



## Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

This past Sunday, no services were held in our sanctuary at Holy Cross. That is certainly rare and it has happened twice since I came to you in September, both times due to weather. And on both occasions I have found the sanctuary to be a true place of solace. I spent time this past Sunday walking around the empty sanctuary. I took note of gliders given to remember the love with which four young men, lost too early, were held and formed. I thought about the tears shed in that room on behalf of those we have loved and lost. I paid special attention to the beauty of the handcrafted stations and how those symbols illustrate God's great response to our tears, losses, loves and sacrifices.

I noticed the cross given to honor Father Anthony, who died of Spanish Flu visiting the sick, traveling in the literal footsteps of Brother Skiles, whose altar stands to remind us of the Spirit that forged this place. Our sanctuary is a true gift; it physically wraps us in the prayers, the hard work, the love of those who came before, and carries our hopes for those who will come after us. Every time we sing the kneeling hymn, an addition to our liturgy from the Rev. Carl Cunningham, I am reminded how this sanctuary, this place, reconnects me to my own vocation, and the privilege of belonging to you at this time. Carl's name is inscribed on a plaque in the rear of the church.

This year we celebrate the centennial of the sanctuary... one hundred years of baptisms, marriages, fellowship, funerals and Easters, greenings and candlelight. Plans are shaping up to make a proper celebration. As we celebrate this sanctuary I hope we are empowered to prepare ourselves to be sanctuaries; so to be conduits of the love and sacrifice of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. I invite you as we enter the first months of the centennial to send me emails about stories that illustrate for you how important, how beautiful our sanctuary is to your own life.

Blessings to you,

*Rev Robert* (you can call me Robert)

# JANUARY

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

2 Sharlie Siegmund	17 Ernie Armstrong
3 Julia Morton	18 Keith Martin
4 Annie Hoskins	19 Cameron Page
5 Gerry Persad	21 Jackie Maness
6 Patti Cribbins	22 Terry Jordan
8 Zeke Jordan	25 John Persad
9 Steve Loflin	28 Jeff Williams
10 Joe Dyer	30 Susan Owens
11 Paul Bernhardt	31 Catherine Morton
12 Stella Barbato	31 Jaidyn Toomey
13 Rick LeVarge	31 Chris Gray
13 Barbara Armstrong	31 Cornelia Smithwick

January 6  
 Maria Lichtmann and Joe Harmon

January 18  
 Eileen and Bill Gaddy

January 25  
 Bev and Gene Sulzberger

January 29  
 Jennifer and Robert Henigin

January 31  
 Barbara and Walter Pitts



### Prayer List

*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., 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., Doris B., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Mack G., Janis B., 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., Stuart T., Joe V., Jocelyn

**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.

# February

## Birthdays

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Megan Page        | 9 Betty Jo Coleman  |
| 1 Fred Martin       | 15 Clint Iles       |
| 1 Babette McAuliffe | 15 Carol Jennings   |
| 2 Brady Myers       | 16 Pat Parks        |
| 2 Kip Kingree       | 21 Madeline McGuire |
| 3 Anna Boswell      | 22 Katie Pendergast |
| 4 Jan Capps         | 22 Rebecca Hutchins |
| 5 Paula Gray        | 22 Eleonore McGuire |
| 8 Shella Barnhill   | 23 Nichole McGuire  |
| 8 Mary Moran        | 25 Kim Gauss        |
| 8 Robert Brigham    | 28 Pam Conover      |
| 9 Walter Browning   |                     |

## Anniversaries

February 5

Rebecca and Mike Alford

February 20

Sarah Hatch and Gary Swartz

February 20

Mary Jane Major and Fred Klingeman

February 26

Suzie and Noyes Long



**ECW**

We will not meet in January but will reconvene in February.

Our next meeting is **February 9 at 12:45** in Skiles Hall. Please join us!



## MEN'S NIGHT OUT

As is our custom, MNO is taking a two-month hiatus over the winter season, resuming for our ninth year of fellowship on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

If you are interested in hosting one of our monthly gatherings in 2025, please send an email to [KeithTMartin@gmail.com](mailto:KeithTMartin@gmail.com) or text/phone (704) 608-2755. Godspeed!


# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8:00pm "Online Compline" Sharlie Siegmund's birthday	3 Julia Morton's birthday	4
5 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Annie Hoskins' birthday	6 8:00pm "Online Compline" Patti Cribbin's birthday Maria Lichtmann & Joe Harmon's anniversary	7	8 Zeke Jordan's birthday	9 8:00pm "Online Compline" Steve Loffin's birthday	10	11 Paul Bernhardy's birthday
12 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Stella Barbaro's birthday	13 8:00pm "Online Compline" Rick LeVarge & Barbara Armstrong's birthday	14	15	16 8:00pm "Online Compline"	17 Ernie Armstrong's birthday	18 Keith Martin's birthday Eileen & Bill Gaddy's anniversary
19 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Cameron Page's birthday	20 8:00pm "Online Compline"	21 Jackie Maness' birthday	22 Terry Jordan's birthday	23 8:00pm "Online Compline"	24	25 John Persad's birthday and Bev & Gene Sulzberger's anniversary
26 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II	27 8:00pm "Online Compline"	28 Jeff Williams' birthday	29 Jennifer and Robert Hengin's anniversary	30 8:00pm "Online Compline" Susan Owens' birthday	31 Catherine Morton, Jaidyn Toomey, Chris Gray and Cornelia Smithwick's birthday and Walter & Barbara Pitt's anniversary	

