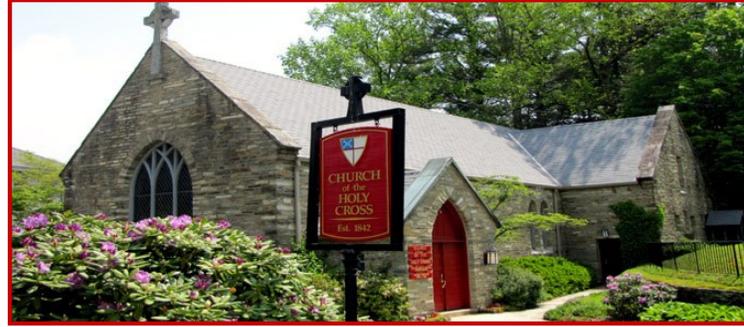




April
2026



Interim's Comments...

The Days from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday commemorate the final days of Jesus. Known as Holy Week, or Passion Week, these days have held a special place in the very heart of the Christian faith since the 3rd Century. Marked by devotion and discipline, and by rites accumulated through the centuries, the liturgies we experience this week hold true to Holy Scripture and the prayers of the ages past and present.

Check out the Holy Cross Holy week schedule, and I invite you to enter into these worship experiences as you are able.

ALSO, please make every effort to attend one of the two Easter Celebrations here, remembering that we will have an Easter Brunch in Skiles Hall beginning at 9:30!

Father Scott +





Birthdays

2 Martie Thompson	17 Mary Watson
3 Jane Blackburn	18 Mary Jane Dewees
6 Judy Dasher	19 Ann Iles
7 Henry Sturge	21 Jo Betts Baxley
8 Annie Sturge	23 Ashley Galleher
8 Gary Swartz	23 Sis Kinney
9 Cathy Cole	25 Wilson Harris
10 Ted Ponko	26 Doris Boulton
11 Ada Love	27 Jim Jordan
17 Lisa Cooper	27 Bob Kinney
17 Andrea McDonough	27 Mary Pietan
17 Simon Hartmans	28 Arielle Bokkean

Anniversaries

April 6

Lynn and Jim Vroom

April 13

Ann and Bud Gerber

April 13

Patsy and Floyd Townsend

April 18

Casey Miller and the Rev. Robert Hartmans

April 20

Stacey Bulmer and Ahren Koenig

April 26

Terry and Zeke Jordan



Prayer List

Please hold these people in your healing 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., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam, Bill B., Julia M., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Michael H., Laura B., Mike L., Ann I., Mike M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Coleman B., James C., Dylan C., David, Michael T., Nicole B., Steve S., Wayne W., Scott W.

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.



Schedule of Services in Holy Week

March 29 – *The Sunday of the Passion*

- 8:00 am** The Liturgy of the Palms, Great Procession, and Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(quiet service with no music)
- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
- 9:45 am** Crafting of Palm Crosses in Skiles Hall
- 11:00 am** The Liturgy of the Palms, Great Procession, and Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
and the recitation of the Passion Story
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 1 – *Holy Wednesday*

- 4:30 pm** “Mary’s Way of the Cross” – presented by Holy Cross DOK,
and Holy Eucharist
*The “Stations of the Cross” from Mary’s point of view, the mother of our Lord.
It is poignant, emotional, and beautifully stated. All are welcome.*

April 2 – *Maundy Thursday*

- 7:00 pm** Holy Eucharist with foot-washing and stripping of the altars
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
Silent vigil before the Blessed Sacrament 9:00 pm – midnight.

April 3 – *Good Friday*

- 12:00 pm** Walking the Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 pm** Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 5 – *Easter Sunday*

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- 8:00 am** Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:30 am** Annual Parish Easter Brunch in Skiles Hall
- 11:00 am** Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)



You are invited to attend a presentation by the **Order of the Daughters of the King's** of "**Mary's Way of the Cross,**" on **Wednesday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. The "Stations of the Cross," from Mary's point of view, the mother of our Lord. It is poignant, emotional, and beautifully stated. All are welcome.



Holy Cross ECW Invites You to Easter Brunch! Sunday, April 5

Join us Easter morning between services and bring your favorite breakfast/brunch item to share. ECW will provide ham, biscuits, and beverages.

(Sign-up poster in Skiles Hall)

We'll also need volunteers to help set up Saturday, April 5th at 10:00 am, and help with clean up after brunch.



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Next MNO on April 21st in Sugar Grove

The dynamic duo -- and Valle Crucis neighbors -- of Paul Bernhardt and Jim Reed are co-hosting our next **Men's Night Out** gathering from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 at the Bernhardt/Owens home (thank you, Susan!) located at 646 Valle Meadows Trail in Sugar Grove, NC 28679. While there is room for parking, carpooling is always encouraged.

The menu includes chicken tetrazzini with appropriate side dishes, a green salad, and homemade brownies for dessert at a suggested contribution of \$10 per person. So that our hosts may provide enough food for everyone in attendance (ahem... don't arrive late, gentlemen), please RSVP by 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th to KeithTMartin@gmail.com and kindly let us know of any food allergies or preferences. As always, remember to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy... and share.

MNO is a monthly opportunity for brethren from within our parishes and throughout our community to enjoy an evening of fellowship together. PLEASE RSVP by the due date. If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, kindly 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!**



The Interim's Notebook

"Christianity is not about being so right in what we do, that we think we "save ourselves at the expense of other"...Christianity is not a religion; it is the announcement of the end of religion. Religion (being that which) consists of all the things that the human race has ever thought it had to do to get right with God. The Church is not here to bring to the world the bad news that God will think kindly about us only after we have gone through certain creedal, liturgical, and ethical wickets; The Church, the Living Body of Christ on Earth is here to bring the world the Good News that "While we were yet sinners, Christ Jesus died for us." - Robert Capon

"I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew, Latin and Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that IS where He died. And that is what he died about. And that is where we should be and what our Christianity should be about." - George MacLeod

"The great problem with the human race is that we continue to draw the circle of our family too small." - Mother Teresa

Outreach

We are on track with our outreach assistance relative to last year at this time. After an expensive winter, the need for heat expense has decreased as expected. There is one more week to go which will add to these numbers, but the newsletter must go to print so here is a mid month summary.

Housing \$550

Utilities \$2969.97

Auto \$400

Medical \$300

March Total Outlay as of March 23 is \$4,219.97.

We continue to get verbal and written thanks from those we help. We have an ever-increasing number of relationships with other churches. Laura Byrch from Boone United Methodist is rounding up all interested churches and charities for the first consortium of Outreach folks in Watauga County on April 20. She has assembled a document of all churches and charities, their contact information and who they serve. Kudos to her for this huge task. We are blessed to represent Holy Cross's 25 year ministry. If you see Judy Bondi or Susie Long, our long time members and mentors, be sure to thank them for years of service to this ministry. And give a word of encouragement to the Gates' and Heiss' for their dedication to chairing the VC Fair, our chief fundraiser for Outreach this year, too. God is good and He blesses Holy Cross.

Your MOC team— Judy, Sis, Niki, Vickie, Mary, Kip, Martie, Roberta and Radie

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 Easter Sunday 8am Celebration Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:30am Easter brunch 11:00am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>6  8:00pm "Online Compline" Judy Dasher's birthday Lynn & Jim Vroom's anniversary</p>	<p>(From April 2: Marty Thompson's birthday) (From April 3: Jane Blackburn's birthday)</p> 	<p>1 Holy Wednesday 4:30pm Walking Mary's Way of the Cross</p> 	<p>2 Maunder Thursday 7:00pm Holy Eucharist with foot-washing and stripping of the altars 9pm-midnight Silent Vigil</p> 	<p>3 Good Friday 12 noon Walking the Stations of the Cross 7:00pm The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday</p> 	<p>4 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt at VC Park</p> 
<p>12 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II  after 11am service</p>	<p>13  8:00pm "Online Compline" Ann & Bud Gerber and Floyd & Patsy Townsends anniversary</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16  8:00pm "Online Compline"</p>	<p>17 Andrea McDonough, Lisa Cooper, Mary Watson and Simon Hartmans' birthday</p>	<p>18 Mary Jane Dewees' birthday Casey Miller & Rev. Robert Hartmans' anniversary</p>
<p>19 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Ann Iles' birthday</p>	<p>20  8:00pm "Online Compline" Stacey Bulmer & Ahren Koenig's anniversary</p>	<p>21 Jo Betts Baxley's birthday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23  8:00pm "Online Compline" Ashley Galleher and Sis Kinney's birthday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Wilson Harris' birthday</p>
<p>26 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Doris Boulton's birthday Terry & Zeke Jordan's anniversary</p>	<p>27  8:00pm "Online Compline" Jim Jordan, Mary Pietan and Bob Kinney's birthday</p>	<p>28 Arielle Bolkean's birthday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30  8:00pm "Online Compline"</p>		



