



# Lifeline

VOLUME 17  
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*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*



Wells Parker Baptism



Kirkin Sunday



Annual Meeting



Blessing of the Animals



Care Pack Cards



Thank You  
Oxford  
Gathering



Thank You Oxford Planning



Pam Seale's Birthday Blessings



Lost Art of  
Kindness  
Discussion  
Group

Project  
Purple



Our Beautiful  
Church



Christmas Market Planning



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Congratulations to our New Vestry members: **Dick Deerin, Art Dent and Trish Malin** who were elected at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting.
- Thank you to everyone who generously donated funds to help with hurricane relief in Appalachia and Florida.
- Thank you to **Mike McConnell** for helping us observe a festive Kirkin' service on October 6. Your ability to play the bagpipes delight and amazes us all!
- Thank you to **Cora, Margot McConnell and Dick Deerin** for hosting the Yuri Shadrin concert. It was a marvelous event.
- Thank you to our **acolytes, ushers, Cora, and Altar Guild** for assisting with our recent Celebration of Life services.
- Thank you to **Art Zimmer, Bill Ritchie, Cora Bruner, John Malin, and Margot and Mike McConnell** for serving on our organ project committee. Your time and contributions are invaluable.
- Much appreciation to all who helped with our reschedule Thank You Oxford Party on October 7. We had a beautiful, fun night that sent good will throughout the community. A big thank you to **Highland Creamery** for serving their delicious ice cream.
- Thank you to **Art Dent, Gordon Fronk, Will Johnson, Leslie Kelly, Trish Malin, Margot McConnell, and David Poe** for serving on our Search Committee.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

### Milestones

#### Baptism

Wells Case Parker, 11/3/2024

#### Fond Farewell

David & Sara Wangsness

#### Passed On

Chris Gilson, 9/29/24

Meryl Nolan, 9/29/24

## Connie's Corner



"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." – **Albert Einstein**

"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run." – **Babe Ruth**

"Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being." – **Kevin Kruse**

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." – **Booker T. Washington**

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." – **Albert Einstein**

"Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you." – **Jesus**

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me." – **Erma Bombeck**

Darkness is crouching upon us  
 No need to fear, no fuss  
 The dark means you no harm  
 It is here to wrap you with all of its charm  
 It will wrap you with arms of care  
 Inviting you to adventure if you dare  
 It brings a different and new kind of love  
 Kissing you sweetly like a dove  
 Enjoy that uniqueness and open your heart  
 To a different world, a kindness right from the start  
 Remember you are blessed and adored  
 As darkness is a part of all our score  
 Welcome darkness into my life  
 Cause I know you mean me no strife.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

**See Back of Calendar for  
 Advent Services**

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

## *The Ubuntu Dance*

The National Cathedral offers prayers for peace each hour. At my day serving as chaplain at the NC in November, I recited this prayer from our **Book of Common Prayer**.

28. In Times of Conflict

*O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I had just opened the BCP to search for a prayer when this one leapt off the page. It resonated well with what I found myself wishing and praying for every day. Living a "common life" that "binds us together" sometimes seems antithetical to what we hear on the daily news or experience in our own personal lives. Our society is in the midst of great "struggles for justice and truth." Unfortunately, we are not very tolerant of each other's differing opinions about how to reach these goals. These days it is not such an uncommon daily experience to be subject to intolerance and lack of respect. And frankly I think it is fair to say we all find ourselves acting the same toward others more frequently than we would like to admit.

Several of us who have been concerned about where we find ourselves, our country, and the world, recently came together for a discussion group titled: **The Lost Art of Kindness: Civility as a Christian Calling**. This series of discussions was developed by Bishop Maryann Budde of the Diocese of Washington. One goal of these sessions has been "to learn how to stand firm in our personal convictions and practicing kindness and humility towards those who hold opposing views. At the heart of this approach is the recognition of the inherent dignity and divine image in every person."

Coincidentally, or not, I recently read a meditation by author Mungi Ngomane, grandchild of Bishop Desmond Tutu. She writes about the African concept of Ubuntu. "If we are able to see ourselves in other people, our experience in the world will inevitably be a richer, kinder, more connected one. If we look at others and see ourselves reflected back, we inevitably treat people better." In contrast, too often, in the western world we define ourselves as separate and in many cases against the other. God did not create us to be in competition with each other. God's dream is one of peace and harmony. "4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in every-one it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" Paul 1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 7 "The common good" not to be all the same, but instead to be tolerant, encouraging, and appreciative of our different gifts. We read in Scripture that we are all created in the image of God. Perhaps what the world really needs at this time is Christians who show they dance to the beat of a different drummer. It is possible, I see this practiced every day in this wonderful community we have built up at Holy Trinity. We may not have known the beat we have been dancing to, but we have been dancing to the beat of Ubuntu. If we have learned the dance steps, we can certainly teach it to others. So shall we "work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord?" The Lord is asking us, "Do you wanna dance?"



