



June 2026



Dear new friends at Church of the Holy Cross,

Greetings in Christ! I am overjoyed and deeply honored to have been called to serve as your next rector. We have already been warmly greeted several times with the phrase “welcome home to Holy Cross” and that welcome was in truth what drew me to your profile and parish. The space you made for school children and Methodist friends after their spaces were unusable post-Helene spoke to me of a people alive with the spirit of Christ’s call to love our neighbors, just the sort of place I hoped to join in ministry. Such Benedictine hospitality, welcoming all as Christ, only made sense when I learned about the first and early Anglican monastic society in Holy Cross’ history and spiritual D.N.A.

And I do feel a bit that I am coming home, even though I’ve never lived in North Carolina before. Born in the Virginia side of the Blue Ridge, though I did not live in them long, those mountains always felt like a homecoming. I feel blessed to be bringing my family to them. Ali, my wife, grew up in Waukegan, Illinois, though we met and married at Camp McDowell in Alabama. We spent a year in Chicago before Memphis, where I did a deep dive into pastoral care as an ER chaplain, and have spent the last seven years in Memphis, with me at Holy Communion, and Ali teaching gardening science at Hutchison School. We’re eager to make a new home in your gracious rectory, beginning a new chapter with our daughter Georgi, and our twin daughter and son, Maisie and Malcolm. Knowing we will live next to your beautiful church calls to my mind the words of the Psalmist, that even “the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts.”

Ali and I deeply value community and so will spend a little longer in Memphis this spring, finishing our work and saying goodbye well to the places and people among whom we have served and that have nurtured and supported us so well these past few years. And then, we will come to you with full and eager hearts, ready to jump into life at Holy Cross and in the high country. I will come to you ready to listen and look for the ways God will call us to serve and journey together and all those God will put in our path. I expect many joys, plenty of challenges, and above all, opportunities to live into and bear witness to God’s grace within and without us, that great work of Christian discipleship shared in the rhythms of our liturgy and tradition. Until then, know that I hold you in my prayers with thanksgiving and anticipation to be with you.

Yours in faith,

Jonathan+

June

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Stuart Tugman | 21 David Barnhill |
| 2 Judy Bondi | 22 Casey Miller |
| 6 Beth Beck | 23 Robert Hartmans |
| 7 Trish Lanier | 24 Dedy Traver |
| 7 Ryan Loflin | 25 Julia Courtney |
| 8 Faye Cooper | 26 Debbie Galleher |
| 9 Ernestine Glover | 26 Claire McDonough |
| 10 Leslie Trevathan | 27 Karen Spencer |
| 13 Alicia Toomey | 28 Edie Tugman |
| 19 Bob Gates | 28 Dick Nelson |
| 21 Ann Carlton-
Jones | 30 Ken Craig |

Anniversaries

June 1
Susan & Alex Poorman

June 20
Margaret and Kurt Love

June 2
Ken & Niki Craig

June 22
Susan Owens and
Paul Bernhardt

June 2
Marilee and Jim Reed

June 23
Linda and Eric Buermann

June 6
Mary and Ernie Armstrong

June 24
Susan and George Devine

June 8
Sarah and Jim Jordan

June 25
Christine and Brady Myers

Prayer List

Please keep the following in your prayers this week:

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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., 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., Linda B., Mike L., Mike M., Susan M., Jacque M., Arthur L., Coleman B., David, Michael T., Wayne W., Scott W., Sally, Bob C.

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.



ECW will hold it's monthly meeting on **Sunday June 14** after the 11am service

All are welcome!



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Wow-a, That's-a Spicy Meat-a Ball-a!

Okay, now that we've gotten that cultural stereotype out of the way, let's talk about our next Men's Night Out gathering. It will take place from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16** in the Parish Hall at **St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church in Blowing Rock**, located at 140 Chestnut Drive at the corner of Main Street. The Merry Men of St. Mary's Chef **Aidan Waite** -- who has THREE Michelin Stars -- will be preparing a taste of old Italy at a suggested contribution of \$15 per person.