Will you help with this year's Valle Country Fair?

The VCF team has a few vacancies this year. Can you help? These roles do not take much time, most are physically low impact AND are critically important to the success of the fair.

Volunteer Coordinator:

The main task is to match volunteers with our Holy Cross booths that needs extra hands. You will work directly with the Fair Chairs and Booth Leadership to help them fill volunteers for the day of the Fair. Most of the work can be done by email and phone calls. The volunteer coordinator is present on Fair Day in the volunteer tent to help direct volunteers. Find a friend to assist and lighten the load!

Road Signs

This person finds a friend or two and puts up banners and signs along roadways 3-4 weeks before the fair then takes them down the Sunday after the fair. This job takes 3-4 hours at the most and goes faster with more people. This work is somewhat physical but requires no heavy lifting. Bob Gates has all the information on exactly where the signs go, and the Gates will train you. Easy peasy.

Outside Vendors

This person will shadow our current outside vendor coordinator (Trish Lanier) this year and will take over this leadership role in 2027. This coordinator works directly with non-Holy Cross food vendors (examples include the kettle corn vendor, funnel cake vendor, etc) to schedule their attendance, share information with the layout chairperson and answer questions as needed. This work is physically low impact.

Please contact Tracey Heiss (703) 919-9767 and Julie Gates (704) 906-2269 by emailing them at vcf.chairs@gmail.com or by calling directly. Thank you for your consideration!



Notes from the Attic — Dedy Traver

Last month's Notes was from John Preston Arthur's book, "A History of Watauga County, NC". In his book he also discusses the peculiarities of mountain speech, expressions, and place names. He refers to a Mr. Kephart who was Horace Kephart who wrote a book entitled "*Our Southern Highlanders*" published in 1912.

Peculiarities of Our Speech. — In his book, Mr. Kephart sums up many of the most striking peculiarities of our speech which differentiate us from most people. Following is a condensation of some of them : The insertion of sounds where they do not belong, as musician-er; the substitution of one sound for another, due to a change of vowels, as ruther for rather; difficulty in pronouncing diphthongs, as brile for broil ; the occasional substitution of consonants, as alter for after; the creation of nouns from verbs, as "I didn't hear no give-out at meetin'," or from an adjective, as "a person has a rather," meaning preference ; the use of corrupt forms of verbs, as gwine for going, het for heat ; the formation of peculiar adjectives from verbs, as "them's the travelin'est horses I ever seed ;" the use of verbs for adverbs, as "if I'd a been thoughted enough," the use of the old syllabic plural, as in nesties, posties, beasties; the great abundance of pleonasm, as "I done done it," and "in this day and time;" the use of double, triple and even quadruple and quintuple negatives, as "I ain't never seen no men-folks of no kind do no washing;" intensifying expression, as "we had one more time," "we jist pointblank got to do it," etc. Biscuit-bread, ham-meat, rifle-gun, rock-clift, ridin' critter, cow-brute, man-person, womenfolks, preacher man, granny-woman and neighbor people are common everywhere in the mountains.

