



Lifeline

VOLUME 19
ISSUE 1

January 2026

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



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



Folding
Bulletin



Making
Wreaths



Angel Tree
Gifts



Hanakkah



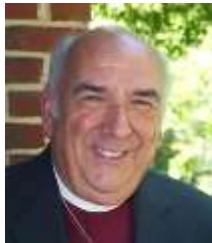
Sunday School Pageant



CHEERS and APPRECIATION

- Much gratitude and a rousing applause for the Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Flower Guild, Fellowship Hosts, Readers, Ushers and Greeters for making our Christmas services a time of beauty and inspiration.
- A joy-filled shout of appreciation for our **Sunday School children, teachers, and parents** for the marvelous Christmas Pageant. It was a fun, inspiring, and grace filled time. Special thanks to the actors, our children; Alden Anne, Catherine, Evan, Jopesh, Justine, Victoria and Winnie. Also, thanks to Jack and Molly who rehearsed for the pageant but were sick on Christmas Eve. We missed you!
- Thanks to the **Women of Holy Trinity** for hosting the biggest and best Christmas Market! There is much gratitude to be shared with everyone in the community who assisted in so many ways to make this a time of joy, fellowship, and good fundraising for local missions.
- Thank you to Steve Weisenberger and Bill Ritchie who put in numerous hours refinishing the office stairway in preparation for new carpeting.
- We love music at Holy Trinity. Great appreciation to Cora, our choir, and guest musicians for bringing the beauty of the season into our ears and hearts. The music was magnificent!
- Thank you to **Rev. Steve Mosher** for presiding at our service on December 28th.
- 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 a heavy workload, illness and finally some vacation time kept us on track! .
- 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.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin



Bishop's Visitation

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Assisting Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Bud Shand, will make his annual visitation to our parish on Sunday February 1, 2026. Bishop Shand will celebrate Holy Eucharist at our 9:30 am combined service. Reception will be held for Bishop Shand immediately following the service.

Connie's Corner



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

“We should care as much about well-doing as well-being. I want to live in a world that values purpose as much as pleasure, contribution as much as contentment, honesty as much as excitement, and justice as much as joy.”~ Adam Grant

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

“Don’t watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going.” – Sam Levenson

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” – C.S. Lewis

“Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” – Confucius

“True friends are those rare people who come to find you in dark places and lead you back to the light.” – Unknown

Can Spring be coming soon

**Giving us a flower show, a flower boon’Birds singing
their happy song from a tree
Emerging from their nests, so free
Do you smile as you watch Mother Earth
As you witness her giving birth
Tp a world full of beauty and love
That gift of love, the one sent from above.**
"Written by Connie Greenhawk

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

Milestones

Baptism

Gray Gambrill King Kegan 11/320/25

Passed on

Marty Read, 12/4/25

Mission: The Manifold Grace of God

¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. **1Peter 4:10**

Mission is a primary focus of our work as collaborators with God to build the beloved kingdom in our time. We seek to do so through sharing our resources to create a world of equity, justice, and love under the guidance of our Savior Jesus Christ. You have been faithful and generous disciples of these ministries. Through donations to support life-changing charitable ministries, hands on volunteerism, and education this community of Holy Trinity has had a very positive impact on the needs of the world.

We do so by integrating a missional focus into all areas of our ministries. The Mission team, Women of Holy Trinity, Sunday School, and Rector's Discretionary Fund are all administered to perform acts of charity and raise funds to enable other organizations to serve our brothers and sisters in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Even our music programs integrate this focus on serving others. We don't charge admission to our events so that regardless of financial ability everyone is welcome to experience the joys of music. The Vestry ends each meeting with an assessment of "How have we fed our sheep" through our activities. Mission is who we are.

It is important to be guided by well-thought-out principles and goals. Our mission team works to develop close relationships with aid providers that meet a strict set of standards. Local presence and expertise, a record of operational excellence, working through local resources, and a heart for mission are all part of the assessment review for each organization with whom we form a partnership. Whether in our backyard or across the world we seek to have detailed and intimate knowledge of our partners.

We take our commitment to mission work seriously. Each year we commit to devoting at least a tithe (10%) of our pledge budget to mission. Remarkably we rarely have just tithed that budget amount. In fact, more often than not, we have double tithed (20%) or more our donations to the cause of mission. Additional funding is raised through individual donations, fund raisers including the Sunday School Change for Change program, the WOHT's annual Christmas Market and Plant sale, and other such events. In-kind donations to the weekly Food Pantry, Care Pack Programs, Salvation Army Angel Tree are also vital parts of our mission. Hands-on volunteerism through the Lunch Bunch program, Annual Empty Bowls event, and Food Pantries offer opportunities for direct involvement with the local community. A notable new initiative this year has been to work closely with the local school programs to improve nutrition of our school children and families through education and provision of nutritious food donations. This is an example of the type of partnership activity we hope to achieve with each of our mission partners.

Only a community dedicated to Jesus ministry could have achieved so much each year. You are an integral part of this blessed community. Thank you for your generous spirit and love of God and your fellow sojourners on this path of life.

Note: in 2025 over \$104,000 in funds and \$30,000 in-kind donations were distributed locally, nationally, and internationally.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin





Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study Meets

Monday, January 12,
for its First Session of 2026

The Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study will have its first meeting of 2026 on Monday, January 12th at 5:00 in the Parish Hall of Holy Trinity. We'll view and then discuss the first lecture in the Great Courses 12-lecture class titled, *Great World Religions: Islam*, taught by Georgetown University Professor Emeritus, Dr. John L. Esposito. In preparation for our January 12 meeting, we will be reading Chapter 6 *Islam* in Jill Carroll's book, [World Religions: A Beginner's Guide](#).

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@lemoyn.edu or Dave Poe at da-vidrussellpoe@gmail.com

WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

Our first book for this new year will be *Theo of Golden* - a novel by Allen Levi



A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.

Come join us for fabulous discussions, discoveries and fellowship.

Meetings in the Parish Hall and via Zoom the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

The next meetings are
January 21st and February 4th 9:00 am

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

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.

Grief Support Group



“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” — Matthew 5:4

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 are hosting a grief support group. This is 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 is co-facilitated by Clinical Counselor, Suzanne Fischer, LCPC, and Fr. Kevin Cross MSW.

The group meets at the Parish Hall, Tuesdays at 9:30 am. If this sounds like something you would find helpful, please call Fr. Kevin at 410-226-5134.



Dinner Church



Wednesday, January 21st at 5:30 pm

We are resuming our series of bimonthly potluck dinners this month. These dinners have all the epicurean and fellowship delights of a typical potluck dinner combined with a church service. Our first Dinner Church of 2026 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st at 5:30 pm. The dinner will include an evening prayer service. This evening, our worship service will be the Compline Service from The Book of Common Prayer. The potluck theme is A Cozy Winter gathering. Let your imaginations run wild and let's share each other's gastronomic vision of Coziness. A sign-up list is posted in the Parish hall or you may call the office to rsvp.

Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunity

We have teamed up with Scotts Methodist Church in Trappe to help with their once a month distribution of food to those in need. Last month Karl Segal and I spent a wonderful morning with a group of volunteers sorting and handing out nutritious food. It was a humbling and inspiring morning. The January distribution is Thursday, January 29th. The group gathers at 8 am at Scotts parking lot. Please consider joining this hands on opportunity to help your neighbors and make new friends.

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, January 13th, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

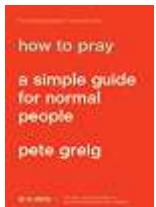


Starting soon we will offer The Prayer Course an 8-week prayer program teaching prayer through the example of Lord's Prayer. This is one of the best programs I have come across for prayer. Video, written resources, discussion, and practicing the act of prayer are employed to make prayer an accessible 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. The course will run for 8 weeks, in person and via Zoom. Please contact the office or Fr. Kevin if you are interested.

The sessions: **Why Pray? Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Unanswered Prayer, Contemplation, Listening, Spiritual Warfare**

This course is based on the book, How to Prayer: a simple guide for normal people by Pete Grieg. Reading the book is optional for this course. Please call the office for further details. 410-226-5134.





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 desired items. We will collect these items through Sunday January 25th. You may drop off your donations at our services or at the Parish Hall any weekday. A cart will be placed outside the parish hall doors to receive the items. If you have any questions, please call the office, 410-226-5134.

Most needed items:

Oatmeal Packets	Granola Bars	Single Serve Packages of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail Mix • Energy Bars • Peanut Crackers • Mac and Cheese
Easy open cans or pouches of tuna, chicken, ham or salmon	Cheese and cracker packets	
Applesauce Cups	Hummus and cracker packets	
Easy open cans of pasta and soups	Peanut butter and crackers	
Nuts, almonds, walnuts, cashews, peanuts	Peanut butter crakers	

Epiphany Chalk and Home Blessing 2026

Tuesday January 6th was the feast of the Epiphany. On Sunday January 11th our 10 am service will be followed by our annual Epiphany Blessing of our church home. This blessing is a practice of Christians around the world during the season of Epiphany. With chalk, inscription is marked on the lintel above the front door. The series of the numbers, letters and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For the year 2026, the line will read as follows:

20+C+M+B+26

Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the year numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat." "May Christ bless this house."

