



The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221

(410) 687-5531

www.holytrinityessex.org

November 2023



FROM THE RECTOR

Greetings from the Kingdom of God (already in progress somewhere very, very close to you)!

And so we find ourselves standing once again at the edge of the traditional holiday season. There is the National Day of Reflection and Thanksgiving fast approaching on November 23 and then for Christians, the Feast of the Nativity, about which much more will be shared next month.

Giving thanks seems like such a natural thing to do for human beings, but it is not always an easy thing to do, or in some instances, to accept. As we all have experienced, life can be an absolute grind at times, filled with pain, heartache, and frustration. Our first response is not to give thanks. Nor is the second or third and so on. And I am of the opinion that we allow ourselves to be conditioned in that way. Not that we can never adopt an attitude of thanks, but that as humans we are prone to forget.

We forget the things that feed and sustain us. We forget the people without whom we could not have completed this task, or who offered us friendship, a shoulder to cry on, a word of hope, or without whom life would make no sense. And it is not that we take them for granted, but that those things we do to insulate ourselves from the coldness of the world and the pressures of living in it distorts our vision and convinces us that we are in this struggle alone.

But we are not. And I am thankful for this community. We are a gathering of the broken, the abused, the disappointed, the heartsick, the neglected, and the proud. We number among those who have too easily forgotten those things that feed and sustain us. But, as I said Sunday, a miracle occurs within us when we come together. It is in our gathering, whether on a Sunday morning, or by a bonfire, or in any other venue where we work collaboratively to extend the boundaries of the kingdom, that we do remember. You can feel it in the air, you can see it in our eyes and in our smiles, in the embrace of peace.

And too often it goes unspoken, but we all feel it. And we all give thanks for that miracle of love that lifts us, even if just for those few precious moments, into a place where life makes sense and our purpose and place is clear.

So – a Thanksgiving exercise for us. Take time this month to tell another member of

our community or your own, just how much you appreciate them, how much their love and friendship means to you, how much their presence makes a difference in your life and gives you hope. And don't stop at one. Let's see if we can make this a natural thing to do.

Be mindful also of those for whom these days do not hold too much joy and light. Remember in your prayers those who have suffered setback or loss, and embrace them in any way that you can. Be a blessing and you will be blessed.

And, have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Peace,
Ken+

Church News

Grief Support Group

Our Grief Support Group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Deacon Linda with any questions.

Healing Service

There is a Healing Service every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Contact Ken+ with any questions.

Craft Group

Our Monthly Craft Group meets on the second and last Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring a craft to work on, and enjoy some conversation! Contact Barbara with any questions.

Monthly Fellowship Lunch

Our Monthly Fellowship Lunch is held on the last Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall. Please bring your own lunch.

Bible Study

Starting on Thursday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, we will embark on a virtual journey into the first 300 years of the Christian movement/tradition and seek to understand the divinity of Christ from a whole new perspective.

Under the leadership of Dr. Bart Ehrman - an American New Testament scholar focusing on textual criticism of the New Testament, the historical Jesus, and the origins and development of early Christianity, and the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - we will explore the early history of the Church and also trace the development of doctrines and beliefs that elevated this itinerant prophet from backwater Galilee into the fully human-fully divine center of the Christian faith.

Each week we will watch a 30-minute lecture and then join with each other in a round of reflections, questions and conversation.

The link for the sessions will be provided by email so be watching this week for that mailing. There is also a study guide, and I will email the pdf to all participants. It will prove to be a useful tool.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.

Thanksgiving Service

There will be a **Thanksgiving Eve Service** on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.



Pledge Cards for 2024

The **Pledge Cards for 2024** have been handed out in person and/or mailed out. If you did not receive one, please let Chris or Leah know; we have extra copies in the office. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge for the upcoming year to help support Holy Trinity, and **return your pledge card to Jean B. (or place it in the offertory plate) by November 26, 2023.**

Outreach Ministries

from Lynn F., Chairperson



Seafarer Ministry

We are collecting items through November 5 to fill the Christmas packages that we will be preparing for the Seafarers again this year. We will be filling 20 packages to be delivered in November. As you are able by

November 5, please bring in any of the items listed below. **They should be brand new and in original packaging.** We will be filling gallon-sized Ziploc bags again instead of boxes, so smaller sized items are needed. There is a box in the Parish Hall where you can place your donations. The items we need are as follows:

*warm “watch caps” in bright or dark colors (cold weather hats that fit close to the head) – **need 9 more**

*warm scarves about 6” x 45” - no tassels or fringe – **need 19 more**

*hand warmers – **need 14 more sets**

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila.



