



Lifeline

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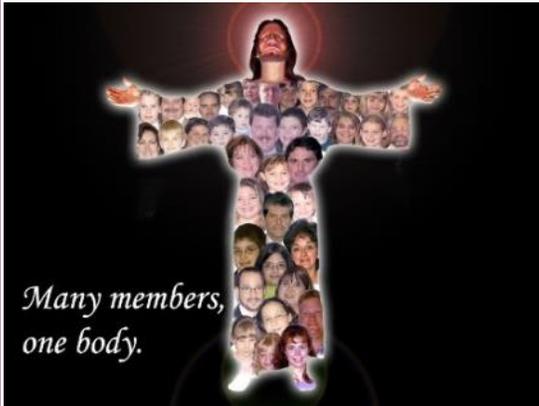
The Church of the Holy Trinity
An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

Perceiving Wholeness Through the Eyes of Christ

The last several weeks we have been listening to excerpts from Paul's Letter to Romans. In this letter he explains that **community** is a core concept of the Christian faith. He does not separate life into discrete segments with some of it allocated to self, some to others, and some to God. Instead, he informs his followers, of an alternative, better way to live life than the hedonism that characterized Roman society. He suggested that the better way was to strive to give the self-centered life over to a life lived in relation to the other. To state this in another way, the community, not the self, is the center of the Christian life.



Paul goes on to describe his vision of the Christian community in the well-known image of a body – the body of Christ. Comparing the function of human society to the function of a physical body was a familiar metaphor in ancient cultures. Paul adopts this image and expands on it. He describes the Christian community as being the body of Christ. A Christian community is not a group of individual members but a holistic entity with many integrated parts just like a body. In doing so Paul began to address the tensions he had heard were tearing apart the Roman community. He desired to give them a mission of unity and selflessness. Paul emphasizes the value of each member of the community, of each member of Christ's body when he

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." Just as each of the different parts of the human body has a specific purpose, the same applies to the members of the community. All are gifted and all are necessary for the health of the community. God's dream is that we live our lives for the good of the community, for the good of the world. It is only through doing so can that we find our true self.

What does this mean to us today? We might do well to ask ourselves to take a good look at our community using the eyes of Christ. Christ's eyes see giftedness where other eyes may see difference. Christ's eyes behold a vision of a community where each person's unique qualities and skills are valued and appreciated. A community where collective uniqueness defines who we are. The eyes of the body of Christ focus on the health of the whole body. These eyes resist the all too human tendency to just look out for the self. The eyes of Christ see blessedness in community and relationship. These eyes are the eyes of a follower of Christ. In the midst of the divisiveness of these times, let these eyes be our eyes.



Blessings,
Father Kevin

CHEERS and APPRECIATION



- Thank you to **Dr. Lisa Webb**, Diaconal Postulant, for her terrific sermons and being such a wonderful addition to our community.
- Thank you to **Bill Butts**, our new handyman for painting our parish hall doors, office steps, and River Room molding. You have us looking good.
- Appreciation to **Cora** for gracing us with her wonderful music on the keyboard and on 8/16 our organ! Sounding good!
- Thank you to **Connie** for always being ready and able to keep us on track and help with juggling all the tasks associated with parish life.
- Great appreciation to **Rev. Sandy Casey-Martus** for presiding and preaching a wonderful sermon on August 16.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Service Broadcasts

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

Angel's
Wings at
the Altar



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

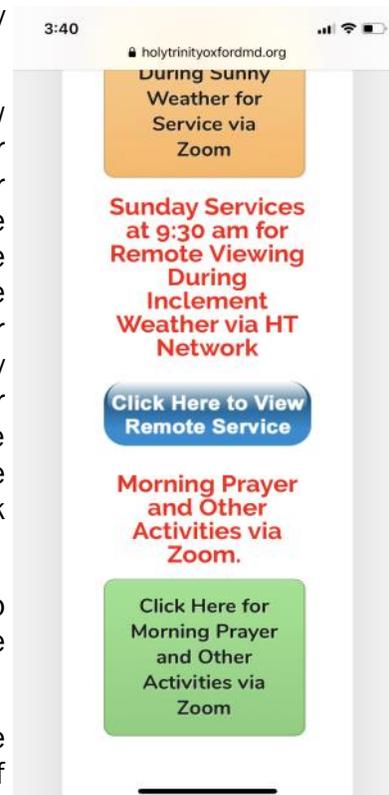
Women on a Journey will resume our twice monthly meetings in September.

