



GOOD NEWS LETTER



Dear Friends

I am not a ritualist, nor do I rely upon symbols, signs, or the Church as a mediator for Jesus. It's true; I am a Protestant Episcopal Evangelical – I believe that a personal relationship with Jesus is the beginning and end.

So it's ironic at times that I serve in a Church that is bound to symbols.

As an example, we use green colors (think Stoles, Altar Hangings, and other vestments) during "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time in the Church is the season after Pentecost and before Advent/Christmas. So it's a LONG time, and we have grown custom to seeing Green, and, yet, this Sunday, we will see WHITE.

Church hangings and liturgical seasons are, on their own, nothing more than human creations, and we always have to remember this important fact. However, these colors, like all of creation, direct us to the one "who came not to be served but to serve."

So, our "Green" ordinary time represents the banal existence of our day-in and day-out existence, and when we think about our everyday life, sometimes it's hard to see God's presence. We think He's only in the high or low watermarks (the extremes); however, the truth is that He's in our ordinary living. Brushing teeth. Packing lunches. Making plans. Sleeping. Eating. Loving us and supporting us. It's real, and the repetition of ordinary time is designed to communicate just that. After all, Jesus is the same yesterday and today and will be the same tomorrow.

In the midst of this time, we have an inbreaking: a moment when the clear focus of Jesus' life and death becomes clear. It is All Saints' Sunday. A Sunday that reminds each of us that we are the Saints of God. In fact, we are no different than any other Saint (even Mark). We are all fallen and saved through the death and resurrection of our Lord.

So the inbreaking of white colors on All Saints' Sunday gives us a deep reminder that God's plan of eternal life for the Saints (you) has been completed. When we remember those who have died this past year and we mourn and shed a tear for them, we are not weeping alone. For Jesus weeps with us, as He did for Lazarus, and our white color (think Easter), reminds us of the Dayspring to come. So we labor on, and remember that we are not alone, nor will we ever be alone, and that one day, we, too, will rest with all of the Saints in light.

Peace

Willis

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REMINDER!!!!





The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Thanksgiving with your generous donations of fruits and vegetables for services on November 24.

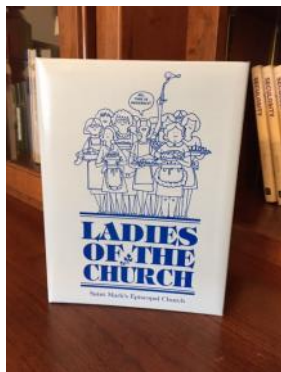
Please drop all donations off by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 23 to the sacristy or church office. All donated produce will be give to the Botetourt Food Pantry after the Sunday service.

*Thank you,
Altar Guild*

Our numbers have dwindled but there is still a need for singers in the choir stall leading our worship services. Though the singers will not be regularly singing special offertories each Sunday, anyone who is able is invited to come at 9:45 each Sunday to run through the music and robe for the service to follow. On Thursday of each week I will send the following Sunday's choir bulletin to all who request it. Visitors to St. Mark's who enjoy singing in their choirs in their home churches will be welcome to join us also.



Gret Kidd, Choir Director



BUY A COOKBOOK & GIVE FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT! LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A COOKBOOK FOR \$8.00.

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.

Christmas Party Time!

It's a St. Mark's Luncheon at The Glebe on Wednesday, December 11.

Menu: Broccoli soup, chicken salad croissant, cole slaw with brownie or lemon bar, tea & coffee. The cost is \$15.00.

Please be in the Botetourt Room at 11:00am. At 11:30, the Fincastle Mennonite School Choir will SING! Lunch is served at noon.

Everyone is invited - men, women and guests

*Please sign up and leave your check in the office next to Gina's desk or mail it to Ann Layman **before November 21st.** ECW money will make a \$200 donation to the Mennonite School.*

Questions?? Contact Ann Layman (ann.bell.layman@gmail.com)



Christmas Party

Spaghetti Dinner 2019



A big Thank You to everyone who donated desserts for the spaghetti dinner!

~ Ann Layman



WHAT AN AWESOME SPAGHETTI SUPPER!

We were blessed with a record high for the spaghetti supper this year in terms of donations! All total, we took in just under \$3,000, thanks to all of you!

And what a turn-out! We saw lots of new faces enjoying the delicious spaghetti, sides and desserts! Many thanks to everyone who had a part and who takes the time to contribute to this yearly event. Words cannot express!

The Vestry decided to donate the profit to

- 1) Fincastle EMS
- 2) Boys Home of VA
- 3) Homework Helps

Vestry Musings By Carole Geiger

The Blessing of Our Church Family

Many of us refer to 'my church family' in conversations with others. I surely do! We all thrive in supportive, positive situations at home, at work, in our communities. As Christians, our blessings multiply in the loving embrace of a church community, *a strong, loving, supportive church family.*

In fact, God Calls us to communities of faith. For example, Paul wrote to the Romans: *I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you* (Romans 1:12 NCV). Similarly, Paul wrote to the Ephesians (2:19), emphasizing that *you belong to God's family.* TOGETHER, as a family, we help one another in faith, with faith, for The Faith.

In the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 854-5), we learn that *the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ* through prayer, proclamation of the Gospel, and promotion of justice, peace, and love through the ministry of all its members. In our role as ministers, we each participate in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. As Paul said, we help one another.

What a blessing is our St. Mark's church family! Together, in worship and fellowship, we gather to lift our combined voices in praise and prayer, as we experience God's Grace. Renewed in the company of our church family, we go forth strengthened to do God's Work according to His Will, praying, *Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this church family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (slightly adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

Campus Landscaping and Planning Update

We are excited to account that **Ryan Cecil** has agreed to oversee an effort to clean up our campus in preparation for winter. If you'd like to join with Ryan and learn about his plans, then please email him (rcecil7287@aol.com).



Also, we have contracted with Hughes and Associates to begin a Campus Master Plan. We will be evaluating sites for a columbarium, enhanced memorial garden, playground/pavillion, better parking, new and different walk ways, and increasing connection between the Ministry Center and Church.

Help Us Maintain the
Church Grounds

We are in the very early stages of this plan, and it will be a multi-year effort. For any questions or to learn more, please call or email Willis (willis@stmarksfinncastle.org).

Save the date!
January 4th at 7:00pm at
Attic Productions Theater
for the Twelfth Night Concert
Featuring
The Grascals
(see their bio included in this newsletter)

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 this month and December (the last service until March) are as follows:

November 17 -- Like The Moon

December -- Community Lessons & Carols Service. Music led by Dollar & Walker

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

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

<u>DATE</u> NOVEMBER 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u> <u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR</u> <u>GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>YOUTH</u> <u>CHAPEL/</u> <u>NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
11-3	P. Garrison R. Hagan	G. Sydnor		T. Trammel S. Loeschen	P. Neil R. Cecil	A. Caldwell	P. Suite P. Howarth
11-10	L. Jacobi R. Manley	K. Beasley		S. Hays L. Jacobi	M. Dudding S. Waid	A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor P. Garrison
11-17	J. Howarth W. Michael	G. Simcoe		E. Moore P. Gordon	W. Michael S. Frechette	A. Caldwell	L. Uotinen K. Beasley
11-24	C. Geiger P. Mahony	E. Moore		P. Garrison D. Wood	B. Heartwell S. Field	A. Caldwell	D. Beasley S. Diez

NOVEMBER

DUTY ROSTERS

<u>DATE</u> DECEMBER 2019	<u>LEM</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u> <u>CRUCIFER</u>	<u>ALTAR</u> <u>GUILD</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>YOUTH</u> <u>CHAPEL/</u> <u>NURSERY</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
12-1	P. Garrison Emily T.-G.	A. Layman		T. Trammel S. Loeschen	C. Echols G. Sydnor	A. Caldwell	R. Manley C. Geiger
12-8	L. Jacobi R. Cecil	J. Gordon		S. Hays L. Jacobi	D. Collins K. Beasley	A. Caldwell	M. Parish J. Gordon
12-15	J. Howarth R. Hagan	P. Gordon		E. Moore P. Gordon	G. Sydnor S. Sydnor	A. Caldwell	P. Suite B. Heartwell
12-22	C. Geiger R. Manley	M. Parish		P. Garrison D. Wood	M. Parish R. Cecil	A. Caldwell	G. Sydnor P. Howarth
12-29	C. Geiger W. Michael	D. Collins		TBD	J. Gordon TBD	A. Caldwell	L. Uotinen P. Garrison

DECEMBER



Alateen, part of the Al-Anon Family Groups, is a world-wide fellowship of young people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Alateens share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems.

The Al-Anon / Alateen fellowships believe alcoholism is a Family Illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.

There is no formal enrollment into Alateen or Al-Anon. If your children have been affected by another person's drinking and they are 19 or younger, they qualify for Alateen membership.

Open Al-Anon Groups will welcome your children if an Alateen meeting is not available to them.

Alateen meets the following times and places: Wednesday, 7:15pm at Valley Community Church, 5000 Carriage Dr., SW, Roanoke, VA 24018 AND Friday, 7:0pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2921 Epperley Ave., NW, Roanoke, VA 24012.

Roanoke **Al-Anon** Website: www.roanokeafg.org

Roanoke **Alcoholics Anonymous** website: www.aaroonoke.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	2 Turn your clocks BACK one hour before bed! 8:30am Episcopal Men's Fellowship 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
3 All Saints' Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II	4 2:30pm Homework Helps	5 8:00pm Open AA meeting	6 2:30pm Homework Helps	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	8 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	9 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
10 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Holy Communion II 10:30am Children's Chapel	11 Church Office Closed Veterans Day 2:30pm Homework Helps	12 8:00pm Open AA meeting	13 2:30pm Homework Helps	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	15 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	16 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
17 Hats and gloves donations due today! 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Holy Communion II 4:00pm Appalachian Vespers at Emmanuel, Eagle Rock	18 2:30pm Homework Helps	19 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! 5:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00pm Open AA meeting	20 2:30pm Homework Helps	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bible Study 1:00pm Dorcas Needlework Guild	22 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	23 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA
24 8:00am Holy Communion I 9:15am Adult Ed. / Fellowship Time 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Children's Chapel 10:30am Morning Prayer	25	26 11:30am Holy Communion at The Glebe 8:00pm Open AA meeting	27	28 Church Office Closed THANKSGIVING DAY	29 Office Closed 8:00pm Open AA meeting	30 9:00am Altar Guild 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Open AA

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Series on Seculosity

Join Willis for a discussion on several chapters of David Zahl's book, Seculosity.

November 3 -- Politics

November 10 -- Romance

November 17 -- Technology

November 24 -- Origin of "Christ the King" (Chuck Geiger)

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

Hats and Gloves Collection

For the benefit of our Homework Helps and Food Pantry families...

All sizes -- kids, adults

All colors -- hand sewn or bought

Collect in Church Office and Narthex

All due by Nov. 17th at 10:30am

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Invites you to the Dodson Distinguished
Lecture**

Presenting

**The Rev. Becca Stevens
Founder of *Thistle Farms***

Thursday, November 7

5:30pm SPONSOR RECEPTION

With remarks by Becca Stevens

7:00pm FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Becca Stevens is an author, speaker, priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms, a sanctuary for survivors of child abuse, human trafficking, violence and addiction. The community (over 20 years old) continues to welcome women with free residence that provides housing, medical care, therapy and education for two years. The residents and graduates earn income through one of three social enterprises.

Becca lives in Nashville with her husband, Grammy-winning songwriter Marcus Hummon, and their three sons.

Or contact St. John's Episcopal Church, Roanoke
Kbrown@stjohnsroanoke.org.

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a girl who has been rescued from an unbelievable nightmare? The Dorcas Guild will begin making twin bed quilts to donate to **Street Ransom**, which is the Straight Street Ministry's outreach for victims of sex trafficking. Yes, this actually IS a serious



Dorcas Needlework Guild

problem - even in our area - and we have been given the opportunity to contribute through quilting. The Dorcas Needlework Guild meets every Thursday from 1:00 until 3:00 in St. Mark's Youth Center. We've worked on quilts, made baby blankets, and donated fabric to other needlework projects. We would love to have you join us, to work on one of our projects or to work on a project of your own in

the companionship of needlework. We need help not only doing machine and hand sewing but also sorting, washing fabric, cutting, ironing, and the myriad other tasks of quilt-making. For more information, contact Gret Kidd at touchofivory@juno.com or Carole Geiger at geiger.caroleb@gmail.com.

The Grascals

Every touring musician knows the difference between a twisting, turning road and a miles-long straightaway—whether that road is the literal one on which they spend so much of their time or a metaphor for career and for life. The Grascals certainly know it, as challenges and changes have mixed with top industry awards: 3 GRAMMY nominations, 2 IBMA Entertainer of the Year awards, late-night TV appearances, frequent guest appearances on The Grand Ole Opry and more in a career now in its 15th year. And with the release of their latest Mountain Home collection, *Straighten The Curves*, on August 30, the veteran ensemble shows that they're moving full speed ahead toward new horizons.

With two of the set's tracks already out — and having already topped the charts — *Straighten The Curves* looks briefly backward even as it introduces a strong new addition in Chris Davis, who contributes solid guitar picking, stellar harmonies and compelling lead vocals that perfectly complement the singing of veteran members John Bryan and Terry Smith. But though the lineup has changed, you wouldn't know it from the sextet's masterful performances encompassing their signature mix of bluegrass and country-flavored originals, country classics, gospel treasures and sparkling instrumentals.

From start to finish, this is vintage Grascals — confident, clear-eyed, and filled with a spirit of adventure that's always looking down the road, whether it leads away from or back to home. These themes are woven through the course of the project, from the lively Becky Buller-penned opener, "My Virginia Mama," to the group's revival of Eddie Rabbitt's 80s country hit, "Drivin' My Life Away," and the defiant getaway of the title track, penned by Canadian old-time and bluegrass stalwart Chris Coole.

In true Grascals form, there are a couple of stellar gospel numbers given luminous readings by Bryan ("The Shepherd Of My Valley") and Davis ("What Does God Look Like") alongside a pair of ballads in the thoughtful "They Laughed" and a melancholy "Don't Leave Your Memory Behind", the mandolin-led picking showcase, "AndiWayne", and a pair of grassy lovelorn laments in "Calling Your Name" and "Who Needs You".

With the vocal trio of Bryan (guitar), Davis (guitar) and founding member Terry Smith (bass) backed by an instrumental trio that includes Kristin Scott Benson (four-time IBMA Banjo Player of the Year and recipient of the Steve Martin Award for Excellence in Banjo & Bluegrass, founding member Danny Roberts (seven-time SPBGMA Mandolin Player of the Year) and master fiddler Adam Haynes, the Grascals are a formidable presence in the world of bluegrass.

Infusing a musical wisdom developed and refined through years of steady creativity on stage and in the studio with the fresh energy brought by new talent, The Grascals are at the top of their game — ready to delight long-time fans and make some new ones, too, as they *Straighten The Curves*.



Song List

My Virginia Mama (2:16)
Callin' Your Name (2:24)
Don't Leave Your Memory Behind (3:22)
Straighten The Curves (2:48)
They Laughed (3:13)
Heartbreak Hall of Fame (3:38)
Drivin' My Life Away (3:16)
Haggard (3:02)
AndiWayne (4:14)
What Does God Look Like (3:29)
Who Needs You (2:52)
The Shepherd of My Valley (What Would I Do Without Jesus) (3:15)

Booking

The Andrea Roberts Agency
Andrea Roberts - 615-867-4468
andrea@andrearobertsagency.com
AndreaRobertsAgency.com

Record Label

Mountain Home Music Company
MountainHomeMusicCompany.com
Radio Promotions - Ty Gilpin
828-684-3066 extension 320
ty.gilpin@crossroadsmusic.com
Label Publicity - Audrey Fletcher
audrey.fletcher@crossroadsmusic.com



www.grascals.com

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

Present Tense

After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How was your Thanksgiving?” but “How *is* your Thanksgiving?” After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

So ... how *is* your Thanksgiving?



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