



Lifeline

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 2

February 2025

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Empty
Bowls
Painting
Party



Care Pack Donations and Delivery



Feast of Candlemas



Women On a Journey





CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Much appreciation to **Susie Wheeler and Karen Walbridge** for coordinating the Empty Bowls program. Your efforts will help feed many.
- Thank you to all who donated food to the winter Talbot Care Pack drive. Once again your compassion and generosity shine a bright light on the world.
- Thank you to **Karen Walbridge, Andy Steele, Tom and Anne DeMarco, Kathy Becker and Earl Segal** for delivering the Care Pack donations to the Easton Elementary School.
- Thank you to all of our **Acolyte, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Readers, Sunday School teachers and Usher members** for your dedication and faithful service.
- Thank you to **Cora, our Choiristers and guest musicians** for inspiring music.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Stewardship

We are off to a great start towards reaching our 2025 Goal of \$450,000 in Pledges. Through January 30th, we have received 117 pledges in the aggregate sum of \$448,550. If you haven't already pledged for 2025, now is the time. Thanks, Gordon and Hunt, Co-chairs

Connie's Corner



"Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow." —**Mahatma Gandhi**

"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**

"Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." —**Vince Lombardi**

The wind wafting through the tree
 Wind so wild and yet so free
 The sun reflecting all around
 Beautiful, strong and so sound
 People chatting, having so much fun
 The evening is bright and no where done
 Beauty at its best surrounds me
 I am thankful for the creature I can be
 God protect me and my heart
 Even though the I love did part
 You always know what is for the best
 I leave it in your hands to give me rest.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

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

Milestones

Passed On

James Balderson
 Duane Beckhorn
 Edward Delaney
 Tony Gould
 Nancy Shuck

A Time for Prayer

The Providence of God means that with God there is always, even in the bleakest of circumstances, another possibility. A creative, a hopeful, a life-giving possibility. That is why prayer matters not because it is like rubbing a rabbit's foot or making a wish to get what we want but because prayer is about daring to consider the creative possibilities of God, and not just the limits of our options. That is why faith is not an escape from life but a way of deeper engagement to discover creative possibilities. That is why miracles are not the magical manipulation of the cosmos, but the unveiling of creative possibilities not noticed or previously envisioned. That is why hope endures. It never gives up. For with God there is always another possibility. And that is why, in end, loves wins. –

From Songs My Grandma Sang by the Most Rev. Michael Curry

This thought is a jam packed, expansive meditation on providence, prayer, faith and hope. The phrase “*why prayer matters*” caught my attention. The answer may not be as obvious as it seems. Prayer is not wishing, nor is it self-centered. Prayer is about hope. And hope is about much more than wishes.

Hope is an active state of being. It is evolving, it is ever changing. Hope is open to imagining and willing possibilities into reality. Prayer is not bound by ordinary limitations. It is creative, new, and unlimited in scope. The hope embodied in prayer is not about a glass half-empty but rather a glass half-full.

Yet, I dare say that most of us know prayer most intimately as wishes, desires, requests for something to change in our lives. Time in prayer all too easily becomes a vehicle to submit requests to God. To ask or even beg God to do something for us, or in our more generous moments, to do something for another. God becomes the great wish granter. This kind of prayer makes it seem like we were created as completely dependent beings. Yet, if we believe we are created in God's image, then we must be created for something more than dependency.

What if we were to turn this rather static concept of prayer on its head? What if we consider that prayer is more about mutuality. What if prayer was as much about God's needs as our own? In a recent Bible study one of our parishioners introduced a rather astounding thought when he asked, “I wonder if God ever feels lonely?” This raises tremendous theological questions. After all isn't God the almighty? Why would he need our prayer? In response to the Pharisees demanding the disciples cease

their prayers Jesus says, “*I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.*”

Luke 19:40

However, our prayer has other purposes. While God may not need our prayer, I am certain God loves our prayer. Everything about our faith, every lesson in Scripture, every understanding of our triune God points to relationship. Love is relational. Relationship by its very definition is mutual. Desmond Tutu expressed this

mutual relationship most eloquently when he said “*Each one of us is supposed to be God's collaborator. Incredibly, this all-powerful God says, 'I need you to help me to make it a more compassionate and gentle world and without you I cannot do it.'*”

The season of Epiphany is a suitable time to renew our prayer practices. I would like to suggest you make a simple change in your practice. Pray for God. Pray for God not because God needs it but because it pleases God, and it transforms us. It imagines into reality the communal relationship between God, us and the whole of creation.

