

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

September 2025



From the Rector: Reflecting on 10 years

I am very grateful to the Parish Life Committee, to those who spoke or gave me cards, and to all who attended the August 31 special coffee hour celebrating 10 years of ministry together. It was a joy to share that occasion with you! I deeply appreciate the parish's generosity via the gifts of a restaurant gift certificate and a check.

When I think back over the last 10 years, some of my expectations have proven accurate. Parishioners are deeply committed to the life of Christian faith, including living that faith in the world. We are a medium-size parish that punches above its weight--is considerably more active than most parishes of similar size. Your stewardship, along with dedicated lay leaders and staff members all contribute to making it so. Our formation programs reflect how highly we value lifelong learning. CAC has continued to grow in service to an increasing number of people in need. Our identity as a strong-singing congregation has been enhanced by additional musical offerings. The University of the South and its people provide gifts of intellect and spirit that benefit the entire community.

The three main things I didn't expect ten years ago were being diagnosed with eye cancer, COVID, and renaming the parish. Any single one could shake a congregation deeply, and the three began or took place over a single 3-year period: 2019-2021. It is a testimony to people's spiritual maturity that we walked through them together while maintaining strong relationships.

It *doesn't* surprise me that I am still here, as I had hoped this would--and still hope it will--be a long rectorate! Love of God and love of neighbor each reinforce the other! I am treasuring the depth of connection that we have developed over such a length of time. Together may we continue to listen for, and respond to, God's call.

Growth at Sewanee Children's Center

You may have read the front-page article on SCC recently in the *Sewanee Messenger*, and/or noticed construction at the rear of the playground or near the gravel driveway behind Claiborne Parish Hall. As a result of the closure of the University Child Care Center, SCC has almost doubled its enrollment from a year ago. Remodeling indoors has provided SCC the facilities to offer infant care for the first time. A new small grassy play area is geared toward infants and toddlers. An outdoor classroom is being constructed at the back of the playground to support expanded programming. SCC needed to convert its storage room to infant care, so a storage shed is being built behind the gravel driveway in an unobtrusive area. All of these improvements are being funded by a grant from the University of the South.

SCC staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly on the monumental and multi-faceted project of combining two schools over the summer. New SCC Director (and former UCCC Director) Elizabeth Sowell is off to a strong start with an expanded faculty, including a number of teachers from UCCC. We are working together toward a lease that clarifies and strengthens our relationship, and on solutions to the need for additional parking.

It is very satisfying to witness SCC's expansion, and to continue providing space as we have since 1949--not as a moneymaker but as a community service. Our campus is now adorned with even more voices of children through the week. God must be enjoying it!



The new classroom begins to rise, . . .



carefully supervised by future users of the space, . . .



it's almost finished.



Blessing of the Animals

St. Mark & St. Paul will again join with St. James for a joint service celebrating St. Francis of Assisi and asking God's blessing on animals important to us. The service will be at **3:00pm on Sunday, October 5, at St. James**, 898 Midway Road. If you have animals too large or rowdy to bring, please bring a photo and we'll pray over that!

Oktoberfest 2025

Saturday October 11th, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm:
"Fall" into good spirits and great company at Oktoberfest offered by the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul! This feast includes German brats, regular or veggie hot dogs served on pretzel buns, potato salad, sauerkraut, with apple cider, tea, beer, and water to wash it all down. There is no charge; donations are invited. Bring your kids and friends for fun with music, games, and pumpkin/gourd decorating for all ages!

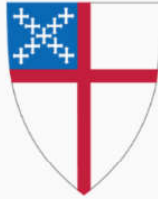




**And creating a
new church
directory**

Parish Photo Directory: For the first time in several years we are assembling a photo directory of the congregation. We are asking each household to do two things—review (and correct/add to, if necessary) our current information using the pages provided, and allow Rachel Lynch to take an informal photograph (or submit a recent photo). We hope the directories will be available to distribute at the Annual Parish Meeting November 16, with a suggested donation to help defray the cost. Thanks go to Rachel for heading up this effort!

DEACON DISCERNMENT DAY



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A DEACON
IN THE DIOCESE OF TENNESSEE?

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF A DEACON?

“The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and His Church particularly as a servant to those in need, and to assist bishops in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administrations of the sacraments.”

(Book of Common Prayer, 856)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ST. MARK & ST. PAUL

216 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

SEWANEE, TN 37375

Meet deacons who are
currently serving in
missions, parishes, and
the cathedral



Learn about the
necessary requirements
and steps toward
ordination

Vestry Update -- (regular meeting of August 28):

- heard from Jay Fisher about plans for the fall stewardship program.
- approved bridge funding for a parish photo directory.

- discussed the possibility of assisting with health coverage for some employees
- received written reports from CAC, the Buildings & Grounds Committee, Community Action Committee, and Christian Formation Committee.

Vestry Service at St. Mark & St. Paul (Fall 2025)

Vestry members serve three-year terms starting January 1, and must be out of office at least a year before standing for election to another full term.

The formal qualifications for Vestry members are:

- Confirmed member in good standing of the Parish of St. Mark & St. Paul. (Clergy are enrolled members of their diocese, not a parish, and thus aren't eligible.)
- At least 16 years of age
- Regular in worship attendance
- Have made and are fulfilling a pledge in the current year
- Not an employee of St. Mark & St. Paul or another organization or institution of the Diocese of Tennessee
- Complete a background check by the Diocese of Tennessee

Informal qualifications are important, as well:

- Committed to the Christian life and ministry of this parish
- Approach the work prayerfully
- Work well in a group, listening openly and respectfully to points of view that differ from their own
- Speak their minds straightforwardly during deliberations while supporting decisions the Vestry reaches as a whole

What do Vestry members do?

- Complete "Safeguarding God's People" online training
- Disclose any potential conflicts of interest
- Prepare for and attend monthly regular meetings and any called meetings
- Stay up-to-date on parish communications
- Participate in an annual retreat
- Help envision the ministry and needs of the parish in the present and future
- Be on duty about once a month for the early service and between services, or for the late service and after church.
- Serve as a Teller (counter of offering) about once every two months
- Act as chair of, or liaison to, a particular committee or ministry area
- Adopt the annual parish budget and monitor parish finances
- Deliberate and decide important issues in the life of the parish

--Enjoy the privilege of serving the people of God at St. Mark & St. Paul

The **Nominating Committee** customarily consists of the Vestry members completing their terms and not eligible to run in 2026: Robin Bates, Dorothy Gates, and Mary Priestley. You may contact any member of the Nominating Committee to recommend yourself or someone else (with that person's permission).

Campus Fix-ups



. . . has been patched

The great driveway schism . . .



The mountains on the Mountain are gone

And grass is already taking root on both sides of the driveway.



A new speed bump was added to the Brooks driveway to calm incoming traffic.

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."





Another fabulous Parish picnic

spread across the front yard of
Brooks Hall.





August 23rd marked 10 years since Father Rob celebrated his first Sunday at St. Mark & St. Paul. On Sunday August 31st, the parish celebrated his years of service and remembered the challenges and successes over those years. Here's to all the years to come.



All is in readiness



Some of the many volunteers who



What's a party without cake?

supported the
celebration.



The honoree with a special cake.



So many remembrances . . from
new friends



. . . from the Vestry



. . . from staff



. . . and from several
parishioners





A gift from a thankful parish for a decade of leadership, love and fun.



Christian Formation

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

Ministry Spotlights

During the month of September, we will be highlighting various ministries of the parish, what they offer, and how you can take part. Look for displays at coffee hour each Sunday.

Upcoming Book Studies - The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse – and Beowulf!

Nancy Barnett will lead a one-evening discussion of The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse by Charles Mackesy. This is an easy read and a delightful tale, accessible to all ages. Join us Tuesday, September 30th 5:30-6:30pm. Link to the book: <https://a.co/d/42Eeu5w>

In October, Robin Bates will guide us on a perilous adventure through Beowulf. We will meet each Tuesday in October from 5:30-6:30pm.

Book studies are held in the Brooks Hall dining room. People are encouraged to read the book (or read it again) but you will enjoy the discussion even if you haven't. Light refreshments are served. Bringing a dish or snack to share is invited but not required.

Rite-13 & Journey to Adulthood

On September 28, in Sunday Forum, members of the Rite 13 youth group will share about their recent mission trip to Kentucky with the Appalachia Service Project. Journey to Adulthood Leader Hilary Bogert-Winkler planned and led the trip, joined by Aaron Elrod, Sarah Edmonds, and ten young people. They helped with flood recovery efforts in the eastern part of the state. At 9:45am in Kennerly Hall, participants will share photos and experiences from the trip. People of all ages are invited to come learn more about the mission trip, and what's in store for the group next!

