



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 2024



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to **every member** of this blessed community. You have lifted up the world with your love, mercy, and generosity of spirit. I am blessed to serve you.
- Thank you to our **Sunday School children, parents, teachers, musicians and attendees** for a marvelous Christmas pageant.
- Thank you to everyone on our **Worship Support teams (Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Readers, Usher, Eucharistic Ministers, and Broadcast technicians)** for enabling our offering of praise filled worship during the Advent and Christmas Season.
- Much gratitude for our staff, **Connie, Cora, Lisa and Barbara** for all of your marvelous gifts that enliven this community.
- Gratitude for our 2024 Vestry especially departing members **Karen Walbridge, John Dillon, and Gerry Cooper**. Welcome to new members **Dick Deerin, Art Dent, and Trish Malin**.
- Praise and thanks to **Cora, our Holy Trinity Choir and all of our guest musicians** for your inspiring music.
- Thank you all for allowing the privilege of being able to serve this community for a while longer. I failed at retirement before it even started! Thank you for your understanding. I love this community.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Stewardship

We are off to a great start towards reaching our 2025 Goal of \$450,000 in Pledges. Through January 12th, we have received 113 pledges in the aggregate sum of \$426,290. If you haven't already pledged for 2025, now is the time. Thanks, Gordon and Hunt, Co-chairs

Birthdays

As many of you know we love to celebrate life's events at church. However, we do not always know everyone's birthday. Also we have heard that some of you do not wish to have your birthday listed in the bulletin. To respect everyone's wishes we ask you to send us your birthday if you wish to have it listed in the Sunday Bulletin. Each Sunday we will continue to ask if anyone has a birthday, they would like to have celebrated.

Thank you

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**

"It is only when we take chances that our lives improve. The initial and the most difficult risk we need to take is to become honest." —**Walter Anderson**

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

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." —**Anaïs Nin**

The plane flying so very high
 Gives me a moment to sigh
 The sun making it's silver shine
 There is no trail left behind
 The sky as blue as blue
 Gives us love so very true
 Do we know what love is about
 It is everything , with no doubt
 God, you always have my heart
 Here is to us never being apart.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Milestones

Passed On

Calep "Joe" Boyd III

Nancy Van Gulick Cooper

Edward Delaney

Kris Jaramillo

Tissier Moaney

Why We Do Mission



Mission work is a cornerstone of our faith at Holy Trinity. However, you might wonder why we put so much focus on mission work. Questions may arise like: What is the basis for it in the Christian faith? Is it necessary? Isn't going to church, praying, and striving to live a good life sufficient? Let's look at our Scripture for guidance.

In a few Sundays we will hear from Luke's gospel about Jesus' first teaching in the temple. For his first lesson he quoted this passage from Isaiah *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* Jesus did not change God's mission from biblical times. Jesus brought His message of compassion and mercy for the other into the contemporary context of His time and, for that matter, of our time as well. He proclaimed that it was time to restore the life of God's people to its original and core purpose. Love and mercy.

Throughout the Hebrew and Christian books of scripture, the focus remains the same. God's desire for His people is to care for each other. We repeatedly hear encouragement to acts of feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, healing the wounded, and proclaiming the Good News.

Our annual faith journey is now in the season of Epiphany. Jesus's message at the temple was to be received as an epiphany to God's people. Strict adherence to religious laws and customs without a heart was proclaimed to be meaningless. The time had come to restore the world to its original purpose and **re-present** God's mission to the entire world.

Our faith is a continuing journey of doing or **re-presenting** the message of Isaiah and Jesus in our time and place. In the second letter of James we hear this message **re-presented** once more: *"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone say he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say to them "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*

We dedicate our life at Holy Trinity to works of mercy out of a belief that in doing so, we fulfill God's holy dream for this world. Our purpose is to quite literally create glimpses of heaven on earth in our own day and time. Here at Holy Trinity we have a community that embraces this as our purpose. In doing so we have created a blessed place where we are invited to share our time, talents, and faith through a daily practice of prayer and service that leads to the scripture of Isaiah being *"fulfilled in your hearing."*

LOGOS HOPE MISSION TRIP



Barbara and I are thrilled to have been invited in February to participate in a mission of spreading the Good News through the ministry of Operation Mobilization (OM). OM is a Christian global, multi-denominational ministry that seeks to bring God's word to the world. They state: *"We believe that if we are to bring the transforming hope of Jesus to the billions who have never heard of Him, and those who are forgotten, living a refugee's, oppressed and in slavery, we must blaze a trail with stoppable boldness."* OM travels the world on ships that literally bring the Good News to all parts of the world. The captain of the ship, **MV Logos Hope** (a converted car ferry), is the son of our very good friends. Matt and his wife Laurie and their children have been traveling the world on Logos Hope for the past three years. Matt and Laurie, graduates of Maine Maritime Academy, left their corporate careers to serve Christ through OM. They spoke to our community two years ago via a Zoom presentation of their work in Africa and the Mideast. The Logos Hope has just crossed the Atlantic for mission work in the Caribbean and South America. We have been invited to participate in their mission work, from February 4 - 11, living aboard the ship as it seeks to help the churches and people of St. Lucia. We ask for your prayers. We hope to bring back inspirational stories from this mission trip.

