



Lifeline

VOLUME 14
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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*



New Mission Initiatives

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” James 2:14-26

The pandemic has affected most everything in life. Like so much else, our direct involvement in Mission activities was radically changed by the pandemic. While our tradition has been to support mission ministry through action and funding, the ability to be involved with hands on activities had to be put on hold. However, such limitations did not stop us from continuing to help those in need during this time. This past year the best way we could offer our help was through providing financial support to organizations and individuals in need. Our annual mission funding goal is to provide an amount equal to a tithe (10%) of our operating budget. These donations are typically funded through the parish Mission fund, ECW, Sunday School, the Rector's Discretionary fund, and special fundraisers. You are a generous and caring people. In 2020 we provided over \$60,000 or 15% of our operating budget in funding to assist local, national, and international relief organizations and to local individuals in need.

As the pandemic begins to ease, I would like to slowly start some more hands on mission activities to encourage parish emotional and spiritual involvement, rather than just financial involvement. Amazingly the Wednesday Lunch Bunch has continued on the second Wednesday of the month through the admirable leadership and dedication of Josh and Will Schmidt working out of their parents' Garden and Garnish kitchen. I am also pleased to announce that as of March the regular Lunch Bunch crew was able to reinstate their program using the parish hall kitchen on the last Wednesday of the month. Good things are happening! Beginning in May, to enable all of our parishioners to participate in mission ministry, we will develop a particular mission activity each month that will enable safe personal involvement.

May Mission Project – Gratitude Cards

Let's show our appreciation to all the essential workers who have helped us all get through these challenging times. We can express our gratitude to the health care workers, town employees, fire and EMT volunteers, teachers, and sanitization workers who have kept us safe, enriching our lives during challenging times. **I invite all of you to create and write thank-you cards and notes of gratitude to these wonderful members of our community.** Please keep your message generic so that we can distribute as many cards as we receive to as wide an audience as possible. We will collect these cards at the parish office through May 15th. Once we have the cards, which we hope will be many, we will distribute them. This is a safe activity that we hope everyone will be interested in and able to support. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134



Blessings, Fr. Kevin



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Tremendous thanks to the ECW and all of their volunteers for hosting our Annual Spring Plant Sale – With a Difference! They creatively adapted the sale to be conducted in a safe manner during these times of pandemic. God was smiling gracing that day with sunshine warmth and good fellowship. All funds raised by this sale will be designated to assist with local mission needs. Our ECW members are to be commended for their creativity and dedication.
- Much thanks to Josh and Will Schmidt for continuing their second Wednesday of the month Lunch Bunch ministry. You boys are leading the way! Thanks and joy also for our regular Lunch Bunch team who have resumed their involvement in this activity on the last Wednesday of the month. Thanks to all involved in the meal preparation and delivery!
- We have much gratitude for the Vestry and their support of installing a state of the art HVAC filtration system. This system has enabled the use of the kitchen and hosting indoor services on Sundays at 8:00 am.
- Great appreciation and gratitude to our Sunday School teachers, especially Barbara Cross who have helped our children continuing to learn about the loving ways of Jesus. And, a tremendous amount of gratitude to our Sunday School children. Your Change for Change program will improve the lives of many of those in need around the world. Jesus is well pleased with your work (see article on Change for Change on page XX).
- Thank you to Suzanne Litty, Ingird Blanton, and Bonnie Stevens for gracing our altar with flowers. Thank you to all who have donated the flowers.
- Thank you to our Altar Guild who have resumed their essential ministry to support our services.

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CHEERS and APPRECIATION Continued

- Thanks also to the Sunday morning outdoor set up crew, the Holy Trinity Roadies. We had a marvelous service on Easter and are enjoying our time in God's creation each Sunday. We could not do it without you!
- Deep appreciation and gratitude to all of our healthcare and essential workers who have helped us cope with the pandemic and be able to begin to return to a resumption of normal activities. There are not enough words to express our thankfulness

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Connie's Corner

Happiness is found when you stop comparing yourself to other people.

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness and bad days give you experience.

Without rain nothing grows. Learn to embrace the storms of your life.

May's garden is full of flowers
 While you ponder about life for hours
 Think of your garden and what it holds
 Does it reveal you as it unfolds
 Your hopes, dream, faith and love
 Many seeds of God's love from above
 Do you carry forgiveness in your heart
 Can you be the steady rock as things around you
 fall apart

Cherish each moment of every day
 And allow your garden to grow with roots that will
 Stay

Guiding you to the peaceful sandy shore
 Filling you with God's love forevermore.

Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Worship Services

We gratefully resumed in-person worship services on the second Sunday of Easter. Our services are offered with a number of options so that everyone can use one that meets their needs and concerns. We follow all CDC, Diocesan, and local guidelines in establishing our service protocols. The church and parish hall buildings are ventilated using state of art HVAC cleaning systems that use high level filtration and UV light treatment to sanitize the circulating air flow.

