



Lifeline

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The Church of the Holy Trinity
An Episcopal Church
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A Message from Our Rector, *Fr. Kevin M. Cross*

Living Life with Tender Hearts

Scripture points us toward having a positive self-image. In Genesis we read that we are created in God's image. In the gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us the second greatest commandment is "You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." "Love...As Yourself". Yet many of us go through life with less than a positive self-image. Life can be hard and amid life's struggles we can easily forget how blessed we are. Especially today when we are weary from the challenges of the past two years, we may more readily focus on what we lack than what we have. At this time of year as our thoughts turn to the Thanksgiving Holiday, I think we could all use a moment to pause and consider giving thanks to God for our lives.

Fr. Gregory Boyle has written several books about God's nature and human nature from the perspective of working with a population whose lives have been inhabited more by hardship and violence than most. He is a remarkable Jesuit priest who founded, Homeboy Industries, the largest and most successful gang intervention program in the world. Through his work with these troubled young men and women, he has developed unique insight into God's presence in the world. He has learned much about God's nature and human nature.

Fr. Greg's writings bring sharply into the focus the tender, caring nature of God for everyone from all walks of life. Fr. Greg or "G" as his "homies" call him walks the path of a modern-day mystic. The knowledge of God that has been revealed to him is in concert with the thoughts of other mystics like Meister Eckhardt, Julian of Norwich, and Teresa of Avila. He is a humble fountain of wisdom and grace. His theology is a healing theology for this time. His theology is all about acceptance and love.



"It is truly hard for us to see the truth that disapproval does not seem to be part of God's DNA. God is just too busy loving us to have any time left for disappointment."

"God is just too busy loving us to have any time left for disappointment." Take a moment and let that profound statement sink in. Can you imagine that you are held in love every minute of your life? God is not sitting around judging your every move. God is not waiting around for us to please him. God is too busy loving us into becoming the unique loving person we have been created to be. God's dream is for us to accept ourselves and rejoice about who we are. He has no time for self-deprecating thoughts, and we shouldn't either. We have been created to be filled with joy and a zest for life. We have been created to love the world and through that love, transform the world.

Fr. Greg's conception of God challenges many of our traditional beliefs about human nature and the nature of God's relationship with us. God's nature is quite the opposite of the judgmental, disapproving nature that is too often cast upon Him. It seems that God is often characterized as if He was created in our image rather than the truth that we are created in God's image. The truth about us from God's perspective is the opposite of the judged, flawed view we take of ourselves and others. It seems that we just don't get it. God, as beheld by Fr. Greg is an all loving, all accepting source of enlightenment and joy.

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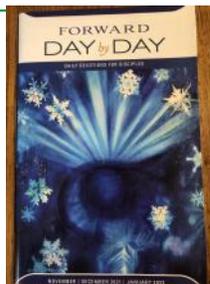
CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Tremendous appreciation for **Louise Thorndike**. Louise has served as Vestry Secretary for the past few years. She has done an outstanding job capturing the thoughts, hopes and decisions of the Vestry as well as added her insight voice to the proceedings. Louise now needs to step back from this role to attend to her health. We thank Louise for her service and pray for a return to wholeness and health.
- A special thank you to the newly constituted **Holiday Choir**. Building on the foundation of our traditional service choir, Cora and her gang of talented singers have brought beauty to our services. Thank you all for your time and dedication.
- Thank you to the **Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Usher Guild** for your dedicated service.
- Thank you to the **ECW** for their continued good work to support the critical local social ministries in our community.
- Thank you to **Joe Fischer, Ray Munsch, and Kathy Dawd** for conducting the annual audit. With your guidance we continue to ensure good stewardship of the abundance God have provided for us.
- Much gratitude to **Ed Delaney, Tot O'Mara, and Nancy Roberts** for their service on the Vestry the past 3 years. Your guidance and involvement supporting the mission of Holy Trinity is deeply appreciated.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

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 November/December/January. We have left copies on the cart outside the entrance to the hall for you to pick up or we would be happy to send you a copy by mail. If you would like to receive a copy, please call the parish office. This daily prayer resource is available in regular and large print.



