your flashers on, and just go to the door with your mask on.

2 baby monitors  
Juice boxes  
Dish detergent  
Toilet Paper  
Kitchen roll paper towels

Zip Lock bags all sizes  
Coffee & Tea (hot and ice)  
Food storage containers  
Diapers size 4 & 5  
Laundry Detergent

Foil  
Body wash  
Hair Shampoo  
Tooth pastes & brushes  
Sugar

## Making a Dream Come True

Marshall Blume had a dream. In 2019 Marshall and Loretta brought that dream to fulfillment with the funding and foundation of Mid-Shore Scholars. Mid-Shore Scholars is dedicated to helping regional high school students fulfill their life goals. The possibility of going to college does not always present itself to every bright, ambitious young person in high school. Some young people have to work to help support their families. Some come from generations of folks who considered college to be something that other people did. Some young people are just plain uncomfortable in the world of academia. Mid-Shore Scholars offers a bridge to help these young men and woman fulfill their dreams.

Mid-Shore Scholars promotes rigorous and ambitious learning for students aspiring to college. MSS uses an innovative curriculum, hands-on project-based learning and individualized college counseling. It is designed to challenge students academically and enable them to emerge from the program prepared and confident in themselves.

Holy Trinity's Mission Committee was recently presented with an opportunity to become a partner in helping one of these scholars fulfill her dream. This ambitious young woman did not have the funds to complete her degree at Chesapeake College. The Mission committee enthusiastically and unanimously decided to step in and help make it happen. The following letter of gratitude was received from Vivian Landau the director of Mid-Shore Scholars:

*"Fr. Kevin,*

*I truly don't have the words to thank you and Holy Trinity enough for supporting this student's dreams. I can only say I cried with happiness when Gordon told me the news.*

*She is a bright, driven, compassionate, and dedicated young woman. Her goals are to make her parents proud, be a role model to her siblings, and give back to her community.*

*I welcome the day you can come to one of our Saturday Workshops and meet all our amazing Scholars. Mid-Shore Scholars, as an organization, is truly blessed to have such wonderful young people who work hard for a better life for themselves and their families.*

***Through her tears of joy, she asked but how and why are they doing this? I told her because she is a special young woman with a bright future and there are wonderful people in this world.***

*Again, thank you and Holy Trinity for your generosity and being a role model of the goodness in our community!*

*Gratefully yours,  
Vivian"*

Marshall and Lorretta set all of this in motion. Joining in their work as part of our mission, is just one example of caring and compassate work Holy Trinity is doing to help see God's dreams fulfilled. Thank you. Information about Mid-Shore Scholars is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/midshorescholars.org/midshorescholars/home>

## Change for Change

"A Penny Wise, a Pound Cherished"

By Grace Meyerle, Grant Meyerle

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the Sunday School has remained resilient and carried on with the Change for Change fundraiser. Our commitment paid off with a whopping total of \$935. On July seventh, the Sunday School orchestrated a zoom meeting to establish how the money would be donated. \$150 was allocated to the Neighborhood Service Center. The remaining funds were sorted into categories such as education, health and sanitation, recreational activities, and nourishment. The purchases consisted of chicks, a donkey, a soccer ball, art materials, musical instruments, educational supplies, a water pump, an emergency shelter kit, and malaria treatment. Other notable purchases include education for a girl and two mosquito nets for a family. Thank you to all who contributed during these uncertain times.



COVID19 has brought many changes to our life, especially participating in music concerts. The Hymn Society of America and The American Guild of Organists are sharing creative alternatives to cancelled conferences and concerts. Their professional quality virtual offerings are a wonderful chance to enjoy world class musicians, choirs, and organists right from the comfort of your home - and at no charge! Holy Trinity is pleased to be able to share accessibility to these events. If there is someone you would like to share these events with, please do so. **We will send the viewing links by email closer to the broadcast times.**

***The Hymn Society of America events: July 12-14, 2020 7:30p.m. EST***

Evening Events feature leading song, scripture, and commentary to help lift our spirits!

Tom Trenney leads the July 12th sessions - not to be missed!

Rev. Kim Harris, a friend of Fr. Kevin, leads the July 13th evening based on "African American Freedom Traditions" An amazing musician, composer, storyteller, and researcher, A wonderful, wonderful lady!

***AGO ORGANFEST 2020, beauty in the midst of chaos July 20-24, 2020 8 p.m. EST***

Evening events filled with organ music, new premiers of works commissioned for the Atlanta conference, choral performances, and a short interview with the featured composer. A wonderful chance to see world class organists and a variety of instruments.

