



Newsletter ♦ November 2026 ♦ Vol. 24, No. 11



Gratitude

Family of St. Mark's,

October was Clergy Appreciation Month, and instead of my normal, informational-styled newsletter articles, I wanted to simply thank you from my heart-of-hearts. It is said that ministry is one of the most stressful, yet fulfilling callings someone can have, and St. Mark's love, grace, and heart for service make every day the best I could ever ask for!

Ever since our journey began in 2023, our church has been a constant reminder that we serve the Living God, and there are no breaks! There is always something to help with, someone to talk to, and somewhere to serve daily, and plenty of you to join in the call of Christ every step of the way. Some people have said that it takes a good preacher to make a good church, but my skills are only as effective as the family who embraces them. We are the church together, and I wholly feel The Spirit moving around our community every day.

Once again, I have gratefulness and joy in my heart when I think about our church and its incredible family. I could not have asked God for a better group of folks to walk alongside, and I eagerly look forward to where He is moving us into our next season.

Merry Kingdomtide,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale

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Trustee Updates

Raise the Roof — We're Making Progress!

In just two months since launching our **Raise the Roof campaign**, we have already raised **\$6,128!** That's nearly **14% of our first fundraising goal of \$45,000!**

We are grateful to everyone who has helped us get off to such a wonderful start. Special thanks to our contributors: **Nancy Womack, Kevin & Sherri Harris, Richard & LaVern Flora, Tom & Jane Wenrich, Claudia Goodwin, Phyllis Simmons, Elizabeth Gilbert, Julia Greer, Dorislee Young, Jean Alfano, The Gillespies, and the church choir.** We also extend our appreciation to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities, volunteered their time, or helped spread the word. We still have a long way to go, but this campaign is about so much more than repairing a roof. It's about the people who built St. Mark's, the people who have worshipped here, the loved ones whose memories remain part of our church, and the generations who have yet to walk through our doors. It's about preserving a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, neighbors are welcomed, and ministries reach far beyond our walls. Our goal is ambitious, but the progress we've made in just two months reminds us of what we can accomplish when we work together. Every gift, every volunteer, and every act of support brings us closer to ensuring that St. Mark's remains a place of worship, fellowship, and service for generations to come.

The Choir Has Issued a Challenge — Are YOU Ready? The St. Mark's Choir is challenging YOU to Raise the Roof!

Our church choir has raised **\$615** to purchase a square on our Raise the Roof fundraising chart in honor of the choir. Now, they're challenging the other groups at St. Mark's to do the same! **Sunday School classes, men's and women's groups, youth groups, and all other church organizations — the challenge is on!** Each square on our Raise the Roof chart represents **\$450**, and the choir is challenging every group to work together to raise enough money to purchase at least one square in honor of their group. Whether you organize a small fundraiser, collect contributions from group members, or come up with a creative idea of your own, this is a wonderful opportunity to show your group spirit while supporting our church. Imagine what we could accomplish if every Sunday School class and church organization accepted the challenge! **The choir has started the music — now it's your turn to join the chorus!** Let's see how many groups can rise to the challenge as we work together to preserve our church home for generations to come. **One Church. One Mission. One Roof.** Thank you for helping us Raise the Roof!

**Pansy Sale — Thank You!

Our fall Pansy Sale has officially wrapped up, and the Trustees would like to thank everyone who purchased plants and supported this fundraiser! We hope you are enjoying your beautiful flowers and that they bring a splash of color to your homes and gardens throughout the fall season. Thanks to your support, **\$300 was raised for our Raise the Roof campaign!** Every contribution brings us one step closer to our goal. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

**Saturday, November 7, 2026

Our **Raise the Roof Silent Auction** is almost here, and we need everyone's help to make it a success! This fundraiser is about much more than repairing our church roof. It is about preserving St. Mark's as a place of worship, fellowship, outreach, and service to our community. From our Sunday programs to the many community organizations and ministries that use our facilities, our church building serves an important purpose. **Keeping our doors open and our building in good repair allows us to continue serving others.**

Here's How You Can Help!