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"You are exactly what God had in mind when He made you."

Imagine what your life could be like if you accepted yourself as being exactly what God had in mind? Consider the potential you could tap into if time and energy was not wasted being disappointed in yourself or others. *"It would seem that, quite possibly, the ultimate measure of health in any community might well reside in our ability to stand in awe at what folks have to carry rather than in judgment at how they carry it."*

It would be easy for Fr. Greg or us to stand apart and harshly judge those he encounters in his daily life. But to do so would be to do violence to the spark of God that resides in each of them. Instead, Fr. Greg seeks to fan into the flame that light within. Even in the most hardened, toughest individuals he has found a tender heart. If he can do so with his "homies" it should not be too hard for us to find that same heart within ourselves and others. Let us take a gentler view of our selves. Let us not waste time in judgement but spend time in spreading the transformative love of God be *"liberated from all that prevents us from seeing ourselves as God does."*

A final word of encouragement for the journey of tender heartedness, *"Our sense of God always beckons us to grow, to reimagine something wildly more breathtaking than where our imagination generally takes us."*

All quotes in this article are by Fr. Gregory Boyle. Fr Boyle is the author of **Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion, Barking to the Choir; The Power of Radical Kinship, and The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness.**

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



HOW COOL IS IT THAT
THE SAME GOD, WHO
CREATED MOUNTAINS,
& OCEANS,
& GALAXIES, LOOKED AT YOU &
THOUGHT THE WORLD NEEDED
ONE OF YOU TOO?

Connie's Corner



Butterflies cannot see their wings. But the rest of the world can. You are beautiful and while you may not see it, we can.

Strive not to be a success but rather to be of value.
Albert Einstein

Written by Connie Greenhawk

Do you ever think you stand alone
As your life you continue to hone
Do you worry what your next step might be
Don't you wish you could be free
Of turmoil, disappointment, hurt and strife
Isn't there suppose to be more to your life
Well my friend, there certainly is
When you were born, you were a child of His
He nurtured you and gave you choices on your life path
And not once have you ever felt His wrath
So my friend, run into the arms of your Dad
As He, God, wanted you to always be glad.

The Angels Have Returned

After a Covid related recess last year, the Salvation Army Angel project will return to Holy Trinity again this Christmas season.

Here is how it works. The Salvation Army identifies children in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties from families who can not afford to grant Christmas wishes for those children. A wish list is compiled for each child existing mostly of toys and clothes. When you select an angel, you shop using that list as a guide and deliver your gifts to the church. Each child, or "Angel" as the Army prefers, is identified by first name, age, gender and ID number. Using the ID number, your labeled gifts are then delivered to the Cambridge Salvation Army and distributed to the children so Christmas morning is as exciting for them as it is for more fortunate children.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall at the beginning of December. We will have 25 angels. Feel free to team up and share your angel with a friend.

Sign up – get your wings.

November Mission Activity

Care Packs of Talbot County

"Recent research shows that many children who do not have enough to eat wind up with diminished capacity to understand and learn. Children don't have to be starving for this to happen. Even mild undernutrition – the kind most common among poor people in America – can do it." Carl Sagan

This month we returned our service activity to the children throughout Talbot County who experience food insecurity. Almost half the students in Talbot County receive food assistance at school and many of their families do not have sufficient food to provide them meals on the weekends. We help ensure no child goes hungry through collecting donations of food items for **Care Packs of Talbot County**. We have supported the **Care Pack** program for years. Last Spring you all generously gave and helped feed these children through the summer and fall. Each Friday, this program, with our support, distributes care packs filled with food to hungry to help them get through the weekends. The recently completed campaign for the fall/winter resulted in 4 full carloads of food for this program. **Thank you for you generous hearts.**

"⁷ If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. ⁸ You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be...¹⁰ Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Volunteer Opportunity – Talbot Interfaith Shelter

Talbot Interfaith Shelter is opening a new facility in Easton next door to the current home on Goldsborough St. This shelter will increase their capacity and enable them to begin offer housing to individuals. The current shelter has only been open to families. With this new shelter there is a need for additional volunteer staffing. Specifically, they are looking for volunteers to staff the reception desk during the day. If you might have interest in volunteering, you may call Harvey Zendt at 302-528-5685 for additional details. Thank you for your consideration.



