



# Lifeline

VOLUME 16  
ISSUE 9

August-2023

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church  
[office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)



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



Rectory Clean Up



"The Barbies"



9/3 Outside Service



Rectory Clean Up



Moon Over Trinity



Rectory Clean Up Crew



## Please join us for A Good Old Fashioned Picnic

To celebrate everyone who works to make Oxford a Paradise

**Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**

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

**Live music by Jenz Frenz, hamburgers, hot dogs and all things picnic!**

RSVP to [office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org) or call 410-226-5134 by Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

**Invitation includes Family**

Parishioners are encouraged to make a free-will contribution at the entrance.



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- We have grateful hearts for everyone who stepped up in keeping Holy Trinity humming along during our sabbatical and vacation absence in August.
- Great appreciation for the Creation Care team that beautified the rectory grounds with much pruning and raking!
- Thank you to all you generous donors who helped us acquire our new piano. You will gladden many hearts with the sound of music.
- Thanks to our gardeners and donators of fresh vegetables distributed to those in need in our communities.
- Thank you all for supporting our time away for renewal and refreshment in August.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

See Vestry Nominees Bio's on  
Back of Calendar

### Addiction Recovery Resources

**Alcoholics Anonymous – Mid Shore Group**

[www.midshoreintergroup.org](http://www.midshoreintergroup.org)

410-822-4226

**Caron Addiction Treatment Center**

[www.caron.org](http://www.caron.org)

866-306-0319

**Hazelden Betty Ford**

[www.hazeldenbettyford.org](http://www.hazeldenbettyford.org)

884-842-4553

**Diocese of Easton Recovery Ministries**

<https://dioceseofeaston.org/mission-ministry/recovery-ministry/>

**UM Shore Behavioral Health – Outpatient Substance Use**

<https://www.umms.org/shore/locations/behavioral-health-outpatient-substance-use-disorders>

410-822-1000 x 5452

**Recovery Ministries' of the Episcopal Church**

<https://www.episcopalrecovery.org/>

## Connie's Corner



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

As we wonder through this life of ours  
Do you devote many minutes and hours  
To give thanks to those around you and especially  
the one up above  
Who gave us the greatest gift ever, the ability to  
love  
Just as you love your Father and Mother  
Share that love, praise and thanks to one another  
Reach out. Lend a hand, welcome love into your  
heart  
For that love. A gift from God, was always there  
right from the start  
When you share your love, your faith, it will come  
back to you ten-fold  
It doesn't take much effort to have a heart of gold  
Let God's love show you the way  
To a life full of love and thanks each and every  
day.

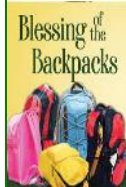
"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

## Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King meeting in the Parish Hall River Room on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. All are welcomed to attend.

## Blessing of the Backpacks – September 10<sup>th</sup> at the 10 am service



We begin each school year with the blessing of backpacks. A backpack blessing is a moment set aside during your worship service to encourage our students, blessing both them and teachers alike. This special blessing will be part of our 10 am service on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to bring their school backpacks to church with them for this special blessing.

## Alcoholism, Drug Addiction and the Life of the Spirit

September is National Recovery Month. We need to address the issues of alcoholism and drug addiction openly and with hope. I say "hope" because faith is a powerful medicine to help overcome addiction.

"We are all seekers. We all have a spiritual life." Unfortunately, we often look and listen in the wrong places to nurture our spiritual life 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 consumerism, thrills, and all too frequently in activities that result in 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 that 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.

This month presents a good time 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 Talbot Goes Purple campaign is underway in our community.

There are many ways to understand the disease of addiction. And, it has become increasingly more complex and critical for us all to understand this disease with the arrival of the opiate epidemic. 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. With addiction, the mutuality and choice found in healthy relationships 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 between 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 of life – or else.*" (The Big Book pg. 44) The 12-steps are a spiritual journey.

Addiction is a pervasive disease that is very 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. Sam Shoemaker of Calvary Episcopal Church in NYC was one of Bill Wilson's spiritual advisors. 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 or those who suffer from one of the many forms of addiction, it offers a profoundly spiritual program for all.

