



Lifeline

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The Church of the Holy Trinity
An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Kevin's Birthday



Lunch Bunch using
recyclable bags



Hat Sunday



Hat Sunday



First Sunday of Pentecost



Dancing Queen Deacon Lisa



Church Supper



Ed & Elizabeth Delaney Anniversary



Pat Hervey, Kevin and John Wright
celebrating his 90th birthday



Father Kevin Telling a School Joke



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- A special note of thanks to the **Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Connie, Cora, and Lisa** who assisted with the tremendous number of funerals and weddings this past two months. You enabled us to offer meaningful, pastoral care through our worship.
- Thank you for our **Jr. Wardens, Michelle Mactavish and Bill Ritchie** for keeping our grounds and buildings in such good order.
- Thank you to the **Vestry and our church community** for responding to help the Chesapeake Music Festival.
- Thank you all for your good humor and fun demeanor that made our annual Hat Sunday into a great start to the summer. We once again showed our Anglican cousins across the pond that we can dress as stylishly as them!
- Thank you to **Dick Deerin, Suze Segal, and Connie** for their good work tracking our finances, paying bills, and keeping our financial house in good order.
- Thank you to everyone in this congregation who have reached out with care and love to our ill parishioners. You are doing the work of God.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Milestones

Passed On

Jerry Hinckley

Kate Carraher

Bill Darragh

Carol Patterson

Marriages

Berkley Cone & Lesley Kelly 5/26

Jonathan Blake & Katarina Williams 6/8

Chris Higbee & Libby Snow 6/8

Connie's Corner



"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**

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."- **Winston Churchill**

"Spread love everywhere you go."— **Mother Teresa**

"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**

"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."— **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Serendipity, something we all want to keep
A feeling of calm, peaceful and so deep
Friends sitting all around the bar
Making life so special by far
Italian music in the background
Eating everyone all around
Wrap my heart with all this love
Love so soft, like the feathers of a dove
Thank you all for loving me as I am
You open the tears not held by a dam.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

A Meditation on Forgiveness

I have been thinking a lot about forgiveness lately. So much of the world is in a state of turmoil, much of it centered around the wrongs and hurts we inflict on each other. Our egos seem to have great difficulty letting go of these past hurts. We become blind to our common humanity and cease walking together, hand in hand, to make this a better world. It seems far easier to let the hurts fester and empower the anger and indifference to each other rather than do the hard work of forgiveness. The necessary work that enables the reconciliation that our loving God wishes for amongst all of us.



We all need forgiveness. We need to forgive and be forgiven. While God has created us for goodness, while we are created to be in the image of God, none of us gets through life without making mistakes, acts that hurt ourselves or others. Too often these failings cause us to distance us from the love of our creator, filling ourselves with shame and self-doubt. nor from committing acts that hurt one another. God's love is never changing but our openness to receive that love often needs work – and not just once but continually throughout our blessed lives. I read recently that a character in Cormac McCarthy's Cities of the Plain, says: "He believed in God even if he was doubtful of men's claims to know God's mind. But that a God unable to forgive was not God at all." Commenting on this quote Pope Francis writes "That's exactly right God's job is to forgive."

I would venture to add that if God's job is to forgive that is also our job. We are to strive in this life to live as Jesus lived. Our job in life is to imitate Christ. Our job is to love and there cannot be real love without forgiveness. Forgiveness is often perceived as being soft – too soft. Yet the contrary is the truth. It takes far more guts and strength to let go of a hurt or wrong and forgive whoever, including ourselves, needs to be forgiven. To live a life marked by love and forgiveness is a life that shows strength.

