

—The Episcopal Parish of —
**St. Mark
& St. Paul**
—On the Mountain —

December 2024



From the Rector

Finding peace, and supporting a new ministry.

It is a cliché to contrast the frenzied pace of the holiday season with Advent's focus on waiting and expectation. Yet clichés often become so because they are true! This Advent we have both new and recurring ways to engage the holy season to prepare our hearts. The specifics are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I commend to you our two Centering Prayer groups, the grief support group, the lectionary Bible study, the reverse Advent calendar offered

by CAC, and the weekly video reflections produced by Wyatt Poe. And when despite all of these things the stress starts to spike, even a minute in prayer can re-center us.

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Book of Common Prayer, pp. 832-833)

When was the last ordination service you attended (if you've ever attended one)?

God willing, senior seminarian Jocelyn Snider will be ordained deacon on Saturday, December 21, at 11:00am Eastern Time at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 305 W. 7th St., in Chattanooga. Jocelyn will be serving as non-stipendiary deacon during the second semester of the school year, and attending her ordination will be a good way to express support for her ministry. Carpooling will be available!

COMING UP:

December 15	4:30pm Christmas pageant, McCrory Auditorium, SAS
December 21	Ordination of Jocelyn Snider to the Diaconate 11am ET at St. Paul's, Chattanooga
December 22	Sunday services at 8:30 & 11am
December 24	4:30pm Christmas Eve service at All Saints' Chapel
December 24	10pm Christmas Eve service at St. Mark & St. Paul
December 25	10am Christmas Day service at St. Mark & St. Paul
December 29	Sunday services at 8:30 & 11am
<i>The parish office will be closed December 24-27, and January 1.</i>	

Vestry Highlights—regular meeting of November 21

- Did a first review of the draft 2025 operating budget, including an update on 2025 pledges.
- Heard an update on the discernment process toward a potential capital campaign, including that 50 people participated in the First Impressions Gathering November 12.
- Approved funding to repair damaged siding, gutters, and downspouts around the property.

Feast of the Epiphany

We will again enjoy hosting a service for area Episcopalians followed by a potluck dinner.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, January 6, at 4:30pm!

Constant Contact Newsletter Email: When you get to the bottom of your email you may see "[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)". To see the full newsletter click on "View entire message."

Let it snow!?

The Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul follows Franklin County Schools for closures due to winter weather. Sewanee Children's Center decides and publicizes when it will close.

Do you like being out in the snow on the rare occasions we have it? If you are sound of back and heart, would you like to join other volunteers on the St. Nicholas Guild for snow removal? Please contact Junior Warden Diane Jones if you're willing to assist in our being able to hold services safely.

Advent Contemplative Video Series

Each week of Advent, I will send you a contemplative video created by our church musician and choir director Wyatt Poe. The reflections pair a work of Renaissance art, selected and described by art historian Callan Cook, with a hymn performed by the adult choir of St. Mark & St. Paul.

Advent focuses on the coming Christ: The Second Coming at the end of the age, the coming of the adult ministry of Jesus, the coming of Christ into our hearts, and the natal coming at Christmas. Below you will find the link to the playlist where the Advent reflections will be posted as they are released.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnK_Yz1SY3A&list=PLH1ifRxPYXruLQdUmKTW0DVgnoY_qzhRK)

[v=NnK_Yz1SY3A&list=PLH1ifRxPYXruLQdUmKTW0DVgnoY_qzhRK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnK_Yz1SY3A&list=PLH1ifRxPYXruLQdUmKTW0DVgnoY_qzhRK)

-- Jeannie Babb



The First Sunday of Advent: The Second Coming of Christ

On the First Sunday of Advent we reflect on the second coming of Christ at the end of time. The Beaune Altarpiece and hymn "Rejoice! rejoice believers" are complementary artistic representations of this theme.

