



# Lifeline

VOLUME 13  
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August 2020

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church  
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

*When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and hard place, it won't be a dead end. Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior.* Isaiah 43:2-3a from The Message

### The Big Clean Up

Tropical storm Isaias paid an unwelcome visit to the church campus on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The back end of the storm produced tremendous winds and heavy rain. The church basement sump pump system was overwhelmed and ceased operating when the electric went off, a tree came down just missing Connie Greenhawk's car by about an inch, and several large branches came down all around the grounds. In addition, power, internet, and cell phone coverage was lost for over 12 hours.

As troubling as all that was, the true spirit of Oxford emerged shortly after the storm passed. The OVFD came out almost immediately to pump out the church basement. Noticing the downed tree and branches they brought out the chain saws and the town maintenance crew brought a front loader to haul away the debris. In addition, many neighbors turned out to help with the clean-up. Tremendous thanks to the OVFD, Cameron & Michelle Mactavish, Fr. Kevin and Barbara Cross, Russ Gray, George Curlin and Tom Costigan. The beauty of this town is equaled by the neighborliness and good cheer of its residents. Yes, God has been good to us, but it is you the people who make His dream come true. God cannot do it without you. This is indeed a little piece of heaven because of you.

*If you'll hold on to me for dear life," says God, "I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times; I'll rescue you and then throw you a party.*

Psalm 91: 14-15 from The Message

**Blessings,  
Father Kevin**





## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

## Service Broadcasts

- **Thanks to the Oxford VFD, Town Maintenance staff, Robin's Nest, Delmarva Power, and our many neighbors** for helping with the clean up after tropical storm Isaias. Within a day we were back up and running.
- **Thank you to Connie Greenhawk, St. Connie,** for her always cheerful presence and "can do" attitude that keeps us on track and able to continue so many of our ministries.
- **Thank you to the Mission team** for their compassion and good works supporting organizations and individuals get through these difficult times.
- **Thank you to Cora** for adapting our service music programming to offer inspiration at our new format outdoor services.
- Thank you to our **Sunday School teachers and students** for their good work supporting neighborhood and world ministries. You set an outstanding example for all of us and give us hope.
- Great appreciation for everyone who helps make our outdoor services not only possible but of such good quality while offering a safe haven for our community to worship.
- Thank you to **Nancy Roberts** for coordinating our annual Thank You Oxford activity, adapting it to these times of pandemic.
- 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:

Mary Grace O'Mara July 14

#### Passed on: Ann Bellinger

Nancy Latham

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.

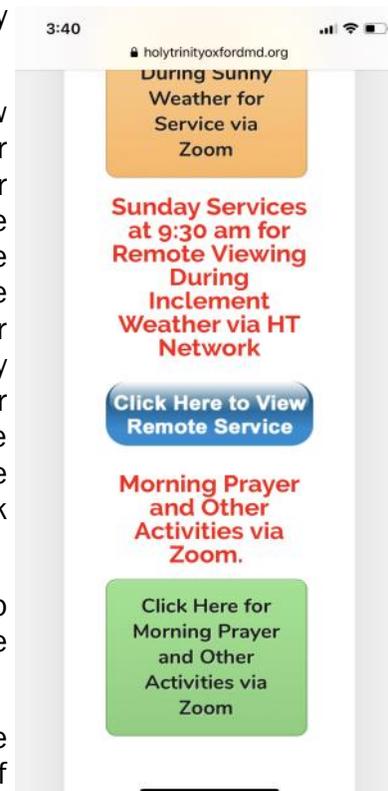
Our indoor services are broadcast using an LP camera which gives us quite a bit of flexibility to redirect the focus of the broadcast to specific images of the various parts of the service. While it cannot replace the experience of actually sitting in the church, we hope it creates a more involved opportunity 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)



## Mission

### Children's Book Drive

Dear Holy Trinity Church Community,

It's Sophie from Sunday School, and I need your help! Growing up, service has always been a core value at my school and Holy Trinity's Sunday School. I have always been taught to give back to the community as much as possible, and with the help of my friend Clara, we have now decided to give back in the form of books! As kids, we both loved stories and reading books, and we were fortunate enough to have unlimited access to them. Unfortunately, this scenario is not the case for many children, even in our community today. So, Clara and I have developed a partnership with the Scotts United Methodist Church Food Pantry in Trappe. We are collecting new or used children's books (ranging from toddler to teen) from our families, friends, and the community and donating them to the pantry, so that when families with children come to receive food, their kids can take a free book home with them to enjoy.

