



Lifeline

VOLUME 18
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November-December 2025

The Church of the Holy Trinity
An Episcopal Church
office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org



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



Annual
Meeting



Canon Rev. Dr Kartright
Davis Visit



May Ann and Ann Hazen came
for a visit



And God Said Let There Be Light



Care Pack Delivery Team



Happy
Thanks-
giving
from Ka-
ren Wal-
bridge



Tom DeMarco, Acolyte



Mactavish Crèche Crew



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Huge thanks and Christmas cheer to the **Women of Holy Trinity** and all those who helped plan, set up, and staff the 2025 Christmas Market. This is a tremendous effort to not only raise funds for local charities but bring much goodwill and Christmas joy to the community!
- Thanks to all of our **Worship Support teams**: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Greeters, Readers, Ushers for your dedication and support. We couldn't do it without all of you.
- Thank you to the **Altar Guild** for polishing our service vessels, crosses and candle holders to make them sparkle for our Advent and Christmas Services.
- Much appreciation for our **Sunday school teachers, students and parents** for their enthusiastic planning and rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Christmas Pageant.
- Gratitude for **Connie** who has become a master juggler of the many responsibilities and tasks that keep us ship shape during this busy season.
- Thanks to **Music Director Cora Bruner** for planning a marvelous music program for the Advent and Christmas season. Also thanks to the **Holy Trinity Choir, our guest musicians**, for their dedication and generosity, sharing their talents to enrich our worship experiences.
- Thank you to everyone who has pledged. Your generosity enables the many ministries of Holy Trinity to continue enriching souls and caring for the needy.
- Thank you to **Berkely Cone and Leslie Kelly** for heading up our 2026 Stewardship campaign.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

Milestones

Baptism

Gray Gambrill King Kegan 11/20/25

Passed on

Doris Hughes 11/23/25

Connie's Corner



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. -Helen Keller

What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'! - Audrey Hepburn

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.-Milton Berle

Accept the things to which fate binds you, and love the people with whom fate brings you together, but do so with all your heart.-Marcus Aurelius

Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.-Steve Jobs

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.-Ronald Reagan

As Winter draws nigh
Does it make you want to cry
Or do you view it as a blessing
Renewing, restoring faith like a new dressing
For you see, life is what you make it
And its not always easy for a wonderful fit
Sorrows, grief, sadness; they all come and go
But they are given to us so that we may grow
Into that beacon God wants us to be
One with Him, glorious and free
So walk with your faith, with God by your side
And for se it will make your life a wonderful ride.

"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 Advent Services**

The Bread of Life

As we as Christians strive to imitate Christ through our own lives, we would do well to put at the top of our list, this saying from Jesus “*for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.*” Matt 25:35-36

Holy Eucharist is the foundational practice of our worship and faith. Together, we gather from all walks of life to share in this sacred meal at our worship services. We commemorate and recreate this meal of Christ to renew and nourish us for the work of God in our daily lives. This meal is not one of inconsequential stuff but is the life blood of our faith. Just as our souls need this nourishment to grow in relationship with our God and each other, our physical bodies also need to be replenished with that which gives us strength and renewal.

Every day we hear stories of our brothers and sisters in our community, country, and around the world literally starving for life-giving sustenance. It was perhaps easier in the past to take a stance that it is someone else's problem to solve. Today no one escapes from the cries of hunger – it is here among our neighbors. It seems inconceivable that in a world rich with resources the cry from the poor and the hungry becomes louder each day. It is hard to believe there is anyone who believes the right to food should be limited to the haves. Yet providing for those in need is a constant and deepening struggle. Has it always been so? Sadly, I imagine it has. Hunger is one of the greatest evils to befall humankind, yet it is not beyond our capacity to vanquish. Barriers of war, racism, elitism, and the tendency of we, as humans, to hide behind an “out of sight-out of mind” framework are not sufficient explanations to say this is an insurmountable goal.

We can find the foundations for our attending to the physical needs of all God's children throughout Scripture. Turning to a book we do not reference enough, the Book OF Proverbs, we hear: these bits of wisdom: “*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.*” -Proverbs 19:17 and “*One person gives freely yet gains even more; another withholds unduly but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*” -Proverbs 11:24-25 and “*If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*” -Proverbs 25:21

Our Mission team has a keen focus on finding ways that we as a community can address food needs both here and abroad. Why? Because to serve God is to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

- Our **Lunch Bunch** team prepares delicious and nutritious meals from scratch for home bound parishioners in Oxford and Trappe. This like our other ministries is not simply a ministry of food to those in need but one of companionship and love. How can you help? Come early on a Tuesday morning and help our Souper Men and Women prepare soups and sandwiches or become part of our Wednesday morning Lunch Bunch Delivery team.
- We have formed relationships with the **local Food Pantries**. How can you help? When shopping pick up a few food items to place in the Pantry basket in the hall.
- We have formed relationships with **our local schools**. How can you help? Donate nourishing food to our Care Pack drives which are held three times a year.
- We offer **individual assistance** to those in need by providing grocery cards to families. We also provide other forms of local aid as well. How can you help? Your pledges, individual donations and participation in our Plant Sale and Christmas Market all go to assisting us to have the resources to address these needs.
- We donate funds to **local, national, and international hunger and medical organizations**. How do you help? We set a goal each year to donate a tithe of our pledge budget to fund mission needs. (This goes well beyond food assistance to include medical, shelter and educational assistance as well.) You are a generous people, and we have double tithed our pledge budget many years including 2025.

In Matthew we read “*Man does not live by bread alone.*” Matt 4:4 Yet, meeting the physical needs of God's children can open them up to being spiritually fed. If one is starving it is hard to focus on anything but what one needs to get through the next day or hour. Let us proclaim the good news of Christ in word and by our actions. As a famous quote attributed to St. Francis instructs “*Preach the Gospel always, use word if necessary.*” The intent of this saying is to emphasize that it is through our actions and words, proclaimed in harmony, that the Good News of Christ can be heard by all. Let us go forth and do so with gratitude.



Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study

Meets Mondays at 5:00

The Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study meets on Monday evenings from 5:00 PM to 6:00 in the River Room of the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. By the end of November or early December, we will have finished our study of Professor Elaine Pagels' recent book on early Christianity, *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus*. The next session will be held on December 8th(we are not meeting on 11/24 or 12/1)

Sometime in December, we will move on to a Great Courses 12-part lecture series titled *World Religions: Islam*. Our professor is Dr. John L. Esposito, who is a Distinguished University Professor at Georgetown University. As a companion reference book, we will be reading *World Religions: A Beginner's Guide* by Jill Carroll.

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@lemyne.edu or Dave Poe at davidrussellpoe@gmail.com



2025 Salvation Army Angel Tree

Once again you have proven yourself to be angels. The Salvation Army Angel Tree was no sooner set up in the River Room than all 20 children were adopted for Christmas gifts of clothing and toys. Hearing that the Salvation Army was overwhelmed with requests for more kids, we offered to sponsor an additional 15 children. All of them were also quickly adopted. The gifts will be delivered early on Friday, December 5, 2025 to the Salvation Army in Cambridge. Your kind hearts have enabled Christmas joy for many. God bless you!



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, December 9th, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Grief Support Group



"We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it. I've got nothing that I hadn't bargained for. Of course, it is different when the thing happens to oneself, not to others, and in reality, not imagination." – C.S. Lewis, from *A Grief Observed*

It is part of the human condition to experience loss and grief. We as a community have recently suffered many losses. In response to the needs of our community we will host a grief group. It will be a safe place to learn about the grief journey, to share and support each other, and to find the consolation of our loving Savior. This group will be co-facilitated by Clinical Counselor, Suzanne Fischer, LCPC, and Fr. Kevin Cross MSW, ACSW.

The group will continue to meet at the Parish Hall, Tuesdays at 9:30 am on December 2nd, December 9th, and December 16th. If this sounds like something you would find helpful, please call Fr. Kevin at 410-226-5134.

A Plea for Pledging – Continuing the Conversation

I've already spoken about how our pledges support the mission and outreach of Holy Trinity – how our giving helps others in need and shares God's love beyond our walls. But pledging does something else that is equally important. It sustains us.

When we pledge, we help ensure that Holy Trinity remains a place of worship, learning, and welcoming - where we can gather to pray, to sing, to grow in faith, and to care for one another. Our pledges keep the lights on and the doors open, yes, but they also keep the heart of this church beating.

Pledging is an act of belonging. It says, "I am part of this family of faith. I believe in what we are building together." It's also an act of gratitude – a thank-you for the blessings we have received through this community and through God's grace.

And finally, pledging is an act of hope – hope for the future of Holy Trinity, for those who will come after us, and for the continued strength of a church that has meant so much to so many.

Each gift, large or small, becomes part of something greater – the living expression of our faith in action. Together, we are the stewards of this sacred place and of the ministry God has entrusted to us.

"Together, we keep the heart of Holy Trinity beating."

Margot McConnel

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. This group will meet at 8:30 am every Tuesday, in person and via Zoom. Please consider joining for prayer bringing your intentions for yourself and others. These sessions are expected to run for 20 - 30 minutes.

Sunday School

Sunday School and the Christmas Pageant



We are excited that it is time to start preparing for the Christmas pageant. During Sunday School we will retell the story of Christmas while setting up the crèches and we will practice for the pageant. We also plan to make some Christmas decorations. Please note that we will meet more often - meeting on December 14 at 10:00 and Dec 7 and 21 at 9:30. The Christmas pageant will be held at 3:00 on Christmas Eve. If you know someone who would like to be a part of the pageant, please let Barbara know.

Annual Meeting Summary

The 2025 Annual Meeting of The Church of the Holy Trinity was held on Sunday, November 2, 2025 immediately following our 9:30 am service. It was gratifying to see such a robust turnout for the meeting, and I thank you all for your attendance.

At this meeting we held our Vestry and Convention Delegate Elections for 2026. Elected to the Vestry class of 2028 are Laura Cassidy, Al Sikes, and Walda Roseman. These individuals were also elected as delegates to the 2026 Diocesan Convention as well as alternate delegates: Dick Deerin, Ray Munsch and Michelle MacTavish.

We give thanks for the service of Vestry members Ginny Wagner, Lee Phillips and Margot McConnell whose terms will end on December 31. They have all contributed with generosity and good hearts to the benefit of this community. Please offer them your thanks.

The 2025 Financial report and 2026 projected budget were presented by Dick Deerin. This preliminary budget was approved by the meeting.

Our Junior Wardens Bill Ritchie and Michelle MacTavish reported on our 2025 Building and Grounds projects and planning for 2026. Columbarium Steward, Beverly Rohman presented the plans for the expansion of the Columbarium. These plans have been submitted for approval by the town.

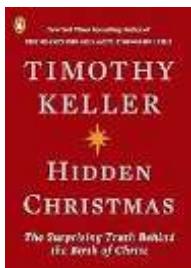
Attendees also heard reports from our leaders on our Mission, Sunday School, Worship, Women of Holy Trinity, Spiritual Development, and Music programs. All of these reports and more are included in our 2025 Annual Report.

If you did not receive a copy of our 2025 Annual Report last week, it can be viewed at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/777ce2b0301/79a35607-44a1-4b48-b889-2192a1408161.pdf?rdr=true>

You are a remarkable people. This community has much for which to give thanks. We thank you for choosing to bless this community. We also thank our great staff members Connie Greenhawk and Dr. Cora Bruner who make it all possible along with the contributions of so many of you.

Advent Study Group



Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ by Timothy Keller will be our guide for a 4 week journey to see anew and understand the true meaning of Christmas. Through engaging with passages from Isaiah, Matthew, and Luke new windows are opened into perceiving the wonders of God's gift of Christmas and receiving those gifts to transform our lives. We started on December 2 at 3 pm. The plan is to meet Tuesday 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23 weeks of Advent." Please join us to share our reflections on this *"illuminating journey into the surprising background of the nativity."* It is hoped that this time will help us all enter into the season with calm hearts and inspired minds and souls.

PLEASE respond with your interest via email to Fr. Kevin at rector@holytrinityoxfordmd.org by Friday, November 28.



Sunday School Pictures



Guest Musicians

December 7 9:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Choir

December 14 10 a.m. Piano Duets, Carol van Erven & Cora Bruner

December 21 9:30 a.m. The Holy Trinity Choir, Melissa Wise, Piano Ensemble

December 24 3:00 and 7:00 pm Cora Bruner, keyboard, Ashley Watkins, flute, Denise Nathanson, cello and 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 neces-

Holy Trinity Concerts 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.

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!



Concerts and Guest Musicians





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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