



Lifeline

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

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

An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Dear Holy Trinity Family:

From the early days of our faith, Christians have observed the remembrance of Christ's passion and resurrection with great reverence. By keeping the season of Lent, we take to heart God's call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and practice in our daily lives the work of reconciliation. I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To make a right beginning to this season it has been our tradition to receive the mark of ashes as a reminder of our mortal nature and of God's invitation to receive Christ's redeeming work. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter. This year, as with so many aspects of life, our traditions must be adapted to ensure the safety and preserve the good health of our parish. Therefore, the imposition of ashes will be handled differently this year. Please see the Ash Wednesday services article on page 4 for details.

There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith, for the support of others and of the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. I commend to you as a guide for your meditation during Lent this prayer of Desmond Tutu:



Disturb us, O Lord
when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we
dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord
when with the abundance of things we
possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow
dim.

Stir us, O Lord
to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the
stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back the
horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow.
Amen

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Ash Wednesday Service

See Article on Page 4 for Details



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- A word of gratitude to the women of the **ECW and all the donors** to the “Gift Giving” campaign. Your concern for the welfare of those in need is inspirational. Bless you all.
- Thank you to **Tim Duncan**, slate roofer extraordinaire, for the beautiful work he completed installing the copper cap on our church roof. This work will greatly lengthen the longevity of our slate roof.
- Thank you to **Bill Ritchie** for all he does each week to keep our buildings in good order and enhance the beauty of our facilities.
- Thank you to **Al and Eleanor Smith** for the donation of the historic melodeon which will grace our new chapel.
- Thank you to **Bob Shannahan** for his donation of two beautiful Michael Murray church paintings to Holy Trinity.
- Thank you to **Josh and Will Schmidt** for starting up a monthly distribution of a meal to our Lunch Bunch recipients.
- Much gratitude to **Deacon Dr. Lisa Webb** for her inspiring sermons.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Virtual Coffee hour



Join us Sundays immediately after our 9:30 am worship service for a virtual coffee hour. With the cooler weather and suspension of outdoor services we are seeing less of one another. This will create an opportunity for us to connect, share stories, and actually see one another! To conduct this social-activity we will use the regular Zoom meeting format. To access it, sign out of the service and click on the **Green** “Click Here for Morning Prayer and Other Activities via Zoom” button at www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org.

Forward Day by Day

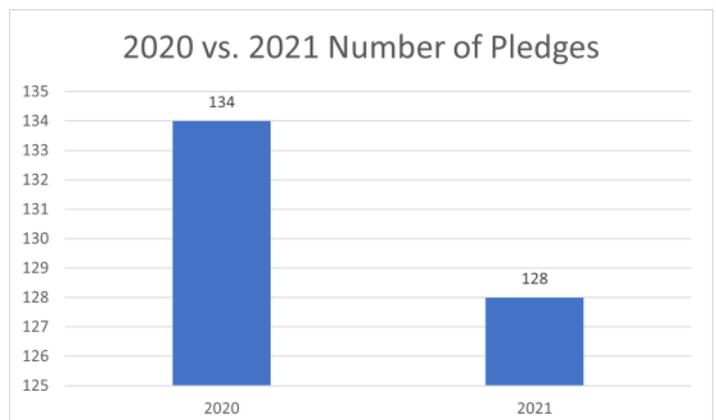
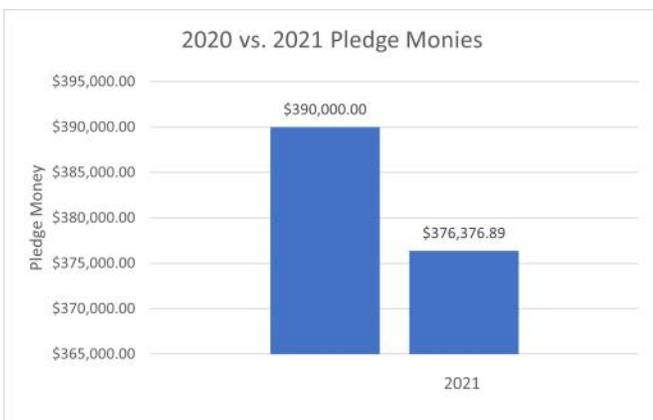


Many of you enjoy starting your day with a meditation from the devotional Forward Day by Day. We have received our order of booklets for February/March/April. Since the parish hall is not accessible we have left copies on the table outside the entrance to the hall for you to pick up or we would be happy to send you a copy by mail. If inclement weather and you are planning to pick up, call the office and we will tape one on the Parish Hall door in an envelope with your name. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the parish office. This daily prayer resource is available in regular and large print.

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





WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will start the New Year with a novel about family, friendships and faith. *Tending Roses* by Lisa Wingate

Zoom meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

February 3rd & 17th & March 3rd & 17th

9:00 am - 10:30 am

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or

beverlyrohman@gmail.com



Lenten Study 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. We will conduct this series on five consecutive Tuesdays throughout Lent via 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.

