



GOOD NEWS LETTER

Dear friends,

An old friend stopped by for a visit and, as we were going through the back and forth of catch up, I discovered two things.

First, my friend hadn't changed. He still had his positives and his negatives. I am sure that he thought the same about me. I love this connection with old friends and memories. We remember that truism, that the more things change (like graying hair...beard) the more they stay the same. We cannot hide who we are and this is especially true in that the love and connection of Jesus will remain, always. It stays the same.

Second, my friend, who practices a lot of Buddhist spirituality and is very "new age", asked me what my spiritual practice is? I bristled at this question because I believe that practice often muddies the water of our relationship with Christ but, of course, I do have rhythms and routines that connect me with Jesus and God's love. And this summer I have read poetry and I'll offer you one of my favorites from Mary Oliver.

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
 Who made the swan, and the black bear?
 Who made the grasshopper?
 This grasshopper, I mean-
 the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
 who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
 who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
 which is what I have been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do
 with your one wild and precious life?



—Mary Oliver

House of Light. Boston: Beacon Press. 1990. P.60

Peace,
 Willis

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A LOOK AHEAD

September 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OINK OINK!

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN IN THE
FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN AND
TASTY GOODNESS OF AN
END OF SUMMER
PIG PICKIN'!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
5:30 - 7 PM AT THE
TROUTVILLE TOWN PARK ON ROUTE 11**

Art Heberer has generously offered to donate a cooked pig and we can fill in with side dishes and desserts. Please RSVP on our website on the "Sign Up Here" button on the right hand side of the home page. You can also call Gina to sign up.

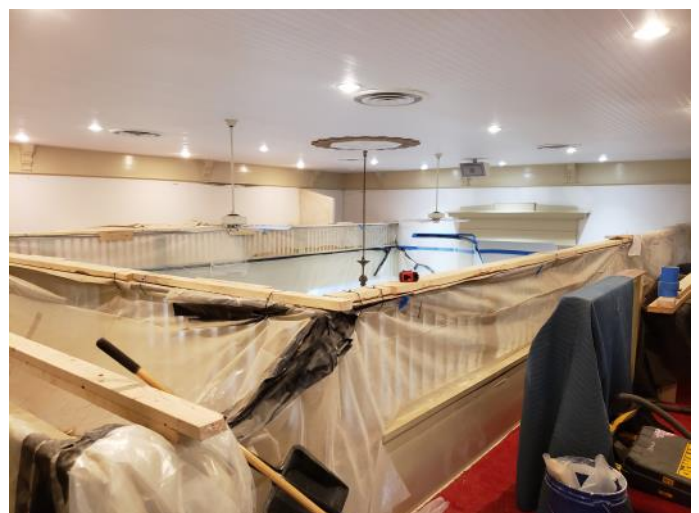
Here's the link for online sign-up:

<https://www.stmarksfincastle.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=7>

- ☀ **We have Pavilion B, to the left as you enter Troutville Town Park. There is a gate toward that end of the park for those who want to park closer to the picnic site.**
- ☀ **Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed in the park.**



**CEILING REPLACEMENT -
BEFORE AND AFTER**



These pictures speak paragraphs as to why our vestry approved the ceiling replacement. The work package also made it possible to restore the smoke-detection system to service with a minimum additional cost.

--Peter Howarth

Vestry Musings

By George Sydnor

There is an old and enduring saying authored by Jim Lovell that goes like this: "There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen."

So, in what category does each of us at St. Mark's fit? Think about it. Do you sit back and just watch the weeks and years roll by and then pass judgement on what happens around you? Or maybe you are the laid-back type that is perfectly happy to let others carry the load while you just relax and smile in an ambivalent manner as you watch the events of the day and year unfold. No fuss, no bother, just take it easy.

But maybe, just maybe, you are part of that rare, restless breed that makes things happen. Look around you and just look... perhaps marvel... at the positive changes and movement directions of St. Mark's over the last two years. Look what has been accomplished and then say to yourself, "was I part of this transformation?"

Without engagement, congregation membership is meaningless, an empty presence in a hollow shell wondering, well, yes, I think something did happen, but what really did happen, what does it mean to me?

No lecture intended here at all, but let's take the just completed Sanctuary ceiling renovation as an example. This was an \$80,000 project made possible by the involvement of many, the generosity of previous bequests to the church, and anonymous gift that provided seed money for the ceiling restoration. With this type of involvement and dedication to the purposes of God's work, wonders may be accomplished when we get engaged and committed to purpose.

This is just one example, but you "get the drift". There is an inscription in the barracks at VMI... "You may be whatever you resolve to be."

What do you resolve St. Mark's to be? If you are interested in talking about setting up a bequest or learning about our future capital improvement projects, then please e-mail me or Willis.