"This altarpiece, painted by Rogier van der Weyden circa 1451, depicts The Last Judgement. Christ sits at its apex, portrayed as a stern, yet compassionate, judge, flanked by angels and saints. Below Jesus, the archangel Michael uses a scale to weigh each soul of the resurrected. The saved souls are entering the gates of Heaven to Christ's right, and to His left, souls are tangled up and falling into a fiery pit, a reminder of the consequences of one's earthly choices. This subject was especially pertinent to the dying patients in the Beaune Hospice

where this work has hung since 1451. The altarpiece was intended to offer both solace and caution to those nearing death, serving as a reminder of their faith and guiding their final reflections toward the divine." - Callan Cook

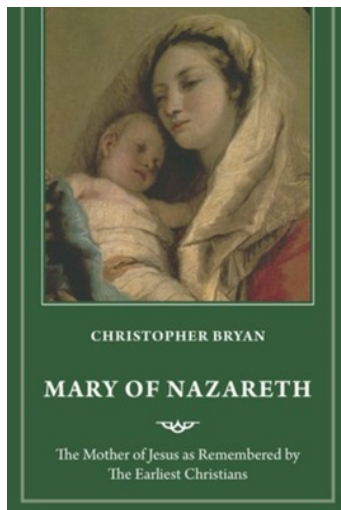
"The hymn 'Rejoice! rejoice believers' is both a rejoicing proclamation of Christ's anticipated return and a prayer that we ourselves may be redeemed and dwell with Christ forever. Verse two invokes the imagery of Matthew 25, illustrating the need for preparedness through the lamp and replenishing oil, and hopeful language of the Bridegroom, marriage feast, and salvation resonates throughout the hymn." - Wyatt Poe

Christian Formation

By Jeannie Babb, Director of Christian Formation
formation@stmarkstpaul.org 423-255-6479 cell

"An Empty Chair" Grief Support Group

We have asked Tom Gildemeister to lead a group to support those grieving during the holiday season. The group will gather Mondays through December at 4:00pm in the Hethcock Room. Tom is a retired Methodist minister who is new-again to Sewanee; he is pursuing an MFA at the School of Letters. For more information on the group, email Tom at tgildem@gmail.com.



Advent Book Study – December 1 & 8

We will be discussing Christopher Bryan's newest work, *Mary of Nazareth: The Mother of Jesus as Remembered by the Earliest Christians*. The book study will be held in the Hethcock Room at 4pm on Dec 1 & 8. Join us either or both Sunday afternoons. We will have coffee, tea, and cookies.

A Visit from St. Nicholas – December 8

Last year the children found oranges and notes from St. Nicholas in their shoes after Sunday School! Then the old Bishop of Myra himself showed up at Coffee Hour to exhort the crowd and pass out chocolate coins. Could it happen again? We'll all be looking for him Dec 8, the Sunday after the Feast of St. Nicholas.



Christmas Pageant – December 15

The parish's annual Christmas Pageant is set for December 15, 2024, at 4:30pm in McCrory Hall on the beautiful campus of St. Andrews-Sewanee School. We will also welcome back the String Blazers and String Cheese for musical accompaniment and a selection of festive Christmas songs.

Key dates:

Dec 8 - Costuming, continued

Dec 14 – Dress rehearsal

Dec 15 – Pageant

A Gallery of Christmas Pageants Past



2021



2021



2021



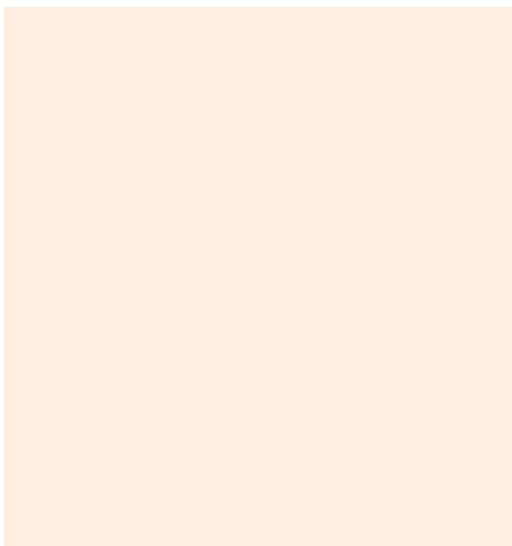
2018



2018



2017



1955



2011

Sunday School for All Ages

With a dedicated cadre of teachers and helpers, the parish offers classes for the Christian formation of babies, children, tweens, teens, and adults. Please register online for children's Sunday School:



Nursery Staff Spotlight

The newest Substitute Caregiver on our nursery staff writes, "Hi, my name is Evan Travis. I am currently a freshman at Sewanee, and have been a part of the Episcopal Church my whole life. I love working with kids and I have been an Episcopal summer camp counselor as well as Sunday school teacher. I'm excited to get to know the St. Marks and St. Paul's community!"

Nursery Notes

Come play and learn with us! During the school year, Nursery is open from 8:15 to noon on Sunday mornings. We meet on the playground when the weather is nice. In case of rain, nursery meets in the middle classroom downstairs in Sewanee Children's Center.

Children are usually brought into the church during announcements to participate in Eucharist with their parents. Please communicate with staff about this at drop-off.

Please register your child for Nursery online:

<https://onrealm.org/StMarkStPaul/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZDk4ODBiZWQtNWQxOC00NjM>



[OLWJhMmUtYjA1MzAwZmY1MTdi](#)

Please be sure to sign in on the Nursery clipboard, and indicate whether you'd like your child brought into the church during announcements to participate in Eucharist.

Godly Play 1 is for children aged 3 to 5. We have a varied group of inquisitive minds and hearts who have been enjoying “wondering” about Creation, the Flood, the Desert, the Exodus, the Ten Best Ways, The Ark and the Covenant, the Ark and the Temple, the prophets Job and Jonah, and stories of Moses. They know the colors and meanings of the liturgical calendar and are very excited to see that there are only a few more weeks until the color purple (preparation time) before the color white (celebration time) of Christmas is upon us.

Godly Play 2 offers children in grades 1-3 an opportunity to learn enrichment lessons and go deeper into the story. Taught primarily by Barbara Prunty and Cheryl Lankhaar, this classroom has the same structure as Godly Play 1 – story, wondering, work, feast, maybe playground.

4th/5th Class takes children in grades 4 and 5 beyond Godly Play. They learn about Episcopal worship and structure, and go deeper into the stories with maps and further study. This class is led by Julia Bates, Jocelyn Snider, and Matthew Mitchell.



You can also register your child for Godly Play online using this link or QR Code. Your registration helps us protect and care for your child.

<https://onrealm.org/StMarkStPaul/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NWZjNjY2MTEtODJhZi00MTVklTlmM2ltYjA1MzAwZjk4Zjhh>

Youth Sunday School offers middle schoolers and high schoolers a time to encounter God and get to know one another. We are using a curriculum called Weaving God’s Promises that increases biblical literacy and builds on the reflection skills taught in Godly Play. The class is taught by Paul and Andrea Richaud.

Rite 13

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Dollywood happen. It was a great trip, and the kids requested it be a yearly tradition.

We are planning a summer mission trip in July with Appalachian Service Project. I will have another email to you all within the next week about that, as we need to determine numbers. The tentative date is July 13-19, with a second choice of

July 6-12 (some of this is determined by how much space ASP has). Please take a look at your calendars to see if those weeks would work.

On Sunday, November 24, we shared an Agape meal together. Everyone brought a dish to share for our wonderful potluck meal.

December dates:

- December 1: No Rite-13, Thanksgiving Break
- December 8: Regular Meeting, we'll be exploring needs vs. wants
- December 15: Christmas Pageant, Rite-13 Advent Party (time TBD, as I know SAS has exams on Monday!). Rite-13ers are usually great narrators, so please sign up for the pageant if your youth would like to participate!
- December 22: No Rite-13 (HBW away)
- Sometime over Christmas break: possible Rite-13 Christmas movie night.

Rite 13, for youth currently in grades 6-9, meets Sunday afternoons at 4 pm in Brooks Hall. The group is led by Hilary Bogert-Winkler and Aaron Elrod. To be included in Rite 13 communications, please email Hilary (hbwchurch@gmail.com).

Sunday Forum hosts a different guest speaker each week. Our theme this year is "This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home"—a phrase taken from Eucharistic Prayer C in our Book of Common Prayer. The series explores our relationship with God and our ecosystem, challenging what it means to walk as a Christian on a planet that faces unprecedented environmental challenges. Please see the schedule for individual dates and speakers. The series is hosted by Robin Bates and the Christian Formation Committee.

You can help! We need a few more people to learn the tech system and fill in when others are out of town. Please contact Robin Bates rbates@smcm.edu or Jeannie Babb formation@stmarkstpaul.org.

THIS FRAGILE EARTH, OUR ISLAND HOME

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 in Kennerly Hall

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul

Aug 25	John Gatta	Imagining God's Creation of an Evolving World
Sept 1	Wyatt Poe	Introduction
Sept 8	Robin Gottfried	Caring for Creation, Spiritual Formation, and the Renewal of the Church
Sept 15	Kirk Zigler	Life Underground: Cave Biodiversity of the Cumberland Plateau
Sept 22	Kevin Goodman	Education for Ministry: From Seminars to Bayous
Sept 29	Nate Wilson	Fire on the Mountain: The Fire Ecology of the Domain
Oct 6	Rob Lamborn	Rector's Forum
Oct 13	Karen Kuers	Forest Bathing: Journey to Better Health
Oct 20	Tom Farthing	North American Guild of Change Ringers
Oct 27	Jennifer Michael	Divine Landscapes in 18 th Century Poetry
Nov 3	Deborah McGrath	Regenerative Farming: A Response to Climate Change
Nov 10	Rob Lamborn	Rector's Forum
Nov 17	Ned Murray	Hearing the Call: Adolescents Drawn Closer to God through Nature
Nov 24	Wendy Prothro Howard	On Sustainable Gardens in Malawi, Costa Rica, and Sewanee
Dec 1	Jeannie Babb	Intergenerational Advent Event
Dec 8	Jon Evans	Unlocking the Secrets of Sewanee's Forests
Dec 15	Robin Bates	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: A Christmas Story

216 University Ave. | Sewanee, TN 37375 | stmarkstpaul.org

Tuesday Lectionary Class

Saint Mark and St. Paul's lectionary Bible study meets at 2:30 on Tuesdays in the Brooks Hall dining room. Meetings last for one hour, and the topic of discussion, facilitated by the Reverend Scott Lee, is the Gospel reading appointed for the coming Sunday. Fr. Scott says the goal of the open discussions is to have informed conversation about both the context in which the Gospel reading was written and what light that context and meaning shed on our own spiritual journeys.

Following Professor the Rev. Dr. William Hethcock's model of scriptural reading that asks what was going on "there and then," and what light does that offer to us "here and now" participants are asked to consider, in *Lectio Divina* style, what part, word or phrase in the reading provokes your interest, puzzles you, affirms what you know, or challenges your thinking.

Each session is a discrete offering, so prior participation or familiarity are not

required. You are invited to drop in when you can.

Centering Prayer

by Centering Prayer Leader Jennifer Michael

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer through which we consent to God's presence and action within us. Those who practice it do so not in place of corporate worship and service, but rather as a necessary complement to those modes of engaging with God and with neighbors. Having a core of people in the parish who practice contemplative prayer makes a difference. This fall, Tom Ward led a Centering Prayer Workshop attended by 20 people. Scott Lee led a series of six follow-up sessions for those participants.

The Centering Prayer support group at St. Mark and St. Paul's continues to meet faithfully every Monday night. We have recently added a Tuesday afternoon session at 2:30pm, led by the Rev. Scott Lee. With chairs encircling a candle at the front of the nave, we have a brief check-in about our prayer practice and anything else going on in our lives, and then we have a meditation session (what we call a "sit") together. For more information, contact Jennifer Michael jmichael@sewanee.edu.