Summer reading was a classic, old book by Catherine Marshall – *The Helper* (1978)

An intriguing read --- focusing on “the most mysterious member of the Trinity....the Holy Spirit....a Friend we can come to know and love.”

Join us for our Zoom call on Wednesday

September 9th and 23rd --- 9:00 am – 10:30 am
For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or beverlyrohman@gmail.com



Mission

Children's Book Drive

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

Thank you so much for all of your book donations! Clara and I are so grateful for your contributions. Together, with your help, we have been able to donate over 600 books to children in Talbot County who otherwise would not have access to quality literature. It has truly been an amazing experience to work on this project, and with Holy Trinity's help, we have made this dream a reality. So, thank you. We could not have done this without you!



- Clara and Sophie

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
I

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 |

Holy Trinity Milestones

Passed on: Peggy Lott

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



September Fellowship Events

The New Member Welcome, via Zoom, has been rescheduled for September 15th at 7:00pm. New members will be contacted and a Zoom link will be resent. For questions - please contact Nancy Roberts at (609) 647-2622 or Nancy_Roberts@verizon.net

Mission



PEARLS

Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives

If you or someone you care for is feeling down, sad, or blue, and/or has lost interest in pleasurable activities, PEARLS program can help control these symptoms with successful self-management strategies. PEARLS is a voluntary program of eight (8) one-hour life skills training sessions done during a six-month period. Meet one-on-one with your own PEARLS counselor who receives clinical supervision by a certified psychiatrist. PEARLS can be provided at home or in a comfortable trusted community setting. Learn how to solve problems and make a personalized step-by-step action plan to obtain an active and rewarding life.

For registration information contact: Talbot County Health Dept. Senior Services 410-819-5600.

Home Buyer & Home Repair Programs



If someone that you know needs affordable housing help, please encourage them to take time to call and talk to our Client Services Manager, Pat Ingram, for new homebuyers, or our Family Services Coordinator, Tara Felts, for existing homeowners. They can be reached at 410-476-3204 and can walk you or someone you know through the process. This is so important in dispelling some of the misinformation that people have about our programs.

If you happen to know an employer that would like us to make a presentation about any of our programs to their employees, we are happy to do that as well. And if you or someone you know would like to support our mission of building homes, community and hope with a financial contribution, I welcome a conversation to discuss how to make that gift meaningful to you and your loved ones.

We continue to ask for everyone's cooperation and patience as we monitor the impact of COVID-19 on our operations. Please continue to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy and please pray for our ministry and our community.

CAMP WRIGHT

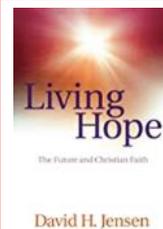
PROGRESS

Thank you to all who donated funds to rebuild the bulk head



Just wanted to let you know that the project is being overseen expertly.

Men's Inquiring Believers



Men's Inquiring Believers will resume on Monday, September 21 at 6 pm. This group meets weekly from late September through early May for Bible study on Mondays at 6 pm. Last year we studied a diverse group of works: "The Churches the Apostles Left Behind" by Raymond Brown, "The Gnostic Gospels" by Elaine Pagels, 5 video lectures on the gnostic gospels by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory Univ., "A Short History of Myth" by Karen Armstrong and "Paul: A Biography" by N.T. Wright. This group offers fellowship and seeks to develop a clearer concept of how God works in our lives and how we work with, and understand, God. The group will begin this year with David Jensen's **Living Hope: The Future and Christian Faith**. This year's meetings will initially be held using the Zoom meeting format. If you are interested in joining, please call Ray Munsch at 215-356-2481. All are welcome!

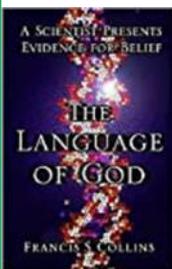
Discussion Groups

Two new discussion groups are being formed to create opportunities for us to stay connected as a community. We are seeking to find some engaging ways to keep us connected as the pandemic continues. These groups are planned as part of this initiative.

