



April 2025



Sacred Music

A foundational aspect of our worshiping identity is to express the Good news of Christ in lyric and song. as a little kid growing up at St James in Knoxville TN the organ pipes startled me, and then captivated my imagination as I grew older. The music that has rung through this valley for over a hundred years continues to bring a sense of wonder and Godly imagination to the faithful here. Holy Cross is blessed to have a faithful, fun, and committed group of choristers who work hard week by week to enhance our worship and faith.

I am so pleased to announce that Shane Watson begins today, April first as our Director of Music and Organist. Shane studied organ at App State University and has a masters in library science. He is an award winning fiddle player. The choir has come to love him. He is approachable, smart, and committed to the endeavor of ministry through music with us. Shane's job will include what you see on Sunday mornings, additionally Shane will work with me to build connections with the music programs at Appalachian State University, Lees McRae College, and with the elementary school at Valle Crucis.

I want to say a special thanks to Andrea McDonough, Margaret Love, Dawn Harris, John Goodrich, Catherine Morton, and Dedy Traver who served on a search team to structure the position and to identify Shane as the clear choice. Shane's commitment for, and acceptance of this role is an answer to prayer. I encourage you to talk to Shane about our music program, get to know him, and to find out how you might be involved in the ministry of music at Holy Cross.

Blessings to you,

Rev Robert (you can call me Robert)



Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Alyssa Ehrhardt | 17 Mary Watson |
| 2 Martie Thompson | 18 Mary Jane Dewees |
| 3 Sean Gulley-Ryan | 19 Ann Iles |
| 3 Laura Parks | 21 Jo Betts Baxley |
| 3 Jane Blackburn | 23 Ashley Galleher |
| 6 Judy Dasher | 23 Sis Kinney |
| 7 Henry Sturge | 25 Wilson Harris |
| 8 Annie Sturge | 26 Doris Boulton |
| 8 Gary Swartz | 27 Jim Jordan |
| 9 Cathy Cole | 27 Bob Kinney |
| 10 Ted Ponko | 27 Mary Pietan |
| 11 Pat Olsen | 28 Kathy Canady |
| 11 Ada Love | 28 Arielle Bokkean |
| 17 Lisa Cooper | |
| 17 Andrea McDonough | |
| 17 Simon Hartmans | |

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 18

Casey Miller and the Rev. Robert Hartmans

April 20

Stacey and Ahren Koenig

April 26

Terry and Zeke Jordan



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., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Gail T., 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., Jan H., Joe U., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Joe V., Jocelyn, Edie T., Gini H., Michael H., Bob C., Mary B., Caroline F., Laura B.

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.



Schedule of Services in Holy Week

April 13 – *The Sunday of the Passion*

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
9:45 am Crafting of Palm Crosses in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Gather in Skiles Hall for the Great Procession into the Church, Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and the recitation of the Passion Story
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 16 – *Holy Wednesday*

- 5:00 pm** “Mary’s Way of the Cross” – presented by Holy Cross DOK
The “Stations of the Cross” from Mary’s point of view, the mother of our Lord. It is poignant, emotional, and beautifully stated. All are welcome.
7:00 pm A Reading of the Gospel of Mark
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 17 – *Maundy Thursday*

- 7:00 pm** Agape Eucharist with foot-washing and stripping of the altar
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
Silent vigil before for the Blessed Sacrament 9:00 pm – midnight.

April 18 – *Good Friday*

- 12:00 pm** Walking the Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

April 19 – *Holy Saturday*

- 10:00 am** Easter Egg Hunt in Valle Crucis Community Park
11:30 am Joint Methodist-Episcopal Easter Vigil in Valle Crucis Community Park

April 20 – *Easter Sunday*

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- 8:30 am** Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:30 am Annual Parish Easter Brunch in Skiles Hall
9:40 am Easter Egg Hunt in Holy Cross Cemetery
11:00 am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery care will be provided at this service
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)

We are going to offer **nursery services** on **Easter Morning** from 10:45am-12:45pm for children ages 0-3... there will also be a Sunday School offering for children 4-5th grade leaving from the children's homily during the 11am service.



ECW monthly meeting on **April 13th** at 12:45 in the choir room.

We would love to have you join us!

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers!

We delivered over 1,100 to the Children's Council.

Those new moms are so grateful!

Join your Episcopal Church Women for an **Easter Brunch!**

Sunday April 20th- Buffet starts at 9:30 am

We'll provide ham, biscuits, and beverages. We hope you'll bring your favorite brunch item to share. (Sign up poster in Skiles Hall)



MEN'S NIGHT OUT

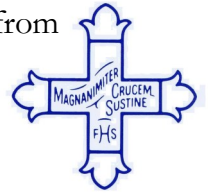
April 15

Bud Gerber is hosting the next **Men's Night Out (MNO)** gathering **from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025** in the Cooper Pavilion at Valle Crucis Park. He is providing a variety of offerings from *The Pedalin' Pig* for our enjoyment at a suggested donation of \$10 per person. So that Bud may provide adequate vittles, please RSVP is due **no later than 5:30 p.m on Sunday, April 13** to KeithTMartin@gmail.com and let him know of any food allergies or preferences. Since it's tax day, there may be a ceremonial shredding and/or burning of your IRS returns at sunset.

MNO is a monthly opportunity for brethren from within our parishes and throughout our community to enjoy an evening of fellowship together. Remember to bring your beverage of choice, but 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!**



You are invited to attend a presentation by the **Order of the Daughters of the King's** of **"Mary's Way of the Cross,"** on **Wednesday, April 16th at 5:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. This is essentially a "Stations of the Cross," but is introduced from Mary's point of view. It is poignant, emotional, and beautifully stated. All are welcome.



Planning Our Future Together!

The Church of the Holy Cross has entered into a time of discernment during which the Discernment Committee is gathering information to guide our decisions for our future. We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends at Holy Cross. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of our church as they make decisions about the future of the church.

An email will be sent to you this weekend that has a unique link to the CAT. Beginning Sunday, April 6th, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided in that email and telling us about your experiences in and priorities for Holy Cross. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers. To show our appreciation for taking the survey, we are giving away a two-night stay at one of the Valle Crucis Conference Center's Hermitages. If you would like to enter this drawing, simply click on the link at the end of the survey.

If you have questions, please contact either of the following Discernment Committee members: Mary Pietan at: mfpietan@gmail.com, 904-234-4915; or Sis Kinney at: kinivan06@gmail.com, 828-260-0485. They will do their best to answer your questions.

A Simple Gesture



Dear Generous and Concerned Parish Community,

As you are aware, federal funding for charities is in jeopardy. It is our habit at Holy Cross to get a green Simple Gesture bag from the welcome room off Skiles main room and fill it with nourishing shelf stable food for the Hunger and Health Coalition. This is a hedge against hunger for those out of work, homeless or just scraping by. MOC refers folks to a few agencies for food since we do not supply food or food gift cards. Hunger and Health Coalition is our first source we send people to get help. If you are able, please pick up a bag and check out the Bogo options at your grocery store, sales, coupons etc. to fill a bag and place it in the same area where you got the bag. Judy Bondi or Kip Kingree will deliver your bounty to the Coalition.

Thank you, in advance for your caring for our Watauga neighbors. In a world of not-so-great this is an action that is great. God sees.

Your Mission and Outreach Committee

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>(From April 13: Ann & Bud Gerber and Floyd & Patsy Townsends anniversary) (From April 20: Stacey & Ahren Koenig's anniversary)</i></p>						
<p>6 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Judy Dasher's birthday Lynn & Jim Vroom's anniversary)</p>	<p>7 8:00pm "Online Compline Henry Sturge's birthday</p>	<p>8 Annie Sturge and Gary Swartz's birthday</p>	<p>9 Cathy Cole's birthday</p>	<p>10 8:00pm "Online Compline Ted Ponko's birthday</p>	<p>11 Ada Love and Pat Olsen's birthday</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) 9:45 Crafting of Palm Crosses 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>14 8:00pm "Online Compline</p>	<p>15 5:30pm Men's Night Out</p>	<p>16 Holy Wednesday 5:00pm Walking Mary's Way of the Cross 7:00pm A Reading of the Gospel of Mark</p>	<p>17 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm (Agape Eucharist with foot-washing and stripping of the altar) 9:00pm Silent Vigil</p>	<p>18 Good Friday 12 noon Walking the Stations of the Cross 7:00pm The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday</p>	<p>19 Holy Saturday At VC Park 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am Joint Methodist-Episcopal Easter Vigil</p>
<p>20 Easter Sunday 9:30am Easter brunch 9:40 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am Festival Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>21 8:00pm "Online Compline Jo Betts Baxley's birthday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Ashley Galleher and Sis Kinney's birthday</p>	<p>24 8:00pm "Online Compline</p>	<p>25 Wilson Harris' birthday</p>	<p>26 Doris Boulton's birthday Terry & Zeke Jordan's anniversary</p>
<p>27 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Jim Jordan, Mary Pietan and Bob Kinney's birthday</p>	<p>28 8:00pm "Online Compline Kathy Canady and Arielle Bokkean's birthday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><i>(From April 17: Andrea McDonough, Lisa Cooper, Mary Watson, Simon Hartmans' birthday)</i></p>	<p><i>(From April 18: Mary Jane Dewees' birthday Casey Miller & Rev. Robert Hartmans' and Kathy & Chuck Canady's anniversary)</i></p>	<p><i>(From April 19: Ann Iles' birthday)</i></p>

Altar Guild at Holy Cross Needs Your Help!

The Altar Guild is looking for some folks to join our group and hope you will consider helping us! Altar Guild members understand that it is a privilege and a calling to take on the duties of this ministry. This is a quiet and behind-the-scenes ministry that is very important in the life of this parish. The Altar Guild's mission is to assist the rector with the conduct of worship. The Altar Guild is comprised of four teams. This means that each team is scheduled to serve only once a month. Each team has someone who can arrange the flowers for that team. We have a separate group "The Linen Fairies" who take care of the washing and ironing of the linens. There are many opportunities for you – if you love arranging flowers, we'll put you to work! If you don't enjoy that but love polishing brass and silver – we'll put you to work! If that's not your talent, you can set up the communion vessels, change the hymn board, fill the candles, count out the wafers, etc., etc., etc.!! We would love for you to join us – MEN and women are welcome! We will set up a time for instruction. Team members normally meet on Saturdays to set up for the Sunday services so you won't have to do set-up by yourself! Please consider being part of this most important and rewarding ministry at Holy Cross. Also, if you are interested in helping with the care of the linens we can use your help! For more information please contact Dedy Traver at 828-898-5771 or email at traverarms@yahoo.com




From Mission and Outreach Commission (MOC)

In the first quarter we continued to assist with rent, fuel for heat and emergency needs for staying on the job (gasoline, training costs and help with bills while waiting with first paycheck. There is a bill afoot at the state level that would potentially raise minimum wage which will help workers greatly. Eight dollars is current minimum. The proposal is for a raise to \$22. Medical costs are very high for workers who have high co-pays. We get calls from those who pay their bills well until there is a medical or automobile disaster. Our team deals with crisis cases daily. Thanks to Tav's efforts and the generosity of our church and community, we are able to keep people in their homes and at work. I'm passing their gratitude on to you. The Simple Gesture green bags were picked up this week so that only two lone bags were left in Skiles greeting room. That means at least some hunger will be averted at the Hunger and Health Coalition. Thank you for that! On a happy note, there were some gift cards left from the Angel Tree. We gave them to share amongst the teachers downstairs in Skiles. The teachers were delighted to receive this small gesture. Their smiles were worth the trip downstairs after their teaching day was over. Some moments are just too good not to share with you. Thanks for your support of Mission and Outreach. Any time you want to review our doings, please get in touch with any of our members or chair,

Radie Armstrong.

Daffodils are out! Happy Spring!



Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building of the current Holy Cross Church sanctuary. Here is some information about the building of the present day church building and The Rev. James Preston Burke whose idea it was to build this church. How many of you have looked at the cornerstone for Holy Cross Church? Did you know that the cornerstone was laid in July 1925 and Floyd Townsend's father was present for the event? His father, Lewis Townsend, helped to put items in the cornerstone! See if you can find the cornerstone next time you are at church! Most of this information 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 Joseph 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 it building. The leaflet was sent to friends of the Mission. 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 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."

Continued....

Notes from the Attic continuation...

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.

Valle Country Fair Annual Non Profit Grants

Due to the cancellation of the Valle Country Fair in 2024, we regret to announce our usual “non profit” grants for community projects and programs will not be offered for 2025. Instead, we set aside \$36,000 for disaster relief grants which have been awarded to local non profits dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Your generous donations and 2024 Fair proceeds allowed Outreach to continue its usual work for those needing help during these challenging times. Our usual non profit grant applications will reopen in the Spring of 2026 with funds from the 2025 Valle Country Fair.

Holy Cross Outreach is incredibly grateful for the love and strength of this community. Thank you for standing together, lifting each other up, proving that even in the hardest of times, we come together for our Appalachian community.



The vestry is hard at work utilizing the gifts you bestow on to the church to do new and exciting things. This first quarter we are onboarding a new musician, commemorating the centennial of our sanctuary, preparing to launch a nursery for Easter Sunday and one to start in fall of 2025, opening St. John's, executing repairs on deferred maintenance, and much more. They need your commitment to sustaining your pledge to do this exciting work.

Overall Campaign Status



OUR GOAL: \$320,000
 TOTAL PLEDGED: \$285,300
 TOTAL GIVEN: \$85,463



Holy Cross Episcopal Church
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email: holy_cross@skybest.com

[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

Terry Fulton (2026), Senior Warden
Darby Logan (2025), Junior Warden
Tav Gauss (2025), Nina-Jo Moore (completing vacant term), Doris Boulton (2026),
Angela Williams (2026), Radie Armstrong (2027), Derek Eggers (2027), Sis Kinney (2027)

Officers

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk

Church of the Holy Cross
PO Box 645
Valle Crucis, NC 28691

