HOLY CROSS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER







Rector's Corner

We made it

Valle Country Fair #48 in the books and, point of personal privilege, my very first. After attending leadership meetings and hearing the stories of Fairs of yesteryear, it was amazing to see how all the effort and energy and coordination and logistics came together to create the experience we shared with thousands of visitors on that Saturday. Even the cold and rainy beginning felt important to the experience in retrospect, those of us there in the trenches of fall mountain weather at this time of year (not to mention spurring apple cider, chili, and stew sales!) And the people came, especially when the sun began to shine and we ended with a very pleasant afternoon. Keep your eyes peeled for reports of the impact, but I'm heartened and moved that all that effort produced not just a super fun day, but a generous financial resource that will be fully returned to our community and people experiencing difficult times. What a sign and work of grace and love to offer in the name of Christ.

Of course, the life of the Church continues with energy even as all our Fair leaders and volunteers are taking a well-deserved rest. Nina-Jo, myself, and some of our other lay leaders attended the one year anniversary of Valle Crucis School being in their new building, and, along with the Conference Center and other sites, were honored by the school with warm-hearted words of gratitude for hosting and helping in the challenging days after Helene. Students that learned in our building honored us with 6-word poems of gratitude, and others, including my daughter, celebrated with song and performance. It was touching and I'm grateful to be a part of a community that cares for one another in this way.

Liturgical celebrations are also on our radar. We're beginning to think about Christmastide even as we approach our All Hallows' Triduum (All Hallows' Eve or Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day,) wherein we remember our ancestors in faith and beloved departed, even as we commune with them around the altar. It is a holy time which makes our thin spaces even thinner, because Love doesn't die.

Finally, I'm also looking forward to our Annual Meeting, where we'll join together in one service, bless our pledges and stewardship offerings for the upcoming year, and then meet over a potluck lunch as we give thanks for the past year and look with anticipation to the year ahead, as well as electing new vestry representatives. I hope you'll make plans to be present as the gathered Church family.

These are wonderful days as we gather in the harvest and look ahead to winter sabbath. I'll see you in church (invite a friend!)

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Jonathan (you can call me Jonathan!)



Birthdays

1 Randy McDonoough
1 Dawn Harris
2 Margaret Love
10 William McGuire
12 Jerri Borgman
14 Terry Marshall
18 Niki Craig
18 Jim Brown
18 Matthew McGuire
22 Lucy Binning
24 Carolyn Shepherd
24 John Dewees
25 Beth Loflin
25 Ed Beck
25 Susan Poorman

Anniversaries

November 5
Bert and David Yates

November 11
Kim and Tav Gauss

November 14
Sheila and David Barnhill

November 26
Pan and Allan McCaslin



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 Wendell S., Noyes L., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam, Bill B., Randy M., Shane B., 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 M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Coleman B., Michael T., Wayne W., Sally, Ann I., Beth B., Daryl M., Angie N., Derek D., Mary S., Eric G., Radie A., Warren S., Carol J., Ella F., Terry S., Grace S., George S., Susan D., Norm L., Bill R.

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.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **8am & 11am Holy Eucharist Rite II** Randy McDonough and Dawn Harris' birthday	2 **8pm "Online Compline"** Margaret Love's birthday	3	4	5 **8pm "Online Compline"** Bert & David Yates' anniversary	6	7
8 **8am & 11am Holy Eucharist Rite II**	9 **8pm "Online Compline"**	10 William McGuire's birthday	11 Kim & Tav Gauss' anniversary	12 **8pm "Online Compline"** Jerri Borgman's birthday	13	14 Sheila & David Barnhill's anniversary and Terry Marshall's birthday
15 ***11am One Service only Holy Eucharist Rite II** *Stewardship Dedication, Parish Annual Meeting, and Lunch*	16 **8pm "Online Compline"**	17 **5:45 Men's Night Out**	18 Jim Brown, Matthew McGuire and Niki Craig's birthday	19 **8pm "Online Compline"**	20	21
22 **8am & 11am Holy Eucharist Rite II** *Following the 11am service join us for the 6th annual Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale* Lucy Binning's birthday	23 **8pm "Online Compline"**	24 Carolyn Shepherd and John Dewees' birthday	25 Susan Poorman, Ed Beck and Beth Loflin's birthday	26 **Thanksgiving** **8pm "Online Compline"** Pan & Allan McCaslin's anniversary	27	28
29 **8am & 11am Holy Eucharist Rite II**	30 **8pm "Online Compline"**					





MNO TO ENJOY HOT CHILI ON A CHILLY NIGHT!

