



October
2026



Rector's Corner

At Julia Morton's funeral over the summer, her daughter Catherine shared a writing devotion of her mother's that she had discovered. It was a letter from God to Julia, and many of those present were deeply moved. It felt right to reproduce here, for your own reflection:

Dear Julia,

There is enough power in my love for you to keep the world in orbit through all eternity.

I am your healer. I am your strength. I am the Rock of your salvation. I am your creator, and if I can put all the life of a giant redwood into the tiniest of seeds - a tree which eventually dies like the summer grasses - imagine what my plans for your eternal life must be.

You are unique and precious in my sight, and I love you and I honor you. I will never leave you or forsake you. You are mine; behold you are engraved in the palm of my hand. Even if a mother would forsake her suckling child, I will never forsake you. You are the apple of my eye, my chosen one, chosen before the foundations of the earth were laid. I have prepared a place for you in my house that you may be with me forever.

I have always dealt gently with you and it gives me pleasure to give your life beauty and blessing. It is safe to trust me to do good - just pray with peace in your spirit, knowing that you cannot think or imagine the extent of the good things I yearn to do for you, my child. Steadfast loving kindness - longing to do good, to open the gates of heaven and pour down more blessings than your life can contain. Blessings that cover your heart like the waters cover the sea.

I am your peace. I am your Savior. I am your Center. The Way, the Truth and the Life. The Good Shepherd. The Door - the Vine, the Alpha and the Omega. The Bread come down from Heaven. The Living Water. The Resurrection. The Light of the World.

Rest in me. Trust. Pray. Listen. Abide. I know your every thought - every act - every hurt. I care, I understand, and I will bless.

Shalom - I am your Father, your Abba

october

Birthdays

1 Katie Hall	16 Allyn Morton
1 Ron Armstrong	19 Dayton Cole
2 Addison Martin	19 Rebecca McDonough
3 Fran Sparks	21 Floyd Townsend
5 Scotty Gallamore	22 Sally James
6 Richard Goewey	23 Patty Adams
7 Tracey Heiss	26 Thomas Loflin
10 Leon Spencer	26 Jan Skopecek
11 Rebecca Alford	29 Tricia Tennant
14 Nina-Jo Moore	
15 Jeff Hedrick	

Anniversaries

October 1

Martie Thompson and Kip Kingree

October 3

Ann and Dennis Carlton-Jones

October 7

Darby and Jim Logan

October 10

Sally and Dick James

October 18

Jane Blackburn and Ted Ponko

October 22

Lori Seal and Mindy Weldon

Prayer List

Please keep these people in your healing prayers:

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., 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., Daryl M., Angie N., Derek D., Mary S., Eric G., Radie A., Warren S., Carol J., Ella F., Wade R., Missy 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.

It's Fair time!

We are a couple of weeks away from the 48th Valle Country Fair. Your fair leadership team has been working hard to put on a fun event that will raise money for our neighbors in need. Many thanks to all those who have worked to make the fair happen. We have two requests of all parishioners: **1)** If you haven't found a job at this year's fair, we ask you to consider what you can do and reach out to Mary Peitan, the fair volunteer coordinator. Mary's email is vcf.volunteer26@gmail.com. **2)** Please keep all those involved with the fair in your prayers. We pray for a fun, safe and successful event, and we are grateful for the opportunity to host this almost 50 year event in our community. See you at the fair!

Julie & Tracey



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 13 AT ST. LUKE'S IN BOONE

Our next *Men's Night Out* gathering will take place at 5:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 13** in the Solar Pavillion at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone, located at [170 Council Street](#). Our brethren from their congregation are preparing smoked pork and chicken with a venison appetizer (*oh, deer!*) at a cost of \$8 per person. Please remember to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy and share. There is ample parking in the church lot, but carpooling is always encouraged. For those of you (both of you?) who are musically inclined, the Boone Shape Note singers invite MNO to join them in the Chapel after our gathering to lift your voices in song.

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! To let our gracious hosts at St. Luke's know how many will be in attendance, please **RSVP by 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 11th** 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!

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  8:00pm “Online Compline Katie Hall and Ron Armstrong’s birthday Martie Thompson & Kip Kingree’s anniv.	2 Addison Martin’s birthday	3 Fran Sparks’ birthday Ann & Dennis Carlton-Jones’ anniversary
4 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 	5  8:00pm “Online Compline Scotty Gallamore’s birthday	6 Richard Goewey’s birthday	7 Darby & Jim Logan’s anniversary	8  8:00pm “Online Compline Tracey Heiss’ birthday	9	10 Leon Spencer’s birthday Sally & Dick James’ anniversary
11 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II  Rebecca Alford’s birthday	12  8:00pm “Online Compline	13  5:45pm Men’s Night Out	14 Nina-Jo Moore’s birthday	15  8:00pm “Online Compline Jeff Hedrick’s birthday	16 Allyn Morton’s birthday	17 
18 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II  Jane Blackburn & Ted Ponko’s anniv.	19  8:00pm “Online Compline Dayton Cole and Rebecca McDonough’s birthday	20	21 Floyd Townsend’s birthday	22  8:00pm “Online Compline Sally James’ birthday and Lori Seal & Mindy Weldon’s anniversary	23 Patty Adam’s birthday	24
25 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 	26  8:00pm “Online Compline Thomas Loflin and Jan Skopecek’s birthday	27	28	29  8:00pm “Online Compline Tricia Tennant’s birthday	30	31

Thursday, October 1, 2026

An Invitation to the Women of Holy Cross Parish

Please join us for a special coffee at 10:00 am in Skiles Hall, honoring Ali Chesney and celebrating her with gratitude and affection. It will be a lovely opportunity to gather together, enjoy coffee and fellowship, and share our appreciation for Ali and all she means for our parish community.

Please join ECW and friends for this special time of friendship and celebration! RSVP to Darby Logan.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

A Service of Installation at St. Luke's, Boone

The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina and the Wardens, Vestry, and people of St. Luke's Episcopal Church request your prayers and presence for the Celebration of a New Ministry and Installation of the Reverend Michael R. Alford as the Fourth Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

The service will be held on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 am at St. Luke's, 170 Councill Street in Boone, with reception to follow.

Calling All Bakers for the Valle Country Fair

Our annual Valle Fair is fast approaching and WE NEED YOU!

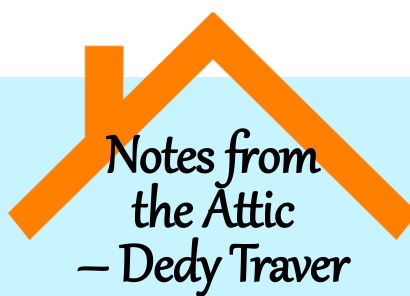
Visitors come from all over the world for your homemade goodies: cakes, pies, breads, candies, cupcakes, cookies, and all delicacies! A sign-up sheet and disposable pans for your use will be available in Skiles Hall. Please let us know if you're in need of something we may have overlooked. Also, please note if items are gluten free, peanut free, vegan, etc. These items, as are *all* baked goods, are always greatly appreciated by our visitors.

All baked goods need to be dropped off in Skiles Hall on Friday, October 16, 2026, between 7am and 5pm. Please contact Susan Poorman or Jennifer Henigin with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing your name and specialty baked item on the sign-up sheet in Skiles Hall!



Valle Country Store Items for Sale

Be sure to stop in at Skiles Hall to get your Valle Country Fair T-Shirts or Embroidered Fleece Zip Vests! If you need sizes not immediately available, please contact Sis Kinney or Karla Prudhomme and we'll have your item available for pick up the following Sunday.



Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

Have you ever wondered what travel would have been like when Bishop Ives started the mission in Valle Crucis? The following excerpts describe the trip of William Glenney French (who was to be the superior of the Order of the Holy Cross in Valle Crucis) from New York to Raleigh to Valle Crucis during November 1847. This is taken from *Anglican and Episcopal History-March 2000*.

