



Lifeline

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 9

September 2025

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church

office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Last Year's Thank You Oxford. See you all at
9/8 Thank You Oxford



Adieu to the Deodar tree: Thank you for the beauty you provided to Holy Trinity for so many years. Your branches gave a home to the birds and insects and shade to us. We bid you farewell and look to the promise of new life spring forth. Much gratitude to Davey Tree for donating their services to put you at rest.



Guess who is eating lobster while away?
And they didn't bring me any!



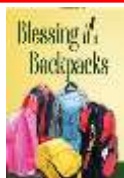
The Women of Holy Trinity
Annual Meeting & Luncheon - Parish Hall
Monday, September 15, 10:30-1:00 PM
Allocate funds to charities. Mingle. Have Fun!
**RSVP to: Barbara Cross -
barbaracross22@gmail.com**



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to **Bill Ritchie** for overseeing the installation of a new HVAC system in the kitchen. Even on the hottest days the kitchen is now cool enough to provide a comfortable environment to the Souper Men and Women and others while working our kitchen.
- Thank you to all who continued our food ministries during the months without AC!
- Much appreciation also to **Shaw's HVAC** for doing a superb job installing the heat pumps.
- The above work will reduce our HVAC costs and has made us a greener, more environmentally responsible church as it allows the removal of the old oil burner heating system as well.
- Thank you to **Michelle Mactavish** for her good stewardship of our grounds. God's beauty of creation has been nurtured by Michelle proving a lovely setting for our services and activities. She also facilitated Davey Tree donating their services to remove the Deodar Cedar that had reached the end of its life.
- Much appreciation to **Dave Pivar of Davey Tree** for gifting us the removal services for the Deodar.
- Thank you to **Sandy Wrightson and Dennis Roberts** for their carpentry wizardry recrafting a food preparation table for the kitchen. It is a great addition to improve the safety and practicality of our kitchen resources.
- Thank you to all of our **Worship team members: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Flower Guild, Readers, and Ushers** for making our services a time of reverence and inspiration. Thank you to new usher volunteers: **June DeHart and Betty Anderson**.
- Tremendous appreciation to **Dr Cora Bruner, music director, Monte Maxwell, organ consultant, and Walker organ** for their continued work on the design of our new organ. The unique design features for our organ have been completed and the milling work on the cabinet has begun.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Blessing of the Backpacks – September 14th at the 10 am service

We begin each school year with the blessing of backpacks. A backpack blessing is a moment set aside during your worship service to encourage our students, blessing both them and teachers alike. This special blessing will be part of our 10 am service on September 14th. Please encourage your students to bring their school backpacks to church with them for this special blessing.

Connie's Corner



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

— Bill Keane

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." — Theodore Roosevelt

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares." — Henri Nouwen,

Do you remember what you learned in Sunday School

The stories of Jesus as a boy, as a man, all so cool
Those stories created a foundation for us, one so just

And as we grew, that guidance was a must
How many of us were shaped by lessons learned
From Bible stories that left us to yearn
For peace, love, and faith in our life
One filled with kindness, no strife
So lean on what we learned from those stories
And your life will be filled with so many glories.

"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
2026 Vestry Nominees**

August Milestones

Passed on

Dr. John Peter Knud-Hansen

Addiction Recovery Month

I invite you to recognize the role of the church in ministering to those who have been affected by the disease of addiction. September is designated as National Recovery Month. It is an observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life.

The church can play a critical healing role in reaching out to those whose lives have been afflicted by the disease of addiction by offering understanding, compassion, and healing. Now more than ever witnesses of healing and mercy are needed to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering. As you may be aware, the opioid crisis is impacting every demographic of our population. Overdoses are now the leading cause of death amongst the young and middle aged.

Holy Trinity has set aside Sunday September 28th to focus on addiction and the merciful recovery to be found in the Christian faith. It may interest you to know that the 12-step programs have their foundation in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Sam Shoemaker of Calvary Episcopal Church in NYC, was a spiritual adviser to Bill Wilson. He worked with Bill W. on developing A.A.'s 12-Step Program. The theology of the 12-Step program is grounded in our faith tradition. While the 12-Step program is often thought of as only applicable for those who suffer from one of the many forms of addiction, it offers a profoundly spiritual program for all. **We will celebrate a 12 Step Eucharist on Sunday, September 28th at our 8 & 10 services.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Bishop's Visitation

Our Bishop the Most Rev. Santosh Murray will be with us at our services on Sunday September 21st. Bishop Murray is retiring in October. This will be his final visit with Holy Trinity before his retirement. To honor his heritage, we will celebrate a Caribbean Eucharist.



