# The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 12, 2023 8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

# St. John in the Wilderness

Est. 1836 -

# **Mission Statement**

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others to His saving love, and to serve the world in his name.

### Welcome and Reminders

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. While we are broken and incomplete in many ways, we find God making us whole through this parish community. Fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or talk to an usher, greeter, or member of the clergy to learn more about St. John. It is wonderful to be with you today!

# Reminders for Worship

- Masks are recommended but not required.
- If you find out that you have COVID-19 and that you might have brought it to this service, please call the church office and ask for the Rector.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

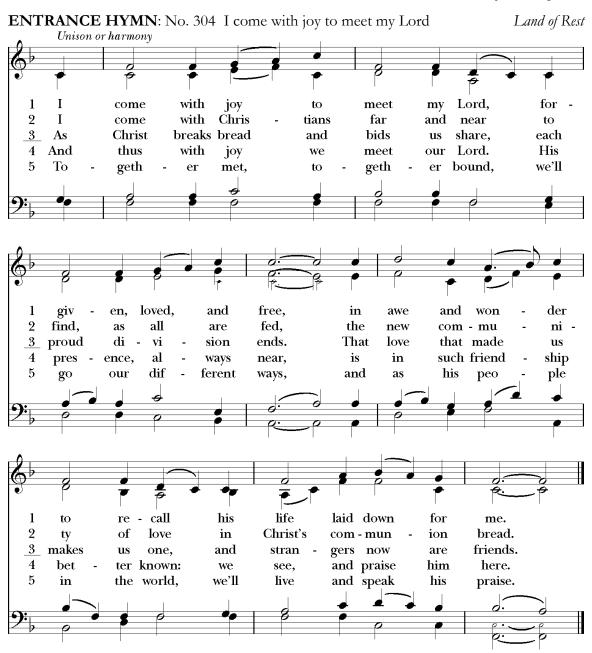
8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Prelude on "Land of Rest"

Dale Wood

#### Welcome & Announcements

Fr. Josh Stephens



# THE WORD OF GOD

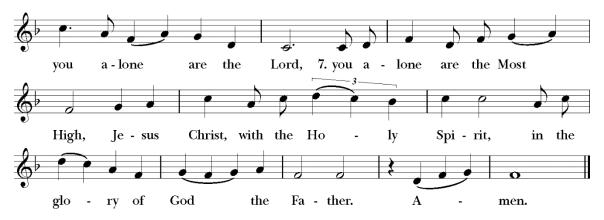
## Acclamation & Response

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 





The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

# The Collect of the Day

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

# First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8 Beati immaculati

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \* who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees \* and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, \* but always walk in his ways.
- 4 You laid down your commandments, \* that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \* that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, \* when I regard all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \* when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; \* do not utterly forsake me.

### Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Word of the Lord.

## People Thanks be to God.

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.



All remain standing as the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Gospel**: Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon** Fr. Ian Williams

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# The Prayers of the People

God has called us out of darkness into the glorious Light of the Son. Let us therefore pray that this Light of Christ may shine more and more in our lives, in the Church, and in our world, by saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the church and its ministry to the world: for the ministries of our parishioners, our vestry and our staff; for José, our bishop, Josh, our rector, Ian, our curate, and Sandy, our deacon; for all lay and ordained ministers throughout your church in whom the Light of Christ shines.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for all those in influence, especially Joseph, our president, for congress, the courts, for state and local officials, and for an end to war and oppression.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have not heard the Good News of salvation, for those who have heard but have not believed, and for those who have forgotten or struggled in their faith.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the lonely and destitute, for the victims of violence, injustice, and discrimination, for the poor, the hungry, and those who are afraid.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick in body, mind, and spirit, and those who care for them, for the dying and the bereaved, and for those who need our prayers, especially Joanne, Dottie, Tom and Anna, Gene, Belle, Dana, Jim, Patsy, Jan, Emily, Creighton and Louise, John, Mary, Martha, Gail, Christopher, Marge, and Dave.

The people may include the names of those for whom they are praying either silently or aloud.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the fellowship of the saints: for the saints on earth whose work continues and for those who have died in Christ and are now at rest, especially Aaron Simmons.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

## Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.** 

#### The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# A Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries in February

BCP, page 830, Prayer 50

Included in our prayers are those visited by our Homebound Ministry who have birthdays this month: Traci Tindal and Adam Sherrill.

O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray on your servants who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries this month. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

## The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** 8:45 Variations on "If Thou but Suffer God" Johann Walther

11:00 I Give You a New Commandment Text from John 13:34-35 Peter Aston

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.

If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

# The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

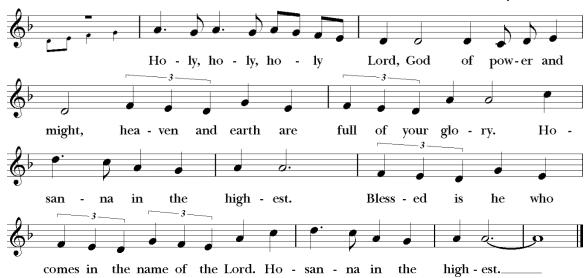
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

SANCTUS Hymnal S-129



The people stand or kneel.

#### Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant continues

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

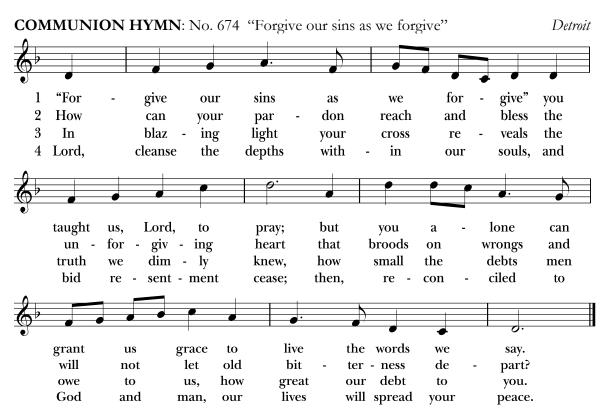
Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. All are invited to come forward and kneel as you are able. If you would rather not receive Communion, you are invited to still come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to indicate for the priest to bless you.

If you are receiving Communion, please do one of three things when you kneel: 1.) Most traditionally, place one hand in the palm of the other and receive the Body of Christ which you consume immediately. When the chalice comes around, guide it to your lips and drink directly from the chalice. 2.) To receive Communion in one kind (the bread alone), simply receive the bread as described above and when the chalice comes around, cross both arms over your chest. 3.) If you would like to practice intinction, upon arriving at the altar rail, place one arm diagonally across your chest until the priest notices your preference, then put one hand in the palm of the other to receive Communion. The priest will intinct for you and then place the Body and Blood of Christ in the palm of your hands. A gluten-free option is available upon request.



## Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's

body and blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.

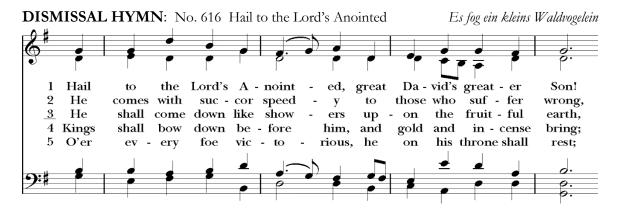
After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Blessing





#### The Dismissal

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**: How Firm a Foundation

Dale Wood

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People. As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Joanne Adams, Dottie Dalzell, Tom and Anna Joiner, Gene Banks, Belle and Dana Welk, Jim Chestnut, Patsy Boehmer, Jan Knapp, Emily Everhope, Creighton and Louise McShane, John Flowers, Mary McCarty, Martha Stevenson, Gail Sanders, Christopher Carlson, Marge Smith, and Dave Kinsey.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of our departed Church Ministry Volunteers.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Homebound Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Margaret Barker, Katherine Gee, Michelle Geiser, Lori Griswold, E.R. Haire, Mary McCarty, Beth Miller, and Dick Zecher.

**To our visitors:** We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing or the Sacrament. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

	February 12, 2023		February 19, 2023	
	8:45	11:00	8:45	11:00
Lay Readers	Susan MacDonald	Mark Delk	Danielle Pharr	Mark Delk
		Julianna Savage	Mark Delk	Lori Griswold
Acolyte	Elaine Howe	Susan Rex	Mary Shelton	Julianna Savage
Ushers	Debby Staton	David Christenbury	Jerry Tanner	Tony Huntsinger
	Jerry Holt	Karen Conley	Jim Spry	Bettie Orr
Greeters	Brenda Hillyer	Karen Conley	Bonni Spry	Carmen & Ned
	Judy Petersen		Judy Petersen	Curtis
Cart Driver	Jim Olson	Nancy Cooper	Marlin Sanders	Tom Savage
Videography	N/A	Bill Morris	N/A	David Christenbury
Altar Guild	Elaine Howe	Sally Hopper	Cathryn Harrell	Lynn & Julianna
	Brenda Hillyer		BJ McKee	Savage
	Elaine Harris (Saturday)		Michael Jeffery (Brass)	
Opening Gatekeeper	BJ McKee & George Grzenda		BJ McKee & George Grzenda	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jerry Holt		Jerry Holt	
Flower Guild	Bay Chamberlain		Elaine Howe	

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731

828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5.

Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9am-4pm M-F

Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Ian Williams, Curate: ian@stjohnflatrock.org

The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: dewitt.tipton@furman.edu

Sarah Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication and Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Parish Financial Assistant: finance@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

#### **VESTRY MEMBERS**

Senior Warden: John Barker Junior Warden: Will Rodriguez

#### 2023

Elizabeth Christenbury Lynn Wiescholek Jennifer Shelton

#### 2024

E.R. Haire, Jr. Marisa Pharr Kim Sanders Clint Adams

#### 2025

Laura Teel Patrice German Jerry Holt

#### PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry Tom Griswold, Treasurer

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Buildings and Grounds Committee:** 

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Mary Anne Inglis

Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp

Finance: Susan MacDonald

Historic Churchyard Committee: Ken Jones

New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer, Judy Petersen

Outreach: Jennifer Shelton Personnel: Margaret Barker Stewardship: Clint Adams

#### OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Lynn Savage

Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Sally Hopper

Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint

Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen

Docents: E.R. Haire, Jr.

Endowment Trustees: Jim Spry

Episcopal Church Women: Linda Giltner

Flower Guild: Bay Chamberlain Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes

Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer

Gatekeepers: Dick Zecher

Good News Gardeners: Kathryn Whitten, Carrie Byars

Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen

**Greeters:** Betsy Tibbs

Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker

Homebound Ministry: The Revs. Patricia and Stephen Askew

Lay Readers: Mark Delk Meal Ministry: Janelle Walker Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Yeargin Sustainability: Lynn Wiescholek, Elizabeth Christenbury

Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe