



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. John in the Wilderness

THE VOICE

May 2023

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

Email submissions to officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org or deliver them to the church office.

From the Rector's Desk

Our Summer Scholar Begins This Month

I am thrilled to share with you that our 2023 Summer Scholar-in-Residence will begin at the end of May on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Dr. Phil Kenneson is the Associate Dean of the School of Bible and Ministry and Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Milligan University in Johnson City, Tennessee. Milligan is a small liberal arts college with around 1,000 undergraduates and a few hundred graduate students that dedicates itself to educating men and women to live out their callings as Christian servant-leaders. Dr. Kenneson has taught at Milligan for over 30 years.



Dr. Phil Kenneson

His academic background includes attending college at Butler University, a Masters in Divinity from Emmanuel Christian Seminary, and a Ph.D. in theology and ethics from Duke University. Most significantly, at Duke he was mentored and worked with Stanley Hauerwas whose writings and teachings about theology, ethics, and the Church have changed how many understand their identities as Christians whose lives in community are to offer an alternative way of existing in Christ as compared to our secular culture. Dr. Kenneson has supported this work by being a member on the Board of the Ekklesia Project, an ecumenical community of scholars, pastors, and lay people who still believe God has a role for the Church to play in God's cosmic work of restoration in the world. He has also taught Milligan's capstone course, "Christ and Culture," to Milligan's seniors each year as they leave the university to be servant-leaders for Christ in the world. My wife and I had the privilege of taking his classes in college and his courses forever changed how we understand our calling as citizens in God's Kingdom and members of Christ's Body, the Church.

We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity to learn with Dr. Kenneson while he is in residence at St. John. He will be teaching on Sunday mornings at 10:05am in the Wilderness Room from May 28 to June 18. He will also be teaching on Thursday evenings when we continue "Saintly Hors D'oeuvres" from June 1 to June 22. Please bring something to share at 5:00pm on those Thursdays. The teaching will begin by 5:30pm, with a pause at 6:00pm, followed by time for discussion. Join me in welcoming Dr. Phil Kenneson to St. John.

~ Fr. Josh Stephens

The Feast of St. John: Celebrating Flat Rock

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023 • 5:00 TO 8:00PM • HUBBA HUBBA SMOKEHOUSE

Live Music & BBQ
Featuring Chatham Rabbits



Holy Week and Easter

At St. John in the Wilderness



1



2



3



4



5

Good Friday Offering: \$537.18
to the
Episcopal Church in Jerusalem,
supporting
pastoral care,
education, and
health care in the
Middle East.



6



8



9

Special Easter Offering: \$2,526.18
to **Episcopal Relief and Development,**
supporting recent
victims of natural
disasters in the U.S.

**Thank you for
your generosity!**



7



10

1. Parishioners gathered at the Carriage Entrance on Palm Sunday for the Liturgy of the Palms.
2. Lighting the candles for the Maundy Thursday service, before the altar was stripped bare for Good Friday.
3. The choir's vocals and Dewitt's organ playing during the Maundy Thursday service were a beautiful addition to the intimate service.
4. The Gethsemane Watch begins.
5. "Darkness came over the whole land" on Good Friday. (Matthew 27:45)

6. Because of the lightning storm we had earlier in the morning, the Stations of the Cross were held in the Parish Hall. About 40 people gathered to partake in this spiritual pilgrimage through the Passion of Christ.
7. After the Stations, parishioners donned raincoats and umbrellas to bear the cross to the church.
8. The Homebound Ministry organized a special Easter distribution of Willa's Shortbread to our beloved parishioners who can no longer join us in person.
9. The clergy of St. John ready to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
10. Though we know Easter is not about candy and bunnies, the Young Family Ministry invited the public to an Easter Egg Hunt between the services.

Join Us for a Parish Breakfast

Sunday, May 7, 9:30 to 10:30am in the Parish Hall

Join us for another Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John, this time with the Youth Group's assistance! In addition to the regular offerings of bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, and juice/coffee/tea, the youth and Chefs will serve a plethora of pancakes: plain, chocolate chip, blueberry, and more.

This is a pay-as-you-please breakfast. Each year, the Chefs of St. John supports at least two charities: one picked by the men and one picked by the youth. Any proceeds from this breakfast will benefit a charity of the Chefs' choosing. We hope to see you there!

Summer Refreshment Time Returns This May

The much-enjoyed refreshment time (formerly called Coffee Hour) after both services will start on Sunday, May 21, and run through September. This time is an informal opportunity for the fellowship we all enjoy – and it is an important way we as a church and as individuals connect with visitors, new members, and our parish family.

