



Lifeline

VOLUME 15
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October 2022

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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





CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- **Much gratitude to everyone who helped make the Thank You Oxford Party** an outstanding success. To those who set up and took down, shopped for the supplies, cooked, served and hosted. This was a marvelous event.
- **Great appreciation to “Jenz Frenz”** for their absolutely wonderful music at Thank You Oxford. Next stop Carnegie Hall!
- **Thanks to all who donated to the Talbot County Care Pack program.** Your generosity will help keep the communities children well fed and healthy.
- **Thank you to The Altar Guild** for all of their good work in September preparing our sanctuary for our multiple wedding, funeral and baptism services.
- **Thank you to our organ technicians: Bark Wickkiser, Larry Pruitt and Jim** for the restoration work on our pipes. The organ sounds better than ever!
- **Thank you to Dennis Roberts** for treating our grounds for ticks so that we could enjoy the Thank You Oxford event.
- **Much appreciation and gratitude to the ECW** for their commitment to help local missions through their outstanding fund raising activities.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Milestones

Baptisms

Jack McLean Chapin 9/24/22

Dylan David Barnes 9/24/22

Marriage

Suzanne Beyda & Bernie Witter 9/10/22

Passed On

Jean Beckhorn 9/5/22

Mary MacIndoe Powell 9/17/22

Fred Stocker 9/24/22

Bishop San's Visit

Our Bishop Santosh Marray visited on his annual pilgrimage to Holy Trinity on Sunday September 4th. We enjoyed a delightful outdoor service and inspiring address from Bishop San.

Connie's Corner



You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. Submitted by Barbara Cross

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.”— **Bill Keane**

“Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”— **George Bernard Shaw**

“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**

"Faith is love taking the form of aspiration."
—**William Ellery Channing**

“Written by Connie Greenhawk

October, a month of cool weather and black cats
And at night the possibility of flying bats
Many opportunities of leaves to rake
Or chances of Halloween cookies to bake
Costume decisions of young and old
Always mindful of the impending crisp night, all cold
Darkness descends to signal the beginning of night
Which for many can be a source of fright
Things that go bump in the stillness causes fear
But be not afraid as God is always near
His love and arms will protect you from harm
Fortifying you with grace and charm
Follow His lead right from the start
Keep your faith alive with love in your heart.

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

THANKS GIVING

Each October my thoughts always turn to thanksgiving. My calling in ministry began in Canada so I give thanks at this time each year for the blessing of this life. The Canadian Thanksgiving occurs a full month and a half before our own Thanksgiving. It is celebrated on the second Monday of the month, this year on Monday October 10th. The timing of the Canadian Thanksgiving ties it in more closely with the time of harvest and the traditions around the world of harvest celebrations. The tradition of Thanksgiving originated with the harvest festivals which are typically autumnal celebrations meant to show appreciation for the bountiful harvest of the season.

Our thanks can extend that metaphor of harvest far beyond its agrarian roots. We have much to give thanks for. After our recent mission project performing acts of kindness, we would do well to give thought to all we have received from God and our fellow sojourners on this path of life. Giving thanks goes hand-in-hand with receiving acts of kindness and also with our good fortune of being blessed to be able to perform such acts in our daily lives. Giving and receiving are as natural to the life of a Christian as breathing in and out.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

One may wonder why giving thanks is such an important part of life. Thomas Menton, a Puritan, wrote an essay on the reasons to give thanks. Menton describes that giving of thanks is beneficial, profitable, and delightful.

Beneficial: “Because God is continually beneficial to us, blessing and delivering His people every day and by new mercies giveth us new matter of praise and thanksgiving”

Profitable: “The usefulness of thanksgiving appeareth with respect to faith, love, and obedience. Faith and praise live and die together: if there be faith, there will be praise; and if there be praise, there will be faith. If faith, there will be praise, for faith is a bird that can sing in winter”

Delightful: “It is a most delightful work to remember the many thousand mercies God hath bestowed on the church, ourselves, and friends. To remember His gracious word and all the passages of His providence; is this burdensome to us? ‘Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.’”

Who can argue with adopting a practice that is beneficial, profitable and delightful?

