

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

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**The deadline for The
Voice is the 15th of
each month.**

Email submissions to
[officeadmin@
stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)
or deliver them to the
church office.



THE VOICE

March 2022

From the Rector's Desk

Episcopal Nuns to Lead Us This Lent

As we prepare for Lent each year, I feel a tidbit of guilt as we add programs and services to already busy lives. I tend to think of Lent as a time for simplifying things – of letting go of the excess – rather than adding more to our inexhaustible lists of things to do.

But Lent can also be thought of as a time to restructure our living. On Ash Wednesday, we submit to God by acknowledging our broken humanity as we take an ash cross on our foreheads as an outward sign of a movement of the soul towards repentance and renewal. By reading reflections, saying prayers, giving alms, and gathering with our fellow pilgrims, we find a holy structure that puts to the outside the non-essential and makes central practices that unite us with Christ. You are invited to this grace-filled restructuring this Lent at St. John.

We have some help coming in order to know what that restructuring might look like. The Sisters of the Community of St. Mary in Sewanee, Tennessee are Episcopal nuns who have given up their possessions to live under a Rule of Life with others in Christian community. Their structure of life is truly ancient in that it is based on the Rule of St. Benedict, a 6th-century order of living that still finds relevance today.

Each Thursday this Lent, one of the Sisters of St. Mary will meet with us to share how they structure their living and the grace they have found therein. On March 3, the prioress of the convent, Sister Madeleine Mary, will drive from Sewanee to lead our initial discussion. She will also preach in church on the First Sunday of Lent, March 6. Each Thursday evening following, one of the sisters will join us via Zoom. **Please sign up and pay ahead of time if you're joining us for the 6:30pm dinner. Go to stjohnflatrock.org/lenten-series to sign up by Tuesday of each week.** After dinner in the Parish Hall, we will hear talks from the sisters on their life together and the grace of intentionally restructuring it in God's name. Please join us, and see pages 4 and 5 for more info!

~ Fr. Josh Stephens



From left to right: Sisters Hannah, Monica Claire, Felicity, Elizabeth Grace, and Madeleine Mary

Meeting with Fr. Josh

Fr. Josh would love to meet with you! This pandemic has made it hard to connect. Maybe you have not been able to come to church much. Or perhaps you have never had a chance to sit down with Fr. Josh to share your background and check in about life. Regardless, please contact the office at officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org or at 828-693-9783 to find a time. He would love to get to know you better!

Parish Breakfast

Sunday, March 6, from 9 to 10:30am

Join us for a Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John, who will serve bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, waffles, and juice/coffee/tea. The cost for the breakfast is \$6/person or \$12/family. Please sign up at bit.ly/BreakfastMarch22 by Wednesday, March 2, to aid in planning. We hope to see you there!

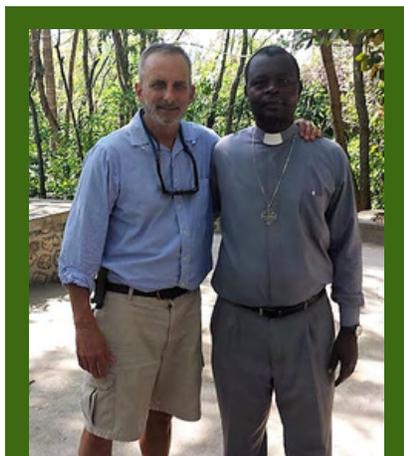
Attention, Newcomers!

You may not be aware that St. John has an online pictorial directory of church members that can easily be downloaded to your computer and/or cell phone through a platform called Instant Church Directory. The directory is a great help in putting faces to names and finding contact information quickly and easily.

If you would like to have your picture in the directory along with your contact information, we can either take a picture of you before one of the Sunday services, or you can submit your own picture. For the former option, please contact Brenda Hillyer to arrange for a photo shoot (828-696-9242; bhillyer123@gmail.com). If you are submitting your own photo, please send it to Sarah Yeargin in the church office at officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org. Sarah can also help you in setting up the directory on your phone or computer.

An Update from our Friends in Haiti

St. John in the Wilderness has partnered with Fr. Deravil, a Haitian priest at work in Lascahobas, a community in rural Haiti, for a number of years. Last year, we sent \$5,000 his way to support his parish and the school he helps run. This is a note Fr. Deravil sent after the most recent donation.



Parishioner Starr Teel with Fr. Deravil in 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How are you? I hope this note will find you well. I want to let you know that I received your check of \$100 two days ago. Thank you so much for your continuing support. As the check mentioned, it will pay half of the scholarship for a student called Joseph Jerry, whose parents cannot afford to pay for school for him. Once again, thank you on behalf of the school.

