



Lifeline

VOLUME 13
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December 2020

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

We started out 2020 like every other year. We planned new programs and events, sought to build new ties among us, and endeavored to expand our community beyond our boundaries. Worship and a strong collective identity as a people of God, was celebrated and were the glues that bound us together as a community.

But then we all were challenged in ways unimaginable. Covid 19 came on the scene quickly and for most of us unexpectedly. And, since then, no one of us has been left unaffected. We all have faced a challenge something no one among us had ever experienced before. There were no guidelines. No safety nets. All of us, in some fashion, has had to cope with isolation and being beset by fear.

A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor. This has been a year of year of rough seas, contrary winds, unknown waters

I recently finished reading a book about another time when fear and uncertainty gripped the land. **The Splendid and the Vile** tells the story of Britain, focusing on Churchill and his family during the first year of the conflict that devolved into WWII. While it is primarily a study of leadership it is also a story of a people and how they coped during such a terrible time. I was struck by the brave, common resolve of the people that brought that nation through a fearful and uncertain time. Now this book only tells the beginning of the story, obviously it went on much longer than the focus on this book and precedents were set in motion long before the beginning of 1940. However, the people found strength in their identity as a nation and their common life together in community. And, they were able to do so by overcoming numerous major disagreements and divisions that were present in their society at that time. Their resolve and actions reminded me of a quote by Martin Luther King Jr., who during the troubles of his time, said that there was always a choice to be made and that choice was between “chaos or community.” They chose community.



There are lessons from these times for us. One of the greatest of them is that we only get through tough times when we identify and act as community – as a family. Let’s face it, God created us relational beings. God’s presence is only fully manifested amongst us when we live as a community – as a family. These understandings of God and the nature of creation provides us with some signposts and a framework for dealing with our great challenges.

Certainly, Covid makes our living as a community a very difficult task. But the really good news is about the choice you have made. You have chosen community over chaos. Chaos could easily have reigned over this community. However, you chose another way. Whilst we were

being challenged anew each day, you dug deeply to call up the resources God has endowed upon this community and you have employed these resources to stay connected with and support each other. You have called into use our collective resiliency, creativity, and compassion to find ways to stay connected and help each other. All of which, you have to admit, is quite an achievement during a time when the greater society is so divided and fractured. I am very proud and happy to part of your community. You are a blessing.

Our annual report is filled with stories of resilience. It is also filled with good news about the health of this community. I hope you take time to read it and find stories of hope and good news in our collective stories. We have a good future ahead of us. My desire is that the stories of this community will sustain you in the days ahead. And in the words of James Taylor, know in your heart that in this community “You’ve Got A Friend.” You have a friend in Jesus, and you have many friends in this community of the followers of Jesus.

God is with us in our daily struggle and we can take comfort “*for the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.*” **1 Samuel 12:22**

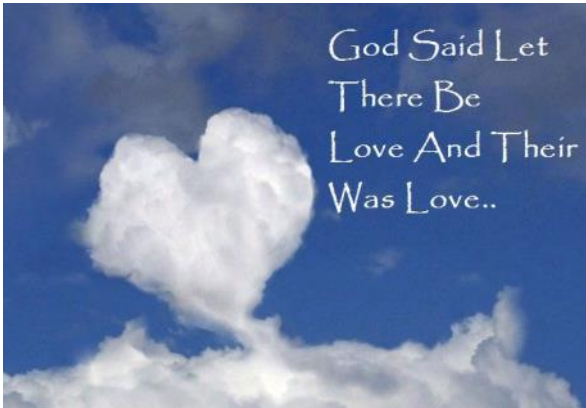
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I would like to leave you with a word of encouragement and a challenge. I have a hat with the words “Love Heals” embroidered across the front of it. It comes from Thistle Farms, a remarkable ministry in Tennessee for women who have been trafficked and abused. I love this statement of truth. It centers me and provides me with a sense of purpose.

God is love. God’s love heals. We are invited by God to collaborate with him and make God’s love known through our community and around the world.

