



Lifeline

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 3

March 2022

The Church of the Holy Trinity
An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

Made for Goodness

During Epiphany, a group of us engaged in a weekly discussion of Desmond and Mpho Tutu's book **Made for Goodness**. We learned about the life of this modern-day saint and were challenged by the theological promise that all of God's people and creation were created out of and for goodness. One might think this to be a simple, no-brainer kind of premise but in reality, it represents a paradigm shift in traditional church teachings. Rather than starting with original sin, Desmond and Mpho challenge us to think about original goodness. This is not a completely original thought; theologian Matthew Fox wrote about it in the 80's in his book, **Original Blessing**. It was the orientation of the church in the first centuries. To use a phrase from the book **Saving Paradise**, shifting the church's orientation from sin to blessing "opens a new future for Christianity through a theology of redemptive beauty. "

To be clear this orientation does not reject the notion that we are flawed human beings who commit sin and acts of violence against God's creation. It does not base its vision on flawlessness but rather wholeness. That we feel outrage at wrong and feel the "warm glow inside you when you have been kind" are illustrations to the Tutu's that we are fundamentally good. Indeed, if we believe "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;" **Gen 1:27** then the notion that we are fundamentally sinners is a contradiction to our true nature. Yes, we are subject to make mistakes, we do have the will to choose between right and wrong actions and often find we have done the latter. However, in the words of MLK, "the arc of the moral universe is long but bends towards justice." Indeed, in his book "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined, Steven Pinker documents the decline of violence throughout the history of humankind. This notion challenges what many of us feel in our time or others have felt in their time but that is because our view is temporal. Added to that today is the fact that we know more in a moment about what is happening worldwide than at any other time in history. It seems that there is increasing violence everywhere. Pinker would challenge that notion and tell you that if you take the long view of human history, it is not so.

Lent is a time that I like to base around 4 "R's" Rest, Reflect, Repent (turn towards God), Renew. It is not a time to just assess our shortcomings, as much of traditional Lenten thinking would have us do. Wallowing in sin and unworthiness does nothing to further God's dream for this world. We need to move on to right choices and right actions.

All easier said than done. The Jesuits have a practice that I would like to recommend you try out this Lent to help you journey toward a vision of goodness. The practice, developed by St. Ignatius, is the Examen. "We are called further, to freedom from whatever shackles us. For Moses people, it was freedom from oppression at the hands of an Egyptian pharaoh; for us it may be getting over ourselves by breaking free from attachment to money, power, greed, fear, alcohol, sex, pride, prejudice or any other demons that prevent our becoming our best selves." **Christ Lowry**

The Steps of the Examen

The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the light of God. The five steps of the Examen are: Thanksgiving, Petition, Review, Repentance, Resolution. **Included in this Lifeline is a guide to help you make this practice a part of your normal daily routine.** God's dream is that we fully realize our innate goodness. With clear and regular self-examination, forgiveness, and repentance (turning ourselves toward God) we can become God's collaborators in making this a more beautiful world. Let's make this Lent a holy time of rest and renewal.

You are invited to a time of reflection and prayer Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. At 5:30 pm each Wednesday we will gather for a New Zealand Evening Prayer service via Zoom.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our pandemic advisory committee: **Elizabeth Anderson, Cora Bruner, Susan DeLean-Botkin, George Curlin, Thomas DeMarco, Gordon Fronk, Bill Ritchie, Rich Wagner and Daniel Wright** for their expert guidance and care throughout the pandemic.
- Thank you to the **Flower Guild** for their beautiful arrangements that grace our altar each week.
- Thank you to our **Altar Guild** for your caring and expert preparation of our sanctuary for worship.
- Thank you to **Larry Paz's gang** of chefs for their devotion to the Lunch Bunch and preparation of our Shrove Tuesday fundraising supper.
- Thank you to **Karen Walbridge and Gerry Cooper** for taking on the co-leadership of our Mission team.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

New Covid Protocol

Our Pandemic Advisory team meets periodically to assess the state of the Covid pandemic in our area. This team met on February 22nd to reassess our current safety measures. As you are aware the State of Maryland and Talbot County lifted their mask requirements as of February 22nd.

After careful analysis of the local transmission rates and vaccination levels, we have also decided to ease our requirements. Going forward, **wearing a mask in the church or our parish hall is recommended but no longer required.** We recognize that some of you have health issues and fully support those who wish to continue wearing a mask. Fr. Kevin will continue to wear a mask for his health. Deacon Lisa and Fr. Kevin will also continue to wear masks while administering communion.

We also have the additional safety in the Church and Parish Hall Buildings provided by our air filtration systems. High grade filters and the Remo-Halo advanced air treatment purification system are operational in the church and parish hall. The CDC recommends this type of ultraviolet germicidal irradiation as one of the most effective technologies to minimize the spread of airborne microorganisms. This system has been proven to be effective in killing the coronavirus as well as flu and cold viruses. The air flow in the church is fully exchanged six times per hour.

We hope that this more positive direction of the pandemic will continue but we will continue to carefully monitor it and make any changes necessary to protect the health of our parish family. Thank you for your understanding and support.

the DAILY EXAMEN

Decompress and process your day in a framework of gratitude.



Make time at the end of each day to do the 5 steps.



Consider adding a lunchbreak Examen to your day.



The Daily Examen can be done through prayer and/or journaling.



5-step prayer of gratitude

1. Become aware of God's presence.



2. Review your day with gratitude.



3. Pray about one aspect from the day.



4. Pay attention to your emotions.



5. Look toward tomorrow.

Holy Trinity Milestone

Passed on:

Mary Kay Fischer

Scotty Lapp February 11, 2022

Michael Marchewka

Phillip Moore February 19, 2022

Connie's Corner



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**, *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches*

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

— **Bill Keane**

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

— **Helen Keller**

"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring."

— **Marilyn Monroe**

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always."

— **Mahatma Gandhi**

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"

— **Audrey Hepburn**

Written by Connie Greenhawk

March, the harboring of spring
Robins, active, searching, as if to bring
God's word into the world that is all shiny and new
Words to be heard by many, not just a few
Truisms to live by, to love by, to stand by
Beautiful words of faith, of love, causing you to cry
Tears of joy, tears of thanksgiving, tears to share
To all of mankind, to all of whom you care
Give thanks to Him with every beat of your heart
And let it always be that from Him you are not apart
He is your guide, your strength to lean on always
Through time, through strife, through love all of your days.

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

Services

**Ash Wednesday Services –
February 10
8:30 am and 5:30 pm**



In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the holy season of Lent, a time for reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. For centuries, Christians have received a cross of ashes on the forehead at the beginning of that season as a reminder of mortal failings and an invitation to receive God's forgiveness. The forty days of Lent that begin on this day call us to leave behind the spirit of "Busy! Busy! Busy!" We are welcome to rest, to pray and fast and give with the hope we will find these practices to be channels of grace, ways by which we can rejoice that – thank God!

Calling All Readers

As Covid has eased, Holy Trinity is planning to resume having volunteer lesson readers for the Sunday services. If you have read in the past, we hope you will return. If you haven't, please consider participating. Contact the office at 410-226-5134 or office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

MISSION SECTION

Just Once Per Year Lunch Bunch Program



The Just Once Per Year program (JOPY) was rolling along really well when Covid hit and the Lunch Bunch program had to stop making and delivering food to those in need in our community. Since JOPY's inception, we church members covered every week for two years, by



committing to provide either the funding or the actual groceries needed for the weekly lunch. There is a need to resume JOPY to financially cover the cost for groceries. Would you recommit to the program by sending in a check that will cover the cost of one lunch per year? The average cost for the weekly lunch is \$100.00, feeding approximately 30 people. If yes, please be sure to write "JOPY / Lunch Bunch" in the memo area of your check so that it is properly allocated. Thank you for supporting the Lunch Bunch members who, on behalf of the congregation of The Church of the Holy Trinity, provide nourishment and much joy to our community. - Sharon Paz

March Mission Activity

The Talbot Interfaith Shelter will open Evelyn's Place at 109 Goldsborough in April. While the exiting shelter serves only families, this new home will offer shelter to single men and women. Julie Lowe, Executive Director says "We are thrilled to have found a property where guests will have a home and a sense of belonging. With seven bedrooms, three full baths, a kitchen, meeting space, in-house laundry facilities and more, this is perfect setting for guests to regain stability as they work towards earning a place in one of our off-site transitional apartments."

We invite you to become part of our effort in March to provide supplies for the new home. We will collect paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, foil, zip lock bags (all sizes), cleaning supplies (disinfectant cleaner, glass cleaner, microfiber cloths, furniture polish, general purpose cleaner, floor cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, sponges, dish detergent, dishwasher detergent, Swifter dusting tools and mops) are among the necessary items. Non-perishable food items such as coffee, creamer, sugar, Splenda, Tea, cereal, juice boxes, canned soup, crackers, and pasta are also needed.