Operation Backpack:

The backpack ministry to Sandalwood Elementary School has started again for this new school year. You are always welcome to contribute by bringing needed food items such as: single serve oatmeal packets, applesauce cups, fruit cups, raisins, packs of peanuts, crackers, ramen noodles, instant chicken noodle soup, juice boxes, or white or chocolate milk or Yoohoo. We also accept small cans of tuna and boxes of macaroni and cheese. You can place any donated food items in the bin marked “Operation Backpack” in the Parish Hall. You can also make a monetary donation at any time. In addition to food items, there is a need for new socks and new underwear for elementary age children. These items can also be placed in the same bin.

The bags are packed between the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services. All are welcome to join

in the effort. Also, each week there is a rotation of folks who deliver the bags to Sandalwood Elementary School. We can always use additional volunteers to deliver the backpacks! If you have any questions, please contact Chris or Lynn F.

Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO):

EIO is open to serve those in need. They are operating on an appointment basis, so please call in advance. The address is listed later in this newsletter under “Food Pantry”.

We are still collecting shelf stable food items such as canned soup, pork and beans, tuna, and chicken for EIO. If you are able to buy a few items on your next grocery shopping trip or if you have any extra items in your pantry at home, please bring them in. *Please make sure the expiration date is at least several months out.* There is a bin in the Parish Hall labeled “EIO Donations” where you can place the donated canned food items to help those in need in our community. (More detailed information regarding EIO is also provided below under the Food Pantry section.)



Ronald McDonald House Baltimore:

Please continue to collect the pull tabs from any aluminum can products. I collect the tabs, and once or twice per year I take them to RMH. The tabs are then recycled with the profit used to fuel the shuttle bus to take family members of the children to the local hospitals. The collection box is located on the lower shelf of the main table in the Narthex.

If anyone has any questions or would like to be a part of the planning for any or all the Outreach ministries we do, please let me know. All are welcome. I pray many blessing for our ministry at Holy Trinity and for each of us as we provide to those in need.

In His Holy name.
Lynn F.



Local Food Pantries

Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO)

Contact: 410-406-2288 OR 211

Physical Address:

Maranatha Chapel
3 Bowleys Quarters Road
Middle River, MD 21220
410-406-2288

By Appointment Only! Call first!

Donations: Bring in shelf-stable items and place them in the bin in the Parish Hall marked “EIO” or make your check payable to “Eastern Interfaith Outreach” and mail it to:

Eastern Interfaith Outreach
P.O. Box 18122
Middle River, MD 21220

Special Monthly Food Distribution:

These food distributions are until the food supplies run out on that day. Please call for distribution site information: 443-838-2126.

St. Clare Catholic Church Food Pantry

Location: 714 Myrth Avenue in Essex

Hours: Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 12 noon



Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland offers nutritious, fresh, prepared meals delivered to your home. Eat better with Meals on Wheels!

For those unable to cook or grocery shop for themselves – due to age, disability or illness - look to Meals on Wheels for dependable, friendly service.

To learn more, call 410-558-0923 or apply online at:

mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application

Meals on Wheels also needs volunteers to help deliver these meals. If you have any time to donate to this worthy cause, please call the telephone number listed above.



November Birthdays

Jackie R. – 11/14

Wally – 11/16

Taylor – 11/22

Edgar – 11/23

Connor – 11/25

Joe – 11/26



November Anniversaries

Sam and Leah – 11/19

ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH



O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alice
Elliott (Alice's great grandson)
Ellen W.
Grace
Millie
Joan
Bill and Diane (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
Bunky and Pam (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
Chris and Patty (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
Margaret
Gladys
John
Jeannie
Powell family
Bob
David (son of Bob and Betty)
Jesse (Tim's son)
Somo and family
Crosby family (Lynne C.)
Russell (Lynne C.)
Wally
Arlene
Lorraine
Ryan (Helen's grandson)

Elizabeth (Millie's sister)
Donna (Millie's niece)
Mary L.
Sylvia
Anne
Jerome
Mary Anne
Barbara W. (Mary Anne's sister)
Nancy
Kathy (Leah's cousin)
Mike (Leah's cousin)
Eleanor (Leah's aunt)
Butch and Wanda (friends of Mary Anne)
Dan and Janice
Eric
Wyatt
Rigoberto
Vy (Sheila's sister)
Bill
Rhett (Sam's great nephew)
Lou (Rick's mother)
Denise
Benjamin
Larry C.
Larry B.
Greg
Lydia
Heather (John and Jeannie)
Colomba (Michelle S's sister)
Liz
Bridget

PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

Pray for our Healthcare Workers

Please pray for members of our congregation who work in health care settings: Don Alves, Jody Leonard, and Joey Reichert.