Let us be mindful of this truth, that “Love Heals” in all of our activities



this coming year. We have much work to do. The good news is that collectively we have the talents and will to accomplish much.

**Take care, stay well, know you are loved,
Father Kevin**



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- A word of gratitude to all of our Sunday morning roadies who set up for our outdoor services. Your time and effort helped us continue to offer in-person worship without missing a beat. Thank you to **Dennis Roberts, Tim Wilson, Robert Kelly, Dick Deerin, Curt Reintsma, Gordon Fronk, and Cameron and Michelle MacTavish.**
- Thank you to **Cora, Barbara, and Lisa** for being such a dedicated and integral part of our worship team.
- Thanks to **Barbara** for keeping our Sunday School children engaged and enthusiastic. Their most recent project of creating a cards for the homebound has been greatly appreciated by all.
- Thank you to **Josh and Will Schmidt** for showing us all how we can reach our with Christlike arms to help those in need.
- A special thank you to **Connie and Cora** for being such a great team. Flexibility has been the key to our being able to successfully navigate the challenges of this year. You are the best! Thank you as well to our **Vestry and committees** for your dedication and helpfulness
- Lastly but not least, great appreciation and thanks to all of you for your flexibility, understanding and good community spirit. You all have been a blessing in my life.

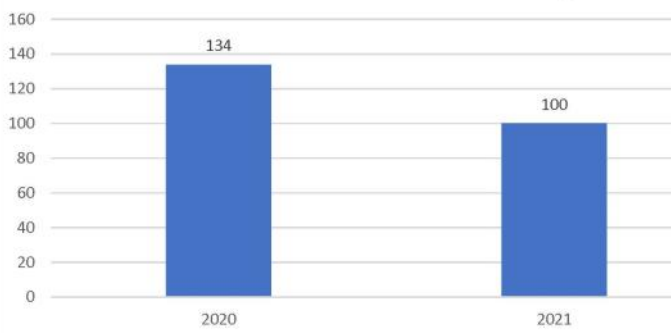
Blessings. Fr. Kevin

ANNUAL APPEAL – Your 2021 pledge as we safely remain “Socially distant, spiritually connected!”

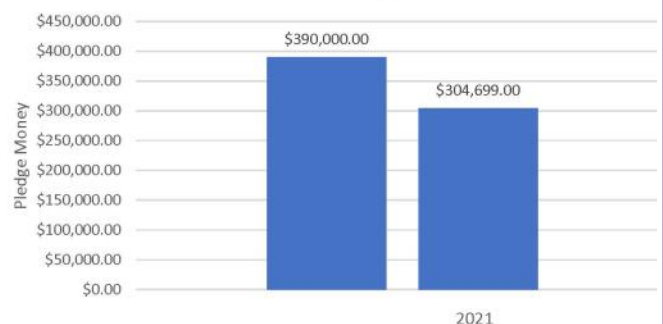
Please remember to return your Pledge Card.

On behalf of the Church of the Holy Trinity, thank you for your support. Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs Sandy & Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal

2020 vs. 2021 Number of Pledges



2020 vs. 2021 Pledge Monies



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey finished their latest selection – an exciting historical novel - ***The Red Tent*** by Anita Diamant

We will resume our meetings after the New Year! Stay tuned for our new selection.

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or beverlyrohman@gmail.com

ECW News

MISSING THE ECW CRISTMAS BAZAAR?

We are, too! And..... so will all the local organizations and people who count on our **Mission Funds** for support -- especially this year when the needs are greater than ever!



So, ECW has devised the “**Gift of Giving**” idea to help refill our Mission Fund and provide you with gifting ideas for Christmas.

Check out the ECW letter mailed to you and please support our creative and caring ways to remember family and loved ones

Have a Blessed Christmas!

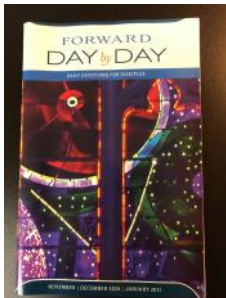
For questions or information contact

Linda Wilson 410-790-8274

Sandy Kaufman 410-458-2113 or

Beverly Rohman 410-829-9561

Forward Day by Day



Many of you enjoy starting your day with a meditation from the devotional Forward Day by Day. We have received our order of booklets for November/December/January.