Donations may be dropped off at the parish hall. A Goodly God practice in Lent might be to bring a donation to church with you on Sundays. *"Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others."* Phillipians 2:4



ECW PLANT SALE on OXFORD DAY

Spring is just around the corner and, Oxford Day is backin modest form! To be part of the day, ECW will have a Plant Sale! *Please.....plan on buying your plants from Holy Trinity ECW.*

As with last year, most purchases must be pre-ordered and pre-paid for a **COVID careful curbside pick-up** on Saturday April 23, 2022

We also plan on having some extra hanging baskets for sale that day!

Pre-sale order forms for Geraniums, Begonias, Impatiens and Hanging Baskets and Oxford Day Plant Sale updates will be available soon and in the April Lifeline

Lots of helpers are needed for plant delivery & pick-up days! Please contact

Beverly Rohman at beverlyrohman@gmail.com or 410-829-9561 or

Earl Segal at earl.segal@gmail.com or 703-244-2208

ALL proceeds go to support Local Missions!

MISSION SECTION

Lunch Bunch Notes:



On Monday, February 7th a few of our Holy Trinity Lunch Bunch volunteers gathered at the OCC to take delivery of over twenty boxes of fresh produce and canned goods donated by the Maryland Food Bank and then drove those boxes to the Parish Hall. On Tuesday, a kitchen crew led by Larry Paz and his band of Merry-men (and woman) met in the Parish Hall to prepare soup and sandwiches for the meals that our five Lunch Bunch Teams would need on Wednesday to pack into their cars and deliver to 17 homes and 34 seniors and certain convalescing persons known to Father Kevin located in greater Oxford, Easton, and Trappe.



On Wednesday morning at 9 A.M. sharp, our Lunch Bunch group of drivers and deliverers consisting of Ray and Linda Sattler, Tot O'Mara, George Gaffney, Bill Myers, Lee Phillips, Stephen Weissenberger, Jan Nelson, Steve Walk and Missions co-chairs Gerry Cooper and myself picked up the requisite number of produce boxes and canned good boxes and the usual lunches and soups and headed off to their various destinations.



The recipients of these deliveries were overwhelmed by the generosity and thrilled to receive the food. They were also delighted to receive the Valentine's Day cards the Sunday School children had made for them. I know from speaking to a couple of people on my delivery route, they were overjoyed! Gerry and I am so humbled by all who participate in our Lunch Bunch group from Larry Paz and his crew to all of the drivers and deliverers! We are very blessed indeed!

Karen Walbridge

Expanding Our Food Ministry

As some of you know, for the past 18 months, fifteen to twenty members of Holy Trinity who call themselves the "Lunch Bunch" have come to the Parish Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month, forming teams of two, a driver and a runner to deliver hot soup and sandwiches to 10 to 15 homes of persons on our prayer list. Member Larry Paz and other volunteers prepare the soup and sandwiches on the 2nd & 4th Mondays and Tuesdays in our Parish Hall kitchen so the meals are ready for delivery to needy persons in Oxford and Trappe on Wednesday.

Now, we would like to expand the Lunch Bunch to the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays so that all the weeks are covered.

- To expand this program, we need a team to shop and prepare the soup, sandwiches, fruit and dessert lunches in the Parish hall kitchen.

- Five persons with a car and a GPS willing to be the driver on a team of two
- Five persons willing to be the runner on a team of two

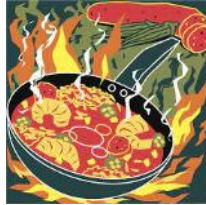
Our Lunch Bunch leaders, Gerry Cooper and Karen Walbridge will provide each team with their monthly delivery list which may or may not vary by one or two deliveries, month to month as homebound recipients get added or come off the list. Please contact the parish office, speak to Karen or Gerry to let us know if you would like to join this fulfilling person-to-person food mission at Holy Trinity.

Gerry Cooper & Karen Walbridge

MISSION SECTION

SHROVE TUESDAY GUMBO SUPPER ~TAKE OUT ~

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER



In lieu of a charge for the meal we ask you to make a donation. All proceeds will be donated to the Neighborhood Service Center

Pick up: Tuesday, March 1st 5:00-5:30 pm

The Church of the Holy Trinity

502 S Morris St., Oxford

Please rsvp at 410-226-5134 by Friday, February 25.

