



Lifeline

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February 2024

The Church of the Holy Trinity

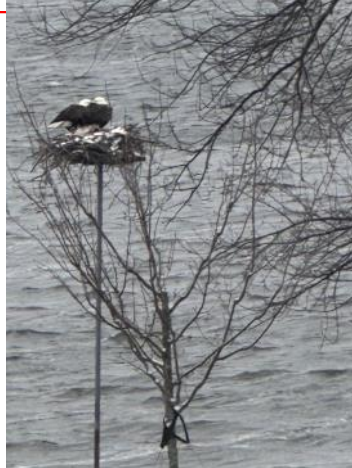
An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Big Foot Lives Here



Winter Osprey



Church Snow



Thomas Beard Concert on February 28



January Fellowship Hour



Mactavash Snow Crew



John and Salvador Jamming



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our **2024 Vestry**. They are off and running toward a great year ahead.
- Thank you to **Steve Weisenberger and Bill Ritchie** who repaired the Parish Hall door and both the side and main entry doors to our church.
- Thank you to **Lisa** and all of our parishioners who helped at the Rise Against Hunger event sponsored by the Easton Rotary.
- Thank you to the snow removal and deicer team, **Michelle & Cameron Mactavish**. You helped us get safely through the January storms.
- Thank you to all for your well wishes, prayers and meals for Barbara's recovery. You are a blessing.
- Thank you to our dedicated Acolytes; **Steve Weisenberger, Beverly Rohman, Mickey Terrone, Dennis Roberts, and Gordon Fronk**.
- Thank you to all of our January Fellowship Hour Hosts: **The Vestry, Sandy Wrightson, Emily Crandall, Tom & Anne DeMarco, and John & Susi Dillon**.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Ash Wednesday Services

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we will hold two Eucharist services which will include the imposition of ashes. These services will be held at 8:30 am and 6:30 pm. If you are unable to attend one of these services but would like to receive ashes, Fr. Kevin will be available at the church office.

Milestones

Passed on
Jean Malin
Donald Shuck
Jane Hill
Kate Carraher

Connie's Corner



- "When you have a dream, you've got to grab it and never let go."— **Carol Burnett**
- "There is nothing impossible to they who will try."— **Alexander the Great**
- "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."— **Michael Altshuler**
- "Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you."— **Walt Whitman**
- "What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- "Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."— **Ella Fitzgerald**
- "Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that 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**

Have you ever looked deep into your soul
To determine what makes you whole
Is it full of distress and bad things
Or is it full of happiness and the joy it brings
Can your soul share and radiate love
As that is a special gift sent from above
Remember your faith, a big part of your heart
Faith that we gathered straight from the start
Through Sunday School and your beloved church
That faith will never leave you in a lurch
Never forget that you must also love you
And that love of self will emanate to more than a
few
Greet each day will love and it will be the best day
As that love comes back to you in every way.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Love and Lent

Love and Lent can sound like two disparate subjects, but I maintain that they are naturally linked. However, I admit this linkage does not immediately jump out. What prompted me to think about their linkage is this year's rare occurrence of Valentine's Day (Love) and Ash Wednesday (Lent) falling on the same day, Wednesday February 14th. To be honest my initial gut reaction was that Lent is about self-sacrifice and Valentine's day about the giving of self. A quick second thought came to me: these two concepts are rooted in the same foundation. One cannot love without some degree of self-sacrifice to turn one's gaze away from the self and towards the other.

In the season of Lent, we are encouraged to take a journey with Jesus. We seek to shift from having the world drive our lives to taking control of our lives and reshaping our "selves" to increasingly imitate Christ. As God's collaborators, we accept the task of **re-presenting** Christ to the world. Naturally any journey with Jesus is ultimately a journey of love. As quoted in the Episcopal Church's program *Walking the Way of Love*, "*The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed.*" **The Way of Love** Our lives' objective becomes the transformation of life itself through walking the way of Jesus through waking the way of love.

How does this fit into traditional Lenten practices? Well, those typically include taking time for prayer, fasting, and alms giving. The two aforementioned qualities of love; that is turning away from the self and the turning of the self towards the other, are represented in these traditional Lenten practices. A frequently practiced custom of Lent has been to give up something of the world that is about feeding the self. Whether it be food, entertainment, or luxuries the idea is to cut away that which might be keeping us from turning our focus away from ourselves. We develop many habits in life that are about feeding the self, in other words, self-gratification. These habits can be dangerous to our spiritual life. Setting aside time each year to call those habits into question is a healthy spiritual practice. It can be a time of opening oneself to see other's needs and look at the world through the unclouded eyes of Christ.