We Are Commended for Much. — Mr. Kephart in his book credits us with seldom being at a loss for words, even if we have to create them. They are, however, always produced from English roots, but if all else fails, we fall back on "spang," a coinage peculiarly our own. The use of the old English past tense of holp, stunk and swum is commended, and he gives examples of a strong past tense with dialectical change of the vowel in brung. drap, drug, friz, shet and shuck. We use fray for affray or fight, and fraction for rupture. "Feathered into them" he says is heard here, and refers to the time when arrows were driven into the flesh up to the feathers. We call married women "mistress" and "miz" for short, and aged men "old grandsir." We still "back" letters, instead of addressing them, as was the custom before envelopes were invented. We call a choleric person "tetchous," and, like Ben Franklin, we "carry" our wives and daughters to different places when we accompany them there. To most of us molasses is "them," and license to marry invariably is called "a pair of licenses." Of some of our idioms he cites: "I swapped bosses, and I'll tell you for why ;" "Your name ain't much common ;" "You think me of it in the mornin' ;" "The woman's aimin' to go to meetin' ;" "I had a head to plow today ;" "Reckon Pete was knowin' to the sarcumstance ;" "I knowed in reason she'd have the mullygrubs over them doin's," and "You cain't handily blame her."

Place Names. — He gives a number of names of places which have adhered to them for years merely because of some event which happened there. Among these are Dusk Camp Run, Mad Sheep Mountain, Dog Slaughter Creek, Drownin' Creek, Burnt Cabin Branch, Broken Leg, Raw Dough, Burnt Pone and Sandy Mush. The fighting spirit blazes forth in Fighting Creek, Shooting Creek, Gouge-eye, Vengeance, Four-Killer and Disputantia. Personal names are common everywhere, as Jake's Creek, Dick's Creek and Jonathan's Creek.

Continued....

Notes from the Attic continuation...

Not Guilty in Watauga. — Several words and colloquialisms are recorded which seem strange to some of us in Watauga County, as gin for if, do' for door, dauncy for mincing, doneygal for sweetheart, toddick or taddle for the toll-measure at a mill, swivvet for hurry, upscuddle for quarrel, etc. Both Mr. Kephart and Miss Morley (another writer and a photographer from Watauga County) are struck with the use of "soon" for "early," but to most of us there is nothing wrong in this use, and we "fling a rock" in South Carolina as well as in the mountains when to "furriners" we throw a stone. Why, too, should we not ask, "Are you plumb bereft?" if we wish to know if one is entirely bereft of one's senses? What, too, is wrong with "Sam went to Andrews or to Murphy, one," or "I don't much believe the wagon will come today," or "Tain't powerful long to dinner, I don't reckon?" They may be plainly wrong to others, but to us they are "plumb right." In conclusion, he adds that instead of having a limited vocabulary of three hundred words, he had himself taken down from the lips of Carolina mountaineers some eight hundred dialectical or obsolete words, to say nothing of the much greater number of standard English terms that they command.

Kephart, in his "Southern Highlanders," agrees with us in thinking that ours is the purest English spoken anywhere in the world today. As has been shown, he commends us for very, very much. He condemns us for little, if anything. And to this high praise we can now add that of no less distinguished a literary lion than Mr. Cecil Chesterton, of London, England — not Connecticut. This is how he is quoted in the *Literary Digest* for June 19, 1915 (p. 1469) : "I do not want anybody to suppose that I am suggesting that the American language is in any way inferior to ours (the English!). In some ways it has improved upon it in vigor and raciness. In others it adheres more closely to the English of the best period. Thus an American uses the word 'sick' as it is used in the Jacobean Bible — to his not inconsiderable embarrassment sometimes, I should think, when he finds himself in European society. Also he uses old forms like 'gotten,' which we have abbreviated. If you want the purest Shakespearian English, I believe you have to go among the illicit whiskey distillers on the Southern mountains. But I was never fortunate enough (in a double sense) to come in contact with this ancient and delightful race."





Holy Cross Episcopal Church
PO Box 645
Valle Crucis, NC 28691

www.holycrossvallecrucis.net
email: holy_cross@skybest.com

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)
The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford, Interim Priest-in-Charge
Shane Watson, Director of Music
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), Derek Eggers (2027), Sis Kinney (2027), John Goodrich (2028)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk

Church of the Holy Cross
PO Box 645
Valle Crucis, NC 28691