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

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!



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.

Daughters of the King



The Daughters of the King, a worldwide order of women, will meet January 14th. All are welcomed to attend.

The Holy Trinity Card Ministry

At one time or another, you may have received a "Get Well", a "Thinking of You", or a bereavement card from the Congregation of The Church of the Holy Trinity. This results from the caring, kind-hearted individuals of The Holy Trinity Card Ministry. Each member is responsible for one month of the year and the card writing process takes about an hour. That's only one hour to bring an often-needed kind word to your fellow parishioners!

Over the years, many of our members have moved away or have had to step away from this ministry for various reasons. This leaves us with seven people still active.

Do you enjoy sending greetings out to your friends and family? This ministry warms the hearts of its members. Would you consider becoming a member and taking a month? Please remember that when it's your month, you'll only need to spend about an hour writing out cards to our church members who are on the church prayer list.

Please contact Sharon Paz for further information: justsha33@gmail.com



In 2025 we are continuing our series of mid-week potluck dinners and worship. These dinners will have all the epicurean and fellowship delights of a typical pot-

luck dinner combined with a worship service.

Our first 2025 Dinner Church is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 22nd at 5:30 pm**. The dinner will be followed by an evening prayer service. The potluck theme is Cozy Winter Meals. Let your imaginations run wild and let's share each other's gastronomic vision to bring warmth and fellowship to winter. A sign-up list is posted in the Parish hall or you may call the office at 410-226-5134 to rsvp.

Remember you are loved and are made for goodness.



Sunday School News



Many thanks to the Sunday School families and teachers for the wonderful Christmas pageant! The children were outstanding! We were thrilled to have Corrie James write and direct the script and help the parents design the costumes. We were also delighted to have the Parker family be our Holy Family! Baby Jesus (aka Wells Parker) had been baptized here the month before.



Sunday School will continue to be held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the 10:00 service. Families should plan to stay after church on Jan. 26 for our intergenerational Empty Bowls project. This is when parishioners paint pottery bowls that will then be used for the empty bowls dinner in February. That money raised is used to help with the local food banks.

Helping and caring about others is what Jesus showed us to do. In November, the cards that the children had written with positive messages were put in care packs. (Souls need to be fed as well as bodies.) The principal sent this note:

“Thank you for the cards the youth wrote. We placed them in our care packs. Our families appreciated the kind words.”

The Sunday School children will continue to learn about Jesus and what we can do now to carry on Jesus’s mission.

- Barbara Cross



Talbot County Empty Bowls was inspired by the work of Lisa Blackburn and art teacher John Hartom. Hartom’s students made ceramic bowls in their high school art classes. The finished products were then used as individual serving pieces for a fund-raising meal of soup and bread. Contributing guests kept the empty bowl as a reminder that, although they had just eaten, many people’s bowls remained empty. In 1990, Hartom and other participants developed this concept into “Empty Bowls”. The Imagine/RENDER Group, a 501(c)3 organization, was created to promote the project. [Empty Bowls](#) now raises millions of dollars for hunger-related causes around the world. Talbot County Empty Bowls is proud to be part of the effort.

On Sunday, January 26th Holy Trinity will once again take part in the 2025 Empty Bowls program. After the 10:00 am service, we will offer a fun multigenerational activity to paint bowls in the parish hall. After the event the bowls will then be taken to Kiln born in Easton to be fired and prepared for the Empty Bowl fundraiser in February. Please join us in the hands-on mission activity. Corrie James and Susie Wheeler are the chairs of this fun and impactful event. Please rsvp by calling the parish office 410-226-5134 as soon as possible. If you have any ques-

Education



Unretirement Celebration



Dr. Reverend Lisa and
Husband Bill



Our Snow Baby



Epiphany Blessing



Music News



Do you enjoy singing? Interested in making new friends? **The Holy Trinity Choir** is the place for you! We sing together the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and rehearse Friday mornings at 10 a.m. If you can't make rehearsals, we'd love to have you join us Sunday mornings a bit early to go over our anthems. Everyone is welcome

January Service Musicians:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 12 | 10 a.m. Service | Ashley Watkins, Flute |
| January 19 | 8 a.m. Service | Melissa Wise, Soprano |
| | 10 a.m. Service | Melissa Wise, The Holy Trinity Choir |
| January 26 | | Amy Morgan, Substitute |

Leon Fleischer Piano Students Sunday, January 26 4 p.m.

Parish Hall

This is a concert not to be missed! Yury Shadrin and Tian Lu are sharing their students, child prodigies, with us performing works of the masters. These students have recently participated in Asian and European Tours in 2024 and are ready to share their unique talents with us. Please bring a friend and hear the leading pianists of the future. A free will offering will be taken to support the work of The Leon Fleischer Academy. You will be amazed!





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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