This fall, we will not only welcome new Rite-13 students (grades 6-7); we are also launching a Journey to Adulthood (J2A) for students in grades 8-10. Both will 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.

Help Wanted: We are seeking additional teachers to lead or assist the class on a rotational basis (you can specify once or twice a month) so all the teachers can continue their own formation as well.



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=NWZjNjY2MTEtODJhZi00MTVklTlmM2ltYjA1MzAwZjk4Zjh>

Parent Connections

Join fellow parents for coffee and conversation this fall during forum/Godly Play! This offering will be an opportunity to reflect on the gifts and challenges of faithful parenting, and build relationships with one another. Facilitated by our curate, Kelly Ramer Moody, Director of Formation Jeannie Babb, and a few others, we will use a theological reflection model to guide our conversations and draw on the wisdom of Christians throughout the ages.



Parent Connections
Sundays at 9:45
Hethcock Room
August 17-November 16

Sunday Forum 2025.

The Sunday Forum theme for 2025-2026 is 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. Gerald Smith opened the series with a session of poetry and reflection called “Two Rules for These Times.” Please see the flyer for a list of upcoming sessions. The full semester schedule is on the website.

Tuesday Lectionary Class

The lectionary class meets Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 in Brooks Hall. The class begins with a brief prayer and a reading of the Gospel lesson appointed for the coming Sunday. Then there is a rather freewheeling and far-ranging discussion of issues and questions raised for the participants as they heard the Gospel read. 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.

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



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.

Registration for 2025-2026, including a newly revised curriculum celebrating 50 years of EfM, is taking place now. Classes begin after Labor Day. Please contact



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.

DONATIONS NEEDED



INDIVIDUAL SNACKS

GRANOLA BARS

BREAD

PASTA

BABY WIPES

SHAMPOO

TOILET PAPER

The Pantry Needs You!

People often ask, "What is better - a food donation or a monetary donation?" The truth is, both make a difference for CAC and the neighbors we serve. CAC is serving more than 100 families each month, so keeping enough food on the shelves has been a challenge. All monetary donations greatly support our mission by covering food purchases and helping with utility bill assistance for our neighbors. At the same time though, when we express the need for specific food items, we are in need of those items at the moment to stock the pantry. Several of the items that we ask for are not available through our regional food bank, therefore we rely on the support of the community to keep them available in the pantry. This is most true for our hygiene and personal care items. These items are a constant need for our neighbors as the cost of these are not covered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or other benefits they may receive. It is only if they have a few extra dollars that they

could cover the cost of toilet paper or soap for their families. Any and all donations are always appreciated to support the Community Action Committee. Monetary donations can be made online at www.cacsewanee.org, or by checks made out to “Community Action Committee.” Item donations can be dropped off anytime at CAC in the cabinet located on the porch outside the CAC doors, or the bin located inside the church doors at St. Mark & St. Paul. We are thankful for the support of our parish in helping us better serve our neighbors!



CAC Renovation Updates

With the favor of the parish and help from wonderful volunteers CAC was able to complete its remodeling project back in July. As noted in the previous newsletter, CAC is serving more neighbors than ever before and the use of the food pantry was not as efficient as we believed it could be. The updates have already made such a difference for the CAC volunteers and neighbors. The fresh coat of paint offers a brighter and more welcoming environment for all our visitors. The smaller shelving and new orientation of appliances has allowed for open space which makes things flow nicely during operations. There are still a few new things to add, but overall the improvements have offered a nice change. We are so thankful for the support of Rob and the Vestry for making these updates possible. We would also like to thank the amazing volunteers who offered help throughout the process. A big shout out to Dan Amundson, John and Kathy Solomon, Jim Pappas, Andrea Sanders, Patten Mahler, Will Mahler, Benji Sowell, Liam Nieman, Erin O'Rourke Nieman, and Sister Felicity Parks. If you

have not seen the CAC food pantry since the updates, please come visit us!

