



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*





CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our **Altar and Flower Guilds, Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Cora and the Choir, Connie, The Chairmen, Deacon Lisa, our Vestry, and you** for your acts of kindness each day that reflect God's dreams for this world.
- Much appreciation to **all for who have so generously donated** funds to the Ukraine relief Fund. Your contributions enable God's collaborators' to bring respite, nourishment, and safe haven to those in need.
- Thank you to the **Soup Meister and Lunch Bunch** for continuing to provide meals for the homebound in our community. Thank you also **to those who have donated funds** to purchase supplies for the meals.
- Much appreciation to all who pray for those in need of healing .

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

INQUIRING BELIEVERS

The Men's Bible Study group has just concluded its spring semester and will be taking a summer break. We will start up again in mid - September and already have exciting plans for the fall.

This past year we welcomed four new members to our group which, along with the end of social distancing, has added new energy. If you are interested in joining us, please stop by one of our meetings or contact Ray Munsch in the church directory. We meet Monday evenings at 6:00 PM for one hour.

Holy Trinity Milestone

Baptism

Chloe Michele Windsor

Passed on:

Gordon Brunner

Richard Newton

DeVisme Lee

Connie's Corner



"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."— **Michael Altshuler**

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"— **Anne Frank**

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."— **Maya Angelou**

"When we let fear be our master, we cannot be happy and free as a butterfly. But when we choose to trust the journey and embrace love and joy, we are free to fly."— **Annicken R. Day**

Written by Connie Greenhawk

Summer has arrived in all it's glory
 And when hot and humid we can be inside and
 listen to The Story
 Of God's creation, His six days of wonder was
 created
 His architecture was done as fated
 The seventh day was always called the best
 As it was intended for mankind to stop, to take a
 rest
 From the beginning it was not meant for Him to
 win
 As Adam and Eve succumbed to the worst of sin
 So He sent His son through the Virgin Mary
 To be born, to grow, and finally His word to carry
 Many followed Jesus, living as the Father wished
 God watched as Jesus fed all who fished
 He died for us, giving us everlasting life
 Let us try to live in peace, without any strife.

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

Images of the Living God

What is your image of God? Conceptualizing God is an abstract exercise for the human mind. Of course, the concept of the Trinity immediately draws to mind the fatherly creator God of the Old Testament, Jesus the healer and redeemer, and the Holy Spirit winging its way through the world. Yet God is all, so much more, and none of these. God has no gender or form. Yet to make God real we need images of God and so, visualizations of God abound in our lives. We know that these images are not immutable. They change form throughout our life journey. So how do you conceive of God?

Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, gave much thought to the question of what God looks like. She was a Catholic religious sister, scholar, singer, and teacher. Raised in a small Mississippi town, she converted to Catholicism at the age of 12 and later joined the Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. Sister Thea lived out her faith and African American identity through her ministry of evangelization, education, and action for justice.

Sister Thea wrote:

"I was reared in the traditional Black community—in song and prayer and conversation and story. My people graced me with multiple images of the living God.

God is bread when you're hungry, water when you're thirsty, a harbor from the storm. God's a father to the fatherless, a mother to the motherless. God's my sister, my brother, my leader, my guide, my teacher, my comforter, my friend. God's the way-maker and burden-bearer, a heart fixer, and a mind regulator. God's my doctor who never lost a patient, my lawyer who never lost a case, my chaplain who never lost a battle. God's my all in all, my everything. God's my rock, my sword, my shield, my lily of the valley, my pearl of great price... Counselor, Emmanuel, redeemer, savoir, Prince of Peace, Son of God, Mary's little baby, wonderful Word of God.

These images come from Scripture and from the meditations of Christians. Some people see them as contradictory, but Christians see them as inadequate—all of them. But all these images are available to me... Each one corresponds to a particular need. All these images help me as I call upon God's name."

Visualizing God is at the very heart of our Scriptures and faith. Visualizing God can deepen our prayer life. If we look in Scripture about what God might look like we find images of a burning bush, smoke, a cloud, Jesus and tongues of flame. Amongst these several references through the Old and New Testament we read at the very beginning *"And God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness...And God created humankind in the divine image, creating it in the image of God—creating them male and female..'"* **Genesis 1:26-27**

We have been created in God's image- *"imago Dei"*? What does that tell us about God's image? Well first, we need to be careful to not be too literal or egotistical in our conceptualizing God. Voltaire wisely wrote *"In the beginning God created man in His own image, and man has been trying to repay the favor ever since."*

Sister Thea explained that at the root of each of her images *"Each one corresponds to a particular need."* Initially I took exception with this concept because it is one of dependency. Yet her statement speaks to the truth of the human condition and recognizes the caution offered by Voltaire. When we imagine ourselves as bigger than our real frail condition, when we lose a sense of humility, that is when we can be sure our image of ourselves (and consequently God) has been turned around and conflated into an egotistical falsehood.

