



Lifeline

The Church of the Holy Trinity

An Episcopal Church

office@holyltrinityoxfordmd.org

VOLUME 18
ISSUE 10

October 2025



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



Thank You Oxford.



Bishop Santosh and Lynne's Visit



Food Donations to the Middle School Food Closet



Sunday School





CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Thank you to our **Sunday School teachers Barbara Cross, Veronica Wainwright, and Linda Wilson** for getting our Sunday school up and running for what promises to be a wonderful year. Thank you also to our kids and their parents for supporting this vital program.
- Much appreciation to **our gardeners**, all of whom wish to remain unnamed, for clearing out all the weeds and scrub growth at the Morris St. end of our property. It can now be considered for new plantings to enhance the beauty of our grounds.
- Great appreciation for **Charlie Huddleston** of Tuckahoe Canvas and Sails once again worked his magic and repaired a badly damaged Christmas Market banner at no charge. He has done this for us for the past 12 years!
- Thank you to the **Daughters of the King** for holding this parish and all in need in their daily prayers.
- Thank you to our **Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Flower Guild, Greeters, Readers and Ushers** for supporting the liturgical life of this parish through their many volunteer hours and services.
- Thank you to **Victoria Chandler** for her past service on the Flower Guild. Best wishes on her new job.
- Much gratitude to all of our **Fellowship hosts** for helping support and grow the friendships throughout our church.
- Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to visit our parishioners in the hospital and assisted living facilities. Your kindness helps keep our connections between each other alive and well.
- Thank you to our staff, **Cora Bruner and Connie Greenhawk** for their work and positive efforts to make this a vibrant and welcoming church community.
- Thank you to **Berkely Cone and Leslie Kelly** for heading up our 2026 Stewardship campaign.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Milestones

Ordinations

Michael Valliant CCE

Kelsey Spiker CCE

Passed on

Ryan Thomas Burden

Connie's Corner



"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born... and the day you find out why." ~ **Mark Twain**

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" ~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." ~ **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Self-discipline is doing what's right instead of doing what you feel like doing. That's the meaning of self-discipline." ~ **Eliud Kipchoge**

"What gets measured gets done, what gets measured and fed back gets done well, what gets rewarded gets repeated." ~ **Unknown**

"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning."
~ **Jiddu Krishnamurti**

"The paradox of learning is that to get better, you need to go outside your comfort zone, and thus feel worse. The people who grow continuously, thus feel consistently over their heads." ~ **Scott Young**

The Lord is always with us
Guiding us to be kind, generous and just
He guides us to lead your child
Even when they may be running wild
He wants us to enjoy life to the fullest
Making each day memorable and the best
Practice His teachings, walk as He made his way
Comforting, healing, praying, spreading the word
every day
Above all else, hold love in your heart
Like at your birth, He gave love right from the start.

"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**

Why Prayer Matters

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 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 Rt. Rev Michael Curry.

This quote is a jam packed, expansive exposition on providence, prayer, faith, and hope The phrase “why prayer matters” caught my attention. Prayer is not simply wishing, nor is it self-centered. Prayer is about hope. Hope is an active state of being. It is ever evolving and ever changing. Hope, is a driven force to imagine and will 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, and 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 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. 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 gentler world and without you I cannot do it.'*”

Now is a good time to renew our prayer practices. I would like to suggest you make a simple change to your prayer 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 prayers to God, talk to God, sing to God, 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.*”

Note: A new weekly Intercessory Prayer group will meet at 8:30 am on Tuesday mornings beginning on October 11th. This fall we will be offering course on prayer based on the wonderful book by Pete Grieg, **How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People.**

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



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.

Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study Meets Mondays at 5:00

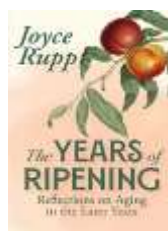
The Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study has begun its 2025-26 study year with meetings on Monday evenings at 5:00 PM in the River Room of the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Continuing our studies of early Christianity, we are reading and discussing Professor Elaine Pagels' new book, ***Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus***, which is available from Amazon and other vendors.