In more recent times many people have devoted their time in Lent to develop new practices that involve the giving of one's time and resources. Engaging in acts of service to others can put to good use the time and energy that was formerly devoted to self-gratification. These practices can result in our having more to give. As we all have found the seemingly contradictory truth that the more one gives, the more one has for oneself and others.

These two traditional Lenten practices can open the heart to love. Too often Lent has been seen as a somber time of denial without any commensurate outpouring of love. Our God is a God of abundance and love. If we truly want to imitate Christ, we must incorporate both of these quali-

ties, self-sacrifice and giving of the self, into our lives and the lives of others. As theologian Leonardo Boff writes: "*There are two eyes of prayerful theology: one always looking toward God, the other turned toward humankind. What we are not allowed is the luxury of peering from one eye only.*"



MISSION SECTION



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 picks up and delivers the food donations to pantries in Easton on a regular basis.

Cereal	Crackers	Little packs of pop tarts, cookies, cheese crackers and peanut butter crackers, chips
Powdered milk	Peanut Butter	
Toilet paper	Jelly	Health and personal products – soap, shampoo, toothpaste, lotion
Spaghetti and sauce	Cough drops	
Diapers	Pedialyte	
Tuna	Breakfast bars	

“it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Thank you for your generosity.



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](#) 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 Sunday February 4th Holy Trinity will once again take part in the 2024 Empty Bowls program. After the 9:30 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 as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you may ask Fr. Kevin, Susie Wheeler or Corrie James.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King, a worldwide order of women dedicated to prayer and service, will meet in the Parish Hall at 10:00 on Tuesday Feb 13th. All are welcomed to attend.





It Starts With a Meal - The Outstanding Success of Rise Against Hunger

God's work through human hands transforming the lives of thousands.

On Saturday January 21st the Easton Rotary Club's Rise Against Hunger event took place. Youth and adults, including a group from Holy Trinity, gathered at the Waterfowl building to assemble and package for shipment meals that will be distributed to food deprived communities around the world. This event packed over 30,000 meals in a little over 3 hours! Since its beginnings a few years ago, over 100,000 meals have been provided for those in need. Holy Trinity has been an enthusiastic partner of this program with the Rotary Club since its inception.



.CALLING ALL WOMEN AND MEN OF HOLY TRINITY!

PLANT SALE LEADERS NEEDED!

In coordination with Oxford Day - **Saturday, April 27, 2023** – Holy Trinity's Plant Sale will be in full swing, with proceeds benefiting the local charities supported by this effort. **This is one of the two big fundraising events coordinated by the women of Holy Trinity, and supported by many men of the church.**

This year, we are looking for two leaders to help us continue this event:

- **We need one leader to organize volunteers** for unloading the truck, organizing the plants, setting up tables, and re-loading the truck at the end of the sale. We have had many volunteers supporting this effort in the past, and the coordination effort is well documented. This leader can use existing email templates, schedules, and volunteer lists, all of which have been saved.

- **We need a second leader to head up the Plant Sale.** Beverly Rohman will be happy to support and work with you to meet with Robin's Nest to select and arrange for plant delivery, update and mail the pre-order form for church members, and receive and track pre-order payments and sales on the day of the sale. This leader will have the benefit of working with a seasoned co-leader who has done this for years, creating a work-share model that will support leaders of this event for years to come.

This is a great chance to use your leadership skills without making a year-long commitment! Most of the work is completed over a month's period, and you'll be well supported by those who have been doing it for years, and by the many volunteers who "know the drill!"

We're counting on a few good women and men to step up to the challenge!

Email Beverly Rohman (beverlyrohman@gmail.com)

Are You Called to be an Acolyte?

We have opportunities available for you to join our team of acolytes. An acolyte assists the celebrant performing ceremonial duties such as lighting altar candles, assisting at the altar with the administration of communion. Presently we have five wonderfully dedicated acolytes. However, we could use the assistance of more acolytes. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and your parish. Please see Fr. Kevin or Lisa if you are interested.

Educational Section

Sunday School

During February the Sunday School will meet during the 10:00 service on February 11 and 25. We are pleased to welcome Susie Dillon as substitute teacher for Barbara while Barbara recovers from her foot surgery. She will be joining Kathy Becker and Pucky Lippincott.