### **Camp Wright Shoreline Campaign**

I'd like to add my thanks to those of you who donated to our Camp Wright fund. We have raised enough to cover their short-term shoreline repair and will have additional monies ready to support other pressing needs which may arise.

There will be no camp this summer for all the reasons you are aware of. This is devastating to campers, staff, and the camp's financial burden. Father Kevin and I are so proud that our parish has been able to step up and help.

Once again, we have exhibited leadership, awareness and compassion for addressing issues which are meaningful as we carry out our mission.

Let's not stop here. Additional donations to this fund would be well received.



### **Morning Prayer Tuesdays at 8:30 am Held online via Zoom**

Energize your summer with a new spiritual practice. Morning Prayer is an ancient practice of Christianity. In many times and places, daybreak has been a time of prayer. Jews prayed in their synagogues at sunrise as well as at other times each day. This Jewish pattern of prayer formed the basis of the Christian monastic Daily Office, with its prayers or "hours" at seven times in each day. Thomas Cranmer's revision of the Daily Office for the first English Prayer Book (1549) reduced the number of services to two-one for morning (Matins) and one for evening (Evensong or vespers). In the Second English Prayer Book (1552), the morning service was given its present name, Morning Prayer.

We at Holy Trinity seek to introduce this practice to a wider range of our parishioners. Morning Prayer has many forms and overtime we will try various forms of this service.

Join Morning Prayer

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4251462368?  
pwd=bEh0VWkxdnBsSVNYb1RlcDVxNFdJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4251462368?pwd=bEh0VWkxdnBsSVNYb1RlcDVxNFdJUT09)

Meeting ID: 425 146 2368

Password: trinity1

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,4251462368#,,,0#,,142923#

Or, click on the **Green link button** on our webpage.

I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Fr. Kevin

# Prayer Resources



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The practice of prayer is a source of strength and comfort at all times but especially so in times like we are experiencing now. Prayer is how we present to God our praise and concerns. Prayer is talking to God. Prayer is the channel of healing. Just as we need to exercise our muscles to grow strong, the more we pray the stronger becomes our relationship with God and each other. Sometimes it helps if we have assistance in formulating our conversation with God. These are some time honored prayer resources for these times.

## Noonday Prayer

Our diocese is joining the world wide practice of praying the Our Father [at noon](#).

**Compline or Night Prayer** is the final Church service of the day. This can be a very calming practice to observe before turning in at night. Turn your worries and cares over to God and rest.

## St James Episcopal School Compline Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWdt8i65VIY&feature=youtu.be&bbeml=tp-QySdE549Z0CGV7QpvK-Hzg.jEqR3yJ2I5kqCAL5FJyRhKA.rlcxHI8WNqk6XDKR8se1ndw.lA21x4juXiU2fyqusCap0iQ>

**New Zealand Night Prayer:** This service is a deeply calming experience. It comes from the Anglican Church of New Zealand, version of traditional night prayer translated into the context of their culture. The General Thanksgiving prayer is especially soothing.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/f45ea126-7c37-4edf-813d-d4c41d6ccf48.pdf>

## An abbreviated version of New Zealand Night Prayer

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/8dfbe02f-7a5b-4fd6-ad76-74500ab183c3.pdf>

**Another excellent resource for daily prayer is provided by the Mission of St Clare.** The Mission of St. Clare is an ecumenical website offering Morning and Evening Prayer using the order set out in The Book of Common Prayer. Both Rite 1 and Rite II versions of daily prayer are provided. You may access their resources at:

<https://www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html>

Of course as we have learned through our Lenten prayer practices series there are many and varied ways to pray. Handouts from some of those sessions are provided here:

## Centering Prayer:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/d698db83-9f34-48a7-bf69-b1de48bd5247.pdf>

## Praying in Motion:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/aae432ae-88f1-42f9-b91e-2a14df9d0512.pdf>

## Lectio Divina:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/032ad726-a780-46f5-8763-ec6689dfada0.pdf>

All of these resources will be posted to our website. Know that you all are held in my daily prayers. My friends, prayer is powerful and with pray, faith, and hope we will navigate these challenging times together. God Bless you all.

Blessings,

Fr. Kevin



410.226.5134  
Oxford, MD 21654-0387  
PO Box 387

## 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.

July's  
Birth  
Flower

