



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*



Christmas Market



Creche



Making
Pot Pies



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- A huge amount of gratitude is offered to everyone who helped make our Christmas Market such a success on so many levels. Funds were raised for local charities, hospitality and warm welcomes were abundant and it was a marvelous time for the community to gather and have some fun. God bless you all!
- Thank you to **our staff, vestry, committee chairs, committee members and all of you** who volunteer your time and talent to making this a beloved community of God. You are a marvelous people.
- Thanks to our **Worship support team members** for enabling us to offer holy, inspirational and joy filled worship here at Holy Trinity.
- Much gratitude for **Cora, the mighty Holy Trinity choir, our musical guests** and all of you who sing out hymns. The beauty of music praises our God.
- Thank you to the **search committee**
- Finally, thanks to all of you who have made Holy Trinity your church home. Barbara and I have been blessed many times over to serve you.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

We are off to a great start towards reaching our 2025 Goal of \$450,000 in Pledges. Through December 12th, we have received 99 pledges in the aggregate sum of \$374,790. 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.

Thanks, Gordon and Hunt, Co-chairs

**See Back of Calendar for
Advent Services**

Connie's Corner



"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." —**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." —**Jimmy Dean**

"We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained." —**Marie Curie**

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." —**Henry David Thoreau**

"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**

Look at that house covered by a tree
Serene, calm yet oh so free
The history and stories it could tell
Always keeping its secrets so well
The osprey nest sitting so high
As night close in so high
Its strength is a beacon to all us
Cause this house will not fall
I cherish your memories and all you hold
As through the years you have been so bold
Live on, my friend in all your glory
As you tell me about your story.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Milestones

Passed On

Elaine Cox

Suzanne Mitchell

Ed Middleton

Meryl Nolan

The Art of Kindness

A group of us recently engaged in a series of discussions shaped by Bishop Mariann Budde's course: **The Lost Art of Kindness: Civility as a Christian Calling**. It is disconcerting that kindness, a basic human virtue, would have to be discussed as being lost. However, we had many people from both within and outside our parish community that were drawn to this course. They felt a strong need to gather and share their misgivings and concerns about what has transpired in our communities, the country and the world.

Kindness can be perceived as a "weak" virtue, but it is just the opposite. To stand up for the compassion and love that show up in the expression of kindness is not a simple nor lukewarm act. It is not about being a "milk toast" but rather it is about being a person of strength and courage. Bishop Mariann writes, *"Being kind, however, doesn't mean abandoning our principles."* Rather being kind is about living a life of integrity, understanding, and bravery. Yes, **bravery**. It takes courage to stand up against the negative, destructive forces of the world and strive to **re-present** Jesus' teachings. It takes commitment to conform one's life to the teachings of the Good Samaritan and Prodigal son. It takes a brave person to show love.

This is a time of year when many of us gather with family and friends. A time we all hope to be joyful and loving. Yet more so this year this might be harder to achieve. The tensions in society show up in our family relations and friendships. In many situations relations have been strained by political and societal differences. The world seems to have a harder edge to it. Those with whom we used to be able to easily converse now need to be approached like walking on eggshells. This is obviously not the way of Jesus. It is not what God desires for his people.

So, what can we do at this time that celebrates the coming of light into the world? What can each of us do to overcome the darkness with the light? A few basic guidelines might help point the way. A curriculum, **Difference**, came out of the Church of England a few years ago that is based on the belief that we can have good relationships even when we disagree. It was built on looking at the ways Jesus lived.

We can work to build trust with those with whom we disagree. The letter of James counsels us with the wise advice, *"Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger..."* Always approach the other with curiosity. *"Seek to understand something new about the person or opinion you disagree with."*

Be aware of your reactions not just your speech. And try to have a discourse in person. Emails are notoriously bad for communicating anything beyond the facts. Emotions in emails can easily be misread.

Look to build up relationships, not win the argument. Treasure the presence of your family and friends and the forming of new friendships.

One of our group participants wisely point to the Prayer of St. Francis as showing the art of kindness:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master,
 grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
 to be understood, as to understand;
 to be loved, as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
 Amen.

My friends let us strive to prepare the way of the Lord through adopting an attitude of repentance. Let us change our ways, offer forgiveness, make amends, and open our hearts to joy. May we be good gardeners planting seeds of joy in the hearts of those around us.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



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 or Dave Poe at davidrussellpoe@gmail.com

WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Women on a Journey will resume in January.

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



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

Come join us in the new year as we continue our deep dive into the Gospel of Matthew. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month via zoom. See you then!

Fr. Kevin's Departure Date

Fr. Kevin last service at Holy Trinity will be on Sunday, January 5, 2025

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King, a worldwide order of women January 14th. 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.



Pastoral Visitation Team

Prior to Covid we had a group of members who paid pastoral visits to our home bound and hospitalized parishioners. We are working to resume this important activity of care and compassion. If you are interested in serving as a pastoral visitor, please speak with Fr. Kevin, Deacon Lisa or leave a message with the office. We hope to provide training and get this ministry back into action before the year's end. We already have some women, the DOK and others, interested. We also need some men to listen to the call and join this work of mercy.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

We continue our tradition of the Sunday School children performing the Christmas pageant with a bit of a different twist this year. Parishioner Corrie James has written a script from the perspective of the animals. Corrie and the parents have come up with some very creative costumes! Teachers Veronica Wainwright, Linda Wilson, and Barbara Cross have been assisting with this project.