Since the parish hall is not accessible at this time, we would be happy to send you a copy by mail or you may call us to pick one up or pick up at a Sunday Service. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the parish office. This daily prayer resource is available in regular and large print.

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 &	Tooth pastes &
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. Some recipes have been received but we need many more.

Time to get cooking folks!

Fr. Kevin



75th Anniversary

On Tuesday November 17, Clint and Mary Clubb celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary! The Clubb's are well loved, long time parishioners of Holy Trinity.

ECW Distributions for 2020

\$3,000 Rector's Discretionary Fund
 \$3,000 Neighborhood Service Center
 \$1,000 Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 \$ 500 Oxford Volunteer Fire Department
 \$ 500 Waters Church
 \$ 500 Talbot Interfaith Shelter
 \$8,500 Total

Josh and Will Schmidt prepared and delivered meals to our lunch list. One individual called all bubbly and excited that the Schmidt boys had been by with lunch! She said they were "adorable," arriving with folders and lunch. When asked what her lunch consisted of and she said she didn't know what the soup was, but it was good! Josh and Will, you have shown us the way of love.



Dust Off Your Angel Wings

For the past several years our church has participated in the Salvation Army program known as Christmas Angels. Those wishing to participate have selected a Christmas Angel from an angel tree in the River Room. The angel ticket had an identifying number and description of a local child in need of Christmas presents. Information such as age, gender, size and a wish list was provided. Our generous parishioners shopped and tagged the gifts. We then delivered to them to the Salvation Army in Cambridge where they were distributed to the children.

We have all changed the way we live this year. Grabbing a cart and cruising the aisles of Walmart picking up some gifts for our angel is not a safe activity. I have talked to the Salvation Army staffer in charge of the Christmas Angel program. They have volunteers and staffers who are more than happy to shop for us this one year. They also can use the money to make bulk purchases that will provide more for those in need. So, the church is accepting financial contributions that will be gathered and sent to the Army where it will be used to provide gifts for children in need of a Merry Christmas.

As in many things, sometimes having to change something that was working well can actually provide benefits. In the past the program has been limited to the thirty people who actually picked a child and did that shopping. This year everyone can participate. Also, this year contributions of any size are more than welcome. I am hoping we can make a significant contribution early in December.

If you want to make a contribution of any size, please make a check out to Holy Trinity clearly noting that it is for the Christmas Angel program and mail it to PO Box 387, Oxford, MD 21654 by November 30th.

I am hoping we can make a significant contribution early in December. 2020 has been hard on the kids. Let's not let Christmas become another victim of this virus.

Sunday School

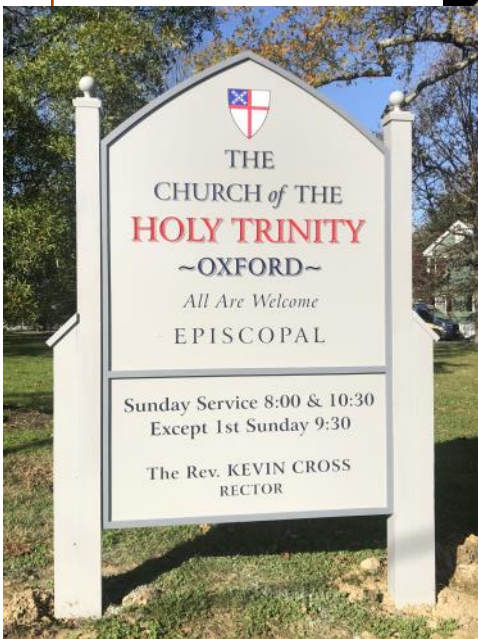
Our Sunday School children remain connected to our Holy Trinity Church family. Although some children are not able to make the outdoor classroom meetings, we remain in touch. One of our projects was to make Thanksgiving cards to send with the early thanksgiving lunch that Josh and Will Schmidt (former Sunday School students) provided for the Lunch Bunch recipients. Many of our students made these at home and dropped them off so that they could be included. We will be doing this again for the Christmas lunch that Josh and Will are doing on December 16. Parents, we will need the cards the children make by Dec. 13. Thank you for participating in this project. Cards are also sent to some of our homebound parishioners.

