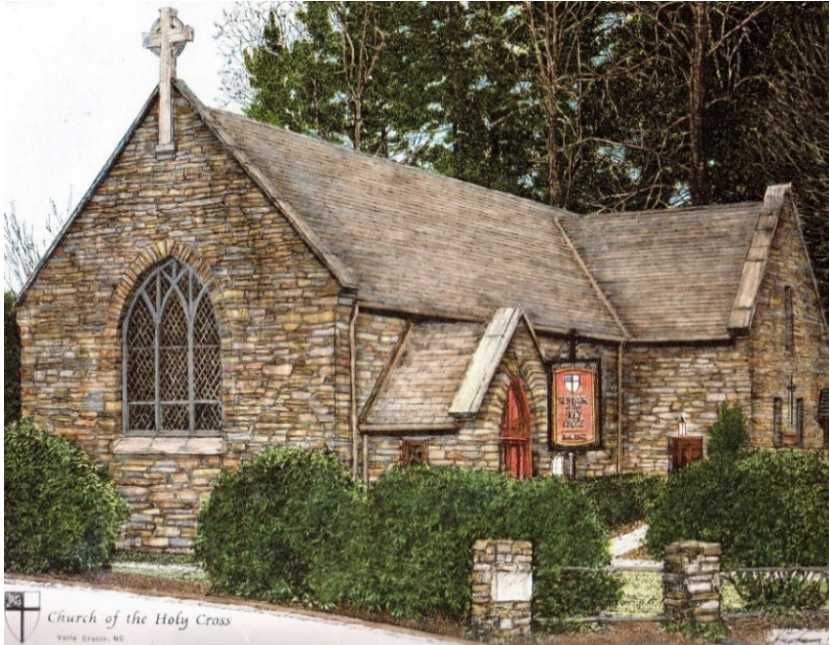


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 AM

Welcome Home to Holy Cross!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

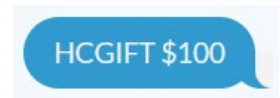
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.holycrossvallecrucis.net



You can also give through online text by sending **HCGIFT** to **73256**, followed by the gift amount
Messages and data rates may apply



It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

The Prelude:

Offered by Niki Craig

The Announcements: *(Pages 15-19)*

The Prayer for the Care of Children:

BCP 829

Priest: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All stand as they are able.

The Opening Hymn: #398 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

Forest Green

The Opening Acclamation:

BCP 355

Priest: Blessed be God (†): Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity:

BCP 355

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Gloria:

#S-280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.

Continued...

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day:

BCP 232

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Lesson:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” “I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him” — that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Response: (Prayed responsively as noted in **Bold** type) **Psalm 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b**

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 **Sing to him, sing praises to him, ***
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 **Search for the LORD and his strength; ***
continually seek his face.

Continued...

- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 **O offspring of Abraham his servant, ***
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 16 Then he called for a famine in the land *
and destroyed the supply of bread.
- 17 **He sent a man before them, ***
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
- 18 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
his neck they put in an iron collar.
- 19 **Until his prediction came to pass, ***
the word of the LORD tested him.
- 20 The king sent and released him; *
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
- 21 **He set him as a master over his household,**
as a ruler over all his possessions,
- 22 To instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom.
- 45b **Hallelujah!**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Second Lesson:

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

The Gradual Hymn: #390 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” *Lobe den Herren*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Jonathan C. Chesney

A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.

The Nicene Creed follows as printed on the next page.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All stand or kneel for the prayers as they are able.

The Prayers of the People: *(Adapted from the Southwell Litany)*

Leader: In peace, let us pray to God saying,

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Deepen our gratitude for all you have given us: the beauty of creation, love given and received, and the sacred calling to share your grace with a hurting world.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant us a lively hope in your mercy and deliver us from weariness in our struggles, from despondency in failure, and from an overburdened sense of unworthiness.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Save us from all unwise haste, from the impatient retort of irritation and the taunt of sarcasm, and from all idle words that hurt.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lead us away from strife, partisanship, and division, from magnifying our certainties to condemn all differences, and from building our systems to exclude all challenges.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire those who hold authority and influence in the nations with your vision for a world made new and give them the wisdom and hearts of servants to work for the common good and dignity of all people.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give to the leaders of your Church, especially all bishops, priests, and deacons, the faithfulness of learners and the courage of believers and rescue us from the easy arrogance that seeks wisdom in our own opinions and salvation through our own efforts.

Continued...