The parable of the prodigal son is a meditation on forgiveness. It is the story of wrongs being committed and as a consequence, relationships being shattered. But even more so it is a story of the power of love and forgiveness and the restoration of a relationship that these choices can unleash. To start, the prodigal son had some work to do. He needed to swallow his pride, get over his anger, and repent for his sins. His life of pleasure and immediate gratification had not only hurt others but severely wounded himself. However, the son's self-forgiveness is only one half of the story. The father putting aside the hurts and disappointments brought about by the son's actions was essential if their relationship was to be restored. It was the son's love of his father and the father's love of the son that enabled the reconciliation to take place. Both had to set aside their self-pride and give into the call of the heart to set things right. Both needed to imitate Christ to restore their relationship to wholeness. If the father were forgiving but the son also did not forgive himself, healing could not take place. It is this area of self-forgiveness that is so essential to healing and it is often the greatest obstacle that confronts us.

Of course, there was another relationship in this story - that of the two sons. We hear details about their initial encounter but are left to speculate on the future course of their relationship. The son's jealousy and initial difficulty in forgiving his prodigal brother brings into focus a problem that confronts us all as we strive to forgive. Forgiveness can seem weak. Forgiving can seem unfair. Forgiveness can seem to hurt (our pride). This is all a part

of real life that I would guess we have all experienced. However, If we focus on the brother's initial reaction too much, if we lose ourselves in the righteousness of the brother's complaints, we lose the point of the story. The brother's job is the same as ours. The brother's job is the same as we expect from God. The brother's job is to forgive. Forgiving does not mean forgetting but it does require us to stop letting an old hurt control the future of our lives. As Desmond Tutu would say there is "no future without forgiveness."

"FORGIVENESS IS THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM TO ONESELF; IT IS THE KEY HELD IN OUR OWN HAND TO OUR PRISON CELL."

-St. John Paul the Great

Blessings. 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 food items for **Care Packs of Talbot County Program**. Each Friday, during the school year this program distributes “care pack’s” filled with food to help the children have enough to get them get through the weekends.

See below for the list of desired items. We will collect these items from September 1st through June 30th. 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.

Most Needed Items

Oatmeal Packets	Granola Bars	Single Serve Packages of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goldfish Trail Mix Fruit Snacks Cereal Peanuts Mac and Cheese Pretzels
Fruit Cups	Breakfast Bars	
Applesauce Cups	Canned Tuna	
Filled Crackers	Canned Pasta	
Toaster Pastries	Soups	

WOMEN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will be taking a break for the summer, resuming this fall.

Inquiring Believers Study the Old Testament

Inquiring Believers will be taking a break for the summer, resuming this fall

Women’s Bible Study

Women’s Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer, resuming this fall

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 9:30 on Tuesday June 11th. All are welcomed to attend.

Prayer Requests

It seems we can all use prayers at some point in our lives. Some people are fine about others knowing they are being prayed for, and sometimes people want to be prayed for quietly and in confidence.

Here at Holy Trinity, our Holy Comforter chapter of the Daughters of the King prays daily and keeps those requests confidential. We do not need to know what it is about - God knows. If you would like us to pray for you or someone else, please contact either Midge Menzies, Barb Cross, or Sharon Paz.





Our prayer shawl ministry is an extension of our pastoral care to members of our community who are ill and/or home bound. Members of this ministry knit our Prayer Shawls and while doing so he or she is in prayer for the person who is to receive it. *"As I make this prayer shawl I prayed for the one who will receive it. I prayed for that one to receive from God the help needed. I prayed that they would be reminded that they are not alone. I prayed that they would find in this shawl a place of comfort and strength."* At our monthly healing Eucharist service the shawls are blessed and then gifted to those in need by Fr. Kevin and our pastoral ministry team. This ministry was headed up for several years by our beloved Carol Patterson. We have one knitter but need more volunteers to knit shawls for distribution. If you like to *"kinit one, purl two..."* this is the ministry for you ! If you are interested in joining this vital ministry, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134.