KIRKIN' O THE TARTANS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th 9:30 AM

Holy Trinity will hold our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, October 5th. This service is held to honor the role of The Church of Scotland in the founding of The Episcopal Church. We also honor our town's many ancestors from Scotland who settled this community. A Celtic Holy Eucharist service will be celebrated, and our festivities will include our choir, bagpiper music. and the wearing of kilts. We will sing hymns, pray prayers from our Celtic roots, give thanks for our heritage, and bless the Tartans.

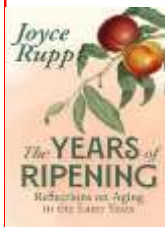


MISSION SECTION

Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study Begins September 15

The Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study will begin its 2025-26 study year on Monday, September 15th at 5:00 PM in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Continuing our study of early Christianity, we will begin the year by reading and discussing Professor Elaine Pagels' new book, *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus*, which is available from Amazon and other vendors. On the 15th we'll discuss Pagels' first chapter, which deals with the virgin birth. Pagels is Harrington Spear Paine Professor Emerita of Religion at Princeton University.

Our gatherings are marked by friendly social interaction and the sharing of ideas and opinions through lively discussion. We often try to look at current events through the lens of a Believer. As always, 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

Summer is over and we will start up our meetings again.

Our first book will be Joyce Rupp's newly published book ...

The Years of Ripening Reflections on Aging in the Later Years

Meetings in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

Wednesday, September 3rd at 9:00 am

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or beverlyrohman@gmail.com



Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King, a worldwide order of women dedicated to prayer and service. Our next Daughters of the King Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th at 12:00 pm

Each year, in celebration of the feast of St. Francis we hold a Blessing of the Animals service on the front lawn of the church. All four or two legged animals and creatures that fly, swim and slither are welcome to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and receive a blessing.

THE HOLY TRINITY CARD MINISTRY NEEDS MEMBERS

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 who are 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 (approximately 10-15 cards.)

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



Property and Grounds Report.

Bill Ritchie - Property.

Michelle MacTavish - Grounds

We have had a busy spring and summer:

Property.

A scheduled replacement of the failed HVAC system in the kitchen was approved this year by the Vestry. State and local regulations required that the HVAC system in the kitchen fulfilled full commercial kitchen requirements in spite of the Church's limited usage. After much discussion with our HVAC Contractor it was decided that two low profile ceiling units would be functionally optimal, minimally intrusive and relatively easy to install. At the same time, we took the opportunity to add heating elements to the AC units in the River Room and the upstairs Offices which were previously heated by baseboard, hot water from the old oil burning furnace. With these improvements we will be able to retire and remove the Parish Hall oil burning furnace and oil storage tank.

During this time it became apparent that the air conditioning unit above the Rector's and the secretary's office, although correctly sized was not able to cool the space, and it was discovered that there was no insulation in the roof ceiling and knee walls and this accounted for large heat gains and losses in the offices during the summer and winter making working there somewhat intolerable especially in the Summer. Estimates were obtained and the appropriate insulation is scheduled to be installed.

Although this was considerably more work than we had intended to do this year, updating the HVAC systems, discontinuing the use of the old oil burner in the parish hall and improving the office insulation should have immediate economic and environmental benefits.

Then in August an emergency situation developed in the Rectory when the ground floor HVAC system failed. Initial replacement of an electronic control board did not completely correct the situation and a new compressor unit has been ordered and will be installed in the current unit. There is a high probability that this will return the unit to full capacity and hopefully several more years of useful service.

P.S. I am keeping my fingers crossed for the rest of the financial year and beyond.

Grounds.

When you drive onto the church property from Morris Street, you may notice that something is amiss. In August, one of our monumental Cedrus deodara cedar trees, (one of three), was taking down after a year of decline. As stewards of the stunningly beautiful church grounds, it is sad to see it go and is a reminder that maintaining the health of the 50+ trees on the property should always be a priority.

The cedar served as a part of the buffer area between the Oxford Inn and the Holy Trinity driveway. Now we can focus on that area, clearing brush and considering new plantings to create a more organized and easily maintained natural border between the properties.



Lunch Bunch - Souper Men and Women

Our fabulous soup makers have a giant immersion blender to use to make their delicious soups! Many thanks to them for their wonderful work.



Mission



Sunday school resumes September 14!

On September 14 at the 10 o'clock service we will welcome old and new friends. As usual, we will meet for a Bible story and activity at 10 o'clock and then go into the parish hall at the peace. During this service, we will continue with our tradition of the blessing of the backpacks. All ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to be blessed.

