



Lifeline

VOLUME 16
ISSUE 3

March 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

- **Much thanks to our Deacon Lisa** for sharing her gifts of preaching, teaching, and DANCING! We wish her a fruitful and enriching hike on the Arizona trail.
- **Thank you to everyone who helped us host our first in-person Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** in 3 years! It was a fabulous event and we loved sharing it with our sisters and brothers from Oxford Methodist and Waters Methodist churches..
- **Thank you to David Hasek** for serving as our guest organist during Cora's medical absence. Your music has inspired us, David!
- **Much appreciation to the 2023 Vestry** who are off and running to plan a great year ahead for our church community.
- **Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and children** for their Heart card program. It has already brought much joy and comfort to many. **Thank you also to Sandy Wrightson** for her help with making all the hearts!

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Connie's Corner



- "The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's what you're made of. Not the circumstances." —**Unknown**
- "Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen." —**Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe**
- "The hard days are what make you stronger." —**Aly Raisman**
- "Everyone has inside them a piece of good news. The good news is 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**

"Written by Connie Greenhawk"

God is with us, light shining so bright
 Protecting us always, whether day or night
 He whispers His words that show us the good
 In mankind as no other could
 He walks among us and touches our heart
 To let us know He has been with us right from the start
 In moments of despair He reaches and touches
 our soul
 Saying, Come child, I will make you whole
 For you are destined to be strong and great
 I knew this about you when designing your fate
 You are special and unique and kind
 Always be faithful, loyal, patient and you will find
 Eternal peace, shiny and new, just like a star
 So to you my child, I AM and you ARE.

If you would like to submit a favorite saying or thought, email to [Connie at office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:Connie@office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)



Inquiring Believers

The Men's Bible Study group, also known as the Inquiring Believers, meets every Monday from 5:00 – 6:00 pm at the Parish House 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.

Our current study is of the book **Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus** by Thomas Cahill. We welcome all new members. No prior experience or knowledge necessary, just an interest in learning more about the Bible. If you are interested in learning more, call Ray Munsch at (215)

Save the Date – Getting Acquainted Gathering

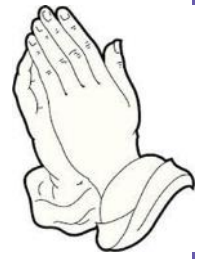
Our church changed and continued to grow during the pandemic. Usually, we would have held a couple of getting acquainted receptions each year to welcome new members and develop connections throughout the community. However, Covid had other plans for us. Gratefully we are now able to gather once again. We are planning our first gathering in 3 years for this Spring. **On Sunday, April 30th** we plan to have a fun, afternoon social. Please **save the date**. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Milestones
 Passed
 Nick Parkes

See back of calendar for
Dinner and Trivia information

Why Prayer Matters

"I asked for strength that I might achieve; He made me weak that I might obey. I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given grace that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for. My prayer was answered, I was most blessed."



— Pete Greig,

Prayer is about hope. Hope is an active state of being. It is ever evolving and ever changing. Hopefulness is being open to imagine and will possibilities into reality. Prayer is not bound by ordinary limitations. It is creative, new, and unlimited in scope. The hope embodied in prayer is not about a glass half-empty but rather a glass half-full.

Yet, I dare say that most of us know prayer most intimately as wishes, desires, requests for something to change in our lives. Time in prayer all too easily becomes a vehicle to submit requests to God. To ask or even beg God to do something for us, or in our more generous moments, to do something for another. God becomes the great wish granter. This kind of prayer makes it seem like we were created as completely dependent beings. Yet, if we believe we are created in God's image, then we must be created for something more than dependency.

What if we were to turn this rather static concept of prayer on its head? What if we consider that prayer is more about mutuality. What if prayer was as much about God's needs as our own? In a HT Bible study one of our parishioners introduced a rather astounding thought when he asked "I wonder if God ever feels lonely?" This raises tremendous theological questions. After all isn't God the almighty? Why would he need our prayer? In response to the Pharisees demanding the disciples cease their prayers Jesus says, *"I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."* Luke 19:40 However, Our prayer has other purposes. I am certain God loves our prayer. Everything about our faith, every lesson in Scripture, every understanding of our triune God points to relationship. Love is relational. Relationship by its very definition is mutual. Desmond Tutu expressed this mutual relationship most eloquently when he said *"Each one of us is supposed to be God's collaborator. Incredibly, this all powerful God says, 'I need you to help me to make it a more compassionate and gentle world and without you I cannot do it.'"*

Lent is a good time to renew our prayer practices. I would like to suggest you make a simple change in your practice this Lent. Pray for God. Pray for God not because God needs it but because it pleases God and it transforms us. It imagines into reality the communal relationship between God, ourselves and the whole of creation. Pray prayers full of praise, thanksgiving, and hope. Pray prayers of hope that we will rise to the challenge to being God's collaborator. Pray prayers to God, talk to God, sing to God, delight in God. To build on a quote of Martin Luther King Jr. *"It is cheerful to God when you rejoice or laugh or pray from the bottom of your heart."*



Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Good News!

GOOD NEWS! Inge has passed her driver's test and now is licensed to drive in Maryland. Over the past two months, Inge and Yana have been working in a bakery in St. Michaels five days a week. Every day, the owner drives from St. Michaels to Easton to pick up Inge and Yana, takes them to the bakery, and then brings them back to Easton in the evening. She has been doing that out of the goodness of her heart and has enjoyed having the ladies working with her. However, you can imagine how weary she is from all the traveling. Now that Inge has a license, she needs a car...and this is where we come in.

We are looking for a good, reliable, economical vehicle and welcome all suggestions anyone may have. If you know of an opportunity to buy a vehicle at a very reasonable price, please contact me at 443-562-2707.



Diocesan Trainings for Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and Worship Leader Training for March 2023

The diocese is offering training sessions for those who wish to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, Pastoral Visitor or Lay Worship Leader. The descriptions of these roles are:

Eucharistic Ministers

A Eucharistic Minister is a layperson authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister shall act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Eucharistic Visitors

A Eucharistic Visitor is a layperson who has experience as a Eucharistic Minister and has participated in additional training for this ministry. A Eucharistic Visitor is authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration.

Worship Leader:

The licensed worship leader is authorized to lead public worship in the absence of, and/or at the direction of a priest, subject to the Book of Common Prayer. A licensed worship leader is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing called to lead worship in the congregation.

Training Sessions

Eucharistic Minister and Visitor Training:

Location 1: March 18, 2023–St. Paul's Episcopal Center, Hebron OR

Location 2: March 25, 2023–Earlville

Times:

9:00 – Noon: Eucharistic Minister Training

1:00 – 3:30: Eucharistic Visitor Training (Pre-requisite: Experience as a licensed Eucharistic Minister)

Licensed Worship Leader Training Via Zoom

Time: March 14, 21 & 28: 7:00pm – 8:30pm (Must participate in all sessions).

If you are interested in offering your services in one of these roles, or have any questions, please contact Fr. Kevin or Deacon Lisa. If you are interested, but unable to attend the above training session, Fr. Kevin and Lisa can offer the training on an individual basis.

Food Pantry

We have resumed our weekly collection for our community Food Pantries. We ask you to remember there are many in our community who are food deprived. Please join our effort when you are shopping for your groceries. If we all buy an extra can or box of food, we can have a tremendous impact on the needs of our community. There is a shopping cart and baskets in our Parish House set up for collection of food items. Heather Pusey has volunteered to take the food items to the pantries in Easton on a regular basis.

The items most needed are:

Cereal	Diapers	Jelly
Powdered milk	Tuna	Cough drops
Toilet paper	Crackers	Pedialyte
Spaghetti and sauce	Peanut Butter	Breakfast bars
Little packs of pop tarts, cookies, cheese crackers & peanut butter crackers, chips		
Health & personal-shampoo, toothpaste, women's hygiene supplies, lotion, bath washing gel, aspirin, cough syrup, band aids		

As we know, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Thank you for your generosity

Educational Section



.Quotes from our Lenten Prayer Leader, Pete Greig

“A prayer room is first and foremost a living room—a place where the Father waits for his children to come and climb into his arms.”

“I asked for strength that I might achieve; He made me weak that I might obey. I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given grace that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things. I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for. My prayer was answered, I was most blessed.”

“The best way to start praying, therefore, is actually to stop praying. To pause. To be still. To put down your prayer list and surrender your own personal agenda. To stop talking at God long enough to focus on the wonder of who he actually is. To ‘be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him’.”

*“remember to **P.R.A.Y.**! More than anything else, this simple acronym is the thing that will help you grow in prayer. ‘**Pause**’ ..Try to ‘be still and know’ God (Ps. 46:10). ..‘**Rejoice** ... always’ (Phil. 4:4). Your Father in heaven loves you, knows you, and interprets your heart perfectly. Give him thanks! ..‘Ask and it will be given to you’ (Matt. 7:7). **Ask** the Father for everything from peace in the Middle East to parking spaces. ..‘**Yield**’. Offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness’ (Rom. 6:13). Wait and trust for the light and hope to come.”*

“we are qualified for Christian service by our praying not our preaching, by our desire to worship him and not our workload on his behalf, by knowing Jesus personally and not just by knowing a lot of interesting things about him. If you lose God’s presence you lose everything, but if you know his presence you already have everything you will ever need.”

“Archbishop Justin Welby says, the Lord’s Prayer is ‘simple enough to be memorised by small children, and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer’

“The best bit of advice I ever received about how to pray was this: keep it simple, keep it real, keep it up.”



unanswered
prayer
the prayer course II

LENTEN PROGRAM: God On Mute: Engaging the Silence

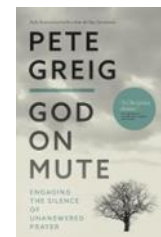
First Session: Wednesday, March 2 at 5 pm via Zoom

The Prayer course continues with a focus on one of the most common and difficult aspects of our spiritual life – unanswered prayer. This five-week, Lenten program will help us look at engaging with the silence of unanswered prayer. *“Writing out of the pain of his wife’s fight for her life, but also the wonder of watching the prayer movement changing lives around the world, Pete Greig steps on the dark side of prayer and emerges with a hard won message of hope, comfort, and profoundly biblical insight for all who suffer in silence.”* Grieg’s book, **God On Mute** has been described as a Christian Classic by Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury. This program is structured around the themes of Holy Week moving from Maundy Thursday to Easter. It is an honest and accessible examination and guide to dealing with the challenges of life with the support of prayer.

Our parishioners who engaged in the first Prayer Course found it to be an enjoyable time of insight and deepening spirituality. Pete Grieg the author of this program cofounded the 24-7 Prayer movement which has reached more than half the nations on earth. He is a pastor at Emmaus Rd. in southern England and has written a number of bestselling books. , The course will run for 5 weeks, meeting on Wednesdays at 5 pm **via Zoom**.

The dates are:

- March 8 God on Mute: **Engaging the Silence**
- March 15 **How am I going to get through this?**
- March 22 **Why aren’t my prayers working?**
- March 29 **Where is God when Heaven is silent?**
- April 5 **When will my prayers be answered?**



While not required for the course, the book may be ordered from Amazon or other online book services. This offering is sponsored by our Daughters of the King chapter. Please call the office for further details. 410-226-5134

Educational Section



Navigating a divided and complex world can be hard.

We encounter this in our relationships, in our communities and in our wider systems and structures. Many of us long to make a difference but often don't know how or where to start.

This is why Archbishop Justin Welby has brought together leading practitioners and thinkers to create Difference, a program that equips people to **cross divides**, **navigate disagreement** and pursue a just and flourishing world.

Useful in bible study settings, Difference is a series of five weekly, 90-minute sessions listening to stories in films and scripture and engaging in group discussion, activities, and prayer. Running the Difference creates a hopeful environment for people to explore tough issues and learn how to move forward with confidence.

Be Curious - Listen to others' stories and see the world through their eyes.