Why is any of this important? St. Ignatius of Loyola founder of the Jesuits felt that visualizing God while in prayer enhances and deepens the experience. We are a relational people. While we may feel God's presence, our associating an image of God to that presence will make God even more accessible to us. God is all present. Our efforts to recognize God's all abiding presence through prayer and imagery will surely strengthen our spiritual life.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

MISSION SECTION



Acts of Kindness - Summer Mission Project

The mission project for this summer may not involve shopping or writing a check but it can. Your mission is to do something that eases the burden of someone in need. You may know this person, or they may be a stranger. Some examples are giving someone a ride to the store or the Dr. How about visiting a lonely person? Why not take along a meal? Does that neighbor need his grass cut? Can that young single parent use a babysitter when they go for a job interview? Do you know someone who is having trouble paying the rent? The list is long and varied. We can always find something and someone to help, I am sure.

Some examples of acts of kindness:

- *One of our parishioners heard of a neighbor, whom she did not know, had knee replacement surgery. Upon hearing about it, she made the famous Dolly Parton cream vegetable soup, and had it delivered along with a Get Well card. The neighbor was surprised and most appreciative.*
- *Another parishioner took homemade lemonade to the ferry crew on a very hot, humid day.*
- *Another is regularly taking food boxes from Social Services to a parishioner in need.*

We can all use some good news now! Let us know how you accomplished your mission or if you have been the beneficiary of an act of kindness. Email the office at office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org. We don't want any names just let us know what you did. A list of good deeds will inspire all of us and maybe ease the pain of current events a little.

Just Once Per Year Lunch Bunch Program

THE LUNCH BUNCH NEEDS YOUR DONATION

The cost of food has risen dramatically yet this faithful group continues to prepare and deliver food to those in need. Please send in your donation today to support this worthy mission. Remember to write LUNCH BUNCH on the memo line of your check.

Sharon Paz

Safety Training

As a consequence of these times, we have made it a priority to have our ushers, greeters and Sunday School staff receive safety training from Sheriff Gamble's team. This type of training was conducted at Holy Trinity several years ago and it was very useful in helping us establish safety protocols. Now that the state of pandemic has allowed the church to more fully resume normal activities, it is time to offer this training once again. The training will be held on Wednesday, July 20 at 10:00 am. If you have any questions about this training you may contact Suzanne Fischer or Fr. Kevin.

Educational Section

Worship Support Opportunities for You

Pre-Covid parishioners were involved in many areas of Worship Support that due to the pandemic were curtailed or placed on hold. We are on the path to returning to a sense of normalcy in society and at church. While there still is a need for vigilance and caution, it is now time to resume a more normal level of functioning. Worship is a collaborative activity of the people of God. At Holy Trinity we have many paths to become facilitators of our worship activities.

- **Altar Guild** (leader: Ginny Wagner) Sets the sanctuary and altar for regular Sunday and weekly services as well special services, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.
- **Flower Guild** (leader: Suzanne Litty) Provide flowers and other appropriate altar decorations for Sunday services and special services such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, concerts and other services as requested.
- **Choir** (director Cora Bruner): Spreads the joy of our faith through singing at our services.
- **Lectors** (leader: Kathy Becker) Read Scripture and prayers during services.
- **Ushers** (leader: Suzanne Fischer) Greet attendees, assist with seating, collect the offering, and carry communion elements to the altar.
- **Acolytes** (leader: Kathy Becker) Assist priest at the altar for the celebration of Holy Communion.
- **Broadcast** (leader: Gordon Fronk) Initiates the broadcast and directs the broadcast camera during worship from an iPad controller.
- **Fellowship Host:** Sponsors one of our Sunday Fellowship Hours. At the present time we schedule a fellowship hour after the first Sunday of the month's 9:30 am service. We provide beverages and treats but hosts are always welcome to bring their own delicious delights.

If you are interested in offering your services for any of these roles you may speak to the committee leader, or Fr. Kevin, or call the office for more information. We look forward to having you involved in helping us offer thanks and praise to our good God.

- Fr. Kevin

Mid-2022 Financial Update

Now that we have completed the first half of 2022, you may be wondering how we are doing financially at the Church of the Holy Trinity. We are pleased to report that Total Offerings are essentially on Budget for the first half. As attendance has grown, your Plate and General Offerings have more than offset a slight shortfall in Pledges through June. Pledge statements will be sent to you during July to give you an update of your giving. Regarding expenses, we have all experienced a substantial rise in our cost of utilities. At the Church, our utilities through June are \$2.4K above budget; however, we are hopefully through the major window of high fuel expenses. We want to thank you for maintaining your financial commitments to the Church. David Wangness and Susan Segal – Co-treasurers.

