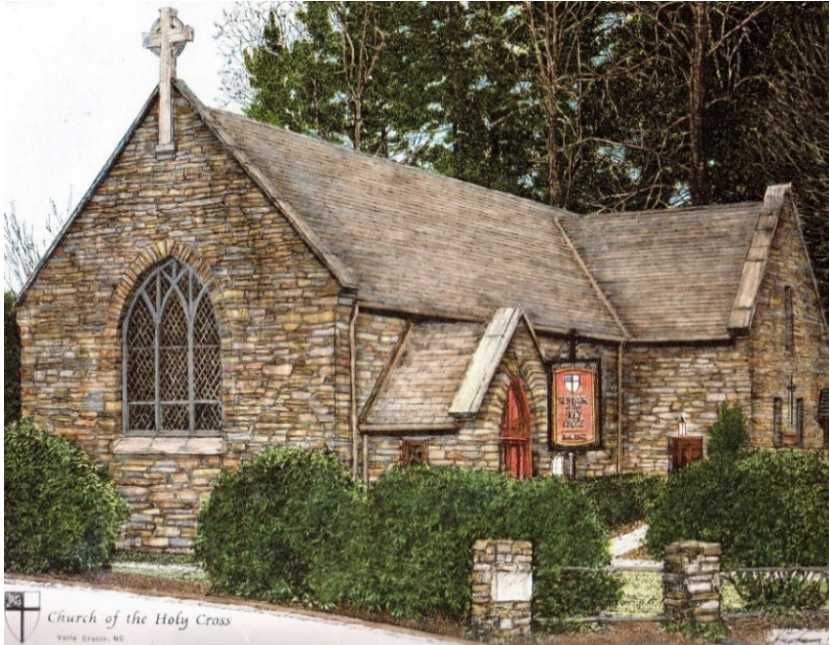


The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

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.

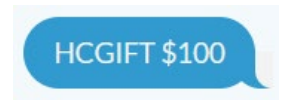
Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

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 Shane Watson

The Announcements: *(Pages 14-19)*

Nina-Jo Moore

The Children's Moment:

The Rev. Robin E. Mathews

All children are welcome to come forward for the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle:

Priest: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" *(Isaiah 2:4)*

People: **Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

Priest: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

The Priest will dismiss children to follow our volunteers to the weekly Sunday School program, or to remain in the sanctuary with their parents. The Sunday School will rejoin the service at the Passing of the Peace.

All stand at the sound of the bell.

The Opening Hymn: #57 "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending" *Helmsley*

The Opening Acclamation:

Priest: Blessed are you, Holy and Living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

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 Trisagion:

#S-102

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- 2 **Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 **To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.**
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
“May they prosper who love you.**
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 **For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.**
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good.”

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Second Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn: WLP #721

“Signs of Endings All Around Us”

Ton-y-Botel

(Green Hymnal)

The Gospel Proclamation:

Matthew 24:36-44

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon:

The Rev. Robin E. Mathews

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

The Nicene Creed:

BCP 358

**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 Form V

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the God of our Salvation.

A period of silence is kept.

Leader: For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for José our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Continued...

Leader: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald our President and Josh our Governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For all who live and work in this community, and for all those you now name:

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: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that, being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, and for those prayers you would now name:

The people are invited to offer prayers and hopes either in their heart or by saying out loud:

“My prayer is: _____. This is my prayer.”

The people will respond:

People: This is our prayer.

The Leader concludes saying,

Leader: For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone; that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of William West Skiles and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord our God.

Priest: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

All stand as they are able.

The Peace:

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 Welcome:

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, place your right hand over your left shoulder. 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 Anthem:

“A Point”

Thomas Tallis

The Advent Presentation Hymn:

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, praise him all crea - tures here be - low;



praise him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer 2*

EOW 60

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 our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

The Sanctus:

#S-129

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

***People:* “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

***People:* “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

Continued...

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Mother Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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-158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

The Invitation: *The Priest invites the people to Communion.*

Hymns during the Communion:

#345 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

#338 “Wherefore, O Father, We Thy Humble Servants”

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: #56 (vss. 1-2) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

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.

