



# Lifeline

VOLUME 14  
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October 2021

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church  
[office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)



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

### GOD IS IN OUR MIDST

I think we might all agree that the news of recent days has been difficult to keep up with let alone find a way to cope with it all. The news has been filled every day with reports of the pandemic going on and on and devastation caused by hurricanes, floods, wild fires, and earthquakes. I don't know about you but I have wanted to shout out, "Enough – enough already." I am sure I am not alone in feeling that these are times that challenge our faith.

Certainly, we cannot just push aside these events. We also cannot stop ourselves from thinking that the world has become unhinged. At times like this many of us began to ask questions like "How could God ever let such a thing happen?" and "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Let me assure you that after events like we have witnessed it is not unusual nor is it wrong to feel and express anger toward God. Believe me, God has heard it all before and can handle it. I think God would prefer we be honest and frank in our prayers rather than having us pretend that God does not know we are upset. God knows. More importantly God cares.

The answer to our questions of where is God amidst all this tragedy is answered, **God is with us.** Let's be clear, our Scripture teaches us that God is not doing these things to us. The God of our faith, the God who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is a God of limitless love and compassion. There is no end to God's love for us. Where is God in all of this? God is right here suffering with us.

Yes, there are crosses in life we all need to take up and bear. But we need not let those crosses crush us under their weight. Jesus said, "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." "I will give you rest." In difficult times, if we seek him, we find that God is right alongside of us. We may also find in such times, that the best of our nature, that which is created in the image of God, shines forth from our sisters and brothers in great acts of sacrifice and kindness.

If we place our faith in God, no matter how small that faith may be, it can help us get through. We may not get the answer we want or the result we think we need, but we can take comfort in knowing that God is with us in the struggle. God does not abandon us. God blesses us even in times of hardship. I have found it so in my struggles. And, let's think about it: God did not abandon the Israelites in Egypt or Babylon. He did not abandon the world after the crucifixion. He did not abandon the early Christian community amidst the persecutions. So why would we even think God would abandon us now? Indeed, there are crosses that each of us must take up in our lives. However, God asks us to also take up faith. Through the teachings of Jesus, we have been taught to support each other through the tough times and to trust in the grace of God. Yes, these are troublesome times but I have found they can also be grace filled days.

Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote a marvelous book on faith in hard times, Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People. He writes, "Where do you get the strength to go on, when you have used up all of your own strength? Where do you turn for patience when you have run out of patience, when you have been more patient for years that anyone should be asked to be, and the end in nowhere in sight? I believe that God gives us strength and patience and hope, renewing our spiritual resources when they run dry... We need only turn to Him, admit that we can't do this on our own, and understand that bravely bearing up ... is one of the most human, and one of the most godly, things we can ever do. One of the things that constantly reassures me that God is real, and not just an idea that religious leaders made up, is the fact that people who pray for strength, hope and courage so often find resources of strength, hope and courage that they did not have before they prayed."

When you feel weary, remember that God is your constant companion on life's journey. God loves each one of us. And remember, we can help the world see the presence of God in the love that we show through our words and actions. With your help, they too will know that they live in the presence of God.

*"I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure." Psalm 16:8-9*

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to **Simon Arnstein, Ingrid Blanton, Barbara Cross, Dick Deerin, Susan Delean-Botkin, Susie Dial, Gordon Fronk, Bob Kelly, Suzanne Litty, Cameron and Michelle Mactavish, John Pepe, Curt Reintsma, Tom Reynolds, Dennis Roberts, Mickey Terrone, Ginny Wagner, Tim Wilson, The Garden Club and Fellows Helfenbein and Newnam** and unnamed others who selflessly gave of their time to set up the equipment and chairs, create beautiful flower arrangements, usher, and take care of the altar for Bonnie Stevens 'Celebration of Life Service. It takes a village. You all made this service a wonderful celebration of our beloved Bonnie.
- A special thanks to **Cora** and her fellow musicians **Michelle Webb and Melissa Wise** for the comforting beautiful music. Your tribute captured Bonnie's fun and joyful presence.
- Thank you to our Sunday School and Youth Group leaders **Barbara Cross, Kathy Becker, Pucky Lippincott and Lisa Webb** for getting another year off and running with your fun, creative and enriching teaching.
- Much gratitude to **Ray Munsch and Beverly Rohman** for their leadership of our adult spiritual enrichment programs. Blessings. Fr. Kevin

### Holy Trinity Milestones

#### Marriages

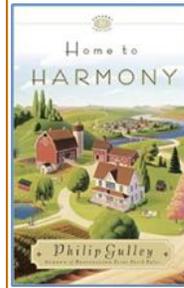
Henley Cox & Timothy Hamlin 9/18/2021

Hannah Schmidt & Daniel Furman 9/25/2021



#### Passed on:

Paul James Hanson Jr. 9/22/2021



### WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey is back from a summer recess!

We met in person on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and decided to try a new hybrid format for our meetings — combining *live and Zoom*. An exciting way to be together for those near and far. We will resume meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

Our first book for this year is a novel by Philip Gulley

#### *Home to Harmony*

Set in a small town in Indiana, a new pastor experiences one humorous adventure after another as he acclimates to his new congregation and lifestyle. Could it be Oxford?

**October 6<sup>th</sup> & October 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am**

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

[beverlyrohman@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyrohman@gmail.com)

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm



Each year, in celebration of the feast of St. Francis we hold a Blessing of the Animals service on the front lawn of the church. All four, two legged animals and creatures that fly, swim and slither are welcome to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and receive a blessing.

### Connie's Corner



"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." - Jimmy Dean

"Happiness is not by chance, but by choice." - Jim Rohn

Written by Connie Greenhawk

As fall starts to descend  
Signaling to us summer's end  
In due time the leaves will change  
Bringing color to us and squirrels scurrying to rearrange  
Their leafy abodes in order to weather the cold  
Finding nest stuffers and food as if it were gold  
Then the leaves will begin to fall on the ground  
Creating a sea of leaves all around  
Rest assured, this is what God intended us to see  
Helping us to become the best we can be  
Let Him guide you through all strife  
Love Him as He has all your life.

### KIRKIN' O THE TARTANS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 9:30 AM



Holy Trinity will hold our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This service is held to honor the role of The Church of Scotland in the founding of The Episcopal Church. We also honor our town's many ancestors from Scotland who settled this land. A Celtic Holy Eucharist service will be celebrated and will include our choir, our own pipers, Mike McConnell and John Malin, and both the Sunday School and Youth Group. We will sing hymns from our Celtic roots and hold a Blessing of the Tartans.



### Mission Update

You are all mission Superstars. In September you helped refresh the stock of non-perishables at the Neighborhood Service Center. We had several full carloads of goods delivered by Gerry and Nancy Cooper and Tot O'Mara. The NSC was overwhelmed with our response and very grateful. Thank you for your generosity. Note: The October project will be announced shortly.

### September 9:30 Service with Blessing of the Backpacks and Communion



## Stewardship

Shortly you will receive your pledge card for 2022.

Your past generosity and commitment in this and prior years is gratefully acknowledged as it has enabled Holy Trinity to respond to the needs of the parish as well as the community, and we ask for your help in 2022.

Please take a moment and complete your pledge card and return it as soon as possible as the 2022 budget process is underway and your commitment is very important.

Please extend your tradition of support for the work of Holy Trinity so we may all continue to grow in "God's love through worship, spiritual growth, service and fellowship."

Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Sandy Kaufman, Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal

## Music News

**Enjoy singing? We are in need of singers!** Our dedicated and resilient choir is returning from a recent hot weather sabbatical. We gather together Friday mornings, 10 a.m. in the Chapel, for rehearsals in preparation for singing at the October 3rd and November 7th outdoor services. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please contact me for rehearsal dates.



If you have a musical talent you would like to share, we would love to have you be part of our music program. Holy Trinity is blessed to have a number of church musicians who share their talents in various ways - there is always room for more! We would love to include family members, neighbors, singers and instrumentalists you hear "out and about." Thank you!

Cora Bruner

[corabruner60@gmail.com](mailto:corabruner60@gmail.com)

cell: 410-726-2088

## Deacon Webb's Message on Project Purple

Project Purple has come to a close for another year. We can celebrate the success and fun we've had. Chestertown had a very well attended color run. Easton sponsored Going Purple Together, where the 5 counties gathered in Ildewild Park. And here in Oxford we had a wonderful speaker at church who knew the ravages of addiction and the blessings of recovery. But this is not the end, rather it is the beginning. We can build on the success of the awareness campaign of going purple. Now we must take the next step, and continue the work of destigmatization, prevention and treatment. Addiction is not just an individual disease; it affects the entire family and community. The affliction knows no boundaries. No age, race or social class is exempt. People in the throes of addiction often act in ways that break our hearts and anger us to no end. But we must look beyond the behavior of the addict and see the child of God who is suffering from a terrible disease. And we will only overcome it by working together, by drawing on our Christian values of loving and caring for our neighbor. May the color purple always remind you to open your heart to those still suffering in this epidemic. And may it also inspire you that together, with God's help, we can beat this, we can heal families and the entire community!



## Modern Day Missionary Presentation Tuesday, October 5 at 5 pm via Zoom

Ever wonder what modern day missionary work is like? On Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm Holy Trinity's Mission Team will host a Zoom presentation by Matt and Lori Stephens. Both Matt and Lori are Master Mariners who one year ago pulled up stakes from their work in the oil industry in Houston to serve as missionaries on the Logos Hope. Matt, Lori, and their two children have been traveling to islands in the Caribbean bringing the Good News of Christ to each port they visit. Matt and Lori are briefly back home, stateside before the Logos Hope heads off to Africa. The overall purpose of their work is to mobilize local churches around the world into gospel mission so that everyone could have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus. The ship Logos Hope serves as a catalyst for this vision as it partners with local churches and missionaries when they come into port, coming alongside and accelerating ministries and relationships that have already been established. What this looks like varies based on the port and their specific needs. In the Bahamas they are repairing homes and churches damaged by Hurricane Dorian last fall as well as running eyeglass and dental clinics. Historically they will do kids programs or educational activities including the book fair which is now open onboard. Currently able to do ministry ashore including kids programs and visiting shelters as well. Please join us this Tuesday at 5 pm for what promises to be a lively and very interesting presentation.



Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4251462368?pwd=bEh0VWkxdnBsSVNYb1RlcDVxNFdJUT09>

## Annual Meeting – November 7, 2021 10:30 am

The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Holy Trinity will take place on Sunday November 7, 2021 at 10:30 am. The meeting will begin immediately following our 9:30 am Celebration of Holy Eucharist. The service will be held on the front lawn of the church weather permitting. The service and meeting will also be broadcast via Holy Trinity's network. The Annual meeting is an important gathering of the church where we will elect new Vestry members and approve the proposed 2022 budget. If you have any questions for the Vestry you may submit them in advance to the church email: [office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)

To join the meeting virtually please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4251462368?pwd=bEh0VWkxdnBsSVNYb1RlcDVxNFdJUT09>

Meeting ID: 425 146 2368

Passcode: trinity1

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,4251462368#

## IMPORTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is off to a wonderful start! We began with the blessing of the backpacks, learning about how God loves us unconditionally, and teaching one another how to hula hoop! In preparation for the Kirkin' of the Tartans on October 3, the children created their own "tartan" with a drawing of themselves surrounded by things they like to do. From these individual tartans we made one larger tartan which will be presented at the Kirkin'.



**IMPORTANT TIME CHANGE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Starting in October the Sunday School will be meeting on the first and third Sundays of the month. The first Sunday is at 9:30 and the third Sunday is at 10:00. Weather permitting we will meet outside in the rectory yard.

We hope to see you!  
Barbara, Pucky,  
and Kathy

Presentation to  
Neighborhood Services



## Youth Group

Our Youth Group held its first meeting on Sunday, September 26. This fall the group is engaged in preparing for confirmation. Barbara & Kevin and Lisa Webb are the facilitators of this program. Each youth will work toward understanding the beliefs of our faith and finding their individual voice to express their personal faith. It is a journey of finding one's own relationship with God. Another way to express this concept is to find one's own "personal Jesus" (which was the topic of one of my sermons in September). Helping along the way, each youth will have an adult mentor who will share their own faith journey with the youth. This will all lead up to a Confirmation service on December 6 when our Bishop comes for his annual visit.



## Confirm Not Conform Study Schedule

**Sunday, September 26 – Project Purple Sunday - Theme: Where Do you Stand?**

10:00 am Service – Bruce Strazza, guest speaker for Project Purple  
11:00 am Group Meeting – Getting to know ourselves and others

What do you believe? Exploring what we currently believe.

**Sunday, October 3 – Kirkin' - Theme: Tradition - Creed**

9:30 am Service – Youth participate in service

11:00 am Group Meeting

The Nicene Creed – History of the early Church and development of the Creed

What is Your Creed?

**Saturday or Sunday, October 16 Or 17 – Theme: Faith in Action**

Time and Place tbd

**Sunday October 31 - Theme: Scripture**

10:00 Service

11:00 Group Meeting

Overview of the Bible and how it is put together

**Sunday November 21 - Theme: Teach Us to Pray**

10:00 Service

11:00 Group Meeting

Exploring prayer and BCP

**Sunday, December 5 - Confirmation**

9:00 Meet with Bishop

9:30 Service & Confirmation



**UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE!**

## **ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Meeting**

**Attend “Live” in the Parish Hall – or via Zoom!**

**Monday, October 18, 2021, 9:00 AM**

**Re-imagined - with a Personal Touch!**

The ECW invites ALL women of the church to be a part of an important meeting on **Monday, October 18 at 9:00 AM** to determine how our fundraising dollars will be distributed in support of the mission work of the church, and to discuss exciting plans for the annual **Christmas Bazaar**. The ECW board met to discuss how best to bring us together in ways that keep us safe, but also connect us personally. We think we have hit on the perfect balance of both!

**RVSP by October 11** and individually wrapped homemade goodies will be available for you to enjoy while attending the meeting “live” in the Parish Hall or for pick-up or personal delivery to you for those attending via Zoom. Please call Linda Wilson at 410-236-1340 to confirm your live attendance or participation via Zoom and your personal goodies bag will be prepared for you!

**For ALL Zoom participants, including those who decide to attend last minute**, ALL are welcome to join us by just signing in to the Zoom call in time for the meeting’s start at 9:00 AM. Just go to the Holy Trinity website and click on the **green** “Click here for Morning Prayer & Other Activities via Zoom” button. <https://holytrinityoxfordmd.org/>

To aid in the discussion about the distribution of funds, we are including below, a list of those organizations we have supported in 2019 and 2020. The 2020 distribution was smaller than in the prior year due to there being no spring flower sale or Christmas Bazaar in 2020. Fortunately, the “Gift of Giving” Campaign in December of 2020 helped to replenish funds, so we anticipate this year’s distributions to be at the 2019 level.

### **Gifts in 2019:**

Camp Wright	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
CARE PACK	Talbot Interfaith Shelter
Children’s Home Foundation	The Retreat House at St. Paul’s
Neighborhood Service Center	Waters Church
NCS – Emergency Services	Wednesday Lunch Bunch
Oxford Volunteer Fire Department	Youth Program / Sunday School
Rector’s Discretionary Fund	

### **Gifts in 2020:**

Neighborhood Service Center	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Oxford Volunteer Fire Department	Talbot Interfaith Shelter
Rector’s Discretionary Fund	Talbot Mentors
	Waters Church

**We hope to see as many of you as possible, either “live” on the Zoom call, hopefully enjoying your homemade goodies with a nice cup of coffee or tea!**



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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.

**Our New Service Schedule is as follows:**

**Services are held 8:00 am and 10:00 am with the first Sunday of every month a combined service at 9:30 am**