Confirmation Program

Six of our youth and their mentors have been preparing for their confirmation on December 5, when our Bishop comes for his annual visit. This program, Confirm Not Conform, is structured around the themes of “Where Do You Stand”, “What Do You Believe – The Creed”, “Scripture,” “Prayer” and “Faith In Action.” At confirmation an individual renews the vows made on their behalf at baptism. However, at this sacrament the individual is affirming their personal commitment to living life as a Christian. We ask your prayers for our youth as they make this journey. Please include Colin Lang, Grace, Grant, & Kelsey Meyerle, and Josh & Will Schmidt in our prayers for a fruitful journey



Holy Trinity Pipers for Kirkin of the Tartans



Blessing of the Animals



A Reminder from your Stewardship Chairs, Sandy & Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal

In our communications, we have been talking about making a pledge of support for the Church of the Holy Trinity. A pledge – any pledge - represents a commitment to something we value. Our Pledge of Allegiance to our country says we're committed to living up the principles upon which our country was formed. Companies often make a quality pledge as a means of saying they are committed to providing quality products, sometimes backing their pledge with a guarantee.

A pledge of financial support to Holy Trinity says that we are committed to making Holy Trinity an integral part of our life of faith. It represents a commitment to our own spiritual growth, as well as to living God's word through the outreach of the Church.

Like all pledges, our pledge to Holy Trinity represents setting a goal for ourselves that causes us to reach beyond what is easy. It means doing our best to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Now is the chance for each of us to pledge our commitment to the work of Holy Trinity, and to consider what draws us to this church and how it represents our faith at work. It's also the chance to give as generously as we each are able, knowing that EVERY pledge is honored, appreciated, and kept in strict confidence.

If you have already pledged, **OUR SINCERE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** If you have not, please **DO SO TODAY** and demonstrate your commitment to the role of Holy Trinity in your spiritual life!

Also, don't forget! **ALL PLEDGES RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 15** will be entered for three chances to win a Christmas wreath decorated by the women of Holy Trinity!

Sunday School



The Sunday School children made their own tartan, drawing pictures of themselves and their interests. This was presented during the Kirkin' of the Tartans.

Sunday school continues to meet on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 and on the third

Sunday at 10:00. We meet outside whenever possible. We have been discussing how everyone is a child of God and how Jesus taught us the two greatest commandments - love God and love one another. We discussed how we can do this.

This photo shows Justin who built a city and Joseph built a throne for God - "because if anyone deserves a throne, it's God."



2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting was held in-person and via broadcast on Sunday, November 7th after our 9:30 am service. A review of 2021 activities and accomplishments reported the church in good shape with mission, education and worship activity continuing on strongly in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. After presenting the 2021 financial report, the 2022 preliminary budget of \$447,000 was approved. Elected to three-year terms on our Vestry were the class of 2024, Gerry Cooper, John Dillon and Karen Walbridge. Departing members, Ed Delaney, Tot O'Mara and Nancy Roberts were thanked for their service. We look forward to another year of growth and service transforming this world day by day into God's dream.

SAVE THE DATE! The Holy Trinity Christmas Bazaar Re-imagined on Saturday, December 4th from 9-12. Our yearly Christmas Bazaar is returning under a large tent on the front lawn of the church.

Our committees are busily planning for a wonderful event. We will have beautiful wreaths, delicious frozen foods and baked goods, creative Mini-Trees, festive large centerpieces, three generous baskets of goods and donations for local charities, a children's table with a craft and an opportunity to write letters to Santa, a tree from the Festival of Trees for a silent auction and vendors from the church.

Come and enjoy a complimentary hot beverage and goody while you are choosing your wreath and other Holiday items.

We would love to have everyone participate in any part of the Bazaar. This is an excellent opportunity to share the Christmas spirit within our church and community.

Please call or e-mail Sara Wangsness 410-226-5017 or swangsness100@yahoo.com or Sally Fronk 410-226-1044 or sfronk@atlanticbb.net with any questions or to volunteer.

Food for the Christmas Bazaar

Volunteers are needed to make and bake for the food table at the ECW Christmas Bazaar. Food items include: Frozen entrees such as soups, stews and chili, appetizers, baked goods such as quick breads and cookies (no pies or cakes as smaller items sell better). Food drop off is from 3-6 pm in the Parish Hall on Friday, December 3rd. Questions: Contact Nancy Roberts at Nancy_Roberts@verizon.net or 609-647-2622

Wreath Decorating

Now is the time to volunteer to help decorate the wreaths in the Parish Hall Tuesday, November 30th (1 pm) Bring your greens for decorating (for suggested greens please call Margot or Linda). Wednesday, December 1 (9-2) Wreath decorating in the Parish Hall and kitchen. With questions or to volunteer please call or email Margot McConnel 410-763-7453 or margotmcconnel@gmail.com, Linda Wilson 410-790-8274 or lindaann788@gmail.com, Kay Ruark 410-820-7490 or kayruark@aol.com

Children's Table

We are delighted to have a children's table at the Christmas Bazaar this year. There will be an opportunity for children to make a pinecone bird feeder as well as write and mail letters to Santa. In keeping with COVID protocols, masks will be required and each child will be provided with their own individual materials to complete their projects. We are looking forward to seeing you there to get the Holiday season under way.

Any questions please contact Kathy Becker 410-463-1030 or kbecker1030@gmail.com

Christmas Bazaar Baskets Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to donate and gather items for this year's Christmas Bazaar baskets, returning this year, but with a twist! Three baskets will be assembled with items needed by local charities selected for this project. Donated items for each charity will be packaged in a "basket" or container that can also serve as a useful item for each receiving charity. Basket volunteers can choose to donate items for the **Neighborhood Service Center, Talbot Humane Society, or Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers**. To volunteer and learn more, call, text, or email chair Sandy Kaufman, 410-458-2113, or sandykaufman1@aol.com. A special gathering of all basket volunteers is being planned!

Music



Holiday Choir It is not too late to join! This group is AWESOME! If you enjoy singing, have a sense of humor, and would like to meet new people - *this is a great opportunity!* We rehearse Friday mornings at 10 a.m. If you are unable to come Friday mornings, let Cora know and we will find a time for you. We sing for services the 1st and 3rd Sundays in November and December.

Service Musicians

As we prepare for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season, we are working with church and community musicians to create inspirational music for our services. A local favorite, Violinist Nevin Dawson, will join us November 14th at the 10 a.m. service. Community and church singers join together in a Holiday Choir for three special services. The Delmarva Trio returns for a wonderful morning of Advent music on December 12th. Linda Sattler joins Cora for 2 piano duets preparing us for our first ever Piano 8 Hands ensemble. We will have 4 keyboards playing together at our Lessons and Carols Service Sunday, December 19th. Please plan to join us for services!

11/14 10 a.m. Nevin Dawson, Violin

11/21 8 a.m. Linda Sattler & Cora Bruner Piano 4 Hands

10 a.m. Holiday Choir, Linda Sattler & Cora Bruner Piano 4 Hands

12/5 9:30 a.m. Holiday Choir

12/12 10 a.m. Delmarva Trio

12/19 Lessons & Carols Holiday Choir, Piano 8 Hands

Thank You for All the Care Packs Items



Four Carloads





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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.

Service Schedule is as follows:

**Morning Prayer Tuesday 8:30 am
via Zoom**

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