



GOOD NEWS LETTER

Dear Friends

I read Martin Luther's essay *Freedom of a Christian* every year. It's packed full of theological insights, and this year what stuck out to me was the emphasis on the **individual**. I am not talking about the individual over and against the institution (insert Church or ecclesiastical body) and its work, but rather the emphasis on the individual's connection to the Gospel through the inner self or the heart. Said another way, Jesus is in the heart transformation business (Romans) not in the institution business, nor the cathedral business, nor the business of ethics, morality, and works.

Jesus wants your heart, and he wants to transform it.

The work of Jesus transforms the "inner man." Nothing short and nothing less, nothing more and nothing else – full stop.

So, then, what does this mean for us? Are we finished with Church, works, kingdom building? Maybe, but that's not Luther's point, nor is it mine, because what happens with this transformation is that we become a "new" creation, and the Holy Spirit guides us towards those good works, those kingdom-building ideas, and freely moves us to love one another.

The heart transformed is a heart on fire – on fire for the Lord. This is not a one-time thing; rather, it is constant action in our lives flowing from a one-time event (Crucifixion) – as we prepare for Lent, we remember once again that our hearts are being transformed every day by the Lord, and that's all that matters.

The rest is in His hands.

Peace,
Willis



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March 2020						
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	31				



AshWednesday

St. Mark's Ash Wednesday services will be held on Wednesday, February 26th at noon and again at 7:00pm in the church sanctuary.

In case you wondered:

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a special Ash Wednesday service.

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay ([Genesis 2:7](#)), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy."

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-life/what-is-ash-wednesday-why-do-christians-celebrate-it.html>

Children's Ministry!

We are so excited about our revamped Children's Ministry Team. Our new lead minister is Mary Garland and her assistant is Marissa Howell. Mary grew up at St. Mark's and is excited about engaging the children with stories of Jesus. Marissa is a third year student at Hollins University and excited to support our team.

Children hold a special place in Scripture for two reasons. One, God wants us to be wholly

dependent upon Him like our own little children, and Jesus uses this metaphor time and again to drive home this point. Second, Children are just fun! They say things that spark our curiosity and engage in our life together in unexpected and deeply holy ways. SO, it is with HUGE joy that we start this new time of Children's Ministry at St. Mark's!

Stop by the Children's Chapel room and say hi to Mary and Marissa.

Currently, our choir is on Sabbatical until Easter. *What does this mean?* This means that we are giving some space to discern and pray about our music ministry at St. Mark's.

Willis would welcome any discussion about ideas for our music ministry. It's an extremely important ministry and we are excited to see what our reborn music ministry will look like. If you are curious about Music Mattering, then please read Danielle Alexander's excellent Vestry Musing (pg. 4).



Adult Education

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Weekly topics:

9th -- Healing on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6)

16th -- Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:25-35)

23rd -- Law vs. Good News (Luke 16:16-18)

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

A Reflection from a first-time participant at the Annual Diocesan Convention

My first time at convention and I was not disappointed. The fellowship with others from around the area, learning about the resolutions, discussing the budget and hearing from Bishops Nick and Mark was awesome, and then seeing all the youth at Sunday morning service was fantastic! I loved having the opportunity to learn and take in so much of how our Diocese works. Seeing and hearing from the youth, their energy, their faith, their uniqueness was like a breath of fresh air. Hearing how others thought of some of the changes to the resolutions and watching everyone come together to reach a compromise was so encouraging and I look forward to going back next year!

--Danielle Alexander

101st Diocese Convention - Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Saint Mark's was well represented at the 101st Diocese Convention January 24th - 26th at the Hotel Roanoke. I served as Delegate along with Danielle Alexander. Also in attendance were my wife Robin, a registered visitor, Pam Garrison, a candidate for the Disciplinary Board, and Willis.

We all enjoyed great fellowship and the opportunity to meet several Episcopalians from across the Diocese. Pam was really excited after being elected to the Disciplinary Board. I know she will be a valuable asset to the Board. The Keynote Speaker, The Right Reverend Nicholas Baines, Bishop of the Diocese of Leeds in the Church of England was a great speaker. His message was to listen intently to learn. He is a great story teller, sharing life's experiences in England and growing up in Liverpool on Penny Lane of Beatles fame.

We conducted the usual convention business of adopting the Diocesan budget and three amendments to the Constitution & Canons. The most discussed, and amended, being a proposed revision to the "Vestry Oath". In addition, six Resolutions were approved.

Resolutions approved: Voting Procedures; Re-designation of Congregation Status of St. Andrews, Clifton Forge from Parish to Mission; Requesting protection of Monacan Nation Ancestral Village and Grave Site, in particular, and Native Americans and Enslaved People, in general; Sudan; Trustee Endowment Policy Statement Revisions; and Offer Caring, Practical Response to the Opioid Crisis.

I hope that everyone can experience a Diocesan Convention in the years to come. I would encourage participation to enjoy the fellowship and participate in the Diocesan Convention process.

*Dan Collins
Convention Delegate*



Willis and Fr. Brodie at Convention

Vestry Musings By Danielle Alexander

Music Matters

Music is so important in our lives and we all have different likes and dislikes. Have you ever thought about the importance of music in your life? Think about it. Babies are exposed to music while in the womb. As babies, our parents/ caregivers probably sang us lullabies. Once in school, we learned our ABCs in song. Right now you're singing the ABCs in your head right? Then we learn the state names alphabetically in song, at our weddings we have a first dance as husband and wife and a multitude of other scenarios. Music can transform our moods, remind us of special days gone by, of that special summer when you were a teenager driving around town by yourself for the first time, or sitting in church hearing the old hymns. It can also allow us to recall some times that may not be so happy - war time, maybe the passing of a loved one, a hymn that seems to always be played at funerals. Whatever your like or dislike, music brings our community together in a host of ways and gives us the opportunity to socialize with others. To make a connection with the old and the young, talking about the different "music of the day", I would encourage you to reach out to others and ask them what kind of music they like, what a certain song means to them and if there is a song that brings back a special memory. Let's put down our phones, turn off the computers and turn on the stereo!!



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.



Would you consider a dedication of altar flowers? The sign-up process is now online at our website (<https://www.stmarksfincastle.org/>). Please call Gina (473-2370) or email Pat Gordon (jgordon685@aol.com) if you have trouble finding it.

Congratulations to our two new Vestry members for 2020-2021! We welcome **Danielle Alexander and Buck Heartwell!**



First Sunday in February!
Boys' Home Sunday
and we will have Donnie Wheatley and some boys from Boys' Home visiting with us!

In January we completed a double-bed quilt to give to a family whose home burned during the holidays. Shaping up under needles right now, you'll see a twin-size quilt to donate to Street Ransom, the ministry dedicated to serving girls



rescued from sex trafficking. *Please join us on Thursdays at 1:00*, either to work on one of our projects or to bring your own project to enjoy in needle fellowship! For more information, contact Gret Kidd or Carole Geiger (phone and email info in Directory).

<u>DATE</u> FEBRUARY	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
2-2	P. Garrison R. Cecil	D. Collins	T. Trammel S. Loeschen	C. Echols D. Collins	D. Alexander K. Beasley
2-9	L. Jacobi R. Hagan	K. Beasley	S. Hays L. Jacobi	D. Beasley K. Beasley	D. Beasley C. Geiger
2-16 Copenhaver supply	J. Howarth W. Michael	E. Moore	E. Moore P. Gordon S. Cullum	G. Sydnor S. Sydnor	C. Echols J. Gordon
2-23 Stanley supply	C. Geiger P. Mahony	S. Field	P. Garrison D. Wood	M. Parish R. Cecil	B. Heartwell P. Howarth
2-26 ASH WED. 12 and 7pm	P. Mahony Emily T-G		P. Garrison D. Wood		

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DUTY ROSTERS

<u>DATE</u> MARCH	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
3-1 Lent 1	P. Garrison Emily T-G	A. Layman	T. Trammel S. Loeschen	P. Neil J. Gordon	M. Parish P. Garrison
3-8 Copenhaver supply	L. Jacobi R. Cecil	P. Gordon	S. Hays L. Jacobi	M. Dudding S. Waid	P. Suite K. Beasley
3-15	J. Howarth R. Hagan	J. Gordon	E. Moore P. Gordon S. Cullum	W. Michael S. Frechette	L. Uotinen C. Geiger
3-22	C. Geiger W. Michael	M. Parish	P. Garrison D. Wood	B. Heartwell S. Field	D. Alexander J. Gordon
3-29	C. Geiger P. Mahony	D. Collins		J. Gordon G. Sydnor	D. Beasley P. Howarth

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IT'S LEAP YEAR!



