



# 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*

## The Divine Meal of Love

*“Before Christianity developed the relatively safe ritual meal we call the Eucharist, Jesus’ most consistent social action was eating in new ways and with new people, encountering those who were oppressed or excluded from the system. It seems Jesus didn’t please anybody by breaking rules to make a bigger table. Notice how his contemporaries accused Jesus: one side criticized him for eating with tax collectors and sinners (see Matthew 9:10–11). The other side judged him for eating too much (Luke 7:34) or dining with the Pharisees and lawyers (Luke 7:36–50; 11:37–54; 14:1). Jesus ate with all sides. He ate with lepers (Mark 14:3), he received a woman with a poor reputation at a men’s dinner (Luke 7:36–39), and he even invited himself to a “sinner’s” house (Luke 19:1–10). How do we not see that?”*

*The Eucharist is meant to identify us in a positive, inclusionary way, but we are not yet well-practiced at this. We honestly do not know how to do unity. Many today want to make the Holy Meal into a “prize for the perfect,” as Pope Francis observed. Most Christians still do not know how to receive a positive identity from God—that they belong and are loved by their very nature! The Eucharistic meal is meant to be a microcosmic event, summarizing at one table what is true in the whole macrocosm: we are one, we are equal in dignity, we all eat of the same divine food, and Jesus still and always “eats with sinners,” just as he did when on Earth.”*



This meditation is from Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan contemplative and well-known author and speaker. I felt called to print his reflection as I thought about our communal life at Holy Trinity. Our dream is that our entire life as members of this congregation is an evolving affirmation of *“we are one, we are equal in dignity, we eat all of the same divine food.”* The divine food is not just that of our shared meal of the Eucharist but is also the love and friendly regard we share with each other and with the “stranger” beyond the walls of this church. Our Lunch Bunch puts this quite visibly into action each time they prepare meals and deliver them to the homebound in Oxford and Trappe. Some of these blessed people are members of our community, while others are individuals beyond our church who need a healthy meal and the knowledge that they are held in love. Paraphrasing 16<sup>th</sup> century priest and Richard Hooker *“The Eucharist is more about transforming lives than bread.”* Our lives as a church community are about transforming lives. We are commissioned to strive to transform the world, life by life into the dream of God’s kingdom.

Fr. Rohr’s mediation focuses in on a sensitive matter for all of us. Many of us have trouble accepting that we are loved no matter if we have lost our way. We have trouble believing that God’s love for us is unwavering. Consequently, we have trouble living into God’s commission to *“love one another as yourself.”* If we could accept God’s constant love perhaps, we could live out the truth Desmond Tutu wrote and live: *“We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God’s family.”* May we all strive to quiet the inner doubting, self-defeating voices and instead hear the clarion call to love, love, love from our generous Creator.



Blessings. Fr. Kevin



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our parish administrator, **Connie Greenhawk**. The transition from one year to the next is always a busy time with finalizing the previous year's records and setting up recordkeeping and systems for the new year. This activity is all on top of the normal day to day office activities. Connie always does this work with energy, enthusiasm, and a smile. We appreciate you, Connie!
- Thank you to **Mary Pat Blanton** and welcome to the Altar Guild!
- Thank you to our Vestry members whose term ended on December 31<sup>st</sup>: **Ed Delaney, Tot O'Mara, and Nancy Roberts**. You have shown great leadership throughout your tenure. Bless you.
- A special thanks to **Gordon Fronk** whose term as Sr. Warden ended in January. Gordon, your amazing energy and love for our community has been a blessing for us all.
- Welcome to our new Vestry members **Gerry Cooper, John Dillon, and Karen Walbridge**. We also welcome our 2022 Vestry officers: **Tot O'Mara**, Sr. Warden, **Michelle Mactavish & Bill Ritchie**, co-Jr, Wardens, **David Wangsness and Suze Segal**, co- Treasurers, **Margaret Munsch**, Registrar, and **Connie Greenhawk**, interim Secretary. Thank you for your service to our community.
- Thank you to our new Lunch Bunch volunteers drivers and deliverers: **Linda and Ray Sattler, Stephen Weisenberger & Jan Nelson, Stephen Walk, and Karen Walbridge**. And, of course thank you to **George Gaffney, Lee Phillips and Bill Meyers** for their continuing service.
- Thank you to **Cameron and Michelle Mactavish** for putting away our lovely creche until next year. Thank you also to them for giving the rectory fig tree a long overdue trimming.
- Thank you to **Nevin Dawson** for his beautiful violin playing at our January 16 service.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

