



Lifeline

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 3

March 2025

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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

Dancing Lisa



Empty Bowls Painting Party



Farewell Lisa





CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our **new Vestry** who are enthusiastically planning for life at Holy Trinity in 2025.
- We thank God for **Gordon Fronk** making good progress on his journey of recovery and for **George Curlin's** return home after many weeks in the hospital.
- We also thank God for **Cora's** healing. We are delighted to have her back tickling the ivories.
- Thank you to our **Altar Guild** for their tremendous work setting up the church for our numerous funerals services in January and February.
- Thank you to **Mickey Terrone** for serving as crucifier/acolyte at these services.
- Thank you to our **Sunday School teachers** for their inspiring work with our young people instilling in them the love of God.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Stewardship

We have reached our 2025 Goal of \$450,000 in Pledges. Through March 4th, we have received 119 pledges in the aggregate sum of \$462,150. If you haven't already pledged for 2025, now is the time. as we have 26 folks who pledged last year but not yet pledged. 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

Milestones

Passed On

George Radcliffe

Connie's Corner



"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." —**William James, American philosopher and psychologist**

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." —**Michael Altshuler, American author and motivational speaker**

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." —**Norman Vincent Peale, American clergyman**

"We will fail when we fail to try." —**Rosa Parks**

"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**

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you." —**Mary Lou Retton, American gymnast**

I say a robin in a tree the other day
And it was like he was whispering "Spring is on it's way"

His red breast so welcome after the snow
As if reveling in all that is about to grow
The ground soaking up the rays of the sun

Insects scurrying around as if having fun
Daffodils peaking out after a long sleep
And soon beautiful flowers for us to keep

All this God gives to us

With a sweep of the hand, absolutely no fuss

He gave us a kiss from the angels above

To be sure we have and always will have His love.

"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

**See Back of Calendar for
Lent Services**

A Fond Farewell

This month our much-loved Deacon Lisa delivered a wonderful sermon on her last day. This is part of the sermon where she talks about her time at Holy Trinity and following her new call.

So those really hard things scripture talks about is a good set up for us here today. We as a parish are also being asked to do a hard thing (though maybe not quite as hard as what Jesus is asking), and that is saying goodbye. As you have heard, I am being sent to a new parish, actually my old one, in Chestertown. Claire, the priest there, is suffering some serious health issues, and needs help. And I seem to be in the best place to offer that help. I don't want you all to think this is a bad thing for me. I live in Chestertown, my daughter sings in the choir there. This is the congregation who raised me up to the diaconate. In some ways it feels inevitable that Claire and I would work together. She used to be a midwife, and we were both on the same labor and delivery unit during my OB rotation in school. I don't remember her there, but she may have taught me some great obstetrical pearls. So, I am not sad to be going to Chestertown. I am, however, deeply sad to be leaving you here at Holy Trinity. You are all such a big part of my heart. I love you all. Bill and I first came to Holy Trinity in the summer of 2010, when we wanted to ask Father Kevin to marry us. Of course, we didn't pay enough attention, and came at the usual second service time, but on the first Sunday of the month. Basically, we arrived just as the service was almost over. So, if any of you have done that, no worries, we've all been there. Father Kevin agreed to marry us anyway, and it's been a lovely 14 1/2 years and counting. We still, however, have a way to go to catch up with many of you.

Then in Deacon school, I had thought about asking Father Kevin if I could do my internship here. You all know how wonderful he is, but then something happened that so touched me, and I knew it was my place. Bill's mom had died unexpectedly. His parents hadn't been churchgoers, but they knew Kevin from the yacht club. As Bill's dad was asking if I thought that Kevin would maybe do the service, and I was looking up his phone number, the phone rang and it was Kevin, asking if he could do anything to help. He just has that special gift. I don't think you can teach it, but I wanted to learn as much as possible from him. And I have learned so much - from him and from all of you. Worshiping and crying and laughing with all of you these last 5 years has been such a gift. We've certainly been together through some crazy and hard times. I arrived officially in Sept 2019, and it started a month later with Father Kevin's surgery and recovery. A cancer diagnosis - how unthinkable. Bishop Bud graciously filled in, and it was good to work with him. And then, just as Father Kevin was recovering and I was starting to learn to preach, COVID hit. I still remember delivering my first sermon to empty pews. How bizarre. I don't need to remind you how upside down and inside out everything seemed during that period. But Holy Trinity persevered. We had service outside for many months - through the very hot and very cold. We were a tough bunch then- now, if the weather isn't perfect, we cancel the outside service. It's amazing the hard work you can do when you have no choice. Next, my father died, and my practice moved. You all supported me through that. And then, out of nowhere, my own diagnosis of breast cancer. That certainly wasn't what I thought God would weave into the weeks before my ordination. But ordination was glorious, and I couldn't have gotten there without you all. And you welcomed me back with open arms into my new role as deacon, and helped me heal in body, mind, and spirit. Health restored and Covid mostly under control, we thought it would be smooth sailing for a while. But no. The invasion of Ukraine, for which this parish raised a large sum of money to help the people there, and eventually helping with the sponsoring of a Ukrainian family to be here. The Oct 7 attacks in Israel. We continue to earnestly pray for peace every week. The coming together to prepare for Father Kevin's retirement, which was graciously lifted from us. Yes, it has been quite a roller coaster, we have been asked to do hard things and have risen to the occasion time and time again, with much love and grace. For we know that God is with us through it all. Now, for this next hard thing, saying goodbye. I will miss you all terribly - worshiping with you, mourning and celebrating with you, just navigating together the ins and outs of daily life. Perhaps it is more appropriate to say, so long, see you later, for I will still be around. But it will be quite a change. You all know by now that I often find inspiration from country music. Well, today is no exception. From the moment I knew that this time would come, I kept hearing these words from a song by Patty Loveless.

"May they help you find comfort and peace in the doing of hard things: Mama whispered softly time will ease your pain Life's about changing nothing ever stays the same. And she said how can I help you to say goodbye it's okay to hurt and it's okay to cry Come let me hold you and I will try how can I help you to say goodbye. "

Amen

Blessings. Dr. Rev. Lisa Webb



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 March 18th**. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Bible Study

Calling all women! Come join us on zoom the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5 for Women's Bible Study. On March 11 we will start a new unit on Isaiah. We will use the book *Unbound by Time*, by William Holiday. Of note, some of the men from the Men's group may have a copy you can borrow! Let me know if you have any questions or would like me to add you to my email list for reminders! I miss you all!

♥ Deacon Lisa, lisa.pagano15@gmail.com



OXFORD DAY HOLY TRINITY PLANT SALE HELPERS NEEDED!

It is a one-day event — flower set up, sale, clean up — and fun is had by all!

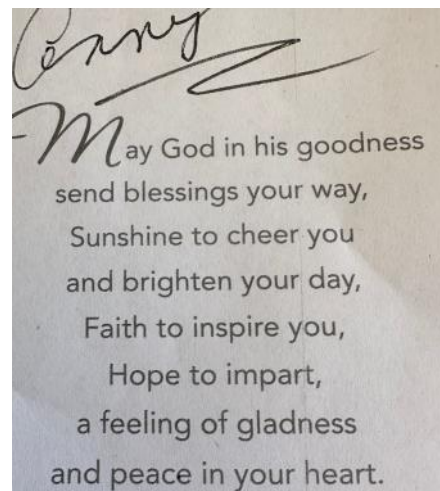
Saturday, April 26, 2025

Lots of helpers are needed!!

Please contact Carla Todd

carlantodd@gmail.com 443-983-3457

All proceeds go to support





Sunday School News

“Change for Change” Lenten Project

The Sunday School children are once again preparing for the Lenten “Change for Change” project. We have done this program for a number of years and it is exciting to see how it has grown. Thanks to your donations of change, bills, and checks, we raise money to help others in need. Using catalogs (such as Child Fund International), the children discuss the needs and how to best spend the money raised. It is truly an honor to listen to these thoughtful discussions.

The children have decorated the “change” buckets and will have one at the back of the church and one in the Parish Hall. When our beloved parishioners Mary and Clint Clubb were with us, they always donated the money for a pair of breeding goats. (A pair used to be \$90- I think they are \$125 now.) If you would like to keep up this tradition, please let Barbara know. Any checks should have Change for Change written in the memo please.

Thank you for making this project possible. This year during Sunday School we have been focusing on the theme that we are followers of Jesus and what that means - to be loving, compassionate, kind, and generous and to help others - whether it be someone who needs a place to sit at the lunch table or in need of food. Your donations will enable the children to further practice following Jesus.

Barbara Cross



Ms. Veronica teaching a lesson on the good Samaritan.



2025 PROGRAMS

The season of Lent is a time of contemplation, exploration, and prayer as we seek to renew our faith and begin the journey toward the feast of Easter. Every Lent we are invited to prepare ourselves for our work as disciples of Christ. This year we offer several services and programs to assist us on our personal and collective faith journeys. Please consider joining with your fellow pilgrims on the way of life and love.

Programs:

Group Programs

We offer several opportunities to engage in study of Scripture and contemporary works. All are invited to join at any time.

Men's Inquiring Believers meets on Mondays at 5 pm in the parish hall. This group is currently studying the New Testament

Women's Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 5 pm via Zoom. This is a group led by Deacon Lisa and is a joint venture with Emmanuel Church, Chestertown.

Women on a Journey meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9 am. This is a hybrid group meeting in-person and via Zoom. Contemporary works about the Christian life are shared and discussed.

Individual Programs

Lectio 365 is an online daily meditation from our good friends at 24-7 Prayer International. We have studied through many prayers programs by this organization. Each Day a morning and evening meditation is available at <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone by N.T. Wright - an excellent resource by one of the leading theologians of our time. "think, pray, and reflect through the stories of Jesus' life an, death, and resurrection.

Deacon Lisa and I will also be offering a weekly Lenten Program: Voices of Hope - see article on page 6.

Education

Brain Health Program

**Including an introduction to Tandem a Dementia/ Alzheimer's Support Program
Information Meeting: Wednesday, March 19th at 10:30 am**

Wendy Palmer of the YMCA will offer a presentation on Brain Health at Holy Trinity on Wednesday, March 19th at 10:30 am in the parish hall. It will include an introduction to a new program, TANDEM which is for families impacted by dementia and Alzheimer's hopes to support the individuals with the diagnosis and the caregiver that is often struggling with stress, depression and anxiety.

Tandem is a loving community for individuals diagnosed with Dementia/Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Tandem program includes gentle and safe exercise therapy, music therapy and art therapy, all of which bring joy, provide social interaction and improve quality of life for all. This 16- week pilot program was the first of its kind in our area and is offered at no charge to the family. Tandem meets twice a week and offers several sessions for the caregivers to connect for support and respite. We do it all with encouragement and love.

"I look forward to serving families impacted by dementia and Alzheimer's. As we know, caregivers experience higher levels of stress, depression, and anxiety. If we can support them through love, support and encouragement in Tandem, we can be a lifeline to families that are in survival mode."- Wendy Palmer

This program will be offered in person and via Zoom. Please call the Holy Trinity parish office to RSVP. 410-226-5134

VOICES OF HOPE – LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Our Lenten program this year is all about hope. In these troubled times hope can seem elusive. However, even in such difficult days hope can be found and transform our lives. We will study the state of hope and look to situations and people who have shown a pathway to a hope-filled life. Our faith is fundamentally one of hope. God tells us repeatedly "Do not be afraid." Let us take a journey together heeding God's call to live lives of hope and joy.



What is hope? Is it a wish or a dream or is it something more substantive that can be achieved by any of us? We explore this concept and seek out pathways toward hope through shared readings, presentations, and discussions.

In this series you will learn about

- a man who found hope through breaking boundaries and reaching out to another in desperate need
- a bishop and his daughter who found their blessedness in the eyes of God
- a priest who has transformed lives with a gang intervention program
- a young girl traumatized by a violent attack who went on to challenge her world
- a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp who found the courage to embrace life
- a woman of our times who with wit and wisdom shows that when we feel *"doomed, stunned, exhausted and over caffeinate—the seeds of rejuvenation are at hand."*

We will meet for five Wednesdays at 5:30 pm starting on Wednesday March 12th. This series will be offered on a hybrid basis – in-person and via Zoom. Deacon Lisa will co-lead this group, and we will embark on this journey together with the good people of Emmanuel Church Chestertown. Please call the parish office to RSVP.

Music News


**Renown Concert
Pianists Give a
POP UP Concert**
**Saturday, March 8,
2025 at 4 pm**
**The Church of the
Holy Trinity,
Oxford**

What a wonderful opportunity to preview solo and four hand piano pieces Tian Lu and Yury Shadrin will be performing on their upcoming Asian Tour! **Saturday afternoon, March 8th, at 4 p.m.** you are invited to experience these incredibly talented concert pianists perform virtuosic piano works of the Masters! Why Holy Trinity??? Because they enjoy playing for enthusiastic and appreciative audiences, the intimate hall experience, and the impeccably maintained Steinway piano.

The husband and wife team of Tian Lu and Yury Shadrin come to us from The Leon Fleisher Academy. Recently (January 2025) Yury brought a number of the Academy's child prodigy students to perform their competition and concert pieces. The audience was mesmerized! Next Saturday, you will hear the artists these prodigies study with, obtaining a unique one-one music education rarely obtainable today.

Great music! Friends playing for Friends - what better way to spend a Saturday afternoon! Please call the office , 410-226-5134, for further information. All are welcome. A freewill offering will be taken for artist expenses.



Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
P.O.Box 591
Burnsville, NC 28714

February 17, 2025

The Reverend Kevin M. Cross
The Church of the Holy Trinity
P.O.Box 387
Oxford, MD 21654

Dear Kevin,,

We have received the very generous donation from the people of Holy Trinity! And I cannot thank you enough!

I am so sorry it took so long for things to get here, and for your letter to get to me, last week. Our mail is still being forwarded to our administrative assistant. It just takes a while for things to move.

We will use this funds to help with the work crew that is coming March 1-8. Fifteen folk from Florida, Iowa, and Minnesota will be staying in the church at St. Thomas as they work to rebuild some storm-damaged houses nearby. Our Diocesan Recovery Team is helping coordinate this effort. Your gift will help others to have a home again!

Sincerely yours,

(The Rev.) Victor Mansfield
Interim Rector



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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