

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

January 2026



From the Rector: Planning Ahead for Music

We have been greatly blessed by the ministry of Wyatt Poe as Organist/Choir Director since August 2024, and knew from the beginning

that when he finished his M.A. he would be leaving Sewanee to serve elsewhere. I am grateful for his excellence in all areas of our music program, particularly for the dramatic growth of the Children's Choir in size and its substantial musical development. We plan to give thanks for his ministry on his last Sunday--the Day of Pentecost, May 24.

We are now opening the search for our next Organist/Choir Director, and I ask your prayers for the process. The full position posting may be found here <https://www.stmarkstpaul.org/jobs>. If you know of someone who may be interested, please share the posting with them so they can discern whether to apply. We'll start reviewing applications at the beginning of March with the goal of an orderly transition to Wyatt's successor starting in the summer.

Vestry Update: Vestry Officers & Roles

At its regular meeting on January 15, the Vestry elected John Gatta as Senior Warden, Chris Asmussen as Junior Warden, Beth Wiley as Treasurer, and Andrea Sanders as Clerk, all for 1-year terms. Other roles for the coming year are:

Julia Bates--Finance Committee Vestry representative, Hildegard Guild

liaison

Kathryn Bruce--Evangelism & Communication

Cheryl Lankhaar--Parish Life Committee chair

Rachel Lynch--University & Community Relations, Parish

Directory

Neil Patterson--Christian Formation liaison

Mary Priestley--CAC and SCC liaison

Paul Richaud--Stewardship Committee chair



St. Nicholas Guild Needs You

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.

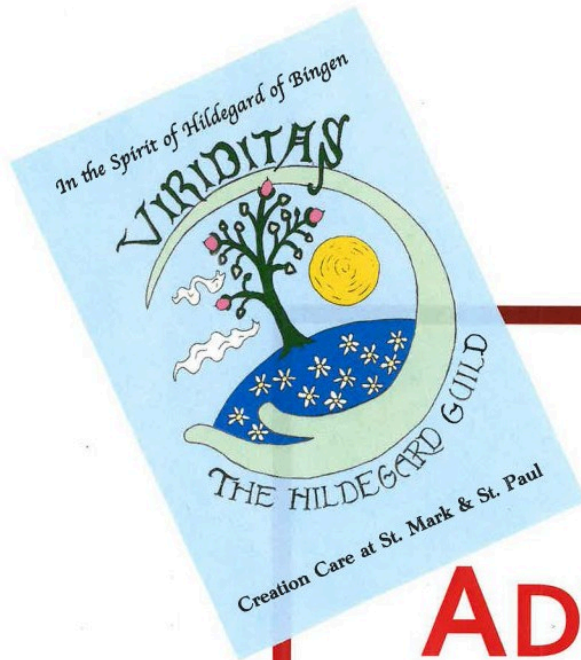
A Hearty Thank You

To the St. Nicholas Guild shovelers who cleared away the remnants of Saturday's storm: Chris, Asmussen, John Gatta, Tom Gildemeister, Greg Maynard, Bran Potter, John Solomon, Rob Lamborn and Dan Amundson

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 Parish Administrator Dan Amundson if you're willing to

assist in our being able to hold services safely.

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."



ADVENT WREATH RETURN

- Wire and Styrofoam forms
- Pins and candle holders
- Candles
- *No greenery, please*

Christmas Pageant 2025





Spreading Christmas Cheer



The Angel Tree helped 72 children have a more joyous Christmas.



Some of the many gifts donated via the Angel Tree.



A sleigh-ful of food donated at the Angel Park tree lighting helped keep hunger away from the Christmas table.



Ornament Night gave families an opportunity to come together and create some unique and special ornaments.

Feast of the Epiphany



Left to right:

Sister Hannah, the Rev. Laura Lowndes (Deacon who serves at Trinity Episcopal Church in Winchester), Lucette Richards (A very active member at Christ Church in Tracy City), Lenda Sherrell (Organist and Senior Warden at Christ Church in Tracy City), the Rev. David Goodpaster (Vicar at Christ Church in Tracy City and St. James in Midway), the Ven. Betty Carpenter (Deacon at the Parish of St. Mark's and St. Paul's in Sewanee), the Very Rev. Chris Epperson (Dean of All Saints' Chapel and University Chaplain and preacher tonight), the Rev. Dr. Rob Lamborn (Rector at the Parish of St. Mark's and St. Paul's in Sewanee), who was the celebrant tonight.

SMSP clergy and parishioners joined parishioners from across the mountain at Christ Church Episcopal in Tracy City to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Parishioners from All Saints Chapel, Christ Church, Community of St Mary, Epiphany Sherwood, St. James Sewanee, St. Mark & St. Paul and Trinity Winchester were represented for this service.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Make MUSIC part of your child's education!*

*According to the American Psychological Association, music students perform better in Math, Science, and English, scoring about one academic year ahead of their peers.

In Children's Choir, we learn and reinforce:

- Counting
- Reading
- History
- Teamwork
- Creativity

How does it work?

Register your child with the Google form sent out by Principal Dietz.

Every Wednesday beginning on JANUARY 14 we will:

- Walk together after school from SES to St. Mark & St. Paul across the street
- Have snacks and mingling until 2:45
- Rehearse from 2:45-3:15.
- At 3:15, you may pick up your child from the church or we can take them to the Sewanee Children's Center or back to SES for ESP.

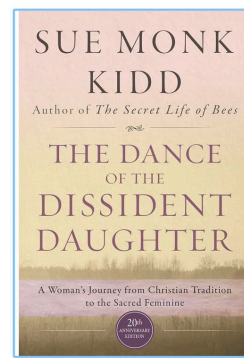
Questions?? Email Mr. Wyatt at Music@StMarkStPaul.org

Christian Formation

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

**January/February Book
Study: *The Dance of the
Dissident Daughter***

January/February Book Study
Tuesday nights, 5:30-6:30pm
January 13-Feb 10 in Brooks Hall
[no meeting February 3]
Led by Beth Wiley



Dance of the Dissident Daughter by Sue Monk Kidd - In her own words, Kidd was a "conventionally religious, church-going woman, a traditional wife and mother" until she began to question these roles, particularly with regard to her faith and church. This book was written 30 years ago in 1996 with a 20th Anniversary edition published in 2016. While society has come a long way since the author went on her journey, the faith traditions of our youth leave deep imprints that can be beneficial to explore.

I stumbled upon this book at the Thurmond Library sale! For me, the author articulated ideas and issues that were riding just beneath the surface of consciousness. I look forward to exploring these together. Note: The male perspective on this book will be very important to our discussion. Men are encouraged to participate!

Sue Monk Kidd wrote this book before considering a move to the fictional writing we are more familiar with from her: *The Secret Life of Bees*, *The Mermaid Chair*, and *the Invention of Wings*.

Come join us!



Rite-13 & Journey to Adulthood

The Rite-13 and J2A groups wrapped up a fantastic fall with a pizza and movie night in Kennerly Hall at the end of the December. Meetings resumed on January 11, and are open to all youth currently in grades 6-10. We meet from 4-6 PM every Sunday in Brooks Hall.

Now that it's spring, we're going to be gearing up for another summer service trip with Appalachia Service Project. Be on the lookout for a few fundraisers and other opportunities to support our youth in this work!



Lenten Soup Series: Living Faithfully with Technology

Wednesdays, Feb 25-Mar 25

What does it mean to live faithfully for Christ in an era of constant media feeds, multiple mailboxes, and the exponential growth of AI? How should the church respond to these growing opportunities and threats? What about our personal lives, and our children? Is it possible to make your device a personal digital assistant to serve your needs rather than serving the demands of an algorithm? Can technology be used to save our ecosystem rather than destroy it? Join us for Wednesday nights between (and excluding) Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, as we gather to confront and transform the impact of digital technology on our lives.

Nursery Notes – Help wanted

Nursery services are offered during church services, and during Sunday School and choir practice as needed. We meet mostly on the playground. We also use a children's classroom downstairs in inclement weather.

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. For more information, talk with our nursery coordinator Cara Kitzrow.

We have openings for additional Nursery staff for the 2025-2026 school year. Please share the word, and contact Jeannie Babb or Cara Kitzrow to apply or inquire.



Please register your child for Nursery online:
<https://onrealm.org/StMarkStPaul/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZDk4ODBiZWQxNWQxOC00NjMOLWJhMmUtYjA1MzAwZmY1MTdi>

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.

Sunday School for All Ages

Additional adult volunteers are needed for our Sunday School classes. All volunteers participate in online training and a background check. Please see Jeannie Babb to find out more.

Godly Play 1 is for children aged 3 to 5. The basic Godly Play stories are introduced and considered. Learning is enhanced with art, music, and play. At times, this class will be combined with Godly Play 2.

Godly Play 2 offers children in grades 1-3 an opportunity to learn enrichment lessons and go deeper into the story. This classroom has the same structure as Godly Play 1 – story, wondering, work, feast, and sometimes a romp on the playground.

4th/5th Class takes children in grades 4 and 5 beyond Godly Play. This class meets in Brooks Hall to read and talk about books, applying Scripture to fictional situations and their own lives. The schedule also includes time for food, fellowship, and fun with art, Legos, etc. The first book for this year is Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli. Class leaders are Julia Bates and Matthew Mitchell.

Youth Sunday School offers middle schoolers and high schoolers a time to encounter God and get to know one another. Paul and Andrea Richaud led the class in 2024-2025 with a fresh, relational style based on teachable moments.



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=NWZjNjY2MTEtODJhZi00MTVhLTlmM2ltYjA1MzAwZjk4Zjhh>

Sunday Forum

The Sunday Forum continues with the 2025-2026 theme from Micah 6:8 which tells us to do justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. The Christian Formation Committee has scheduled a slate of speakers to help us apply this call to our own context. Most sessions are livestreamed and recorded. We have had excellent sessions thus far! Don't miss out. See the flyer for a list of upcoming sessions.

SUNDAY FORUM 2025-2026

Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul

9:45-10:45 a.m.

in Kennerly Hall



Jan 4	Sarah Edmonds	Feeding with Justice, Serving with Mercy: Fulfilling CAC's Mission
Jan 11	Kelly Ramer Moody	Spatial Justice and God's Dream 30 years after Apartheid
Jan 18	Lydia Reinig	Stewarding Connection in Contentious Times: Dialogue as a Path to Curiosity, Humility, Justice, and Love
Jan 25	Rob Lamborn Russell Mainord Gene Hart	Rector's Forum: Christian Perspectives on Immigration Law & Enforcement
Feb 1	Patrick Dean	A Window to Heaven: The Daring First Ascent of Denali
Feb 8	Abby Colbert	Justice and Transforming the Immigrant System
Feb 15	Britta Carlson	The Sanctuary Church and the Pilgrim People of God
Feb 22	Hannah Mattis	Social Justice in the Anglican Tradition

Tuesday Lectionary Class

The lectionary class meets Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 in Brooks Hall to talk about the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. Led by the Rev. Scott Lee, this class is open to everyone in the community. It's a place to consider the lesson more deeply and reflect on it together. Lectionary Class will meet as normal through the holiday season.

Centering Prayer



*Mondays at 7pm with Jennifer Michael
Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm with Scott Lee*

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 neighbor. 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@sewane.edu.

Education for Ministry

by EfM Mentor Wendy Prothro
Howard



Our EfM cohort includes students in Year 1 studying Hebrew Scripture, Year 2 studying Christian Scripture, Year 3 Christian History, Year 4 Christian Ethics and Spirituality, one in taking the new Wide Angle program which delves into a mix of texts. EfM opens with worship, then a discussion of texts. Each session includes a reflection on a story, event, or artwork. The goal of EfM is to deepen faith and to discover expressions of that faith in service to others. Registration takes place each fall.

For more information, contact Wendy Howard finance@stmarkstpaul.org.



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 pick out groceries in the pantry and inquire about assistance with utility bills. The work of CAC is not possible without the support of the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul.



CAC Highlights

2025

\$38,472 from partner organizations



2,060 food pantry visits



\$48,146 from individual donors

265 utility requests assisted



We provided groceries for
25,416 MEALS



105 families served Thanksgiving meals

28,100 lbs of food from Second Harvest



826 lbs of fresh produce from local farmers



72 kids received Christmas gifts



15,201 lbs of food rescued from retail and campus partners



5,133 meals created from reclaimed food



COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE



AS TEAMS COMPETE ON THE FIELD, OUR COMMUNITY
CAN COME TOGETHER TO TACKLE HUNGER.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS BY DONATING
FOOD ITEMS FOR THE CAC FOOD PANTRY

JANUARY 23TH TO FEBRUARY 8TH

ITEMS TO DONATE

Chicken Noodle Soup	Protein Drinks	Vegetable Soup
Beef Stew	Cereal	Granola Bars
Corn Muffin Mix	Canned Meat	Chili
Chicken & Dumplings	Crackers	Canned Vegetables

Donations may be dropped off at the CAC office
(216 University Avenue, Sewanee) or in the
donation bin at Piggly Wiggly in Monteagle.

WHEN WE JOIN TOGETHER, EVERYONE WINS.

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.

Cub Corner

Pack 152 continues to thrive in Sewanee. This fall, the Cubs have finished almost all of their required adventures to advance to the next level. This spring, we'll be focusing on some "elective" adventures like cycling, animal life, and the ever-popular Pinewood Derby.



We will also be participating in the nationwide service project Scouting for Food. The Scouts will be decorating brown shopping bags to give to families and business, in which people are encouraged to donate shelf-stable food, as well as toiletries. Bags will be available at the back of the church, at CAC, or in Kennerly Hall to pick up. On February 7th, we will gather the donations (either from folks' houses or you can bring them to church!) and weigh them. This is going to be a fantastic way to get our youngest community members learning about giving back, and also to help stock up the CAC.

If you have any questions, be in touch with Hilary (committee chair) or Grady Wells (Cubmaster) at sewaneepack152@gmail.com



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?
Call the Church Office at 931-598-5926.

Prayer Requests: Brady Hall, Emily Hauze, Kim Heitzenrater, Phebe Hethcock, Mike Jones, Mike Mattei, Julian Price, Rick Reuhling, Leah Rhys, Isaiah Shelby, Rachel Suarez, Evelyn Taylor, Freddy Tucker, those who are refugees or suffering the effects of war or violence.



January Birthdays

Christopher Van de Ven 1/2, Lisa Howick 1/9, Joel Cunningham 1/11, Johanna Johannsson 1/11, Waring McCrady 1/13, Mary Priestley 1/16, Lucy Patterson Murray 1/16, Mickey Suarez 1/18, Cullen Thompson 1/19, Annie Beaumont 1/19, Lucy Beaumont 1/19, Myers Gorrell 1/22, Elizabeth Leffler-Mitchell 1/22, Cara Kitzrow 1/24, Kathy Sturgis 1/25, William Titus 1/26, Margaret Wilson 1/27, Cecilia Mainord 1/27, Cabell Thompson 1/31, Hilary Ward 1/31, Tom Gildemeister 1/31

Office Hours for 2025

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

The Parish of St. Mark and St Paul
216 University Avenue
P. O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375

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

(931) 598-5926

www.stmarkstpaul.org



The Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul | 216 University Ave P.O. Box 267 | Sewanee, TN 37375 US

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