During one of our outdoor classrooms the children wrote what they are thankful for and what they wish for. Some of the things they are thankful for are as follows: the world, family, five senses, my house, dad, mom, having a TV, ice hockey, my little brother. They had a more difficult time coming up with things they wished for. The thing that everyone wished for is an end to the virus Covid!

Advent activity books and calendars were sent home with children who attended the outdoor Sunday School class. They have been mailed to our other children who were not there. Hopefully they will receive them in time for the start of Advent - November 29.

Father Kevin and Barbara have been trying to figure out how to do the Christmas pageant during this time of the pandemic. We are planning on having the pageant outdoors at the crèche with the participants being safely distanced. This year there will be no speaking lines but they will continue to act out the story of the birth of Jesus. The service will be on Christmas Eve at 3 PM. We are thrilled that once again we will have a real baby Jesus! Many thanks to Watson Flowers for volunteering. Big brother Maddox is very excited that the whole family will be involved in this year's pageant. If your child would like to participate please make sure to let Barbara know by December 9. Safety is our priority and especially during this time of Covid, we need to make sure we know who will be participating so that we can plan accordingly. We look forward to celebrating Christ's birth with you!

Our New Sign Architect and Designer - Cameron & Michelle Macatvish



A New Tradition! Bell Ringing at 6 pm by Cameron Mactavish



Setting up our crèche



ANNUAL MEETING OF CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY-OXFORD DECEMBER 6, 2020

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Fr. Kevin at 10:45 A.M. on Sunday, November 6, 2020. Fr. Kevin opened with prayer, then welcomed everyone and explained that all who are attending virtually, *via* Zoom, have been given the opportunity to submit and will be invited to vote on approval of the budget and election of nominees to the Vestry and delegates to the Diocesan Convention by email until 1:00 P.M., Sunday afternoon.

Fr. Kevin offered words of assurance that, despite the limitations created by the pandemic, our parishioners have remained faithful in their regular attendance at our Sunday services, in person or virtually. Additionally, many have participated in regular prayer service and committee meetings. He commented that, having given more than \$50,000 to local, national, and international mission, we have remained consistent in our outreach to others less fortunate than we. Fr. Kevin thanked Cora, Connie, Lisa, Barbara, and all the “roadies,” who had assisted in broadcasting our regular services throughout the year.

Sr. Warden Gordon Fronk informed the parishioners of the procedure for selecting Vestry nominees, whereby the Senior Warden and three retiring Vestry members constitute the Nominations Committee. This year, Meg van den Berg, Bill Ritchie, and Ed Delaney (who stood in after the passing of our beloved Otts Schnellenberger) considered over 40 well qualified parishioners, from whom they selected the three persons to be nominated to serve for the three-year term commencing January 1, 2021.

Gordon moved the nominations of Loretta Blume, Susan Segal, and Michelle Mactavish. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by all attending in person.

Next, Gordon reported that newly-elected Vestry members are asked to serve as delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese, which will be held, using Zoom, in March 2021. Loretta and Michelle are willing and able to attend; however, Susan’s internet reception is very unstable, so she requested that another person be chosen. Ray Munsch agreed to serve as the third delegate. David Wangsness and Gordon agreed to serve as alternates. Gordon moved the approval of the delegates and alternates. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by all attending in person.

Gordon thanked the retiring Vestry members, Meg, Bill, and Otts, for their devoted service to our parish over the past three years. He expressed his hope that Meg would assist in the transition of the scheduling of lectors, acolytes and ushers and remain involved in the life of our parish. He thanked Bill for his detailed attention to our buildings and grounds and noted that Bill had agreed to continue to serve in the role as Junior Warden. And he expressed optimism that someone would assume the active role with Habitat for Humanity, which Otts had faithfully served over the past several years.