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.



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.



WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Conversations have started on our new book for this year --

Joyce Rupp's newly published ...
The Years of Ripening Reflections on
Aging in the Later Years

Come join us for fabulous discussions, discoveries and fellowship.

Meetings in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

Wednesday, October 15th 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, October 14th, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.



FLOWER GUILD

Flower Guild Seeks New Members

The Holy Trinity Flower Guild is seeking new members. The Flower Guild takes care of providing flower arrangements at the altar for Sunday services, decorating church for Christmas, Easter and other special services, and overseeing the delivery of flowers to the ill in the parish. If you have an interest in gardening and flower arranging, this is the group for you. If you are interested, please call the church office at 410-226-5134 or you may speak with Ingrid Blanton



Author Debut Book – "Anchor" by Cathy Schmidt

Parishioner and former Sunday School teacher Cathy Schmidt released her debut novel, *Anchors*, on September 21 at her childhood home on N. Morris Street. It is a fictional tribute to the Eastern Shore set in a watermen's village in the 1970's. A delightful, well-written book, some of the characters might seem familiar and many of the places are quite recognizable. We are looking forward to Cathy joining us to discuss the book. Date to be determined. Cathy's book is for sale at The Treasure Chest in Oxford where she will have a book signing on Saturday October 11th from 1 to 3. You can also purchase the book online at: www.cathywrites2025.com,

Bookshop.org, and www.barnesandnoble.com. It will be available at other local bookstores soon. Check Cathy's website for more upcoming events.



New Intercessory Prayer Group

Paul exhorts his followers in the following manner, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." **Ephesians 6:18**

We as Christians are called to prayer for ourselves, others and the whole of creation. I believe strongly in the power of prayer. One of my t-shirts carries the logo saying, "**Prayer is the most powerful form of wireless communication.**" Intercessory prayer is when we take up the welfare and concern of others mediating to bring about healing and comfort. We will start a new weekly prayer group in October. This group will meet at 8:30 am every Tuesday, starting on October 14th. Please consider joining for prayer bringing your intentions for yourself and others. These sessions are expected to run for 20 - 30 minutes.

Help Make a Happy Thanksgiving

The Mission team thanks you for your dedication to helping those in need. In September you helped provide food for the elementary children's Carepacks so children will have food to eat over the weekend.

In October, we will be collecting donations to help 100 families have a happy Thanksgiving. The Neighborhood Service Center usually provides 150 Thanksgiving Boxes to families. This year Maryland Food Bank, with all the budget cuts, can only provide enough for 52 families. We at Holy Trinity are going to help provide Thanksgiving boxes to 100 families. The Women of Holy Trinity have already donated \$1600 to purchase the needed turkeys. Now we need you to put a few extra items in your shopping cart to help others have a happy and delicious Thanksgiving.

During the month of October we will be collecting the following NONPERISHABLE items:

CANNED GREEN BEANS/CORN
CANNED YAMS/SWEET POTATOES
CRANBERRY SAUCE
PACKAGED GRAVY MIX - NO JARS
JIFFY CORNBREAD
CAKE/BROWNIE MIX

Thank you for showing that we are all God's children!

Sunday School

We are ALL God's Family!



The Sunday School meets the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 10:00. We have Bible Stories and do crafts. During the peace we join the congregation and gather around the altar, assisting Father Cross.

This year we are focusing on the theme "We are all God's family." We will be doing that in a variety of ways. A very visible way the church has shown that is by having the "Thank you Oxford" event and by providing and delivering meals through the Lunch Bunch program. We show we are all God's family when we donate needed food, smile at someone while in line at the grocery store, visit someone unable to get out and so many more ways. What can you think of?

The next few sessions of Sunday School we will be discussing and learning the Lord's Prayer. The children will make a Lord's Prayer craft for both themselves and the homebound. We will also be learning how we can help our neighbors by contributing to the Thanksgiving baskets so others can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. We appreciate your support. We are ALL God's family!

Barbara Cross

Women of Holy Trinity Luncheon A Great Success!



On September 15th, the Women of Holy Trinity held their annual meeting and luncheon. Attended by new as well as longtime church women, it was a great chance to both mingle with old friends and make new ones, all while discussing the important work of allocating funds raised during last year's Christmas Market and this year's Spring Plant Sale. Thanks to the support of our church members and event attendees, we are happy to report that the following charities will be receiving donations from the proceeds of these events. In addition, this year's chosen Baskets for Charity recipients will receive abundant baskets and a cash donation from the proceeds of this year's Christmas Market:

Charities Chosen to Receive Donations from Current Funds Raised:

Bay Hundred Community Volunteers
 Chesapeake Multi-Cultural Center
 ITCH – Introduction to Careers in Healthcare
 Neighborhood Service Center
 Oxford Fire House
 Rector's Discretionary Fund
 Talbot Mentors & Scholars
 Water's Church

Chosen 2025 "Baskets for Charity" Recipients:

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers
 Dixon House
 Talbot Humane Society
 Talbot Interfaith Shelter

We will be inviting some of our recipients to join us for Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December

7. Be sure to join us and learn more about the positive difference your support of these organizations is making in our community!

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. Concert donations to offset artist expenses are welcome at any time.

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

Stay tuned for additional offerings!

October Service Musicians

10/5 9:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Choir & Bagpipers

10/12 10 a.m. Chuck Petty, Bass

10/19 10 a.m. Piano Ensemble (4 pianos 8 Hands)

10/26 8 & 10 a.m. Melissa Wise, Soprano



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.



Upcoming: The Prayer Course

Starting in October we will offer The Prayer Course an 8-week prayer program teaching prayer through the example of Lord's Prayer. This is one of the best programs I have come across for prayer. Through video, book, discussion, and practice, the act of prayer becomes an accessible resource for everyone. This course was developed by 24-7 Prayer, an international, interdenominational prayer movement, with a vision to revive the church and rewire the culture through non-stop night and day prayer. They started in England in 1999, when a simple student-led prayer vigil went viral and groups all over the world joined in to pray. Now, over two decades later, thousands of communities have taken part in 24-7 Prayer in churches, communities, and cities in over half the countries on earth. Details on the schedule will be forthcoming

Take Note of These Dates! ALL volunteers welcome! In addition to volunteers for coverage of the Dec 6 Christmas Market, we need volunteers to help prepare for the event, including:



❖ **Food preparation dates/times at the Parish Hall:**

Pot Pie Assembly: Tuesday, Nov. 4 @ 12:00 Noon

Lasagna: Tuesday, November 18 @ 12:00 Noon

(Please email Susan Grauel @ susandelker@hotmail.com to ensure we have enough volunteers)

❖ **Craft making dates/times in the Parish Hall:**

Monday, 10/27 - 9:00 – 12:00 NOON

Tuesday, 10/28 - 9:00 – 12:00 NOON

Wednesday, 10/29 - 9:00-11:00 AM



(No advance sign-up needed. Questions? Email Pam Dent at pfitzdent@gmail.com)

❖ **Bow Making Workshop in the Parish Hall**

Sunday, November 16 @ 11:00 during Fellowship Hour

(No advance sign-up needed! Please drop in!)

❖ **Wreath Making Demonstration**

Sunday, November 23 @ 11:00 during Fellowship Hour

❖ **Wreath Materials Drop-Off on tarps along wall of the Columbarium:**

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 30 thru December 3

(More greens make better wreaths! Suggested greens to follow)

❖ **Wreath decorating in the Parish Hall**

Wednesday, December 3, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

(Contact Ingrid Blanton 410-253-9413 or Sandy Wrightson 410-822-0205.)

❖ **Wreath delivery from in front of Chapel to the Market Tent**

Friday, December 5, 10:00 AM



More hands make light work and opportunities for fellowship! Please join us!



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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