- **Donations:** If you have secured donations for the auction, please bring them to the church **no later than Sunday, November 1.**
- **Bake Sale:** We need donations of homemade baked goods to sell during the event.
- **Friday, November 6, 6:00–8:00 p.m.:** Volunteers are needed to help sort and organize auction donations.
- **Saturday, November 7, 1:00–3:00 p.m.:** More volunteers are needed for sorting, organizing, and preparing auction items.

Auction Evening: We need volunteers to help in the kitchen, assist at registration, and staff various stations throughout the auction.

Event Schedule

5:00 p.m. — Meal available for purchase

5:30 p.m. — Auction registration begins

6:00 p.m. — Silent auction bidding begins

Auction tables will rotate and close at different intervals, with new items available for bidding throughout the evening!

Many Hands Make Light Work!

This fundraiser can only be successful if we all work together. Whether you can give an hour of your time, contribute baked goods, secure an auction donation, or help during the event, every contribution makes a difference. Please don't assume someone else will take care of everything. There is a job for everyone, and every helping hand is appreciated!

Together, we can Raise the Roof and continue the ministries that make St. Mark's such an important part of our community!

Administrative Council

The Final Quarterly Meeting of the Ad. Council will be Monday, November 23 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend, but only official Ad. Council members may vote if there is a vote to be taken.

ACTS

It is that time of year when we begin to think about how we will serve Christ in the year to come. There is A Commitment To Serve form included in this Newsletter. Print it off and pray with God about your choice. If you wish to continue in your current area of service, check that. If you wish to serve in another capacity, include that. The two committees in the greatest need of members is the Finance Committee and the Staff/Parish Committee. Let us know if you could serve on either of those. The Leadership that forms the "Body of Christ" at St. Mark's looks forward to receiving your choices.

Thanksgiving Dinner

St. Mark's annual community Thanksgiving meal will be held at 2 pm on Thanksgiving day (11/26) 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.

Buchanan Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Buchanan Food Pantry team will be volunteering on November 28. We will meet at St. Marks at 8 am or in Buchanan at 8:30 on November 28. If you are able to work this day, please let Nancy Womack ([540- 798-5706](tel:540-798-5706) or [540 -992-1747](tel:540-992-1747)) know as soon as possible. It is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and some of our regulars may be out of town. I have several new people who have asked about working, but the space is small and any volunteers more than 10 is probably too many.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will not meet in November or December. Join us again in the new year on Thursday, January 28 at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Fellowship

We will meet Monday, November 9 at 7pm.

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, December 5 at 7pm 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 will be available at the door and on the church website.

Holiday Market & Craft Fair



St. Mark's Family Life Center - December 5, 2026 - 9 am - 2 pm

Sponsored by GFWC Botetourt Town & Country Women's club. November and December are extremely busy months with many activities so mark this date on your

calendar. For the last two years, the Women's Club has 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 continue to 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 candy-making and cheeseball workshops. We will be working on this in the FLC kitchen the week before the **FAIR** and appreciate all willing hands to help. For over 48 years, our **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 5th will be here soon !** We ask for your help and Thank You for supporting this special Church project. For more information, please contact Donna Henderson at [540-520-8706](tel:540-520-8706).

Joyful Journeys

JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVELS already has it's trips planned for 2027. Full details will be on the church homepage and also on the JJT bulletin board at the church by December 1st. Flyers telling about the trips will also be given out on the bus on our trip to Wheeling, WVA. Nov. 9-11. They will have a lot of fun new things and a few old things requested by travelers on our 2026 trips. We hope many of our regular travelers and also many new travelers will join us. Enjoy this crazy weather we are having and keep safe and healthy and joyful. Blessings, Julia Greer

UWF News

On MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, we celebrated UWF through our Annual **WORLD THANK OFFERING** program which supports social justice and communities through spiritual growth, leadership development, economic empowerment and skills development. We reflected on the people and experiences that shape our Faith. We come from a Legacy of Women who lead with joy and sisterhood where Giving is an integral part of participating in the Mission of our United Women in Faith. We are all part of one community, one nation, one humanity and we should have Gratitude for all we have been given and count our many Blessings.