Blessings. Fr. Kevin

We are off to a great start towards reaching our 2025 Goal of \$450,000 in Pledges. Through November 20<sup>th</sup>, we have received 79 pledges in the aggregate sum of \$317,090. If you haven't already pledged for 2025, now is the time. We want to have the Stewardship Campaign wrapped up before we get into the Holiday Season. Rev. Dr. Lisa Webb gave a beautiful message this past Sunday on the parable of the Widow's Mite. Having an abundance of faith that God will provide, she was "All In" giving all from the little she had. Let's all get ALL IN from the Abundance we have.

Thanks, Gordon and Hunt, Co-chairs



## Inquiring Believers Study the New Testament

The Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study continues its study of 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

Will be continuing our latest book .....



*Praying Our Goodbyes* by Joyce Rupp

Come join us as we read and discuss this powerful and timely book about goodbyes -- times of losing someone or something that has given life meaning and value.

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

**November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am**

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



### New QR Code for Donations

Holy Trinity has set up this QR code. You will see this on our bulletins and other publications. Scanning this QR code with your phone will take you to a donation page where you can use a credit or debit card to make a donation. We thank you for your generosity.

### 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 December 10<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.



Each year, our church participates with the local Salvation Army to provide gifts for a program known as Angel Tree. The Angel Tree Program is designed to assist qualifying families (serving children 12 and under) in Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Ann & Kent Counties to receive Christmas gifts. Once again, we're excited to make this part of our Christian mission. Those wishing to participate can select a Christmas Angel from the angel tree in the River Room. The angel provides the wish list of a child in need and the child's age, gender, size, and wished-for gifts. You will attach the identifying Angel number to the gifts and return the gifts to the Parrish Hall by Friday, December 13th. We will deliver these gifts to the Salvation Army in Cambridge, where they will be distributed to the children. You get the joy of shopping for the child you choose from the tree and sharing God's love. It's a fun and heartwarming experience.

This year, we have been asked to provide gifts for 25 children. I hope you will share generously with the children and bring some joy to their lives.

If you have questions, please contact me, Susan Grauel, 410-215-6892

### Sunday School News

Our Sunday School children have BEEen DOing a lot these past two months. In addition to discussing what we DO as disciples, followers of Jesus, we have DOne an intergenerational project with the congregation. In September the church (that's all of us), collected food items for the Talbot County Schools Care Pack Program. In October, the Sunday school children made cards with positive messages to go into the care packs. On Sunday, October 27 after church, we all gathered together to fold the cards and put the messages and a felt heart into envelopes marked "Just for you!" Thank you all for your help!



In November and December we will be getting ready for the Christmas Pageant to be held at the Christmas Eve Family Service on December 24 at 3:00. We thank Corrie James for being writer, producer, director, etc. if you know of any child who would like to be in the pageant, please see Barbara or Corrie as soon as you can because we will be working on the script.



If you are wondering why BEE and DO have been capitalized, check out our Sunday School bulletin board with the wonderful BEE DOERS craft project Linda Wilson came up with. We are so blessed to have teachers Linda Wilson, Veronica Wainwright, and Barbara Cross. We are so grateful to have substitute teachers Pucky Lippincott and Susie Dillon. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, please see Barbara. It is

truly a gift to teach these thoughtful, kind, loving, caring children.

Barb Cross



## 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.

**The next session will meet on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm.** Each session features a brief video lecture and a discussion. This course is run on a hybrid format that allows for participation in-person or via Zoom. Please call the office or speak to Fr. Kevin if you have any questions.

## Search Committee

The Search Committee is comprised of Art Dent, Trish Malin, Will Johnson, Leslie Cone, Margot McConnel, Dave Poe and Gordon Fronk, Chair. The Committee meets each Wednesday. Trish and Margot drafted and the Committee adopted the Collect to be prayed at each Sunday service during the search.

The Committee has prepared a survey of the congregation to confirm our demographics and seek input from everyone respecting the characteristics we wish to find in the priest we seek to call. The Survey Monkey will be sent to all the congregation in mid-November, Please open it immediately and respond with your answers and all comments you wish to have considered. From the responses to the Survey, the Committee will prepare a Profile of our Parish which will be published and disseminated nationally to seek applicants for Fr. Kevin's successor. Everyone's comments, opinions and concerns are very important and will be taken into consideration.

The Committee is also seeking an interim priest. Three interviews will have been conducted by November 20, after which it hoped that an interim priest will be selected to begin serving in January.

You are welcomed and encouraged to share your thoughts on this very critical process with any or all of the Committee; we want to know that we have given every parishioner an opportunity to be heard.

Music

Music News

Holy Trinity Choir

Our choir enjoys welcoming any one who would like to sing in a group setting. Can't come to Friday morning rehearsals? Let Cora know and we will welcome you the Sunday mornings that we sing. Come join us!

Upcoming Concerts

December 17th 3 p.m. Holiday Jazz Concert

January 7th 4 p.m. Piano Concert

Yury Shadrin and Txiarn Lu, Concert Pianists



Blessing of the Tartans on Kirkin' Sunday



Design of Terrace by River Room



Healing America' Divide Rehearsal



Thank You Oxford Cake



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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**