Buildings and Grounds Update

Your building and grounds team, Michelle Mactavish and Bill Ritchie, have been kept very busy the past few months. Our roofs, lighting, HVAC systems, and grounds have all required attention. We are fortunate to have been prepared to fund these projects from our 2022 budget and the Windsor endowment fund for buildings and grounds. A brief recap of these projects:

- The rectory roof which was well over 20 years old had started losing shingles and had a minor leak. A new roof was installed in May by Pat Mayock. Interestingly under the two layers of old roof was the original cedar roof which was still in fairly good shape. Because of its good condition the new shingles were able to be installed without the need for building a plywood based over the whole roof.
- Motion detector lighting was installed at the hall entrance by Carrion Electric to provide much improved visibility for hall access at night.
- The metal roof over the River Room had begun to rust but was not at a point of needing replacement. The roof was sanded down and an application of rust proof paint was applied. In addition to helping preserve the roof, the appearance of it is much more aesthetically pleasing.
- The parish hall ceiling was in need of major repair due to leaks from the old HVAC system and some accidental breakage of tiles when the system was maintained. Donnie Dulin was hired to replace the damaged tiles and paint the new sections to match the original color of the tiles. It was done so well that it is hard to tell the new tiles from the old.
- 2022 became the year of HVAC system troubles. Both the Parish Hall and River Room HVAC systems failed in the Spring! (It should be noted that both of these systems were installed about 20 years ago.) In June Shaw's replaced the HVAC system in the River Room system with a much more efficient heat pump and air handler. At the same time the Parish Hall air conditioning system broke down and was not repairable. Instead of installing a replacement air conditioning system a decision was made to covert the system to a heat pump system utilizing the Mitsubishi wall mounted units. The units were installed in late June and the system installation will be completed shortly. Due to supply chain issues the thermostat to control the system has not yet arrived. In the interim the system can be run by a remote control.
- Planning is underway for several grounds improvement projects in the fall including landscaping around our Claire Chapel.

As one might guess Michelle and Bill have been kept very busy managing all of these projects. We give thanks for their service and pray for a less eventful remainder of the year!

ICE CREAM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

August 7 at 9:30 am

Our annual Ice Cream Sunday, featuring the best ice cream from anywhere, Highland Creamery. Come for a refreshing Word and yum diddily yum ice cream on Sunday August 7th at our 9:30 am service. What better way to start your day, Holy Trinity will offer spiritual and physical nourishment for your soul and body. Yummo!

Funded by the Pat Martin Sweet Fund.



MUSIC

Music Notes

July Musicians

July 10 10 a.m. service Nevin Dawson, Violin
 July 17 10 a.m. service Michelle Webb, Clarinet and The Holy Trinity Choir
 July 24 10 a.m. service George Wadelton, Recorder
 July 31 10 a.m. service Ashley Watkins, Flute

Looking Forward - - - -

Piano Repairs will occur the week of July 11th. Parts are in and we're waiting for the piano to "dry out" from pre-HVAC installation in the Parish Hall. Now the HVAC units have been installed we are awaiting thermostat regulation and time for the piano to get adjusted to the new air!

August 14th 4 piano 8 hands Sunday! Please mark your calendar to attend the 10 a.m. service. Martha Britt, Linda Sattler, and Maris Wicker will join Cora for an exciting morning of piano music.

Enjoy singing???? Come join our *July 17th choir!* We will rehearse at 9:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. service. A well known melody - just jump in and sing!

If you are having musicians visiting this summer, please share with Cora. We welcome your friends and family!



A Prayer for Our Nation in the Midst of Mass Shootings

(adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Dr. John Throop, Anglican Fellowship of Prayer)

Almighty and most merciful God, we come to you with heavy hearts and troubled minds after the numerous mass shootings in this country. We pray for the victims of these shootings. We bring before you all the men, women and children who were innocent victims of these acts of evil. May the souls of all these innocent victims, through God's mercy find eternal safety and rest. We pray for all who are hospitalized, and those survivors with life-shattering and permanent injuries. We lift all families who are facing ordeal and turmoil, and we place them into your loving arms.

We give thanks for all first responders who risked their lives as they intervene to save lives. We praise you for the provision of so many medical specialists in the times and places where they were most needed. We bring before you the leaders of the cities and towns who gathered citizens together for peace, unity, and strength.

We implore your divine help, O God, for our nation at this time. We pray that law enforcement officials will have the resources they need to protect, and to remain vigilant. We pray for our legislators to commit to sensible policies and laws regarding the ownership and use of guns, and that they also will provide resources for better mental health diagnosis and treatment. We pray that our President will provide compassionate and clear leadership to heal our national soul.

Finally, we pray for those who inflicted such harm of others. We pray for perfect mercy and justice and, for those who still are alive, for repentance. Amen.



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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:

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