

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

October 2023



From the Senior Warden: Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our parish Stewardship Committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of an organization who should pay dues, we treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning services on Consecration Sunday, we will invite members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and beyond.

Everyone who completes a pledge card does so voluntarily. The procedure is done in such a way that no one is singled out if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. We urge everyone to attend and to enjoy the luncheon afterward. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. At both services on Consecration Sunday our guest leader, the Rev. Casey Perkins, will preach the sermon and invite members to make their commitments as a confidential act of worship.



organist!" Betty Carpenter, Lynn Taylor, Pixie Dozier, Rebecca Van de Ven, and I spoke about various ways Kathy has served the church. We presented her with a card signed by parishioners and Mary Priestley print of the church. We also let her that a voluntarily-funded retirement purse (which reached \$4000) would be added to her final paycheck. Here are some of Kathy's remarks:

"I have always felt a strong call to serve God's church. It has been a blessing, in every place I have served. My music journey started in Pennsylvania at age 9 with an old, upright piano that my Dad bought for \$50. It was the best gift ever. It became my friend, my escape and my joy. Thank God for good teachers along the way. 4 years after I started piano, the organist at the local Methodist church offered me organ lessons if I would play piano for the Sunday School.

Over the years my music has opened doors I never would have known, including travel to Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as concerts at the Navy Memorial, Carnegie Hall, and Washington National Cathedral. Music was treasured in my home and my parents supported my musical efforts all my life. My faith has been the drive of my life. I know Jesus has always loved me and I have tried to be aware of His call in my life.

I kept up music ministry with my husband Gary at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church for 36 years. We had two choirs, two handbell groups and an orchestra for all major feast days. I am honored to say they established music scholarships in our name when we left. The students do two recitals a year in return for the award.

I recommend all children have music instruction. When you can no longer do sports, your music will still be there for you. It gives a child a way to express their inner feelings and causes them to use both sides of their brain. Their lives will be richer for it, because it gives balance to a child's life.

After moving to Tennessee, we savored several years working with wonderful people in the Sewanee Chorale. I was honored to play at the Seminary 3 years part-time. Fr. Joe Ballard brought me to work as your organist [in 2011.] What a wonderful 62 years in church music and music in general I have had!

I thank the clergy, staff and congregation for your support and love through the years. My EfM experience has been a blessing in my ministry as well. So a special thanks to Karen Meridith and the Rev. JoAnn Barker for their mentoring. Dr. Ken Miler and Mother Meghan Mazur are dear friends and I



Field Education

Our seminarian this year is Michael Sturdy, a postulant from the Diocese of Texas. Before coming to Sewanee, he spent a year as a youth minister at his sending parish: Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, TX. A graduate of Baylor University, Michael has also worked in museums and as a regulatory analyst in the

oil and gas industry. Michael and his wife, Lauren, have been married since 2011 and have two children: Catherine (“Cat”) and Cassius (“Cash”). Lauren works remotely for a disaster relief organization in Dallas and Cat and Cash can often be seen running around in dinosaur and dragon costumes.



New Financial Assistant

Wendy Prothro Howard, was born into a large Episcopalian family from Louisiana, but grew up in the surrounding counties of Washington, District of Columbia.

She is married to Jay William Howard (38 years) and has 4 children, 1 son and 3 daughters. She and her husband have lived in Monteagle for 6 years but have been in Tennessee for over 20 years.

Wendy has always been interested in nature and taught science to children and adults of all ages for many years.

Currently she volunteers in the Godly Play classroom at St. Mark and St Paul (for the wee ones!) and is in her 4th year mentoring the EfM program. She is a senior at The School of Theology, working on a Master of Arts in Religion and Environment with an expected graduation date of May 2024. Many of her past educational and outreach positions have included bank reconciliation, maintaining a budget, and grant funds reconciliation. She is very happy to be helping out at St. Mark and St. Paul as the financial assistant.

Anyone who likes to sing (including older youth) **is invited to give the re-established adult choir a try.** Rehearsals follow the late service at 12:15 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, please be in touch with incoming Organist/Choir Director Ken Miller at music@stmarkstpaul.org.

Children's Choir pictured below.



Office Hours for 2023

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

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

Christian Formation News by Jeannie Babb, Director, Christian Formation

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School is held each week from 9:45-10:45am, upstairs in Brooks Hall. (Brooks Hall is the big house off to the side of the church.) We are using Gospel Based Discipleship, also sometimes referred to as African Bible Study. This is a simple yet powerful method of reading scripture together.



Fire on the Mountain

Our youth group, Fire on the Mountain, will be having activities about once per month. Fire on the Mountain is open to 5th-12th graders who want to have fun while learning and serving. Service hours may be earned for all our service projects. Our teaching and leadership approach are from an Episcopal perspective; however, students of all faith backgrounds are encouraged to participate. See our [Facebook](#) page. We also regularly communicate by text and email. To join the list, please send a text to Jeannie at 423-255-6479 and ask to be added.

