



# GOOD NEWS LETTER

Dear Friends,

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1969, fifty years ago, the Beatles said, "Goodbye" with their last live performance in England. The band would officially break up by the end of the year. Breakups are hard, aren't they?

Whether a band, family member, movie star or neighbor, the fracturing of things that we love induces pain and damage that inform our deep memories and experiences. Pain is felt in our hearts and bodies as we process the loss of something that we loved. A broken heart for anyone who has ever felt the rejection and sting of a break up is all too familiar with this sting. It hurts. Breakups also create damage - loss of friendships, Paul and John no longer singing together, cousins not sitting at the same table and neighbors no longer speaking. As our bodies experience the pain, our lives live in a world full of brokenness.

During the month of February our Epiphany readings begin with St. Paul's (1 Cor. 13) exhortation that Love is the greatest gift of God and we end the month with Jesus (Luke 6) exhorting us to "love our enemies." These bookends provide the only points of healing in a sin sick world. Love is the Balm of Gilead and to paraphrase Bishop Michael Curry, "The way of Love is the only way." Love that was poured out on the Cross for you and me and for the world. It's the love that will one day reconcile all things to itself. In between, we pray for Love's efficacy to continue to be manifest in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. It's love that you "can't buy" because it's been freely given to us. So free, in fact, that it is open to all and given to all. It's (Jesus is) our only hope.

Love -  
Willis



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## A LOOK AHEAD

March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

# Dorcas Needlework Guild

Looking for a lovely way to get out in this challenging winter weather pattern but not have to linger outside?! Come stitch with us! The Dorcas Needlework Guild brings together folks who like to stitch, any kind of stitching, and all degrees of talent. For instance, I'm more apt to be ironing fabric, sorting fabric, and oohing-aaahing over fabric while my more gifted friends do the actual stitchery! We have a need for crocheted/knitted or stitched baby blankets and we're working on comfort quilts of various sizes, as well as adult clothes protectors for nursing homes and for individuals recovering from illness or surgery. But sometimes we bring our own stitchery projects, from mending to tatting (Well, maybe I exaggerate: I don't think anyone's brought any tatting yet, but we did have a parishioner who tatted many years ago!). Please come join us in the Youth Center, any time between 1:00 and 3:00 on Thursdays. We meet unless Botetourt County Schools are closed for weather or we've announced a closure in advance. Check in the church office if you arrive first! For more information, contact Gret Kidd ([touchofivory@juno.com](mailto:touchofivory@juno.com)) or Carole Geiger ([geiger.caroleb@gmail.com](mailto:geiger.caroleb@gmail.com))



## Loved and known

***“Jesus knows me, this I love,”*** read the church sign. That twist on the classic children’s song emphasizes the importance of being both loved and known. “It’s not one or the other; it’s hard truth and ridiculous grace,” sings contemporary Christian artist Tauren Wells in “Known.”

Timothy Keller, in *The Meaning of Marriage*, describes the duality this way: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.”

## BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY RESUMES FOR THE WINTER . . . *Wrapping up Romans!*

**February 7 -- Romans 11**

**February 14 -- Romans 12**

**February 21 -- Romans 13**

**February 28 -- Romans 14 - 15:21**

**March 7 -- Romans 15:22 - 16**

Brown Bag Bible Studies (Romans) continue from the fall at 12:05pm in the Ministry Center library. Drop-ins encouraged and coffee, water and sweets are provided. Bring your lunch and study the second half of Paul’s “Magnum Opus”.

## SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Chuck Geiger will begin a series on the last few chapters of First Corinthians and focus on the following topics:

2/3 -- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
“LOVE”

2/10 -- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
“FAITH”

2/17 -- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
“HOPE”

2/24 -- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
“LIFE”

3/3 -- 1 Corinthians 15:51-58  
“EVERLASTING LIFE”

Adult Education/Fellowship Time meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Ministry Center Library.

## Vestry Musings

By Dan Beasley

A new year has begun and February has arrived. Time to look back and examine those New Year's Eve resolutions.

How is our weight loss progressing?

How organized is our life and home? Did we really need all those books on organization, did we read them?

In years past I would resolve to lose weight, get my life organized, and have all the clutter placed in plastic tubs purchased at Walmart right after Christmas.

Then by February I had maybe cut out some fatty foods, had moved the plastic tubs to the storage room and used them to store the books on organization.

This year I decided not to make resolutions but to set goals to make 2019 the best year yet.