Kids of all socioeconomic backgrounds deserve to have access to good books, and with your help, we hope to make a difference. COVID-19 has hit everyone hard, but especially those who are financially insecure. Clara and I really want to make sure that all children can experience and obtain quality stories and literature. We know that the pandemic limits our abilities to volunteer in our community, but we hope this idea can make these challenging times a little easier for kids, while continuing to foster a love of reading. If you are interested in donating books, you can deliver them to the porch of 209 S. Morris Street, Oxford, MD. We hope you decide to help us make a difference in the lives of young readers in Talbot County!

- Sophie and Clara

### Food Donations

*"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

⌚

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 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.

2 baby monitors	Laundry detergent	Body wash
Juice boxes	Coffee & tea (hot & cold)	Tooth pastes & brushes
Dish detergent	Diapers size 4 & 5	Hair shampoo
Toilet paper	Foil	Sugar
Kitchen roll paper towels	Zip lock bags all sizes	Food storage containers

### A New Deacon Ministry – Life Guide

Are you having a medical issue, a spiritual concern, or a life event for which you could be helped by a fellow traveler? Dr. Lisa Webb is available as a life guide, someone to walk with you on this journey. She can draw on her knowledge of medicine, movement, nutrition, herbs, meditation, and spiritual seeking to give some pointers along the way. She believes in holistic healing, aligning body, mind, and spirit to restore fully vibrant health. This is not medical treatment or spiritual direction, but rather someone to keep you company on the adventure. It can last just a few meetings, or a lifetime! Contact Lisa for more information – phone 410-810-4024; email- [lisa.pagano15@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.pagano15@gmail.com)



## Mission

### Wednesday Lunch Bunch Activity

As you may be aware, in March we had to cease our weekly lunches program due to the pandemic. We have not forgotten our mission to these individuals and have tried to find ways to keep in touch with them and let them know we care. On Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, meals were delivered to all of our participants with the following note:

Greetings from The Church of the Holy Trinity, Oxford, MD!

*While we are not able, at this time, to resume our Lunch Bunch Program, please accept this lunch offered to you as a token of our continuing concern for your well-being. Know that you are in the daily prayers of the Daughters of the King as well as in the prayers of our congregation members.*

*We are committed to resuming the Lunch Bunch Program sometime in the future, when possible. In the meantime, if you have any needs, cares or concerns, please feel free to contact Father Kevin Cross at 410-226-5134.*

*God Bless you.*

The meals were prepared and delivered by Brian & Cathy Schmidt of Garden and Garnish. Thank you to the Schmidt's' for helping us continue our mission



### Book Clubs

In September we will announce the details about some new activities. We hope to find some engaging ways to keep us connected as a community as the pandemic continues. Two new book discussion groups are being planned as part of this initiative. One activity will be a discussion group examining the issue of racism. For this group we will look at readings from both contemporary texts and Holy Scripture to help us understand God's plan for diversity. Margaret Anderson a professor of Sociology and author of **Getting Smart About Race: An American Conversation**, has offered to help facilitate this discussion.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has been in the news throughout the pandemic. Several years ago, he wrote a book titled **The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence For Belief**. This book follows his journey from atheist to devote believer. We will host a discussion group looking at the relationship of science and religion through his experience.

Details about these groups and other activities will be announced in the September Lifeline.

### ECW Annual Christmas Bazaar cancelled for 2020

After careful thought, the Board of Directors of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) has made the difficult decision not to hold its annual Christmas Bazaar in December of this year. With these uncertain times making it difficult to safely gather, the ECW Board concluded that a bazaar event was not a suitable fundraiser for 2020.

**The ECW invites ALL church women to participate in a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 20 at 10:00 AM to discuss and finalize the distribution of funds from last year's bazaar.** Please look for a letter in the mail, providing more details.

