



Lifeline

VOLUME 16
ISSUE 9

August-2023

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

Care Paks Donations



Fascinating Day at the Craft Tables!

Father Kevin at National Cathedral



The Women of Holy Trinity Luncheon



Ashley Watkins and Veronica Tomanek Concert



Uniqueness and Wide Selection of Fascinators



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Tremendous appreciation to all of you who helped plan and staff our annual Thank You Oxford Party. A good time was had by all. Our town employees and volunteers are very grateful for your support.
- Thank you to all of our donors who contributed food supplies to the Tabot Care Pack Program. You have done marvelous work to keep the children of Talbot County well nourished.
- Thank you for your generosity that enables us to help those in need locally and around the world. We give special thanks this month of being able help fund the relief efforts subsequent to the floods in Libya.
- Thank you to the McConnel's and Coopers for helping fund the recent clean-up of our church grounds. You have brought God's beauty to light.
- A big shout out of thanks to Larry Paz for his years of selfless service to the Lunch Bunch Program. Larry you are an amazing person, and we are grateful for your friendship and service.
- And thank you and bless all of you. You make this a blessed and welcoming community of God.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Daughters of the King

The women's prayer group, The Daughters of the King, will be meeting in the Parish Hall River Room on Tuesday, October 10th at 10:30 am. All are welcomed to attend.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st at 12:00 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 or two legged animals and creatures that fly, swim and slither are welcome to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and receive a blessing.

Connie's Corner



"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."—**Neil Gaiman**

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

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

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."
—**Kurt Cobain**

"Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart." —**Roy T. Bennett**

God's children, do not let yourself stew

For He is always with you

When in turmoil, trouble and despair

His love and warmth will always be there

Be not hesitant to love one another

Forgive our wounds and hurts just as did our
Mother

Your heart is full of goodness and meant to shine

So watch your actions and words, always be kind

For traveling His footsteps, His path along the way

Will grant us heaven forever and a day.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Annual Meeting – November 5, 2023 10:30 am

The Annual Meeting of The Church of the Holy Trinity will take place on Sunday November 5, 2023 at 10:30 am. The meeting will begin immediately following our 9:30 am Celebration of Holy Eucharist. The Annual meeting is an important gathering of the church where we will elect new Vestry members and approve the proposed 2024 budget. If you have any questions for the Vestry you may submit them in advance to the church email: office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org

The Holy Practice of Forgiveness

"Our Father...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Forgiveness and making amends: This work of the heart is tough work. This work of the heart is necessary work for a joy filled life. I find it quite remarkable and comforting that Jesus knew we would need a daily practice of forgiveness. The request for forgiveness from our Creator and the practice forgiving others on a daily basis is life giving work. These acts free us from wasting time blaming ourselves for failings and/or spending useless and self-damaging time holding grudges. Let's face it, most times when we cause hurt to another or feel hurt by the words or acts of another are minor incidents in the in the larger scheme of life. Yet we spend too much of our time caught up in such thoughts. Jesus knew it was vital to the spiritual journey that we have the consciousness and means to move on and engage in the important work of healing ourselves and the world. It is only with spiritual growth that we can fully participate in Christ's mission of bringing God's kingdom to fruition in the here and now and, beyond. I don't think anyone would dispute that the last several years have been particularly challenging throughout the world. One of the most unfortunate consequences of much of this is that at a time when compassion, forgiveness, and mercy are most needed we are exhausted. At a time when we most need community, we have seen the world become divided. We see this show up in many aspects of our own lives. Our capacity to live and let live, to forgive, and to make amends has suffered. We can find ourselves overburdened in our response to challenges and find ourselves holding on to grudges. Each of these reactions are quite contrary to what we most need at this time. I have found our recent gospel readings challenging as the theme of forgiveness and compassion have been front and center.

