



Lifeline

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 3

March 2021

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



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

The Desert Journey

God, let us not be lost in the desert of an empty life but rather let us hear your words and let them wash over us with the refreshing waters of your love and forgiveness.

The gospel of Mark notes that after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, *"the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness."* *"The Spirit immediately **drove** him out into the wilderness."* It certainly does not sound like he freely and easily decided to go to the desert. Rather it took a force to propel him out into the harsh desert wilderness. A wilderness of extreme heat during the day and bone chilling cold at night. A wilderness of parched land and dried-up scrubs. A wilderness of flat open space, dry, brown-yellow hills, and craggy cliffs. A wilderness of vast open sky. A wilderness of snakes, scorpions, and wild beasts. A wilderness with little comfort and no companionship. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts... It strikes me that we all have been driven into a desert this past year – the desert of the pandemic. We have all experience hardships and deprivation. I am sure we could spend quite a bit of time describing what we have lost this year. But I wonder if we have not also gained and been enriched in some ways. We have after all needed to learn to adapt to a new way of life. David Brooks came out with a brilliant book this past year [The Second Mountain: The Quest for the Moral Life](#). His book is a meditation on his experience of learning the importance of living a meaningful life.



He found that the first mountain he climbed in life was all about personal achievement and worldly success. Yet he found the climb to the second mountain in life was the more satisfying and meaningful. It was only after experiencing hardship that led down from that first mountain of the self into the valley of hardship and despair that he was able to find and begin to climb the second mountain which is of community and the other. *"The people who are made larger by suffering go on to stage two small rebellions. First they rebel against their ego ideal. When they were on their first mountain, their ego had some vision of what it was shooting for – some vision of prominence, pleasure, and success. Down in the valley they lose interest in their ego ideal...overall, they realize the desires of the ego are never going to satisfy the deep regions they have discovered in themselves. They realize as Henri Nouwen put it, that they are much better than their ego ideal. Second, they rebel against the mainstream culture...suddenly they are not interested in what other people tell them to want. They want to want things that are truly worth wanting. They elevate their desires. The world tells them to be a good consumer, but they want to be the one **consumed-by a moral cause.**"* I cannot do this book justice in a brief meditation, but I think what David is describing is the path Jesus was thrust on when he was driven to the desert. He was profoundly transformed by the desert experience. His life became completely focused on the other. We as the followers of Jesus are destined to take the same path. We are challenged to come down from our first mountain of the ego and climb the second mountain of meaningfulness. We are called to live lives based on the other, not the self. I expect that you like me have had plenty of time this past year to reflect on your life. I pray that you have felt driven toward making life going forward one of meaning and beauty. We have experienced the loss of life literally and figuratively this past year. I know I will never take life for granted as much as I did in the past. This desert experience has driven me to see life as something precious and fleeting. I do not want to waste one minute of it on meaningless activity. I want for myself and wish for you a life of meaningfulness, interdependence with deep joy only found in living a life of purpose. Let us all use our experience from the pandemic and this time of Lent to go forward and *"repent and believe in the good news."* As David did on his journey let us turn our lives around and put God and "the other" at the heart of daily words and actions. Let us find out true selves in service to a higher cause.

Blessings, Fr. Kevin



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- A word of gratitude for Connie Greenhawk who keeps us on track, handles all of our communications, administers that which is to be administered and most especially for sharing her welcoming, joyful heart.
- Thank you to **Josh and Will Schmidt** for continuing their ministry of food and fellowship with the home bound in Oxford and Trappe.
- An abundance of gratitude to our **Sunday School children** who gladdened many hearts with their Valentine cards. You bring joy to all of us.
- Thank you to all of you have who have so generously pledged to support Holy Trinity in 2021. Your contributions help make our ministry possible.
- Thank you to Barbara, Cora, and Lisa for helping facilitate out Instructed Eucharist on the first Sunday of Lent and thank you to God for inspiring timely and correct action to resolve our technical difficulties.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Contributed by Pucky Lippincott

If you're spiritually alive you're going to love this!
 If you're spiritually dead you won't want to read it.
 If you're spiritually curious there is still hope!
 A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

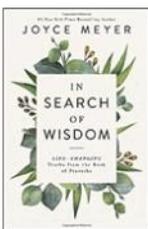
Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions

Before Leaving Earth!

