



November
2024



Dear Holy Cross,

We are in a strange time together. The rector transition adds to the uncertainty of our post Helene world, and the looming election adds an even more heightened sense of anxiety. This all constitutes a sort of crisis of the unknown, the uncertain. Many of you might not remember the last time Holy Cross was in an interim and this is the first time I have served in this capacity. What is certain is that we belong to each other, to God, and to this community.

In my short time with you it is clear that you are committed to the responsibility that comes with belonging. Since the hurricane you have reached out to each other in support, you have provided for the community, you have opened your doors to many in need, and you have done all of this with a spirit of gratitude and love.

Over the next several months part of our work will be to identify the challenges that we face as an institution. More importantly our work will be to practice belonging. Belonging to God in how we face down anxiety with trust, to each other in our examination of our church, and to this community in learning how to build stronger relationships outside of our walls. This is the work of transition, it is a work of belonging. I want to invite you to take a look at Romans Chapter 12. These words of advice from Paul to a church in crisis might shed light on what the Holy Spirit is doing with us in this moment of crisis. Read the chapter on your phone, with your spouse, at night with your children, at gatherings in the church. Let love be genuine, Paul says. That is something you already know how to do.

Blessings to you,

Rev Robert (you can call me Robert)



November

Birthdays

1 Randy McDonough	22 Lucy Binning
1 Dawn Harris	22 George Devine
2 Margaret Love	22 Reid Armstrong
5 Judy Nye	23 Suzie Taylor
10 William McGuire	24 John Dewees
11 Gabriela Norfleet	24 Adam Kallestad
12 Jerri Borgman	24 Marie Kallestad
14 Terry Marshall	24 Caroline Shepherd
17 Jeremy Ringler	25 Beth Loflin
18 Jim Brown	25 Ed Beck
18 Niki Craig	25 Susan Poorman
18 Matthew McGuire	26 Iona Bringham
20 Emma Ringler	29 Thomas McDonough

Anniversaries

November 5

Bert and David Yates

November 11

Kim and Tav Gauss

November 14

Sheila and David Barnhill

November 24

Pat and Rick LeVarge

November 26

The Rev. Allan and Pan McCaslin



Prayer List

Please hold these people in your healing prayers this week:

Healing: Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Laura B., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Roberta T., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Bill M., Andrea M., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., Anna Jane R., Steve S., Nick H., Pat & Linda H., Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Hope L., David S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Mary M., Cornelia S., Ann G., Mary Jane M., Dave & Pat P., Jan H., Kelly C., Jesse H., Joe U., Rosalie G.

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.



God is good! MOC has enough in reserve to meet our monthly outlay for calls for assistance through December of 2025, thanks to the huge success of the last several Valle Country Fairs. All that labor by the good folks of Holy Cross Church and others in the community paid off in a big way to survive the crisis created by Hurricane Helene on September 27. Tav continues to solicit donations to support the special projects the MOC team had intended for the community which we cannot cover. Those are: (1) the special heating project to supply 30 families with fuel fill ups to get through the coldest months, (2) grants to non profit programs to assist with their work for the community, (3) the “Above and Beyond” project aka “Queen for a Day” for one household a year to be awarded additional support above our \$300 max assistance due to extreme circumstances. You brought us to this point with your hard work for the Fair and your generosity. Thank you for that. You are the living mission of our church.

We welcome four new members to the MOC team. Ann Gerber and Mary Stolberg are former members returning and Martie Thompson and Kip Kingree are coming onboard as we end this year. Welcome. We are delighted to have you.

Please remember the green Simple Gesture bags to be filled with canned food and boxed meals. Hunger was a need before. Now it’s a crisis. The Hunger and Health Coalition is inundated with requests for food and will be this winter. With jobs lost, food is a need that can’t wait. The Angel Tree is coming, too. New, warm clothes, treats, games and craft supplies will be so welcome by children and senior citizens. BOLO the announcement about Angel Tree.

My heart is warmed by all you do. The local school children, uprooted from Valle Crucis School, lending their cheerful voices are a treasure and a pleasure these days at Holy Cross. We are blessed

Be well. Stay happy!

Radie Armstrong
MOC Chair



It’s almost time for the **ANGEL TREE!** There are several children at Valle Crucis school and several residents at The Life Care Center in Banner Elk for whom Holy Cross Church is their only Santa Claus.

