



## Interim's Comments...

Dear Friends,

This is my last Interim's Page that I will write. My final Sunday will be May 17. After that, I will be worshipping in the pews, with you and with Julia.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, once again, as your Priest. It has been a great joy to serve old fiends and to make new one's here in the Valley of the Cross. If I have learned anything in these 39 years of ordained life, it's that ministry, like life, moves forward at its own pace.

The servant ministry of Jesus Christ is the thread that binds together all ministries here at Holy Cross, from Brother Skiles to the arrival of Jonathan Chesney next month. We rejoice in this goodly heritage, and take heart that the melody may change, but the Servant Song of our God remains the same!

May God's most sincere blessings, and my genuine love, abide with you always.

*Father Scott +*



## Birthdays

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Missy Watson       | 19 John Goodrich  |
| 4 Rebecca Cairns     | 28 Bill Rankin    |
| 5 Robin Collins-Buck | 29 Allan McCaslin |
| 7 Stacey Bulmer      | 29 Bill Gaddy     |
| 17 Hunter Martin     |                   |
| 17 Seth Yarber       |                   |
| 18 Susan Devine      |                   |

## Anniversaries

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                              | May 22                    |
| May 5                        | Angela and Jeff Williams  |
| Nancy and Ron McInnes        |                           |
|                              | May 22                    |
| May 9                        | Dayton and Cathy Cole     |
| Edie and Stuart Tugman       |                           |
|                              | May 24                    |
| May 14                       | Sis and Bob Kinney        |
| Carol and Steve Smith        |                           |
|                              | May 26                    |
| May 16                       | Jeff and Peggy Hedrick    |
| Jennifer and Walter Browning |                           |
|                              | May 27                    |
| May 20                       | Kim Baker and Jim Brown   |
| Nichole and Matt McGuire     |                           |
|                              | May 28                    |
|                              | Denise and Steven Bentley |



## Prayer List

Please keep the following in your prayers

**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., 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., Fred 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



## The Interim's Notebook

"The greatest prison people live in is the fear of what other people think." - Flannery O'Connor

"No one can have power over us without our permission." -Gandhi

"Your journey - to this very moment - has molded you for a purpose for your greater good and it was exactly what it needed you to be. Don't think your time is lost time. There is no short-cutting to life. It took each and every situation you have encountered to bring it to the NOW. And NOW, as always, is right on time." - Asha Tyson



## MEN'S NIGHT OUT

### MNO on May 19th in Valle Crucis Park

We'll be eating "*high on the hog*" when Bud Gerber and Keith Martin co-host the next **MEN'S NIGHT OUT** gathering from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19 at the Herrick Pavilion in the center of Valle Crucis Community Park, located at 2892 Broadstone Road behind the Original Mast Store Annex and near the intersection of NC Highway 194 in Valle Crucis (although the GPS address is Banner Elk). While there is plenty of room for parking, carpooling is always encouraged. NOTE that the rain location is Skiles Parish Hall at Holy Cross Church.

The menu includes BBQ pork and chicken from 'The Peddlin' Pig with appropriate sides and homemade cupcakes 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, May 17 via email to [KeithTMartin@gmail.com](mailto: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!**

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Missy Watson's birthday	2
3 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II	4 8:00pm "Online Compline Rebecca Cairn's birthday	5 Robin Collins-Buck's birthday Nancy & Ron McInnes' anniversary	6 4pm Daughters of the King meeting	7 8:00pm "Online Compline Stacey Bulmer's birthday	8	9 Edie & Stuart Tugman's anniversary
10 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II	11 8:00pm "Online Compline	12	13 4pm Daughters of the King meeting	14 8:00pm "Online Compline Carol and Steve Smith's anniversary	15	16 Jennifer and Walter Browning's anniversary
17 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Hunter Martin and Seth Yarber's birthday	18 8:00pm "Online Compline Susan Devine's birthday	19  5:30pm Men's Night Out Beach Party John Goodrich's birthday	20 4pm Daughters of the King meeting Nichole & Matthew McGuire's anniversary	21 8:00pm "Online Compline	22 Dayton & Cathy Cole and Angela & Jeff Williams' anniversary	23
24 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Sis and Bob Kinney's anniversary	25 8:00pm "Online Compline	26 Peggy & Jeff Hedrick's anniversary	27 4pm Daughters of the King meeting Jim Brown & Kim Baker's anniversary	28 8:00pm "Online Compline Bill Rankin's birthday Denise & Steve Bentley's anniversary	29 Allan McCaslin and Bill Gaddy's birthday	30
31 8am & 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II						

## 2026 Valle Country Fair needs you!

Preparation for your 2026 Valle Country Fair is in full swing! *Thank you* to those who have offered to fill vacant roles on the fair leadership team. If you are available – for an hour or day or more – please contact Julie Gates or Tracey Heiss. We can find a volunteer role perfect for you. We guarantee fun, laughs, a warm heart AND a sense of accomplishment. Email [vcf.chairs@gmail.com](mailto:vcf.chairs@gmail.com) or call Julie (704-906-2269) or Tracey (703-919-9767) directly. Thank you!



## Outreach

It's great to see these sunny days, isn't it? Even the rainy days are welcome to drench our forests and flower gardens.

Here's the scoop on how our Outreach is doing:

Individuals assisted with bills from January 1 to March 31: 63


The two main categories of assistance are housing and power. We verify the asks by calling landlords and power companies to be sure the amount of money is accurate, mailing addresses are correct and any other data relative to the case.

We are getting triple the amount of calls these days over last year. This has caused us to tighten our belts and reduce what we give. Partnering with other churches is less available in the second half of the year because they rely on church member donations rather than big fundraisers. We are blessed by the hard work of our parish members at the Valle Country Fair, which supports Outreach along with some pretty fabulous donations.

Thanks to Martie Thompson who has found new partners and resources for our clients. Way to go, Martie, whose research skills shine for MOC.

Best to All!





## Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

Last year, 1925, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for Holy Cross Church. The building of the sanctuary was in part due to the Rev. James Preston Burke. This month's Notes are from Betsy Burke Farrar who was the daughter of Rev. Burke who came to Valle Crucis in July 1923 to assume charge of the Valle Crucis Mission School and the Chapel of the Cross (Holy Cross). In 1924 Rev. Burke formed a committee to oversee the fund-raising and building of the present church building. Here are Betsy's memories of her parents' time in Valle Crucis. I found this information on the *Digital Watauga* website for the Valle Crucis Conference Center.

My mother and father, James and Elizabeth Burke, were married in 1922 and came to Valle Crucis shortly thereafter. He, a recent graduate of the University of Chicago and Seabury-Western Seminary; she having been a voice student in New York City. Both were from rural Piedmont, North Carolina. He had the call to the mission field. I know my mother was relieved when the final decision was Valle Crucis, instead of Alaska, my father's choice!

They settled in a small white cottage, with a porch overlooking the school for girls and the construction of the Church of the Holy Cross. My father must have busied himself with the overseeing of the church building and his chaplaincy duties at the school, where my mother's aunt, Isabel Graves, was principal. My mother explored the mountain winding dirt roads in the Model-T. Pictures show her in her city clothes in a car, which was pretty much of a novelty in the twenties.

The speech pattern and customs of the mountain people were a challenge for her. Once, stopping her car to offer a ride to a woman on foot, the answer was, "don't keer've I do." Thinking the woman really did not want a ride, my mother started up the car to continue up the mountain. The woman ran to catch up with her. "Don't keer/ve I do" really meant simply, "yes"!

On another visit, the hostess asked, "Can I get you some cheers?" My mother nodded, thinking it the safest response, though she had no idea what she was getting. Chairs, of course. My mother's favorite person to visit was called simply "Old Aunt Phrainy." One of Aunt Phrainy's many wise sayings was, "children ain't nothing but trouble and satisfaction." That remark was quoted by my parents many times and I have, in turn, passed it on to my children.

I was nurtured on Valle Crucis songs sung to me by my mother - "I had a Cat and the Cat Pleased Me", "Rooster Crowing on Sourwood Mountain", "Don't You Let Me Die", "Old Maid" and "Froggie Went A-Courting".

My father's favorite person must have been Cicero Decatur Dyer, the manager of the apple orchard, and a man of great dignity to match his name. The story was told on Cicero that, for the first time in his life, he took a trip out of the valley and over the mountain to the city of Lenoir where he was served to his dismay – oysters!

Apparently, the railroad was in operation back then. The story was told of a boy running down the tracks, the engineer braking, blowing his horn, and finally stopping and shouting, "Boy, why don't you get off the tracks?" The answer was, "I knowd if I git out in that plowed field you'd ketch me!"

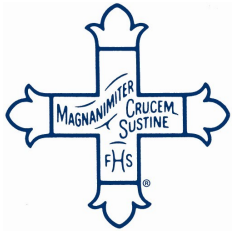
My mother chose Grace Hospital in Morganton for my birth. I never heard them speak of a doctor in the valley, but they did speak of the Masts and the Taylors. I had wonderful baby-sitters among the girls from the school.

*continued*

*Notes from the Attic continued...*

The church completed, my father became interested in the beginning of a conference center for the Diocese near Hendersonville, the outgrowth of the thinking of a number of persons at Valle Crucis. Leaving the valley, he moved with his new family to Hendersonville to be rector and a part of Kanuga Conference.

(My parents never meant these stories to in anyway belittle the people of Valle Crucis. There was great affection and respect there.)



## Daughters of the What??

“Daughters of the King.” You may have heard the phrase from time to time, but do you know what the Daughters of the King is? The official title of the group is **The Order of the Daughters of the King**, but here at Holy Cross we refer to ourselves as the DOK, which takes much less time and effort to say! But just *what is* the DOK?

### Order vs. Organization

A Christian order is a community of men or women living under a religious rule. Because Daughters of the King accept a Rule of Life, we define ourselves as an **order**, not an organization. Our order is known primarily in its local chapters, but those chapters are found in Episcopal churches throughout the world. Since the DOK is not simply an organization, we don’t just enroll as members and attend meetings. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

### The Promises We Make

Upon admission to The Order, a Daughter of the King promises to:

- To obey the two Rules of The Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.
- To offer at all times loyal aid to our clergy and parish to spread Christ’s kingdom.
- To wear faithfully the cross of The Order.

To work for the purposes of The Order as God may give us the opportunity.

### The Mission of The Order

The Mission of The Order is the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.

### Who We Are

The DOK is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. We are Christian women who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

### The St. Helena Chapter of the Daughter of the King

The St. Helena Chapter has been active at Holy Cross for years. Currently we have eighteen members, and we welcome anyone interested in becoming a Daughter to join us on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 pm in Skiles. All confirmed members of Holy Cross are eligible to participate in the three month study to determine if you feel called to join or not. If you have any questions about the DOK, ask any of us! Members include Kim Gauss (president), Darby Logan (Vice President), Katie Hall (Treasurer), Sis Kinney, Ann Iles, Claire McDonough, Doris Boulton, Jane Blackburn, Karla Prudhomme, Mary Pietan, Mary Watson, Patty Adams, Susan Poorman, Suzie Taylor, and Vickie Traynum.



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[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), 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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