



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*

Acts of Kindness Challenge

In his book, **Jesus of Nazareth**, German theologian, Gerhard Lohfink enumerates the rules of life in God's kingdom as found in the Gospels. Those on his list include:

"that one should not choose the best place but instead wait to see what place one is given" (Luke 14:7-11);

"that one who wants to be first must be the servant of all" (Luke 22:24-27);

"that disciples would wash each other's feet, just as he has done-that is, do the dirty work for others" (John 13:14-15);

"that the disciples must forgive each other seventy-seven times, that is, always and without ceasing" (Matt 18:21-22);

"and that they should look out not for the splinter in a sister's or brother's eye but for the beam in their own" (Matt 7:3-5)."

These are obviously not the rules for some future time but now. God's kingdom began to break into the world with Jesus. It is the work of his followers to ensure this is not just a far-off goal but a way of life that can become a reality in the here and now. Through our mission work we strive to bring a glimpse of God's kingdom to those who are hurting throughout the world. We do so through hands on projects like the Lunch Bunch as well as through our support of aid workers in our community, across the county and throughout the world. This summer we set a goal for all of us to perform daily acts of kindness. Though these acts may occur on a smaller stage than the aforementioned relief activities, they are no less important or impactful. Each act of kindness results in a ripple of goodness that like a wave spreads out to the corners of the earth. These are some of the acts that you performed, received or witnessed in response to our challenge this summer:

A lady in Hyde Park, whom I did not know, had her knee replacement surgery on June 6. I heard about it and made the famous Dolly Parton cream vegetable soup, and had it delivered along with a Get Well Card yesterday. She was surprised and most appreciative.

With harvest season upon us, we sometimes come home and find fresh vegetables on our porch. Thank you! We try to pay it forward and pass on some of the abundance.

Whenever I go to Easton, I ask a few folks if they need anything while I am there. I have delivered items twice.

We donated 3 ½ hours volunteering at TIS today, and sent kitchen towels, dinner napkins, zip lock bags, foil, & trash bags today, June 22, 2022. We visited with some of the residents and children. There is currently 5 children and 2 pregnant moms residing. The new home has 8 single men and women at this time. We also toured Evelyn's Promise, the new home, which is really lovely. They are in great need of staples again, whenever, we can supply, it would be very helpful and appreciated.

Food is supplied weekly to one of our parishioners.

When a Holy Trinity parishioner recently died and left behind an orphaned little senior doggie, another parishioner stepped in as matchmaker and found a new home for him with an Oxford resident who recently lost her doggie. They are devoted to one another and living happily together.

At a restaurant for lunch, three Maryland State Troopers were seated at a table across from us. We thanked them for their service and paid \$50 towards their lunch. They were awestruck and very grateful.

The gas company asked myself and several neighbors to paint our rusty pipes. Kind lady neighbor came over immediately and painted them without being asked.

My niece and husband in England have taken in a Ukrainian mother and her ten year old daughter. The daughter had seen my daughter's art and loved it. My daughter has been demonstrating painting for the girl on a regular basis and has sent her equipment so she can paint along. The child is thrilled.

One act of kindness = many ripples of God's love.



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Tremendous gratitude to **Cora and the church guest musicians** who put on an absolutely marvelous concert on August 28. We are blessed to have such talented and generous musicians amongst us. Applause for **Martha Britt, Cora Bruner, Kathy Melvin, Denise Nathanson, Linda Sattler, Kathleen Smith, Ashley Watkins, Michelle Webb, Maris Wicker, and Melissa Wise**. Thank you also to all of you who attended the concert. You were in fine voice.
- Thank you to all who performed Acts of Kindness in support of our summer mission activity.
- Thank you to all who have remained current in their pledge support. It helps us greatly to be able to plan and execute our many programs.
- Thank you to **Dick Moore** for repairing our parish hall piano and restoring its great sound.
- Thank you to the **painters** who worked in the heat to repair and paint damaged trim on the parish hall building. The building looks great!
- Thank you to **Deacon Lisa, Beverly Rohman and Ray Munsch** for leading our discussion groups. You enrich our lives.
- Much appreciation and gratitude to the **ECW** for their commitment to help local missions through their outstanding fund raising activities.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Annual Visit of Our Bishop

On Sunday, September 4th, our Bishop, Santosh Marray will preside at our 9:30 am service for his annual visit. We hope to hold this service outside on the front lawn with some nice weather for him. Bishop San was last with us on a Sunday in December 2021 when the weather was decidedly more than a bit chilly.

Bishop San is just back from participating in the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the Lambeth conference of worldwide Anglican Communion bishops in England. The Lambeth conference is only held once every 10 years. Bishop San will have some interesting stories to share with us about the church nationally and internationally. After our 9:30 am service we will host a fellowship hour with an opportunity to meet and visit with San. Contributions for the Bishop's Fund will be taken up at this service.

Connie's Corner



"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like there's nobody listening, and live like it's heaven on earth." —William W. Purkey

"Smart people learn from everything and everyone, average people from their experiences, stupid people already have all the answers." —Socrates

"Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen." —Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

"People who wonder if the glass is half empty or full miss the point. The glass is refillable." —Unknown

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." —Mahatma Gandhi

"Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes." —Eleanor Roosevelt

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

The approaching fall, a time to admire God's story
 Of leaves falling, asters blooming in all their glory
 Squirrels darting to bury their acorns
 To ward off feeling lost and forlorn
 God knew how to make all His creatures prepare
 Giving our hearts and minds the ability to share
 As we wander through our days
 Give thanks to God, as we pray
 Be positive as many blessings have been given
 Those blessing and faith keep you driven
 To achieve all the love and hope we can
 While we are kind to each and every woman and
 man
 May God and His Angels shower you with love
 For they prepare a table for you up above.

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

Alcoholism, Addiction and The Spiritual Life

The incidence of alcoholism and addiction has seen a dramatic increase during the pandemic. A few years ago, I authored the following article in support of September's National Recovery month. Many counties of the eastern shore, observe this month through Project Purple, a program which we have strongly supported from the outset. This annual observance presents a good opportunity for us to think about how this disease is impacting our society, families, and even ourselves. You will be hearing a lot about addiction and recovery in the next few weeks as the annual Project Purple campaign is rolled out in our communities. Project Purple, which started in Talbot County, has been so successful that it has spread to counties throughout the eastern shore.

The pandemic has caused innumerable stresses in our lives. Unfortunately, one outcome of this period has been a dramatic increase in alcohol and drug usage. Faith is an effective antidote to addiction. Without the strength of faith addiction can be difficult to overcome. Thus, we would be wise to take this opportunity to re-examine the impact of addiction & alcoholism on our spiritual life.

At our most basic selves, we are all seekers. We all have a spiritual life. Unfortunately, we often look and listen in the wrong places to nurture and give meaning to our lives. Just as Elijah looked for God in the big events occurring around him: strong wind; earthquake; fire; we too look to find meaning in the big forces in our society: consumerism, thrills, and in activities that can lead to addictions. We, like Elijah, often look in the wrong places for the transcendence that our souls seek. It is in the silence that Elijah finally found God. It was in the still, small voice. We too need to seek out where we may find the voice that will bring real meaning in life. We need to create the space for God to find us. Christ is always seeking us out.

There are many ways to understand the disease of addiction. It has become increasingly more complex and critical for us all to understand this disease. Nowadays, there are few in our communities who have been left untouched by the disease of addiction.

There is no doubt that addiction is a complex disease. It has genetic; biochemical; psychological; social and SPIRITUAL components. I would like to briefly address the spiritual aspects of this disease. The American Society of Addiction Medicine defines addiction as *"a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences."* It can be understood as *"A pathological relationship of love and trust with an object or an event."* (C. Nakken) This relationship is a perverse relationship. The mutuality and choice found in healthy relationship changes to self-absorption and compulsion. The relationship with an object (alcohol, drugs gambling...) replaces people. Once begun, a spiral of downward movement disengaging from life is set in motion.