May God continue to keep and bless you all in your Ministry.

~ Father Jean Jacques Deravil+



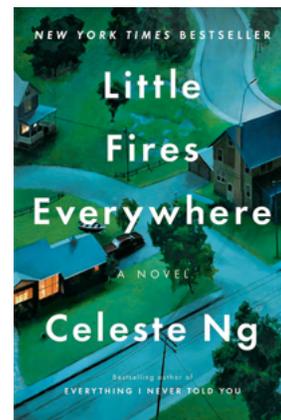
Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays at 10am in the Library

March 4: *Little Fires Everywhere*

by Celeste Ng

A riveting story that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.



Mardi Gras Potluck

Tuesday, March 1, at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall

Pull out your purple, green, and gold! The Vestry are hosting SJW's biennial Mardi Gras Potluck. All are welcome to feast on a New Orleans-style meal. Please bring something to share if you are able. Last names A-J, you're in charge of salads and sides; K-O are on desserts, appetizers, and bread; and P-Z, please help us out with some entrees! We'll handle the king cake, wine, and other beverages. Join us for a light-hearted, casual evening to gather before Lent begins.



Jan Tanner and Margaret Barker at the Mardi Gras Potluck in 2020

Backpack Program Presents Empty Bowls

Sunday, April 24, at 12:30, 5:00, & 6:00pm in the Parish Hall

For the fifth year, local pottery artists are firing their kilns to help hungry children in the greater Flat Rock area. On Sunday, April 24, Empty Bowls, a community meal benefiting the Flat Rock Backpack Program, will take place inside the Parish Hall at SJW. There are three seatings with suggested reservations at 12:30pm, 5pm, and 6pm.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$50 for a family of two adults and children under 12 years old. Each ticket includes one hand-crafted bowl (all donated by area potters) and a soup-based meal (a variety of soups, breads, and desserts).

Beginning March 1, tickets will be available for purchase at the Parish House Office or from Backpack team members. They can also be purchased at the door on the day of the event. For more information, call 828-693-9783. Credit cards are accepted; checks should be made out to St. John in the Wilderness, noting Empty Bowls. Updated COVID-19 restrictions will be in place.

About the Backpack Program

The Flat Rock Backpack Program began in 2008, when parishioner Debby Staton learned that some Henderson County students were deemed "nutritionally deprived" at their homes on the weekend. Debby pulled together a team, and together they partnered with MANNA Packs for Kids to provide food to students in our area who need it. The Backpackers are a totally volunteer group, and their funding comes from grants, private donations, and fundraisers like Empty Bowls, which provides the majority of their financial support.



All ticketholders are able to pick out one bowl to keep from a wide array of pottery created by local artists.

Docents Needed

Are you passionate about sharing the story of St. John in the Wilderness with visitors who have a hankering for history? Are you curious about our history yourself? If so, you'd be a great fit for our Docent Committee! Contact Dr. E.R. Haire, Jr. (e.hairejr@icloud.com) if you are interested in joining this team of history keepers and storytellers.

The March Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of:

March 27 (Laetare Sunday)

My husband, George Carr, Sr. and Joe Carr
by Baynard Chamberlain

My beautiful wife, Sandra Thaxton
by Jim Thaxton



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



2 Yates Pharr	11 Marion Mitchell	17 Kathy Newbold	20 John Pace
3 Liz Ball	11 Nicole Iosue	17 Harper Swing	25 Jinny Bell
3 Sophie Guth	13 E.R. Haire, Jr.	18 Ginger Quarles	25 Patricia Petillo
4 Vick Murdaugh	14 Mark Delk	18 Barbara Hodgkins	25 Janet Johnson
4 Jim Vint	15 Eleanor Liberto	18 Bob Staton	27 Nancy King
4 Jason Blackwell	16 Catherine Mills	19 Marge Smith	27 Elaine Howe
4 Steven Byrd	16 Laura Hanff	19 Missy Schenck	28 Jerry Theron
8 Caitlyn Iosue	16 Ellis Pace	19 Ted Hipp	28 Tom Robertson
10 Phyllis Smith	17 Candace Lewis	20 Steve Sullivan	28 Scott Dillin
			30 Grayson Garber

Don't see your birthday here? That means we don't have a record of it!

Please email Sarah at officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org to update your information.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT & HOLY WEEK

Visit www.stjohnflatrock.org/journey-through-lent to access sign ups and resources.

