



Lifeline

VOLUME 16
ISSUE 1

January 2023

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 all the members of the ECW and the many others** who helped our Christmas Bazaar be such a success. We all had a good time and helped local missions continue to offer their essential services.
- **Much gratitude to those who have submitted their 2023 pledges.** You enable us to carry on God's good works.
- **Thank you to Brian and Cathy Schmidt of Garden and Garnish Catering.** Their donation of turkeys helped a local family and our Coasties celebrate a good Thanksgiving.
- **Great appreciation to our Sunday School Teachers, children and parents who** have brought such joy to our church and for the marvelous Christmas pageant.
- **Thank you to the Altar & Flower Guilds** for their care in beautifying our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.
- **Thank you to Cora, our choir and all the guest musicians** who added much beauty to our worship services this year.
- **Welcome and thank you to all the new attendees** at our services. We are enriched by your presence.
- **Much gratitude to our retiring Vestry members, Kathy Becker, Suzanne Fischer and Van Holston.** Your dedication and efforts have made us a better church.
- **Thank you to Connie, Cora, and Lisa.** You are the dream team .

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Milestones

Baptism

Samantha Leigh Myers 11/27/22

Food Pantry – Your Help Is Needed

“Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.” *Ephesians 4:28 NLT*

For years we collected food items for the food pantry at the Neighborhood Service Center in Easton. Like so many other activities Covid put a pause on this mission. In 2023 we will resume this ministry. When you are shopping, please pick up a non-perishable item for the pantry. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Hall entrance during the week or at a Sunday Service. We are currently recruiting volunteers who might be able to deliver to the pantry on a regular basis. If you feel called to participate in this ministry, please contact the parish office at 410-226-5134 or speak with one of our Mission chairs Gerry Cooper and Karen Walbridge. Bless you.

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

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”
— Friedrich Nietzsche

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

Hello, welcome to Flight #2023. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS.-
Trish & John Malin

“Written by Connie Greenhawk

January, a month to reflect on your last year
Did you face it without any fear
Did you allow God into your life
As He will unburden any strife
Did you feel angel's wings wrap you with love
As they help guide your faith from above
With every heartbeat He is there
To hold you, guide you with loving care
Be not afraid of any darkness that may be around
He and His angels will help you stand on firm
ground
You are His child and He loves you
His love will always make you feel brand new
So walk this path of love, open your heart
And from God may you never be apart.

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

.“Kindness Wins”

I recently watched a 60 Minutes episode about the extraordinary efforts being made to help get Ukrainian children with cancer out of the country. Hospitals in Ukraine have been bombing targets throughout the war placing children in those hospitals in constant danger. Olena Zelenska, the first lady of Ukraine reached out to her peers for help. First ladies from around the world came together, combining their resources to organize a Convoy of Life that transported the children and their families to safe havens. Most notably, St. Jude’s in Nashville coordinated the medical care during and after the transport. An extremely grateful mother was interviewed about this assistance and asked what she would like to say to the world, especially America, since her child is being treated at St. Jude’s. **She replied simply but eloquently “Kindness Wins.”** She wanted the world to know the power of one kind act in the face of brutality. She was overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness that the world showered on her family. Despite the ongoing war she was sure that in the end good would overcome evil. She feels that every act of kindness weakens the force of evil in the world today.

You, my friends are enablers of such acts of kindness. You may recall our mission to perform “Acts of Kindness” campaign this past summer. You more than rose to the occasion during that campaign. However, your acts have gone well beyond that directed activity. Throughout the year you have made possible positive and life affirming actions. Did you know that in 2022 you collectively granted over \$104,000 in charitable giving? Our goal each year is to commit to tithing (10%) of our operating budget to mission. Most years we end up with a level that approaches a double tithe (20%). However, this past year rose well above that level of generosity.

In March, the Ukraine war came on the world suddenly and violently. It has evolved into a terrible unjust and brutal war where the targets are civilians, hospitals, schools, and power resources. In the face of this darkness, you have had positive impact. With a donation of over \$40,000 to Save the Children, your kindness has helped families and children find comfort and safety. Save the Children was one of the few organizations already on the ground in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, and that was equipped to provide immediate relief response. Your generosity is providing shelter, food, medicine, warm hearts, and reassuring smiles. Locally you have also helped a Ukrainian mother and her daughter begin to settle in the safe environs of Easton.

You also enabled the Salvation Army to respond to the needs of the tornado and flood victims in eastern Kentucky. Locally through donations and activities you have fed those who hunger (the Lunch Bunch program provided over 700 meals), clothed, provided shelter, and given a hand up to children in need. Your kindness is overflowing.