Tuesdays, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm via Zoom
5 Weekly Sessions, Beginning February 23rd

Register for the course by emailing or calling the parish office. *After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

Fr. Kevin

Donations To Help Our Brothers and Sisters

“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 Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) has exciting news. They are opening a new shelter right next door to the current building. While the current shelter is for families, the new one will be for single people. The two Shelters can always use donations of household supplies, diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6), and food. Our Mission team adopted the Shelter as one of our primary relationships this year and contributed \$1500 to a matching gift program. **Our Sunday School children decided to contribute cloth masks and hand sanitizer for the children who are guests at the shelter.** You may drop off donations at: 107 Goldsborough St., Easton, MD 21601.

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.

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.

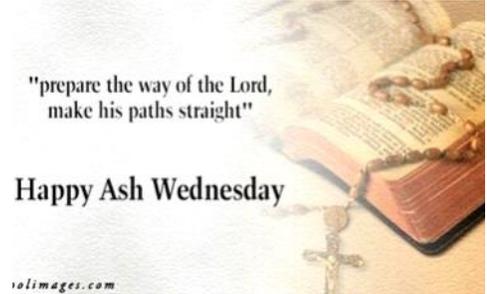
“Let not the needy O Lord, be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away.” BCP pg 98 Amen.

Holy Trinity Milestones

Passed On:

Betty Hansen

Mary Clubb



"prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight"

Happy Ash Wednesday

solimages.com

Ash Wednesday Service

8:30 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Via Zoom. Click on the **Blue** "Click Here to View Remote Service" button on the church web page.

6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Via Zoom. Click on the **Green** "Click Here" button at the bottom of the church web page.

Please note in order to stay safe during this time of pandemic, ashes will not be able to be imposed in-person. However, small packets of blessed ashes for self-imposition during the service will be available to be picked up at the parish hall as of Thursday, February 4th.

The Gospel According to You

There is a wonderful old story
Written in a time long gone:
It is the Gospel according to
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
The Gospels were given to show us
The power of God's love divine
May that story be told again
In the writing of your life and mine.
People read and admire the Gospel
With its love so inspiring and true
But what do they say and think of
The Gospel according to you?
You are writing a gospel
A chapter every day
By deeds that you do
By words that you say
You are writing each day a gospel
Take care that the writing is true
For the only gospel some will read
Is the gospel according to you.

Inspirational Sayings Given To Us by Community Members

You are my vision in the day my dreams in the night.—(we can apply this as our love of God)

To be surprised by(fill in the blank), hers was Joy. Thank you e. e. cummings

When it's dark, look for stars. When it rains, look for rainbows.

Forgive others. Forgive yourself. Accept forgiveness from others and from God. Breathe again.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever.

Sunday School

On Sunday, January 24, the Sunday School held a Zoom meeting to check in and to make some decisions. Letters and comments from many grateful parishioners and lunch bunch folks who had received cards and crafts from the children were shared. One person even sent a check for the Sunday School children to decide how to use it.

The children were very thoughtful as they discussed how to spend this money. They decided to send bottles of hand sanitizer with the lunches that Will and Josh Schmidt are doing on February 10 and to make Valentines. They also decided to donate masks and hand sanitizer to the Interfaith Shelter or Neighborhood Service Center if needed. Additionally, they decided that some of the money should go for the Change for Change project. (Please see a separate article about that).

We had not had a Zoom meeting since early Fall, and the children are now experts. They know to raise their hands and mute and unmute themselves. Most importantly, they are kind, loving, caring children who are carrying on what Jesus taught us to do.

Barbara Cross

Change for Change

As many know, the Change for Change event is held by the Sunday school of Holy Trinity yearly. Thanks to the generous donations of past parishioners, we have been able to aid people in need throughout the years. Due to the impact of COVID-19, we are unable to collect and count physical change this year. However, check donations are a way to help sustain Change for Change during the pandemic. Donations can be sent to the church designating Change for Change in the memo. The church's address is PO BOX 387 Oxford, MD 21654. The contributions for Change for Change not only impact our community, but the greater world as a whole. Thank you for your generosity!