The Advent Blessing:

Priest: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

People: Amen.

Priest: May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People: Amen.

Priest: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

People: Amen.

Priest: And the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

The Sending Hymn: #66

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

The Dismissal:

Priest: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Postlude:

Offered by Shane Watson

We are delighted to Welcome Home to Holy Cross, the Rev. Robin Mathews!

We also thank those who served this morning

8:00 am

11:00 am

Musician:

Greeters & Ushers:

Lectors:

Prayers of the People:

Chalice:

Acolytes:

Linen Fairy:

Ed & Beth Beck

Jane Blackburn

Jane Blackburn

Karla Prudhomme

Karla Prudhomme

Shane Watson

Derek Eggers & Randy McDonough

Dawn Harris

Dawn Harris

Nina-Jo Moore

John Goodrich & Nina-Jo Moore

Kim Gauss

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations for Christmas Flowers and Greenery

The Altar Guild relies upon donations in order to decorate the Church for Christmas. Please give generously using the envelopes provided in the pews and/or in Skiles Hall.

REMEMBER: Completed forms **must be submitted by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, December 17, 2025** in order to be included in all Christmas Service Leaflets.

Thank you!

Holy Cross Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve will be here soon. This year Holy Cross will host a pageant at the 5pm service. We are in recruitment mode! If your child or grandchild will be here over Christmas we would love to include them! Please contact Andrea McDonough (amacd1962@gmail.com) for details! We will host two rehearsals: The first will be after the 11am service on Sunday December 21. The other will be at a time to be determined on December 23. We would love to include you!

Join the Holy Cross Chancel Choir!

If you enjoy singing in the car or the shower, consider joining the Holy Cross Chancel Choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm in the Skiles Hall Choir Room. Can't read music? No problem. Afraid you can't carry a tune? That's probably false. Afraid of the time commitment? Just talk to Shane. We'd love to have you join this aspect of our music ministry.

2026 Calendars Available!

A limited supply of 2026 Churchman's Ordo Calendars are available for purchase for \$5 in the Parish Office. This calendar offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days which are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion.

Ushers and Greeters Needed

Holy Cross congregants, we are in dire need of additional Ushers to serve at both the 8am and the 11am services. Please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity.

Call or email Karla Prudhomme: (423) 202-4386 / krprudhomme@skybest.com

Dewey's Bakery Holiday Shop Open!

Hello Parishioners who have supported SmileOnADG, the Adam Galleher Memorial Fund for many years!

Our Dewey's Bakery Holiday Shop is open at Shoppes on the Parkway, Blowing Rock. We are located in Unit #2, open 7 days a week. Our contact phone is 828-572-9679.

Remember, when you purchase cookies & gifts from our shop, you are supporting Adam's Memorial Fund at 35% and we thank you for that.

This enables us to continue giving grants and scholarships to our local schools in Watauga, Ashe & Avery. --Debbie & Mike Galleher

TODAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
The First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
9:15 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
9:15 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

The Parish Prayer List: November 30, 2025

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., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Gini H., Michael H., Laura B., Jeff I., Russell, Gabriella F., Troy W., Jim L., Linda B., David F., Mamie M., Courtney K., Stacey D., Gideon E., Skylar P., Bettie B., Mike L., Ann I., _____.

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 ANGEL TREE TIME!!

There are several families at Valle Crucis school, and residents at The Life Care Center in Banner Elk for whom Holy Cross Church is their only Santa Claus. We also are helping out our Valle Crucis Teachers with gift cards this year as well. Thank you all in advance for your generosity!