When the gospels tell of Jesus’ life it is most often through stories of His actions taken with regard to the “other in need” – with no limits. We are called to live our lives in imitation of Christ. Isaiah proclaimed that *“if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.”*

Isaiah 58:10-11 NRSV

At Holy Trinity we are guided by a commitment to share our faith with the world. We embrace the statement, ¹⁴ *What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it?* ¹⁵ *If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food* ¹⁶ *and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?* ¹⁷ *So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.* James 2:14-16

“Kindness wins.” This phrase may seem naïve in these challenging times. Yet, with such acts we have seen the light break through the darkness in countless situations locally, nationally, and internationally. If a refugee mother speaks it as a truth from her life experience, who are we to question its veracity? Kindness wins. Kindness always wins. Let us carry this truth on our lips and in our hearts. May “Kindness Wins’ guide our actions to create a glimpse of God’s kingdom in this world. God bless you all for your kind hearts. I am grateful to be a member of your church family.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



ECW Christmas Bazaar 2022

The ECW would like to thank everyone who worked or attended this year's Christmas Bazaar. Despite the rainy, windy weather, everyone had a wonderful time.

The event was once again highly successful! Our community gave their time and funds generously in support of the event. In a short three-hour period, we earned over \$17,390 and after paying our expenses, the remainder will be distributed to local charitable organizations. Following the Bazaar, the three large baskets along with generous contributions were delivered to the designated organizations. They were all thrilled and thankful for these wonderful gifts.

The Christmas Bazaar is an opportunity for our church family to work together for the benefit of our community and to share the joys of Christmas. We are so thankful for all the participation of Holy Trinity members. We are already looking forward to next year's Bazaar. Have a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charity Basket Delivery to Talbot Humane

Rebecca Gaffney delivered all of the basket items and cash donations designated for Talbot Humane. Receiving our donations is Talbot Humane Director Patty Quimby. Talbot Humane received approximately \$ 675.00 worth of donated items, plus a check for \$895.00 for a combined total of \$1,570.00! To learn more about how our donations are making a positive difference in the lives of our four-legged and feathered friends, please visit their website site at www.talbothumane.org.

A BIG Congrats to all who contributed to make this generous donation possible!

Gratefully,
Sandy



Talbot County Empty Bowls was inspired by the work of Lisa Blackburn and art teacher John Hartom. Hartom's students made ceramic bowls in their high school art classes. The finished products were then used as individual serving pieces for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread. Contributing guests kept the empty bowl as a reminder that, although they had just eaten, many people's bowls remained empty. In 1990, Hartom and other participants developed this concept into "Empty Bowls". The Imagine/RENDER Group, a 501(c)3 organization, was created to promote the project. [Empty Bowls](http://EmptyBowls.org) now raises millions of dollars for hunger-related causes around the world. Talbot County Empty Bowls is proud to be part of the effort.

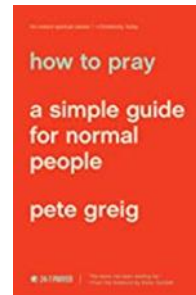
On January 22nd Holy Trinity will take part in the 2023 Empty Bowls program. After the 10 am service, we will offer a fun multigenerational activity to paint bowls in the parish hall. After the event the bowls will then be taken to Kiln born in Easton to be fired and prepared for the Empty Bowl fundraiser in February. Please join us in the hands-on mission activity. Corrie James and Susie Wheeler are the chairs of this fun and impactful event. **Please rsvp by calling the parish office 410-226-5134 by Monday January 16th.**

Educational Section

The Prayer Course

Starting in January we will offer **The Prayer Course** an 8-week prayer program teaching prayer through the example of Lord's Prayer. This is one of the best programs I have come across for prayer. It uses video, written resources, discussion, and the practicing the act of prayer to make prayer an accessible resource for everyone. This course was developed by 24-7 Prayer, an international, interdenominational prayer movement, with a vision to revive the church and rewire the culture through non-stop night and day prayer. They started in England in 1999, when a simple student-led prayer vigil went viral and groups all over the world joined in to pray. Now, over two decades later, thousands of communities have taken part in 24-7 Prayer in churches, communities, and cities in over half the countries on earth. The course will run for 8 weeks, meeting on Wednesdays at 5 pm **via Zoom**. The dates are:

January 4 Why Pray?
 January 11 Adoration
 January 18 Petition
 January 25 Intercession
 February 1 Unanswered Prayer
 February 8 25 Contemplation
 February 15 Listening
 February 22 Spiritual Warfare



Inquiring Believers – Men's Bible Study

The men's Bible study group meets on Monday evenings from 5 to 6 PM. This past fall, we have had a regular attendance of eight with occasionally one or two more. Since mid-September, we have read the Book of Ecclesiastes along with Zack Eswine's "Recovering Eden: The Gospel according to Ecclesiastes." We have also just finished reading Thomas Cahill's "The Gifts of the Jews." In late October we enjoyed the company and wisdom of Rabbi Peter Hyman at one of our sessions and later at dinner.