The **Men's Night Out** (MNO) group will gather for brethren fellowship **from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17** in the Party Barn at the home of Joyce and Jim Zellner, located at 3664 Winkler's Creek Road in Blowing Rock, NC 28605. Parking is available, but carpooling is strongly encouraged. The menu will be chili (your choice of beef, chicken, or vegetarian) with cornbread and an apple cobbler with ice cream for dessert.

As always, bring your favorite beverage to enjoy and share with water, iced tea and lemonade provided. The suggested donation is **$10** per person, and your RSVP is due **no later than** 5 p.m on Sunday, November 15 to KeithTMartin@gmail.com.

MNO is a monthly opportunity for men from within the parish 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! 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!

Outreach

Thanks to all who worked and supported the Valle Country Fair! Mission and Outreach is grateful for all that comes our way in the form of funding, so that Holy Cross can continue being "The Little Church That Helps People". You're the best!

Despite all the challenges of rising costs and increased number of requests we are still solvent and will have enough funding through the end of the year and still have our nest egg to get us through the first two months of 2027. Whew! This was a squeaker this year, but we did it.

Our team is grateful for parish support both material and psychological. We get thank you notes from our clients and respectful comments and questions from our parish members. Thank you for that.

Now about heating. Costs for propane, fuel oil and kerosene will skyrocket this winter just has the cost of petrol increased. That will be the big issue starting in January. An old mafia saying is, "Don't cry til you're hit" so I'm not going to report fretting and frenzy yet. It's something to watch. We've had good responses from Blue Ridge Energy, and fuel companies in Watauga, Avery and Ashe counties. They have held cutoffs, accepted late payments, and offered suggestions for clients to use flex accounts. We've worked together to keep heat in houses. I'm praying we can all weather rising fuel costs and keep people safe. Will keep you posted.

Be well, folks! Looking forward to the Nov 22 Thanksgiving Pie Sale and the Holiday!

Your Outreach Team, Judy, Sis, Niki, Vickie, Mary, Martie, Kip, Roberta and Radie

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Stewardship Dedication, Parish Annual Meeting, and Lunch
<u>One Service Only</u> at 11:00 am

Come and celebrate the grace of God that has continued to abound through the ongoing mission and ministry of Holy Cross. We will dedicate pledges received thus far during the service, and at the meeting, hear reports from our leadership, and elect 3 new Vestry Members at the meeting. More information on the nominees will be coming soon. Entrée and dessert will be provided, and we ask those attending to bring a side to share.



Sunday, November 22, 2026
6th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale



Do you have family coming in for the holidays but don't have time to bake? A selection of goodies will be in Skiles Hall <u>after the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 22nd</u> to help you prepare for your Thanksgiving holiday.

Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving desserts to Skiles Hall on <u>Saturday, November 21 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm</u> to be labeled and priced. The proceeds will be used to benefit the children's ministries of Holy Cross.







On October 22, 2026, a special one-year in their new building anniversary assembly was held at Valle Crucis School. They reflected on the year of resilience, gratitude, and community following the devastating flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. During this difficult time, Holy Cross and Valle Crucis Conference Center opened their doors and provided a place for the school to continue serving its students while the school community was displaced. The assembly expressed the school's heartfelt appreciation for the generosity, kindness, and willingness to step in when it was most needed.

Fr. Jonathan noted how moved he was to witness the school's gratitude and the sense of community that we all occupy together in the Valle as a core value of neighbors helping neighbors. "I'm so grateful to the lay Leaders of the parish, and to Fr. Robert Hartmans (interim rector at the time) who opened wide the doors of the church to host the school, as well as for all the volunteers and members who helped support VCS' time at Holy Cross and the Conference Center. This sort of Gospel hospitality is what drew my interest in coming here and it's a value that I believe has both strengthened our bonds to our larger community as well as makes Holy Cross a truly special church to be a part of; I believe this is the sort of thing that draws people's curiosity and interest, the sort of place where people want to take part in and belong."