Education for Ministry

by EfM Mentor Wendy Prothro Howard

The Sewanee EfM seminar meets on Monday nights from 6:30 until 9:00 in the Hethcock Room at St. Mark and St. Paul.

EfM is a four year program of study which explores a wider concept of ministry by examining life through a theological lens. Participants from all four years, divided by their topic of study (Year 1- Hebrew Bible, Year 2 -New Testament, Year 3-History of Christianity, and Year 4- Contemporary Theology) reflect upon various concerns from their readings, the relationship of those themes between each of the four years, and the implications of the theme in today's world. Reflection on these themes is perceived through four different perspectives- experience, culture, tradition (Episcopal Church), and personal beliefs. The goal of EfM is to deepen faith and to discover expressions of that faith in service to others.



CAC Information

The Community Action Committee (CAC) is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Neighbors are able to visit the office during this time to shop around the pantry and inquire about assistance with utility bills. The work of



Christmas at CAC

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. This season, CAC is hosting its "Be an Angel" Tree to help provide new clothing and toys for our families in need. The tree is up in Kennerly Hall and filled with tags that list clothing sizes and wishlist items for each child. Please take a tag, and return your gifts wrapped and ready to go by Tuesday, December 17th. Attached to each tag are more instructions. Thank you for helping us provide gifts to our families this year!

Community Action Committee: 50th Anniversary Celebration



On November 9th, community members gathered together in Kennerly Hall to celebrate 50 years of CAC. This celebration was full of joy, love, and gratitude for an organization that has done an immeasurable amount of good in the community. Please read on for a snippet of the remarks shared on this day...

Let us consider the impact CAC has had on our neighbors around us over the past year. The Community Action Committee has:

- Assisted with 830 visits in the food pantry
- Distributed 10,000 pounds of food purchased from Second Harvest Food Bank
- Produced 5,000 meals through the Kitchen 2 Table Program
- Given out 188 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables with the help of generous customers from the South Cumberland Farmers Market
- Distributed Thanksgiving food boxes and turkeys to over 50 families
- Gifted Christmas presents to 15 children
- Given out Christmas hams to over 40 families
- Provided \$1,168 in financial assistance for fuel and propane
- Provided \$8,102 in financial assistance for electricity
- Provided \$1,011 in financial assistance for water
- Provided \$4,615 in financial assistance for rent and mortgage payments

Let's take a moment to look at a small snapshot of the work CAC has done over the past 5 years:

- CAC has provided more than \$75,000 in financial assistance for electricity, housing, water, fuel, and propane
- And because of people like you, over a 5 year period CAC received over \$460,000 in grants and donations

It is difficult to quantify the true impact CAC has had on the greater Sewanee community over the past 50 years. But through the simple phrases we hear from our neighbors on a daily basis, such as:

- “Thank you”
- “I don’t know what we would do without you all.”
- “You truly don’t know how much this means to me.”
- “You all are such a blessing.”

I believe that says it all. It shows the work that began 50 years ago, starting with giving out loaves of bread and growing into the vibrant organization it is today, is still needed in our community.



Thanksgiving at CAC

Thanksgiving at CAC is always an event you do not want to miss! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Thanksgiving lunch provided by Sewanee Dining. Be on the lookout for our next Community Meal hosted by our student volunteers on Friday, February 28th.

The other part of Thanksgiving at CAC is the distribution of food boxes and turkeys to all of our families. With the parish and greater community’s help, CAC was able to create Thanksgiving meal boxes (with a turkey) for 97 families. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped distribute boxes and turkeys. The holidays at CAC are not possible without you all!



Thank you for your continued support of CAC and our work in the community!

If you are interested in learning more about CAC, and how you can help, please contact Sarah at cac@stmarkstpaul.org.



COFFEE HOUR – HOSTS NEEDED

Get your service power through coffee hour!

As one of the church's oldest methods of fellowship, coffee hour serves an enormous purpose.

We need HOSTS to continue this fellowship flow.

No need to bake a cake or shop until you drop for this - simply provide a small snack to serve with coffee after the 11am service in Kennerly Hall. *EVEN if you forget* to bring a snack, St. Mark & St. Paul always has your back with extra snacks you can utilize if necessary.

Coffee is simple to make in the coffee maker. The parish provides the coffee.

PLEASE consider signing up on the board in Kennerly Hall TODAY!



A Note from your Altar Guild

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our new parish members and a continued “thank you” to those who have been around a while.

The Altar Guild ministry is open to everyone – including men, as you may have noticed in the weekly bulletin listing those serving each Sunday.

Some families like to get involved and that is certainly encouraged. We like to utilize everyone’s particular skills. Some like to polish brass/silver while some like to wash linens for the Eucharist. I personally like the satisfaction of seeing the altar setup for the service – everything in its place and ready for the ministers to use during the service.

Like everything else, altar guild service is not for everyone. We welcome you to try it out for a month or two to see if it is as fulfilling for you as it is for those of us currently serving. We promise we will be there to walk you through everything and we utilize checklists, post photographs or diagrams of altar setups and provide manuals to help us all remember what to do.

What type of time commitment is involved? For our regular services we schedule 2 members a Sunday. They usually meet on Sat. morning to polish and get the vessels setup for Sunday. On Sunday morning, one person comes prior to the 8:30am service (around 8:00am) and sets out the prepared items. After that service both members clean what was used and resets for the 11:00am service. After that service the second member cleans and puts everything away. Of course there are special services such as funerals or seasonal services where

we all pitch in according to our availability.

Interested and/or have questions? Please let Dan Amundson know in the church office at 931-598-5926 and we will contact you in a timely manner.

Lynda Gotko and Dorothy Gates – Co-chairs of Altar Guild

Giving to the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul

Bill Pay from Your Bank Website

Use the Bill Pay service provided by your bank. If your bank offers online bill pay services, follow their setup directions to add the church as a payee, and add recurring automatic payments. Use the name and address below for the payee:

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul
P.O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375
(931) 598-5926

By Mail

Mail us a check, or place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday. If you are giving toward a pledge, please write “Pledge” on the memo or envelope. If mailing, send to us at the above address.

Online Giving

Convenient and secure -- You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift. Choose credit, debit or bank account payments. If you already have a login for our Realm software, you can either **Give Now** or text “Otey\$75” (or any amount) to 73256. Follow the prompts and manage your account. **More information regarding Realm below.**

Get Connected with Realm

Let's get connected.

Download our Connect app today.

- 📄 Update your personal information
- 🗣️ Communicate with groups & teams
- 📅 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



Our church management software has expanded capabilities to help parishioners get connected and stay that way. You can easily update your personal information, see the status of your giving, and set up online one-time or recurring electronic giving. As always, we are still able to receive gifts by check.

Interested or have questions?

Prayer Requests: Larry Barker, Peggy Bonds, Corky Carlisle, Margaret Edsall, Brady Hall, Anita Larson, Kirkland Leonard, Mike Mattei, Waring McCrady, Rachel Roberts, Jean Stell, Evelyn Taylor, Freddy Tucker, Myron Van de Ven, Vello Virkhaus, Kim Zabbia, the people of Gaza, Israel, Kursk, Lebanon, Sudan, and Ukraine.

December Birthdays



Susan Holmes 12/1, Carol Titus 12/3, Erica Clark 12/4, Brown Cooper 12/5, Frank Lankewicz 12/6, Cayleigh Mainord 12/6, Zell Hoole 12/7, Grayson Clark 12/9, Diane Getty 12/10, Laurie Ramsey 12/11, Vera McClain 12/11, Joseph Kitzrow 12/11, Rachel Lynch 12/15, Ben Richaud 12/16, Kathy Solomon 12/18, Addison Willis 12/24, Luwin Lewis 12/30, and Annwn Myers 12/31

Office Hours for 2024

9:00am-4:30pm Monday,
Wednesday & Friday

9:00am-1:00pm Tuesday &
Thursday

The Parish of St. Mark and St Paul
216 University Avenue
P. O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375
(931) 598-5926

www.stmarkstpaul.org



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