



# Lifeline

VOLUME 17  
ISSUE 10

October 2024

## The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church  
office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Maren Barnes Baptism



Dio. Deacon Ordinations



Women's Bible Study



Tot O'Mara with Molly

Wangsness  
Farewell



Women on  
a  
Journey



New DOK Members





## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Congratulations to **Marie Davis, Susan Devlin, Margaret Munsch, and Connie Vaught** for their admission to the Daughters of the King,
- Thank you to everyone who generously donated food donations to the Talbot Care Pack Program. Bless you all. *"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."* **Isaiah 58:10**
- Tremendous gratitude to **Sheriff Joe Gamble and Kelley Callhan** for Project Purple. Sheriff Joe preached at our 10 am service on September 29 and he and Kelley offered a great forum after the service on lessening the stigma associated with the disease of addiction. We are truly blessed by these two people.
- Thank you to the **Allegheny Ensemble** for their wonderful concert on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- An early shout out of thanks to everyone who has been working to make this year's Thank You Oxford Party a event that celebrates all the good people who work to make this a blessed community. Let us not forget how blessed we are and how great we can be when we come together in harmony. **Blessings. Fr. Kevin**

## Connie's Corner



"We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life." —**William Osler**

"The art of life is to know how to enjoy a little and to endure very much." —**William Hazlitt**

"To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing: that is enough for one man's life." —**T. S. Eliot**

"When I hear somebody sigh, 'Life is hard,' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'" —**Sydney J. Harris**

"Life is a song - sing it. Life is a game - play it. Life is a challenge - meet it. Life is a dream - realize it. Life is a sacrifice - offer it. Life is love - enjoy." —**Sai Baba**

"Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down." —**Roy T. Bennett**

"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments." —**Rose Kennedy**

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is a quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" —**Mary Anne Radmacher**



The Annual Meeting of the Church of the Holy Trinity will be held on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> after our 9:30 service.

### Milestones

#### Baptism

Wolfgang Taos Mactavish, 9/15/24

Maren Alexandra Barnes, 9/28/24

#### Passed On

Chris Gilson, 9/29/24

The angels in the sky are crying  
 Their hopes are that my tears would be drying  
 Their wings all in white  
 Wanting to make everything right  
 Tears are cleansing, a sign of care  
 Allowing your soul to bear  
 Let me always cleanse my soul  
 It always helps me to be whole  
 So thank you my angels in white  
 You help me to make it through the night.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

**See Back of Calendar for  
 Vestry Nominations**

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



## Connection – Relationship - Christianity

One of our parishioners sent me this quote a few days ago. It is by author Ursula Le Guinn

*"I lived when simply waiting was a large part of ordinary life: when we waited, gathered around a crackling radio, to hear the infinitely far-away voice of the king of England... I live now when we fuss if our computer can't bring us everything we want instantly. We deny time. We don't want to do anything with it, we want to erase it, deny that it passes. What is time in cyberspace? And if you deny time, you deny space. After all, it's a continuum—which separates us. So we talk on a cell phone to people in Indiana while jogging on the beach without seeing the beach and gather on social media into huge separation-denying disembodied groups while ignoring the people around us. I find this virtual existence weird, and as a way of life, absurd. This could be because I am eighty-four years old. It could also be because it is weird, an absurd way to live."* **author, Ursula K. LeGuinn**

Many thoughts in this quote immediately struck a chord with me. I imagine you might have the same reaction – or at least I hope you do. I wonder if this “absurd” way of life might be contributing to all the division and conflict we see around us in our town, in our nation and in our world. The virtual life has with certainty led us down a path of disconnection from each other and creation itself. How often do we greet the day with a sense of wonder and amazement? For that matter how often do we even greet our neighbor on the street?

I frequently hear the comment that life is passing by too fast – there is no time to slow down and appreciate life. Many of us have a sense that our lives are not our own but are driven by external sources: technology, calendars, to do lists....

I read an article recently that tied the sense of time going increasing faster as we age to a gradual disconnection from the ordinary things of life as we grow older. It cited the example that a child greets each day with a sense of wonder because each experience holds something new and exciting. As we age, we gradually cease to find newness in the world as we have “seen it all before”. The study suggested that over time our brain, literally begins to cease to pay as much attention to noticing what has been seen before. It ceases to consciously see many of the details in life because they are known and familiar. It is thought that this process we begin to feel that time is flying way from us because we are simply not living in the moment as we use to do.



What does our faith have to say about it? God created the world to be a holy experience filled with new blessings. An abundance of blessings that unfold before our eyes in every moment of every day. Yet we often miss experiencing the holiness of those wonders because we become a bit numb to newness and cease living fully in each moment as a child does. I once heard the TV described as a “one eyed bandit” that steals our time. Well, today we have many such devices and ways of living that disconnect us from what is happening around us. Jesus tells us “*Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*” **Matthew 18:3**

Jesus was not talking about an existence far away and in the future, He was talking about how we live our lives in the here and now. We would do well to consciously reawaken the sense wonder of a child and greet each new day and each passing minute as an opportunity to learn, to grow, and to experience life anew.