Diversity and the Christian Faith—This discussion group will focus on God’s dream for diversity in the context of contemporary society. Considering readings from Holy Scripture and contemporary texts we will seek to help us understand how God’s plan for diversity can work in contemporary society. We will engage in discussion about the challenge of achieving this vision amidst the issues of our time. Quite simply, we will seek to find wholeness looking through the eyes of Christ. Maggie Anderson a professor of Sociology and author of **Getting Smart About Race: An American Conversation**, has offered to help us with these discussions.



Faith and Science—This book discussion will focus on the writing of Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). You have probably heard Dr Collins interviewed by the news media during 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 based on this book in which we consider the relationship of science and religion through the lens of his experience.



If you are interested in participating in either or both of these groups, please email the parish office office@holytrinityoxford.md or call 4140-226-5134. The days, times and start will be decided by the group once enrollment is completed.



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

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 in my weekly communication so that everyone can participate whether they have a Book of Common Prayer or not.

To join via Zoom go to:

www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the **green** button to connect.

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

I hope to see you on Zoom!

Fr. Kevin

A Musical Note

We are very grateful to everyone who has helped keep music a vital part of our summer worship services. Dan Zimelman helped us to plan, select, purchase, and use our mighty outdoor sound system. Gordon and his team of setup and tear-down workers have done a phenomenal job every single week. Linda, Lee, Larry, and our new Steel Drum friend have graced us with their presence and musical talents. John Malin’s Kurzweil keyboard has found a new home with Holy Trinity, allowing us to play 2 piano 4 hand music a la COVID. Kevin helped me conquer an iPad for easier music playing. Thank you for attending services, singing at home, and requesting music

Sunday School

Since the advent of the COVID19 pandemic, the Sunday School has met a few times via Zoom to check in and then to discuss how to disperse the money that was raised during the Lenten Change for Change project. The Meyerles wrote an article in last month's Lifeline that shared the thoughtful decisions the children had made.

Here we are in September, when usually the children are returning to Sunday School, sharing stories of summer adventures, and learning more Bible Stories. However, with COVID-19 and the concern for safety for the children and their families, and for the teachers and their families, we must evaluate what to do next. In order to do this, we are going to send a survey to student's families and to the teachers to receive their input.

As a church community, during baptism, we made a commitment to guide the children. We ask that you include the Sunday School children and our youth in your daily prayers. This is a difficult time and all prayers are needed and appreciated.

Thank you.
Barbara Cross



Back to School Blessing

Our annual back to school blessing is scheduled for Sunday, September 6. This year's blessing will necessarily be a bit different. The blessing will occur at the beginning of this service. And, rather than just bless backpacks, we will bless all the tools necessary for learning this year including laptops, tablets, teachers and PARENTS! If your children accompany you to the service, we ask that they sit with your family. The blessing will also be offered to those watching via broadcast.

PANDEMIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Shortly after Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency in March 2020, and we could no longer conduct church services, either inside or outside, Father Kevin called upon several professionals of our extraordinarily accomplished congregation to form the Pandemic Committee. Chaired by Father Kevin, the members are George Curlin, Bill Ritchie, Susan Delean-Botkin, Bill Dial, Daniel Wright, Tom DeMarco, Rich Wagner, Lisa Webb, Cora Bruner, and Betty Anderson. Since last spring, the Committee has studied and shared with one another research, policies and procedures, as well as guidelines and orders from the CDC, Governor Hogan, Talbot County, the Town of Oxford, and the Diocese of Easton. This group of talented professionals has assured Father Kevin and the Vestry of being informed and kept current of all developments affecting Church of the Holy Trinity, arising out of the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.

We have been fortunate to have held outdoor services every Sunday, but one, since June 14, in beautiful sunny weather, with gentle breezes, despite the heat and humidity. The procedures, which have been adopted for the outdoor services, including the taking of temperatures, wearing of masks, maintaining appropriate distances, and keeping a list of all attendees, have been observed faithfully. 60^{+/-} Parishioners have attended in person each week. In addition, Father Kevin has done all within his power, despite the limitations of broadband transmissions, to assure the services are broadcast to the 60^{+/-} Parishioners, who are watching from home. Currently, the Committee is studying the options which may become available for moving services inside the church and the Parish Hall; however, for the present time, we will continue to hold services on the front lawn and broadcast, using Zoom, for the benefit of those who either are homebound or prefer to remain at home during the pandemic.