## Updates



This Letter was distributed to all our  
Oxford Thank You Invites.

### Celebrate Oxford - the Covid- 19 version

Greetings:

For the past several years, we at the Church of the Holy Trinity have enjoyed hosting an event for all of you who make this community such a pleasant place to live. We have celebrated with a southern barbeque, a trip to Italy and transformed the church grounds into Oxford-ritaville We had hoped to do something equally fun this year. But then, Covid- 19 came along and our plans needed to be changed.

While we cannot celebrate in the style we are used to, we still want you to know that you are appreciated and loved. Without your presence in this community, Oxford would not be the “little piece of heaven” that it has become.

So, this year we thought what says “celebrate” better than ice cream? As a token of our ongoing appreciation for you we would like to treat you to some delicious, world famous Highland Creamery Ice Cream. Through the generosity of the Church of the Holy Trinity and Highland Creamery, we present you with this gift certificate.

Enjoy ice cream, sundaes, milk shakes, malts and slushes (don't forget the frostie paws for your fur babies)– whatever floats your boat! And remember as you enjoy this summer treat that we are grateful to you for all that you do.

Blessings,

Fr. Kevin

on behalf of the Church of the Holy Trinity community

### Financial Update

The Corona Virus has certainly created daily challenges for us all. Father Kevin and your Vestry have made every effort to work within the parameters of the Diocese, Town, State, and Federal guidelines to maintain as much worship normalcy as possible. However, as noted previously, we continue to incur expenses each day for our staff, utilities, insurance, and other operating expenses. We are pleased to report that during the first six-months of this year, we have been able to reduce our budgeted operating expenses by more than \$16, 000 – that's a real positive! Unfortunately, our Pledge income through June has fallen nearly (\$20,000) below budget. Any effort you can make to bring your Pledges up to date would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

David Wangsness – Co-treasurer

### New Member Welcome Zoom Reception Postponement

The new member Welcome Zoom Reception was a casualty of Isaias knocking out our internet. This reception with even more new members will be rescheduled in September. Thank you for your understanding.

### A Thank You

*“I would like to express my thanks for your love and support after the passing of my beloved Jim. I have received many words of comfort in the cards I have received.” – Justine Cooney*



## Our Newest Member



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

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 meet for Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 8:30 am using Zoom technology. We have noticed that this format does indeed support a sense of community - something we all need in these times. If you have never participated in Morning Prayer we hope you will give it a try. If you have, we invite you back to this meditative time.

I have attached a template for Morning Prayer so that everyone can participate whether they have a Book of Common Prayer or not.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/d5fdd394-ab87-4371-8e90-b5c741e5282c.pdf>

To join via Zoom go to:

[www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org](http://www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org) and click on the **green** button to connect.

If you are not able to join this service I encourage your to take time to observe Morning Prayer in your home using the provided resources.

I hope to see on Zoom!.

Fr. Kevin

## Fellowship Committee Summer Update

Even in this difficult time, the Fellowship Committee of Holy Trinity has continued to find ways to reach out to the congregation and the Oxford community. Outreach events include the following:

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, a New Member Welcome will be conducted via Zoom to introduce new members to all the wonderful aspects of Holy Trinity and to welcome them into the Holy Trinity community.

Our annual Thank You Oxford picnic was not possible this year, but Holy Trinity has still found a way to show appreciation for all that the Oxford community does, especially in these difficult times. Holy Trinity and Highland Creamery have joined together to provide a heartfelt letter of appreciation and gift certificates for ice cream to our roster of community members and their families.

Hopefully, next year we will be back to hosting a spectacular picnic. *See below for a copy of the letter that we gave to the volunteers along with the gift certificates.*

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the OCC is hosting an "Open House" to help residents and visitors to Oxford learn more about what the community has to offer. Holy Trinity will take part in this event, as it provides another opportunity to reach out to the community.

We are continually trying to find more ways for Holy Trinity to stay connected during this virtual time. If you have an idea or suggestion, please let us know! Contact Fr. Kevin or Nancy Roberts (609-647-2622).





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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.



“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows. It's what the sunflowers do.”

Helen Keller

*August's  
Birth  
Flower*