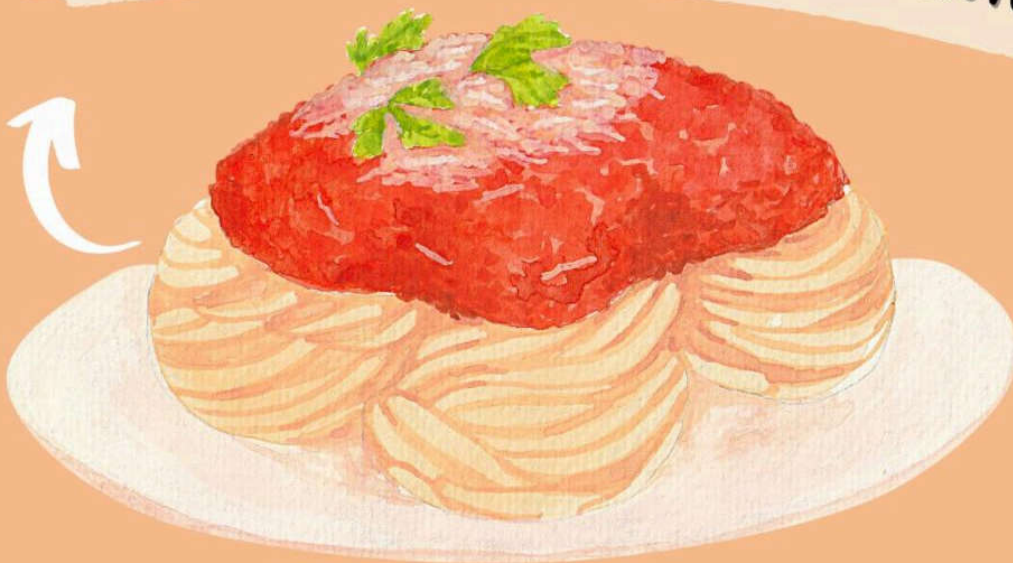
CAC Community Meals

Mark your calendars!! The first Community Meal of the semester will be hosted on Friday, September 26th at 12:00 PM in Kennerly Hall. Community Meals are held on the last Friday of every month unless otherwise advertised. The other meals this semester are scheduled for October 31st and November 21st. The Community Meal is an opportunity for all to join in fellowship with one another while enjoying a free and delicious meal prepared by our student leaders. We hope you will be able to join us!

Community Meal

Free Lunch!

Everyone is invited!



SEPTEMBER 26 @ NOON

**St. Mark's and St. Paul's Church
216 University Ave, Sewanee TN**

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.**

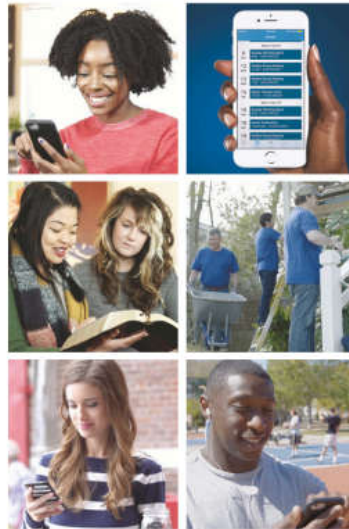
Get Connected with Realm

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

Prayer Requests: Steve Burnett, Duane, Steve Butler, Corky Carlisle, Karen Davis, Sophie Geraghty, Mike Jones, Anita Larson, Erika Lewis, Mike Mattei, Julian Price, Leah Rhys, Isaiah Shelby, Evelyn Taylor, Freddy Tucker, Dickie Zabbia, refugees, and the people of Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine.



September Birthdays

Sophia Patterson 9/1, Michael Thompson 9/4, Sandy Baird 9/6, Lauryl Tucker 9/6, Jane Mauzy 9/7, Scott Lee 9/7, Peggy Peterson 9/8, Mary Ming Lynch 9/8, Sally Hubbard 9/8, Joshua Mauzy 9/9, Matthew Mauzy 9/9, Curtis Finn 9/10, Diane Jones 9/15, David Clough 9/17, Francesca Gray 9/17, Han Clark 9/17, Bruce McMillan 9/22, Bruce Baird 9/23, Ken Taylor 9/23, Larry Barker 9/24, Laurence Alvarez 9/27, Kate Wiley 9/27, Lynn Stubblefield 9/27, Neil Patterson 9/27, Jori Smith 9/30

Office Hours for 2025

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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