If addiction does not start out of a spiritual deficiency/disease it quickly becomes one. Addiction is a deadly disease that attacks the very core/essence of who we are. In other words, it attacks our spirit. This disease has a major impact on spiritual life through attacking the relationships among self, others, and God. Consequently, restoring a healthy spiritual life is critical to the recovery from the disease. Bill W. understood this when he was constructing the 12-step program *"after a while we had to face the fact that we must find a spiritual life – or else."* (The Big Book pg. 44) The 12-steps are a spiritual journey.

Addiction is a pervasive disease that is difficult to treat. Even when the alcoholic/addict is in recovery the disease continues to progress. Therefore, it is essential to ensure one's spiritual life is deepening and growing at a faster rate than the underlying addiction. A.A. has a joke about this point: *"While you are in recovery, your addiction is doing push-ups, so it can whip you the next chance it gets."*

One of the paths to recovery is the 12-Step program that started with Alcoholics Anonymous. It may interest you to know that the 12-step programs have their foundation in the Episcopal Church. The Rev.

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Sam Shoemaker of Calvary Episcopal Church in NYC was the spiritual adviser to Bill Wilson. He worked with Bill W. on developing A.A.'s 12-Step Program. The theology of the 12-Step program is grounded in our faith tradition. While the 12-Step program is often thought of as only applicable for those who suffer from one of the many forms of addiction, it offers a profoundly spiritual program for all. In addition to AA there are many medical based treatment options that can help the alcoholic/addict regain control of their life.

In my experience, I have found those impacted by this illness are as wonderful, talented, and compassionate as any. Those impacted by this disease are not strangers, they are our families, friends, and neighbors. And, when in recovery, one sees a level of acceptance and honesty being brought into their relationships that is to be admired. Working with our brothers and sisters who suffer from addiction is not just a job for doctors and counselors. These resources are certainly particularly important, but it is also where we, the community and importantly the Church, can offer a lifeline. We know God has not abandoned them and we cannot either. God is there with them in their suffering and in their victories of recovery – we should be there as well.

As you travel the eastern shore this month and see the purple lights, take a moment to pray for recovery for those individuals and families suffering from this disease. Open your hearts to them, open the Church doors to them. There is that well-worn phrase *“it takes a village”* that applies here. It takes a village to offer hope and recovery. It takes kind hearts and spiritual nourishment of faith to support healthy recovery .

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

MISSION SECTION



Care Packs of Talbot County

This month we return our service activity to the children throughout Talbot County who experience food insecurity. We can help ensure no child goes hungry through collecting donations of food items for **Care Packs of Talbot County**. Each Friday, this program with our support, distributes care packs filled with food to hungry to help them get through the weekends.

See below for the list of desired items. We will collect these items from September 3 – September 25th. You may drop off your donations at our services or at the Parish Hall any weekday. A “grocery” cart will be placed outside the parish hall doors to receive the items. If you have any questions, please call the office, 410-226-5134.

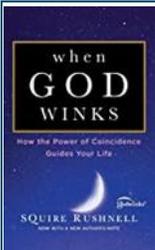
<u>Most needed items</u>	<u>Single serve packages of:</u>
Oatmeal packets	Goldfish
Fruit Cups	Trail mix
Applesauce cups	Fruit snacks
Filled crackers	Cereal
Toaster pastries	Peanuts
Granola bars	Mac and cheese
Breakfast bars	Pretzels
Canned tuna	
Canned pasta	
Soups	

Educational Section

Inquiring Believers

The Men's Bible Study group, also known as the Inquiring Believers, will be starting its fall semester on Monday, Sept. 26th. We generally meet every Monday night from 6 to 7 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. We have not yet settled on a topic for the fall as we are investigating several possibilities both from the Old and New Testaments. We welcome all new members. No prior experience or knowledge necessary, just an interest in learning more about the Bible..



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will resume in September!

Our first meeting will be on ZOOM

Wednesday, September 7th

a chance to reconnect, make plans for the year, and possibly discuss the summer reading

When God Winks by Squire Russell.

I am excited to present some terrific options for our reading pleasure and purpose. As always, meetings will be the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

September 7th and 21st - 9:00 am

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

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study provides an opportunity for women of the church and the community to strengthen their Christian experience through regular Bible Study, prayer, and mutual support. We are excited to announce that after a hiatus during the pandemic, WBS will resume in September. Deacon Dr. Lisa Webb has offered to lead this wonderful group. An introductory meeting will be scheduled to discuss the schedule and format. If you are interested in participating in this group, please call or email the parish office with your interest at 410-226-5134 or office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org.