Dave Wangsness provided an overview of the 2020 financial status of the parish and presented a proposed budget for 2021.

2020 Financial Update: Although it has been an extremely challenging year, pledges through September have been on budget. The congregation was thanked for maintaining its pledges during a very difficult year. Also, during April, we applied for and received \$33.5K from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Finally, not knowing what the impact of the pandemic might be, the Vestry made an effort to reduce the church’s daily operating expenses. Primary reductions were in the area of facilities (utilities and custodial services), which were not being utilized at the budgeted level, and expenses for worship and music. In summary, with the addition of higher revenue from the PPP and lower operating expenses, the church is expected to generate an operating surplus in 2020. This healthy surplus has allowed us to pay for the additional mission needs, due to the pandemic, and absorb some of the capital requirements incurred to meet the challenge of virtual services.

2021 Preliminary Budget : A Preliminary Budget for 2021 was then presented. The challenges from the pandemic are expected to continue for some time during 2021. As a result, the budget for 2021 continues to be conservative and reflects no increase from the budgeted 2020 pledge level. In addition, because no new federal program, similar to PPP, can be assumed, total revenues for 2021 will likely be lower than 2020 by the amount received for the PPP. Finally, as we begin to recover from the pandemic, operating expenses will exceed those of 2020, as we increase the utilization of our buildings. In summary, with pledges remaining at the same level budgeted in 2020

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Holiday Music

Denise Nathanson, Cello and Cora Bruner, Piano

December 13, 2020 4 p.m.

virtual: www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org Orange Button

Are you ready for beautiful holiday music? Join us Sunday, December 13th, at 4 p.m. online. Denise and Cora will be sharing the music of Bach, traditional carols, a jazzy Brooklyn Duo arrangement, Nutcracker music, and a beautiful music prayer. *Wachet Auf* (Bach) is one of our favorites, followed by an exquisite Jewish prayer, *Oseh Shalom*. We laugh and laugh and laugh playing the *Hanukkah Medley* and the *Nutcracker Suite*, bringing back memories of Denise's early orchestra days and my crazy elementary music teaching activities for young children. This music making is uplifting to us and we know it will brighten your spirit, make you smile, and give you a great afternoon. A gift from us to you! Enjoy!



Caroling

We all are going a little stir crazy, so let's have some fun together. The pandemic restrictions do not prevent us from having a good time, thanks to the wonderful world of Zoom! We have scheduled an afternoon Caroling activity to help us to connect us a community and raise our spirits.

An evening of Caroling

What is a Christmas season without a bit of caroling? Join us at 4:00 pm on Sunday December 20th. Cora our favorite musical elf will dance across the keyboard, leading us in rousing renditions of our favorite carols. We even have a few surprises planned for the event. Heat up some hot chocolate or mulled cider, put on your favorite Christmas apparel and get ready to sing the night away!

To join in go to our web page www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the **Green** Activity Service button

Continued from page 6

and expenses increasing to the level budgeted for 2020, we are presenting a budget for 2021 that is essentially the same as the budget for 2020.

Dave moved the approval of the 2021 Preliminary budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by all attending in person, but held open, pending the vote of online attendees.

Fr. Kevin invited questions from those attending in person, and then gave the benediction to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Fronk

Christmas Services: Due the constantly changing pandemic picture, it has been difficult to know what we will and will not be able to plan on for Christmas services. Whether we will be able to hold any in-person services in the church will continue to be evaluated. The format and a schedule for these services will be set and sent out by December 18th.

However, one service that you can mark on your calendar is our **Christmas Pageant**. We will host a Christmas Pageant service on the front lawn at our creche on **Christmas Eve, Thursday December 24th at 3 pm**. Our Sunday School children will enact the Christmas story which will be accompanied by narration and music. It will be a joyous time we can gather as a community and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Advent Sunday





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.



December's Birth Flower



December

Narcissus flower signifies achievement, good wishes, character, festivity and wealth. You like to achieve all your dreams in life as you are too focused on your goals. You believe in true love and you are loyal in love. Love of your family plays an important part in your life.