Weekly Morning Prayer

Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Broadcast only via Zoom.

Sunday Holy Eucharist Celebration

8:00 am Indoor Service*

Celebrate Holy Eucharist within the sacred sanctuary of our beautiful, historic church. RSVP required. This service is also broadcast via the Holy Trinity network.

9:30 am Outdoor Service*

Join us for a wonderful service amidst the glory of God's creation on the Church front lawn. Please bring a lawn chair. Weather permitting. RSVP required. This service is also broadcast via Zoom.

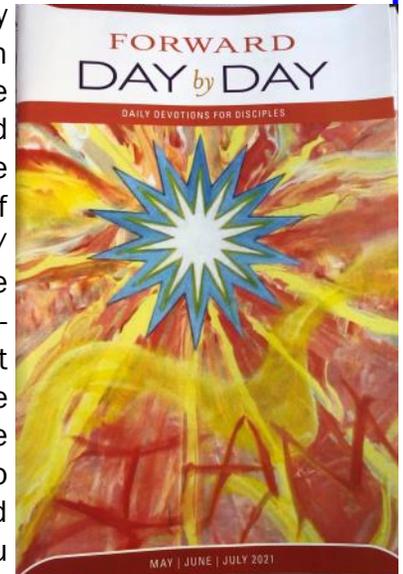
***Please note: The first Sunday of every month we hold one combined service at 9:30 am on the front lawn of the church.**

During this time of the pandemic masks and social distancing are required at all of our services.

To join any of our services by broadcast please go to our web page at www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the designated service button.

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 May/June/July. 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 in-

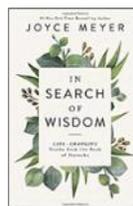


clement weather and you are planning to pick up, call the office and we will tape one on the Parish Hall door in an envelope with your name. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the parish office. This daily prayer resource is available in regular and large print.

Holy Trinity Milestones

Passed on : Edgar Bellinger

Carole Abruzzese



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will continue reading....

In Search for Wisdom by Joyce Meyer

This book will take us on a journey exploring Life-Changing Truths in the Book of Proverbs

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

May 5th & 19th 9:00 am - 10:30 am

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

beverlyrohman@gmail.com

Sunday School

COVID has not stopped the Sunday School children from continuing to serve God and carry forth God's message of love one another. Below is a sample of the Easter cards the children made and were sent to various parishioners in addition to the lunch bunch recipients.

As you know, the children continued their Lenten project of Change for Change. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1990! This is the most ever! Thank you so very much. And keep adding to your can change jar. Maybe next year we can raise over \$2000! There is so much good that the children can do with your support. They will be meeting soon to discuss how to spend the money. It is always a thoughtful discussion. ("Should we buy medicine or a soccer ball? Soccer is good because it is exercise which keeps you healthy. But people need medicine, too.") Big important discussions and decisions are made by these five to thirteen year olds. ("Should we buy a donkey, a camel, or a bike? How would they be used? Are they going to be able to feed it?") We always first put aside money for local needs, usually the Neighborhood Service Center. We also always buy two goats, a male and a female, so they can make more goats.



Again, we thank you for your support.
Barbara, Pucky, Linda, Sophie, and the Sunday School Children

Change for Change



Change for Change is hosted yearly by the Sunday School of Holy Trinity. It is a fundraising campaign to help impoverished individuals across the globe. This was a special year, as we raised the largest amount of contributions to date! Thanks to the generous donations of the parishioners of Holy Trinity, we raised \$1,990. The funds were spent on two soccer balls, stocking a school clinic, home libraries, educational supplies, malaria treatment, childhood health essentials, and a water pump. Animals such as a donkey, two pigs, and chicks were purchased, as well as support for summer learning, comfort for children at the US border, teacher tools, learning materials, a bicycle, two mosquito nets, emergency food, seeds and gardening tools, and a clean water kit. In addition, the contributions were used to help local people in need. \$435 were given to the Neighborhood Service Center.

Sadly, long-time supporters of Change for Change, Mr. and Mrs. Clubb, have passed on. They typically contributed two goats and a sheep each year. Barbara and Kevin Cross have donated two goats and a sheep in honor of their devotion to Change for Change. Change for Change was a successful endeavor thanks to the Holy Trinity community. - **Grace Meyerle**





ECW PLANT SALE – *Re-imagined!*

Although Oxford Day was cancelled again this year, there was a festive, colorful Plant Presence on the church lawn Saturday, April 24th. Our traditional ECW Plant Sale was held in a different, but hugely successful way. Our parishioners and many in the Oxford community were able to pre-order plants for a *COVID-CAREFUL curbside pick-up*. More than 400 plants were sold and teams of volunteers – led by our coordinator extraordinaire, Earl Segal – helped to arrange them for easy pick up on Friday and Saturday. Two picture perfect days made for a welcomed event for Holy Trinity, Oxford neighbors and visitors. It was wonderful to be together again!