Valley Ridge Annual UWF District Meeting: Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft, Virginia. At this District meeting, the work of members and units was recognized. 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 District 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.

NOVEMBER UWF MEETING is Monday, November 9 at 11:00 am. Join us for a special November theme: "**Gratitude and Blessings**". After the program, we will join together for lunch (bring your own) and conclude with our Business Meeting. We will discuss the many activities going on for the remainder of the year. **ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!!**

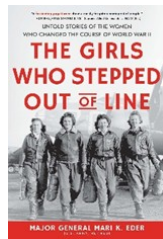
UWF Reading Program

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Reading Program for 2025-2026. St. Mark's UWF took first place for most books read (171) on the Valley Ridge District which is made up of 50 churches and only 6 who reported. We also had several



people who placed in the top reading individual group – Sharon Fry – 1 st place = most books read (26) Cathy St. Clair 2nd place (24) and– Linda Koloda 3rd place (20). Certificates were presented to participants that completed a plan: **Plan I** – Ashley Battaile, LaVern Flora, Barbara Wiley, Karen Lee, Lea Mitchell and Lee Ann Critz **Plan II** – Andrea DiPasquale and Julia Greer **Plan III** – Betty Patterson Plan IV – Sharon Fry, Cathy St. Clair and Linda Koloda. Other readers recognized: Autumn Norris, Bonnie Norris, David Binns-Loveman, Jean Alfano, Sherrie Harris, . Children participating were Adelaide Moon, Florence Ashby, Eirik White, Elouise Battaile, Remle Battaile, Skye Peterson, Lucy Plymale. Grace Plymale, and Wren Garcia. NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOU TO BEGIN READING for 2027!! Contact Linda Koloda (540-353-7117) if you are interested in more information about the Reading Program. Here are some new book recommendations for your review.

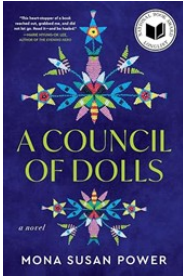
THE GIRLS WHO STEPPED OUT OF LINE: UNTOLD STORIES OF THE WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF WORLD WAR II



The remarkable true stories of 15 unsung heroines whose courage, brilliance, and defiance altered the course of World War II. These women didn't serve for recognition but because it was right. This powerful work of narrative nonfiction transports you into the lives of resistance fighters, medics, spies, scientists, and ordinary women who accomplished the extraordinary. With meticulous research and vivid storytelling, Eder restores these women to their rightful place in history making the invisible unforgettable. These stories are a legacy of resistance, courage, and the unbreakable spirit of women who refused to be written out of history.

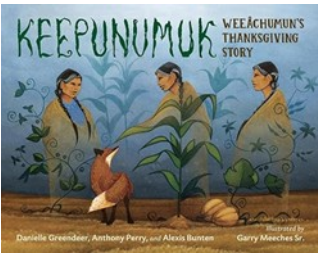
Leadership Hard Copy

A COUNCIL OF DOLLS: A NOVEL From Native American author Mona Susan Power comes this



novel spanning three generations of Yanktonai Dakota women from the 19th century to the present day. A Council of Dolls is the story of three women—Sissy, born 1961; Lillian, born 1925; and Cora, born 1888—told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried. Praised as “quietly devastating and ultimately hopeful,” the novel shines a light on the echoing damage wrought by Indian boarding schools and the historical massacres of Indigenous people, with love and healing that comes alive on the page. (V) (S) Education for Mission Hard Copy

KEEPUNUMUK: WEEACHUMUN'S THANKSGIVING STORY



Written and illustrated by four Indigenous creators, this beautiful picture book honors both the history and tradition that surrounds the story of the first Thanksgiving. Discover the first

Thanksgiving through Wampanoag eyes, as the Native Americans teach the Pilgrims to grow the three sisters—corn, beans, and squash—for a successful harvest. Education for Mission Hard Copy Children's Section.