Grace Meyerle



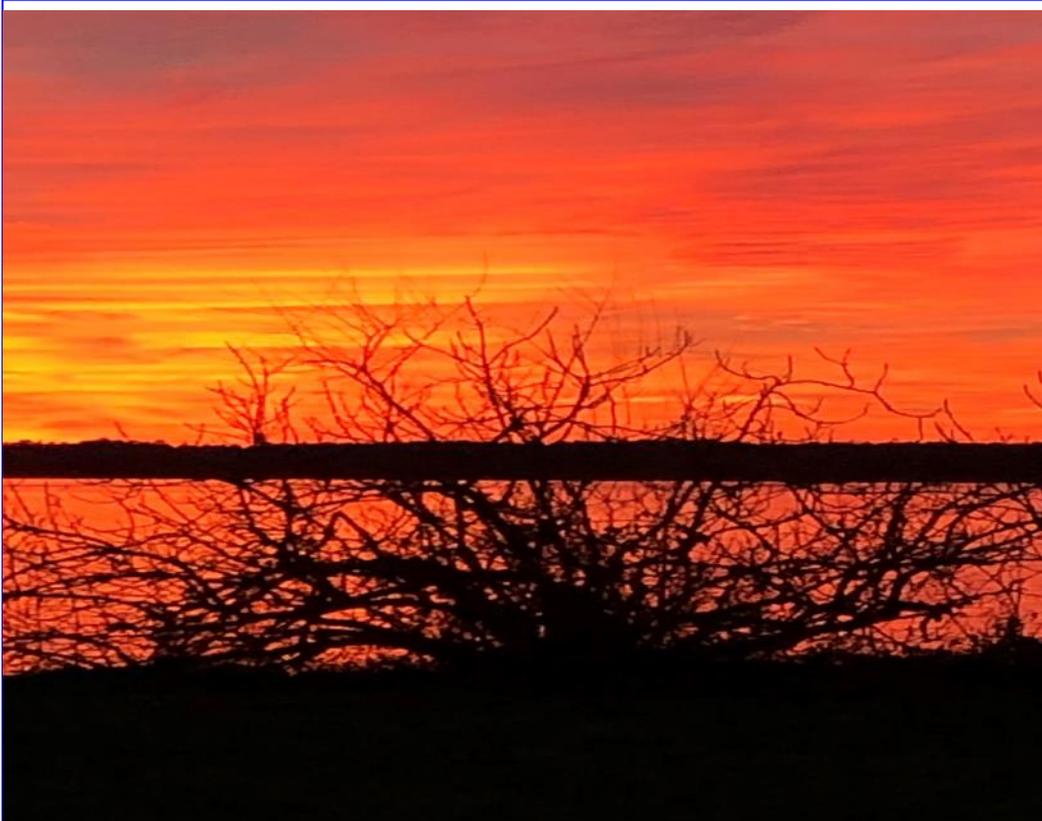
Inquiring Believers

The Inquiring Believers is the name of the men's Bible study group. We are believers who nevertheless have questions. We have transitioned to Zoom during the pandemic but have continued to meet regularly. We meet every Monday evening at 6:00 PM and will do so through the remainder of the winter and spring until mid-May. There is a strong core group of eight individuals plus a number of others who join as they are able. We do not shrink from challenges as evidenced by the fact that we are currently working our way through the Book of Revelation (with some guidance from N.T. Wright).

Although studying the Bible is our purpose, discussions can often range far afield. The camaraderie is always good and we welcome anyone who would be interested in joining. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Ray Munsch at 215-356-2481 or raymunsch@gmail.com.



Tim and Crew working on the Church's Roof Cap on a Dreary Looking Day



The place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Exodus 3:5b



Music

This unique mid-19th century reed organ has found a new home at The Church of the Holy Trinity. We are pleased and excited to receive this early American reed organ, dating from the mid-1800s. The Melodeon was built by the Estey and Green Company (Battleboro, VT), an early world leader in the designing and building of reed organs. Portable Melodeons were often found in home parlors and easily transported to places that required music: such as, camp meetings, Civil War battlefields, church and community gatherings. Melodeons were designed for easy shipping and even made their way to the tropics, where they were not affected by heat and humidity! To play, one sits on an accompanying stool, folds back the wooden lid, and pumps the pedals. When the pedal(s) is pumped, air flowed over the reeds creating sound. Often there is a second pedal that regulates volume.

We are excited to receive this beautifully well-kept instrument from Al and Eleanor Smith. It has been a treasured part of the Smith Family, originating with the mother of Mrs. Claire Smith. Upon restoration, the Melodeon will be placed in the Chapel.

Music

The Dream is Alive!

Ten years ago, looking out on The Tred Avon River, a dream was born. Buildings full of people listening to amateur and professional musicians. Making new friends, lots of good food, and opportunities to build relationships to last a lifetime. A place where local and professional musicians can call "home." Almost overnight, it happened! Phenomenal musicians call Holy Trinity home, often after one visit. COVID has prohibited our music friends from spending time with us and sharing their incredible talents this year. We are in touch and planning how to reconnect, beginning this Spring. Stay tuned and look for our safely executed Lawn Concerts. One of these friends has missed you so much, a special treat is in the works! We will share more in the next few weeks.

Dr. Cora Bruner



Shrove Tuesday Virtual Social Hour

Special invite to share your favorite pancake/madri gras



meal with your friends at Holy Trinity. Do it up big with decorative costumes and king cake! To join the party go to www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the **Green** button at the bottom of the page.



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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.

February's Birth Flower



February

Violet flower signifies humility, virtue and moral. You always give your best shot in life and stay positive. You have an innate ability to learn new things. Wisdom comes naturally to you, as you are bright and intelligent. You always follow your heart.