A powerful reminder of the importance of community, faith, and coming together in times of hardship, the Valle Crucis School recognized us for being the community we strive to be. As this milestone was celebrated, we were reminded that even in the midst of challenges, the love and support of others can make all the difference.







2026 Valle Country Fair – Thank you!

To the many, many hands who pitched in to make this year's Valle Country Fair a fun, successful event, we say a big THANK YOU! You know that the fair could not and will not happen without your brains and brawn. Our plan is to share the final net proceeds number at the Holy Cross annual meeting on Sunday, November 15th. Thank you to Jan Skocepek who works tirelessly to keep the fair finances straight and to give us our final numbers. Her work is behind the scenes and can easily go unnoticed. We take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt and public thank you to Jan! We look forward to sharing our 2026 wrap-up report with you in two weeks. We are grateful for you all.

Tracey and Julie



Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

The Notes for this month are about the historic Bishop Ives Log Cabin – it is the only structure still remaining from the 1840's. During the 100th anniversary celebration in 2025 of the current church building we did some fundraising for improvements to the log cabin where our historical papers and photographs are kept. A mini-split heat/air unit has been installed. Improvements to the windows are another project to be done in an effort to improve the safe-keeping of our archives. I thought you might be interested in learning about this historic log cabin. You will also learn about the Skiles Altar which is located in the church building. These excerpts are from notes written by The Rev. Rhett Y. Winters, Jr., Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Holy Cross, Valle Crucis, NC from May 1955 to December 1962.

BISHOP IVES CABIN "In 1956 three students from St. Luke's Sewanee completed their Town & Country field work at St. John's Lower Watauga, Holy Cross Valle Crucis, and St. Anthony's Dutch Creek Falls. During that summer Tom Wade, Gus Shephard, and Harry Shipps worked in the three missions. Gus Shephard and The Rev. Rhett Winters (priest-in-charge of Holy Cross Church) made a call on Edith Taylor (Michael Taylor's grandmother) and approached her and her family about the Bishop Ives Cabin which was on their property at the time. After the Civil War what had formerly been property belonging to the church, was settled by squatters and the Bishop Ives Cabin was passed on down to private owners from that time until 1956. The cabin was fast deteriorating. The roof was rotted and the chimney was in bad repair. The sturdy logs were in fair condition. It was agreed that the church would pay the family $100.00 and would be responsible for moving the building to a new location.

The following Fall work began on restoring the cabin. Arthur, Lewis and Ernest Townsend from Banner Elk (Lewis Townsend was Floyd Townsend's father and Ernest was Ernestine Glover's father!) carefully numbered each log and moved them by truck to the present site. The huge stone fireplace in the center of the building was rebuilt and the floor and the roof were restored.

In the later 50's or early 60's an article on the Bishop Ives cabin appeared in "The Living Church" magazine. The Rev. Winters received a letter from one of the Church Fathers in the Order of the Holy Cross in New York expressing an interest in making an appropriate memorial to Brother William West Skies in recognition of the first Religious who lived out his life in obedience to a monastic rule of life (since The Reformation). He contacted all of the monastic Orders of the Church, both men and women. A skilled cabinet maker from Santa Barbara, California made a beautiful Dutch cupboard with beautiful carvings on its doors which opened up into a lovely altar with the appropriate memorial inscription in loving memory of Brother William West Skiles. The altar is placed in the rear of Holy Cross Church."

Next time you are in the church please take time to read the inscription and study the lovely artwork on the Skiles Altar! After Bishop Ives left the Valle and the Episcopal Church, Brother Skiles stayed in the Valle living and working with the mountain people. He continued to live in the Bishop Ives Log Cabin.







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Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western North Carolina,
Ecclesiastical Authority

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Jonathan C. Chesney, Rector
Emma Pullium, Director of Music
Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

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 (completing term-2027), Sis Kinney (2027),
John Goodrich (2028)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer Dedy Traver, Clerk

Church of the Holy Cross
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