Educational Section



Men's Inquiring Believers

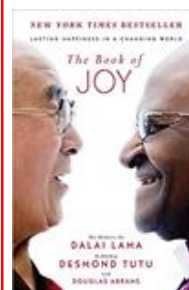
The Inquiring Believers is a group that seeks to become better acquainted with the books of the Bible and other more contemporary books written by religious scholars and thinkers. It meets weekly September through May on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Having just finished an in-depth study of John's gospel, the group will begin a new series for Lent. The book **Reliving the Passion** by Walter Wangerin, Jr. will form the basis for the Lenten discussion. Walter Wangerin takes his readers inside the story of Christ's passion. Drawn from the Gospel of Mark, **Reliving the Passion** translates the events—from the moment when the chief priests plot to kill Jesus to the Resurrection—into the realm of feeling, image, and experience. In richly personal detail, Wangerin helps us recognize our own faces in the streets of Jerusalem; breathe the dark air of Golgotha; and experience, as Mary and Peter did, the bewilderment, the challenge, and the ultimate revelation of knowing the man called Jesus. A perfect devotional for the Lenten season.

Our gatherings are marked by strong social interaction and the sharing of ideas and opinions through lively discussion. Please consider joining us!. You may call Ray Munsch at 215-356-2481 for more details.

WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

The Women on a Journey will be finishing up
The Book of Joy



by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu and planning to start a new book.

We are meeting on **Zoom** on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

March 2nd & March 16th - 9:00 am

For more information contact Beverly Rohman
at 410-829-9561 or
beverlyrohman@gmail.com

Educational Section

Spring Session of Sunday School Starts March 13

We are planning on resuming our Sunday School schedule of having Sunday School during the 10:00 service. We are excited to be starting back to Sunday School on March 13. (Note that we do not meet during the first Sunday of the month.) We will start out learning about the Holy Trinity based on St Patrick's explanation using a three leaf clover to show how three can be one.

The children will also be writing thank you messages to a parishioner who sent the Sunday School class a check for \$100 to kick off the Lenten "Change for Change" program. Please see the separate article of this important tradition of Sunday School at Holy Trinity. We may even adopt an elephant this year!

We will be meeting in the Parish Hall and masks are required in consideration of the health needs of both the children and the teachers. When it warms up, we may be able to meet outside without masks.

We will continue to learn Bible Stories and have projects related to the stories. We may even do some ribbon dancing for Palm Sunday and hopefully have an Easter egg hunt after the Easter service. Our last day for collecting for the "Change for Change" Lenten project will be Easter Sunday. On our last Sunday, April 24, we will have the children decide what charities to give the money to. It always makes for a wonderful discussion. "Which is better for a family - a bicycle or a donkey?" "A donkey has to eat." "But a donkey can give a person a ride AND plow a field."

None of this would be possible without you. Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who bring the children. We also thank you, all of our parishioners, for your support, whether it be a smile welcoming the children or contributing to the "Change for Change" project, for you show that we are a loving community.

If you have any questions, please call the parish office (410-226-5134) and leave a message for Barbara.

Sunday School Lenten Project: "Change for Change"

For several years now, the Sunday School children have a special project during Lent. The project is called "Change for Change" because your spare change is collected during Lent. Then, after Easter the children decide how to use that money to help change the world. In the past some of the ways they have done this is by purchasing needed supplies such as chickens, fruit trees, medical supplies, food, educational supplies, soccer balls, a donkey, and many other needed items. The children are very thoughtful with their discussions and decision making.

How can you help you ask? There are a variety of ways. The children will have "Change for Change" buckets at the back of the church each Sunday to collect your spare change. They also welcome paper dollars and checks! We are also looking for someone to donate \$180 to purchase two goats - a male and a female. When we first started this project the children really wanted to do this so that a village would have baby goats that could be shared with the whole community. Mary and Clint Clubb provided the funding for this. When they passed on last year Father Kevin and Barbara sponsored the goats. We are looking for a sponsor for this year so we can continue this tradition.



Covid has certainly altered how the Sunday School have been able to raise the funds to keep this Lenten program going. However, you generous parishioners have been amazing! Thanks to your spare change and the checks you mailed in, we raised over \$1300 last year - the most ever! If you would like to mail a check in, please mail it to the Sunday School, PO BOX 387, Oxford, MD 21654. Please make sure to write Change for Change on the memo line. Again, we thank you for your support. You help to make the children be a part of The Holy Trinity family.

If you have any questions, please leave a message for Barbara Cross at the church.



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

Evening Prayer Wednesday at 5:30 pm 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