

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2025 • VOL. 23, NO. 11



Family of St. Mark's,

As we approach Advent, I want to create a similar article to the one I wrote for October, where I highlighted the special Sundays and their significance. For the month of changing leaves, thankfulness, and hymns of grateful praise, let's talk about November!

November 2nd: All Saints' Day: Famously known as one of John Wesley's favorite days of the year, this special feast day is traditionally celebrated on November 1st. Taking place after Halloween (All Hallows' Eve), the special few days are also known as Allhallowstide (should we say that during worship?) and celebrate the saints of the church, the saints in our lives, and end with prayers for the persecuted church.

In our Methodist tradition, we observe All Saints' Sunday to remember the loved ones who have passed away and gone to be in paradise, and to reflect on the promise of the resurrection. Our church has a beautiful tapestry that features clothing of our departed family members and will be placed on our primary altar. Alongside this, a smaller altar will be available for you to bring a photograph of your loved ones to remember as we worship together. It is a special, holy day!

November 23rd: Christ the King Sunday: Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, Christ the King Sunday was established in 1925, the Jubilee year, by Pope Pius XI. This special feast day was appointed during the aftermath of World War I as a Christian response to the emerging waves of fascism that were developing in Italy, Germany, and other European nations.

As a capstone to the Liturgical Year, Christ the King Sunday is the church's version of New Year's Eve, marking the beginning of a new church year with Advent, the preparation for the birth of Christ.

May this November be a month of peace, rest, and joy for you!

In His Service,
Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

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LAITY

CORNER

All the days of my life

By Ashley Battaile

Sovereign God

Your beauty surrounds me

You are life giver in both birth and death

You are in the still morning

You are in the bird's song

The dew settles on the blade of grass

And You are there too

The melody of the song reminds me of the
beauty You bring

All the days of my life

And into eternity

Evil seeps into me, and yet You forgive

Wood fades, boards bend and creek

Bodies do the same

New becomes old

Honeymoon phases end

Trial begins

Minds and learning become dull

But You are my strength

You make anew the old and rejoice with me

You comfort me

Everlasting love, You provide

All the days of my life

And into eternity

Oh my Lord, how wonderous You are

How gentle

How abrupt

You are with me in the darkest of days

You are the warmth in the depths

The song in the silence

May I give myself to you fully and
completely

All the days of my life

And into eternity.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that we have prayer warriors behind the scenes praying for our church family and their friends and family. We also pray for ministries and situations. This is done via e-mail. If you would like to be one of our prayer warriors or need to submit a prayer request, contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**The next blood drive will be Saturday,
November 1st 8 AM to 1 PM @ St. Mark's**

For an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

ST. MARK'S MEN

The St. Marks Men's Fellowship will meet on
November 10 at 7pm.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry met in October. We will take a break for November and December and meet again January 29, 2026.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

UPDATE ON JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVELS

Two people have had to drop out of our Nashville trip Dec. 15-17. This opens up 2 seats on the bus. Cost is \$822 for a double occupancy room. Anyone interested should contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933. Leave your name and phone number and she will call you back or julia.short.greer@gmail.com. No texts please. Flyers with all trip details can be found at the church, St. Mark's UMC in Daleville, Va. or on the homepage of the church website stmarksmethodist.com Please call the church office at 540-992-3030 before going to the church.

All 2026 trips have been planned and the information will be on the church website by Dec. You may also contact Julia Geer. Blessings, Julia

TAME

Our Rise Against Hunger Meals went to the Philippines. TAME will look a little different for 2026. First there will be less fundraising. It will be up to you to donate directly to TAME online or put your donation in an envelope and write TAME on the envelope and put it in the offering plate at Worship. Less fundraising will open the TAME ministry to sponsor more events that serve our local community. You will be asked to join them when you can.

THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS

The Church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28.

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

The St. Mark's Buchanan Food Pantry team will serve on November 22nd. Since this is the Saturday closest to Thanksgiving, we will have extra food and more clients. New friends are always welcome to help. Please let Nancy Womack know if you are able to work on the 22nd. (call 540-992-1747 or text to 540-798-5706).

VISITING OUR VISITORS

Praise the Lord we have enough volunteers to visit "First Time Visitors". Please encourage "First Time Visitors" to fill out the cards in the pews.

TUNA BOAT

The people who are in charge of the food pantry, which the Tuna Boat donations go to, have asked that for October and November we consider donating the following items: stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, and the other sides that you would serve for a Thanksgiving dinner (such as green beans, sweet potatoes etc) However, any donations are appreciated.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

St. Mark's annual community Thanksgiving meal will be held at 2 pm on Thanksgiving day (11/27) in the family life center. Phil McManus will be cooking turkey and dressing, those attending will be asked to bring side dishes or desserts. Please reach out to those in the community who will be alone and invite them as your guests. Look for sign up sheets on the table in the Narthex

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It's time to set up Christmas Lights! From checking bulbs to stringing lights and setting out inflatables, we need your help! We will meet Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 - 4:00 -we will need some light checkers beginning at 10:00 and again Saturday, November 22nd from 10:00 - 4:00. Be a part of this amazing ministry in our community! If you can help or have any questions, give Todd Francis 540-400-5353 or Susie Francis 540-816-8507 a call. There will also be a sign- up sheet in the Narthex!

CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

As we approach the festive holiday season, we are excited to again host a special event that will be held on Saturday, November 29 at 7 pm and promises to fill our congregation with the spirit of Christmas. We are delighted to present a Celtic Christmas concert featuring our local favorites, Kinnfolk. The concert will be a heartwarming and spiritually uplifting experience, blending the rich traditions of Celtic music with the joyful celebration of Christmas. Kinnfolk's talent and charisma, combined with their deep appreciation for the season, make them the perfect choice for this enchanting evening. Tickets are available on the church website.

HOLIDAY MARKET AND CRAFT FAIR

**St. Mark's Family Life Center
December 6, 2025**

9 am - 2 pm

Sponsored by GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Women's Club. December is an extremely busy month with many activities so mark this date on your calendar. Last year, the Women's Club spearheaded the FAIR and they will do that again. They will contact the vendors that always come. But our **St. Mark's Christmas FAIR** will still be a significant partner -- we are just not heading it up. We will still have our kitchen, bakery and craft items. We will serve a yummy breakfast and lunch utilizing many of the dishes we have served in the past. We know many of you in our St. Mark's family have cooking, baking, canning, hand-crafting and other skills. **We would very much welcome and appreciate any item that you would donate.** We will also have some candy-making, cheeseball workshops. We will be working on this in the FLC kitchen Wednesday, December 3 through the 5th beginning at 11 am. For over 47 years, our own **Christmas Fair** has used the funds raised for mission projects, paying off building debt and other Church and parsonage improvements, and we will continue that mission. **December will be here soon. We ask for your consideration in supporting this special Church project. For more information, please contact Donna Henderson at 540-520-8706.**



United
Women
in Faith

UWF NEWS



On **MONDAY, OCTOBER 13**, we celebrated UWF by having our will have our Annual **WORLD THANK OFFERING** program which supports social justice and supports communities through spiritual growth, leadership development, economic empowerment and skills development. We will reflect on the people and experiences that shape our Faith. We come from a Legacy of Women who lead with joy and sisterhood. Giving is an integral part of participating in the mission of our United Women in Faith.

Valley Ridge Annual UWF District Meeting Saturday, October 4, 2025 Calvary United Methodist Church Stuarts Draft, Virginia

Our District Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, October 4. At the meeting, we recognized the work of our units and individual members. These included those participating in the Reading Program, Living Into Our Purpose, Memorials, Rainbow Givers, 5 & 6 Star Units and Legacy Fund donors. We voted on our 2026 Officers and recognized our Retiring Officers. We also voted on our 2026 Budget. WE provided supplies for the **New River Valley Women's Resources Center** which since 1977 has provided Hope and Help to those in need.

BIRTHDAY PARTY at The Hermitage Tuesday, October 7, 2025

We had a great time on Tuesday, October 7, as we traveled to **The Hermitage** to celebrate with the residents having an October Birthday. We provided cake and punch and **Easy Pickins'** provided the entertainment. We always look forward to this special time together!

NOVEMBER UWF MEETING

Monday, November 10 at 11:00 am

Join us as welcome the Deputy Clerk in the Fincastle Circuit Clerk's Office. Her topic will be "Probate in Virginia" and she will provide us with handouts. We will have a roundtable discussion and go over what the probate process entails and various options through our Circuit Court Clerk's Office. After the program, we will join together for lunch (*bring your own*) and conclude with our Business Meeting and discuss activities for the remainder of the year.

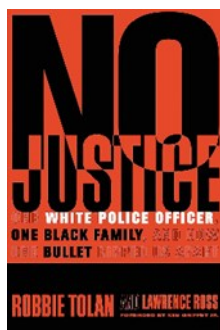
ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US !!



UWF READING PROGRAM

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Reading Program for 2024-2025. St. Mark's

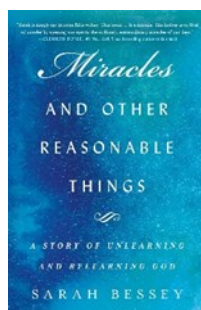
UWF took first place for most books read (210) on the Valley Ridge District which is made up of 52 churches. We also had several people who placed in the top reading individual group – Karen Lee – 1st place = most books read (26) Linda Koloda 2nd place (24) and Cathy St. Clair – 3rd place (23). Certificates were presented to participants that completed a plan: **Plan I** – Betty Dumas, Julia Greer, Autumn Norris, Betty Patterson, Ramona Tolley, Barbara Wiley **Plan II** - Cindy Harris **Plan III** – Kathy Beard, Peggy Lootens **Plan IV** – Linda Koloda, Karen Lee, Lea Mitchell and Cathy St. Clair. Other readers recognized were Dale Beard, Carrie DeHart, Abby Dillard, LaVern Flora, Sharon Fry, Sandy Murray, Bonnie Norris and Karen Sledd. Children participating were Florence Ashby, Elouise Battaile, Evelyn Beard, Owen DeHart, Skye Peterson, Lucy Plymale. **NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOU TO BEGIN READING for 2026!!** Contact Linda Koloda (992-2744) if you are interested in more information about the Reading Program. Here are some recommendations for your review.



NO JUSTICE: ONE WHITE POLICE OFFICER, ONE BLACK FAMILY, AND HOW ONE BULLET RIPPED US APART

A white police officer shot a young black man named Robbie Tolan in the chest, right in his own driveway. It was a mistake, and yet no one was willing to take responsibility. How do you pick up the pieces of your life when society and the legal system let you down? In a journey that took nearly a decade, Robbie was held together by the strength of his parents, his faith in God, and an impenetrable belief that he deserved justice like any other American. *Social Action* Hard Copy

son of freed slaves, young and curious Garrett was eager for life beyond his family's farm. This compelling picture book tells the story of his ingenuity and tenacity that overcame racial barriers as he forged a career as a successful businessman and inventor. *Education* Hard Copy



MIRACLES & OTHER REASONABLE THINGS: A STORY OF UNLEARNING & RELEARNING GOD

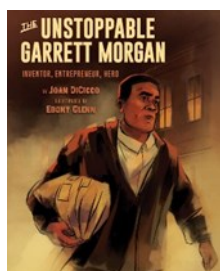
In this poignant book, Canadian Christian author and blogger Sarah Bessey shares how a serious car accident

unexpectedly shook her deeply rooted faith, upending everything she thought she knew and held so dearly. Weaving together theology and memoir in her trademark narrative style, she tells us the story of the moment that changed her body and how it ultimately changed her life. The road of healing leads to Rome where she met the Pope and encountered the Holy Spirit in the last place she expected. She writes about her miraculous healing, learning to live with chronic pain, and the ways God makes people whole in the midst of suffering *Spiritual Growth* Hard Copy and CD



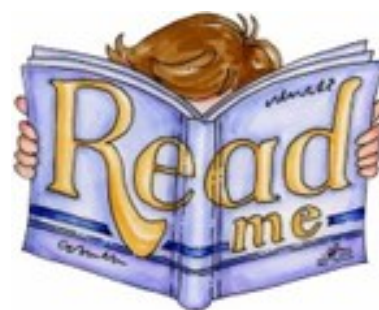
THE BIRD BOYS: A DELPHIA WADE AND TOM PHELAN MYSTERY

After a serial killer almost murdered Delphia Wade, the county hospital releases her into the handcuffs of the city police for questioning – she killed the man and is an ex-con, after all. It's the 1970's in Beaumont and mindsets don't change along the Texas Gulf Coast. Soon, she and her boss, Detective Tom Phelan are once again on a case. It seems easy – one Bird brother looking for the long lost other – but it turns out, one brother is a murderer. *Nurturing* Hard Copy and CD



THE UNSTOPPABLE GARRETT MORGAN

"If a man puts something to block your way, the first time you go around it, the second time you go over it, and the third time you go through it." Living by these words made inventor and entrepreneur Garrett Morgan unstoppable. Growing up in Kentucky, the





DOWN AT THE POND

Children's Ministries

Please mark your calendars for the FROGs and Tadpoles singing during the 10am Worship Service on November 2nd !! The time also changes that night before so don't forget to "Fall Back" an hour!! Please have your child in the Conference room, across from the Choir room by 9:40 am that morning, ready to sing! After they sing, the children may sit with their families for the remainder of the service.

Our monthly meetings will be November 9th and November 23rd from 4 to 6 pm! The Children's Ministries Advent Mission Project will be Operation Christmas Child. We will be learning about Noah's Ark at our first meeting this month and making a special craft. Then on November 23rd, we will celebrate Thanksgiving and explore our many blessings from God! The FROG Store will be open on November 23rd, so don't forget to bring your FROG dollars! Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be due that night!!

Looking ahead we will have the last meeting of the semester on December 14th. Our Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 21st at the 10 am Worship service, followed by a Christmas Party in room 102 downstairs during Sunday School. Children will need to be at the church by 9:40 am that day. Please mark your calendars and feel free to invite your family and friends for this special Worship service!

Trunk-or-Treat Thank You!

Thank you to all those who provided a trunk and candy for Trunk-or-Treat! What a fun day it was! Also, thanks to those who donated candy! There is no such thing as too much candy at Trunk-or-Treat!

Children's Ministry Mission Project

Our Advent Children's Ministries Mission Project is Operation Christmas Child once again. Everyone in the church is invited to participate, not just the children! Please prayerfully consider joining us in this exciting ministry.



How to pack a shoebox:

1. Get a Operation Christmas Child cardboard box from under the Narthex bulletin board to pack for a boy or girl. These have been donated for your use! You may use the mailing label attached to the brochures on the bulletin board, or print your own mailing label from the website.
 2. Select a quality "wow" toy, such as a doll, a deflated soccer ball with pump, or a stuffed animal.
 3. Pack the box full of other fun, quality toys, hygiene items and school/craft supplies.
 4. Pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and/or photo to make an impact.
 5. Include a donation of \$10!! This is critical to cover shipping and other costs. You can give online through Follow Your Box and discover the destination of your shoebox. If you do not wish to give online, please get a brochure off the Narthex bulletin board, across from the church office and follow the directions within.
 6. Drop-off your box at the church NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 23rd and it will be delivered to a local drop-off location for you. You may leave your shoeboxes on the table on the front right side of the Sanctuary.
 7. PLEASE DO NOT SEAL THE BOX! Please wrap a large rubber band around it!
- PLEASE do not include: soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids, lotions, medications, vitamins, breakable items, glass containers, or aerosol cans. For additional gift suggestions, giving donations or packing a shoebox online and more, visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ..
- **To track the destination of your box, visit the shoebox tracking tool on-line at the website around Christmas time. Enter either the email address used to place the transaction online or the alphanumeric code as it appears on your label for tracking results. Any printable shoebox tracking label is automatically connected to the email address you use to complete the transaction. If you pay the \$10 shipping fee in the envelope attached to the brochure, include your email address on the envelope. You should be able to use the shoebox tracking tool online to find out the destination of your shoebox too. Please let Lee Ann know, as the children will be tracking where in the world all the boxes were delivered! If you have questions, please contact Lee Ann Critz.**
- Remember that every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a child in need!



This month, our Bible study focused on *The Power of Words* — how what we say can build others up or tear them down (Proverbs 18:21). We had great discussions about kindness, encouragement, and how Christ calls us to speak life in every situation. We also took a trip to **Scaremare** in Lynchburg, VA — a thrilling night full of jump scares, laughter, and reflection on life and eternity!

Looking ahead, join us for our **Campfire Sing-Along on Nov. 9**, and don't miss the start of our **Advent Bible Study, *The Arrival*, on Nov. 23**. We're also collecting donations for **Operation Christmas Child**, and on **Dec. 7**, we'll serve dinner at **The Rescue Mission** — open to the entire congregation! Please RSVP by **Nov. 23** if you plan to help serve.



TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH

Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM St. Mark's United Methodist Church 19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083 Phone: 540-992-3030	E-mail: Rev. Samuel Plymale: samuelplymale@vaumc.org Amanda Dillard: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com Jessica Graham: jessicagraham109@gmail.com Deborah Wiley: dwiley4music@gmail.com Website: www.stmarksmethodist.com
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Office Hours: Amanda is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00-12:00.
 Lee Ann is usually in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9 am.
 Pastor Samuel is in office Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-12. He is also regularly available by text (434-218-2688) and email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-1 pm Al-Anon 1pm
2 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	3 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm	4 Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	5 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	6 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	7	8 Al-Anon 1 pm
9 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6 <i>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	10 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm UWF 11 am NarAnon 6:30 pm St. Mark's Men 7pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	11 Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	12 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	13 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	14	15 Al-Anon 1 pm
16 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Botetourt Music Academy Fall Concert 6pm <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i>	17 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm Admin Council 6pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	18 Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	19 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	20 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	21	22 Al-Anon 1 pm
23 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	24 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	25 Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	26 AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Church office closed	27 Community Thanksgiving Meal 2pm  Church office closed	28	29 Celtic Christmas Concert 7pm
30 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>						