A huge THANK YOU to our ECW team, the many volunteers and Robin's Nest for making this happen. A modest fund-raiser for Missions — with profits of \$2881.50....and, as Sandy Kaufman said, a huge “friend-raiser” for the church and community. A win-win for everyone!

Senior Warden's Message

The effervescent spirit of the parishioners of Holy Trinity was as resplendent as the beauty of the day and the flowers, which will add color to our community all summer long.

Covid could not stop the Holy Trinity annual Flower Sale two years in a row. Thanks to ECW and especially Beverly Rohman, an incredibly successful Flower Sale was organized and enjoyed by all. It took hours and hours of planning, coordination and work to create and execute the “2021 Flower Sale – Reimagined.”

Beverly ran this event with the skill and tenacity of a four-star general, working with Robin's Nest to confirm plant selection, pricing, receiving, staging, confirming orders, tracking payments, creating pickup signage for each order, directing volunteers, both Friday and Saturday, and coordinating with Robin's Nest to pick up the few remaining hanging baskets. With Beverly at the helm, Holy Trinity was able to continue the tradition, despite Oxford Day's having fallen victim to Covid-19. Thank you, Beverly.

And many thanks to all the volunteers who organized the flowers for easy pickup by each pre-order customer. Earl Segal was the consummate volunteer organizer and communicated with the skill, precision and humor, which would make him the envy of any White House Press Secretary. No less than 22 volunteers made this year a huge success. Many thanks to Earl and all the volunteers. The ultimate winners are all the local missions that will benefit from the contributions ECW will be making in the months ahead.

First Indoor Service



Clean Up



Rainbow in Church



April 18 Service



May Service Musicians

May 2nd 9:30 a.m. service Holy Trinity Choir with Melissa Wise

May 9th 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services Denise Nathanson, Cello

May 16th 9:30 a.m. service Holy Trinity Choir

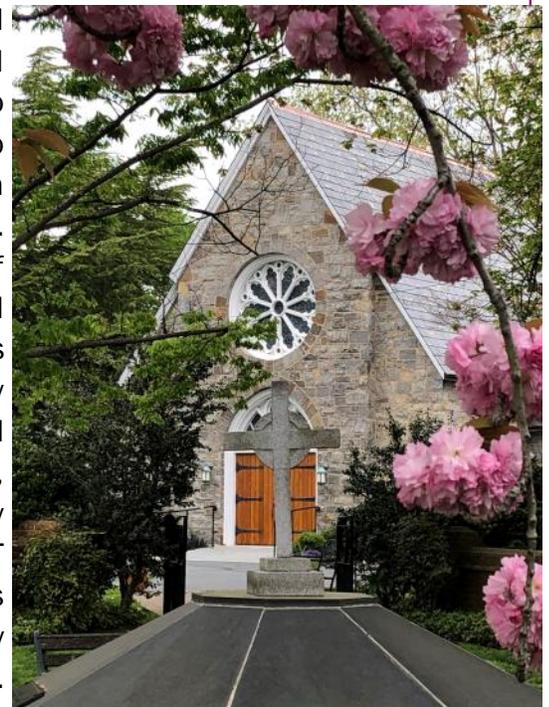
May 23rd 9:30 a.m. Delmarva Trio

The Holy Trinity Summer Choir is Here!

One of the most awaited church groups has surfaced from the Pandemic quietness. A devoted group of individuals gather to spend time together, make music, and support worship services with their talents. Choral music has been a staple of Anglican worship. This summer the choir will sing approximately twice a month at the 9:30 a.m. services. Please consider joining us for a few weeks or during the summer months. You do not have to be a super singer, just come and sing along! We are looking for ladies, men, young adults. Rehearsals are Friday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. See you soon!

My Personal Note of Gratitude

In the spirit of this month's mission theme of thanksgiving, I would like to thank all of you. Your support, understanding and prayers over the past year and a half have meant the world to me. While a diagnosis of cancer is frightening, treatment is no day at the park either. I could not have gotten on so well through my treatment program without your constant encouragement. With the backing of friends like you, this time has been one of assurance and hope. At the outset of my diagnosis, I grounded myself in Julian of Norwich's optimism "*All Shall Be Well*". It has been well, and I trust will continue to be well. My immunotherapy treatments have been suspended a bit earlier than anticipated due to some concerns about its impact on my kidneys. However, this suspension also comes on the heels of a PET scan that my oncologist described as "beautiful." While I never thought a PET scan would be described by such a term, I was glad to hear this confirmation that "All is Well." 😊 I will continue to be closely monitored with another PET scan scheduled this summer. Meanwhile, it will take me a few months to a year to have my old zippiness back but be assured I feel well, tired, but well. God bless all of you. I am forever thankful to you.



Take care. Be well. Know that you are loved.



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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.

Happy Mother's Day