Where is the way forward? Well, we have lessons amongst us that show us a way. In our observance of Talbot Goes Purple during the month of September, we learned more about a path to healthy living offered by the 12-step program. This is a program that I firmly believe we could all benefit from following in our daily living. Steps 4 - 10 encourage honest self-examination with the humility to admit that we all make mistakes in our lives and our relationships. If we undertake the hard work to identify these errors and commit to change our ways, we and our communities will be able move forward with lives we can all enjoy. The foundation of all 12 step programs are rooted in: **Recognizing a higher power can give strength - Conducting a daily examination of mistakes - Making amends - Living a new way of life - Helping others.** The 12-step program is rooted in our theology. The Ignatian daily examen prayer encourages much the same: **Become aware of God's presence - Review the day with gratitude - Pay attention to your emotions - Give thanksgiving - Ask for the Spirit- Review and recognize failures - Ask for forgiveness and healing - Pray for the next day.**

(see the guide to the Prayer of Examen elsewhere in this issue)

Just a few weeks ago we heard Peter asking Jesus if there were limits to forgiveness. "At that point Peter got up to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven? Jesus replied. "seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven." **Matthew 18:21-22 from The Message** While the account of this passage in The Message exaggerates Jesus' response, it is completely on target with His intent. Jesus followed this admonition with the parable of the unforgiving servant. Essentially, Jesus is saying to offer forgiveness as many times as it takes! A difficult command to follow? Oh, yes it is! We may need to force ourselves to adopt this as a habit and it may hurt our ego to do it. However, like a workout for the body, the more we do it the better we get at it and eventually it becomes more like second nature. Practice makes perfect. We will see the reward that our lives become less self-centered, less consumed by worries and find out hearts increasingly filled with gratitude and love. Forgiveness brings freedom to both parties. When we become more compassionate and love centered, the world around us begins to change for the better. As Desmond Tutu constantly reminded us we were created for goodness. Let us be put aside the shame and blame and get on with living into the wonderful people God created us to be. **It's All About Love. God's Work. Our Hands.**

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

KIRKIN' O THE TARTANS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st 9:30 AM



Holy Trinity will hold our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 1st. 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.

MISSION SECTION



Libya Relief and Mission

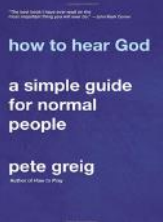
At our September Mission team meeting, concern about the unprecedented floods in Libya was on everyone's mind. What could we do? Libya, due to its unique political position, presented a difficult situation. The usual resources for disaster relief were not operational in that part of the world. Our intent whenever we provide aid is to direct funds to experienced organizations with on the ground capabilities to provide immediate and direct relief. The process we followed is instructive to the approach taken by your mission team to each situation. Prior to the disbursement of any funds, a deep dive research effort is conducted to ascertain the need and the best resources positioned to meet the humanitarian needs of the situation. A good example is when we directed relief funds last year for Ukraine relief efforts to Save the Children. Save the Children was one of a very few organizations who had experience, infrastructure, and capabilities already in place in Ukraine. Libya as I mentioned presented a very unique situation. After conducting research, the organization Doctors Without Borders, was identified as one of the few relief organizations with access to Libya and established relief capabilities in that region. This organization also earns very high marks for being fiscally responsible with donated funds. Through your generosity a \$5000 grant has been dispatched to Doctors Without Borders. A goal of Holy Trinity, using the scriptural concept of tithing, is to at least contribute a tithe of our operating budget to mission work each year. Not surprisingly, we have always exceeded that goal and this year will not be an exception. The mission fund, the Women of Holy Trinity, the Sunday School, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and special campaigns all contribute toward our meeting this worthy goal. God's Work, Our Hands. Thank you for your generosity. You are making a difference in the world in the name of God.

Holy Trinity Brings Blankets to Critchlow Atkins Childcare

Critchlow Adkins is a local childcare program for children ages 2-12, including preschool, before- and after-school care, and all-day summer camps.

This fall, we support their programs by knitting or crocheting blankets for children who need them. Blankets are a symbol of warmth, security, kindness and protection. Put your skills to work! A 3 ft.x 5 ft, washable, handmade blanket in the color you choose may become a child's cherished possession of comfort for many years.

For questions, contact Suzanne Fischer (text or call 410-476-7818). To learn more about Critchlow Adkins, visit cacckids.org.