First goal is to learn a new language. We are going to Italy in June so that is the stimulus for this goal. I won't be fluent in conversation but may be able to get through car rentals and hotel check-in.

Second goal is to travel. Travel enriches your life, gets you out of your comfort zone to experience different life styles and traditions.

Third enjoy life, ask God to be your guide on a daily basis, make a difference. Give back to your community, volunteer.

Listen to other points of view. Step out of your comfort zone.

This year, make it a point to invest in friendships.

Travel and service can be meaningful, but doing so with others can be so much more.

Lose weight, exercise more.....

Please consider dedicating altar flowers on a Sunday this year. There is a new sign up sheet outside the sacristy and there are also forms



Altar Flowers

for you to fill out to include your dedication information so that it can be correctly incorporated in the church bulletin that day.

There are many good reasons to remember someone with an altar flower dedication --- flowers for loved ones who have passed, special occasions like birthdays or birth of a child, or honoring family members.

*Pat Gordon, Altar Guild chair*

The Mockingbird "library" has arrived. Mockingbird Ministries is an important ministry to St. Mark's and I commend its grace infused



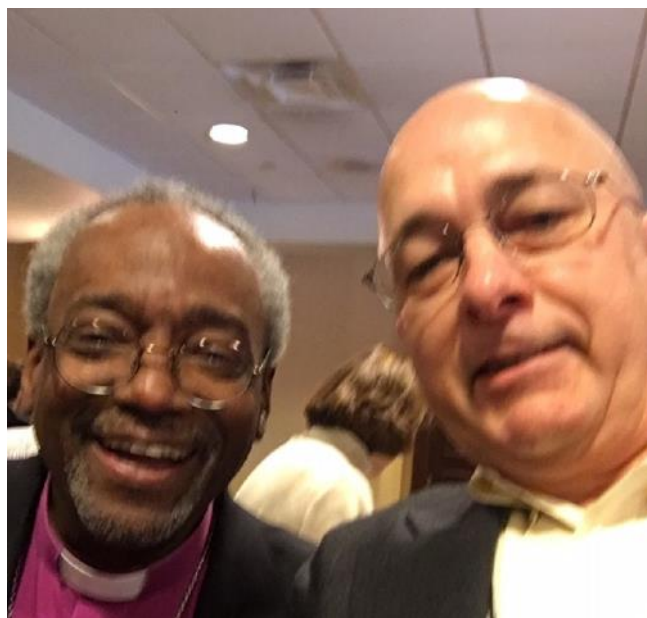
blog and publications to you. So, I am very excited to announce that we have acquired a few copies of each of their publications — from Theological reflections to a book about music to AA, the books cover a wide range of topics. Each publication looks at the intersection of Grace or its absence in our culture and our lives. Come and take one home to read on a cold February Day! We will be unpacking them in the next week so if you want to help with this project, we could use that, too! Really excited to add these books to our wonderful library.

Peace, Willis

# **We Care Ministry**

Do you feel Called to pray for members of your church family or others? The We Care Team does just that: Members of St. Mark's and others in our community receive bcc email requests for prayer. Also on the Team, we have individuals who answer a Call to other short-term neighborly tasks for others — such as making an occasional meal for someone recovering from surgery or undergoing chemo, giving someone a lift to a doctor's appointment, sending cards, making calls, making visits (perhaps with cookies or chocolate!). The only thing EVERYONE does is pray; others give a hand only as they feel Called to do so. If you would like to join this ministry and receive the bcc emails, please contact Carole Geiger at [geiger.caroleb@gmail.com](mailto:geiger.caroleb@gmail.com) or for more information call her at 473.2033.

# Scenes from Convention 2019



**Many thanks to Dan Collins and Mike Parish for serving as our delegates to Convention 2019!**

**Interested in serving in the future?  
Contact Willis.**



# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA	2 8:30am Episcopal Men's Fellowship 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
3 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult EdFellowship Time 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel	4 2:30pm Homework Helps	5 9:00am Vestry Retreat 8:00pm Open AA meeting	6 2:30pm Homework Helps	7 12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study - Romans 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild in the Youth Center	8 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA	9 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
10 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult EdFellowship Time 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	11 2:30pm Homework Helps	12 8:00pm Open AA meeting	13 2:30pm Homework Helps	14 12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study - Romans 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild in the Youth Center	15 Office Closed 11:30am Memorial Service for Mary Lou Mullis and reception 8:00pm Open AA	16 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
17 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult EdFellowship Time 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	18 Church Office Closed Washington's Birthday 2:30pm Homework Helps	19 5:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting	20 March Good News Letter Deadline! 2:30pm Homework Helps	21 12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study - Romans 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild in the Youth Center	22 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA	23 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
24 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult EdFellowship Time 9:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	25 2:30pm Homework Helps	26 11:00am Holy Communion at The Glebe 8:00pm Open AA meeting	27 2:30pm Homework Helps	28 12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study - Romans 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild in the Youth Center		