WOMAN ON A JOURNEY



Women on a Journey have started a new book just released

In Search for Wisdom by Joyce Meyer

This book will take us on a journey exploring Life-Changing Truths in the A word of gratitude for Connie Greenhawk who keeps us on track, handles all of our communications, administers that which is to be administered and most especially for sharing her welcoming, joyful heart.

Thank you to **Josh and Will Schmidt** for continuing their ministry of food and fellow-

Holy Trinity Milestones

Passed on: **Katherine Bainbridge**

Priscilla Thut



Connie's Corner

Words to be inspired by

Dear God:

Enlighten what's dark in me
 Strengthen what's weak in me
 Mend what's broken in me
 Bind what's bruised in me
 Heal what's sick in me and lastly
 Revive whatever peace and love has died in me

Friends are the flowers that makes life beautiful.

We don't meet people by accident. Everyone is meant to cross our path for a reason.

Its always nice to have someone in your life who makes you smile even when they are not around.

If you would like to submit a favorite saying or thought, email to Connie at office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org

Church of the Holy Trinity



ECW PLANT SALE – Re-imagined!

With Spring just around the corner and the traditions of Oxford Day not available to us this year, ECW has designed a solution that makes our annual Plant Sale possible, while keeping everyone safe! *Please take advantage of this contactless way to buy beautiful plants AND support the local mission work of ECW and Holy Trinity!*

All purchases must be ordered and pre-paid for a

COVID-CAREFUL curbside pick-up on:

Saturday April 24, 2021

Pre-sale order forms for Geraniums, Begonias, Impatiens and Hanging Baskets will be available soon and in the April Lifeline

Lots of helpers are needed for pick-up day. Please contact

Beverly Rohman at beverlyrohman@gmail.com or 410-829-9561 or Earl Segal at earl.segal@gmail.com or 703-407-8184

ALL Proceeds Support Local Missions!

Food Donations

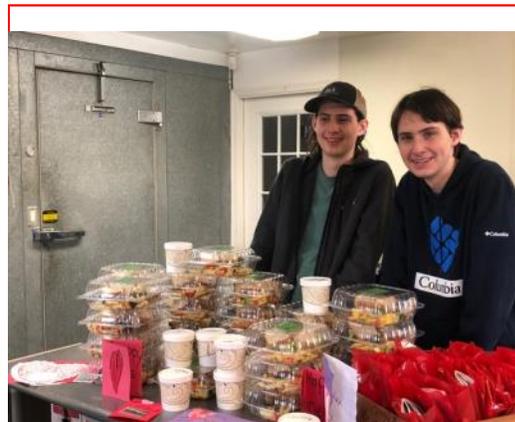
“For whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”. Matthew 10:42

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



Two Valentine's Making Valentine Lunch for Our Lunch Bunch Clientele

God Meets You Where You Are” – Thoughts on Prayer

“What’s the best way to pray? The answer is whatever you are comfortable with. God meets you where you are.” Fr. James Martin S.J. Fr Martin has just written an instructional book on prayer which turned my thoughts to the practice of prayer. I like to think of prayer as the respiration system for our spirit. It is necessary time for the health of our soul when we breathe in the love of God and breathe out that same love. “We Breathe Love in. It’s the very essence of our existence, the very air of our souls.” - Will Kent Krueger.

This Tender Land

Last Spring, we offered a series on prayer and began with this quote from the **Book of Common Prayer**:
Q: What is prayer? A: Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words. Our prayer book is an excellent source of written prayers for almost every occasion. However, we should not lose sight of the foundation of prayer – time dwelt in the knowledge of God’s presence. This time may be filled with silence, the recitation of prayers, reading the psalms or other scripture, or it may involve using the variety of modes of the human experience through sight, sound, or action. There is no one “perfect” formula for everyone on every occasion. As St. Ignatius wrote, “It is dangerous to make everyone go forward by the same road.”

Personally, I like to think of prayer as a time for a sit down, a conversation with God. At our Sunday services I usually introduce the Prayers of the People with the statement that our God loves to hear from us. The other half of that equation is we love to hear from God. The simple fact is that we cannot hear from God unless we create the time and space to listen. Our recent study of Bishop Curry’s book, Love is the Way, emphasized the importance of building relationships as a foundation for healthy communication. What applies to human relationships also applies to our relationship with God. It must be a mutual exchange.

