



# GOOD NEWS LETTER

Merry Halloween!

Today, the kids (and a few of us adults, especially if twizzlers are involved) will eat too much candy and tomorrow bellies will ache. I am not sure this is an exact replica of the "Blessings and Curses" that continue over and over throughout the Old Testament, but it might be a modern appropriation of this theme of the interaction between God and His people. I do know that our lives are blessed by this rhythm of up and down, left and right, back and forth, sinner and saint. St. Paul writes in Romans, "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it -- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." So we have all fallen down, but are all raised up through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This happened once and for all on the Cross (Hebrews), and it is also the rhythm of our life together. It is the nature of things in a broken world where the Holy Spirit still breaks in to lift us out of our mistakes and sinful thoughts. Martin Luther coined the idea of "Simul Justus et Peccator" or, in English, "simlutaneously righteous and a sinner" and this is our existence. But we know that it is not the end of our story, either, because the day after Halloween comes All Saints Day and this is the day that we remember all of the saints, aka, redeemed sinners like you and me who have died, and we acknowledge their new life their Father's house -- the same house where we, too, will reside when our Father welcomes us to the place he has prepared for us.



Thanks be to God.

Peace, Willis

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### A LOOK AHEAD

December 2018						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

# CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!

Come, everyone, and join us for a festive *Christmas Luncheon* at The Glebe. It starts at eleven on Monday, December 3rd. The cost is \$15.00. Our Lisa Uotinen will play the grand piano for our program.



Please sign up and put your check in the container in Gina's office or in the Narthex before Friday, November 16th.

Thank you!  
Ann Layman

The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Thanksgiving with your generous donations of fruits and vegetables for services on November 18.



Please drop all donations off by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 17 to the sacristy or church office. Please remember that all donations are given to the Food Pantry.

Thank you,  
Altar Guild

## HOMWORK HELPS

Fincastle Homework Helps has started! We have 13 children enrolled who are receiving much needed academic support, consistent love, and encouragement from our volunteer team. The children are excited to get off the bus each Monday and Wednesday! If you would like to get involved, please contact Lisa Miles [lisa@ohacenter.org](mailto:lisa@ohacenter.org)

Below and to the left are some pictures from a day in the life of the Homework Helps program sent in by Lisa.



## Vestry Musings

By Carole Geiger

***"Thanks be to God."***

We speak these words often, in public prayer and private, and we say them with great enthusiasm and joy as we finish our worship services. Also, if we pause and listen, we hear the echo of those words uplifting and inspiring the thousands who have been impacted by the recent natural disasters to strike the southeast.

Chuck and I recently drove many miles along the North Carolina coast and across the middle of that state, traveling roadways littered all around us with devastation: the infamous 'blue roofs' providing spots of color in an otherwise bleak and barren geography, miles upon miles of trees reduced to splinters, wind-shattered homes and businesses, stacks of debris waiting for pick-up, rivers and creeks still out of their bounds.

However, signs of life and activity also abounded – resilience shining forth. We stopped for gas and exchanged words of hope with customers and clerks alike. We stopped for lunch and listened to cheerful voices exchanging stories of survival, lauding first responders, giving thanks for mission groups from all over our country, telling tales of electric crews from "ten states away" bringing power back into darkened communities. We sat in a Board of Directors meeting with a woman from her devastated seaside village of Swansboro, who reported that small waterfront businesses had begun to reopen and that the community moved forward as one large family to help one another recover and revive.

...and always those with whom we talked gave thanks to God for their survival, endurance, family, community, and recovery.

During this month of great thanksgivings, let us remember our neighbors to the south in recovery from the storms, let us remember those suffering in the aftermath of unspeakable, unimaginable tragedies, and let us remember those both near and far in distress from illness, bereavement, and losses of all kinds. Yet, let us also Give Thanks to God for the resilience of those so impacted, for those who continue to respond with their God-given Gifts to provide physical, medical, economic, security, and spiritual assistance, for communities who bond in a common commitment to one another, saying "THANKS BE TO GOD!!! Alleluia, Alleluia, thanks be to God!"

## **BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY**

The Brown Bag Bible Study continues with the study of Romans. It will pick up again in January.

Here's the schedule:

11/1 - Romans 7:15-25

11/8 - Romans 8

11/15 - Romans 9

11/22 - No study, Thanksgiving

11/29 - Romans 10

Study goes from 12:05pm to 1pm  
Bring a bag lunch; coffee and water provided.

*Sessions are designed for drop-in, so come when you are able!*



Newsletter Deadline for December is **November 21st!**

However, if you can send anything in even earlier, that would be a great help too!

## **Dorcas Needlework Guild**

*A Stitch in Time Saves Nine!* Have you ever thought about bringing a few items of mending to the twice-monthly Dorcas gatherings in the Youth Center? GREAT idea! Or bring a knitting, crocheting, needlework, or other stitchery project and join us to stitch in fellowship!



If you'd like to join in one of our projects, we have exciting ones to share with you. Currently we're beginning a Christmas project to share with nursing home patients and other shut-ins. "Comfort quilts" and baby blanket projects continue underway. More information? Contact Gret Kidd or Carole Geiger...or just drop in between 1:00 and 3:00 on the first and third Thursdays each month: Nov. 1 and 15<sup>th</sup> this month!

For more information contact Carole Geiger at [geiger.caroleb@gmail.com](mailto:geiger.caroleb@gmail.com) or Gret Kidd at [touchofivory@juno.com](mailto:touchofivory@juno.com).



# We Care Ministry

I wanted to take a moment to let everyone know what We Care has meant to me over the past two months. It's not just the meals. It's much, much more. Don't get me wrong. Having the meals brought has been a huge help for Ron and for me while we were both coping with life, following our surgeries and the beginning of my chemo treatments. In addition - the food, cards, phone calls, and emails have been a tangible expression of love and support. But the prayers have been equally important. I feel lifted up by the cloud of prayers that I am receiving - or rather that are being offered on my behalf.

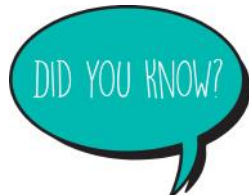
Please know that I feel the thoughts and prayers from each and every one of you and you help keep me strong and feel at peace (most of the time) with whatever happens in the future.

The unseen and impossible to quantify benefit of We Care is to know that we are not alone. The outpouring of love and support has truly shown that we at St. Mark's are a family.

*Ola Manley*

Together we care for our church family, our neighbors, and strangers in need. Want to receive the bcc We Care emails? Contact Carole Geiger at [geiger.caroleb@gmail.com](mailto:geiger.caroleb@gmail.com).

**Choir rehearsals at St. Mark's are now meeting at 9:25am instead of 9:15.**



If you enjoy singing, please pray about joining this ministry. We always welcome new voices and would love to have you. Contact Gret Kidd for more information!

*Gret Kidd, Choir Director  
touchofivory@juno.com*



## Interested in Confirmation?

Please contact Willis with any questions!

Here is the schedule:

November 4 - Class 3  
Atonement/Cross

November 11 - Class 4  
Resurrection/ Redemption

November 18 - Class 5  
The Episcopal Church I (Prayer Book)

November 25 - Class 6  
The Episcopal Church II + Wrap Up

## Vestry Elections

The Vestry is preparing a slate for the upcoming 2019 Vestry elections.

Would you be interested in being on Vestry?  
Have you ever considered or have any interest in being on Vestry?  
If so, please call Willis.

## Fincastle A. A. Group 50th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, November 17, 2018  
6:30pm Potluck Dinner  
8:00pm Speakers (Open Meeting)

Location: St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
111 S. Roanoke Street, Fincastle  
(across Rt. 220 from Dollar General Store)

Please come celebrate with 2 of our  
Fincastle Group Founders.

Family & friends of the fellowship are all  
welcome!



# NOVEMBER

# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>All Saints' Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:25am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult Education/Fellowship Time - Confirmation Class 3 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>12:00pm Southern Botelourt Clergy Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>12:00pm Willis at Diocesan Clergy meeting 2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Set your clocks BACK before bed! 8:30am Episcopal Men's Fellowship at Greenwood 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>8:00am Holy Communion I 9:25am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult Education/Fellowship Time - Confirmation Class 4 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Office Closed for Veterans' Day 2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:00pm Open AA meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild in the Youth Center</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00am Last day to bring fruits and vegetables 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Fincastle A. A. Group 50th Anniversary Celebration at St. Mark's 8:00pm Open AA</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>8:00am Holy Communion I 9:25am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult Education/Fellowship Time - Confirmation Class 5 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel 4:00pm Appalachian Vespers</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>5:30pm Vestry Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>DECEMBER Good News Letter deadline! 2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Office Closed THANKSGIVING DAY</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>8:00am Holy Communion I 9:25am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Adult Education/Fellowship Time - Confirmation Class 6 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>1:00pm Parish Life Meeting 2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>11:00am Holy Communion at The Globe 8:00pm Open AA meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>2:30pm Homework Helps Program</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>12:05pm Brown Bag Bible Study</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA</p>	

<u>DATE</u>	<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>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>							
11-4	C. Geiger K. Cahoon	M. Parish	Ana U. Amie U.	T. Trammell S. Loeschen	M. Dudding S. Waid	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor L. Jacobi
11-11	J. Howarth O. Manley	J. Powers	Gabriella B.	S. Hays L. Jacobi	J. Woodson W. Michael	A. Palmer A. Caldwell	D. Beasley S. Diez
11-18	L. Jacobi R. Manley	D. Collins	Mark P.	E. Moore TBD	K. Cahoon P. Neil	Emily T.-G. A. Caldwell	P. Garrison C. Geiger
11-25	P. Garrison W. Michael	G. Sydnor	Amy W. Stephen W.	P. Gordon P. Garrison	C. Echols J. Echols	T. Trammell A. Caldwell	P. Howarth J. Gordon

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## DUTY ROSTERS

<u>DATE</u>	<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>
<b>DECEMBER</b>							
12-2 Advent 1	W. Michael P. Mahony	K. Beasley		T. Trammell S. Loeschen	B. Heartwell S. Field		M. Parish B. Heartwell
12-9 Advent 2	J. Howarth R. Hagan	L. Webb?		S. Hays L. Jacobi	G. Sydnor S. Sydnor		G. Sydnor K. Beasley
12-16 Advent 3	L. Jacobi O. Manley	G. Simcoe		E. Moore TBD	J. Gordon K. Beasley		D. Beasley L. Jacobi
12-23 Advent 4	P. Garrison K. Cahoon	E. Moore		P. Garrison P. Gordon	M. Dudding S. Waid		P. Garrison S. Diez
12-24 Christmas Eve		S. Field			P. Neil J. Gordon		
12-30	C. Geiger Emily T.-G.	J. Gordon		TBD	J. Woodson W. Michael		P. Howarth C. Geiger

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## Appalachian Vespers

Please join us for Appalachian Vespers on Sunday, November 18 at 4:00pm in Eagle Rock at Emmanuel Chapel!

**Musicians: Virginia Carolina**

Refreshments afterwards at the Eagle Rock Firehouse

On December 2, Bishop Mark Boulakas will be here for confirmation. There will be no 8:30am service that day.

We will have a BBQ lunch in the Ministry Center celebrating our confirmands immediately following the 10:30 service.



## Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome Junior Sisk and his group Ramblers Choice who will be performing at St. Mark's 2019 12th Night Concert. The annual charity event will be held on January 5th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Attic Theater in Fincastle.

Sisk is widely recognized as one of today's top bluegrass vocalists and is a constant reminder that traditional bluegrass is still alive and well. A longtime resident of the Virginia Blue Ridge, his bluegrass pedigree runs deep. Influenced by a father who wrote songs and played guitar and a mother who sang, Sisk first learned to play around age 14. His early influences included The Stanley Brothers, Larry Sparks, and Dave Evans, but he often credits the Johnson Mountain Boys with inspiring him to pursue bluegrass professionally.



Sisk first made his mark in bluegrass as a songwriter in the early 1990s, penning classic Lonesome River Band songs like "Game (I can't Win)" and "Tears are Blinding Me." As a member of Wyatt Rice & Santa Cruz and Blueridge, he helped define the sound of driving, modern traditional bluegrass. Sisk founded Ramblers Choice in 1998, releasing *Sounds of the Mountains* on Rounder Records. After leaving Blueridge in 2006, he reformed Ramblers Choice and began a successful career with Rebel Records.

His 2011 album *Heart of a Song* helped bring the band into the spotlight and eventually was named IBMA Album of the Year in 2012. Its single "A Far Cry from Lester and Earl," which Sisk co-wrote, became a rallying cry for a resurgence of traditional sounds in bluegrass and received the 2012 Song of the Year Award from the IBMA. Sisk was furthered honored when he was named 2013 IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year, while his band earned the 2014 SPBGMA Bluegrass Band of the Year award. In 2016, "Longneck Blues," a collaboration with noted singer-songwriter Ronnie Bowman, was named Recorded Event of the year by the IBMA. Most recently, Sisk received the 2017 Male Vocalist of the Year award from SPBGMA. Sisk now records for Mountain Fever Records. His most recent album is *Brand New Shade of Blue* featuring the hit single: "Whiskey and the Guitar".

As in past years, admission to the concert is free, but because seating is limited, tickets are required. They will be available at the church, and at other locations, beginning in December. Packaged food and cash donations are requested.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
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P.O. Box 277  
Fincastle, VA 24090-0277



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office@stmarksfincastle.org (Gina Painter)  
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# Heavenly Humor



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11-1 Rob Hagan
- 11-6 Yvonne Killers,  
George Sydnor, Judy Echols
- 11-13 Matthew Neil
- 11-14 Karl Uotinen
- 11-15 Fred Logan
- 11-17 Otto Jacobi, Ron Manley
- 11-18 Warner Barnett
- 11-19 Charles Echols, Jr.
- 11-22 Jay Gordon
- 11-24 Penny Neil