In my experience, those impacted by this illness are wonderful, talented, and compassionate human beings. And, when in recovery, one sees a level of acceptance and honesty being brought into their real 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. They are certainly very important, but it is also where we, the community and importantly the Church, belong. 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 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 the spiritual nourishment of faith to support healthy recovery."

**Blessings. Fr. Kevin**

### Holy Trinity Sponsors Talbot Goes Purple



Talbot Goes Purple is a substance abuse awareness program that engages our community and youth to stand against substance abuse. The project is based on THP Project Purple, an initiative of the Herron project, a 501 3© non-profit foundation established by former NBA player, Chris Herron, that assists individuals and families struggling with addiction. Talbot Goes Purple is an initiative from the Talbot County Sheriff's Office and Tidewater Rotary that empowers our youth and our community to 'Go Purple' as a sign of taking a stand against substance abuse. The project promotes education and awareness, including purple clubs and activities in our schools, through which students learn they do not need drugs or alcohol to meet life's challenges. The project also encourages the 'new conversation' between teens and parents, one that includes messages that prescription painkillers aren't safe to use recreationally. Holy Trinity has been a sponsor of this program since its inception. If you or a loved one is struggling with addiction, you are encouraged to confidentially contact Fr. Kevin.

MISSION SECTION



Care Packs of Talbot County

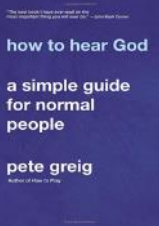
This month we return our service activity to the children throughout Talbot County who experience food insecurity. We can help ensure no child goes hungry through collecting donations of food items for **Care Packs of Talbot County**. Each Friday, this program with our support, distributes care packs 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 1<sup>st</sup> – September 24<sup>th</sup>. You may drop off your donations at our services or at the Parish Hall any weekday. 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	Soups
Canned pasta	

Mission – Rector’s Discretionary Fund

Did you know that the cash contributions to the plate on the first Sunday of the month go toward funding the Rector Discretionary Fund? This fund is separate from the church mission fund and is intended to help individuals with emergency needs. These needs can range from providing rental assistance, food, transportation, and medical expenses. Your support of this fund is greatly appreciated. It helps us spread the good news to those in need. Thank you for your support.



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.*” Grieg’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 in late September. The schedule will be determined by the participants and Fr. Kevin.



### Communications Volunteers Needed



#### Calling all communicators – that is you!

*“Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your works and glorify your Faith who is in heaven.”* Matthew 5:16-

We are seeking to improve our communication capabilities in all forms: our website, our social media presence, in newspaper articles... to carry the good news of Holy Trinity forth into our surrounding communities. If you have an interest in joining a volunteer team to help expand our reach and effectiveness, we would love to hear from you. We have much good news to share and need your help to do so. Please speak with Fr. Kevin, Deacon Lisa, or call the office at 410-226-5134

### HAVE FUN AND HELP OTHERS!

One of the major fundraisers we have at church is the Christmas Bazaar. The Women of Holy Trinity (formerly ECW) sponsor this to help raise funds for local mission work and to create camaraderie.

Although the bazaar isn't until December 2, we are preparing for it now. We had so much fun making fascinators and people enjoyed them so much, that we are making them again. Additionally, we will be making ornaments from sea shells. If you have collected shells for this project, please let Barbara Cross know.

The dates and times for the crafts projects are

Thursday Sept 21 1-3

Sunday Sept 24 after both services

Monday Sept 25 9-11

Tuesday Sept 26 9-11

The workshops are held in the Parish Hall and all are welcome. It's a fun, creative time with lots of laughter and camaraderie! We look forward to your joining us!

Barbara Cross, Sandy Wrightson, Marybeth Guerrieri , Crafts Coordinators for the Christmas Bazaar

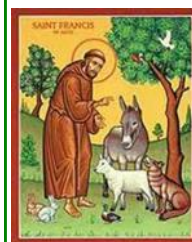
### Calling All Women of Holy Trinity!

You're invited to share in an informational catered luncheon, meeting, and mission fund allocation!

Monday, September 18, 2023  
10:30 AM, followed by catered luncheon  
Holy Trinity Parish Hall

Please RSVP by September 11.