The Welcome Ministry at St. John needs folks who will help continue this important tradition. Hosting refreshment time is easy! Almost all the items needed are stored in cabinets at the church. You provide a beverage and a snack. Detailed instructions are provided. Won't you please volunteer for just one Sunday this year? Your help is needed and valued.

Contact Judy Petersen at jpsewnsew@aol.com or 828-697-1967 to sign up or for more information.

Greeters Needed for Sunday Services

Can You Offer a Warm Smile and Welcoming Hand?

The Welcome Ministry is seeking greeters for both the 8:45 and 11:00am services, *particularly the latter*. When newcomers arrive at the entrance of the church on Sunday morning, they may have recently moved to the area, grieving from the loss of a loved one, seeking a new spiritual home in a denomination they are not familiar with, or needing a community to support them as they struggle with a troubling situation. Whatever brings them to our doors, a personal and warm welcome can make them glad they came and show that our church may be the spiritual home they are seeking. It doesn't take any training to be a greeter—just a desire to be friendly and to share with others the wonderful sense of fellowship we have at St. John. Greeters are scheduled for one Sunday a month. Please consider serving our church in this way. Contact Betsy Tibbs at crhert1066@morrisbb.net or 828-329-6952.

Holy Hike at Rainbow Falls

April 11

Hikers had great weather and fellowship during the April Holy Hike to Rainbow Falls in Jones Gap State Park. The wildflowers were at their finest, and the prior week's rains allowed the Middle Fork of the Saluda River to exhibit grand rapids and waterfalls. Many thanks to Jim Olson for leading the hike and the liturgy!



Join Us on Our Next Hike!

Sunday, May 21, at 2:00pm

This Holy Hike to Stone Mountain in DuPont State Forest is scheduled on a Sunday to allow those who work or attend school during the week to join us. More information is forthcoming at www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.

THE BAZAAR



The Bazaar Is This Month! Saturday, May 20, 8:30am to 1:00pm

The ECW Bazaar will take place in the Parish Hall and on the church grounds on Saturday, May 20, from 8:30am to 1:00pm. Fine items, artwork, jewelry, glassware, furniture, linens, silver, plants, and more will highlight the fundraiser, with proceeds assisting local charities involving women, children, and families.

Early bird shoppers are welcome at 7:30am with a \$10 entry fee. There is no fee to shop at the Bazaar between 8:30am and 1:00pm.

The last day to donate smaller items for the Bazaar is Saturday, May 6, from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the Mission House. Furniture will be accepted in the Wilderness Room Monday, May 15, through Friday, May 19, during office hours (9:00am to 4:00pm). Plants will be accepted on the 19th as well.

For more information on the Bazaar, call the Parish Office at 828-693-9783, or visit www.stjohnflatrock.org.



Still in box!



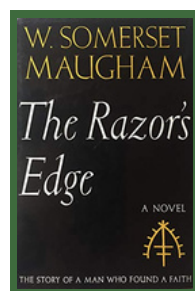
Comes with miniature furniture!



Instructions included!

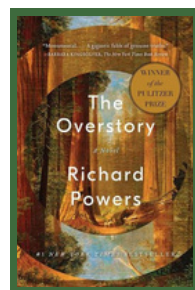
Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays (except January) at 10:00am in the Parish Library



May 5: *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham

Larry Darrell is a young American in search of the absolute. The progress of this spiritual odyssey involves him with some of Maugham's most brilliant characters—his fiancée Isabel, whose choice between love and wealth has lifelong repercussions, and Elliot Templeton, her uncle, a classic expatriate American snob. The most ambitious of Maugham's novels, this is also one in which the author plays a considerable part as he wanders in and out of the story to observe his characters struggling with their fates.



June 2: *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

Powers is devious in that he first immerses the reader in the lives of his characters before delicately oxygenating his story with the devastation of Dutch elm disease, the enduring strength of the sequoia, and the communication methods trees use to warn of predators and to lure allies. This gorgeously written novel will seduce you into looking more closely at not only our fellow human beings, but also the towering bio-kingdom that is too often merely a backdrop to our days.

Churchyard Chatter: Spring Joy in the Churchyard

Luann Ham, Historic Churchyard Committee Member

Surrounding the church of St. John in the Wilderness, the historic churchyard’s springtime blossoms touch our hearts with their beauty and grace. Beginning in March, spring-blooming flora such as dogwood, azalea, rhododendron, laurel, daffodil, and trillium engage our senses and express God’s tenderness.

Over the years, Churchyard Committee member and gardener, David Dethero, has beautified and nurtured St. John’s sacred grounds by planting trees, shrubs, and flowers. I toured the cemetery with David recently. I thought I knew trees. Pointing out various spring flowering trees, David has also planted unique varieties, like a stately evergreen, the Japanese umbrella pine tree, growing in the portion of the cemetery where people who were enslaved are interred. Over 10 years ago, David accepted the donation of the pine by Raymond’s Nursery, and is pleased with how well it has grown. More unique plantings around the churchyard include Carolina silverbells, shag-bark maples, two yellow tulip magnolias, bottle brush buckeyes, and numerous Japanese maples with various names, including a dancing peacock maple. Yes, a good tree to search for in the newer tiered section of the cemetery.

David came to St. John in 1971. In the years that followed, the late Carlton Sears recognized a need for churchyard care. Setting up a trust that still generates funds today, Sears enlisted David to help manage the “wilderness” in our name. The late Laurie Schenck then joined David in obtaining and organizing the plantings. As time went on, David became more and more drawn into churchyard service. Sometime during the late 1980s or early 1990s, Drayton Hastie from the Magnolia Plantation family in Charleston gave the churchyard \$25,000, which was then matched by the church under the Rev. Richard Sheffer, who served at St. John from 1988 to 1998. These funds made it possible to build the “stairway to heaven.” The steps lead from the lower parking lot up the side of the portion where people who were enslaved are buried, to the Carriage Entrance. Another present-day churchyard committee member, Malcolm McCormick, added his design and engineering expertise to the newer cemetery section, Memorial Garden, rock walls, and the Columbarium that we see today.



Yellow Tulip Magnolia, looking like an angel



Japanese Umbrella Pine

Thanks to this nurturing through the years, St. John’s wilderness blooms in joyous color in the spring. The Historic Churchyard Committee welcomes you to wander around our sacred cemetery grounds.

Good News Gardeners

Tuesday, May 23, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Foster Educational Garden at Kanuga

If you enjoy “playing in the dirt” with others, we invite you to join us at our next “Good News Gardeners” workday on Tuesday, May 23, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Foster Educational Garden at Kanuga. Supplies and tools will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your favorite gloves or tools, or a friend! Afterward, you can enjoy lunch at a discounted rate in the conference center, or bring a picnic lunch to enjoy the weather.

Questions? Please contact Kathryn Whitten at kaymwhitten@gmail.com or Carrie Byars at carribyars08@gmail.com.

Please sign up at bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners to register. More information, including directions and parking instructions, is available at www.stjohnflatrock.org/good-news-gardeners.

Join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in Baltimore this summer as Episcopalians nationwide gather for a conference of renewal and revival. Be sure to let the Parish Office know if you plan to attend! Learn more and sign up at www.iam.ec/allaboutlove.

May BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jim Olson
- 1 Mary Pharr
- 2 Peg Van Bergen
- 3 Charles Cornwell
- 4 Stan Rogan
- 6 Kathy Limmiatis
- 7 Jerry Tanner
- 8 Danielle Pharr
- 9 Joey Saltz
- 9 Dorothy Trotter
- 10 Virginia Rehn
- 11 Ann Kanipe
- 11 Thomas Pickral
- 12 Eduard Wiescholak
- 13 Sandy Harris
- 13 Dottie Dalzell
- 13 Sally Books
- 14 Lauren Kanipe
- 15 Bonni Spry
- 16 Fred Lasswell
- 17 Wilder Stephens
- 17 Elaine Hull
- 17 Joe Rome
- 20 Joanie Covell
- 21 Robert Odean
- 22 Sandy Rex
- 23 Joan Odean
- 24 Gordon Smith
- 24 Suess Gunter
- 25 Jennifer Hudgens
- 26 John Ogletree
- 28 Lois Karcher
- 30 Anne McCormick
- 31 Beverly Creely

Friends of Music Presents: David Weigel, Bass-Baritone Sunday, May 21, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall



David Weigel

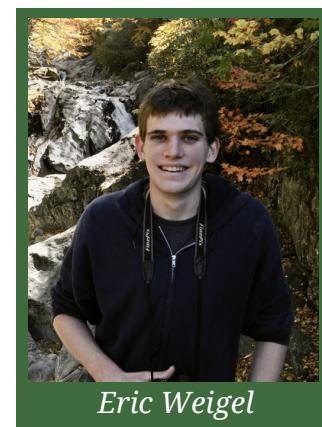
Join us on Sunday, May 21, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall for a concert featuring a promising young singer, David Weigel, bass-baritone, and pianist Dewitt Tipton. This recital, while free and open to the public, is a benefit for the Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund at the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

David Weigel has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “heroic” and “stentorian” possessing an “imposing mahogany voice” (*Opera News*). He is a recent graduate of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. On May 21, Mr. Weigel will perform art songs in several languages, opera arias, and some well-known music theatre selections.

A native of Asheville, Mr. Weigel holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Furman University. He pursued graduate studies at UNC-Greensboro, A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at the UNC School of the Arts, and Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Michigan.