Children's Formation



Godly Play Registration

Godly Play is in full swing, every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am! These two classes are for children at least 3 years old through 1st grade (GP1) and 2nd-5th grade (GP2). Godly Play is a spiritual practice that includes a story, wondering, reflection, and small feast. Children learn to talk about their experiences with God, to explore themes in their own lives, and to honor others in sacred space.

past the elevator and library, and go down the stairs. You will find us in the middle classroom.



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.

We have an opening for another caregiver who lives locally and is able to serve during summers and holidays. Please talk with Jeannie or Cara if that describes you!

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday forum is off to a great start! We have enjoyed wonderful presentations by Rob Lamborn, Robin Bates, Mary Priestley, Jennifer Michael, Jeannie Babb, and Jim Pappas.. Please see the attached flyer for the full fall schedule. The forum meets during the Sunday School hour for coffee and conversation, with presentations around a central theme. The theme this year, "Creating in God's Image" taps into how generativity and the arts reflect the *Imago Dei* in each of us. We hope you'll join us for these inspiring talks.

Education *for* Ministry

EfM Reading Texts 2021-2025

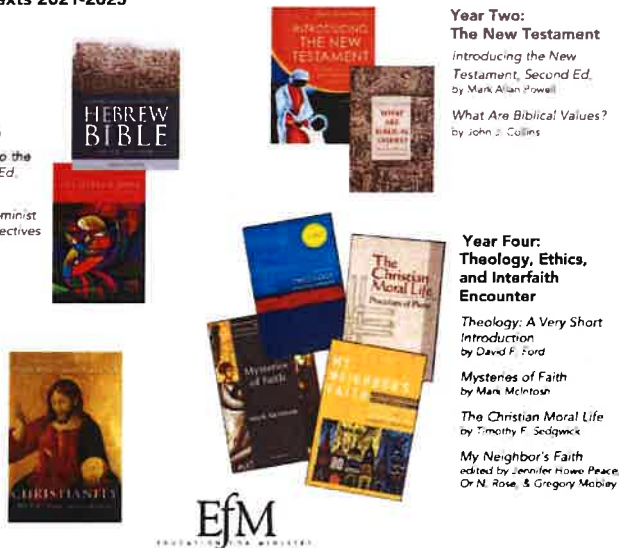
Year One: **The Hebrew Bible**

A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Third Ed.
by John J. Collins

The Hebrew Bible: Feminist & Intersectional Perspectives
edited by Gale Yee

Year Three: **Christian History**

Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years
by Darmond MacCulloch



Year Two: **The New Testament**

Introducing the New Testament, Second Ed.
by Mark Allan Powell

What Are Biblical Values?
by John J. Collins

Year Four: **Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Encounter**

Theology: A Very Short Introduction
by David F. Ford

Mysteries of Faith
by Mark McIntosh

The Christian Moral Life
by Timothy F. Sedgwick

My Neighbor's Faith
edited by Jennifer Howe Peace,
Or N. Rose, & Gregory Mobley

The Becken Center of the School of Theology at the University of the South
335 Tennessee Avenue, Seawater, TN 37383, 900-722-1974, efm@universityofthesouth.edu, efm.universityofthesouth.edu, 202021

On Monday evenings, people from several parishes gather in the Hethcock Adult Education Room for EfM. Education for Ministry is a 4-year theological education program that "helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together." EfM meets during the academic year. The first session is September 11, and we have room for just one or two more participants. Please contact Wendy Prothro Howard at wendyprothrohoward@gmail.com right away if you'd like to register.



The Community Action Committee (CAC) has been busy and is excited for the fall! To start, here are some background terms that CAC uses often, and we

Farm 2 Table

Monetary donations through the South Cumberland Farmers Market have been more than we could imagine!! Purchases have been made about every week using these credit funds, and we have a standing order of fresh eggs with the Chicken Little Farm. CAC will continue using the donations to purchase produce through the fall, and if items are available in the winter months.

THINGS TO REMEMBER: -

- The CAC Community Meal is on the last Friday of each month at 12:00 PM. This meal is planned, prepared, and served by our Sewanee Bonner Students. We hope to see you there on Friday, October 27th!
- CAC Pantry Sunday is the 1st Sunday of each month
- We will be asking volunteers and donations to fill bags for Thanksgiving (just like we did for Easter). Please stay tuned for more information! Thank you for all your support and generosity of CAC's mission!

Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Elections Sunday, November 12, at 9:45am in Kennerly Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for November 12. At this meeting we will be electing three new members to the vestry. Under diocesan canons, "Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing in the Parish sixteen years of age or older may vote at a Parish Meeting, and no proxies shall be allowed."

Vestry Service at St. Mark & St. Paul (fall 2023)

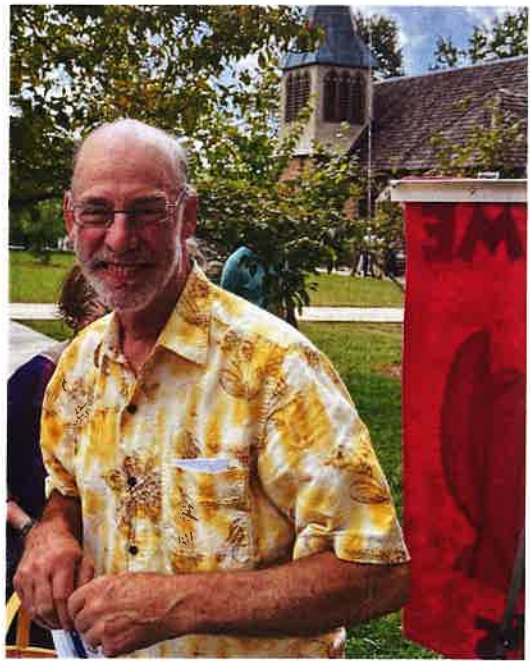
Vestry members serve three-year terms and must be out of office at least a year before standing for election to another full term.

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 particular 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:





-Noted an increase in Sunday attendance this fall compared with the same period last year.

-Was invited to participate on the CAC team for the upcoming Rotary Hunger Walk (honoring the late David Boyd Williams). The Walk helps fund the Morton Memorial and Grundy County food banks, as well as CAC.

Sharing Thanksgiving

For this holiday where gathering is important to so many, we want to help make sure anyone who wants to celebrate with others is able to. Do you have space at your table where you would welcome another person or two for Thanksgiving dinner? Would you like not to be by yourself and would enjoy joining a family's celebraon? In either case, please contact Rob Lamborn (rector@stmarkstpaul.org or 931- 598-5926) by November 10 and he will work to match the one with the other. And remember that we celebrate Thanksgiving Day at church with the Holy Eucharist at 10am!

Outreach Beyond The Gates

Several years ago we invited mentally challenged adults from Grundy County to join us in Kennelly Hall to sing familiar songs and to interact with our group of volunteers. The "All Voices Choir was born and all went well until Covid. Our attempts to regroup was unsuccessful but the idea to reach out to a population which is often overlooked never faded. A chance meeting with an aid from New Life in Winchester rekindled the flame and The "All Voices Choir" will officially begin on October 4 at 10:30 in Kennerly Hall. If you like to sing but don't think you can, you will have found the perfect place. Everyone has a place in this special choir. To sing with these individuals brings great joy to all. Check us out on October 18!

Many thanks to our musician volunteers Ann Seiters, Mary Priestly and Elizabeth Koella.

Cleaning services

Claiborne Parish Hall and Kennerly Hall are cleaned by Rowe's Cleaning Service, while the church is cleaned by Busy Bee Cleaning Service. Seminarian Bahley Minor cleans Brooks Hall and assists with other building needs in exchange for reduced rent. Parish Administrator Frieda Hawkins is the contact with all of them, so for any custodial issue, please contact her at admin@stmarkstpaul.org or 598-5926.



To the Vestry, Rector, Staff and Parishioners of St. Mark & St. Paul Parish:

What a wonderful celebration we had on Sunday, August 20th! I want to thank

Everyone who contributed in any way to the beautiful luncheon, flowers, tributes, retirement purse, and attendance in my honor. I am so very grateful for your expressions of love towards me. As you begin a new year with some new staff and new ideas, I wish you great success. St. Mark and St. Paul will always hold a special place in my heart. It has been such a blessed experience working with all of you through the years. May God bless each of you and the parish greatly. Thank you again so very much.

Kathleen Sturgis

Follow St. Mark & St. Paul on Social Media

We invite you to follow and engage with the parish and one another on social media. We are currently on Facebook and Twitter @stmarkstpaul. We invite you to tag posts and photos with #stmarkstpaul. See you online!

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: Ellen Armentrout, David Baker, Paul Cahoon, Bill Davis, Margaret Edsall, Pam Fogelson, Michael Fowler, Sue Hawkins, Carl P. Hill, David Kearley, Pat Kirby, Theo Maedgen, Paul Mooney, Evelyn Raines, George Ramseur, Alice Spraggins, Sarah Margaret Roberts, Roger Saterstrom, Freddie Tucker, Myron Van de Ven, the people of Ukraine, those impacted by wildfires on Maui, the people of Morocco and the people of Libya.

October Birthdays

Ruth Cook 10 / 3 ; Phebe Hethcock 10 / 5 ; Aaron Elrod 10 / 5 ; Sharon Zachau 10 / 6 ; Zachary Blount 10 / 7 ; Rebecca Van de Ven 10 / 7 ; Michael Sturdy 10 / 7 ; Theo Leffler-Mitchell 10 / 7 ; Jenna Black 10 /