New Prayer Program How to Hear God

The Prayer Course continues with a follow up to Pete Greig's well received *How To Pray* courses that we initiated earlier this year. *How to hear God* is a practical course and encouraging guide to the other side of the prayer conversation: how to hear what God might be saying in response to the prayers we pray. Centered on the story of the disciples who encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus, Pete uses his characteristic accessible and practical style to unpack the many ways that God speaks to us today.

Pastor John Mark Comer describes the book for this course "The best book I have ever read on the most important thing you will ever do." Greig's previous book, *God On Mute* has been described as a Christian Classic by Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury. This program is structured around the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*. You need not have participated in the previous courses to sign up for this one. This course will begin Wednesday, October 4 at 5 pm.. Please join us by going to www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click the **Green Join Zoom Activities** button.



**An Offering in partnership with
the Diocesan Retreat Center**



Spirituality and Aging
with
Dorothy Linthicum
October 25th
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
at

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Please join us and explore the spirituality of aging with Dorothy Linthicum. All are welcome, whether you are journeying with a loved one or are an older adult yourself. We will explore what spirituality might be like for older adults and how spiritual practice in everyday life can enrich and deepen the aging process, including the process of death and dying. How can spiritual practices guide us and our loved ones to tap into the ultimate meaning in our lives?

Additionally, the speaker will share with us questions to ponder and spiritual practices for use after the presentation, both individually and/or in community. To register call the parish office: 410-226-5134

Pledging Our Commitment to Spread God's Love

Our annual pledge campaign will begin on October 1. Members who are registered with the church will receive a letter from our Stewardship Chair Al Simth the first week of October. If you do not receive a letter, please ask for one. Just as many hands make light work, many donors help us spread God's love. We want everyone to be part of the mission of Holy Trinity enabling us to continue God's mission to transform this world with love and compassion. **It's All About Love.** We need your help and commitment to continue this legacy of love. Thank you for your pledges.

The Examen: A Daily Prayer

St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen is an opportunity for peaceful daily reflective prayer. It invites us to find the movement of God in all the people and events of our day. The Examen is simply a set of introspective prompts for you to follow or adapt to your own character and spirit.

Begin with a pause and a slow, deep breath or two; become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.



<p>Thanksgiving</p> <p>What am I especially grateful for in the past day . . .</p> <p>The gift of another day...</p> <p>The love and support I have received...</p> <p>The courage I have mustered...</p> <p>An event that took place today</p>	<p>Review</p> <p>Where have I felt true joy today?</p> <p>What has troubled me today?</p> <p>What has challenged me today?</p> <p>Where and when did I pause today?</p> <p>Have I noticed God's presence in any of this?</p>
<p>Petition</p> <p>I am about to review my day; I ask for the light to know God and to know myself as God sees me.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>In light of my review, what is my response to the God of my life?</p> <p>A Look Ahead</p> <p>As I look ahead, what comes to mind?</p> <p>With what spirit do I want to enter tomorrow?</p>

Educational Section

Sunday School



The Sunday school is off to a great start! This year our theme is taking care of God's creation, including one another. We started out on September 10 by discussing Genesis 1 and illustrating God's creation. Please check out our Sunday school bulletin board in the parish hall and let the children know how much you appreciate them. The children also enjoyed building a volcano out of Lego to show the earth continuing to form.



Also that day, we had our annual backpack blessing. Each child received a shell that said "Be Kind." They were pleased to hear the letter of support you signed.



September 14th we talked about the two greatest commandments that Jesus taught us. Have you noticed the plaque our Sunday School students made ten years ago? Ritze Miller, our artist in residence at that time, guided them to illustrate,
LOVE GOD
LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Notice that it's painted on an old cabinet door we had found! After the Sunday School children looked at the plaque, we discussed what can we do to show this. We decided we would make shell ornaments and decorate fascinators and hats to sell at the Christmas bazaar to raise money to help local charities. The children had a wonderful time ably guided by volunteers Sandy Wrightson, Pam Seale, Pam Dent, and Barbara Cross.



During October we will continue to learn through Bible stories how to care for the environment and each other.