RSVP via email - [sandykaufman1@aol.com](mailto:sandykaufman1@aol.com)  
or call 410-226-5301



### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 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

## Educational Section

### Sunday School

Sunday School begins Sept. 10th and we will once again meet on the second and fourth Sundays during the 10:00 service. This year our theme is God's Creation. We will use stories from the Bible to learn what our Creator has made for us, have stories that focus on creation/nature (think of the parables such as the vine and the branches, Jesus walking on the water, etc.). When Father Kevin and I attended the Episcopal Conference "All About Love- The Jesus Movement," one of the themes was creation care. Creation Care is one of the focuses for our entire congregation this year.

The first Sunday of Sunday School, Sept 10, we are going to be doing something a little different. We will start out with families joining the children to start out our year. At 9:30, we will gather as families in the parish hall, say a prayer of gratitude, and then all go outside to the rectory yard for a creation scavenger hunt! Parents will go into church at 10:00 and the children will join you during the peace.

Also on September 10, we will have the backpack blessing. Please make sure to have your children bring their backpacks with them.

Children in preschool to middle school are welcome. We hope you will join us!  
Barbara Cross, Kathy Becker, Pucky Lippincott

### Inquiring Believers

The Inquiring Believers, a.k.a. the Men's Bible Study group, will resume its activities on Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

### WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

*Women on a Journey will resume in September!*

Our next meeting will be on

**Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> ....**

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

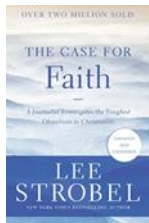
As always, meetings will be the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

**September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>st</sup> - 9:00 am**

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or [beverlyrohman@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyrohman@gmail.com)

### Women's Bible Study

Another opportunity for the women of Holy Trinity. Women's bible study will start up again on Sept 12!! 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](mailto:Lisa.pagano15@gmail.com); 410-810-4024 TO join in this group, go to the parish web page [www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org](http://www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org) and click on the [green Click Here to Join Zoom Meetings](#) button.



## Music

### Holy Trinity Choir



Our Choir would love to have you join us to sing one Sunday, a couple of Sundays, or twice a month. We have a great time singing and spending time with each other. No experience needed. Tentative about singing in public?

*Our group is so supportive, you will fit right in!*

Rehearsals: Beginning Friday, September 8th, 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
Anthem Sundays: 1st and 3rd of the Month

#### Service Musicians

September 10	10 a.m.	Gail Aveson and Dorrine Dawes, vocalists
September 17	8 a.m.	Melissa Wise, Soprano
	10 a.m.	Holy Trinity Choir, Melissa Wise
October 1	9:30 a.m.	Holy Trinity Choir, Bagpipes



### Sunday September 24th 4 p.m. Ashley Watkins (Flute) and Veronica Tomanek (Piano) In Concert

This exciting concert opens our 2023-2024 Concert series. Two extremely gifted musicians will share music based on Spirituals, Jazz, and Classical Elements. We are very excited to share this concert with Oxford. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of beautiful music by two exceptional musicians.

### 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)

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

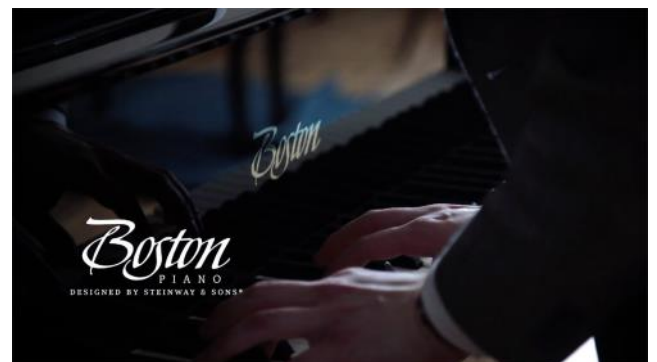
January 28th 3 p.m. Sue Matthews and Robert Redd, American Songbook

Stay Tuned - more to come!



**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!

### COMING SOON! Week of September 14th!





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 410.226.5134  
 Email: office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org  
 Web: www.holyltrinityoxfordmd.org

*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**