On February 4, the church has two special activities which we encourage Sunday School families to attend. Children in fourth grade and up are encouraged to attend the 9:30 service for the instructional Eucharist. During this service, Father Kevin will explain why we do what we do. At 10:30, ALL families are encouraged to attend the multigenerational project of painting/decorating bowls for the Empty Bowls project which helps provide food for those in need. If you are able to participate in decorating the bowls, please call the office at 410-226-5134. We want to make sure we have enough bowls for everyone. Hope to see you there!

Lenten Study Group: Be Still; A Simply Guide to Quiet Times

Be Still is the fourth offering of the How To Pray curriculum which is designed to empower everyone to engage in the practice of prayer. In these sessions from memorizing scripture to noticing beauty everywhere, 24-7 Prayer Director Brian Heasley explains that we don't need to be static for our hearts to be still, and how even in the midst of a full, busy life, we can spend quiet time with God. *Be Still* will change the way you think about prayer and devotion and equip you with all the tools you need to deepen your relationship with God. We will meet in person and via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 5 pm throughout Lent. The sessions begin on February 21 and end on March 20. The How To Pray series has been a very well received program at Holy Trinity. I hope you will join us to deepen your spiritual experience in Lent. Please call the office, 410-226-5134 or speak with Fr. Kevin or Deacon Lisa. You may order the book for this series from your local bookstore or an online book dealer like Amazon. [Be Still: A Simple Guide to Quiet Times](#) by Brian Healey.

News from your Vestry

On Wednesday, January 31st the 2024 vestry elected their officers. Elected to a one-year term are: John Dillon, Sr. Warden, Michelle Mactavish and Bill Ritchie, Co-Jr. Wardens, Dick Deerin, Treasurer, Connie Greenhawk, Secretary and Margaret Munsch, Registrar. We give thanks and appreciation to these newly elected officers. Additionally, all Vestry participated in a planning retreat on Sunday January 28th. We have a good year ahead of us.

Men's Inquiring Believers

After many years of good and faithful service, Ray Munsch stepped down as the coordinator/moderator of *Inquiring Believers*, the Monday night men's bible study group at Holy Trinity. The group thanked Ray for all that he has done and is delighted that he will remain active in the group. In early January, Dave Poe and Bob Kelly stepped into the coordinator/moderator role as a team.

Currently, the group is studying the Old Testament using two resources: Professor Robert Miller's Great Courses video lectures for a class titled, *Understanding the Old Testament*, and sections from Paul Johnson's *A History of the Jews*, that roughly correspond to Miller's lectures.

We meet every Monday evening at 5:00 and are always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join in, please contact Bob at kellyrf@lemoyne.edu or Dave at davidrussellpoe@gmail.com

February Service Musicians

Choir News

Our Choir is on a winter break until February 23rd. We encourage parishioners or community friends to join us for the month of March as we prepare for Easter. We will sing on March 3rd, 17th, and 31st. Please join us for Friday morning rehearsals at 10 a.m. beginning February 23rd. If you would like to sing but cannot make Friday rehearsals, please let Cora know and we'll make it happen for you!

February Guest Service Musicians

February 4th 10 a.m. Hunter Ness, Bass-Baritone February 18th 8 and 10 a.m.
Melissa Wise, Soprano February 25th 10 a.m. Denise Nathanson, Cello

March 3rd 9:30 a.m. Jose Sacin, Baritone and The Holy Trinity Choir

Upcoming Concerts

February 18th 3 p.m. Thomas Beard, Baritone

Evolution Of The Negro Spiritual

An incredible afternoon celebrating the American Negro Spiritual with Thomas Beard, Baritone, Professional Dancer LeAndrea Gilliam, and Narrator Andrew Janssen.

Through narration, song, and dance we will journey through songs of slavery, hope, signals, and freedom. The performers will make these songs come alive through dramatic and moving interpretations.

March 3rd 4 p.m. Students from The Leon Fleisher Academy

Celebrating Young Pianists in Recital

The Leon Fleisher Academy is thrilled to present a mesmerizing afternoon of classical music by promising young pianists. They will take center stage enchanting the audience with their extraordinary talent and passion for music. This exceptional event will feature a captivating repertoire, including compositions by Couperin, Schumann, Scriabin, Liszt, and Stravinsky.



Women's Bible Study

Please join us for Women's Bible Study. We will meet Tuesdays Feb 13 and 27 at 5pm via zoom. We are studying the prophets, using the book *The Message of the Twelve*, by Richard Alan Fuhr and Gary E. Yates. We are on the book of Hosea. Hope to see you there! 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.

WOMEN ON A JOURNEY

Our next meeting will be on

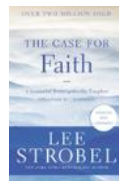
Wednesday, February 7th & 21th...9:00 am

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

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