



# 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*

## A Message from Our Rector

### Autumnal Gratitude

As I write this month's letter at the outset of autumn, I am in a state of gratitude. Quaker Poet and songwriter, Carrie Newcomer beautifully expresses the gratefulness that God's creation can spark in the human soul especially at this time of year.

***"In autumn everything opens into color. The world is aglow with life. On its edges, it is the close of a cycle. The signpost leading to the reflective months of winter, Autumn, with all its full womanly curves, in all its graceful abundance, takes us by the hand and leads us further in. But not yet... For today is filled with the celebration of summer's fullness. Today is a time to savor, Today is a time to wonder, Today is a time to open wide our arms and take it all in, Every little bit of it, Every shining little bit of it."***

I like how Carrie uses the word autumn to describe the approaching season. I have not heard the term "autumn" used for this season since my time in Canada (it is also widely in use throughout England). To call this time of year "fall," as is the habit in the U.S., seems to lend to the season a meaning associated with loss. The word itself suggests movement from a height to a lower level. Of course, summer comes to an end, yet the seasonal transition at this time of year is graced by some of nature's most vivid and beautiful landscapes. How can this ever be viewed as something lesser? If anything, autumn arrives and builds over the weeks into an explosion of images, scents, and sounds that overwhelm the senses. It is a time of grace and beauty to be savored. It is a time for gratitude that is not experienced as a static state, but rather as fluid movement accompanied by leaps of the heart and sounds of joy seeking to escape from our lips. It is a time to open one's soul - to "open wide our arms and take it all in..." It can be a refreshing time of radical amazement. I encourage you to take a break from the news and worries of the day and spend some time outside in nature.



In our parish life this time of year is also period of transition. We return to activities that have been on sabbatical during the summer months, reinventing how we can come together safely as a community. We anticipate welcoming new changes in Vestry membership, planning and approving a new budget, new programs and the making of new commitments to each other in our communal life. As I think about the upcoming changes, I cannot help but reflect on what has come before and feel gratitude for what has been, is, and will be.



Autumn is the time of harvest. We would all do well to reflect on what the harvest of this community has produced. You are a wonderful, loving community who have gone to great lengths to care for others during this time of pandemic, natural disasters, and economic hardship. I feel blessed to be your priest and am overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect on the remembrances, sights and sounds of our life together. You are a generous, loving people and for that I give thanks. Elsewhere in this Lifeline you will take note of the fruits harvested by this community. You will find evidence of what your generosity of heart and spirit is doing to make this world anew in the spirit of Christ.

As we plan for what is to come, let us do so out of a spirit of abundance not scarcity. You all are uniquely talented individuals with much to offer each other and God. Let us enter this season of planning, stewardship and thanksgiving celebrating the special place this community holds in all our hearts. Let us give thanks to each other and to God for our blessings and share in the abundance of our life

**Blessings, Father Kevin**

## ANNUAL APPEAL – Your 2021 pledge as we safely remain

### “Socially distant, spiritually connected!”

If you haven't already, you should soon be receiving your annual appeal letter and pledge card for 2021. On behalf of the Church of the Holy Trinity, we ask that you take a moment to read these materials and make your 2021 pledge in support of the Church's annual operating budget.

Notwithstanding the fact that much of the world closed down for portions of this year, we should all take great pride in the fact that Holy Trinity continued its mission, albeit with some adjustment. Deftly pivoting to address the limitations caused by the pandemic, Holy Trinity did not stumble when caring for the spiritual needs of our members, as well as the daily needs of the community at-large.

Your past generosity and commitment has enabled Holy Trinity to effectively respond to the needs of the parish and community in these unprecedented times. While there may be no better example of “preaching to the choir,” your continued support is essential as we navigate the year ahead, allowing Holy Trinity to continue to be nimble and responsive in meeting its mission to “grow in God's love through worship, spiritual growth, service and fellowship.”