Vestry Officers and Members

Officers (elected by the vestry for one-year terms; can be re-elected; do not have to be an elected vestry member to be elected as an officer):

Senior Warden – Chris
Junior Warden – John
Treasurer – Ellen R.
Financial Secretary – Jean B.
Registrar – Valerie

Elected vestry members and date their terms end (initially elected by the congregation; if a position becomes vacant, the vestry elects a replacement to fill the rest of the term):

Barbara	2024
Loretta	2024
Sylvia	2024
Sam	2025
Tyler	2025
Lynn F.	2025
Lynne C.	2026
Nancy	2026
Sheila	2026

The parish clergy are also ex officio members of the vestry and the rector is the presiding officer.

Who do I contact?

The office is generally staffed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

If you have a non-urgent question, call the church telephone number (410-687-5531) and leave a message on the answering machine OR send Leah an email at HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com.

For urgent pastoral needs call:

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Priest-in-Charge
410-790-1631

If Ken is not available, call:

The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Deacon
410-967-7404
OR
Christine Kinard, Sr. Warden
410-382-6928



REGULAR REMINDERS



Coffee Hour

Join us for socializing between or after services. Light refreshments are available. Please see the sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish Hall if you would like to bring something to share.

Parish Hall Rental

If you would like information about renting the Parish Hall for an event, please send an email to HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office 410-687-5531. The cost is \$350 per rental.



Flower Memorials/ Thanksgivings

If you are interested, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$30.00, and return them to Barbara Benson in person or mail them to the church address listed on the form.

The 2023 forms are available from Leah in the church office. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday.

Housekeeping Notes

Please continue to keep areas clean and sanitized.

Mailing List Updates

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 and leave a message OR send an email to HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com.



Messages

Anne maintains the primary list of e-mail information. However, if you change your email address and you don't give the change to Anne, it is not possible for her to notify you of situations impacting the parish.



Final Word from the Editor

Items for the December Newsletter are due by November 15.

NOVEMBER 2023 SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 5, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jackie and Bill
Lessons: Sheila
Prayers: Jackie

November 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Sam
Lessons: Tim
Prayers: Gladys

November 12, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jackie and Bill
Lessons: Val
Prayers: Jackie

November 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Gloria and Loretta
Lessons: Nancy
Prayers: Gladys

November 19, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jackie and Bill
Lessons: Sheila
Prayers: Jackie

November 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Gloria and Loretta
Lessons: Jason
Prayers: Nancy

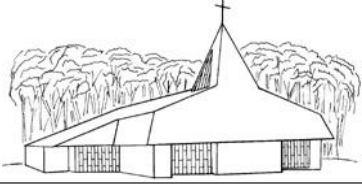
November 26, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jackie and Bill
Lessons: Chris
Prayers: Jackie

November 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Ushers: Sam
Lessons: Tim
Prayers: Gladys

**** Please note:** Until further notice, those scheduled to read the Lessons will read the First Lesson, lead the Psalm, and then read the Second Lesson. Thank you!



November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Grief Support Group 12:00 noon Healing Service	2 10am-12noon Office Staffed	3	4
5 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	6 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	7 <i>Election Day</i> 7:30pm-AA Meeting	8 12:00 noon Healing Service	9 10am-12noon Office Staffed	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 1:00 pm – Craft Group (bring a craft to work on)
12 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	13 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	14 7pm-Vestry Meeting 7:30pm-AA Meeting	15 10:00am Grief Support Group 12:00 noon Healing Service	16 10am-12noon Office Staffed	17	18
19 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	20 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	21 10am-12noon Office Staffed 7:30pm-AA Meeting	22 12:00 noon Healing Service 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Office Closed	24	25 12:00 noon – Monthly Fellowship Lunch (“brown bag”) 1:00 pm – Craft Group (bring a craft to work on)
26 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	27 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	28 7:30pm-AA Meeting	29 12:00 noon Healing Service	30 10am-12noon Office Staffed		