Giving thanks also helps maintain a balanced view of our life and our place in the creation. The ego may try to convince us that we are invincible and not in need of help from anyone or anything. As the song goes, “*I am a rock, I am an island*” .P.Simon But this is a falsehood. We only exist because of a mutually beneficial, interdependent relationship with all of creation. In the face of all of our extraordinary capabilities, we may develop an exaggerated opinion of ourselves. A remedy to this pitfall is a healthy practice of thanks giving. Giving thanks sets aright the reality of our dependence on each other. “*No man is an island.*” J.Donne

I might suggest you adopt as a daily practice taking inventory of all the blessings in your life. Blessing for which thanks is the only response. How does one say thanks? An answer to this question can be found in nature. As the lyrics of the hymn **God of the Sparrow** ask:

*God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise
God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks*

Jaroslav J. Vajda

KIRKIN' O THE TARTANS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:30 AM

Holy Trinity will hold our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 2nd. This service is held to honor the role of The Church of Scotland in the founding of The Episcopal Church. We also honor our town's many ancestors from Scotland who settled this community. A Celtic Holy Eucharist service will be celebrated, and our festivities will include our choir, pipers: Mike McConnell & John Malin, and the wearing of kilts. We will sing hymns, pray prayers from our Celtic roots, give thanks for our heritage, and bless the Tartans.



Annual Meeting – November 6, 2022 10:30 am

The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Holy Trinity will take place on Sunday November 6, 2022 at 10:30 am. The meeting will begin immediately following our 9:30 am Celebration of Holy Eucharist. The service will be held on the front lawn of the church weather permitting. The service and meeting will also be broadcast via Holy Trinity's network. The Annual meeting is an important gathering of the church where we will elect new Vestry members and approve the proposed 2023 budget. If you have any questions for the Vestry you may submit them in advance to the church email: office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4th at 5:00 pm

Each year, in celebration of the feast of St. Francis we hold a Blessing of the Animals service on the front lawn of the church. All four, two legged animals and creatures that fly, swim and slither are welcome to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and receive a blessing.

MISSION SECTION

Holy Trinity Women's Luncheon a Great Success!

More than 30 women of Holy Trinity came together in the Parish Hall on September 12 to enjoy a catered luncheon, a chance to mingle, and the important task of distributing funds raised through last year's Christmas Bazaar and this year's Plant Sale. Twelve local charities and the Rector's Discretionary Fund for emergency requests were funded, with a total of \$17,000.00 allocated from the funds raised. It was a great gathering that created the opportunity to make new acquaintances and reconnect with old friends!

Those in attendance also learned about the exciting plans for this year's **Christmas Bazaar**. Anyone wanting to participate is invited to learn about the many ways to become involved. Contact Christmas Bazaar co-chairs **Sara Wangsness** or **Sally Fronk** for more details.



The organizing group that brought these amazing women together - The Episcopal Church Women or ECW - also introduced an ad hoc **Planning and Recommendations Committee** for charting the course of this group as it works to preserve the essential fundraising and camaraderie that its fundraising and social gatherings make possible. With open positions on its board, the current board members want to discuss the current organizational structure, explore other options, and make recommendations to Holy Trinity from its findings. These discussions will be held over a series of Zoom meetings. Several attendees to the luncheon have signed up. Anyone else interested in participating in these Zoom meetings should contact **Sandy Kaufman** at sandykaufman1@aol.com to

Educational Section

Inquiring Believers

The Men's Bible Study group, also known as the Inquiring Believers, has resumed. We generally meet every Monday night from 5 to 6 pm enjoying fellowship and snacks while discussing the latest assignment. Our goal is to learn more about the Bible and Biblical times through reading, reflecting and asking questions. Scholars we are not.

This past year we welcomed four new members to our group which, along with the end of meeting via Zoom due to Covid restrictions, has created new energy. Our initial topic this fall is the Book OF Ecclesiastes. We welcome all new members. No prior experience or knowledge necessary, just an interest in learning more about the Bible..



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

The Women on a Journey are starting a new book....

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence

(March 30, 2021)

Diana Butler Bass, the award-winning author of *Grateful* goes beyond the culture wars to offer a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives. A talented of writer and speaker in the liberal mainline of the Christian tradition discusses how she has come to know and understand Jesus as friend, teacher, savior, lord, and way.

Come join us! We will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

We will conduct meetings via Zoom with occasional in person gatherings.

October 5th & 19th 9:00 am

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

Women's Bible Study

Begins Tuesday ,October 11 at 5 pm

Calling all women!

Come join us for the Women's Bible Study. We will meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5pm on Zoom. Our first topic will be Women in the Bible. More information will come soon on the guide we will be using. Deacon Lisa will lead the Bible study, but everyone's input is important. Contact Deacon Lisa with any questions: lisa.pagano15@gmail.com. See you there!