HAT SUNDAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd – 9:30 am

There were lots of favorite fascinators or hats worn on Sunday June 2nd. Several years ago, a few parishioners wanted to show our cousins across the pond that we could be as stylishly dressed as they were for Kate and William's marriage. Thus, a festive summer tradition was born. The dress at this year's Derby events have shown the way. Hat Sunday has become our fun way of kicking off the summer season. We had some fun and showed we can be stylish as anyone else!

Flower Guild Seeks New Members

The Holy Trinity Flower Guild is seeking new members. The Flower Guild takes care of providing flower arrangements at the altar for Sunday services, decorating church for Christmas, Easter and other special services, and overseeing the delivery of flowers to the ill in the parish. If you have an interest in gardening and flower arranging, this is the group for you. Training will be provided by Ingrid Blanton and Suzanne Litty, co-chairs of this committee. If you are interested please call the church office at 410-226-5134 or you may speak to Ingrid, Suzanne, or Fr. Kevin.



Deacon Lisa & Her Hiking Friend



Pentecost Sunday



Pentecost Sunday



Choir Hat Sunday

Summer Reading Recommendations

Each summer I like to recommend some of the books that have enriched my life. The books range from theology to fiction and non-fiction.

Come Forth: The Promise of Jesus Greatest Miracle by Fr. James Martin – James is one of my favorite contemporary religious writers. In this wise and compassionate book, Father James Martin, SJ explores the story of Jesus's greatest miracle—the raising of Lazarus from the dead—and what Jesus means when he calls each of us to “come forth.” Meditatively and carefully, Martin leads us verse by verse, offering profound reflections on Jesus's lessons on love, family, sadness, frustration, fear, anger, freedom, and joy. He relates that we are all, like Lazarus, being called forth.

God On Mute; Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer by Pete Grieg – Described as “a Christian classic” by The Archbishop Of Canterbury, God on Mute was the text for one of our study groups on prayer. Based on his own life experience and the growth of the 24/7 prayer movement which he founded, Grieg explores the very human experience of God's silence in the face of suffering. He writes with clarity and profundity about this condition that most of us experience at some time in our lives. This book is not only insightful, but it leaves one hopeful and confident of God's love.

Codebreaker; Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race by Walter Isaacson – acclaimed biographer Isaacson tells the intriguing true story of a determined scientist seeking to unravel the mysteries of illness and the genome. Jennifer Doudna is the Noble Prize-winning scientist whose work alongside worldwide teams of colleagues developed CRISPR, a tool for gene editing. While this remarkable advance in the medical field opens possible treatment for a wide range of diseases it also speculates about the major moral challenges that now face the human race. This story is told against the backdrop of the Covid pandemic and the race to find a cure. It is at once a biography, a detective story, and the beginnings of an exploration of the future impact of this new science.

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner – This is a classic that I have kept on my bookshelf for many years. All our lives seem to have cycles of good times and bad times. It is in the hard times when we begin to ask why and where. Where is God in all of it. Rabbi Kushner takes the reader through a personal journey profoundly influenced by a health crisis in his family. On this journey one can experience his struggles, doubts and realizations that suffering have brought forth in his life. This is a profoundly human and ultimately encouraging human story.

Ordinary Grace & This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger – Krueger is an astounding author who writes novels with a depth of human understanding in prose that is a beauty to behold. He has the ability to draw the reader totally into the world he creates in his novels while he explores the human condition with grace and insight. Rarely have I come across such a marvelous writer. I recommend him not only for the wisdom of his stories but the skill of his writing. (Note: Krueger is also the author of a prolific mystery series based on his character, Cork O'Connor, however, I have not read those mysteries.)

For fun!

The Clambake Mysteries by Barbara Ross – This light and fun set of mysteries is based on life on the coast of Maine. Julia Barnes runs the family clambake business but ends up involved in solving mysterious crimes that beset her coastal community. Ross thinks her chosen sub-genre resonates with readers for a simple reason. Inside a cozy mystery, “the world is essentially a good place,” she says. “Something happens that is completely disruptive and terrible, but by the end, justice is served.” Good for an enjoyable beach read.



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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