



# 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](http://www.holytrinityessex.org) February 2024



## **FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**

Greetings from the kingdom of God, the reign of love and the culture of peace (*already in progress somewhere very, very close to you!*)

And, just when we were starting to have fun, Lent arrives – and on Valentine’s Day, no less.

Which means that after Shrove Tuesday – and please, bring family and friends to our annual pancake soiree on the 13th – we plunge into another season of reflection, though unlike Advent, a season that calls us to look inward, not to the future.

And while Epiphany addresses the call to discipleship, Lent asks us to examine how we have responded to that call and invites us to name the elements of our nature that prevent us from being truly human, fully alive, and in harmony with all of creation. Whew! That’s a lot to ask of any season in the Church year but it is also why Lent is so relentless and intensely personal.

I welcome the arrival of Lent each year. But I do want to offer a few words about the day

that ushers in this season – Ash Wednesday. Ruining Valentine’s Day aside, I believe that the medieval baggage that we are forced to carry on that day is not helpful. Traditionally this has been a day on which we confess our worthlessness and depravity before an angry God, the fate of our immortal souls hanging in the balance. And we wear the grim reminder that we are nothing but dust and ash, and to these things we shall return. But this is not the God that Jesus proclaimed by any stretch of the imagination.

That God is nothing but pure light and love, and Ash Wednesday should instead be a reminder that out of the ash we too often make of our own experiences and relationships, that God patiently calls us to consider another way of living. One that takes courage, certainly – it is not easy to recognize the behaviors that we must abandon let alone name them – but one that offers not dust and destruction but love and patience and peace.

My hopes and prayers, then, for a productive and meaning-filled Lent for all of us.

Peace,  
*Ken+*

# Church News

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

Since we are having some winter weather this year, please review our inclement weather policy: If schools are closed, so are we and any meetings or services are canceled. If schools close early, so do we and any meetings or services are canceled. This policy stands even if it stops snowing and the roads are clear.

Regarding Sunday services: a decision will be made by the clergy on Sunday morning; please check your email and/or our Facebook page before leaving for church.

## **Vestry Meeting**

The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. (Vestry Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month but it was moved for February due to the Pancake Supper on the second Tuesday.)

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

We will have our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 4 years and up; free for children under 4 years old. We hope to see you there!

## **Ash Wednesday**

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, the imposition of ashes will be offered following the Healing Service at 12:00 noon. There will also be a service with the imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m.

## **Helping Hands Ministry**

This is your ministry; use your talents and time and choose how you would like to serve others. Possible service options are distributing ashes on Ash Wednesday, LEM service, prayer chain, friendly visits, phone calls, and writing cards/letters. If you are interested or have questions, please see Kathy after the 10:00 am service.

## **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 Benson 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**

Bible Study is on temporary hold. Please watch for updates.

## **Outreach Ministries**

*from Lynn F., Chairperson*



### **Operation Backpack:**

The backpack ministry to Sandalwood Elementary School continues 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 Kinard or Lynn French.

### **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

**Baltimore County has a new Food Pantry Locator service.** Just click on either of the links below for more information:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/county-news/2023/12/19/baltimore-county-releases-new-food-pantry-locator>

<https://bc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=2ec6ceb1732844bbb00a40ec1a0b733f>



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](http://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.**



### **February Birthdays**

Lynne C. – 2/1  
 Gloria G. – 2/4  
 Arlene – 2/4  
 Valerie – 2/19  
 Scotty – 2/20  
 Florence – 2/22  
 Mary Anne – 2/23  
 Mary – 2/25



### **February Anniversaries**

Ken+ and Dianne 2/13

*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  
 Lisa (Grace’s niece)  
 Millie  
 Elizabeth (Millie’s sister)  
 Helen  
 Ryan (Helen’s grandson)  
 Barbara T. (friend of Cheryl)  
 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 (John and Jeannie’s family)  
 Lorraine (John and Jeannie’s friend)  
 Heather (John and Jeannie)  
 Bob  
 David (Bob’s son)  
 Jesse (Tim’s son)

Somo and family  
Crosby family (Lynne C.)  
Wally  
Arlene  
Mary  
Sylvia  
Anne  
Mary Anne  
Barbara (Mary Anne's sister)  
Butch and Wanda (friends of Mary Anne)  
Gloria  
Nancy (Jimmy's significant other)  
Bobby (Jimmy's brother-in-law)  
Kathy (Leah's cousin)  
Mike (Leah's cousin)  
Eleanor (Leah's aunt)  
Sue (Leah's aunt)  
Rhett (Sam's great nephew)  
Bill  
Lou (Rick's mother)  
Benjamin (Ken+)  
Larry (Ken+)  
Colomba (Michelle S.'s sister)  
Liz P  
Bridget (Kathy's daughter)  
Lynn (Joan and Michelle)  
Laura  
Bill  
Ron  
Pat (Ellen R.'s husband)  
Deb (friend of Lynn F.)  
LouAnne (Lynn F.'s sister-in-law)  
Denise  
Dan and Janice  
Eric Z.  
Jerome  
Wyatt  
Rigoberto

## **Pray for our Healthcare Workers**

Please pray for members of our congregation who work in health care settings.



***PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS***



## Who do I contact?

The office is generally staffed on Thursday morning 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](mailto: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



## 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 –

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.

# 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](mailto: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 in person or mail them to the church address listed on the form.

The 2024 forms are available from Barbara or 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](mailto:HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com).



## E-mail 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 March Newsletter are due by February 15.



## FEBRUARY 2024 SERVICE SCHEDULE

### February 4, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Jackie and Bill  
**Lessons:** Chris  
**Prayers:** Jackie

### February 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Sam  
**Lessons:** Tim Fields  
**Prayers:** Ann Burns

### February 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Jackie and Bill  
**Lessons:** Val  
**Prayers:** Jackie

### February 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Gloria and Loretta  
**Lessons:** Nancy  
**Prayers:** Gladys

### February 18, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Jackie and Bill  
**Lessons:** Sheila  
**Prayers:** Jackie

### February 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Sam  
**Lessons:** Jason  
**Prayers:** Gladys

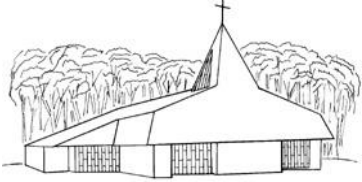
### February 25, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Jackie and Bill  
**Lessons:** Sheila  
**Prayers:** Jackie

### February 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Gloria and Loretta  
**Lessons:** Tim  
**Prayers:** Nancy

**\*\* 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!



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am-12noon Office Staffed	2	3
4 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	5 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	6 7pm-Vestry Meeting 7:30pm-AA Meeting	7 10:00am Grief Support Group 12:00 noon Healing Service	8 10am-12noon Office Staffed	9 Ken Away	10 1:00 pm – Craft Group (bring a craft to work on)
11 Ken Away	12	13 Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	4-6pm-Pancake Supper	12:00 noon Healing Service followed by Imposition of Ashes 7pm Service with Imposition of Ashes	10am-12noon Office Staffed		
18 Ken Away	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	7:30pm-AA Meeting	10:00am Grief Support Group 12:00 noon Healing Service	10am-12noon Office Staffed		12:00 pm – Fellowship Lunch (bring your own lunch) 1:00 pm – Craft Group (bring a craft to work on)
25	26	27	28	29 Leap Day		
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook) 7pm-AA Meeting	12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	7:30pm-AA Meeting	12:00 noon Healing Service	10am-12noon Office Staffed		