All drinks will be provided, including a couple or three different beers, red and white vino, and non-alcoholic beverages, all cheerfully served by St. Mary's bartenders. All you need to do is bring a healthy appetite and a spirit of fellowship and fun. There is on-street parking in front of the church or in a surface lot on Chestnut adjacent to the building, and across Main Street at BRAHM, but carpooling is always encouraged.










MNO is a monthly opportunity for men from within our parishes 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 know how many will be in attendance, please RSVP by noon on Sunday, June 14 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!



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  8:00pm "Online Compline Susan & Alex Poorman's anniversary	2 Stuart Tugman and Judy Bondi's birthday and Ken & Niki Craig and Marilee & Jim Reed's anniversary	3	4  8:00pm "Online Compline	5	6 Beth Beck's birthday Ernie & Mary Armstrong's anniversary
7 Holy Eucharist *ONE service only 10am Trish Lanier and Ryan Loflin's birthday	8  8:00pm "Online Compline Faye Cooper's birthday Sarah and Jim Jordan's anniversary	9 Ernestine Glover's birthday	10	11  8:00pm "Online Compline Leslie Trevathan's birthday	12	13 Alicia Toomey's birthday
14 Holy Eucharist 9:00am St. John's 11:00am Holy Cross ECW after 11am service 	15  8:00pm "Online Compline	16  5:30-7:30pm Men's Night Out	17	18  8:00pm "Online Compline	19 Bob Gates' birthday	20 Margaret and Kurt Love's anniversary
21 Holy Eucharist 9:00am St. John's 11:00am Holy Cross Ann Carlton-Jones' birthday	22  8:00pm "Online Compline David Barnhill and Casey Miller's birthday Susan Owens & Paul Bernhardt's anniversary	23 9:30am-12:30pm DOK Quiet Day Robert Hartmans' birthday and Linda & Eric Bueermann's anniversary	24 Dedy Traver's birthday George & Susan Devine's anniversary	25  8:00pm "Online Compline Julia Courtney's birthday Christine & Brady Myers' anniversary	26 Claire McDonough and Debbie Galleher's birthday	27 Karen Spencer's birthday
28 Holy Eucharist 9:00am St. John's 11:00am Holy Cross Edie Tugman and Dick Nelson's birthday	29  8:00pm "Online Compline	30 Ken Craig's birthday				



TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
DOK Quiet Day – 9:30am - 12:30pm
“I kneel before the Father” – Ephesians 3:14



St. Helena’s Chapter of Daughters of the King invites one and all to a “Quiet Day” on Tuesday, June 23 at Holy Cross.

- 9:00 am** Gathering and Coffee in Skiles Hall
- 9:30 am** Gathering in Skiles Hall – reflections on humility, waiting on God, and patient prayer
- 11:00 am** Gathering in Holy Cross Sanctuary – service for intercession, silence, prayers and music
- 12:30 pm** Lunch in Skiles Hall

Hosted by Pan McCaslin, a life-long Episcopalian and current member of Holy Cross, who serves the Church offering opportunities for education, wellness and spiritual formation. She works with Church Pension Group offering clergy wellness programs, consults with clergy and vestries, and leads retreats. She and her husband live on Beech Mountain, have three adult children and four grands.

If you’ve ever thought about joining Daughters of the King, or just wondered about who we are, or you just need a “Quiet Day” before the peak of summer that comes with the Fellowship of like-minded souls, please join us. Feel free to bring friends who might need that “Quiet Day” as well. All are welcome. Always.

Please RSVP to Kim Gauss at kfgauss73@gmail.com so that we can abundantly accommodate all attendees for lunch.

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 or call Julie (704-906-2269) or Tracey (703-919-9767) directly. Thank you!