The pageant will be held during the 3:00 Christmas Eve service. We are thrilled to welcome the Parker family as the Holy Family in our pageant. Wells, who was baptized here last month, will be baby Jesus and his sister Anne will be a lamb. Our dancing deacon Lisa will be the angel and Poppy Kellogg will be our dancing dove. Winnie Johnson is our talking dove. Joseph and Justin Callahan are the donkey and camel. Jack and Molly O'Mara are the sheep and mouse and Will Straub is the cat who gets along with the mouse that special night! We are pleased that Sunday School graduate Josh Schmidt will be our narrator once again.

We thank Cora for her music and Melissa for her singing "The Friendly Beasts" to set the stage for the pageant.

We hope you can join us!

Search Committee Update

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Pierce W. Klemmt has accepted the call to serve as interim Rector of our Parish, commencing January 6, 2025, continuing until a new Rector has been hired. Fr. Pierce graduated from Wabash College in 1972 and from Yale University, with a Master's in Divinity, in 1976. Over the succeeding 38 years, he served as Rector of four different parishes in Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and, finally, ten years at Christ Church, in Alexandria, Virginia. Following "retirement" in 2014, he served as adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary and has served as an interim Rector in five different parishes in the succeeding years through 2021.

Fr. Pierce was referred to us by Betty Anderson and Ed Delaney, whom he married while serving in Alexandria. Additionally, he married June and the late Dan DeHart. Upon receiving our phone call and being asked to consider serving as our interim Rector, he was quick to decide that it was time to unretire a second time and welcomed the opportunity to visit in person with the Search Committee and Wardens. Our decision was unanimous to invite him into our Parish. Fr. Pierce is looking forward to serving as our interim Rector and as a coach during our pastoral search process. Fr. Pierce and his wife, Tuke, will attend the Redd Brothers Concert on December 15, and look forward to meeting several of you at that time.

A parish survey was distributed earlier this month. Our Search Committee will review these responses and integrate this information into our search criteria. If you have not yet returned your survey, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Warm regards,

Your Holy Trinity Search Committee

Education

Those Who Go to the Manger Will Be Transformed

The following meditation was written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I share it with you to enrich your journey of faith this Christmas season.

If God chooses Mary as his instrument,
If God wants to come into this world
in the manger in Bethlehem
that is no idyllic family affair,
but the beginning of a complete turnaround,
a reordering of everything on this earth,
If we wish to take part in this Advent and Christmas event,
then we cannot simply be bystanders or onlookers,
as if we were at the theater,
enjoying all the cheerful images.
No, we have to play our part too on this stage,
For the spectator
is already an actor.
We cannot withdraw.

What part, then do we play?
Pious shepherds, on bended knee?
Kings who come bearing gifts?
What sort of play, is this, where Mary, becomes the mother of God?
Where God enters the world in the lowliness of the manger?
The judgement of the world and its redemption—
that is taking place here,
And the Christ child in the manger is himself the one
who pronounces the judgement and the redemption of the world.
He repels the great and the powerful.
He puts down the mighty from their thrones,
He humbles the arrogant,
his arm overpowers all the proud and the strong,
he raises what is lowly and makes it great and splendid
In his compassion.
Therefore we cannot approach his manger
As if it were the cradle of any other child.
Those who wish to come to his manger
Find that something is happening within them.

Music News

Service Musicians

12/15 8 & 10 am Melissa Wise, Soprano 10 am Holy Trinity
Choir

12/22 **9:30 am Abbreviated Lessons & Carols**
Nevin Dawson, Violin Melissa Wise, Soprano
Holy Trinity Choir

12/24 **3 pm Christmas Eve** Ashley Watkins, Flute
Melissa Wise, Soprano
7 pm Christmas Eve Ashley Watkins, Flute
Melissa Wise, Soprano
Denise Nathanson, Cello
1/05 9:30 am Holy Trinity Choir
The Delmarva Trio (woodwinds)
1/12 10 am Ashley Watkins, Flute



Save the Date! January 26, 2025

4 p.m. Parish Hall

Incredibly talented students from The Leon Fleisher Academy will be performing classical pieces from their recent world tours and upcoming engagements. These children and youths are students of Yury Shadrin and Tian Lu, two exceptional teachers. Mark your calendars, bring a friend, and come support these child prodigies!

Thank You!



Music is an integral part of our community life and worship at Holy Trinity. While it isn't always evident, there are lots of moving parts. We appreciate and highly value our church musicians, guest musicians, concert volunteers, publicity team, organ committee, Matt Pearson (Steinway piano technician), Columbia Organ Works (organ technicians), Monte Maxwell (Organ Consultant), visiting concert artists, and our incredibly supportive congregation & community friends. 2025 will present a new organ to support our worship services, church events, and concerts. Join me in looking forward to a music filled New Year!



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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