Worship with Us

Ash Wednesday - March 2

Rite I Eucharists will be held at 12 noon and 5:30pm in the church.

Palm Sunday - April 10

Rite II Eucharists will be held at 8:45 and 11am. Services begin outside with the Blessing of Palms, after which we will process into the church.

Maundy Thursday - April 14

A Rite II Eucharist with foot washing and stripping of the altar will be held at 7pm in the church.

Gethsemane Watch - April 14 and 15

After the Maundy Thursday service ends, you are invited to stay in the church to pray. On this night, we try to do what the disciples could not on the night before he was crucified: stay awake for one hour and pray. The goal is to have at least one person keeping vigil the entire night. Sign up for a shift using the link at the top of this page.

Good Friday - April 15

On this day, we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at 11am with the Stations of the Cross. We will have services at 12 and 5:30pm, with the Veneration of the Cross from 1 to 4pm.

Sunday Formation on Pilgrimage:

A Pathway to God

Join the Revs. Stephen Askew and Patricia Tanzer Askew in this course as we explore our journey through life as a series of pilgrimages (or perhaps one long pilgrimage) that lead us ever closer to God. Following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, we may see how we are modern pilgrims continuing where others have left off and discovering where God invites us to step forward.

This series is open to adults and high schoolers and will take place on Sundays at 10am in the Wilderness Room. The Askews will lead formation on March 13, 20, and 27, offering their own experience in pilgrimaging on *El Camino de Santiago* to arrive at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela a city in Spain that is home of the shrine of St. James the apostle.



The Askews in front of the Cathedral



Now Available: Lenten Reflections

Pick up your Lenten Reflection booklet in the Parish Office or in one of the church entrances. You can also access the reflections online using the link at the top of this page. Let this book guide you on your Lenten journey as you read and meditate on God's Holy Word in preparation for the resurrection.

Lent Madness

The time to make your best guesses and turn in your bracket ahead of time has ended, but the Lent Madness fun has only just begun! Swing the chances in your favor by logging on to LentMadness.org every day in Lent to vote for the saintliest saint.



Thursday Night Series on the Benedictine Life:

Lessons from Episcopal Nuns about Daily Living

All are invited to join St. John in the Wilderness for any or all of our Lenten Series sessions, to take place each Thursday evening in Lent from March 3 to April 7. The evenings each have three offerings, all of which are open to the public with adults and youth most welcome. You do not have to be present for all three portions of the event to participate.

- **Evening Prayer** at 6pm in the Atrium Chapel of the Parish Hall
- **Dinner** at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall (RSVP and pre-payment required - \$8/person or \$20/family of 3+)
- **Lenten Program** from 7 to 8pm in the Parish Hall (or join via Zoom with RSVP)

For the first session on March 3, we will host Sr. Madeleine Mary in person. In the sessions following, we will continue to meet in the Parish Hall with other Sisters from the Order joining us via Zoom, including Sr. Hannah, who made her life profession recently, and Sr. Elizabeth Grace, who will teach about the Rule of St. Benedict's emphasis on humility. Participants may join in person or virtually for any or all of the sessions, and each session will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel. You can find more information and RSVP/make a payment for the meal by using the link at the top of this page.

In addition to kicking off our series, Sr. Madeleine Mary will preach at both services on Sunday, March 6. Learn more about her and a couple of the other Sisters who will visit with us on the next page.

Meet the Sisters of the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province

The Sisters of St. Mary live at their convent in Sewanee, Tennessee and are members of a monastic movement that goes back to 1865 when their order was started in New York. Their rich history includes service during the Yellow Fever epidemic of the late 1800s, when the Sisters tended to the sick and dying. Though all but one of the Sisters lost their lives, the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province persisted. Today, the Sisters' ministries include providing spiritual direction; leading retreats and workshops; preaching at churches around the country; training associates, volunteers, and interns; and producing items to sell. They eat and pray together several times a day and provide hospitality to all who visit. During Lent, the sisters will take turns sharing with us the richness of their ancient monastic way of life that includes prayers, work, radical hospitality, community, accountability, and more.



Sister Madeleine Mary

Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM is Prioress at the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, & holds an M.Div. from the School of Theology as well as a certificate in Spiritual Direction from the General Seminary. She has been a Religious for 51 years & has served as a spiritual director for 31 years & an Ecumenical Officer for the Conference of Religious Orders in the Americas for six years. She has also done retreat work and programs widely throughout the United States as well as in Europe. Over her years in Community, she has served in a variety of positions, including Reverend Mother, Prioress, Program Director for Earth Ministry, & Director for Oblates & interns of the Community's Organic Prayer Program. With her writing, preaching, reflections, photography, & video skills she hopes to help people explore the connections between faith, care for creation, & Benedictine spirituality.