Please join us for A Good Old Fashioned Picnic

To celebrate everyone who works to make Oxford Paradise

Monday, September 19th at 5:00 PM

The Church of the Holy Trinity, 502 S. Morris St., on the back lawn

Live music, hamburgers, hot dogs and all things picnic!

RSVP to office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org or call 410-226-5134 by Monday, September 12th

Rain date Tuesday, September 20th

If possible, a donation of \$10 is asked from parishioners who attend.

Educational Section

Sunday School Starts September 11!

I love Sunday School! I loved it as a child attending Sunday School, as a teenager assisting with Sunday School, and now as an elder teaching Sunday School. As many of you know, I am a teacher and love developing curriculum.

Here at The Church of the Holy Trinity, we have a “one room schoolhouse” of mixed ages starting at Kindergarten and it can go through eighth grade. Each year I have developed a curriculum to try to meet the needs of the children. We emphasize God’s unconditional love for us and how Jesus taught us to live using Bible stories. We include service projects and crafts. The children come into church during The Peace and are involved in the service. They are very much a part of our church family!

This school year, Sunday School will begin on September 11 and will include the **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**. Sunday School will be held the second and fourth Sundays of the month during the 10:00 service. Our theme is “God is with us.” During the fall we will explore some of my favorite Old Testament Bible stories that I remember from my days as a Sunday School student. Daniel in the Lion’s Den, the story of Moses, are just a few of the stories that demonstrate that God is with us. We will then move into preparing for the Christmas Pageant (You know how during Advent each Sunday we sing a verse of the hymn “Oh Come Emmanuel.” Did you know that Emmanuel means “God is with us”?). The new year will bring us to the New Testament with Bible stories showing us how God is with us and how Jesus came to show us how much God loves us and how God wants us to live.

I am excited that we will have our wonderful, caring, creative and fun teaching staff of Pucky Lippincott, Kathy Becker, Linda Wilson, and myself.

If you have children, grandchildren, or friends that might be interested in participating in Sunday School, please contact the office or email me with Sunday School in the subject heading.

Looking forward to a great year!
Barbara Cross



A THANK YOU, and a FRIENDLY REMINDER! Church of the Holy Trinity Women’s Luncheon Celebration & Meeting

NEWCOMERS & LONGTIME MEMBERS WELCOMED!

Monday, September 12, 2022

**Parish Hall – 10:30 AM
Adjacent to the Church
502 S. Morris Street, Oxford**

A THANK YOU! and a Friendly Reminder for the Women of Holy Trinity!

Thank you to the many who have already RSVP’d that you will be joining us! If you have not but would like to join us, now’s the time to do so! On Monday, September 12, there will be a women’s luncheon and meeting to celebrate the success of this past year’s Christmas Bazaar and Plant Sale, make decisions about how these funds should be distributed to local charities, talk about the 2022 Christmas Bazaar, and discuss ideas for the future of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the official name of the organization that brings us together in support of local mission work.

This is always a joyful event that brings together longtime members and welcomes new ones! Enjoy camaraderie, delicious food, meaningful decision-making about funds distribution, and celebration of the positive difference our fundraising makes to causes we all hold dear. Please plan on joining us!

RSVP to Sandy Kaufman at either sandykaufman1@aol.com or by phone at 410-226-5301. ALL women of the Holy Trinity – including those just discovering our wonderful church - are welcomed!

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

MUSIC

Music Notes

The Organ Returns! Columbia Organworks will be arriving September 13th for a couple of days to reinstall repaired and new organ pipes. The organ will also be tuned and any other maintenance may be required. September 18th will be the first Sunday since Easter that we will hear our organ's beautiful sounds fill the Sanctuary. We are working to secure a date for an organ concert so we can experience the new palette of sounds!

September Service Musicians

9/11 10 a.m. Nevin Dawson, violin/viola

9/25 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services David Hasek, guest organist

Look on back of Calendar for Biographies of Our Nominees for Vestry



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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