A NOTE FROM ELIJAH

Allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you. This summer has been a wonderful, educational and spiritually enriching experience for me, and none of it would have been possible without your hospitality. Jesus said, "Whatever house you enter, first say,

'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person." This peace is the peace and well-being that comes from receiving the grace of God. As I have been here, I have done my best to declare

"peace" over St. Mark's, and I am grateful and delighted in return to see God's peace resting on this parish and in the hearts of those I have come to serve, both now and already. Therefore, it is with gratitude to all of you and to God that I depart this parish, trusting that the Lord Jesus Christ will continue to work both in you and in me, preserving us in his love until we meet again.



We Care Ministry

The second Great Commandment: *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.* Members of the We Care Team strive to love their neighbors,

Thanks for
Caring



known and strangers alike, by praying for special needs and by providing occasional short-term acts of kindness: writing notes and cards, making calls, fixing a meal or

snacks, giving a lift to the doctor, visiting... the list goes on. EVERYONE prays, but each member responds to other requests ONLY as each is called to do so. We communicate through bcc email notices. For more information, contact Carole Geiger at geiger.caroleb@gmail.com or 540.473.2033.



Celebrate Our Heritage

2020 = 250th Birthday of St. Mark's and the Anglican Worship in Botetourt County

Next year is a big celebration of our history! Please consider helping to plan some events. We would love to have you join us! Danielle Alexander has agreed to be our coordinator. Please email her of your interest or any ideas. (remaka3@aol.com)

Gina will be taking a week of vacation starting August 5th. If you would like to come and help out during this time, please let Willis or Gina know.




Come stitch a while and enjoy the fellowship! The Dorcas Needlework Guild meets every Thursday at 1:00 in the Youth

Center. Those who come might work on their own projects or join in working on one of ours. Some bring sewing machines. Some do hand stitching. Some sort, iron, and cut. EVERYONE is welcome! Watch the church calendar for holidays when we might not meet. For more information, contact Gret Kidd or Carole Geiger.

Special SUNDAYS

AUGUST 4th --

Celebrate and send off for Elijah!

Join us as we celebrate our time with Elijah and send him off for his third year of Divinity School.

AUGUST 11th --

Kaleb is heading to New Haven!

Our dear friend Kaleb Cahoon will begin his master of divinity at Yale Divinity School. His last Sunday with us will be August 11th at the 10:30am service. Please join us as we send him off to Yale with prayer and love.

Also, **we are collecting a purse (aka, some going away money!)** and if you are interested in contributing, then please make a check out to St. Mark's with "Kaleb Cahoon" in the memo line.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS ARE NEEDED!

Coffee hour is an informal time after the 10:30 service in the fellowship hall where coffee and light refreshments are served. There is an online sign-up process for coffee hour on the home page of our website (click on the "sign up here" button on the right hand side). There is always a need for parishioners to take a turn providing refreshments. *You can also team up with someone else.*



For more information about coffee hour, contact Penny Neil at thepurplepennyrealtor@gmail.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	2 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	3 8:30am Episcopal Men's Fellowship 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
4 Send off for Elijah on his last Sunday at St. Mark's 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II	5	6 8:00pm Open AA meeting	7	8 BACK TO SCHOOL day for Botetourt 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	9 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	10 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
11 Send off for Kaleb on his last Sunday at St. Mark's 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II	12 12:00am Willis - Continuing Ed.	13 12:00am Willis - Continuing Ed. 8:00pm Open AA meeting	14 12:00am Willis - Continuing Ed.	15 12:00am Willis - Continuing Ed. 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	16 Office Closed 12:00am Willis - Continuing Ed. 8:00pm Open AA meeting	17 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 5:30pm End of Summer Pig Pickin' at Troutville Park!! 8:00pm Open AA
18 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II 4:00pm Appalachian Vespers	19	20 5:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting	21	22 September Newsletter Deadline!! 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	23 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	24 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
25 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II	26 2:30pm Homework Helps starts back	27 11:30am Holy Communion at The Glebe 8:00pm Open AA meeting	28 2:30pm Homework Helps	29 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	30 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	31 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA

<u>DATE</u> AUGUST 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
8-4	C. Geiger R. Hagan	P. Gordon		T. Trammell S. Loeschen	C. Echols G. Sydnor	A. Caldwell	M. Parish P. Garrison
8-11	P. Garrison K. Cahoon	M. Parish		S. Hays K. Beasley	D. Collins K. Beasley	A. Caldwell	P. Suite K. Beasley
8-18	W. Michael P. Mahony	D. Collins		E. Moore P. Gordon	J. Gordon S. Sydnor	A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor S. Diez
8-25	J. Howarth Emily TG	G. Sydnor		P. Garrison D. Wood	M. Parish R. Cecil	A. Caldwell	L. Uotinen C. Geiger

