



## *Father Allan's Reflections...*

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are...”

*1 Corinthians 1:27-28*

If all unfolds as planned, this month's Parish Newsletter will be published on the Parish Website on what is commonly called “April Fool's Day.” That is the first day after Easter and I find an uncanny connection between the two.

St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, (1 Cor.1:23-25) says that our faith suggests that when God's own people handed over their Messiah to be killed, such was absolute folly because you don't kill your leader, especially the very one who will redeem you! And yet, Paul says, while scandalous and foolish to many, the message of the cross – the hope of the Christian faith – is the very power of God still at work in this world. It is the power of God still at work in each of us.

And what could be a more poignant reminder of what appears on the surface to be foolishness, what appears to be the ultimate April Fool's joke, than what preceded that cross - Jesus' own teaching that strength and growth in God's Kingdom come *not* by power, authority, or even miracles, but by lowly service such as kneeling to wash someone's feet, feeding the hungry, lifting up the lowly, welcoming the stranger, to, in the words of our Lord, “Love one another as I have loved you.” Such demonstrates true power and wisdom because it is immersed in humility. And when humility abides in our hearts, true leadership, true grace, wisdom, courage, strength, and peace is not only found, it also abounds!

Washing, feeding, lifting, welcoming are acts of leadership, of strength and courage? That is utter foolishness! Exactly! Yet, as St. Paul reminds us once again in that same letter, God *chose* what appears foolish in the eyes of world to shame (or confound) the wise; God *chose* what appears to be weak in the world to shame the strong. And beloved, God chose and continues to choose you and me to be the hands, feet, eyes, voice, of the resurrected Christ today!

As we emerge from Holy Week and now enter into the fifty (50) day celebration of Easter, I invite you to join with me in prayer asking that God will grant us the grace and will to truly demonstrate the foolishness of our faith – that very power of God still at work in us and in the world.

Yours in service to the Gospel

*Allan +*



## Birthdays

2 Alyssa Ehrhardt	17 Mary Watson
2 Martie Thompson	18 Mary Jane Dewees
3 Sean Gulley-Ryan	18 Oliva Tester
3 Laura Lavarney	19 Ann Iles
3 Jane Blackburn	21 Mark Lehmann
4 Tom McAuliffe	21 Jo Betts Baxley
6 Judy Dasher	23 Ashley Galleher
8 Annie Binning	23 Sis Kinney
8 Gary Swartz	23 Jamie Hedrick
9 Cathy Cole	24 Leona Hadaway-Parks
10 Ted Ponko	26 Doris Boulton
11 Pat Olsen	27 Ellen Pritchard
11 Ada Love	27 Jim Jordan
16 Andy Furr	27 Bob Kinney
17 Lisa Cooper	27 Mary Pietan
17 Andrea McDonough	28 Kathy Canady
	28 Arjelle Bokkean

## Anniversaries

April 6

Lynn and Jim Vroom

April 13

Ann and Bud Gerber

April 13

Patsy and Floyd Townsend

April 18

Kathy and Chuck Canady

April 20

Stacey and Ahren Koenig

April 26

Terry and Zeke Jordan

April 29

Babette and Tom McAuliffe



## Prayer List

*Please hold these people in your healing prayers this week:*

**For 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., Shirley N., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Roberta T., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., John M., Shane B., Terry S., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Terry W., Jody V., Patty D., Bill M., Lynn V., Andrea M., Bonnie R., Sheila W., Betty H., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., Anna Jane R., Joe H., Tony W., Rebecca H., Steve S., Nick H., Pat & Linda H., Peggy F., Kate M., John N., and Dawn A. .

**For those in Harm's Way:** All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, Chris G., all who serve in the Peace Corps, for Ruslan and Galena, Brittany, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

### ***Is there Proof of the Resurrection?***

St. Teresa of Avila was once asked how we, as Christians, can, beyond a shadow of a doubt, offer absolute *proof* of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

She responded with these words which rang true then and especially challenge us still today:

“Christ has no body now, but ours.  
No hands but ours, no feet but ours.  
Ours are the eyes through which Christ’s  
compassion looks into the world.  
Ours are the feet by which he walks to do good.  
Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.”

*St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*



**ECW will be hosting the annual Easter Brunch! Please join us  
Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:45 (between services )**



### ***For Easter Day by St Gregory of Nazianzus (c.330-389)***

Today we rejoice in the salvation of the world.

Christ is risen; let us arise in him!

Christ enters new life; let us live in him!

Christ has come forth from the tomb;

let us shake off the fetters of evil!

The gates of hell are open,

the powers of evil are overcome!

In Christ a new creation is coming to birth, Alleluia!

Lord, make us new, Alleluia!

### ***Contemplative Worship Service***

The April Contemplative Service will be held **April 2** at 6pm in the Chancel. A time for sitting in God’s presence, sharing prayer, music, and silence as we listen for and discern God’s call to each of us. Please join us in the Chancel and invite a friend. For those joining the service by Zoom, please go to the parish website:

<https://holycrossvallecrucis.net/parish-news>. Click on the link for Compline.





## ACE: Adult Christian Education

April, 2024

Following a post-Easter Sunday break on April 7, 2024, our classes will **resume on April 14** with a study of the ***Book of the Revelation of Our Lord Jesus Christ***.

You may be surprised to learn that until the 19<sup>th</sup> century the message of The Revelation was understood to be one of encouragement and hope for the 1<sup>st</sup> century fledgling church and the affirmation of God's love for the world. (Our first few sessions will focus on that historical understanding.)

Sadly, and many in our congregation know this firsthand from their various faith tradition upbringings, The Revelation has come to be viewed as strictly prophetic (like a roadmap) and with that, has fostered a multimillion-dollar industry not of encouragement and affirmation of God's love, but threats of being "left behind" when Christ returns, the total destruction of the world due to God's wrath, and more.

Our study series seeks to explore the various understandings of The Revelation and, more importantly, what message it brings to the Church still today. To that end, feel free to explore any of the following books: (*Additional resources will be suggested as we progress through our series*)

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation – Barbara Rossing

Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination – Eugene Peterson

Revelation for Everyone – N.T. Wright

Classes meet in Skiles Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. All are welcome! Remember to bring your Bible(s) with you!



The next **ECW meeting** will be on **Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>** at 12:45 pm in Skiles Hall.



### MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission Outreach Commission continues to be robust with new members on board and excellent cooperation with other churches and agencies with whom we partner for those big requests. We are in deep sorrow, however, due to the loss of our friend and team member, Maria Morton. Our condolences go out to Allyn and the entire family. We will miss her ever present willingness to swap dates, take extra duty and bring important viewpoints to the table. Prayers for peace for her and all who have been touched by her generous spirit.

Please be aware that food insecurity is with us for many of our neighbors, particularly families with children. Please use your green bags for Simple Gesture filled with "bogo" bargains as you shop. The bags you leave in Skiles will be delivered by MOC member Judy Bondi each month. Canned goods of tuna, chicken, soups, vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly, crackers and non-sugary cereal will be most welcome by those parents who are out of work or disabled. Thank you for your kindness in supporting this ministry.

Radie Armstrong

MOC of the Church of the Holy Cross



## MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Lots of garlic will ensure that no vampires will be present at our next **Men's Night Out** gathering at the home of *Marilee and Jim Reed*. Why? Because they are serving a hearty Italian pasta with salad and garlic bread. Father Jim will be our host for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship from **5:45 p.m. to 7:30 on Tuesday, April 16**. The address is 1195 Watauga River Road, a white house with black shutters that shares a steep drive with their neighbors who live in a red house to the right of the Reed residence.

Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged with overflow parking just down the street at 899 Watauga River Road. HC parishioner Derek Eggers is providing shuttle service from the overflow lot; his number is (828) 897-1967. Remember to bring your own beverage and the suggested donation is \$10 per person.

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!**

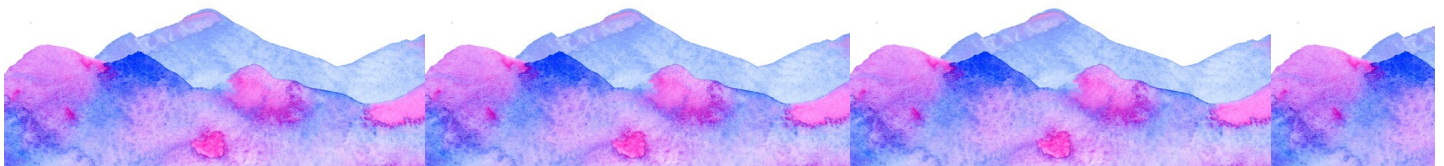
**Men's Night Out** is an opportunity for men from within the parish and in our community to enjoy having an fun evening of fellowship together. We're very flexible, so feel free to bring a friend... or two! Please RSVP by noon on Monday, April 15 via email to [KeithTMartin@gmail.com](mailto:KeithTMartin@gmail.com) or by text or phone to (704) 608-2755 so that we can prepare accordingly.

