



Lifeline

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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

Three years ago, I wrote the following article in support of National Recovery month. Talbot County has observed this month through the Project Purple program which we have strongly supported from the outset. This month presents a good time for us to think about how this disease is impacting our society, families, and even ourselves. You will be hearing a lot about addiction and recovery in the next few weeks as the second annual Project Purple campaign is rolled out in our community. Project Purple, which started in Talbot County, has been so successful that it has spread to counties throughout the eastern shore. This month presents a good time for us to think about how this disease is impacting our society, families, and even ourselves.

I thought this year might be a good opportunity to re-examine the relationship of addiction & alcoholism to faith. The pandemic has caused innumerable stresses in our lives. Unfortunately, one outcome of this period has been a dramatic increase in alcohol and drug usage. Faith can be an effective antidote to addiction. Without the strength of faith addiction can be very difficult to overcome.

At our most basic selves, we are all seekers. We all have a spiritual life. Unfortunately, we often look and listen in the wrong places to nurture our spiritual life and give meaning to our lives. Just as Elijah looked for God in the big events occurring around him: strong wind; earthquake; fire; we too look to find meaning in consumerism, thrills, and all too frequently in activities that result in addictions. We, like Elijah, often look in the wrong places for the transcendence that our souls seek. It is in the silence that Elijah finally found God. It was in the still, small voice. We too need to seek out where we may find that voice that will bring real meaning in life. We need to create the space for God to find us. Christ is always seeking us out.

There are many ways to understand the disease of addiction. And, it has become increasingly more complex and critical for us all to understand this disease with the arrival of the opiate epidemic. Nowadays, there are few in our communities who have been left untouched by the disease of addiction.

There is no doubt that addiction is a complex disease. It has genetic; biochemical; psychological; social and SPIRITUAL components. I would like to briefly address the spiritual aspects of this disease. I find a useful definition that focuses on the spiritual aspects of this disease to be addiction is "A pathological relationship of love and trust with an object or an event." (c. Nakken) This relationship is a perverse relationship. The mutuality and choice found in healthy relationship changes to self-absorption and compulsion. The relationship with an object (alcohol, drugs, gambling...) replaces people. Once begun, a spiral of downward movement disengaging from life is set in motion.

If addiction does not start out of a spiritual deficiency /disease it quickly becomes one. Addiction is a deadly disease that attacks the very core/essence of who we are. In other words, it attacks our spirit. This disease has a major impact on spiritual life through attacking the relationships between self, others and God. Consequently, restoring a healthy spiritual life is critical to the recovery from the disease. Bill W. understood this when he was constructing the 12-step program "after a while we had to face the fact that we must find a spirit of life - or else." (The Big Book pg. 44) The 12-steps are a spiritual journey.

Addiction is a pervasive disease that is very difficult to treat. Even when the alcoholic/addict is in recovery the disease continues to progress. Therefore, it is essential to ensure one's spiritual life is deepening and growing at a faster rate than the underlying addiction. A.A. has a joke about this point:

"While you are in recovery, your addiction is doing push-ups, so it can whip you the next chance it gets."

One of the paths to recovery is the 12-Step program that started with Alcoholics Anonymous. It may interest you to know that the 12-step programs have their foundation in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Sam Shoemaker of Calvary Episcopal Church in NYC was the spiritual adviser to Bill Wilson. He worked with Bill W. on developing A.A.'s 12-Step Program. The theology of the 12-Step program is grounded in our faith tradition. While the 12-Step program is often thought of as only applicable for those who suffer from one of the many forms of addiction, it offers a profoundly spiritual program for all.

Continued on page 2



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to Deacon. Lisa Webb, for presiding at our services on August 22nd and 29th, her inspiring sermons and being such a wonderful addition to our community.
- Appreciation to Martha Britt for gracing us with her wonderful music on the keyboard on August 22nd and 29th. Sounding good!
- Thank you to Josh and Will Schmidt for their generous spirit. Since January they have prepared and delivered meals to the Lunch Bunch clients on the second Wednesday of every month. They are now returning to school and will not be able to continue this ministry. Josh and Will, you have shown all of us how to live out Jesus ministry to the world. Best Wishes back at school.
- Thank you for Gerry Cooper, Nancy Van Gulick, John and Susan Dillon for delivering the books to Agape Ministries and the school supplies to the Interfaith Shelter and Neighborhood Service Center.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

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In my experience, those impacted by this illness are wonderful, talented, and compassionate human beings. And, when in recovery, one sees a level of acceptance and honesty being brought into their real relationships that is to be admired. Working with our brothers and sisters who suffer from addiction is not just a job for doctors and counselors. They are certainly very important, but it is also where we, the community and importantly the Church, belong. We know God has not abandoned them and we cannot either. God is there with them in their suffering and in their victories of recovery – we should be there as well.