We are currently taking a winter study break but will resume our meetings on Monday, January 16 th . At that time we will begin a several week viewing of the 1960 movie "Exodus" about the founding of the modern state of Israel. When we have finished the movie, we will take up another of Thomas Cahill's books, this one about the life and times of Jesus. The name of the book is "Desire of the Everlasting Hills." Anyone interested in joining the study group can contact either the Rector or Ray Munsch. Alternatively, just stop by the Parish Hall any Monday at 5:00 PM and you will be welcomed.



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. Deacon Dr. Lisa Webb leads this wonderful group. The group is currently studying women in the bible. The book for this study is Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. This group currently meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5 pm via Zoom. 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.

Educational Section

Sunday School

Many thanks to the children who presented such a wonderful Christmas pageant! Poppy and Joseph were an outstanding Mary and Joseph. Some of the children had two roles to play - Justin and Pepper were both shepherds and angels. Our sheep/angels were Will, Jack, Molly, Gene, and Ellis.

It was great to learn of the Christmas story through the perspective of the shepherds about thirty years after Jesus's birth. Thank you alumni Josh and Will Schmidt for being those shepherds narrating the story. Many thanks also to Corey and Barbara for brainstorming and writing such a creative script.

This all was made possible with the dedication, patience, and humor of teachers Pucky Lippincott, Linda Wilson,

Kathy Becker, Barbara Cross, and parent Martha Callahan.

A special thank you to all the parents and grandparents who bring their children to Sunday School. Life is busy with lots of choices. We are grateful for your commitment to



having your children attend Sunday School to learn about God's unconditional love for us and how Jesus came to show us how live - Love God; Love One Another.

This Fall we have been learning about Bible stories from the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. In January we will be learning about Jesus as a child. Our Sunday School class is held at 10:00 on the second and fourth Sundays.

We are hoping that on January 22, children and parents will stay after Sunday School to take part in the "Empty Bowls" project. Please see a separate article that describes this project. This should be a fun, creative project that exemplifies our helping others as Jesus taught us to "love our neighbor."

Barbara Cross

MUSIC**Music Notes**

Music is a special part of our Sunday worship. In January we will have the honor to share music by Nevin Dawson, Melissa Wise, and Linda Sattler. At the end of the month, David Hasek will join our team as Interim Organist. Cora will be having knee replacement surgery in early February so she will be away from January 23rd to early March. David has graciously accepted to serve as Interim Organist through the month of February. While Cora is away, the choir will be on winter vacation. Please join us in welcoming Nevin, Melissa, Linda, and David!

January 8th 10 a.m. service Nevin Dawson, Violin

January 15th 8 and 10 a.m. services Melissa Wise

January 22nd 10 a.m. Linda Sattler, Piano and Organ Duets

January 29th David Hasek, Interim Organist

Dear fellow members of Holy Trinity,

We are excited to share that our stewardship drive target has been reached and slightly exceeded!

As of January 5, 2023, the Holy Trinity office has received 126 pledges totaling \$ 403,770.

To all who have pledged, our sincere THANK YOU! for making Holy Trinity an important part of your charitable giving commitments, giving our wonderful church the capacity to "keep the doors open," maintain live broadcast capabilities, support our music programs, continue essential mission work, support our children and youth through Sunday School and youth activities, and compensate the small but powerful team that makes Holy Trinity so vibrant, welcoming, and vital to our lives, and to those touched by Holy Trinity's outreach.

Every dollar pledged is carefully used to support the amazing work of Holy Trinity, including necessary reserves for the many capital improvements required to maintain our buildings and grounds in good working order.

Together, we are making a positive difference in our own lives, and in the lives of many. Every dollar pledged represents "*what we have collectively done,*" vs. "*what we have left undone.*"

Congratulations, and again, a BIG THANK YOU!

Gratefully,

Sandy & Ron Kaufman



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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. On 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