Like so many other organizations whose facilities had to be closed, Holy Trinity's continues to incur fixed expenses as the church worked diligently to provide services and outreach through other means. We applaud Father Kevin, his small staff, and the wonderful volunteers of the church for keeping additional expenses to a minimum as Zoom meetings, remote church service broadcasting, and other services had to be implemented to meet the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Father Kevin so aptly reminds us, we are all instruments of God's love. By making a pledge of support for the work of our church, we are serving God's purpose and remaining a beacon to our parishioners and community through these uncertain times. Please take a moment to complete your pledge card and give as generously as you are able. The budgeting process for 2021 is currently underway and your timely pledge will provide church leaders with the income commitments needed to determine 2021 operating income.

On behalf of the Church of the Holy Trinity, thank you for your support.

Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Sandy & Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal



### WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will be starting a new book this October –

*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

Told through the voice of Dinah, Jacob's daughter, Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoil's of ancient womanhood – the world of the red tent. Dinah's story reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate connection with the past.

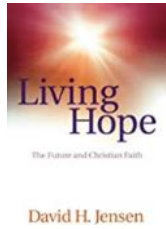
**October 7<sup>th</sup> & October 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 am via Zoom**

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or [beverlyrohman@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyrohman@gmail.com)

### Used Sailing Line Needed for Holy Trinity's Banners

We are using a new system to hang the Church's outside banners announcing special events such as the Christmas Bazaar, and the times for holiday services such as Christmas and Easter. For each banner, the new system requires between 20' and 25' of 1/4 or 3/16 inch high strength/low stretch line of the type typically used for roller-furlers or topping lifts on sailboats. Used lines that are in relatively good condition would work well.

Do you have any line of this type gathering dust in your sailing locker? We would be happy to have it for use on this project. The upgrade to the rigging system will significantly reduce repair and replacement costs associated with the eight banners the Church flies in the course of a year. If you have line you wish to contribute, please contact Bob Kelly at [Kellyrf@lemoyne.edu](mailto:Kellyrf@lemoyne.edu) or 315-412-1934. Thank you!



## Men's Inquiring Believers

Men's Inquiring Believers meets on Mondays September through early May for Bible study 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 has begun 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!



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Webb, on her ordination to the Holy Diaconate on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This parish, this diocese, and this Church are blessed by her service.
- Thank you to our Sunday morning Roadie crew for setting up the sound, video, and altar for outside services. You bless us with your service.
- Thank you to our Pandemic Consulting Team who continue to help us journey safely through this time and plan for our eventual return to indoor services.
- Great appreciation to our Altar Guild for polishing our metalware vessels for our respectful, praiseworthy workshop of our Lord.
- Thank you to Barbara for her continue leadership of our family ministry. These are difficult times and she has been devoted to keeping our children and families together through worship and education.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

## Holy Trinity Milestones

Passed on: **Kenny Anderson**

## 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

## Church Cookbook

We have all been cooking at home more this past year. We have all tried out old recipes or invented new ones. Let's share our new wealth of knowledge and good eats through creating a new church cookbook. I don't think Holy Trinity has published one since the early 2000's. It is time. Please collect one or two favorite recipes and send them to the church office. Also send pictures-drawings of your dish or humorous quarantine pictures or humor.

Time to get cooking folks!

Fr. Kevin

## Sunday School

As we are all aware, this pandemic has caused major changes requiring flexibility and thinking outside the box. This is true for Sunday School as well. After surveying the families, it has been determined that Sunday School via Zoom is not a good alternative for most of the children. Therefore I am proposing that we meet in person outside (socially distanced, wearing masks) during the 9:30 service on the following dates: October 4, November 1, and November 29. As one might expect, it will be weather permitting. We will not meet in the rain; however we will meet if it is cold and we should dress accordingly. We will focus on God's creation and how St. Francis and Jesus used nature to teach about God's love. Each child will be given their own clipboard and box of crayons, paper, and scavenger hunt list. They will choose something to observe over the next year, draw it, and see how it changes.

With the pandemic, more time goes into safe preparation. It is crucial to let me know in advance who is coming so I can make sure I have the needed materials ready. As mentioned, children need to wear a mask and also should bring their own chair. Due to the importance of keeping socially distanced, I am asking that any child who is in second grade or below, be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible to see that the child stays socially distanced.