Sunday school is a one room school house for children ages five through 12. Using Bible stories, our lessons focus on God's unconditional love for us and how Jesus showed us how to live our lives. As a way of living the gospel, the children participate in mission projects, such as the Lenten Change for Change program.

We meet the second and fourth Sundays during the 10:00 service. Please let me know if you have children, grandchildren, and/or neighbors who would like to join us.

If your child is over age 12, they are certainly welcome to come to Sunday school as a helper. We also welcome their help as acolytes and we are planning on having various youth group activities throughout school year.

If you are interested in any of these activities or would like further information, please contact me at barbaracross22@gmail.com



Care Packs of Talbot County

This month we return our service activity to the children throughout Talbot County who experience food insecurity. We can help ensure no child goes hungry through collecting donations of food items for **Care Packs of Talbot County**. Each Friday, this program, with our support, distributes care packs filled with food to school kids in need to give them food to help them get through the weekends.

See below for the list of **nutritious** desired items. We will collect these items through Sunday September 28th. You may drop off your donations at our services or at the Parish Hall any weekday. . If you have any questions, please call the office, 410-226-5134.

Most needed items

Easy open cans or pouches of tuna, chicken, ham, salmon	Nuts, almonds, Walnuts, Cashews, Peanuts
Easy open cans of pasta and soups	Mac and cheese
Cheese and cracker packets	Oatmeal packets
Humus and cracker packets	Applesauce cups
Peanut butter and crackers	Granola bars
Trail mix	Energy bars

SAVE THE DATE!



Thank You Oxford Party

Monday, September 8th at 5 pm

On Monday, September 8 at 5 pm, Holy Trinity will hold our ninth annual Thank You Oxford event by hosting a time of fellowship, barbecue, and music to thank all the folks who make our community a "little piece of heaven."

All Oxford town employees and volunteers as well as those who provide services to this town are invited to attend and enjoy a fun evening on the Tred Avon. This is also a great parish summertime social on the back lawn of the rectory enjoying the beauty of our grounds and marvelous community.

Music will be by the great Jenz Frenz band

Invitations to our guests will be sent out shortly and a sign-up list for parishioners will be posted in the River Room in the next few weeks. Our guests attend for free. We ask our parishioners for a free will donation but most of all we want everyone to come and have a good time. Let's have a great Celebration!

Music



Your Choir Needs You!

Please come sing with us the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Rehearsals – Fridays 10 a.m. Can't make rehearsals come sing Sunday mornings! No experience necessary.



Piano Ensemble

Martha Britt, Linda Sattler, Carol Van Erven, and Cora Bruner join their talents together as Holy Trinity's Piano Ensemble. We play piano duets and quartets written especially for piano ensembles.

September Service Musicians



September 7	9:30 a.m. Ashley Watkins, Flutist & The Holy Trinity Choir
September 14	8 & 10 a.m. Melissa Wise, Soprano
September 21	10:00 a.m. The Holy Trinity Choir
September 28	8 am Melissa Wise, Soprano
	10 am Melissa Wise & Ray Fisher duets

Holy Trinity Concerts 2025-2026

Holy Trinity is blessed to have beautiful instruments and great facilities to host concerts for our church, community, and general audiences. We want our concerts to be available to anyone and everyone. Artists accept donations from concert collection offerings with occasional supplements by our Music Program.

November 16 th	3 p.m.	Bob McDonald, <i>Songs of Gershwin, Broadway, American Songbook, Patriotic</i>
November 30 th	3 p.m.	Redd Brothers Early Christmas Concert <i>Jazz, Favorite Holiday Songs</i>
Early February	TBD	Monte Maxwell <i>Organ Acceptance Music Sharing</i>
March 1 st	4 p.m.	USNA Midshipmen Orchestra & Mariachi Band
April 12 th	TBD	Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition Concert

2026 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Vestry is comprised of nine Parishioners, each of whom is elected for a term of three years. The terms are staggered, so that each year, three members' terms expire, and three new persons are elected. The Nominating Committee for the 2026 Vestry Class are Senior Warden, John Dillon, retiring Vestry members Margo McConnell, Lee Phillips, and Ginny Wagner, and former Vestry member, Tot O'Mara. **The nominees for 2026 are Laura Cassidy, Al Sikes, and Walda Roseman.** Biographical sketches are printed on the reverse side of the September Calendar.

Your Vestry meets once per month, presently third the Friday of each month. In addition to the monthly meeting, each Vestry member assumes responsibility as a shepherd of a standing committee, program or mission of our Parish. Vestry meetings are open to all members. If you ever have any concerns or ideas you would like to share, we invite you to bring them to the attention of the Vestry.

John Dillon
Senior Warden



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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 ser-
 vice at 9:30 am. All services are in-
 person and broadcast**