

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

November 2025



From the Rector: Discerning the call of the next Bishop of Tennessee

Since "Episcopal" means "having bishops," it's hard to overestimate the importance of careful discernment in electing these church leaders in our denomination. There is an extensive process designed to provide the best possible likelihood of a good match between a candidates' personality and gifts for ministry, and a diocese's culture and needs/opportunities.

The search committee consists of clergy and laity from around the diocese (with the closest one to us in Murfreesboro). Its role is "to steward a healthy, transparent, faithful, and prayerful process that leads to the presentation . . . of a diverse slate of candidates." The committee is developing a diocesan profile to document our history, setting, culture, strengths, and growth areas, along with the qualities sought in a new bishop. They have been conducting a series of listening sessions (including one here on November 19), and also invite members of the diocese to complete [this survey](#) no later than December 1. Applications will be accepted in the late winter to early spring, and the search committee will select semi-finalists to interview. Once the slate of finalists is announced, there will be an opportunity to nominate additional candidates by petition, then a meet-and-greet

opportunity with candidates who will be on the ballot.

On Saturday, August 22, diocesan convention will assemble for the purpose of electing the new bishop. In our diocese, it's required to have a two-thirds majority of both laity and clergy to be elected, so the process can go on a long time. (August 29, September 12, and September 19 are reserved for additional balloting, if needed. Once an election takes place, notice is sent to all dioceses around the Episcopal Church requesting their consent to the election.

The diocese will come together January 22-23 (somewhere in Nashville, I imagine) to celebrate the ordination of the 12th Bishop of Tennessee. It's my hope that we will discern a good person to *become* our bishop, but *being* our bishop is a process of two-way relationship that lasts the entirety of an episcopate. In other words, the ways we relate to the new bishop will have an effect on that bishop's ministry. I ask your prayers for all involved in the discernment process.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and pour out your Holy Spirit upon all who will participate in the process of choosing a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; Grant that all who are called to this sacred office may be filled with the truth of your doctrine, clothed in holiness of life, and devoted to your glory and the flourishing of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, the shepherd and bishop of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Annual Parish Meeting

We gathered for a wonderful breakfast provided by the Parish Life Committee.

Chris Asmussen, Julia Bates, and Paul Richaud were elected to 3-year terms on the Vestry, and Cheryl Lankhaar was elected to serve the remaining 2 years of an unexpired term. Rector Rob Lamborn thanked the congregation, staff, vestry, committee chairs, and other ministry leaders. He reviewed the past year and aspects of his 10 years of service at the parish. Treasurer Beth Wiley, Wardens Robin Bates and Dorothy Gates, Deacon Betty Carpenter, Evangelism Committee representative Kathryn Brue, Capital Campaign and Stewardship Chair Jay Fisher, CAC Director Sarah Edmonds, and Sewanee Children's Center Director Elizabeth Sowell all made reports. Rob reviewed the dates for diocesan convention in the coming year, including the session(s) to elect the next Bishop of Tennessee.

Vestry Update: Regular meeting of November 18

--Elected Dorothy Gates, Susan Holmes, and Beth Wiley as delegates to Diocesan Convention for 2026, and Jeannie Babb, Mary Priestley, and Paul Richaud as alternates.

--approved an update of financial policies and procedures proposed by the Finance Committee

--used an unrestricted, pre-paid bequest to establish a vestry-designated endowment

Upcoming Special Services

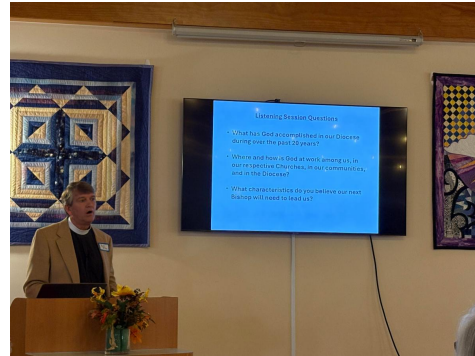
Thanksgiving Day 10am St. Mark & St. Paul
Christmas Eve 4:30pm All Saints Chapel
9:30pm St. Mark & St. Paul
Christmas Day 10am St. Mark & St. Paul

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."

Pictures of a busy church . . .



The Sewanee Children's Center hosted a fundraising concert featuring the Black Moon Trio.



In mid-November, the Bishop Search committee held a listening session in Kennerly drawing a crowd from churches across the plateau.



On November 22, Kennerly Hall played host to the 4th Annual Pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Monteagle Sewanee Rotary Club. Proceeds from the breakfast and auction support projects and programs in Sewanee and Monteagle.



Tom Phelps, with an assist from William and Jane Shealy planted two new maple trees by the entrance drive. The trees are to commemorate John Bratton and David Kearley.

Intergenerational Advent Event

Sunday, Nov 30th, 9:45-10:45 in Kennerly Hall



On the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 30th), the parish will gather in Kennerly Hall rather than disbursing to various Sunday School classes. We will reflect on the beginning of the season and work together making Advent wreaths for each household. *Please bring clippers if you have some.*



Evergreen clippings and other supplies provided; you are invited to bring your own clippings to enhance your wreath or to share. A donation of about \$20 per wreath is requested to cover material costs is requested but not required.

Seminarian Liam Nieman will guide us through the liturgy of lighting the first candle. This is a wonderful practice to help families draw closer to God and one another during the season of Advent. Advent calendars, prayers for the home, and other materials will be available.



A Visit from St. Nicholas

Sunday, Dec 7th during Sunday School and Coffee Hour



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 14th, 4:30 pm in McCrory Hall at St. Andrews-Sewanee School

It's pageant time! There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13, beginning at

We are expecting to receive another visit from the esteemed Bishop of Myra, also known as St. Nicholas! During Godly Play, children will leave their shoes outside the door to see if he leaves them oranges, candy, and a perhaps a note.

Come back for Coffee Hour immediately after the 11:00 service, where we will receive St. Nicholas and perhaps receive some individual words of encouragement.

3:30pm for those with lines and 4:00 for the whole cast. A short song practice is scheduled for 9:30-10:00 each Sunday morning through December 14.

Upcoming Book Studies - Frederick Buechner: Writing for the Kingdom

On the first three Tuesdays in this Advent (Dec 2, 9, 16), Rev. Tom Gildemeister will lead a study on Frederick Buechner: Writing for the Kingdom. This will take place in Brooks Hall, 5:30-6:30pm. Light refreshments are served. Bringing a dish or snack to share is invited but not required. The Advent Study will take the place of our usual Book Study for the month of December.



Frederick Buechner is a complicated person. When he was 12, his alcoholic father committed suicide in the family garage. Little Freddie found his father's body. Not in a conspicuous way (at least to me reader of most everything he wrote), his life and therefore his books are attempts to come to terms with the tragedy of his father's life.

His mother's parents were wealthy , and he attended Lawrenceville, an elite prep school in New Jersey , and Princeton University. The year after he graduated from Princeton, first novel, A Long Day's Dying was a critical and commercial success. The New York Times him hailed as one of two great young writers in America. The other was Truman Capote.

He was living in New York City when he attended a large Presbyterian church. He was profoundly impacted by the minister's preaching , and they became friends. The preacher finally confronted him — challenging him to "write for the kingdom." He attended Union Theological Seminary , studying with such luminaries as Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr. He insisted that all theology is autobiography--that God is revealed in each of our lives if we would be honest about all the good and the bad of it.

He became a master of narrative theology, calling himself a preacher who writes. And did he ever write... his bibliography (19 books in all) includes novels,

memoirs, published sermons, and riffs on many theological constructs and biblical characters, many of which poke fun at our heady attempts to explain the inexplicable--e.g., "Doubt is the ants in the pants of faith."

Tom lives in Sewanee and Nashville. He was an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia, a Woodruff Fellow at the Candler School of Theology (Emory University), studied at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and is writing his thesis for the MFA program at the Sewanee School of Letters. He has attended a writer's workshop led by the Rev. Frederick Buechner. You will find him mostly in the woods around our little mountain village.



Rite-13 & Journey to Adulthood

Our youth program has doubled this fall, as students invite their friends to join them in Brooks Hall on Sunday afternoons. On September 28, the Rite 13 group told us about their travel to Kentucky with Appalachian Service Project to help with flood recovery efforts in the eastern part of the state. They continue to raise money for this mission work; most recently, the group helped cater a meal for the team working on the stewardship campaign. During fall break, they took a trip to Dollywood for bonding and fun.

Rite-13 is for students in grades 6-7). This fall, we launched Journey to Adulthood (J2A) for students in grades 8-10. Both groups meet Saturday afternoons. For more information, contact Hilary at (hbwchurch@gmail.com).

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=ZDk4ODBiZWQtNWQxOC00NjM0LWJhMmUtYjA1MzAwZmY1MTdi>

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=NWZjNjY2MTEtODJhZi00MTVklTlM2ltYjA1MzAwZjk4Zjh>

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.

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@sewanee.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.

All Voices Choir

Every other Tuesday a group of adults from Grundy County arrive to sing in the All Voices Choir. All are mentally challenged and most have other disabilities but that does not stop anyone from singing! I want to tell you a story about Lisa who has come for many years and for all of that time she paced and stomped all over Kennerly Hall. She was angry and refused to participate in any of our

activities. I hate to say it but I was a little bit frightened.

Recently she joined the group and seemed to enjoy the music. I handed her one of the percussion instruments and she did not refuse. It fell out of her hand and when I reached down to pick it up I noticed she had hearing aids. This past Tuesday she participated, smiled and joined in! All of those years she just couldn't hear and now she can. I admit I had tears in my eyes when I saw Lisa's joy of music for the first time. It was a moment when the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of our volunteers and the caregivers who bring them...it was glorious!



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.

Community Meals

Thank you to all who have joined us for the Community Meals this semester! Every month brought out more people, and we enjoyed sharing in fellowship with one another. We have concluded our meals for the fall semester, but will kick off in the spring on Friday, February 27th. We hope to see you there!



Food Donations - Thank You!

As CAC serves more neighbors, much of our community has asked how they can help. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all



the donations that have flooded our pantry. Because of people like you our shelves have stayed full, and we have been able to offer a greater variety of items to our neighbors. Donations of food and hygiene products, as well as financial contributions (<https://www.cacsewanee.org/donate>) are always welcomed to support CAC.

Pantry Sunday

As a reminder, CAC Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. For this upcoming month, we will collect and bless over our donations on Sunday, December 7th. The CAC food pantry is in need of macaroni & cheese, shelf stable milk, dry beans, pasta, and paper towels. Donations can be dropped off at the CAC office, or at the bin inside the church doors. Food items can also be donated through Amazon: <https://a.co/f6TXKX4>.



Thanksgiving at CAC

Thanksgiving is a busy time of the year for many families, and that goes for us at CAC as well. With the community's help, especially that of Josh Rudder and the Piggly Wiggly in Monteagle, we received over 150 Thanksgiving food box donations to help feed our neighbors this holiday season. At the time of this publication, we have already distributed over 100 food boxes and turkeys and are still planning to give out around 20 more. Any additional food donations received will support the needs of the food pantry. Thank you for helping us surpass our goal and ensure all of our families can have a full table this Thanksgiving!

Reverse Advent Calendar

Traditional Advent calendars consist of receiving gifts for each day leading up to Christmas. This year, we would like to invite you all to participate in a Reverse Advent Calendar supporting CAC. Each day of Advent will instruct you to donate an item, reflect on a bible passage, or pray.

DONATE : Grab a box or bag in the beginning to make collecting easier. Donate an item every other day as instructed by the calendar. Items can come from your home food pantry (as long as it's unopened and unexpired), or you can go to the store to purchase the items.

REFLECT: Read over the bible passage a few times and reflect on what it is trying to share with you during this season of advent. You can talk over your reflection with a family member or friend, or you can write your reflection in a journal.

PRAY: Write a prayer or find a prayer that goes along with the listed prompt. On the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 21st), bring your collected items to the church or CAC. Be sure to continue with the reflection and prayer for the final days of Advent before Christmas.

Advent calendars will be available at Sunday Forum on November 30th, and at the CAC office.



Be a CAC Angel this Christmas Season by helping us with our Season of Angels Tree.

Please take a tag from the tree and make a child's Christmas wishes come true.

The front tag includes the child's clothing sizes and Christmas wishes. The additional page attached has more instructions for donors.

Gifts are due back by **Tuesday, December 16th**. They can be left at CAC or the Season of Angels Tree.

The Season of Angels Tree is located in Kennerly Hall at the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul (216 University Avenue, Sewanee)

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE ● (931) 598 - 5927

A CAC Christmas

As we move from one holiday to the next, we're kicking off registration for all of CAC's Christmas activities and once again inviting our community to help make some Christmas wishes come true. For the holiday season, CAC will be giving out hams and hosting our Season of Angels Tree to provide clothing and gifts for children in our CAC families.

The tree will be set up in Kennerly Hall near the front entrance. New tags will be added each day as families sign up, so be sure to check back often. Last year, the Season of Angels Tree supported more than 60 children, and we expect to help even more families this year.

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

This fall, Sewanee has a new Cub Scout Pack! Pack 152 is up and running, with St. Mark and St. Paul serving as the charter organization. This family pack (all children are welcome, not just boys) provides a chance for young people to learn about being good citizens of their community--meaning both Sewanee and the natural world around them. In our first meeting, we learned about the six essentials all Cub Scouts need to bring on hikes. Our second meeting will involve going on a hike and learning about what we see.

The Cubmaster is Grady Wells, a professor in the biology department, and the committee chair is Hilary Bogert-Winkler. Anyone with a child interested in joining the Pack should email sewaneepack152@gmail.com for more information. We meet the first and third Fridays of the month from 3:15-5:00 in Kennerly Hall. Keep an eye out for the Cub Corner every month to learn about what our scouts are up to!



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.



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.**

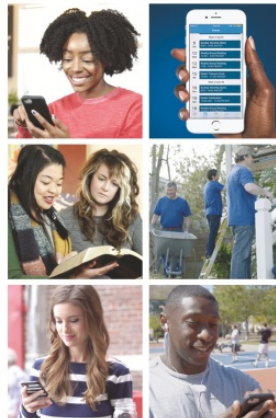
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Let's get connected.

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: Duane, Steve Butler, Karen Davis, Katherine Fisher, Sophie Geraghty, Brady Hall, Emily Hauze, Kim Heitzenrater, Phebe Hethcock, Mike Jones, Anita Larson, Mike Mattei, Julian Price, Leah Rhys, Isaiah Shelby, Evelyn Taylor, Freddy Tucker, Myron Van de Ven, refugees, the people of Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine.



November Birthdays

Katie Craighill 11/2, Daniel Shaver 11/2, Madeline Sumpter 11/4, Freddy Tucker 11/5, Toby Van de Ven 11/5, Laura Willis 11/7, Jake Wiley 11/8, Robert Pearigen 11/9, Isabel Patterson 11/10, Meg Beasley 11/13, Nora Jane Elrod 11/14, Mary Finn 11/14, Iska Hoole 11/15, Geoffrey Ward 11/15, Emily Blount 11/18, Diana Rung 11/20, Elizabeth Wilson 11/20, Miriam Mazur 11/20, Erin Nieman 11/20, Andrew Cowan 11/21, Bentley Cook 11/22, Ned

Murray 11/23, Alice Finn 11/23, Lane Price 11/24, Jamie Pappas 11/26, Jan Stevens 11/26, Malkelm Leffler 11/26, Phoebe Pearigen 11/27, Phil White 11/28, Blythe Ford 11/28, Julia Sumpter 11/28, Betty Barton Blythe 11/29, Jennifer Michael 11/29, Melissa Williams 11/30

Office Hours for 2025

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

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

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