*It may seem foolish to adult minds but if we could take our time, savor each moment to really notice the world around us, and perhaps even embrace the optimism that inhabited Mr. Rogers neighborhood, we would be changed for the better. We would be changed to appreciate the beauty of life and enjoy the unique wonderful qualities of our neighbors.*

*Of course, there is a price to pay for doing so. If we consciously begin to look at the world anew, we will no longer be able to turn a blind eye or deaf ear to the opportunities that abound for each of us to make this world a little better place. There is much need in the world but with our reawakening and God's help we can be the positive, action-oriented disciples that God created us to be. This is a profoundly Christian way of living. We were created to be agents of change, agents of hope, and agents of light. If we truly want to live into discipleship of Christ we should resolve to stop letting time rush past us. We would take a moment to smell the roses. We would open our eyes to the needs of the world. If we do so we can appreciate both the beauty and the needs of the world. We can resolve to walk with optimism, change the world, address human needs, and live fully alive in a wonder filled world that becomes a glimpse of God's kingdom.*





## MISSION SECTION

### **Inquiring Believers Study the New Testament**

For the 2024-25 season, the Inquiring Believers will be studying the New Testament using the Great Courses video lecture series titled, *Understanding the New Testament*. Our professor for the course is Dr. David Brakke (Ph.D., M.Div.) of The Ohio State University. Frequently, we will read additional short pieces suggested by the members of the group to further our understanding of matters treated in the video lectures. After viewing/hearing the lectures, which last slightly over 30 minutes, we have 25 minutes or so of lively discussion. Our gatherings are marked by friendly social interaction and the sharing of ideas and opinions, and we often try to look at current events through the lens of a Believer.

The Inquiring Believers meet each Monday evening at 5:00 in the Parish Hall and we are happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join in, please contact Bob Kelly at [kellyrf@lemoyne.edu](mailto:kellyrf@lemoyne.edu) or Dave Poe at [davidrussellpoe@gmail.com](mailto:davidrussellpoe@gmail.com)

### **WOMAN ON A JOURNEY**

*Women on a Journey resumed in September!*

Our next meeting will be on

**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> ....**

**From 9—10:30**

All are welcome to join in this wonderful fellowship!

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

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

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Women's Bible Study**

Calling all women - are you interested in a Women's Bible Study? We have been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 5pm by zoom. But we are open to other ideas, whatever would be the most convenient for the most people. We are also looking for ideas as to what to study - probably something from the New Testament, as we focused on the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures last year. Let me know if you are interested and your ideas!

### **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 am on Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>. All are welcomed to attend.

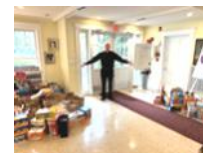


### **Prayer Requests**

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.

### Mission Report



Our Mission team has been hard at work striving to transform the world. We completed a very successful Talbot Care Pack Campaign. Through the generosity of this parish (see attached photo) you have helped over 300 children from homes that are food deficient have nutritious food to get them through the weekends. You are a marvelous people.

We also donated \$2500 to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem. These funds are specifically earmarked for providing medical relief through the Ali Arab hospital in Gaza City which is a mission of AFDOJ.

Our donation to Konbit-Sante, a medical organization in Haiti was gratefully received. The Women of Holy Trinity continued their annual giving to support several local charities, totally \$14,000. These donations were fully funded through their annual Christmas Bazaar and Plant Sale.

The Rector's discretionary fund helped many local individuals with rent, utility, and food expenses.

The Mission team will meet on Tuesday October 8 at 4 pm to discuss how we can be of help to those suffering as a result of Hurricane Helene. All are invited to attend this Zoom meeting.

The Lunch Bunch is currently serving 32 homebound in the communities of Oxford and Trappe.

### Calling for Volunteers and Fulfilling the Call

#### 1 Peter 4:10

***Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.***

The Church of the Holy Trinity Christmas Bazaar, a significant event in our church community, is set for the first Saturday in December. It is a vibrant celebration filled with beautiful wreaths, freshly baked goods, handmade crafts, and deliciously prepared foods. This event, which brings together our friends and neighbors, is a beautiful expression of who we are as a church family. It is made possible by all of us coming together and sharing our time, talent, and gifts before the big day.

We need volunteers to step up and donate their time to prepare and package the soup, lasagna, and chicken pot pies for the savory food table. Not a cook, you say, not a problem. Our kitchen magician, Dennis Roberts, will lead two teams of six on each of the cooking days to make all of this happen. The first date is Tuesday, November 12, from 11:00 am until 3:00; the second date is Tuesday, November 26, from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. On the first date, November 12, we will be assembling the pot pies and lasagna in an assembly line fashion, think Henry Ford, and then helping to clean up the prep area. On November 26, the two teams will be packaging, labeling, and cleaning up the kitchen after we prepare the delicious soup that will be frozen and sold on the event day. It's a lovely way to share your time with your church family. To volunteer, call Susan Grauel, 410-215-6892, or email [Su-sandelker@hotmail.com](mailto:sandelker@hotmail.com), or sign up on the sheet in the parish hall. Be prepared for a day of work with lots of fun and laughter, become better acquainted with someone you see at church every week, and become a true church family.