## Inquiring Believers

The men's Bible study group has continued strong throughout the fall and early winter. We have been studying the Gospel of John using a companion study guide. Covid has forced us to meet via Zoom but we look forward to being able to meet in person when the mask requirement is lifted. We are showing an in person movie (masks required) about the Gospel of John on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall and invite anyone interested to attend. If there is anything good to say about Covid, it is that it has done wonders for our attendance. We recently had one dedicated member join our regular Zoom meeting from his hospital bed.

Although we unfortunately lost a long-time member last summer when he moved away, we are thrilled that three new members have joined our group and are all solid contributors. We encourage anyone interested to give us a try. We meet on Mondays at 6:00 for one hour. Our topics may be serious, but we nevertheless manage to have fun and don't take ourselves too seriously. We are always Inquiring.

Interested? Please contact the Rector or Ray Munsch ([raymunsch@gmail.com](mailto:raymunsch@gmail.com)).

## Altar Guild Seeking New Members

Ever wonder who prepares our sanctuary for our services? Our Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. While we are blessed with many volunteers who love this ministry we could use a few more members of this wonderful group. If you feel called to this service, please call the parish office, 410-226-5134 or speaker with Ginny Wagner, director

## Holy Trinity Milestone

Passed on:

Theola Moaney January 28, 2022

## Connie's Corner



"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things." – **Albert Einstein**

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." – **Eleanor Roosevelt**

"Sing like no one's listening, love like you've never been hurt, dance like nobody's watching, and live like it's heaven on earth." – **(Attributed to Various Sources)**

"Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced." – **Soren Kierkegaard**

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." – **Dolly Parton**

"My mama always said, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." – **Forrest Gump**

"Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny." – **Lao-Tze**

"The best portion of a good man's life is his little nameless, unencumbered acts of kindness and of love." – **Wordsworth**

Written by Connie Greenhawk

February, a month often associated with love  
 Normally for a mate that was sent from above  
 But let us turn toward the greatest love of all  
 Our God, one whose love will withstand and stand tall  
 Through all of our storms, our faults, our fears  
 And if we cry, God will wipe away those tears  
 His shoulders are strong,, His arms open wide  
 To let us give those fears to Him, He is at our side  
 Let Him guide you all through life  
 One filled with love for one another and no strife  
 He is our salvation, our core  
 Until you reach that eternal shore.

If you would like to submit a favorite saying or thought, email to Connie at [office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org)



## Food Distribution

The Maryland Food Bank will bring their **Mobile Market Food Truck** to the OCC in Oxford on **Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 2 pm.** This truck serves as an "on-the-go" supermarket for communities on Maryland's Eastern Shore that do not have access to traditional grocery stores or food banks. In addition to food, the Mobile Market Food Truck partners with community agencies to provide wrap around services to the local community. The Mobile Market Food Truck will distribute boxes of non-perishable items as well as produce boxes.

## Worship Committee

The worship committee works with the rector and deacon planning liturgies for the various liturgical seasons and holy days. This committee has been inactive during the pandemic. However, we look forward with hope that life will begin to return to a more normal time in the coming months. If you would like to join this committee, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134.

## Diocesan Convention

The 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Easton will be held on **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, under the theme "God's Church in Renaissance/Revival" (Nehemiah 8:10; Matthew 16:18). The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to present an existential challenge to the diocese in so far as large in-person gathering is concerned. To this end, the Bishop, the Standing Committee, and the Diocesan Council, arrived at a common mind, for the health and safety of the delegates, to host the 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention using the Zoom virtual platform. The business session of convention will begin Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude at 4:00 p.m. The delegates representing Holy Trinity are Gerry Copper, John Dillon and Karen Walbridge. Gordon Fronk, Ray Munsch, and Al Smith are on deck as alternate delegates. All members of the diocese are invited to attend. Call the Diocese of Easton at 410-822-1919 or visit [www.dioceseofeaston.org](http://www.dioceseofeaston.org) for more information.