As I write this, I think of how challenging this is for all of us. However, I keep thinking that this is what Jesus taught us to do. That we should "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We want to keep everyone safe. If you have any questions/comments/suggestions, please let me know.

Barbara Cross



### Discussion Group Update

Due to few sign-ups, the Diversity and Science and Faith Discussion Groups will not go forward at this time. If you are interested in participating in a discussion group, please see the **Difference** Group, sponsored by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry described elsewhere in this issue.

Dear Maggie;

The Church of the Holy Trinity continues our commitment to support the Care Pack program. Unfortunately due to Covid we are not able to take up the donation of goods that we have done in the past. What we are able to do is provide financial support. To that end, we are sending a check for \$1500 c/o the Midshore Community Foundation directed to the Care Pack program.

Thank you and your volunteers for continuing this great mission. We hope to be able to resume our more active involvement in 2021.

If you have any needs in the future, please let us know.

Blessings,  
Fr. Kevin

Wow!!!!!! What an amazing email to get! THANK YOU so much! Your congregation has been a huge supporter of our program and what a gift for that to continue during these trying times. We truly *appreciate* all you have done and do for CarePacks!!! (email above)

Sincerely, Maggie C. Gowe

## Difference Pilot Course

The Episcopal Church and the Anglican communion have a vision for the church to be a reconciling presence in the midst of conflict. Leading thinkers and peacemaking practitioners have created and continue to hone this course to help us do just that. Difference explores how we can cross divides, disagree well, practice forgiveness and be the community God calls us to be. It is not mediation or conflict-resolution training; nor should it give people or churches a longer 'to-do' list. Instead, the focus is on formation – on the habits and practices that enable us to realize our identity as reconcilers in our own unique contexts.

I would like to invite you to join me by participating in this new series. If a sufficient number of Holy Trinity parishioners are interested, I will schedule a Zoom based conference to help us to digest and discuss our learnings in the context of our community. We will be among the first congregations in the Anglican Communion to participate in this course.

**Explore what it means to follow Jesus in the face of conflict and see transformation through everyday encounters.**

Wednesdays, 12:00pm - 1:30pm via Zoom  
5 Weekly Sessions, Beginning October 21st

Register for the course by clicking the zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuyuqjliGtShavqJFJ0v7QMXW5\\_J13FI](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuyuqjliGtShavqJFJ0v7QMXW5_J13FI)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please call the office to inform us of your participation.*

*Fr Kevin*

## Women's Bible study Praying the Scriptures: A Practice for Today's Christians

Bible Commentaries, Concordances, Conferences, and Classes are popular and familiar ways to research intended meanings of sacred scriptures. For Christians to faithfully "Hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the inspired texts, praying the Scriptures may provide a profound compliment to studies. Preachers, academicians, and scripture scholars write according to their lived experience relative to their personal realized state of consciousness. This accounts for the diversity of interpretations that builds up the deposit of biblical knowledge accessible to the interested student today. One direct access to meaning and intention of the sacred writings is through silent "listening-in" prayer under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus Christ. Far from being "questionable," though perhaps "mistrusted," the Divine Indwelling (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is an ever present and active reality within the spiritual heart center of every Christians. The Spirit initiates and invites persons of faith into intimacy with God. This relationship with Jesus cultivates and sustains an ongoing conversation that begins in utter silence, (God's first language), and may results in rising thoughts and ultimately speech.

You are invited to attend five consecutive weeks on Zoom devoted to **The Scripture Prayer: Praying the Scriptures** with the help of the book, "**Listening-in Practice.**" We will meet from 10-11 on Mondays starting October 12. Please email or call the Parish Office to indicate your interest in participating. All are welcome!

The Zoom link for this study will be forwarded to participants but it can also be access by clicking on the **Green** Zoom Activity link on our webpage [www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org](http://www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org)

I look forward to meeting you for this journey of faith.