Learn more about the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province at www.communityofstmarysouth.org



Sister Hannah

Sr. Hannah Winkler, CSM has been a member of the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, for seven years. She made her life profession in January 2021. She began her ministries in the Community by managing the guest ministries & chapel services as the Sister sacristan. She helps manage the Community's website, social media, & online gift shop. She has been active in preaching and teaching at a variety of Episcopal churches & schools. Before the pandemic, she regularly led tour groups through the convent grounds & chapel, educating visitors about the history & ministries of the Community. Prior to entering Community, she graduated with her B.S. & M.S. degrees in nutrition in 2008 & 2011 from NC State & UNC Greensboro, respectively. She became a licensed registered dietitian in 2011 & worked in the oncology, surgical, and & psychiatric units. In December 2020, she graduated from the University of the South with an M.A. in Theology. She is looking forward to the ways God will use her diverse background as part of the Community's various ministries.



Sister Elizabeth Grace

Sr. Elizabeth Mills was brought up in the Episcopal Church & raised in the Midwest & Washington State. Her B.A. in French is from Sewanee (1976), & her Masters of Education is from Winthrop University (1977). She taught special education for nine years in SC. Elizabeth was active in the Diocese of Upper SC from 1976-1990. She made her Cursillo in 1979 & went to Haiti on two medical mission trips with the Diocese. She also was active in Christian Education at her parish. Elizabeth first thought of becoming an Episcopal sister at the age of seven. She tested her vocation in 1990 at the age of 36 with the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, & she made her life profession in 1996. Sr. Elizabeth spent a decade (1994-2003) at the Community's convent in Los Angeles. Sr. Elizabeth presently works with the associates of the Community, with the guest ministry, & as the Community's librarian. She enjoys preaching & leading retreats. Walks with their puppy, movie night, & books bring Sr. Elizabeth much delight. She also enjoys spending time with family & friends.

An Update from the Chairs of ECW

The month of February was full of exciting events for the ECW! First was the renaming of the shed to the Mission House. After two cancellations due to the weather, Fr. Josh was surrounded by parishioners as he blessed the ramp, the doorway, and the main room. With liturgy in hand, we all participated in this beautiful event.

Secondly, on Sunday, February 13, the Parish Hall was decorated with red and white to get ready for an afternoon Valentine's gala, complete with "Name that Love Song," Valentine trivia, a sweethearts of the Bible matching game, dancing, and delicious refreshments. Eduard Wiescholek and Abby Stephens provided professional photo shots. Sarah Yeargin and her fiancé, Max, turned up the music for dancing and the love song guessing game. Lynn Wiescholek gathered the little ones and brought smiles, activities, and singing to the dozen children present. Our other helpers were Patrice and Gary German, Suess and Jeff Gunter, Carol Sims, Brenda Hillyer, Jan Tanner, Penny Amerman, Elizabeth and David Christenbury, Debby Staton, Marisa and Yates Pharr, Bill Taylor, and Joe Giltner. The good times rocked on from 3:00 until 5:30. Thanks to all who joined in the fun.

Finally, on February 13, 1872, the first gathering of ECW in Western North Carolina was held at Trinity, Asheville, and a second group of women met in Lenoir. 2022 is our 150th anniversary. We will be observing this historic time by expanding our outreach program in different ways. More news about this will be coming your way.

If you have suggestions for topics or events for ECW, please share them with Vickie (828-577-9632) or Linda (864-680-2793). Blessings to all of you wonderful ladies.

*~ Vickie Taylor & Linda Giltner,
ECW Co-Chairs*

New Direction for the ECW Bazaar

The Mission House has been blessed. It is ready to begin serving God's people through multiple missions of SJW. In a few weeks, the ECW will fill part of the Mission House with the remaining items from the previously scheduled Bazaar of 2020. COVID-19 has redirected that effort and left us with a "Silver Lining." What a delightful blessing.

We will soon be announcing a weekly sale to clear out these items. We will then consider prayerfully what God has planned for us as we move forward to supply the funding for His missions throughout WNC.

We will not be accepting donated items until further notice. Keep your loose change handy, and stay tuned for our sale of home décor, kitchen items, jewelry, small furniture, linens, and much more.