It Was A Beautiful Night

It was a beautiful night. Last night's Thank You Oxford Party was a wonderful event celebrating our community. For the first time since 2019 we were able to host this event of gratitude for the town and what an event it was! We had a great turnout of the honorees, parishioners, and townsfolk. It felt like another huge sign that life has returned a little more to the norm of this being a "little piece of heaven." It is hard to express gratitude sufficient to all the giving that made this event possible. The set up and decorations team created a marvelous summer picnic theme, the food preparations and serving built on the theme of a back yard cookout for the whole community, and the music of Jen's Friends was simply infectious joy. Highland Creamery's treats put a cap on this wonderful evening. A huge thank you to one and all who helped make this event such a success. We have so many town employees, volunteers on town commissions and organizations, and Robin's Nest & Thomas Trash employees who make gifts of their time and skills to make this community a welcoming home to so many. Note: Our "Coasties" were on duty and unable to attend but today they took home a truck load of delicious food to enjoy at the station. It was a genuine gift to be able to give back to all of them a little of the service and joy they bring to us. "It takes a village" and what a marvelous village we are blessed to call home. Once again, thank you to all of you. God's love shone through you last night. – Fr. Kevin

Educational Section

Sunday School News

Sunday School has gotten off to a great start! We have had the blessing of the backpacks, made Noah's Ark out of plastic bricks, and made a nightlight of the Burning Bush when God spoke to Moses.

We meet in the Parish Hall on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 10:00. On the second Sunday we join the congregation in church at the peace, so the children are there for communion. On the fourth Sunday we remain in the Parish Hall so we have more time for a project. Our theme for this year is "God is with us."

During October we will have more stories from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. On October 9th we will learn about David and Goliath and see what David could do with his knowledge that God was with him. Jonah and the big fish is our Bible story for October 23. This is a great example of how God certainly can be persistent and does not abandon us. God is with us!

Many thanks to Pucky Lippincott, Linda Wilson, and Kathy Becker for their wonderful teaching. We all have a wonderful, fun time bringing God's word to the children.

Barbara Cross



Fascinator Fun!



Join us for a fun time making Fascinators for the church bazaar. We did this a few years ago and they sold out quickly! We provide the materials and everyone has a fun time creating unique Fascinators. There are two upcoming workshops planned. Please join us in the Parish Hall on Wednesday October 26 and/or Tuesday November 1. We will be there from 9-12. Feel free to come by anytime. If you have any questions, please call the office and leave a message for Barbara Cross. All are welcome!



Finance

The Finance Committee wants to thank you for maintaining your Financial Commitments to the Church. Through August, Pledges are \$18K greater than Budget as new members have joined in supporting Holy Trinity. With Operating Expenses running essentially as budgeted, we're fortunate to report a modest surplus as we look to the final few months of 2022. Also of note, is the incredible generosity of Holy Trinity members to the Ukraine Mission fund as well as support of those less fortunate in our community. It's hard to believe we are beginning to think about the 2023 Budget which will be presented at the November 6th Annual Meeting. Thank you for your continuing support of Holy Trinity. David Wangsness and Susan Segal - Co-Treasurers.

MUSIC**The United States Naval Academy Orchestra
in Concert at the Church of the Holy Trinity****Sunday, October 16th at 4 pm**

The United States Naval Academy Orchestra has selected The Church of the Holy Trinity for a rare off campus performance. The Brigade of Midshipmen Orchestra is comprised of a vast number of very talented instrumentalists. These midshipmen come from backgrounds of intense disciplined training since early childhood. For years, midshipmen have been active honing their instrumental skills and talents and have enjoyed performing on a variety of levels from recitals to the concert stage. This will undoubtedly be a well-attended event. To ensure we

are able to seat attendees, advance reservations will be required. Church members are being given advance notice to make reservations but must respond by Thursday, October 6th. To make a reservation, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134 or email: office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org Seating on the day of the concert in the church will be on first come first serve basis. Overflow seating from the church will be in the parish hall. There is no charge for this concert.

October Service Musicians

October 2nd 9:30 a.m. Kirkin' Service Choir and Bagpipes!

October 9th 10:00 a.m. Delmarva Trio

October 16th 10:00 a.m. Choir and Trio

October 30th 10:00 a.m. Denise Nathanson, Cello

**Look on back of Calendar for
Invite, Welcome, Connect Information**



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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:

Sunday 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. All services are in-person and broadcast

Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sundays at 10:00 am