The Rev. Sandy Casey-Martus

**Problem Drinking is up During the Pandemic**

"American adults have been drinking alcoholic beverages more often during the coronavirus pandemic — 14 percent more often, according to a report in the journal JAMA Network Open. The increase in drinking frequency has been higher for women (up 17 percent) and for those ages 30 to 59 (up 19 percent). The research did not determine why drinking frequency has increased, but various health experts speculate that more people are turning to alcoholic beverages to cope with pandemic-related stress, anxiety, depression, isolation and boredom. To protect their health, adults generally are urged to keep alcohol consumption to no more than two drinks a day for men and one a day for women, considered moderate drinking. Excessive drinking can raise the risks for liver disease, depression, breast cancer, high blood pressure, stroke and heart attack, as well as accidental injuries and suicide." Washington Post 10/5/2020

If you find your drinking has increased and is becoming a problem, please know there is help available. You may speak to Fr. Kevin confidentially and/or if you'd like some more information about A. A. or to speak to someone, please write them at [info@midshoreintergroup.org](mailto:info@midshoreintergroup.org) or call 410-822-4226.

**Gratitude**

There are not adequate words to convey our gratitude to all of you for the 10 wonderful years I have been privileged to serve as your priest. Barbara and I have loved every day of our life among you. You have created a community that truly reflects the ways of Jesus in word and action. You have supported and encouraged us in so many ways.

Thank you for the really wonderful gift of the hand stitched Maryland plaque. We love you and look forward to the years ahead.

Love and blessings,  
Fr. Kevin and Barbara



**Ordination to the Diaconate - Dr Lisa Webb**

It has been our pleasure to have Dr Lisa Webb serve her diaconal postulant internship with us since last fall. Lisa has added greatly to the life of the parish. She has led services, preached, offered our Lenten Study series on the Way of Love, provided spiritual accompaniment to parishioners, and co-led our Youth Group. She has also graced our services with her artful, liturgical dance. Lisa has shown the skills, empathy, and creativity to carry out the ministry of a deacon, *servanthood*. She has shown her gift of the Spirit to act as a *sacred messenger, agent, and attendant*. We rejoice that Lisa will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday October 10 at her home parish, Emmanuel Church in Chestertown. Due to Covid attendance is limited but our Vestry will represent us at here ordination. The Ordination will be broadcast and may be viewed at: [facebook.com/groups/161318610559306](https://facebook.com/groups/161318610559306)

We rejoice on this momentous and blessed occasion.



Dear Carol and all of our friends at Holy Trinity,  
My son and daughter-in-law received the stunning prayer show this week in Victoria BC. They are both in the Maritime business and currently on ships. They asked that I relay their gratitude for prayers and love from afar during a very difficult time while trying to start a family.  
I cherish the talented and caring community of our church which provides comfort to all who need a little extra warmth and wrapping while facing life's challenges.  
Thank you.  
with love,  
Michelle MacTavish



## *Music on the Lawn*

October 18, 2020 2 p.m.

Denise and Cora are excited to present the first concert of our new series, *Music on the Lawn*. Please join us for a concert filled with songs of hope, joy, and beauty under the trees. Please bring a lawn chair. Masks and social distancing are required. You will need to register upon arrival. Donations will be given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Please note: Holy Trinity is not advertising this concert to the greater Talbot County. If you would like to invite a friend to join you, please do so. In order to follow the COVID mandates, this concert is being shared with members and friends of Holy Trinity and the village of Oxford.

### *Musicians for Sunday Services*

As we welcome the fall and cooler weather prevails, we are excited to welcome the return of additional musicians to our Sunday services. Holy Trinity has researched and acquired necessary masks and instrument covers for musicians to perform outdoors: safely and at a great distance from the congregation and each other.

October 11 Michelle Webb, Clarinet and Wendell Banyay, Trumpet

October 18 Ensemble

October 25 Delmarva Trio (clarinet, flute, bassoon)

With concerts and music gatherings still "on hold" for the most part, please come join us at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings for a time of pre-service music sharing by our talented church and local music friends. Your day will have a wonderful beginning!





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*The Church of the Holy Trinity*



*Lifeline*



*October's  
Birth Flower*

**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.



Calendula flower signifies calmness, elegance, good luck and appreciation. You are peace-loving by nature and a deep thinker. You are good at communicating and that makes you expressive in life. You have a clear heart.