Sunday School meets the second and fourth Sundays during the 10:00 service. The children and parents appreciate the refreshments and time to be together during fellowship time after church. Many thanks to the parishioners who provide hospitality for this ministry.

Barbara Cross



Christmas Bazaar 2023

It is not too early to beginning thinking about our Christmas Bazaar, which will be held on December 2nd. Sponsored by the Women of Holy Trinity, this is a festive, fun event which raises money for local charities.

Areas for which you can volunteer are Food, Wreaths, Baskets for Charity, Publicity, Elf Shelf, Crafts, Children's Table and Men's Hospitality. If you would like to help with one of these either in the planning stage or the day of the Bazaar, or if you have questions, please email Margaret Munsch, margaretpmunsch@gmail.com or Sara Wangsness, swangsness100@yahoo.com We will put you in touch with the coordinator for that area.

Additionally, if you would like to be a vendor, please let us know.

The Christmas Bazaar is a joyful opportunity to be part of our church family working together and celebrating the season; don't miss it!

Margaret and Sara



The crafts projects have made for a delightful time! We made shell ornaments and trinket dishes, and created fascinators and decorated hats! The Sunday school children really enjoyed it too! Many thanks to Pam Dent for teaching us how to decoupage and to Marybeth Guerrieri for providing us with great supplies for decorating the fascinators and hats! In addition to creating crafts to sell at the Christmas Bazaar on Dec 2, the women enjoyed visiting and getting to know one another. There was much laughter and great camaraderie! We had so much fun we are thinking of having "pop up" crafts times at various times throughout the year. If you are interested, please let us know.

Music

Save the Date! Upcoming Concerts at Holy Trinity Reservations Taken at A Later Date

October 15th 4 p.m. USNA Midshipmen Orchestra
And Mariachi Band
(Limited Seating) Reservations at a later date

October 26th 7 p.m. The American Spiritual Ensemble

December 17th 3 p.m. Chuck and Robert Redd, A
Redd Christmas

January 7th 4 p.m. Yury Shadrin and Tian Lu, Internationally Acclaimed Concert Pianists

January 28th 3 p.m. Sue Matthews and Robert Redd, American Songbook



Please volunteer to help with our concert series. We need assistance with greeting guests, handing out programs, minor setup and cleanup. If you would like to meet new people and make a new friend, join us!

Milestones

Passed on

Joyce Balderson

Larry Denton

See Back of
Calendar For The
Women of Holy
Trinity's Fund
Raising Info and
Events Ahead

Inquiring Believers

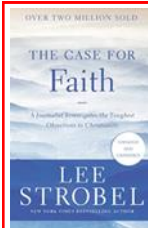
The Inquiring Believers, a.k.a. the Men's Bible Study group, has resumed its activities on Mondays at 5 PM in the Parish Hall. With the exception of holidays, we meet most every week from mid-Sept. through early May. We will start off this fall reading about the books in the Apocrypha and other books that were not included in the Bible.

Last year we started off by reading the Book of Ecclesiastes, a commentary on Ecclesiastes by Zack Eswine and two books by Thomas Cahill, "The Gifts of the Jews" and "Desire of the Everlasting Hills." We wrapped up the spring semester by reading "Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls" by John Bergsma. As can be seen, our studies cover a broad range of religious topics.

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, please contact the Rector at the Parish Office or call Ray Munsch at 215-356-2481. This is an engaged group, but one that doesn't take itself too seriously and enjoys our fellowship above all.

Women's Bible Study

Another opportunity for the women of Holy Trinity. Women's bible study has started up again on. We will meet via zoom at 5pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. We welcome any new members. Invite your friends, all are welcome, whether members of Holy Trinity or not. Contact me for more information or if you want to get on the email reminder list. See you then! Deacon Lisa; Lisa.pagano15@gmail.com; 410-810-4024 TO join in this group, go to the parish web page www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the [green Click Here to Join Zoom Meetings](#) button.



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will resume in September!

Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday, September 20th

a chance to reconnect, share stories and make plans for the year!

By popular vote, our first selection to read will be ---

The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigate the Toughest Objections to Christianity by Lee Strobel

As always, meetings will be the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

September 6th and 20st - 9:00 am

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



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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