



Lifeline

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

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

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.”



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to all of the **Lunch Bunch crew, our Souper men & women and our Delivery crews**, for cooking with love and providing both nourishment and care to all of our recipients. They know God's love through your selfless acts.
- Much gratitude to our **Holy Trinity Choir and Dr. Cora Bruner** for their wonderful inspiring music. We look forward to your return in September.
- Thank you for those who provide donations to the Food Pantry.
- A special note of thanks to our **Vestry** who keep us shipshape and on course spreading the love of Jesus near and far.
- Great appreciation to the **Women of Holy Trinity** who will be disbursing the funds they raised this past year to local charities during the month of September.
- Appreciation to our **Daughters of the King** for their ceaseless prayer for those ill in our community and beyond.
- Thank you to everyone who came to our August potluck and Complaine service. It was a fun and special evening.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Save the Dates

September 26 at 4 pm

The Allegheny Ensemble Concert

September 30 at 5 pm

Thank You Oxford Party

October 6 at 9:30 am

Annual Kirkin O' the Tartan Service

October 6 at 12 noon

St Franics Blessing of the Animal service

Connie's Corner



"Stay away from those people who try to disparage your ambitions. Small minds will always do that, but great minds will give you a feeling that you can become great too." —**Mark Twain**

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." —**Calvin Coolidge**

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty." —**Winston Churchill**

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it." —**Steve Jobs**

"The elevator to success is out of order. You'll have to use the stairs, one step at a time." —**Joe Girard**

On a wire is a single bird
Just waiting for his song to be heard
The flag flying in the breeze
A moment in time to freeze
He flew, how far away
But his heart compels him to stay
Rest my friend in the arms of a tree
You are blessed, you are free.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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



50 Years of Wedded Bliss



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will resume in September!

Our first meeting will be on

Wednesday, September 4th

a "Welcome Back" gathering, sharing summer stories, and time to discuss the books to read for this year. All are welcome to join in this wonderful fellowship!

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

September 4th and 18th - 9:00 am - 10:30 am

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

Sunday school resumes September 8!

On September 8 at the 10 o'clock service we will welcome old and new friends. As usual, we will meet for a Bible story and activity at 10 o'clock and then go into the parish hall at the peace. During this service, we will continue with our tradition of the blessing of the backpacks. All ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to be blessed.

Sunday school is a one room school house for children ages five through 12. Using Bible stories, our lessons focus on God's unconditional love for us and how Jesus showed us how to live our lives. As a way of living the gospel, the children participate in mission projects, such as the Lenten Change for Change program.

We meet the second and fourth Sundays during the 10:00 service. Please let me know if you have children, grandchildren, and/or neighbors who would like to join us.

If your child is over age 12, they are certainly welcome to come to Sunday school as a helper. We also welcome their help as acolytes and we are planning on having various youth group activities throughout school year.

If you are interested in any of these activities or would like further information, please contact me at [BarbaraCross 22@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraCross22@gmail.com)

MISSION SECTION

Inquiring Believers to Study the New Testament

The Inquiring Believers, Holy Trinity's men's Bible study group, will begin its 2024-25 season on Monday, September 16 at 5:00 PM. We'll be studying the Great Courses video lecture series titled, *Understanding the New Testament*. Our professor for the course is David Brakke (Ph.D., M.Div.) of The Ohio State University. After viewing/hearing the lectures, which last about 40 minutes, we have 20 minutes of discussion. In addition to the video, we often will read sections of the New Testament and/or short articles or chapters on themes related to the lecture.

We are always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join in, please contact Bob Kelly at kellyrf@lemoyne.edu or Dave Poe at davidrussellpoe@gmail.com

[Meetings most often take place at the HTO Parish Hall, but this can vary, so please check in with David or Bob to confirm the location.]



The Church of the Holy Trinity Flower Donations

Each Sunday our beautiful church is enhanced through the dedication of flowers by our members. The Flower arrangements are displayed on each side of the tabernacle. Flowers arrangements can be dedicated in memoriam, to celebrate births, birthdays, anniversaries, and other sacred occasions.

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday, please call the parish office at 410-226-5134. The cost per arrangement is \$70.00 Please help us enhance the beauty of our services.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th 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 September 10th. 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.