The crosses represent Christ, who we invoke, and the saintliness of the magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and the end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal word in this holy season.

Sunday School

he Sunday school children are amazing! If you saw the wondrous Christmas pageant the children acted out, you probably had no idea that the first time everybody came together was at 2 o'clock on Christmas Eve! Due to people schedules, that was the first time we were able to practice altogether for the pageant at 3 o'clock! They did an outstanding job! Many thanks to the children's parents and grandparents for making this possible.

In January, we will continue with the theme of Jesus as a boy. As usual, we will meet at 10 o'clock on the second and fourth Sundays, January 11th and 25th. I would love to have someone who has been to the Holy land come and speak with the children. If you have been there and are willing to do so please contact Barbara.

Still Waters Trio Presents



Miniatures

Sunday, January 11, 2026 3 p.m.
The Church of the Holy Trinity, 502 S. Morris St. Oxford MD

A delightful chamber music concert featuring short, charming pieces performed by local professional musicians Veronika Tomanek (piano), Ashley Watkins (flute), Denise Nathanson (cello)

For further information or in case of inclement weather, please call 410-226-5134

No Tickets Required. Donations will be accepted to defray artist expenses.

The 2025 Holy Trinity Christmas Market – A Success by Any Measure!

As we all know, success can be measured in many ways, and especially when an event such as the Holy Trinity Christmas Market serves as the major fundraiser of the Women of Holy Trinity – for the benefit of local charities – the financial results are an important indicator of success. By that measure, this year's event was a BIG success.

- This year's Christmas Market had **gross sales of over \$25,000.00**, including vendor sales of over \$8,000.00, of which approximately 50% was donated to the Women of Holy Trinity to fund local charities.
- **With virtually no underwriting of major expenses, the event netted approximately \$15,500**, including the donations received in response to the church mailing.
- Over 340 sales tickets were processed, compared to 217 last year.
- The new "Christmas Cafe" was nearly fully funded by **The Ivy**, who donated all but \$200 worth of sandwiches and soups, and nearly everything was sold out, netting more than \$1,000.00.
- **Nearly ALL** of the wreaths, baked goods, and frozen soups and entrees sold out. The few remaining wreaths were given to the Baskets for Charity recipients for their respective facilities.
- Funded by this year's financial success, **4 charities each received \$1,000.**, plus an abundant basket of "wish list" items for their organizations. These charities spoke with gratitude at Fellowship Hour on Sunday following our event. In the months ahead, other charities will be the beneficiaries of our success.

But beyond the financial results are the equally impressive results of our collective efforts as a church:

- Record numbers of volunteers and vendors participated in this year's event, making it a true reflection of faith through action.
- Feedback from visitors, participants, and vendors has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Fellowship among attendees and volunteers was evident and exciting to witness!

On behalf of the Women of Holy Trinity, we THANK YOU for your support and participation! Please enjoy photos of our special day, and stay tuned for more news about the charities benefitting from our collective efforts!

Service Musicians

January 11 Amy Morgan, Substitute Pianist
January 18 8 a.m. service Denise Nathanson, Cellist
 10 a.m. service Holy Trinity Choir, Denise Na-
thanson, Cellist
January 25 8 & 10 a.m. services Melissa Wise, Soprano

THE ORGAN IS ON ITS WAY!!!!

Walker Technical Organ is expecting to install our new organ the end of January. Voicing (blending of the organ sounds and balancing to the Sanctuary acoustics) is expected to occur the first week of February. In the meantime, final building accommodation will occur throughout the month of January to be ready for the organ installation

Coming Up : Trinity Forum at Holy Trinity

Al Sikes and I have talked about Trinity Forum Readings (essays) which draw on interesting and provocative subjects and people providing an opportunity for a rich exchange of thought. The Trinity Forum works for the renewal of society by cultivating, curating and disseminating the best in Christian thinking for the common good, and by helping leaders to think, work, and live wisely and well. This forum will begin during the first quarter of 2026. Additional detail will be forthcoming soon.

The 2025 Holy Trinity Christmas Market - Success Captured in Photos!





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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 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