We will be sending out a registry for you to sign up to donate gifts soon. Thank you for being a part of The Little Church that Helps People!



Episcopal Church Women News

Our next **ECW** meeting is **Sunday November 10th at 12:45 pm**

UNITED THANK OFFERING



Practice Gratitude
and change the world.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover.

Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders, and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. UTO's focus is still on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

This November your Holy Cross ECW will be collecting donations for the **United Thank Offering (UTO)**. We'll be distributing "blue boxes" and donation envelopes at the beginning of November, and **we will collect the final offering at the 11:00 service on Sunday November 24th.**

UTO is a wonderful way to practice daily gratitude. Every time you put coins or dollars in your blue box, say a simple prayer of gratitude.



AND...Don't forget! ECW will be having their annual Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale!

Sunday November 24th after the 11:00 service. Funds raised in our bake sale help us support families with gift cards at Christmas.



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Due to the proximity of our usual meeting dates with both Thanksgiving and Christmas, MNO is combining those gatherings into a single holiday celebration in the dining hall at the Valle Crucis Conference Center on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024.**

Additional details will follow in a few weeks.



Saturday, November 2, 2024

9:00a.m., Valle Crucis Conference Center - Exploring Christian Poetry - Katerina Whitley will host a retreat on poets of faith who have trusted God, inspired faith, and proclaimed truth in metaphor and beauty during times of disaster and hardship.



Don't Forget!

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3, 2024

Remember to turn your clocks ***BACK*** one hour ***before*** retiring on Saturday evening November 3rd.

Enjoy the extra hour sleep and we'll see you at the **10 am worship service** on Sunday Morning to celebrate ***The Feast of All Saints'*** and ***gather for our Annual Meeting!***



OBSERVATIONS IN THE GARDENS

As I was driving up from Greensboro to meet my gardening buddies on Saturday, I was thinking about how the gardens have changed since I first came to Holy Cross in 2013. We did an overhaul years ago of the flower beds along the walkway to the sacristy door. And now 8 years or so later, many plants have overgrown their space, some plants have overtaken others, and many volunteers (free gifts from the birds and the wind) have appeared each year so that the beds are chock full and overflowing!

In other areas, there is plenty of evidence that some garden fairies, unbeknownst to the regular garden team, have blessed us with pops of color in the way of tulips, pansies, daffodils and other spring bulbs. Occasionally I will hear that someone (or two) have stopped by St John's and pulled some weeds, trimmed and deadheaded, and otherwise given some TLC where needed at both churches.

Thanks and appreciation for all who've contributed to the beauty of our two church properties is long overdue for this past year. Those of us who try to keep up with the beds are always happy to entertain new ideas for removing, transplanting, and adding new plants.

Sometime in the near future we will have to remove a long-standing giant bonsai-like tree by the Skiles Hall entrance. Just like the super tall trees that were in front of Skiles Hall windows, it's hard to let things go that are part of the landscape of our church home. But change is inevitable, and something good and equally fitting will fill in those gaps .

Thanks to my friends Mary Pieten, Ed and Beth Beck, and my cousin Emilie for helping do the fall finale of pruning and cutting back the stalks of the plants that are ready to rest for the winter. "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(From Nov. 10: William McGuire's birthday)</i></p> <p>↑</p>	<p><i>(From Nov. 24: John Dewees, Adam and Marie Kallestad & Caroline Sheppard's birthday / Pat and Rick Leverage's anniversary)</i></p> <p>↑</p>				1 Randy McDonough and Dawn Harris' birthday	2 Margaret Love's birthday
<p>3 All Saints' Sunday</p> <p>11am Brunch</p> <p>11am Holy Eucharist</p> <p>Rite II (music, Unction & Children's Homily)</p>	<p>4 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p>	<p>5 9am Eucharist with Centering Prayer for Election Day</p> <p>Judy Nye's birthday</p> <p>Bert & David Yates anniversary</p>	<p>6 4pm DOK meeting</p>	<p>7 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p>	8	9
<p>10 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Reception to follow to honor Elaine Kallestad</p>	<p>11 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p> <p>Gabriela Norfleet's birthday and Kim & Tav Gauss' anniversary</p>	<p>12 9am Morning Prayer</p> <p>Jerri Borgman's birthday</p>	<p>13 4pm DOK meeting</p>	<p>14 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p> <p>Terry Marshall's birthday</p> <p>Sheila & David Barnhill's anniversary</p>	15	16
<p>17 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>(music, Unction & Children's Homily)</p> <p>Jeremy Ringler's birthday</p>	<p>18 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p> <p>Jim Brown, Niki Craig and Matthew McGuire's birthday</p>	<p>19 9am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>20 4pm DOK meeting</p> <p>Emma Ringler's birthday</p>	<p>21 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p>	<p>22 Lucy Binning Smith, George Devine and Reid Armstrong's birthday</p>	<p>23 Suzie Taylor's birthday</p>
<p>24 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>ECW Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale</p>	<p>25 8:00pm "Online Compline"</p> <p>Susan Poorman, Beth Lofin and Ed Beck's birthday</p>	<p>26 9am Morning Prayer</p> <p>Iona Brigham's birthday and The Rev. R. Allan and Pan McCaslin's anniversary</p>	<p>27 4pm DOK meeting</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>29 Thomas McDonough's birthday</p>	30