Isaiah' Mission Passage

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 56:6-12

Commentary:

Isaiah is writing a message to people who want to have a relationship with God, and they are striving to establish it through prayer, fasting, and sacrifice. But God is saying, 'forget about being "religious", I am waiting for you to be fully human - to actually care about others.' And the surprising thing is, that when I forget about trying to be spiritually impressive and instead shift my focus to the needs of others, God promises that that is the moment when I will receive all I ever wanted in the first place - to hear God say, 'Here I am', right here, right now.

Music



Sachiho Murasugi, violin
Jeffrey Schoyen, cello
Amos Lawrence, viola
Julie Nishimura, piano
Yuri Tomenko, violist

Allegheny Piano Quintet in Concert

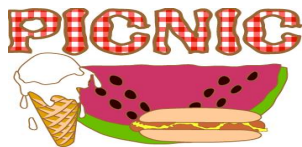
The Allegheny Ensemble, Chamber Music Concert
Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Church of the Holy Trinity, Parish Hall

A unique opportunity to experience chamber music at its finest at The Church of the Holy Trinity, 502 S. Morris St., Oxford MD, the afternoon of Thursday, September 26th at 4 p.m. The Allegheny Ensemble is a group of professional musicians dedicated to bringing the music of piano and strings to life. Directed by Sachiho Murasugi, violinist and Jeffrey Schoyen, cellist, of Salisbury University, MD the ensemble presents concerts of wide-ranging repertoire in the Mid-Atlantic region. Combining the expressive depth of strings with the rich sonority of the piano, the ensemble is committed to delivering dynamic performances and the joy of live music.

Members of the Allegheny Ensemble have stellar orchestral and chamber music backgrounds. They perform with orchestras throughout the world, perform as recitalists, serve in prominent University teaching positions, and create novel chamber music, music theater, and concert experiences. Local audiences have enjoyed *Dr. Sachiho (Sachi) Murasugi's* performances with chamber orchestras at various Easton musical events as well as serving as Concertmaster of the Salisbury University Orchestra. *Yuri Tomenko* serves as the principal violist of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and is enjoyed by Symphony patrons throughout the year. *Dr.*

Jeffrey Schoyen conducts the Salisbury University Orchestra, in addition to his teaching and performance commitments. *Amos Lawrence* is a "new" chamber musician (violin) to Talbot County. Mr. Lawrence's performance reviews share his "superb artistry," "exceptional musicianship," and "expressive phrasing." *Julie Nishimura* is a pianist who has performed over 600 recitals, chamber music concerts and opera performances. You must ask about her creative music projects - they are amazing! At the September 26th concert, a talented violin student will be showcased. We are excited to present *Olivia Kuntz*, violin, and share her with Talbot County!

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of chamber music. The concert will be about an hour in length. There are no tickets. A freewill offering will be taken to defray artist expenses. For further information, please contact 410-226-5134.



Please join us for A Good
Old Fashioned Picnic

To celebrate everyone who volunteers and works for our community

Monday, September 30th 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 or call 410-226-5134 by Monday, September 23rd

September brings our Choir, church and guest musicians together to enrich our worship services. Monte Maxwell's fun August organ concert opened our "Concert Season" to be followed by The Allegheny Ensemble on September 26th. Please share our music offerings with neighbors, friends, and family - there is room in the Choir, opportunities for instrumentalists to play, and concert seats available. *Everyone is welcome any time!*

September Service Musicians

9/1 9:30 a.m. Melissa Wise, Soprano
 9/8 10:00 a.m. Ashley Watkins, Flute
 9/15 8 a.m. Melissa Wise, Soprano
 10:00 a.m. Choir
 9/22 8 & 10 a.m. Denise Nathanson, Cello
 9/29 10 a.m. Piano 8 Hand Ensemble

Come Sing with Us!

The Choir resumes weekly rehearsals Friday, September 6 at 10 a.m. We would love to have any one who enjoys singing to join us! Can't make rehearsals - no problem. We sing the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, just come a bit early and sing.

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.



The Women of Holy Trinity

MEETING & LUNCHEON

All women of Holy Trinity are invited to join in fellowship as we allocate funds to local charities, discuss Christmas Bazaar plans, and break bread together! Get to know the amazing women of our church and be a part of the fun!

PARISH HALL
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

RSVP via email to: barbaracross22@gmail.com
 or call the church office at 410-226-5134
 Please RSVP by Sept 2nd





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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