Pray prayers full of praise, thanksgiving, and hope. Pray prayers of hope that we will rise to the challenge to being God's collaborator. Pray your heart felt dreams to God, talk to God, sing to God, and delight in God. To build on a quote of Martin Luther King Jr. “*It is cheerful to God when you rejoice or laugh or pray from the bottom of your heart.*”

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

Has just started a new boo for this year —

**Life is Hard
God is Good
Let's Dance**



Life is Hard God is Good Let's Dance by Brant Hansen

Through short, energetic, captivating, and often humorous chapters, Brant's message will leave you with a renewed love for a simpler life that overflows with greater joy than you've ever experienced.

Come join us as we start another year where we continue to find book selections that bring personal insights and meaningful conversations – filled with faith and positive impacts on our journey with the Lord.

Meetings will be the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

February 5th & February 19th at 9:00 am

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.

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 February 11th**. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Bible Study

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW

Please join us for Women's Bible Study on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:00 pm. This study of the Gospel of Matthew is led by Deacon Dr. Lisa Webb via Zoom. All are welcome. To join go to the parish web page holyltrinityoxfordmd.org and click on the **Zoom Activity** button.



Care Packs of Talbot County

"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:

Care Packs is a weekend food program aimed at preventing hunger among Talbot County's most economically vulnerable students. The program serves students at all Talbot County schools. We delivered five full car loads of donations to the Easton Elementary School on January 30th. We learned that eight out of ten students at this school depend on this program for meals during the weekends. Once again through your tremendous generosity we provided a substantial amount of food donations to this program for the Winter/Spring season. Bless you!

Sunday School News

For our Sunday school curriculum, each month we are focusing on a different goal that Jesus showed us how to live into. In January, we focused on feeding the hungry. This tied in perfectly with the Care Pack project where we collected food and made cards for the children. Decorating the bowls for the Empty Bowls project was an example of feeding the 5000! Everybody can do something!



During February, our theme will be love. We will discuss ways we can love one another. The Good Samaritan is the perfect example of this.

Just a reminder that we meet the second and fourth Sundays at 10:00. We hope to see you!
Veronica, Linda, and Barb



On Sunday, January 26th Holy Trinity held an Empty Bowl painting party. We created 17 bowls that will be sold with soup at the annual Empty Bowl Dinner to raise funds for the area's food relief programs. The dinner will be held at St Mark's Church I Easton on Saturday February 22 with seatings at 4:40 pm and 6:30 pm. Several of us have already made reservations for the 4:40 seating. If you would like to join us, go to: <https://www.talbotcountyemptybowls.org/> To make a reservation. All proceeds are donated to the food relief programs. We thank Karen Walbridge and Susie Wheeler for organizing this fun mission activity.





HOLY SMOKE

Holy Trinity Cook Book
Oxford, Maryland

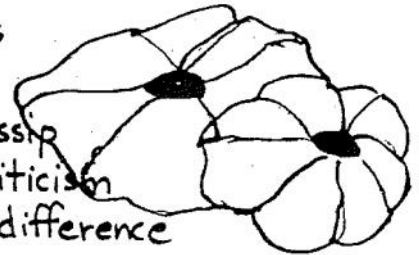
A Garden for a Good ^{Life!} Marriage Plant Happiness

First plant 5 rows of "p's"

- Prayer
- Perseverance
- Politeness
- Promptness
- Purity

Next plant 3 rows of squash

- Squash gossip
- Squash criticism
- Squash indifference



Then 5 rows of Lettuce



- Let us be faithful to duty
- Let us be unselfish
- Let us be Truthful



Music**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

**USNA Orchestra & Mariachi Band****Sunday, March 2, 2025****Church Sanctuary****4 p.m.**

The United States Naval Academy Orchestra and Mariachi Band will present a concert of symphonic and Mariachi music in our beautiful Sanctuary. It is exciting to have 75 + Midshipmen and their Conductor, Monte Maxwell, share their time and talents in a concert filled with familiar symphonic music, movie themes, and exciting, lively Mariachi songs. The Sanctuary is filled with lots of energy, Naval leaders of tomorrow, instruments (traditional and authentic), and good cheer.



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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