As you travel the eastern shore this month as see purple lights, take a moment to pray for recovery for those individuals and families suffering from this disease. Open your hearts to them, open the Church doors to them. There is that well-worn phrase “it takes a village” that applies here. It takes a village to offer hope and recovery. It takes kind hearts and spiritual nourishment of faith to support healthy recovery.

Blessings, Fr. Kevin

Holy Trinity Milestones

Baptism:

Claire Louise Cross July 28, 2021

Passed on:

Henry Edward Simmons July 16, 2021

Alan Kent Tascher August 17, 2021

Bonnie Helen Stevens August 25, 2021

Lynne Meredith Holtzclaw VanHorn

August 29, 2021



Previous and New Member
Sweethearts



Connie's Corner This Month, Love is the Theme



Continued from last issue

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.' Karl - age 5

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.' Noelle - age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.' Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.' Lauren - age 4

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' Chrissy - age 6

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross...' Mark - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.' Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.' Elaine - age 5

Written by Connie Greenhawk

Life is grounded in faith and love
Both sent from our heavenly Father above
Guiding us with each step we take
Helping us to live the best life we can make
Do not be afraid to take His hand
During strife in your life, and in this land
His love is always strong and true
And it is not given to just a few
But to everyone, as He died on that day
And in your heart He will always stay.

Worship Services

Our worship schedule is changing. This summer we gathered on Sundays at 8:00 am and 9:30 am for our Celebrations of Holy Eucharist. This schedule change was made in response to the preferences of the congregation. Starting in September **we will return to our usual schedule of services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.** This schedule will enable our resumption of using the time between services for meetings and education forums. Please note that the first Sunday of each month we will continue to gather as one congregation for a combined 9:30 am service.

Weekly Morning Prayer: Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Broadcast only via Zoom.

Sunday Holy Eucharist Celebrations

8:00 am Indoor Service*: Celebrate Holy Eucharist within the sacred sanctuary of our beautiful, historic church. This service is also broadcast via the Holy Trinity network.

10:00 am Indoor Service*: Celebrate Holy Eucharist within the sacred sanctuary of our beautiful, historic church. This service is also broadcast via the Holy Trinity network.

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

Safety: 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. Masking is required for indoor attendance.

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.

Sunday School

Sunday School typically serves children starting at age four or five until about age 12. Our goal is for the children to know that we are all God's children and that God loves us unconditionally, that Jesus is our friend and is always there for us, and that Jesus showed us how God wants us to live. We do this through the use of Bible Stories, discussions, crafts, and service projects. Laughter is encouraged.

We held the blessing of the backpacks and students at the 9:30 outdoor service on September 5. We have sent out a questionnaire to parents to assess their comfort level and feedback now that there is the Delta variant.

Teachers this year will be Pucky Lippincott, Kathy Becker, and Barbara Cross. Linda Wilson will consult on crafts projects and Sophie will join us as her schedule allows.

We ask your prayers for a safe, faith-full year.

Barbara Cross

Sunday School and Youth Group

We look forward to resuming our Sunday School and Youth Group this fall. We hope you and your children are also excited about getting back together after a good summer. Our teams are currently at work planning when these activities will resume and the content for each group. It has to be said that a complicating factor to our planning has been the rapid rise of the Delta variant. Protecting the health of your families and of our group leaders is being given very careful consideration. We are working with our crisis advisory team on developing safety protocols for our activities. We also would like your input to this planning. Please email the church with your interest, thoughts, and concerns about resuming these activities. Email: office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org

“ Oh my! Thank you, Thank You!”

While not a direct quote, these words convey the joy felt by the Agape Mission as Nancy Van Gulick, Gerry Cooper and Barbara and Steve Hayes delivered box after box of books collected from the Holy Trinity community. The Agape Ministry serves the children of incarcerated parents. We pray that your books have taught these children in difficult times what many of us believe - a good book can be a good friend. Who knows what inspiration comes from our donation?

Meanwhile if that was not enough, our members came through in the early weeks of August with school supplies for children serviced by the Easton Neighborhood Center and the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. Thank you to John and Suzy Dillon for organizing the supplies. The backpacks were even blessed. (I could have used that in math class.) May those young minds and hands using these supplies discover that a good education leads to a fulfilling and useful life. Once again, thank you Holy Trinity for your generous investment in the future.

Inquiring Believers

The Inquiring Believers, a.k.a. the Men's Bible Study, will resume its activities on Monday, Sept. 20th at 6 PM. Last year, as a result of Covid, we met weekly via Zoom. It has not been determined whether we will, at least initially this fall, continue to meet via Zoom or in person at the Parish Hall. With the exception of holidays, we meet most every week from mid-Sept. through early May. We have yet to decide on a topic or book to discuss this fall but rest assured it will be thought-provoking. A meeting is scheduled for later this week to make the selection.