Barbara and Father Kevin thank all of you for all of your good wishes for our anniversary and Barbara's birthday.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

AUGUST 27, 2020

Our Bylaws provide that the Nominating Committee of the Vestry is to recommend qualified communicants to serve as Vestry members, to be elected at the Annual Meeting each year. Sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Rector is to inform the members of the Parish of the number of vacancies occurring on the Vestry, which customarily is, and again this year will be, three members. Vestry members serve for a term of three years; after the term has expired, they are not eligible for reelection until after the expiration of one year.

The Nominating Committee is comprised of five persons, including those Vestry members, whose terms expire at the end of the calendar year, the Senior Warden, and one other former Vestry member. The Rector serves as a consultant to the Committee. This year, the members of the Nominating Committee are Meg Vandenburg, Bill Ritchie, Beverly Rohman, Gordon Fronk, and our beloved Otts Schnellenberger. The Committee submitted the names of 43 persons to Father Kevin for his review and consultation. Thereafter, Gordon contacted the selected prospects to discern their interest in serving and propose the following three candidates to be elected to the Vestry.

Vestry Nomination Loretta Blume

I was born and raised in Chicago, the daughter of Irish immigrants. After marrying, I moved to Philadelphia, where Marshall and I raised three children. Twelve years ago in semi-retirement, we made our home in Oxford, having fallen under its charms in our sailing days.

I taught elementary school for 23 years in Chicago and the Philadelphia suburbs. In my time at the Rosemont School, I chaired committees, supervised student teachers and mentored new faculty members. I also served on committees to evaluate schools for the Pennsylvania Association for Independent Schools, the accrediting body for Independent schools in Pennsylvania. In 2018, to honor my lifetime commitment to education, I co-founded Mid Shore Scholars with Marshall to help first generation high school graduates prepare for college and the admissions process. I currently serve on the Mid Shore Scholars board.

Over these past years, I have become quite familiar with The Sunday School Program and the Youth Program at Holy Trinity. Three of my grandchildren participate in Sunday School and the Youth Group; these programs have helped them build a strong foundation in their faith. As an educator, I admire the growth and success of these two programs.

I have received so much from Holy Trinity it would be my honor to "give back" and serve this special church in any way I can.

Vestry Nomination Michelle Barnes Mactavish

Hailing from Philadelphia, Michelle was born on February 8, 1959. She attended Springside School from kindergarten through high school and graduated from Drexel University with a BS in Design and Merchandising in 1981. While there, she played varsity lacrosse and field hockey. Upon graduation, she began her career as a buyer for the AIA Bookstore in Philadelphia.

She married Cameron Mactavish in 1983 and together they raised three sons. During this time she was heavily involved in their education at Germantown Friends School, coaching sports and teaching art classes. She served on the board of the Roxborough YMCA for more than two decades. Michelle also served as Deacon and Clerk of Session at Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, helping lead the effort to replant the church so that today it is thriving in a new light.

She volunteered at the Whosoever Gospel Mission in Germantown, helping previously incarcerated men to improve their reading and math skills to obtain their G.E.D. Concurrently, Michelle taught intercity teenage students to make stained glass windows of their own design in a program called, "Windows that Open Doors". Service projects were completed with travels to New Orleans, Minnesota, and South Africa and the program gained notoriety throughout the city and beyond.

She and her husband now live full time in Oxford, after having arrived for the first time by sailboat in 1998. They enjoy exploring the many wonders of the Eastern Shore by boat and bike. She and her husband recently returned from a sailing trip to the Florida Keys.

Vestry Nomination Suze Segal

Suze Segal and her husband, Earl, moved to Oxford approximately 15 years ago. Having been raised on Grand Island, New York and Malvern, Pennsylvania, Suze attended The Pennsylvania State University. Suze was a small interior design business owner until retirement. After raising the couple's two children in the Maryland suburbs of Washington DC, Suze then moved to the Eastern Shore, where she has served on several local boards, including that of Talbot Country Club; she was also Treasurer of Bayside Quilters, a 200-member organization. Being so warmly welcomed into Holy Trinity, Suze looks forward to being able to use her faith and business skills to help preserve and enhance the very special experience that comes from worship and involvement in this church community.



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.



*September's
Birth Flower*