~ Lynn Wiescholek

*Chairperson, ECW Thrift Sales at the Mission House
of St. John in the Wilderness
407-738-9887*

A Valentine Party - February 13



Mission House Blessing - February 6



Scenes from Our Last Holy Hike in the Pisgah National Forest - February 8



Holy Hike at Falling Creek Camp Sunday, March 27, at 2pm

Holy Hikers-WNC traditionally schedules events on Tuesdays to avoid weekend crowds; however, some Sunday hikes are scheduled to allow children and working adults to participate. On March 27, parishioners Marisa and Yates Pharr will lead us on a hike at Falling Creek Camp. This hike will be a great opportunity to get to know families that you may not have met at church before as well as the growing number of Holy Hikers who do not attend St. John in the Wilderness but enjoy celebrating liturgy in the WNC wilderness.

The 915-acre Falling Creek Camp is located 12 miles from the church on Green River Road in Zirconia. The hike is open to all Holy Hikers and parishioners of all ages. You do not need to be a member of St. John in the Wilderness to register. We will meet at Falling Creek at 2pm and participate in liturgy and fellowship along camp trails. The Pharrs will lead us on an easy-to-moderate hike that does not require any special equipment. Each hiker is responsible for carrying their own EpiPen and should notify Yates and Marisa upon arrival if they have an insect allergy. Parents are to carry EpiPens for their kids and to notify Yates and Marisa about their kids' allergies. Please pack water and some snacks. You may register for the hike by emailing holyhikes@stjohnflatrock.org. Please register ahead of time, and check your email the morning of the hike in case the weather causes us to change our plans.

Vestry Retreat Builds Connections And Sets Goals for 2022

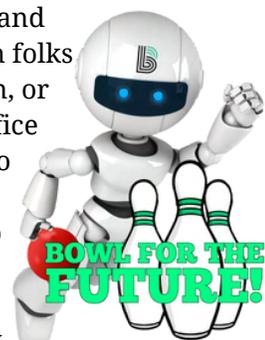
Our Vestry met for a retreat at Kanuga on a cold Saturday in late January. Half of the members could only join by Zoom due to icy road conditions, but by God's grace we were still able to connect with one another and think about our goals for this year. After much discussion, the Vestry was excited about working towards calling an assisting priest and building connections within the parish. Two task forces were created to work on these projects. The first task force worked together to post a job description for our assisting rector position. We are now accepting applications! The second task force, *Building Parish Community*, is meeting to find ways to gather church members for meals in one another's homes, facilitate growth as disciples of Jesus, and care for those in need. Stay tuned for more info, and talk to Fr. Josh about ideas you have related to these two goals!



Bowl for Kids' Sake! Saturday, March 5, at 11am at Tarheel Lanes

St. John in the Wilderness will participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC's annual Bowl for Kids' Sake this year. This fundraiser helps BBBS serve the community by enrolling youth and families, matching Bigs and Littles, and providing ongoing professional support to children, families, and volunteers.

We have two teams: one for youth and one for adults. Come out and watch folks bowl on the first Saturday in March, or reach out to Sarah in the Parish Office (officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) to sign up to bowl yourself. Our goal for the parish is to donate \$1,000 to BBBS through this event. Please consider donating, either online at bit.ly/BFKS22 or by mailing a check to BBBS of WNC (50 S. French Broad Avenue, Suite 213, Asheville, NC 28801), noting "BFKS Henderson County - St. John in the Wilderness" in the memo.



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness
1905 Greenville Highway
P.O. Box 185
Flat Rock, NC 28731



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Dn. Charles Rex
Deacon

Sarah Yeargin
*Director of Parish Communication
& Administration*

Stacy Knapp
Parish Financial Assistant

Dewitt Tipton
Organist and Director of Music

Kevin Hunt
Sexton

Mary Anne Inglis
Youth and Families Coordinator

Vestry

Jennifer Shelton
Senior Warden

Gibson Sims
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

Terry Enslin, Marie Hyder, Dick
Zecher, John Barker, Elizabeth
Christenbury, Lynn Wiescholek, E.R.
Haire, Jr., Clint Adams, Will Rodriguez,
Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45am - Rite I Eucharist (in person & live-streamed)

11:00am - Rite I Eucharist (in person)

*We use Rite I liturgy during Lent and Advent and
Rite II during the rest of the year.*

Monday through Thursday

9:00am - Morning Prayer (live-streamed on Facebook)

Wednesday

10:30am - Healing Service in the Wilderness Room

4:30pm - Evening Prayer in the Wilderness Room

Our 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.

Help us share the story!

If you take a photo at an SJW
event, please send it to
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org.

828-693-9783

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