



# Lifeline

VOLUME 19  
ISSUE 9

September 2026

*The Church of the Holy Trinity*  
An Episcopal Church  
[office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)



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



Our Sr.  
Warden  
In Control

Our Souper Men & Women



Ukraine  
Gratitude



Father "Joe Cool" Kevin



## CHEERS and APPRECIATION



### SAVE THE DATE!

Thank You Oxford Party  
Monday, September 14th  
at 5 pm

On Monday, September 14th at 5 pm, Holy Trinity will hold our tenth 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 have been sent out. A sign-up list for parishioners will be available after Sunday's service. 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!

Please email Sandy Wrightson, [sbwrightson@gmail.com](mailto:sbwrightson@gmail.com) to sign up. We need your help with hosting, setup, food contributions, and clean up.

Blessings. Fr. Kevin

## Connie's Corner



"The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts." – **Marcus Aurelius**

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth." – **William W. Purkey**

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." – **Aristotle**

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." – **Michael Altshuler**

"Enjoy the gift of another new day. May it be a special one for you." – **Doris Hughes**

Addiction comes in more than one form  
And nothing about it is the norm  
Alcoholism and drugs seem to be number one  
As those addicted believe it is fun  
There is gambling, obsession of things  
But there are more dark sides that clings  
To your soul, depression it gives  
This addiction is deep and it lives  
So important for us to reach out with a helping hand  
If you suspect that addiction did on a friend land  
We all have moments of dread and fear  
But always know that God is very, very near.

Written by Connie Greenhawk

If you would like to submit a favorite saying or thought,  
email to [Connie at office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org](mailto:Connie@office@holytrinityoxfordmd.org)



Quartet on 9/6 Service

### Milestones

#### Passed On

Colin Macindoe, 9/1

See Back of  
Calendar for  
2026 Vestry  
Nominees



**Dinner Church**  
**Wednesday, September**  
**23rd at 5:30 pm**

We are continuing our series of potluck dinners this month. These dinners have all the epicurean and fellowship delights of a typical potluck dinner combined with a church service. This Dinner Church is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd 5:30 pm. The dinner will include an evening prayer service. The potluck theme is **Let's Not Let Go of Summer – Yet!** Let your imaginations run wild and let's share each other's gastro-nomic vision that evokes pleasant memories of summer to carry us into the fall.

A sign-up list is posted in the Parish Hall or you may call the office at 410-226-5134 to RSVP.

## Alcoholism, Addiction and The Spiritual Life

The incidence of alcoholism and addiction has seen a dramatic increase since the pandemic. A few years ago, I authored the following article in support of September's National Recovery month. Many counties of the eastern shore observe this month through Project Purple, a program which we have strongly supported from the outset. This annual observance presents a good opportunity for us to think about how this disease is impacting our society, families, and even ourselves. You will be hearing a lot about addiction and recovery in the next few weeks as the annual Project Purple campaign is rolled out in our communities. Project Purple, which started in Talbot County, has been so successful that it has spread to counties throughout the eastern shore.

There are innumerable stresses in our lives. Sometime times people respond by using drugs and alcohol. Faith is an effective antidote to addiction. Without the strength of faith addiction can be difficult to overcome. Thus, we would be wise to take this opportunity to re-examine the impact of addiction & alcoholism on our spiritual life.

At our most basic selves, we are all seekers. We all have a spiritual life. Unfortunately, we often look and listen in the wrong places to nurture and give meaning to our lives. Just as Elijah looked for God in the big events occurring around him: strong wind; earthquake; fire; we too look to find meaning in the big forces in our society: consumerism, thrills, and in activities that can lead to addictions. We, like Elijah, often look in the wrong places for the transcendence that our souls seek. It is in the silence that Elijah finally found God. It was in the still, small voice. We too need to seek out where we may find the voice that will bring real meaning in life. We need to create the space for God to find us. Christ is always seeking us out.

There are many ways to understand the disease of addiction. It has become increasingly more complex and critical for us all to understand this disease. Nowadays, there are few in our communities who have been left untouched by the disease of addiction.