“We are thrilled to present Mr. Weigel in concert and recognize that he is destined for a significant career,” said Dewitt Tipton, Organist, Director of Music for St. John in the Wilderness, and creator of Friends of Music. “We are also pleased to be able to offer this event as a way to contribute to his brother’s Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.”

The Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Fund was created in 2014 by Eric’s parents, Jayne Anderson and Larry Weigel, and Eric’s brother David. Eric was an extraordinary young man: a scholar, a musician, an athlete, a community volunteer, a nature lover, and an adventurer. He was known for his humor, humility, kindness, gratitude, and compassion. Eric graduated magna cum laude from Furman University in 2013 with a degree in chemistry and a plan to attend medical school. On a celebratory camping trip with friends after graduation, Eric tragically died in a kayaking accident. With forever broken hearts, Jayne, Larry, and David established the Memorial Fund to keep their beloved Eric’s spirit of kindness and giving present in a world without his physical presence. Eric firmly believed and often said that “we all have a responsibility to help people in need, animals, and the environment.” The focus of Eric’s grants have been music and nature opportunities for youth, health care, literacy, animal/wildlife rehab, and scholarships for Furman students in financial need.



Eric Weigel

“We cannot adequately express how much we appreciate this effort. It touches our hearts deeply, and we are so grateful to you all,” said Larry Weigel.

Donations are encouraged. Checks should be made out to St. John in the Wilderness with “Eric Weigel Memorial Fund” in the memo line.



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.

Wild Wonder: Creation Care Camp for Kids

Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16, 9:00am to 12:00pm

It's almost time for Wild Wonder, the Creation Care Camp that keeps our youth engaged and safe while encouraging ecological awareness and habitat improvement.

An alternative to traditional Vacation Bible School, Wild Wonder: Creation Care Camp is free of charge and will be offered Monday, June 12 to Friday, June 16, from 9:00am to noon. The program is held on the grounds of St. John for children ages 4 through 10.



Campers will study nature through science experiments, crafts, games, and conservation activities as they learn about the wild, wonderful world God created.

For more information or to register for Wild Wonder, visit www.stjohnflatrock.org/wild-wonder, or call the Parish Office at 828-693-9783.

Louisa's Legacy

Lori Griswold, Lay Eucharistic Visitor

“When was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the King will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”—Mark 25:39-40 NRSV

One of the best perks of marrying Tom Griswold was getting Louisa Jane Thomas Griswold as my mother-in-law.

Louisa was warm and easygoing, and deeply committed to her faith, her church, and her family. Over six decades, she and her husband George served in almost every lay leadership capacity, from chairing the Board of Stewards to teaching Sunday School to singing in the choir. They were tied to their church by many friendships and faithful financial stewardship. Louisa and George raised their five children to be churchgoers, involved in many activities such as Methodist Youth Fellowship and youth choir.

In the last year of her life, Louisa became bedridden and needed around-the-clock care. Although her body was failing, her mind remained sharp. She died three days before her 90th birthday.

Would you like to know how many visits the church clergy and lay people made to Louisa during that last year, either to bring her communion or just to visit and chat about church events?

Zero.

Unbelievably, this delightful and generous person was abandoned when she could no longer physically show up to church.

Louisa was a lifelong Methodist, and a busy member of her congregation since she was a young bride.

The May Altar Flowers Are Given In Loving Memory Of:

May 7

Jim and Fran MacDonald

by

Susan, James, and Inna

May 14

Robert and Jeanne Littlefield

by

Their loving sons, Robert, Richard, and Donald

May 28

All Military Personnel Who Died in Service to Our Country

Louisa's experience was one reason I volunteered to become a Eucharistic Visitor. When members become frail or for whatever reason cannot attend services, our call as followers of Christ is to help keep their connection to His church alive. Often, people are most in need of fellowship with Christ's church and his people when they are unable to come. We must not let them be forgotten.

We are looking for more volunteers for the Homebound Ministries, which includes Eucharistic Visitors and Pastoral Visitors. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Stephen Askew at 307-399-4412 or Patricia Tanzer Askew at 307-275-2733.

Flat Rock, NC 28731
PO Box 185
**St. John in the
Wilderness**
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Ian Williams
Curate

The Rev. Dea. 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

Vestry

John Barker
Senior Warden

Will Rodriguez
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

Elizabeth Christenbury, Lynn
Wiescholek, E.R. Haire, Jr., Clint
Adams, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders,
Jennifer Shelton, Laura Teel, Patrice
German, and Jerry Holt

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45am - Rite II Eucharist (in person)

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

**Services are live-streamed to Facebook on a rotating schedule.*

**St. John uses Rite I liturgies during Advent and Lent 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 Atrium Chapel

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.

828-693-9783

www.stjohnflatrock.org

officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