February

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		<i>February 26 noon & 7pm</i>			1 8:30am Episcopal Men's Fellowship 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA meeting
2 8:00am Boys' Home Sunday with Donnie Wheatley 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel	3 2:30pm Homework Helps	4 12:00pm Worship Commission Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting	5 2:30pm Homework Helps	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	7 9:00am Office Closed 8:00pm 8:00pm Open AA meeting	8 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA meeting
9 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	10 2:30pm Homework Helps	11 9:00am Vestry Retreat 8:00pm Open AA meeting	12 2:30pm Homework Helps	13 11:00am Piano tuning in the sanctuary 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	14 9:00am Office Closed 8:00pm 8:00pm Open AA meeting 	15 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA meeting
16 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel	17 Office Closed Presidents' Day 	18 8:00pm Open AA meeting	19 March Newsletter Deadline 2:30pm Homework Helps	20 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	21 9:00am Office Closed 8:00pm 8:00pm Open AA meeting	22 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA meeting
23 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	24 2:30pm Homework Helps	25 11:30am Holy Communion at The Glebe 5:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting	26 11:00am Ash Wednesday service at the Brian Center 12:00pm ASH WEDNESDAY Service 2:30pm Homework Helps 7:00pm ASH WEDNESDAY Service	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	28 9:00am Office Closed 8:00pm 8:00pm Open AA meeting	29 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA meeting

Sometime in March 1770, the Vestry and People of Botetourt Parish worshipped for the first time. Let that sink in for a moment . . .



250 YEARS AGO OR
13,000 WEEKS AGO OR
91,250 DAYS AGO OR
5,475,000 MINUTES AGO OR
328,500,000 SECONDS AGO

AN ANGLICAN MINISTER CELEBRATED COMMUNION USING THE 1662 *BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER* – A SERVICE VERY SIMILAR TO OUR CURRENT RITE I.

WE ARE GOING TO BE CELEBRATING THIS HISTORY AND MILESTONE OVER THE NEXT YEAR AND THAT BEGINS WITH LENT:

Historical Theology Talks for Lent 2020: A reflection on 250 years of Anglicanism in Botetourt County and beyond...

Speaker Schedule:

March 4th -- Dr. Hannah Matis. Dr. Matis teaches American Christianity at Virginia Theological Seminary and will be discussing *Anglicanism: Jamestown to Botetourt*.

March 11th – The Rev. Robert McRae. Pastor Robert is editing information about Botetourt Churches for the 250th Committee and will be sharing his stories with us.

March 18th – To be announced.

March 25th – The Rev. Dr. Helen Beasley. Rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Blue Grass, VA. Rev. Beasley will share reflections from her time as a supply to St Mark's, growing up in the area and her current ministry.

April 1st – The Rev. Willis Logan. Willis will offer a talk that intersects with his own family, "What about the Presbyterians?"

WHEN? Wednesdays, Ministry Center, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

WHAT? Fellowship, dinner, talks with Q/A

Interested in Helping with Dinner? Email Gina Painter (office@stmarksfincastle.org).

Details are being finalized about roles and responsibilities and more information will be forthcoming.

Want to get involved with 250th Activities? WE'D LOVE IT!
Email or Call Danielle Alexander (remaka3@aol.com; 540-761-9836)



Other Important Dates:

Sunday March 22nd 2020 -- 8am and 10:30am == A reunion service.

Saturday May 2nd -- 5pm - 7:30pm == BBQ on the Lawn / a family reunion.

Sunday May 3rd -- Single service at 10:30am with Bishop Mark Preaching and Celebrating. Parish Potluck on the lawn afterwards.

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

Are you receiving the bcc e-mailings for the We Care Ministry? *Everyone* prays. Some might also provide other small, short-term services to members of the parish and the community, whether fixing a batch of cookies or an occasional meal, calling/writing cards & notes, offering a lift, running an errand: Each as Called. For more information, contact Carole Geiger at geiger.caroleb@gmail.com.



February Birthdays

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