“Grace to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come.” (Rev. 1:4b)

November greetings to you all! As your recently retired Organist and Choir Director, I wanted to include one final newsletter article to share some closure at my departure. Perhaps a better opening quote would have been, “And God said, ‘Ha!’”; as such carefully detailed plans for my final Sunday (on September 29) quickly changed direction following hurricane Helene!

My final Sunday is now scheduled for November 10. While the passage of many weeks---and life-changing, new situations---may result in new music plans for that day, know that God’s Word through song, pipes, and praise will continue. Indeed, I am filled with gratitude for the parish leadership which has enabled our Vocal Choir to carry on: “Thank you, Andrea and Niki!” And in the aftermath of Helene, it is heartwarming to witness love-in-action to this community; all from “the little church that cares” and the graceful generosity of the Valle Crucis Conference Center. I could not be more proud of this parish!

I want to thank all of you at Holy Cross for the incredible journey of seventeen years of music-making! Amongst all of the Vocal Choir rehearsals, Handbell rehearsals, festival Sundays, St. John’s Concerts, weddings, funerals, Valle Country Fairs, meetings, worship services, fellowship dinners, pipe organ installation, handbell and chime additions, you have been an important part of my spiritual life. I have both grieved with you and rejoiced with you-- and have always felt your care. My family and I have experienced so many milestones while at Holy Cross: the passing of both of Scott’s parents, as well as that of my own; in addition to the high school and college graduations of our children, Marie and Adam. You have been our church family through it all, and we will miss you!

In closing, the text of the following Choir anthem says it best. As the Lord calls me onward—and new direction for this parish forward---may God guide each of us in His service. God bless you, Holy Cross, Valle Crucis!

-----Elaine Kallestad

“God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in my heart, and in my thinking. God be at mine end, and at my departing.” (Sarum Primer, 14th century England)





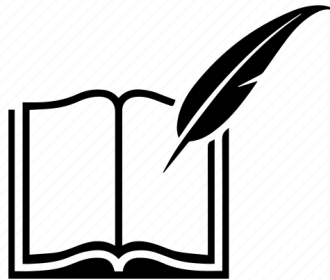
Last month you read memories from a teacher at the Valle Crucis Mission School who was there during the 1930's. The following excerpts are from a student who attended the School from 1930 to 1941. She graduated from the School and with encouragement from teachers at the School she attended UNC at Greensboro. Anna Mae (Cook) Reid was raised in Valle Crucis and lived off Dutch Creek Rd. Her brother is Howell Cook!