<u>DATE</u> FEBRUARY 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>YOUTH CHAPEL/ NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
2-3	J. Howarth K. Cahoon	K. Beasley	Ana U. Lauren U.	T. Trammell S. Loeschen	C. Echols J. Echols	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	D. Beasley S. Diez
2-10	C. Geiger R. Hagan	E. Moore	Gabriella B.	S. Hays K. Beasley	D. Collins K. Beasley	A. Palmer A. Caldwell	R. Manley C. Geiger
2-17	P. Garrison P. Mahony	S. Field	Mark P.	E. Moore S. Sydnor	G. Sydnor S. Sydnor	Emily T-G A. Caldwell	M. Parish J. Gordon
2-24	W. Michael W. Michael	A. Layman	LEM	P. Garrison D. Wood	M. Parish W. Michael	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	P. Suite B. Heartwell

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## DUTY ROSTERS

<u>DATE</u> MARCH 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>YOUTH CHAPEL/ NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
3-3	J. Howarth Emily T.-G.	D. Collins	LEM	T. Trammell S. Loeschen	K. Cahoon P. Neil	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor P. Howarth
3-6 ASH WED.	?	?			?		
3-10 LENT 1	C. Geiger K. Cahoon	G. Sydnor	Gabriella B.	S. Hays K. Beasley	M. Dudding S. Waid	A. Palmer A. Caldwell	L. Uotinen P. Garrison
3-17	P. Garrison B. Wilsie	J. Gordon	Mark P.	E. Moore P. Gordon	W. Michael S. Frechette	Emily T.-G. A. Caldwell	D. Beasley S. Diez
3-24	W. Michael P. Mahony	G. Simcoe	Ana U. Lauren U.	P. Garrison TBD	B. Heartwell S. Field	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	R. Manley K. Beasley
3-31	J. Howarth R. Hagan	E. Moore	LEM	TBD	J. Gordon TBD	Emily T.-G. A. Caldwell	M. Parish C. Geiger

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# HOMWORK HELPS

Hello St. Mark's!

Thank you for all you do for Homework Helps! We are having such fun completing homework and loving these children. All of the children are settling in to the routine and look forward to being at the center. We currently have 14 children and get monthly visits from the library, have begun hands on science activities, and will soon start music class!

As the next few months progress, we will need to restock our snack cabinet. If you would like to help, we need goldfish crackers, gogurts, boxes of cereal (Fruit Loops, Honey Nut Cheerios, Honeycomb), individual sized applesauce, individual sized pudding cups, individual sized fruit cups, cheese sticks, peanut butter crackers, bowls, spoons, napkins, and small dixie cups.

Thank you for being such a warm and safe place for our children to get the help they need! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Miles, [lisa@ohacenter.org](mailto:lisa@ohacenter.org), (540)206-4954.

## Pictures from 1/23/19

Thank you to Patty King, Trudy Trammell, Sue Loeschen, Karen Beasley and Sally Field who have all volunteered this fall. Interested in dropping in? Contact Lisa Miles.



## News from the Annual Meeting

Congratulations to our three new Vestry members for 2019-2020! We welcome **Ron Manley**, **Patti Suite**, and **Lisa Uotinen**! We will miss Pam Garrison, Gret Kidd, and Peter Howarth and are thankful for their service on Vestry.



ASH WEDNESDAY  
*Worship*

**March 6th - Ash Wednesday Noon Service of Holy Communion at St. Mark's and 7pm Service at Transfiguration**

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



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office@stmarksfincastle.org (Gina Painter)  
540-473-2370 (Phone)  
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# Heavenly Humor



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2-2 Michael Scott
- 2-3 Charlotte Hagan
- 2-7 Emily Uribe, Rich Workowski,  
Lauren Uotinen
- 2-13 Jesse Wood
- 2-15 Conley Saunders
- 2-21 Tommy Hunter
- 2-22 Gabriella Bayer
- 2-23 Dan Beasley, Allen Layman
- 2-24 Ola Manley
- 2-26 Elaine Scott
- 2-27 Christopher Moore, Jr.