Outreach

Outreach June 2026 Report

Assistance Provided To Date in 2026: 87 people helped

Utilities: \$12,8000

Housing: \$7,800

Medical: \$2,000

Auto: \$2,100

We are seeing a rise in rent costs, loss of HUD vouchers, increased loss of wages due to closing businesses and illness that precludes working. Two cases were organ transplants that require help with housing near hospitals for patient to be discharged. Without that assistance the surgery is not scheduled. People have authentic needs and they are severe. Every agency with whom we partner is watching their outlay, as are we. We are fortunate to have MOC member Mary Stolberg and Church Treasurer Jan Skopecek to help us keep track of our cases and costs as well as our projections. MOC members attended a consortium lead by BUMC minister Laura Byrch whose mission is to bring attention to the underserved, to meet and know each other and to resolve secure communication across agencies. There were 9 churches and agencies represented, some with interns who were bright and dedicated. We look forward to continuing these relationships. Watauga county is working hard to help those in need. Our beliefs are one in Christ's directive to share our bounty with our neighbors in need.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026


Eucharistic Minister & Lay Reader Training – 10:00 am

Attention all current Altar Servers & Lectors (Readers), and anyone interested in being trained for either or both: Training will be held in the Holy Cross Sanctuary on Saturday June 20th from 10am-12pm, led by Nina-Jo Moore and Karla Prudhomme.

We will also be reviewing any new procedural changes requested by Father Jonathan, our new Parish Priest.

For additional information and to sign up for training, please contact Karla Prudhomme.





Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

The new Valle Crucis School opened late last year (2025) and a number of Holy Cross members were able to tour the school. What an amazing space for the children with so much new technology! Did you know that next year, 2027, will mark the 90th anniversary of the completion of the “old” stone school building?!! This information comes from Harding Hughes’ book, *My Valle Crucis: the 1930s*.

As the 1903’s began the white, wooden Valle Crucis school had three rooms and three teachers and many more students than the one-teacher schools on Clarks Creek and Dutch Creek. Available figures for 1931 show 137 students enrolled at Valle Crucis, 55 at Clarks Creek, and only 27 at Dutch Creek. The 1937 completion of a new stone school building in Valle Crucis across the creek and across the road from the old school was a big event as was the beginning of the 1937-38 school year when the new school was assigned the pupils from eight small elementary schools: Valle Crucis, Clarks Creek, and Dutch Creek, and also Cool Springs, Valley Mountain, Shulls Mills, Foscoe, and Grandfather. The elegant new school provided a separate classroom and teacher for each of the seven grades and a cafeteria-auditorium with a stage. It had electricity and inside plumbing. The auditorium gave the people of Valle Crucis a fine new place for community gatherings.

This major improvement was made possible by the Works Progress Administration, a federal Depression-fighting agency of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” in Washington. The WP constructed the school with Watauga county contributing half of the \$23,117 cost. The project also provided work for people who needed work. Carpenters earned thirty cents an hour, masons seventy cents.

Real school buses negotiated the narrow, unpaved back roads to pick up girls and boys and bring them to their new school.

Speaking of buses, Harding Hughes continues in his book:

Most people in Valle Crucis did not own automobiles when the east Tennessee and Western North Carolina Transportation Company started bus service on March 1, 1932, between Boone and Johnson City via Valle Crucis, Banner Elk, and Elk Park. Buses ran twice a day each way. The fare from Valle Crucis to Boone was 50 cents. To get to Boone people now had the choice of “catchin’ the bus” or “ridin’ the mail” (truck). (The bus company was a subsidiary of the railroad company bearing the same name – but better known in later years as “Tweetsie”.) By 1936 the service had become so popular that the company was running three buses a day each way. As hard as it may be for a person to believe in the new century, from 1932 through the rest of that decade buses negotiated that curvy ascent and descent between Valle Crucis and Banner Elk.



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

[Clergy & Staff](#)

The Rev. Jonathan C. Chesney, Rector
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
PO Box 645
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