We cannot listen if our prayer time is filled up with requests - a habit too easy to fall into. Prayer is not just about asking. Certainly, petitions are part of our prayer experience. I am sure we all pray for a personal need or the welfare of another. There is nothing wrong in doing so. “The purest form of love is given with no expectation of return. Measured by this standard, earnest prayer for others is a magnificent act of love.” David Hubbard



However, we miss out on the richness of the prayer experience if our time with God is only about petitions. We need to leave time in the conversation for God to respond to us. I think this can be understood in the context of our daily conversations with each other. If we are with a friend but the time is totally consumed by the “other” dominating the discussion it often leads to a less than fulfilling experience. Imagine how God feels if He cannot get a word in edgewise! “You beg, You whimper. You load God down with empty praise. You tell him sins that he already knows full well. You seek to change His changeless will... And sometimes, by God’s grace, a prayer is heard.” Frederick Buechner

How does one pray? As previously stated, there is no one formula. Prayer like anything else in life takes experimentation and time. What works for one may not work for the other. What works in one phase of life may not be suitable for another. Throughout life prayer is a journey of exploration and evolution. “We do not want to be beginners at prayer. But let us be convinced of the fact that we will never be anything but beginners, all our life.” Thomas Merton

One of my favorite models for prayer is Brother Lawrence. Lawrence was a 17th century monk who was known for his cheerfulness and easy ways. He developed a simple way of praying from his heart which he called “practicing the presence of God.” And he learned to commune with God continuously, not only in church or personal devotions, but also as he worked in the kitchen, ran errands, or listened to people. His simple practice of prayer gives encouragement to all of us. One need not have a PhD. to pray. We humans have the tendency to overcomplicate everything. The simplest, purest form of prayer is doing what comes natural to us a relational being: talking and listening to God. Nonetheless it can be helpful to have guidance for our prayer life. On our website there is a section of prayer resources. I also commend to you Fr. Martin’s new book Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone; and Prayer by Philip Yancy.



Blessings, Fr. Kevin

Sunday School

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

Love keeps giving!

This year with Covid we have had to think of creative ways to stay connected. One way we have done this is by having the children periodically make cards to send to others and to accompany the lunch Bunch meals. For Valentine's Day we had many fun, creative cards and Will Straub made over forty Valentine goody bags!

We have received many thank you's and phone calls for sending those cards. One parishioner even made a donation with the understanding that the Sunday school children would decide how to utilize the money. They met on Zoom and one of the things they decided was to buy masks for the children at The Interfaith Shelter. Twenty masks were purchased and the accompanying picture shows them. Your Mission Team voted to purchase masks for the adult residents there.

The children are now at work on making crafts and cards to send for Easter. As one parishioner wrote to the children, "I was thrilled to receive your card, but even more than that, I was touched by your showing God's love to someone you don't even know."

After the Easter crafts and cards, our final project for the school year will be deciding what to purchase from your donations to our Lenten Change for Change project. Thank you so much for your generosity. I realize that this year is different where you cannot drop off the change you have been saving, but due to Covid we need to have checks or dollar bills sent this year. Please make sure to mark that this is for the change for change project. I am thrilled to say that so far we have collected over \$600! There are a lot of needy people out there so please give whatever you can so that the children can help them. They are incredibly thoughtful and I feel honored every year to be there when they discuss how to best utilize these donations that you give. Thank you.

Barbara Cross



Holy Trinity
Blessed with Snow
on a Winter's Day



MUSIC

American Spiritual Ensemble Virtual Concert The Power of Spirituals

The American Spiritual Ensemble is not able to conduct their Winter/Spring Concert Tour this year. Instead, Dr. Everett McCorvey has created a virtual concert to bring the Ensemble into our homes. He has worked with Dr. Eileen Guenther to share first person narratives from slaves, from her book *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and The Power of Spirituals*, connecting accounts with spirituals. The National Underground Freedom Center, Cincinnati OH, has also joined the concert sharing some of their holdings to enhance the song.

Holy Trinity is very excited to be a sponsor of The ASE Virtual Concert. Dr. McCorvey has made it possible for us to share this concert with you and the Oxford Church Communities. This concert may not be shared or placed on any social platforms, such as Facebook, YouTube, etc. **We will send you a notice on Wednesday, March 3rd with the concert link and passcode.** Thursday March 4th, at 7 p.m., or after, you may access the link and passcode will be "live." You may watch the concert at your convenience until midnight March 5th. Beginning March 6th the concert will be pay-for-view and our link/passcode will not work. We are trusting that everyone will follow Dr. McCorvey's wishes and enjoy this amazing concert.

If you would like a little teaser access <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/310885/505464055>. Click on the "Watch Trailer" icon directly under the ASE picture to view the "commercial," do not click on Pay \$10.00 or anywhere else. . . just "Trailer." We hope you will access the concert. There are quite a few familiar faces you may recognize from past ASE concerts, Broadway shows, and opera performances throughout the United States. Ensemble members are excited Holy Trinity has partnered in this project and send their love and greetings!



Bishop’s Annual Appeal

“I write to appeal to members of our diocesan family to make a generous donation to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. It is customary for this fund to be serviced from the special offering taken at the Bishop’s Annual Visitation to parishes. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly restricted visitation to parishes. Yet at the same time the care, concerns and needs of God’s beloved has continued unabated, and even more so in a time of pandemic. As a result, the fund is severely depleted. The bishop doesn’t anticipate resuming regular parish visitation until either most of our sisters and brothers are vaccinated, or by God’s grace, the overwhelming threat posed by the virus to health and safety has significantly diminished. Over the years I have seen the generosity of our Diocesan family as we have tended to one another, our communities, and our global brothers and sisters. It is with a grateful heart that I mail this letter, confident that our Episcopal family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland will open their hearts and give generously to this year’s Epiphany and Lenten Appeal. May this generous effort remain a powerful demonstration of support and solidarity. A sign of our commitment and empathy with the efforts envisioned in helping to return the lives of God’s beloved to some semblance of normalcy. My beloved in Christ, I implore your generosity and encourage you to give lavishly to this remarkably noble and hopeful cause. You may do so through your parish or send checks to Diocese of Easton, 314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601, with a notation indicating “Bishop’s Epiphany and Lenten Appeal.”

Every blessing and love!

Together in Christ’s service,
+San

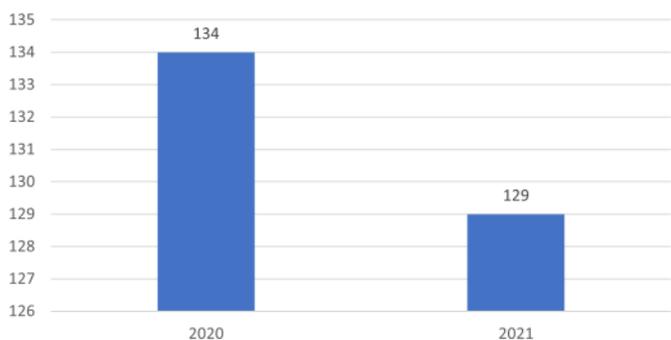
ANNUAL APPEAL – Your 2021 pledge as we safely remain “Socially distant, spiritually connected!”

Please remember to return your Pledge Card.

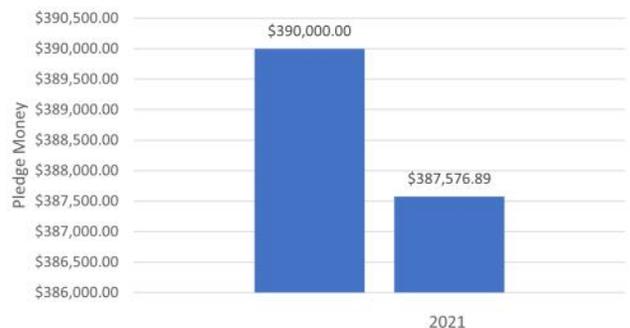
On behalf of the Church of the Holy Trinity, thank you for your support. Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Sandy & Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal

2020 vs. 2021 Number of Pledges



2020 vs. 2021 Pledge Monies





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.



March's Birth Flower



March

Daffodil flower signifies fresh start, admiration, buoyancy, and compassion. You have a very imaginative bent in life so you are inclined towards art. You always channelize your energy in positive things. You are great at handling difficult situations of life. You are kind-hearted by nature.

www.wishafriend.com