“My best memories of starting to school in Sept. 1930 at the Valle Crucis Mission School are associated with having other children for companions, walking to and from school with several children and recess. During most of my pre-school years I had been an only lonely child. I lived off the Dutch Creek Rd, across the valley, in the scene viewed from the entrance to the church and school and I walked out the lane and up the Grey Hill to school every day. There was a curve in the dirt road on the Grey Hill just below the original location of the Ives cabin. In that curve above the road was a huge chestnut tree and we couldn't wait to get to that tree to find the chestnuts that had fallen into the road since our last trip to or from school. Those chestnuts were soooo good! In the summer of 1933 I started taking piano lessons from Miss Bacon. She was a teacher at the school. During that summer of '33 she had a Tea Room for tourists in a bark house by a pond on Crab Orchard Creek Rd. at Rte 194 (at the entrance of Crab Orchard Creek Rd). She had a small organ or piano in this Tea Room and I would take my piano lessons and practice there. Great entertainment for the guests! This pond was used as a swimming pool for the community. It was destroyed by the 1940 flood and never replaced. The bark house also may have been destroyed in that flood. Mrs. Emily T. Hopkins came in late 1933 to be the new principal. She began to make changes. The biggest change that I first remember was to have a teacher for each subject and to change classroom for each subject. Miss Adelaide Smith became my math teacher and continued to be my math teacher all the way through high school. Miss (Ida) O'Keefe (Georgia O'Keefe's sister!) was the art teacher. Under her direction every class must have taken part in doing murals, which told the story of Valle Crucis and were hung around the assembly room and hallway in the classroom building. My fourth grade class did the one covering the earliest period while the Indians were still there. One upper class did a mural of the Hunt Hill orchard with the apple trees in bloom. This one hung in the dining room for many years and was one of my favorites. In the sixth grade I started French by taking the first half of French 1. By 1937 the School was changed to a high school only. The public school transportation system had improved enough to make it possible for the local children to be able to go to public school. All the local students in our grade with the exception of Mary Burkett and myself left the church school and went to public school. A few upper class students stayed with the church school. Mrs. Hopkins had a niece, Suzanne Toll, who was ready for the seventh grade and she wanted Suzanne to attend the church school. Arrangements were made for Suzanne, Mary Burkett and myself to have our own private seventh grade. We finished French 1 that year with Miss Guerry. Miss Virginia Bouldin, who was the school treasurer, filled in as our English teacher. She was the best English teacher I ever had anywhere. Marry Pattee was in charge of music, which included the school chorus, the church choir and piano lessons for me. I was in the chorus and the church choir until I graduated from high school. Mary Pattee left us in Sept. 1940 to go to UNC at Greensboro to work toward a degree in history. By the time I reached French III and Latin III no one else was interested in taking those subjects so I ended up taking each in a class by myself! Sometime during the period 1938-41 two or three huge looms were set up in the assembly hall and one of the classrooms. They were hand-hewn from logs and must have been used for many years before they came to the school. Miss Smith supervised the threading and weaving done on these looms. The students wove many articles for Christmas presents, etc. At the beginning of

continued...

Notes continued...

Jan. in my senior year, the teachers started asking me what I planned to do after I graduated. I had no plans. Several teachers got behind me and guided me toward college. I had never considered college because I had no money. They helped me work out a work program at UNC-Greensboro and steered me in that direction. We learned that I would be required to have Geometry I before the end of the second year at UNC and the University would accept a high school credit. To save money I started Geometry with Miss Smith and finished the course with Mrs. Hopkins. In April 1941 before graduation in June, the faculty arranged for me to go live in the dormitory (at Valle Crucis Mission School) until the end of school to familiarize myself with dormitory life. After graduation I worked as a waitress at the Valle Crucis Inn to earn as much money as I could earn in the summer for college. (The School was an Inn for tourists during the summer.) In Sept. I boarded the Greyhound bus to go to Greensboro. My knees were trembling and my teeth were chattering. I had never been any farther east than Blowing Rock and here I was on the bus going to Greensboro and to college. Mary Pattee met me at the bus station, took me to the dormitory, got me settled in my room and showed me around campus. She also was very good at teaching me how to get by without spending any more money than necessary, such as, going through the Sophomore dorms (looking) for used books for Freshmen.”



SECOND ANNUAL WRITERS' WORKSHOP
Valle Crucis Conference Center
Thursday April 3 - Saturday April 5, 2025

Fr. Scott Oxford and Noyes Capehart are pleased to announce their Second Annual Writers' Workshop at the Valle Crucis Conference Center from April 3 through April 5, 2025. Writer Scott Oxford and artist-writer Noyes Capehart will present a program that focuses on short story essentials and non-fictional essay. Over the course of the workshop, they will cover Point of View (POV), dialogue, and plot. Any/all questions regarding this workshop may be directed to: Scott Oxford (828-264-4776) and/or Noyes Capehart (828-264-0685)

This workshop is open to all writers, from those at the beginning level to those who are more experienced. Seating is limited to 12. Deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, March 20, 2025.



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Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector
Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

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Andrea McDonough (2024), Terry Fulton (2026), Co-Senior Wardens
Walter Browning (2024), Patty Dilley (2024), Tav Gauss (2025), Darby Logan (2025),
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