## Spiritual Book Discussion Group: Made For Goodness

We have just seen the passing of one of our living saints, Desmond Tutu. Bishop Tutu has been a spiritual leader to the world for many years. He gained a worldwide reputation for his peaceful work that led to end of apartheid in S. Africa. He was awarded the Nobel prize in 1984 for this work. Desmond and his daughter, Episcopal priest Mpho Tutu, wrote **Made for Goodness; And Why This Makes All the Difference** together in 2010. This book has become a classic in modern theology. Through touching stories from his own life, Tutu calls us *“to hope, to joy, and to claim the goodness that we were made for.”* *“...my daughter and I have come together to write this book because we know that the catalogue of injuries that we can and do inflict on one another is not the whole story of humanity; not by a long measure. We are indeed made for something more. We are made for goodness.”*

On January 25<sup>th</sup> we held an introductory session examining the life and times of Desmond Tutu. **The Made For Goodness discussions will meet on Tuesdays throughout February and end on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This group will meet via Zoom for 6 sessions from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.** Please email or call the office with your interest at 410-226-5134 or office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org.

The Zoom link for this group is:

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

Meeting ID: 425 146 2368

Passcode: trinity1

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,4251462368# US (Washington DC)

A paperback copy of this book can be ordered from Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Made-Goodness-This-Makes-Difference/dp/0061706604/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2M3QE0R3W5PDU&keywords=made+for+goodness+desmond+tutu&qid=1641920804&s=books&prefix=made+of+goodness%2Cstripbooks%2C54&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Made-Goodness-This-Makes-Difference/dp/0061706604/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2M3QE0R3W5PDU&keywords=made+for+goodness+desmond+tutu&qid=1641920804&s=books&prefix=made+of+goodness%2Cstripbooks%2C54&sr=1-1) or at other booksellers.

## Music

### *February is a special time for singing!*

February Sunday mornings feel extra special when we gather together for services. A perfect month for singing spirituals, folk songs, favorite hymns and a return to singing responses. Dr. Kim Harris' *Welcome Table*, *A Mass of Spirituals* sets the Kyrie, Sanctus, The Great Amen, Agnus Dei, etc., to melodies of the spirituals. What better way to sing the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) than to the tune of *Ol' Time Religion*. *My Lord! What a Morning* lends itself perfectly to the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) text. And *The Great Amen - He's Got The Whole World in His Hands*. Enjoy!

As we wait out the current COVID surge, local musicians are coming together preparing music to share in late winter and early spring services. Piano duets (Linda Sattler, Cora), a piano trio (Cora, Nevin Dawson, Denise Nathanson), violin (Nevin Dawson), perhaps a little vocal and choral music will lead us up to Easter Sunday. We hope to be able to offer an opportunity for an Easter Choir, the perfect sequel to our Holiday Choir. As always, keep your eye out for a musical treat here and there!

### Keyboard – Have a keyboard to donate?

Our music program is seeking an 88 key-weighted-digital-action-piano. Cora would like to be able to offer more multi-hand piano music at future services and programs. If you have a keyboard you are no longer using, please talk to Cora. We would love to hear more of this amazing and unique music.

Thank You!

### A BIG THANKS from your Stewardship Committee!

A **BIG THANKS** to all who have pledged so generously in support of the work of the Church of the Holy Trinity! As Rev. Kevin so compellingly included in a recent sermon, the generosity of this congregation continues to make possible, the carrying out of Holy Trinity's Mission "to grow in God's love through worship, spiritual growth, service and fellowship." Pledges to date have now **exceeded our 2022 pledge goal**, giving your Vestry members confidence to move forward with the budget objectives approved at the annual meeting.

**For those who have not pledged but would like to do so, it's still not too late!** A pledge at ANY level is very much appreciated and gives our Vestry the added assurance that funding will support budgeted expenses, as well as unanticipated expenses that can arise. Pledging also gives you, as a member of Holy Trinity, periodic reporting that helps you track your donations against your total pledge.

Again, we thank you for your demonstrated belief in the work of Holy Trinity. As is often said, we're a small church making a big difference!

Gratefully,

Your Stewardship Committee

Sandy & Ron Kaufman, and Earl Segal

### Instructed Eucharist – March 6 9:30 am

When we gather each Sunday for public worship, we have a service of Communion, also known as the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We do this because this is the way Christians have worshiped since the earliest days of the Church. When Jesus instituted the first Eucharist at the Last Supper, he commanded all of his followers to continue the practice. It is the clearest, strongest way we know to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, and to maintain our bond with him and with one another.

Episcopal worship is structured, and it uses *The Book of Common Prayer* as its source. The texts and patterns of worship in the prayer book are derived from the earliest surviving texts of ancient Christian worship, updated and expanded as times and circumstances have changed. The common words of the prayer book express our most deeply held beliefs, keep us connected to the timeless elements of Christian tradition, and allow us to participate as more than just listeners.

On March 6 our 9:30 Holy Eucharist will be conducted as an "instructed Eucharist." During this service we will take time to explain the "what and why" of how we conduct our liturgy.

## MAGIC OF CRECHEMAS

Each year, just before Advent, the Creche magically appears, to the delight of all, in anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth. For many of us, the Holy Trinity Creche has always been a symbol of the season. In fact, not long after Father Kevin and Barbara arrived from St. George's Anglican Church in New Brunswick, Canada, they suggested that we have a life-size Creche to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. In the Fall of 2011, an enthusiastic group of volunteers went into action.

Michelle and Cameron Mactavish outlined the figures; Cy and Debbie Smith and Mel and Marlies Mraz cut out the figures; Linda Luke created relaxed puffy sheep; Heather Pusey designed a beautiful floating angel; and Ritze Miller painted the faces of the figures and guided the Sunday School students (Natalie, Josh, and Will Schmidt, Harry and Leo Callahan, Sophie Bredar, and Katya and Polina Tappan) in painting the donkey. Ritze and Michelle did an incredible job clothing the figures. Mary and Ned Crabbe built and assembled the stable. A year later, the Sunday School children presented us with the Belgian Belted cow.

The ECW provided funding for supplies and added an Eastern Shore goose. Joan Bennett, Greg Runyon, Cathy Schmidt, Marianne Cover, and Brooke Myers joined in the project and the Oxford Market provided the hay from their Fall display. A magical tradition was begun, which continues, to the delight of all.

Every year, just before Advent, a merry band of volunteers, led by Michelle and Cameron, carry the stable and the figures from storage behind Parish Hall to assemble the Creche and carefully secure all the characters; spotlights assure that all the village can enjoy the season of Advent, which has become a special part of the Sunday School children's Christmas pageant every year, when they put baby Jesus in the manger.

Many thanks to Michelle and Cameron and the merry band of volunteers who make the magic happen year after year.



## Sunday School

One of the focuses of Sunday School is thinking of others. Jesus taught us and showed us by example to reach out to others. One way we do that is through our Lenten Mission project, "Change for Change." (You will be hearing more about that in the next newsletter).

Another way we have shown our love and concern for others is by making cards and art projects. Last year when we were unable to meet in person because of Covid, we had periodic projects the children would do. This involved making crafts that we then delivered or mailed to parishioners or the Lunch Bunch recipients. This Fall when Father Kevin and I were able to visit some parishioners, they joyfully showed us the art project gifts that the Sunday School children had made.

This past month, with Covid positivity rates being so high, we again had the Sunday School children working on a project. They have been making Valentines. Will made an adorable Valentine craft which we received in time to include this photo!

Barbara, Pucky, and Kathy



## Episcopal Relief

Dear Rev. Cross, Thank you and everyone at Holy Trinity for your generous donation to Episcopal Relief & Development in 2021. We could not do the work we do without the support of Episcopalians and congregations, and we are truly grateful. Please pass along our thanks to the congregation.

Many thanks again, Josephine Hicks

## Vestry Elections

At the first meeting of the 2022 Vestry, the election of Vestry Officers was held. We are pleased to announce that the Vestry elected: Tot O'Mara- Sr. Warden, Michelle Mactavish & Bill Ritchie – Co-Jr. Wardens, David Wangsness & Suzie Segal – Co-Treasurers, Margaret Munsch- Registrar, and Connie Greenhawk - Secretary. In addition, Al Smith will continue as Vestry Emeritus. A resolution was also passed creating the position of immediate past Sr Warden. Gordon Fronk will service in this capacity. Congratulations and thanks to all.



## ONE-STOP-SHOP

The Maryland Food Bank Eastern Shore's **MOBILE MARKET** is visiting!  
We're inviting ALL to receive healthy foods and resources.  
Fresh produce boxes and non-perishable foods will be offered.

**FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

Oxford Community Center  
200 Oxford Road Oxford, MD 21654



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.

**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**