Follow the link below to access this year's "Virtual Angel Tree" registry and sign-up for gift donations. Here is how the Angel Tree gift donations will work this year:

- Sign-up for gift(s) donations via this SignUPGenius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FADAC23A2FB6-holy1>
- Bring your wrapped and tagged gift(s) to Skiles Hall. The Christmas tree will be in place in Skiles Hall after November 28, 2025.
 - **Please begin bringing wrapped and tagged gifts starting on Sunday November 30, 2025.**
 - **All gifts and teacher gift cards need to be delivered to Skiles Hall no later than Sunday December 14, 2025.**
 - **For those buying gifts for Life Care Persons please add a few nice toiletries (lotions, creams, body washes, etc.)**
- **THANK YOU so much for your help!**

Questions? Call Tracey Heiss: 703-919-9767, or Susan Howard: 828-260-4740

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024
Men's Night Out
Valle Crucis Conference Center Dining Hall

The final ***Men's Night Out*** gathering for 2025 -- and the conclusion of our ninth year of fellowship -- is a festive holiday gathering and "roast beast feast" beginning with B.Y.O. cocktails at **5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16** in the dining hall at the historic Valle Crucis Conference Center with dinner served promptly at 6:15 p.m. Remember that after this meeting, we'll be taking a two-month hiatus over the winter season, resuming in March 2026.

We're repeating the v-e-r-y popular menu from previous years consisting of "USDA prime chuck pot roast tenderly bathed and simmered until it's a melt in your mouth consistency in a rich stock containing carrots, onions, garlic, thyme, and sage (with an equally savory salmon option for non-beef eaters) accompanied by Yukon gold mashed potatoes, creamed and herbed, Southern classic green beans with red peppers, butter, salt and pepper, accompanied by rustic oven warm wheat rolls, and a splendidly sumptuous salad bar serving all the favorites with a choice of dressing, and... spiced fruit cobbler served warm with vanilla ice cream for dessert, plus coffee, tea, water, and juices." ***Yum!***

The cost is a suggested **\$20** contribution per person but... in light of the holiday spirit, and in honor of VCCC providing such heroic hurricane relief assistance and a welcoming home to Valle Crucis School, MNO participants are asked to prayerfully consider a contribution above and beyond that amount in support of VCCC's unparalleled "Ministry of Hospitality."

MNO is an 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! In order to let our gracious hosts know how many will be in attendance from Holy Cross, please RSVP by noon on Sunday, December 14 (note the early deadline) via email to KeithTMartin@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, please 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. ***Please join us!***

Helping the Hungry in the High Country

You've seen the changes in funding for the SNAP food program. You've generously supported the Summer Food Program for Children through Holy Cross. Thank you for that. There is a great need again to help fill the shelves of local food banks. The need is urgent.

Please bring your canned and boxed goods to Skiles on Sundays (or any day) and place them on the tables in the Welcome Center designated for Hunger and Health Coalition, Hospitality House Kitchen Pantry or Foscoe Hometown Team. Check out store BOGOs, sales flyers, look over your own pantry and ask your clubs and social groups to join in the fight against hunger. Every can or box counts. You count. Someone nearby goes to bed with food in the belly because of you. A child, an older person, someone out of work needs what you do.

We are fortunate to have drivers to carry food to our local food banks. We just need the food. Bring any of these: canned fruits, vegetables, tuna or chicken. Boxes of cereal, milks and juices, baby formula, paper products, jars of peanut butter and jelly, condiments like ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper, hot sauce. New socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants, gloves, scarves, coats, winter work clothes and bottled water are all needed in Foscoe, where there are still homes without running water. Fill your green Simple Gesture bags. Kip Kingree or Judy Bondi will take them to Hunger and Health. Jeff and Angela Williams will tote goods and food to Foscoe Hometown Team. Ron Armstrong will carry food to Hospitality House Kitchen Pantry.

Thank you so much for your response to this food drive. It matters. Things work because of you. Blessings on you and yours for what you do for others.

Any questions? Please contact Jeff Williams: jcwilliamsinc@hotmail.com; (336) 314-1010

The Church of the Holy Cross

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector

Shane Watson, Director of Music

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Nina-Jo Moore (2025 – completing term), Senior Warden

Darby Logan (2025), Junior Warden

Jennifer Browning (2025 – completing term)

Doris Boulton (2026)

Catherine Morton (2026 – completing term)

Angela Williams (2026)

Radie Armstrong (2027)

Derek Eggers (2027)

Sis Kinney (2027)

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Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk