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Megan Page, Fred Martin, and Brady Myers' birthday
2 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Kip Kingree's birthday	3 8:00pm "Online Compline Anna Boswell's birthday	4 Jan Capps' birthday	5 Paula Gray's birthday Rebecca & Mike Alford's anniversary	6 8:00pm "Online Compline		8 Sheila Barnhill, Mary Moran and Robert Brigham's birthday
9 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:45 ECW Walter Browning and Betty Jo Coleman's birthday	10 8:00pm "Online Compline	11	12	13 8:00pm "Online Compline	14	15 Carol Jennings' and Clint Iles birthday
16 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Pat Park's birthday	17 8:00pm "Online Compline	18	19	20 8:00pm "Online Compline	21 Madeline McGuire's birthday	22 Eleonore McGuire's birthday
23 11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Nicole McGuire's birthday	24 8:00pm "Online Compline	25 Kim Gauss' birthday	26 Noyes & Suzie Long's anniversary	27 8:00pm "Online Compline	28 Pam Conover's birthday	





## Notes from the Attic – Dedy Traver

How many of you have ever really looked at the unusual light fixtures in the church? There is a small plaque in the rear of the church stating that these were given in memory of Mary Ellen Horner, Susan Isabel Graves, and Hedwig Marie Maul. Mary Horner was the sister of Bishop Horner and she was the principal of the Mission School until her death in 1922. Isabel Graves became the principal of the school following Mary Horner. Hedwig Maul was a teacher at the school until the early 1920's. The announcement in the church bulletin dated Nov. 13, 1938 stated there would be a dedication of the lights and said "We have all been happy over the beautiful new lights installed some time ago in the church in memory of three real friends of the church, Miss Horner, Miss Graves, and Miss Maul. These three devoted women, who lived and loved and labored among us, and who contributed in so many ways to the building up of our church life, who were **"lights of the world in their several generations,"** shall have these lights dedicated to their memory, to shine forth to give light in the church which they loved. Very fittingly, we shall have as the preacher of the evening, the man under whose leadership the church was built, our one-time Priest-in-charge, the Rev. J. P. Burke, now Rector of St. James' Church, Hendersonville." The bishop at that time was Robert E. Gribbin and he was present for the dedication service. Below are the prayers that were used during the dedication service for the lights. During the dark winter months these prayers help to remind us that the light continues to shine forth from the Vale of the Cross as it has for 182 years.

### Dedication of Memorial Lights – Holy Cross Church, November 17, 1938

"Almighty God, who from ancient times hast put it into the hearts of Thy people to make offerings for Thy Service and the use of Thy Sanctuary, and who hast been pleased at all times to accept gifts at their hands; We pray Thee to accept this memorial which we now set a part in Thy Name. May Thy blessing rest on this gift and the givers of it, that Thy Church may be benefited, Thy worship made more worthy, and Thy Name may be exalted and glorified continually; we ask this in the Name and for the merits of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord we dedicate these memorial lights to the GLORY OF GOD and in memory of His Servants: Mary Ellen Horner, Susan Isabel Graves, and Hedwig Marie Maul, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, who sent Thy blessed Son to be the Light of the World; vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to accept this offering at our hands for the adornment of Thy House of Prayer, and the beauty of Thy worship, and to consecrate this gift to Thy glory and ourselves to Thy service; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Almighty and everliving God, we yield unto Thee most high praise and hearty thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all Thy saints, who have been the choice vessels of Thy grace, and the lights of the world in their several generations; most humbly beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow the example of their steadfastness in Thy faith, and obedience to Thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general Resurrection we, with all these who are of the mystical body of Thy Son, may be set on His right hand, and hear that His most joyful voice; Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O Father, for the sake of the same, Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

*continued....*

*Notes from the Attic continued....*

And now may God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Next time you are in the church take time to notice the lights. Be thankful for the many dedicated and hard working people that truly loved God and the “church in the valley” and may the beacon of lights continue to shine forth.



Mission and Outreach thanks our parish and beyond for the help and support given to us during this news cycle. Tav Gauss solicited donations from our church members which were put to use quickly for our neighbors in need due to the crisis caused by Hurricane Helene. He even contacted his former church which donated proceeds from an ECW sale. We thank Mary Stolberg who designed Christmas cards that say, “A donation was made in your name” which she sent to friends and gave us to use as well.

This was a trial balloon and generated positive attention and aid for the storm plight in our western county.

MOC formed 12 “Disaster Relief Grants” which are being used to fulfill our guideline of “Keep people in their homes, on the job, and heat in their houses”. Each grant request is unique, each an immediate need. We are so grateful for the funds we have to help those who lost homes, businesses, tools, jobs, transportation and utilities such as fuel and refrigeration. We’ve bought “hot tents”, solar lights, portable oil radiators, lined outdoor clothes for workers, paid rent, bought gas cards, helped with small bills when jobs were lost due to floods. It’s been 3 months and 7 grants are at work with 5 more ready for the next asks.

We start 2025 with funds to carry on as we were formerly thanks to all of you. You will not know the folks we’ve helped. Some of our grants went to people in your immediate daily lives. Other requests came from contacts through the Conference Center, the school, local social workers or WeCan, the Chamber of Commerce in Avery county and Watauga County Division of Social Services. We are linked together and working together to meet common goals. It would gladden your hearts to see the support you gave when it is needed most. A special thanks goes to Ahren Koenig, parish administrator, for his quick response time in getting funds out to shared partner charities, companies, landlords and businesses. After vetting, funds are usually out within two days. And thanks to our energetic team who participate and come to consensus for grant requests.

This is my prayer of thanksgiving for this parish and these resources we are given to continue our work. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for watching over us and inspiring generous people to help during this storm recovery.

Your MOC Team and Chair Radie Armstrong  
January, 2025



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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, Interim Organist

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

### Vestry

Terry Fulton (2026), Senior Warden

Tav Gauss (2025), Darby Logan (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

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