There is no doubt that addiction is a complex disease. It has genetic; biochemical; psychological; social and SPIRITUAL components. I would like to briefly address the spiritual aspects of this disease. The American Society of Addiction Medicine defines addiction as *"a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences."* It can be understood as *"A pathological relationship of love and trust with an object or an event."* (c. Nakken) This relationship is a perverse relationship. The mutuality and choice found in a healthy relationship changes to self-absorption and compulsion. The relationship with an object (alcohol, drugs gambling...) replaces people. Once begun, a spiral of downward movement disengaging from life is set in motion.

If addiction does not start out of a spiritual deficiency/disease it quickly becomes one. Addiction is a deadly disease that attacks the very core/essence of who we are. In other words, it attacks our spirit. This disease has a major impact on spiritual life through attacking the relationships among self, others, and God. Consequently, restoring a healthy spiritual life is critical to the recovery from the disease. Bill W. understood this when he was constructing the 12-step program *"after a while we had to face the fact that we must find a spiritual life – or else."* (The Big Book pg. 44) The 12-steps are a spiritual journey.

Addiction is a pervasive disease that is difficult to treat. Even when the alcoholic/addict is in recovery the disease continues to progress. Therefore, it is essential to ensure one's spiritual life is deepening and growing at a faster rate than the underlying addiction. A.A. has a joke about this point:

*"While you are in recovery, your addiction is doing push-ups, so it can whip you the next chance it gets."*

One of the paths to recovery is the 12-Step program that started with Alcoholics Anonymous. 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 the 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. In addition to A.A. there are many medical based treatment options that can help the alcoholic/addict regain control of their life.

In my experience, I have found those impacted by this illness are as wonderful, talented, and compassionate as any. Those impacted by this disease are not strangers, they are our families, friends, and neighbors. And, when in recovery, one sees a level of acceptance and honesty being brought into their relationships that is to be admired. Working with our brothers and sisters who suffer from addiction is not just a job for doctors and counselors. These resources are certainly particularly important, but it is also where we, the community and importantly the Church, can offer a lifeline. We know God has not abandoned them and we cannot either. God is there with them in their suffering and in their victories of recovery – we should be there as well.

As you travel the eastern shore this month and see the purple lights, take a moment to pray for recovery for those



## GROUP ACTIVITIES



### Sunday School

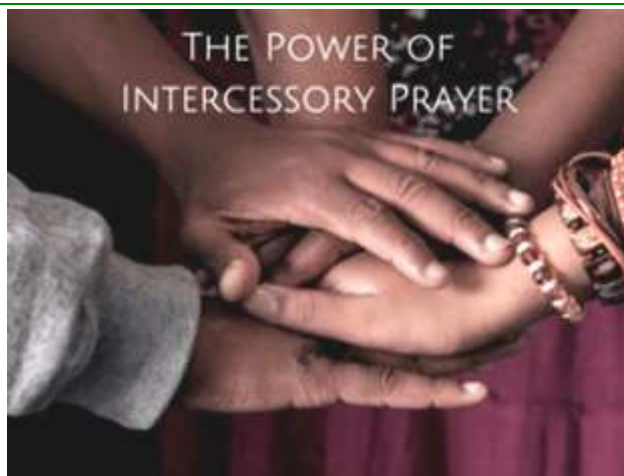
Sunday School starting date to be announced.

Due to the involvement of most of our Sunday School children in sailing and other sports we are going to delay the start of Sunday School. If you have any questions, or know of any children who might be interested in Sunday School, please see Barbara Cross.

Your Teachers, Barbara Cross, Veronica Wainwright, Linda Wilson

### Backpack Blessing September 13 at 10 am Service

All backpacks will be blessed during the September 13<sup>th</sup> service. All ages are welcome to bring their backpacks for this special blessing. As a reminder that God is always with us, and incorporating our theme of angels, the following blessing will go into each backpack:



### Intercessory Prayer Group – Tuesdays at 8:30 am

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 meets in person and via Zoom at 8:30 am

every Tuesday. Please consider joining for prayer bringing your intentions for yourself and others. These sessions run for 20 – 30 minutes.



### WOMAN ON A JOURNEY

With summer in full swing, I wanted to send out an early notice of some *changes to our September schedule*. Come join us for our Welcome Back gathering – a time to share stories and discuss our summer reading ....

**Life: A Love Story**, by Elizabeth Berg

This newly published book, March 2026, is a warm, intimate novel about the people and things that make up a life.