Be Present - Encounter others with authenticity and confidence.

Reimagine - Find hope in places where we long to see change.

Hosted by Diocese of Easton Diversity Awareness Commission
Learn more and sign up to participate: <https://dioceseofeaston.org/dac/>

OXFORD DAY HOLY TRINITY PLANT SALE



Spring is almost here.....*please* plan on buying your flowers and garden plants from Holy Trinity

**Plant Sale on Oxford Day —
April 22, 2023**

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Flowers will only be available on Sale Day! A Pre-sale optional will not be available.

Lots of helpers are needed for the Plant Sale. Please contact

Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561

ALL proceeds go to support Local Missions!

Sunday School

Change for Change and Prayer Hearts

During Lent the Sunday School children will continue their tradition of collecting change in order to make a change in this world. This only works with YOUR help. At the back of the church, you'll see decorated buckets that say Change for Change. Please put your loose change. (or dollars or checks) in the buckets during Lent. The Sunday after Easter, the children will meet to discuss how best to help others using those funds. They always give money to the Neighborhood Service Center, and then distribute to another organization, such as Save the Children. We teachers have found it an honor to be able to be there to watch and listen to the children discuss how best to use the money to help others. We go through catalogs and the children decide whether to buy fruit trees, or a donkey, or a bicycle or medicine or books, etc. The children are so thoughtful and caring. If you would like to continue the tradition of Mary and Clint Clubb of sponsoring a male and female goat for a village, please let me know.

The children have also shown their caring as Jesus taught us to be, through the creation of cards and heart shaped prayer cloths. Many thanks to the parishioners who helped cut out the hearts. We have already received notes of how much these prayer hearts and cards have meant.

Thank you for your support. As a congregation, you demonstrate the love of family and God to our children.

Sunday School will continue to meet the second and fourth Sundays through April during the 10:00 service.
- Barbara Cross



Educational Section

March Lifeline Music News:

Thank You for the prayers, cards, thoughts, care packages, and flowers! Your thoughtfulness and kindness has made this journey much easier. I still have quite a ways to go for complete rehabilitation but I will make it! By Spring we should be back to our regular music pace including our choir and music friends in weekly services. One huge blessing was to have David Hasek as our interim organist. Substitute organists are in great demand and we were very fortunate to have him share music with us for five weeks. Thank you for supporting Dave.



March Musicians:

March 5th 9:30 a.m. service	Melissa Wise
March 12th 10 a.m. service	Piano/Organ Duets David Hasek, Cora Bruner
March 26th 8 and 10:00 a.m. services	Melissa Wise

Please center the following concert announcement:

American Guild of Organists Chapter Member Concert
 Sunday, May 19, 2023 4 p.m.
 St. Mark's UMC, Easton

The local American Guild of Organists chapter will be sharing a concert of varied repertoire Sunday afternoon, May 19th. Cora Bruner, Denise Nathanson, and David Hasek will be representing Holy Trinity with piano/cello and piano/organ selections. Please come and

Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One

Sunday, March 5th after our 9:30 service.

March 10th is the 100th anniversary of Harriet Tubman's death. This day has been designated as a feast day in the church. Our bishop has asked all parishes to plan an observance of this historic date commemorating this Eastern Shore heroine. On Sunday, March 5th following the 9:30 am service we will experience a dramatic reenactment of Harriet's life, Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One. Gwendolyn Briley-Strand has performed as a professional actor on stage, television and film for over 30 years. On September 24, 2016, Ms. Briley-Strand was given the honor of introducing then President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the grand opening of the African American Museum of History and Culture in Washington D.C. She is also the President of and CEO of See the Fruits, Inc. a company which uses the Arts to teach American History. This performance is particularly notable as it brings to light the relationship of Harriet's faith to her actions. Note: This performance will be broadcast in the parish hall. A discussion will follow the presentation with Gwendolyn and her Husband Edward. This event is sponsored and hosted by Oxford's churches: The Church of the Holy Trinity, Oxford United Methodist Church and Waters United Methodist Church.





www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org
 Web:
 office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org
 Email:
 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:

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