“On 7 November 1847 William Glenney French, his brother, Louis French (then sixteen years of age), Oliver Prescott, and Hezeliah Thomas, a divinity student, assembled in N.Y. for the trip to N.C. Visiting a Roman Catholic bookshop, they purchased a crucifix, religious pictures, a book of devotions, an Ursuline manual, and letter paper imprinted with the likeness of St. Xavier. They then visited a Roman Catholic church to obtain patterns for cassocks, vestments and altar cloths. Their route was a circuitous one – by steamship from the Battery in NY to Ambey, then by train to Philadelphia, and by steamboat again to Baltimore. There they visited the Roman Catholic cathedral, finding a number of solitary worshipers, and regretted that several Episcopal churches were locked. They boarded another steamship for Portsmouth, Va., from whence they travelled by steamer to Petersburg, Va. In Petersburg on a Sunday they attended a local church where parishioners found their action of bowing in the creed curious. From Petersburg a train took them to Raleigh, NC. Here they met William R. Gries (who later became rector of St. Paul’s Church in Wilkesboro) and began arrangements for their overland journey. Gries had been a medical student and was to assist Skiles in his duties as physician. The group of five and two black servants (who were possibly freed slaves) left Raleigh on 18 November 1847. Hiring a two-horse wagon to carry supplies they were allowed to use the bishop’s span of large white horses to pull the load. They walked alongside the wagon. Spending the first night in a country tavern they found that candles and lamp oil were often inaccessible in the rural South and that illumination in the evening was produced by burning strips of “fat light wood” – strips of dried wood from the patch pine, which was rich in resin. Travel from Raleigh to Chapel Hill took two days. The men often sang chants as they walked along. On an exceptional day they covered 28 miles. Prescott, one of the members of the order, was to be assigned to a parish in Mocksville, and left the group at Greensboro. The others departed from Salem (now Winston-Salem) on 22 November 1847. Thanksgiving dinner was by the side of the road. After crossing the Yadkin River they caught their first glimpse of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They reached Valle Crucis in the evening of Saturday, 27 November 1847, the eve of the first Sunday in Advent. Word of their progress had somehow reached the mission and the evening service was delayed for them. On arrival French found a letter from Ives outlining his duties as superior. He was to be in charge of the entire mission complex, including the monastery, school, farm, mills, etc. Absolute obedience to him was required and he was to be addressed as “father”. When others approached him they were to do so demurely and with their hands crossed. In the monastic order Bishop Ives had taken the title of “general”. He required every monk on approaching him to bend a knee to the floor and receive a brief benediction, “God bless thee, my son”. Priests when officiating were to wear a surplice, and deacons and lay brothers were to wear albs. By this time about 300 acres of land had been cleared. At the mission was a log farm house and its brick kitchen. Other outbuildings included houses or shacks

Continued...

Notes from the Attic continued...

for storage of corn and a laundry. The long building, 60 x 20 feet, served many purposes. It contained the student dormitory on the second floor, classrooms and living quarters for two teachers on the main floor, and a brick-lined chapel in the basement. The mission house built of brick was reserved for the bishop and important visitors. William Skiles lived in a one room house on the grounds and a hired hand lived in another. The mill and smithy were also of log construction. In 1845 several thousand bricks had been purchased in nearby Tennessee. Those used in the mission house began to crumble as they had never been fired but cured only by exposure to the sun – that is to say, adobe bricks. By the fall of 1847 repairs were necessary, adding to the arduous work schedule of those at the mission. Cattle brought from Pennsylvania by the bishop failed to thrive and meat was scarce. French's diary over the winter of 1847-1848 reflected the poverty. A repetitious menu of buckwheat cakes and pork simmered in milk (which they called "sup") was served at breakfast. Hog meat, corn bread, and boiled apples were the usual lunch. The evening meal was typical mush and milk. In 1847 French prepared a devotional manual based on the Ursuline manual for students in the boarding school. The following year Ives and French decided to phase out the boarding school and have only divinity students at the mission. Some of the manuals were taken home by the boys and would later fall into the hands of Ives' critics. No known copies of the manual survive today. Lacking a bell, they used a bugle to summon members of the community to church. Since buildings were scattered over distances of up to a quarter of a mile it took ten minutes for all to assemble. Bishop Ives had originally insisted on having the seven canonical hours daily in the chapel. French found this impossible because of the laborious tasks required, and three or four services a day became the rule. A visitor to Valle Crucis over the winter of 1847-1848 observed, 'Being greatly pleased with what I saw I prolonged my stay for more than a month, the clergy officiate at the valley and for a distance of 80 miles...those who conduct the mission have given up their all even to their books to the mission. They have common property in everything...They receive neither fee nor reward. How little the Church at large knows of Valle Crucis.'

Outreach

(aka MOC)

Outreach is meeting the goal of giving under \$5,000 per month. We have helped 174 people since January first. We have new partners which range from financial assistance to resources for helping applicants find their way through governmental processes. Our team is encouraged by new community partners, new fundraiser interns, and the ever constant support of stalwarts like Rumble Presbyterian, Mount Vernon Baptist and Quiet Givers. Others are taking a pause due to an over amount of need in all of our calls. We thank our parish for its encouragement for our team's work. Some days we aren't burdened by caller needs rather we are just grateful we are in a position to help. That is due to you, your work for the VC Fair, your purchases of jams and apple butter. You are the ministry of outreach. Thank you!

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



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Diocese of Western North Carolina

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Jonathan C. Chesney, Rector

Emma Pullium, 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), 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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