In September, our meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month

**September 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am – 10:30 am**

We will meet in the Parish Hall and via Zoom

For more information contact Beverly Rohman at 410-829-9561 or [beverlyrohman@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyrohman@gmail.com)

### Inquiring Believers Men's Bible Study to Begin Meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>

On Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the *Inquiring Believers* Men's Bible Study group will begin its 2026-27 weekly sessions. We meet each Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. We will begin our studies by viewing and discussing the MTV film, *Teilhard: Visionary Scientist*. The film explores the work of 20<sup>th</sup> century French paleontologist and Jesuit priest, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ and his struggle with church authorities to publish his writing on the relationship between evolutionary theory and research, and Christian faith. We will dedicate our first four sessions to the Teilhard film.

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](mailto:kellyrf@lemoyne.edu) or Dave Poe at [da-vidrussellpoe@gmail.com](mailto:da-vidrussellpoe@gmail.com).



## GROUP ACTIVITIES.



Our prayer shawl ministry is an extension of our pastoral care to members of our community who are ill and/or home bound. Members of this ministry knit our Prayer Shawls and while doing so he or she is in prayer for the person who is to receive it. *"As I make this prayer shawl I prayed for the one who will receive it. I prayed for that one to receive from God the help needed. I prayed that they would be reminded that they are not alone. I prayed that they would find in this shawl a place of comfort and strength."* At our monthly healing Eucharist service, the shawls are blessed and then gifted to those in need by Fr. Kevin and our pastoral ministry team. **We need volunteers to knit these shawls as an important part of our pastoral care ministry.** If you like to *"kinit one, purl two..."* this is the ministry for you! If you are interested in joining this vital ministry, please call the parish office or Suzanne Fischer.

Would you like  
to help at the  
food pantry?



### Scotts Food Pantry on the Go

*"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."* Romans 12: 11- 13.

Our partnership with Scotts Methodist Church "Food Pantry on the Go" has led to opportunities for us to work with this critical partner of the local food pantry network. Several of us show up once a month to help distribute fresh protein, vegetables, and fruit at Scotts Methodist Church in Trappe. This ministry typically serves over 100 local families per month.

The next distribution day is Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. We gather at 7:30 am and usually finish by 10. You are invited to join us in volunteering to help this wonderful mission. If you are available and interested, please email or call the church office 410-226-5134.



### 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 13<sup>h</sup>, 2026 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.



### The Trinity Forum at Holy Trinity Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm.

This forum offers interesting beginnings for discussions about faith, the role it plays in our lives and in leadership. The Trinity Forum (TTF), guided in its formative years by Os Guinness, has published a number of essays that challenge the mind and awaken the senses in our lives of citizenship and leadership. In the coming months, Al Sikes, who chaired the Forum's Board for a number of years, and I will lead these discussions around selected essays.

Our next forum will be held on Wednesday, **September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm.** We will consider an essay exploring Abraham Lincoln's leadership and faith. **Abraham Lincoln; Words that Challenge, Words That Heal** is a new essay written in observance of the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation. *"If the story of Lincoln's political leadership has long been recognized, his faith story, and the ways he conveyed it in his speech and writing, have been either overlooked or misunderstood."* Our first forum on an essay by Victor Havel was a well-attended and lively event. The forum will be conducted in-person and via Zoom. Copies of the Lincoln essay will be available from the church office in early September. Please sign up by calling the church office or via the sign-up list in the parish hall. If you have any questions, you may **talk to Al Sikes or Fr. Kevin.**



### Youth Group

Calling all youth! We are forming a group for our youth who are 12 years of age or older. This group will meet once a month to share good times, work on projects and discuss faith issues of concern to youth. Christian service projects and occasionally getting together with other youth from around the diocese will be part of this experience. We will structure many of our activities around learning about God and faith through nature and service. It promises to be a time of fellowship, fun and faith formation. Please see or call Fr. Kevin to express your interest and/or to address any questions.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Pledges By Investment Funds

Recently we have had some issues with the receipt of pledged made from investment accounts. We have found a common factor with these donations is that checks are being sent by the investment firms to the street address of the church. It is important to know that the church is in the area of Oxford that does not receive mail delivery. All of our USPS mail is required to be delivered to our post office box. Any mail addressed to the street address is bounced back to the sender. As we have investigated several of these issues, we have discovered that many of brokerage houses have not informed your representative that a check has been returned. Thus, both you and the representative and us remain unaware of the receipt failure. This has caused confusion and led to inaccurate account statements.