Pecans- Sale \$\$

Our current pecans, all chopped, are now on sale for \$10 a pound. Please see Mona Tolley or the church office to get yours. They will sell out fast!



Time change

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday, October 31. Enjoy the extra hour of rest, and we'll see you at worship!



Fall Back

**Children's Ministries
Down at the Pond**



Our monthly meetings of FROGs and Tadpoles will be November 8th and November 22nd from 4 to 6 pm!

Thank you for supporting our Children's Ministries Advent Mission Project - Operation Christmas Child! All donations to our Packing Party are due to



room 206 by November 1 st !! Our FROG and Tadpole Packing Party will be Sunday, November 8th . If you wish to pack a shoebox at home, you may bring your gift-filled shoebox to the Sanctuary November 8th or 15th . No shoeboxes will be accepted after the Worship Service on November 15th .

Then on November 22nd , we will celebrate Thanksgiving and explore our many blessings from God! The FROG Store will be open on November 22nd , so don't forget to bring your FROG dollars!

Looking ahead we will have a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal on Sunday, December 6th from 4-5 pm! NO dinner will be served that night. Our Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 13th at the 10 am Worship service, followed by a Christmas Party downstairs during the Sunday School hour. 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 are providing a trunk and candy for Trunk-or-Treat! What a fun day it will be! Please remember



to arrive at the church by 5 pm to decorate your trunk and plan to stay until our last guest leaves! Also, thanks to those who donated extra candy! There is no such thing as too much candy at Trunk-or-Treat!



Sunday School: We have been having great discussions about Bible knowledge with a focus on context and understanding versus just memorizing random verses. I love listening to our youth lead their own discussions and ask some really great questions. While I certainly don't have all of the answers, we are all sharing our thoughts with a little Google thrown in here and there.

Youth Meetings: We have watched the first two episodes of season one of The Chosen. Again, we have been having great discussions about traditions and daily life during Biblical times. We have all decided that watching the episodes have made some of the familiar stories easier to connect with using these visuals. Our meetings this month will be on 11/8 and 11/22.

Don't forget: Our next Spaghetti Lunch will be 11/29! We will prep during Sunday School time that day and start serving around 12pm. Also, keep in mind our mission trip to Charleston, SC June 27 - July 2 with final RSVPs due no later than January 15, 2027. I know this seems like a long way off, but it will sneak up quickly. Please check your calendar for your youth, but remember we also need at least one male and one female chaperone for the week



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 9:30-12:00. Lee Ann is usually in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9 am. Pastor Samuel is in office Tuesdays . He is also regularly available by text (434-218-2688) and email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org)

November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p><i>All Saints Sunday</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm – 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am Pack 211 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir practice 6:15pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GriefShare 10:00 am Girl Scouts 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm Silent Auction</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>FROGs and Tadpoles 4-6pm Youth 4-6 pm</p> <p><i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm UWF at 11:00am NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm St. Mark's Men 7pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pack 211 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir practice 6:15pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>GriefShare 10:00 am Trustees 6:30pm GriefShare 6:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p><i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pack 211 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir practice 6:15pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>FROGs and Tadpoles 4-6pm Youth 4-6 pm</p> <p><i>Christ the King Sunday</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm – 7 pm Admin Council 6:30pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pack 211 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30 pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir practice 6:15pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Meal 2pm OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Buchanan Food Pantry 8:30am Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Youth Spaghetti Lunch 12pm</p> <p><i>1st Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm – 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>					