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DUTY ROSTERS

<u>DATE</u> SEPTEMBER 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
9-1	C. Geiger R. Manley	K. Beasley		T. Trammell S. Loeschen	P. Neil J. Gordon	A. Caldwell	D. Beasley J. Gordon
9-8	J. Howarth R. Cecil	G. Simcoe		S. Hays	M. Dudding S. Waid	A. Caldwell	R. Manley B. Heartwell
9-15	W. Michael W. Michael	E. Moore		E. Moore P. Gordon	W. Michael S. Frechette	A. Caldwell	M. Parish P. Howarth
9-22	P. Garrison P. Mahony	S. Field		P. Garrison D. Wood	B. Heartwell S. Field	A. Caldwell	P. Suite P. Garrison
9-28	C. Geiger Emily T-G	A. Layman		TBD	J. Gordon TBD	A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor K. Beasley

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ADULT ED SERIES

For the month of August, Chuck Geiger will plan to reflect on recent topics, look to the future, and discuss the Sunday lessons in more detail during the 9:15 Adult Education/ Fellowship Time.

New Treasurer



We are pleased to announce that St. Mark's has a new treasurer, **Mr. George Sydnor.**

Brown Bag Bible Study

There will be no Brown Bag Bible Study in the month of August. It will resume after Labor Day with a study of The Gospel of Luke.



Brown Bag studies meet on Thursdays at around 12:05pm and last an hour. Bring a bag lunch with you and we will have coffee and water and sometimes something sweet.



Homework Helps

The tentative date for starting back in the fall (barring any unforeseen blips with the sanctuary repairs) is **Monday, August 26th!**

Welcome back, kids and leaders!

Appalachian Vespers

Services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Chapel in Eagle Rock. Musicians for the next few months are as follows:

August 18 -- Aspen Black & Randolph Walker

September 15 -- Northern Botetourt Trio
(Lillian Cook, Robert McRae, Debbie Thurston)

October 20 -- Boys Home of Virginia

November 17 -- Like The Moon

December -- TBA

Reception immediately following each service in the Eagle Rock Fire House.

Emmanuel Chapel has a Facebook page!
Visit and give it a thumbs up!

Dates are still open for Altar Flower dedications.

Available dates are:

August 18, 25 and October 27

If you need help with the online flower sign up, please contact the church office.



What's a Pig Pickin'??!

Come to the Troutville Park on August 17th at 5:30 and find out!

See details about the pig pickin' on page 2 of the newsletter.



oops!

From a church bulletin:

~~Attend the revival!~~

~~Carol Johnson is preaching, and Joy Burke will lead the singing.~~

~~Refreshments served afterward.~~

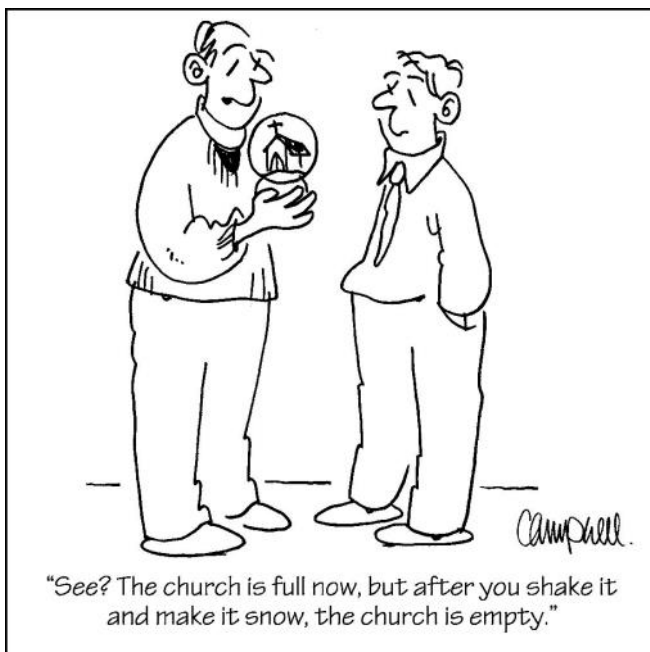
This event is sure to get people talking (and singing)!

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
(111 S. Roanoke St.)
P.O. Box 277
Fincastle, VA 24090-0277



willis@stmarksfincastle.org (The Rev. G. Willis Logan)
office@stmarksfincastle.org (Gina Painter)
540-473-2370 (Phone)
stmarksfincastle.org

Heavenly Humor



- 8/6 Chris Moore
- 8/10 Helen Madine-Gregory
- 8/11 Griffith Wood
- 8/12 Nev Logan
- 8/13 John Layman
- 8/19 Lisa Uotinen
- 8/24 Tyler Rokicka
- 8/26 Jennifer Woodson
- 8/27 Debby Proffitt