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort with your healing grace to all those whose suffering in body and spirit is clear to us, all those whose suffering is hidden, and all those whom we name aloud at this time:

The people speak the names of those on their hearts.

When you arrived at the service, you received a stick with a name on it. That is the name of someone who has requested our prayers. Please call out the name of the person on that stick as well as anyone else on your heart, and keep them in your daily prayers through the coming week.

At the Offertory, simply drop the sticks in the offering plate. This is a wonderful way for all of us to share in the prayer ministry of our Parish.

The Leader concludes saying,

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Confession of Sin: *(Prayed by all present)*

BCP 393

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive (†) you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

All stand as they are able.

The Peace:

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

The Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:

Watch over your child(ren) O Lord, as *their* days increase.

Bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand.

Comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful. Raise *them* up if *they* fall.

And in *their* heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding,
abide with *them* all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Concerning The Holy Communion

A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.

We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.

To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, retain the bread in your hands. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.

If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.

When at the Altar Rail, move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last.

Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory: Hymn #669 “Commit Thou All that Grieves Thee” *Passion Chorale*

The Presentation Hymn: #380 “The Doxology” *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Continued...

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus:

#S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

All kneel or stand as they are able.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Priest and People:* We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit (†) upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Brother Skiles, Constance and her companions, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By (†) him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer:

Traditional Version

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread: (The Fraction)

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem:

#S-154

The Invitation:

The Priest invites the people to Communion saying,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. (*And may add:*) Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Hymns during the Communion:

#711 “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

#304 “I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord”

An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn.

When all have communed, the following hymn is sung.

Kneeling Hymn: #654 “Day by Day” (*sung two times*)

Sumner

An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the following prayer.

The Post-communion Prayer:

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All stand as they are able.

The Blessing:

The Priest offers a blessing concluding with,

And the Blessing of God Almighty: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you this day and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: #414 “God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

Stuttgart

The Dismissal:

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude:

Offered by Niki Craig

We thank Niki Craig for sharing her musical gifts with us today!

We also thank those who served this morning

At St. John's

9:00 am

Musician: Rebecca Shaw
Greeters & Ushers: Stella Barbato & Barbara Eley
Lectors: Judy Bondi
Prayers of the People: Judy Bondi
Chalice Bearers: Paul Bernhardt
Acolytes: Paul Bernhardt
Healing Minister:
Linen Fairy:

At Holy Cross

11:00 am

Niki Craig
Stacey Bulmer & Jennifer Koenig
Jennifer Koenig
Jennifer Koenig
Kim Gauss & Karla Prudhomme
Karla Prudhomme
Doris Boulton
Radie Armstrong

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Bishop's Visitation and Opportunity for Confirmation

Bishop Rob Skirving will be making a joint visit for our parish and St. Mary's, Blowing Rock, on Saturday, September 12th. This will be an opportunity for anyone who feels called and is eligible to receive the sacramental rite of Confirmation, as well as to be received into the Episcopal Church or reaffirm one's Confirmation vows. Please reach out to Fr. Jonathan if you have any interest or questions and he'll consider whether a Confirmation Class series is timely.

TODAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service at Holy Cross
9:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at St. John's *with guest musician(s)*
10:15 am Fellowship on the Lawn at St. John's
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *with music and Children's Prayer*
This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel
12:15 pm Fellowship in Skiles Hall

Regular Compline Services
Mondays & Thursdays – 8:00 pm via Zoom

Compline is offered via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. every Monday & Thursday – please follow the link on the Church website to join the Zoom meeting. The "Virtual Waiting Room" opens 15 minutes before each service begins.

Contact Angela Williams or Mary Pietan if you have any issues signing on for Compline.

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

For summer months, Holy Cross will resume offering a reflective evening service of Holy Eucharist with healing prayer **at 5:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.** All are welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026
The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service at Holy Cross
- 9:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at St. John's *with guest musician(s)*
- 10:15 am** Fellowship on the Lawn at St. John's
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *with music and Children's Prayer*
This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel
- 12:15 pm** Fellowship in Skiles Hall

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is our weekly opportunity for people in our parish and our community to enjoy fellowship together. But, we need your help! Choose a Sunday and plan to provide simple treats. Coffee, iced tea and juice will be provided as well as sugar-free and gluten-free crackers and cookies. All you need to bring are simple treats. Some suggestions are mini muffins, cheese and crackers, fruit such as grapes, or a veggie tray. Your choice!

ECW will be hosting a more substantial social hour the first Sunday of every month. Please look at your calendars for any of the other Sundays through October 18. To sign up or for more information, please call Mary Watson at 904-610-9410.

Volunteers Needed for the Valle Country Fair

It's that time of year again! The 48th annual Valle Country Fair, Saturday October 17th, is just around the corner. Holy Cross, the little church with the big heart, has lived its mission of 'neighbor helping neighbor', not only by supporting local nonprofits but by pitching in to help those in need with things like fuel oil, medical bills and assistance with their rent.

But WE NEED YOU! Please think about where you would be willing to help and make this year's fair another great success. Call or email Mary Pietan at 904-234-4915 or mfpietan@gmail.com and let her know where you want to work and what type of job you'd prefer. We have lots of spots to fill. Thank you!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 MNO To Meet "Down By The Riverside"

We're going to lay down our burdens, down by the riverside" -- literally -- at our next MNO gathering hosted by neighbors Mike Edgerton and Jim Tennant on the banks of the Watauga River beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18. It will be our annual "weenie roast" homage to our very first meeting ten years ago with quarter pound Kosher beef hot dogs from Costco (with a plant-based alternative) complete with all the usual condiments and fixin's, plus Annie's famous chili, Becky's cole slaw, Wickie's garlic pickles, chopped Vidalia onions, sauerkraut, chips, watermelon and, of course, Ray's Klondike bars for dessert, all for \$5 per person.

Remember to bring your own beverage to enjoy (and share) plus your favorite lawn chair for comfort and lawn games for enjoyment. The location is in the Shulls Farm Subdivision off Broadstone Road in Valle Crucis with a GPS address of 535 New Farm Road, Banner Elk, NC 28604. A detailed map will be sent *to those who RSVP*, and carpooling is strongly encouraged.

MNO is a monthly opportunity for men from within our parishes, faith centers, and in our community to enjoy having an evening of fellowship together. We're very flexible and inclusive, so feel free to bring a friend... *or three!* To let our gracious hosts know how many will be in attendance, please RSVP by noon on Sunday, August 16 via email to KeithTMartin@gmail.com.

If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, simply let us know. We have participants from all over the High Country who would welcome your company and be happy to pick you up and deliver you safely home. ***Come join us!***

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026
ECW Rummage Sale
Skiles Hall – 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Mark your calendars for the **RUMMAGE SALE** sponsored by the Holy Cross Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Set up day is Friday, August 21, 10am - 3 pm. Our sale will include household items, furniture & garden goodies (no clothing). To reserve your table, please contact Mary Watson at 904-610-9410.

All proceeds will benefit ECW projects for Holy Cross Church.

Sunday School on Break

Children's Sunday School is on hiatus at the 11:00 service for the summer to provide our wonderful teachers with a needed break. As always, children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross and at St. John's.

Summer Food Ministry:
Our Families Need Us

This summer, we are once again partnering with the Valle Crucis United Methodist Church to provide food assistance to families in our community. The need is greater than ever.

Last summer, we served 6 families. This year, we have **11 families in need** — nearly double from last year. With rising grocery and gas prices, many families are struggling to provide enough food during the summer months when children no longer have access to school meals.

Every two weeks, an email will be sent with a link to an online sign-up sheet for requested food items. Because we are serving 11 families this summer, our list of requested items is significantly larger. We will provide 4 food deliveries throughout the summer and appreciate your support in helping us meet these growing needs.

If you sign up for an item, please honor that commitment. Our distributions are planned based on promised donations, and when items are not brought, families may go without food they desperately need. Food items will be collected on shelves set up in Skiles Hall.

Thank you for helping us be the hands and feet of Christ by caring for our neighbors during this critical time.

The Parish Prayer List: August 9, 2026

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

For Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Wendell S., Noyes L., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam, Bill B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., Floyd T., Leslie S., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Michael H., Laura B., Linda B., Mike L., Mike M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Coleman B., David, Michael T., Wayne W., Scott W., Sally, Ann I., Beth B., _____.

For those in Harm's Way: All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

The Church of the Holy Cross

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Jonathan C. Chesney, Rector
Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Nina-Jo Moore (2028), Senior Warden
Randy McDonough (2028), Junior Warden
Doris Boulton (2026)
Catherine Morton (2026 – completing term)
Angela Williams (2026)
Radie Armstrong (2027)
Paul Cribbins (2027 – completing term)
Sis Kinney (2027)
John Goodrich (2028)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer
Dedy Traver, Clerk