### Sunday School News



#### Bee Doers!

Following the call to disciples in the letter of James, to show faith by actions, the Sunday school theme is "Bee Doers!" We have that extra E in there because we have a wonderful project that Linda made of a beehive with the children being the bees! Check out our Sunday School bulletin board.

We are thrilled to have Linda Wilson back as one of our teachers and to have Veronica Wainwright joining us this year! We continue to meet the second and fourth Sundays during the 10:00 service.

Mission work, thinking of and helping others, has always been a part of our Sunday School curriculum since I have been here the past 14 years. Our latest project was to make cards for the children who receive the care packs. We will have an intergenerational project after church some Sunday after the 10:00 service. It will involve folding the cards and stuffing the cards and felt hearts into envelopes. There are 300 children in Talbot County who receive these care packs every weekend. We need your help so watch the constant contact notices to find out what date we will be doing this.

## Education

### New Course: The Lost Art of Kindness: Civility As a Christian Calling



### In a time of deep division, explore ways to embrace kindness and civility as a Christian calling

Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde explores the idea of civility as a Christian calling by delving into the powerful theme of kindness, as exemplified in both the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian teachings. Being kind, however, doesn't mean abandoning our principles. Bishop Budde examines the importance of standing firm in our convictions while respecting the dignity of others, even during moments of strong disagreement. By studying both scriptural principles and personal experiences, this course aims to equip participants with the skills needed to balance confidence in their beliefs with humility. You'll learn strategies for approaching conflicts with grace and clarity, encouraging mutual respect in both personal and public interactions.

This course runs for 4 consecutive weeks. Each session features 3-6 video lectures that are from 5-7 minutes in length and a discussion guide. We will run this course in a hybrid format that allows for participation in-person or via Zoom. The course will meet on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 pm starting on Tuesdays October 15 & 29, November 12 & 19. Please call the office to register. If you have any questions, please speak to Fr. Kevin.



### **KIRKIN' O THE TARTANS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th 9:30 AM**

Holy Trinity will hold our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 6th. 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 in 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.



## Music News

## Service Musicians

10/6 9:30 a.m. Choir, Ashley Watkins, Melissa Wise, Ted Nichols. Mike McConnel

10/20 10:00 a.m. Choir

10/27 10:00 a.m. Susan Jones, Clarinet & Sally Montgomery, Flute

11/3 9:30 a.m. Jose Sacin, Baritone & Choir

Yury Shadrin, Concert Pianist November 3rd 4 p.m.

We are thrilled to host Yury Shadrin in concert next month. Yury is an internationally acclaimed soloist and recitalist, who has appeared in major venues across four continents and here at Holy Trinity! This concert is right before Yury's upcoming European tour and residencies. With a short intermission, this concert should be about 75 minutes.

Beethoven's *Rondo in C Major Op. 51 No. 1* begins the concert showing the sensitive, elegant side of Beethoven. You may even recognize a familiar melody: similar to one of Mozart's opera melodies from *Don Giovanni*. *Seven Fantasy Pieces Op. 116* by Johannes Brahms follows, whose Capriccios and Intermezzi require a wide range of emotions, lyricism, and virtuosity to show the passion and intimacy found in Brahms' advanced works. After a short intermission, Yury will share *Pictures at an Exhibition*. This is a showpiece for virtuoso pianists.

You will not want to miss this concert! Yury is an incredibly talented and widely acclaimed pianist and teacher both here in the U.S. and abroad. More importantly, he loves spending time and performing at Holy Trinity. A special friend. Please come and enjoy an incredible afternoon of beautiful music.



You are a marvelous welcoming people. Please read this letter to hear the comments from attendees who join us when they are in the area. Our welcoming environment is a direct reflection of the love and joy you live out in your lives. You are doing the work of God.

Thank you,  
Fr. Kevin

Hi there,

*My wife and I have had the opportunity to visit your church on several occasions now. We come to Oxford episodically to visit family. Our visits to your church make us want to come that much more often!*

*We leave your Sunday services beaming with joy, grateful we attended, and touched by the happiness and goodness that emanates from the church and Reverend Kevin Cross. Your church is such a special place and the services carry with them a sense of fun that we haven't encountered to the same degree in the other Episcopal Churches we attend. From the Birthday song, to reciting what the children of Sunday school are thankful for, to Reverend Kevin renewing his vows with his wife, the services are just oh so special and unique and we are constantly touched by the care devoted to assembling and fostering such a loving, welcoming, and spiritual environment. My wife and I both teared up at the Sunday Service where Reverend Kevin discussed love and then finished the service with "All You Need is Love" by the Beatles.*

*We look forward to visiting again soon! Thank you for allowing us to visit when we are in town and thank you for all the good work that you all do.*





PO Box 387  
 Oxford, MD 21654-0387  
 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**