## Coffee's On





















**April 20 at 10am, join in on the last Zoom Coffee's On for 2024 led by Pan.**

**Let's reflect on our time together and identifying ways to help others stay connected. Zoom link on parish website: [Holycrossvallecrucis.net](http://Holycrossvallecrucis.net).**

**Mark your calendars for Coffee's On at the Rectory, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the weather will behave and we can rock on the front porch and share coffee and tea. See you then.**



# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>31 Easter Sunday Bring a bell! 8:30am &amp; 11:00am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:45 Easter brunch</div> <div></div>	<div>1 8:00pm "Online Compline</div> <div></div>	<div>2  6pm Contemplative Worship Service in the Chancel Alyssa Ehrhardt and Marie Thompson's b-day</div>	<div>3 5:30pm Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service Sean Gulley-Ryan, Jane Blackburn &amp; Laura Lavarney's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>4 8:00pm "Online Compline Tom McAuliffe's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6 Judy Dasher's birthday and Lynn &amp; Jim Vroom's anniversary</div>
<div>7 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</div> <div></div>	<div>8 8:00pm "Online Compline Annie Binning and Gary Swartz's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>9 Cathy Cole's birthday</div>	<div>10 5:30pm Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service Ted Ponko's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>11 8:00pm "Online Compline Ada Love and Pat Olsen's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13 Ann &amp; Bud Gerber and Floyd &amp; Patsy Townsend's anniversary</div>
<div>14 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:45am ACE 12:45 ECW</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>15 8:00pm "Online Compline</div> <div></div>	<div>16  5:45pm Men's Night Out Andy Furr's birthday</div>	<div>17 5:30pm Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service Andrea McDonough, Lisa Cooper and Mary Watson's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>18 8:00pm "Online Compline Mary Jane Dewees, and Oliva Tester's birthday and Kathy &amp; Chuck Canady's anniversary</div> <div></div>	<div>19 Ann Iles' birthday</div>	<div>20 10 am Coffee's On via Zoom Stacey &amp; Ahren Koenig's anniversary</div> <div></div>
<div>21 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:45am ACE</div> <div></div>	<div>22 8:00pm "Online Compline</div> <div></div>	<div>23 Ashley Galleher, Jamie Hedrick and Sis Kinney's birthday</div>	<div>24 5:30pm Holy Eucharist &amp; Healing Service Leona's Hadaway-Park's birthday</div> <div></div>	<div>25 8:00pm "Online Compline</div> <div></div>	<div>26 Doris Boulton's birthday and Terry &amp; Zeke Jordan's anniversary</div>	<div>27 Ellen Pritchard, Jim Jordan, Mary Pietan and Bob Kinney's birthday</div>
<div>28 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:45am ACE</div> <div></div>	<div>29 8:00pm "Online Compline Babette &amp; Tom McAuliffe's anniversary</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div>				
<div>Mark Lehmann and Jo Betts Baxley's birthday Kathy Canady and Arjelle Bokkern's birthday</div>						



## Music Notes

“God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.” (I John 1:5)

Bright Easter greetings! Isn't it wonderful to journey through Lent, arrive at “deep” Spring, and rejoice in salvation?! To be clear, the season of Lent is important and soul-changing. But the breath of fresh air that is Easter---joy, redemption, light---these things assure us that God is Love; and we are made new creations in that truth.

April 7 is the second Sunday of Easter, often referenced as “Thomas Sunday”. The choral anthem this day is *Morning Psalm*, by composer Sherrell Prebble. The text is a poem by Owen Barker, who lived from 1899-1974. Oddly, this is the only known musical setting of any of Barker's texts; and it is one of only two compositional works by Prebble, who was born in 1951. The elegant text shines forth in the simplicity of the music, with beautiful harmonies matching the descriptions of daybreak amidst God's blessings.

April 14 brings an Easter season appearance of our Holy Cross Handbell Choir, with two rousing anthems! They will ring both a Prelude and an Offertory. The opening piece is *Ring Praise!* by Nathaniel Riley. This original composition thrives on dramatic contrasts and rhythms, and conveys joy despite its minor key. The Offertory anthem is a familiar favorite, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* arranged by Barbara Kinyon. Here, the traditional Easter hymn is enhanced with a fanfare introduction, handbell “shakes”, and even a trumpet call!

April 21 is the fourth Sunday of Easter, with a true Shepherd theme in Psalm 23 and the Gospel from John 10:11-18. The Offertory this day is most fitting, Anton Dvorak's *God is my Shepherd*. Our intern, Macy Crumley (soprano), provides this amazing solo, which is a serene tribute to Psalm 23. Here, the light keyboard accompaniment supports a sensitive yet beautiful soprano melody.


The fifth Sunday of Easter occurs on April 28, and features Philip Stopford's heartwarming choral anthem, *Do Not Be Afraid*. With a repetitive text evoking calm and assurance, the music weaves together the tight harmonies of an SATB choir with an uplifting soprano descant. Beautifully crafted and highly personal, this stirring anthem will leave a lasting impression upon your senses and your spirit.

Finally, grateful “Thanks” go out to all of our vocalists and brass guest artists for making our Easter Sunday worship so outstanding! And the countless hours of rehearsal--and dedication toward Lenten and Holy Week services--created extremely meaningful worship. Thank you, Choirs, for bringing a musical “holy” into our hearts!

“How beautiful the morning and the day; my heart abounds with music, my lips can only say: How beautiful the morning and the day.” (*Morning Psalm*, Owen Barker)

-----Elaine Kallestad





## Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

Did you know that the Church of the Holy Cross building will be 100 years old in 2025? Father Allan brought this to our attention at our March vestry meeting. He suggested that we should begin planning for a special event in 2025 to celebrate this momentous event. So...put on your “thinking-caps” to come up with some creative ideas as to how we can commemorate this occasion.

“Notes” this month is information as to how and why the present building was constructed. The Episcopal church has had a presence in the Valle since 1842 but there have been several buildings prior to our current one. How many of you have looked at the cornerstone for Holy Cross? Did you know that the cornerstone was laid in July 1925 and that Floyd Townsend’s father was present for the event? His father, Lewis Townsend, helped put items in the cornerstone! See if you can find the cornerstone next time you are at church! The original plan for the church building was to have two transepts. And the next time the sun is shining, step inside the church to observe the large stained glass windows (east and west ends) – notice that colors at the bottom of the windows are the brown earth tones, the next layer green tones of the mountains, and the blue and pink tones of sky and clouds! Most of this information below comes from a book Historical Sketches-Diocese of Western NC by James B. Sill.

In July 1923, after four years without a rector, The Rev. J. Preston Burke came to Valle Crucis to assume charge of the Mission School and the Chapel of the Cross (Holy Cross). Mr. Burke was from Lincoln County, a graduate of Christ School, Arden and of the Western Theological Seminary, Chicago. He was ordained to the ministry by Bishop Cheshire. Prior to coming to Valle Crucis he had served four years as Rector of St. Thomas’ Church, Reidsville, NC. When he came in 1923 the number of communicants listed was 86. In coming to Valle Crucis he also would take charge of the missions at St. John’s, Dutch Creek, and the church at Blowing Rock. In November 1923 the Mission School newsletter listed reasons why a new church building was needed: “Our present building is unsightly, badly located and quite inadequate for our needs. It is almost filled by the children of the Sunday School. An average of between 15 and 20 people are confirmed here yearly. Valle Crucis is fast becoming a popular summer place. Many people were turned away from the village boarding house this summer. Our School is growing in size and usefulness.” In the October 1924 newsletter there was an architect’s plan for a proposed new church building, which shows that Mr. Burke was not slow in promoting what he felt was a great need for the developing of the work of the Mission and School. A Ways and Means Committee of the Mission was formed for building of the church, consisting of The Rev. Burke as chairman, and others members of that committee were Mr. T.D. Heffner, C.E. Welch, W.W. Mast, Lawson Townsend, Dr. H.B. Perry, C.D. Taylor, Lee Tester and Duke Tester. The committee issued a leaflet, “A New Church for Valle Crucis”, which explained the need of a church, and asked for subscriptions towards its building. The leaflet was sent to friends of the Mission. In it says that “The people (of Valle Crucis) are devoted to the Church through years of associations. They are eager for a New Church, and are willing to do all that their limited means will permit.” Miss Virginia Bouldin was treasurer of the Church Building Fund. A stone structure was planned. At the laying of the corner-stone in July 1925 Bishop Horner officiated and there were two other bishops present, Bishop Cheshire of North Carolina and Bishop Finlay of Upper South Carolina. Bishop Cheshire spoke of the past days of the Mission, referring to his part in the reviving of the Mission in 1895, after the work connected with it had been dormant a few years. It was a noteworthy incident that four generations of the Townsend family were present at the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone, all Church members, and each depositing

*Continued....*



*Notes from the Attic continuation...*

something in the stone, one a New Testament, another a Prayer Book, another a Hymnal, and the other a list of communicants. This was an outward token of the eighty years history of the Mission. The New Church was opened for its first service in 1926. The Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, Coadjutor Bishop of North Carolina, preached the first sermon in the church on July 12, 1926.

The church building was designed by Mr. Harold Macklin of Macklin and Faught, Architects of Winston-Salem. Mr. Macklin came from England and the style of architecture shows in this building. Mr. Macklin said, "The style of architecture is English – no squares, no glass geodomes, no linoleum floor. It is a church and looks like a church."

The woodwork for the Sanctuary and Chancel, including the beautiful altar of native oak, was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor of Asheville and given in memory of Eli Springs Blackwood. You will notice a plaque to the left of the altar. A handsome altar set consisting of the brass cross, vases and Eucharist candlesticks was placed in the church and blessed on Sept. 12, 1926 in memory of the Rev Lee Frontis Anthony, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Cross in 1918. He had a short tenure at Valle Crucis but was beloved by all of the people in the valley. He died January 1919 during the flu epidemic.

A notable mark of Mr. Burke's ministry at Valle Crucis was his acting as host to the Summer School for Church School teachers and others held there in the years 1924-1927. This was under the direction of the Diocesan Committee on Religious Education, of which Rev. J.W.C. Johnson of Gastonia was chairman. It was sponsored by the Dioceses of North Carolina and Upper South Carolina as well as by our own Diocese. As we know now, this school was the forerunner of what has become the Kanuga

Conferences. Mr. Burke was foremost in the Diocese in the promotion of religious education. Much credit is due in those early days to Mr. Johnson's interest in getting a summer school started at Valle Crucis, which proved successful in every way.

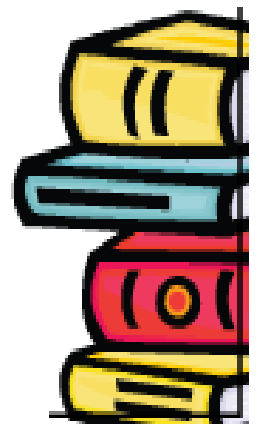
Communicant members numbered 106 on Mr. Burke's leaving Valle Crucis, when he accepted a call to become rector of St. James' Church, Hendersonville (He left in 1927 or 1928).



## Culling our Shelves – Book Sale

Yes, it's happening, Father Allan and Pan are going to HAVE to cull their bookshelves to downsize. And we have great books which we would like to share with others. Sooooo – on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-2, in Skiles Hall, we will offer our books for sale. But here's the catch – all proceeds go to the ECW. All books remaining at the end of the day will either be boxed to send to SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) out of Sewanee which sends religious and theological books to seminaries around the world. Other books may be donated in the High Country.

Great idea, yes? Did this idea make you look around and think "I need to do the same thing?" Well you can, but here are the ground rules – you set up your own tables in Skiles Hall and you are responsible for boxing up any left overs at the end of the day and taking care of their disposition. You also agree to donate your proceeds to ECW. It's a win all the way around.





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Diocese of Western North Carolina  
The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. R. Allan McCaslin, Rector

Elaine Kallestad, Choir Director/Organist

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Andrea McDonough (2024), Senior Warden

Walter Browning (2024), Patty Dilley (2024), Craig Adams (2025), Tav Gauss (2025), Darby Logan (2025),  
Doris Boulton (2026), Terry Fulton (2026), Angela Williams (2026)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk

**Church of the Holy Cross**  
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April Newsletter