Last year we spent most of our time on the Book of Revelation supplemented by an study guide written by N.T. Wright and Elaine Pagels' book, Revelations. We wrapped up the year by reading 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Jude.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact the Rector at the Parish Office or call Ray Munsch at 215-356-2481. This is an engaged group, but one that doesn't take itself too seriously.



Mission

September Mission Project

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Proverbs 22:9.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;" Matthew 25:35

Our mission activity this month turns to assisting one of the critical agencies in Talbot County that helps support the neediest in our community. The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. is a non-profit Community Action Agency that provides services and assistance to low-income families and elderly residents in Talbot County, Maryland. Holy Trinity has been one of the key supporters of NSC's mission. NSC is seeking our assistance to help them continue to provide meals to the food insecure families in our community. We are seeking to collect canned goods and ready to eat/ quick fix food that is NONPERISHABLE. Some examples are

Tuna

Tuna helper

Hamburger helper. (NSC will provide the hamburger from the Maryland food bank)

Mac and cheese (reg and microwave)

Canned beans

Canned ravioli

Pasta and jarred or canned sauce

Canned beans for protein

Canned vegetables

Marilyn Neal, the Executive Director of NSC, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, September 12th at both services. Donations may be dropped at the Parish Hall or you may bring them to church on Sunday the 19th when we will have several cars ready to receive your donations. Thank you for your generosity.



Back to School Blessing

We held out annual back to school blessing and blessing of the backpacks at the 9:30 service on Sunday, September 5th. And, rather than just blessing our children we also blessed the backpacks and all the tools used for learning. A special blessing was given to each child to keep in their backpacks throughout the school year to remind them of the encouragement and support from their Holy Trinity family.



Sacred Ground

A Film-based Dialogue on Race and Faith

6 Tuesdays
Starting September 14th
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. Our diocese is endeavoring to support this commitment through programs that help us think about these issues in the context of our faith. One such effort was the **Difference** curriculum we sponsored as a parish this past Spring. This program taught us how to speak across divides and facilitate fruitful discussions modeled after how Jesus handled conflict and difference.

A second program will be offered starting in September. Holy Trinity in collaboration with the Retreat House, invites you to join us in **Sacred Ground**, a film and readings-based dialogue series on race grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love. Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. We will explore together this online curriculum which focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian/Pacific American peoples as their histories intersect with European American history, and the impact of all of it on our world today. It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

Using Zoom technology, we will meet on six Tuesday afternoons this fall, **September 14 and 28 - October 12 and 26 - November 9 and 23**. We will watch documentaries and read articles to help inform us and then gather via Zoom for conversation to help us peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

To sign up, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134 or send an email to rector@holytrinityoxfordmd.org

WOMEN ON A JOURNEY

Founded in 2007, **Women on a Journey** has consistently provided a place for Christian women to come together for spiritual enrichment, education, and fellowship. Through a variety of faith based contemporary literature and studies, we enjoy lively discussion, sharing, and friendship that help to bring wisdom, insight, and growth to our life journeys. We had typically met in the Parish Hall on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:00 am to 10:30 am, with a recess for summer months. During COVID, however, we quickly set up our meetings on Zoom and hardly skipped a beat. What a welcomed gathering in a time of isolation and uncertainty!

With a new year starting, we are considering our meeting options — in person or Zoom or a hybrid option. Whatever the decision...we will meet!

During this last 2 years, we have read:

The Gifts of the Jews by Thomas Cahill

How's Your Soul by Judah Smith

The Helper by Catherine Marshall

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Tending Roses by Lisa Wingate

In Search of Wisdom by Joyce Meyer

And our recent summer's reading was:

Make Your Bed by Admiral William McRaven

Exciting literature, creativity, energy... and an amazing group of women!

Due to the Labor Day holiday, we will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

September 8th and 22nd - 9:00 am via Zoom

For more information, please contact Beverly Rohman, founder and facilitator at 410-829-9561 or

beverlyrohman@gmail.com



ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Meeting

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 an ECW Board member will hand deliver homemade goodies for you to enjoy while attending the meeting via Zoom. It may not be quite the same as gathering together in the Parish Hall, but we thought it was the next best thing! **Please call Connie Greenhawk at the church office at 410-226-5134** to confirm your attendance. Your homemade goodies will be delivered in advance of the meeting. **A few days prior to the meeting, Connie will send a Zoom link via email.**

For those who wish to participate after the RSVP deadline for your homemade goodies, 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.

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	Waters Church
Talbot Mentors	

We hope to see as many of you as possible 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