What can be done? You can help by making sure your broker or fund administrator are aware they need to send any such mail to our Post Office Box. Our address:

The Church of the Holy Trinity

POB 387

Oxford, MD 21654

Thank you for your understanding and generous support. Dick Deerin, Treasurer

### Pastoral Care Volunteers

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:11-12*

Do you feel called to reach out to community members who would appreciate an occasional visit? We are seeking compassionate individuals to carry out pastoral care visits to our homebound, elderly, and sick community members. Volunteers are sought to provide companionship and spiritual support to supplement pastoral visits by Fr. Kevin. Training and background checks will be provided to ensure safe and meaningful connections.

Visits will be conducted as Jesus sent the twelve *"<sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two," Mark 6:7*

### Vestry Nominations

Each Year our Vestry is renewed with the election of three new Vestry members. Each Vestry term runs for three years. As three member's terms expire, another three come onto the Vestry to replace the departing members. A committee composed of the Sr. Warden, the three departing Vestry members, and an at large member are charged by the Vestry with identifying and recruiting parishioners to nominate for the next term of the Vestry which will begin on January 1, 2027.

This year the terms of Martha Callahan, Susan Grauel, and Tom DeMarco are ending. We thank these three extraordinary parishioners for their service to Holy Trinity.

Nominated for the term beginning on January 1, 2027 are: Will Johnson, Ray Munsch, and Tot O'Mara. Their biographies are posted on the reverse of the September calendar.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st after the 9:30 am service. At this meeting an election will be held for the three open Vestry positions. These three nominees have been endorsed by your Vestry.



## 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, September 27th.** 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:

- Easy open cans or pouches of tuna, chicken, ham, salmon
- Easy open cans of pasta and soups
- Microwave Meals (i.e. Hormel Chicken Linguine, Dinty Moore Pasta)
- Cheese and cracker packets
- Hummus and cracker packets
- Peanut Butter and crackers
- Trail mix
- Nuts, Almonds, Walnuts, Cashews. Peanuts
- Mac and cheese
- Oatmeal packets
- Applesauce cups
- Peanut butter crackers
- Granola bars
- Energy bars



The Holy Trinity Choir is full of exciting, friendly people who love to sing together. We are looking to welcome new members. Travel frequently? No Problem! Work on Fridays? No Problem! We sing twice a month. You are welcome to come on the Sundays we sing early to rehearse.

Rehearsals begin Friday, September 11th 10 a.m. Church Sanctuary

### Service Musicians

September 6th Flute Quartet (Ashley Watkins, Lily Wang, Nevin Dawson, Denise Nathanson)

September 20th 8 a.m. Melissa Wise, Soprano

10 a.m. The Holy Trinity Choir & Melissa Wise

October 2nd The Holy Trinity Choir & Melissa Wise

Upcoming Concert: October 4th 3 p.m. The Chivalrous Crickets

Celtic music and folklore (Scotland and England) for the whole family! Period instruments, versatile musicians, great music!



### Mystery Concert Clue #1

*Joe got ate up by a geardo before the dustoff.*

### Mystery Concert Clue #2

#### The Problem

Solve for  $x$ :

$$\sqrt{3x+10} - \sqrt{x-1} = 3$$

### Mystery Concert Clue #3

The Problem:

A cryptography expert leaves behind a 7-character array to reveal their current status. Each element in the sequence must be solved using standard scientific, mathematical, or chemical notations.

Solve for variables ( $C_1$ ) through ( $C_7$ ) to decrypt the status:

- $C_1$  = The standard algebraic variable used to denote the radius of a circle.
- $C_2$  = The unique mathematical constant that serves as the base of the natural logarithm.
- $C_3$  = The official SI derived unit symbol used to measure magnetic flux density (Tesla).
- $C_4$  = The capital letter equivalent of the imaginary unit symbol representing  $\sqrt{-1}$ .
- $C_5$  = The ideal gas constant variable used in the thermodynamic equation  $W(PV = nRT)$ .
- $C_6$  = The capital letter symbol used in probability theory to denote Expected Value.
- $C_7$  = The single-letter Roman numeral notation for the atomic number of Tin (500).





www.holytrinityoxfordmd.org  
 Web:  
 office@hollytrinityoxfordmd.org  
 Email:  
 410.226.5134  
 Oxford, MD 21654-0387  
 PO Box 387

## *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**