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Deadline for The Voice is the 15th of each month.

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

THE VOICE



January 2022

From the Rector's Desk

“Put it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine!”

It’s not a Christmas carol, but I hope you are now humming “This Little Light of Mine.” As you receive this edition of *The Voice*, it will likely still be Christmastide. (Yes, this is a friendly reminder that there are twelve days to this season.) We will also be preparing to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6 when the Wise Men arrive.

We had not scheduled anything special for Epiphany. Many churches simply move it to the following Sunday thereby ignoring the Book of Common Prayer and displacing the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. As I stared at my calendar the blankness of January 6 stared back at me until finally I caved. “Put it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine!”

We will hold a simple but celebratory Epiphany Eucharist in the new Parish Hall on Thursday, January 6, at noon. We will use the altar from our Atrium Chapel which is made from lumber from the trees removed during the Parish Hall’s construction and we will take a moment to bless the altar frontals that Judy Petersen made for us when we worshiped with this altar each week outside in the parking lot in 2020.

These frontals are one of many examples of how St. John in the Wilderness refuses to put the light of Christ under a bushel. This Christmas, we have experienced the gift of God with us – a gift that has never gone away. In Epiphany, we realize we must share that light with one another and our world. We realize we must let him shine. Christ does shine brightly in this place through the love that we share with one another and beyond. I’m looking forward to shining that light with you in 2022 as we do things like bless our Shed so it might help us raise funds for those in need, gather for pancake suppers and potlucks, and hike in these mountains carrying that light with us as we are further illuminated by the Divine spark in Creation.

A Merry Christmas to you and a bright Epiphany, also. “Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.”

-- Fr. Josh Stephens

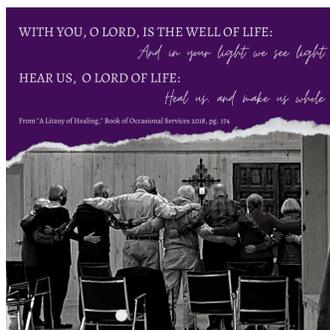
Greening of the Graves for Christmas



Parishioners of all ages gathered during Formation Hour on a chilly Sunday morning in December to green the graves of slaves and freedmen buried in our historic churchyard. This annual tradition is a favorite of the Youth, who prepare the sprays and greenery to honor those who came before us.

Service of Healing with Holy Eucharist

A Service of Healing with Holy Eucharist is held every Wednesday at 10:30am in the Wilderness Room. Come, be nourished, and heal.



Celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord at St. John

January 6 at 12pm in the Atrium Chapel



Join us for a Rite II Eucharist to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Atrium Chapel. Pictured is the Advent altar hanging, which will be removed to make way

for the new hangings made by Judy Petersen. We will bless the new altar frontals at this service.

Formation Resumes January 9 Sundays at 10 AM



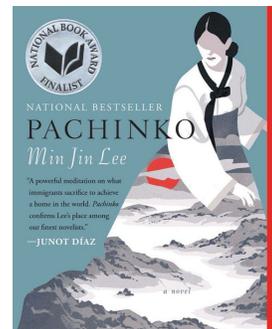
Sunday Formation will resume on January 9. Between the services, adults and high schoolers are invited to join in Formation in the Wilderness Room, and younger parishioners are encouraged to attend in the Sunday School Room, located across from the Nursery in the Parish House. All are welcome to learn, discuss, and contemplate.

Readers in the Wilderness First Fridays at 10am

Readers in the Wilderness meets on the first Friday of every month (except January!) at 10am in the Library.

February 4: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Pachinko is an epic historical fiction novel following a Korean family who eventually immigrates to Japan. The character-driven tale features a large ensemble of characters who become subjected to issues of racism and stereotypes, among other events with historical origins in the 20th-century Korean experiences with Japan.



March 4th: *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.

Connecting with Neighbors



We enjoyed welcoming a group from the Heritage Hills Community in late November to tour our historic church. We are blessed to have a campus that offers a peaceful space for contemplation and solitude, and we love sharing these gifts with our neighbors.

An Open House and Blessing of the Shed

Sunday, January 23 at 2pm



The Shed of St. John has undergone a huge facelift! This important structure serves as storage for our sanctuary holiday supplies, Flower Guild décor, Empty Bowls, ECW items, and so much more. Much appreciation to Jerry Tanner, our former Junior Warden, and Gibson Sims, our current Junior Warden and Project Manager of the renovation efforts.

We will hold an Open House in January to admire the Shed's new, clean look, with Father Josh offering a Blessing Ceremony at 2:30pm. Plan to stop by and help us celebrate the accomplishment of this project.

Successful Annual Meeting and Parish Breakfast Wrapped Up 2021

Our Annual Meeting on December 5 was a huge success, with a high intergenerational turnout. We gathered safely in the beautiful Parish Hall, where the Chefs of St. John served a magnificent meal of bacon, eggs, pancakes, and other delicious food. The excitement of being together in person could be felt throughout the room as people laughed and caught up before the meeting was called to order. The Annual Report (now available at stjohnflatrock.org/annualreport) was passed out for parishioners to review the church's many ministries and read a few reflections on the accomplishments of St. John in the Wilderness in 2021.



Fr. Josh kicked off the meeting with a devotional, then we launched into the business. We heard from Susan MacDonald, who gave the Finance Report and presented the 2022 budget, Jennifer Shelton, who introduced our new Vestry members, and Robin Howe, who presented the new Endowment Trustees. Fr. Josh adjourned the meeting after giving his reflections on the past year. Then he, along with the regular 11:00 folks, scurried across the street for the morning's second service while those who had already been to church enjoyed more time for food and fellowship.



The Chefs of St. John are already planning Parish Breakfasts for 2022, so mark your calendar for the following dates! More details to follow.

2022 Parish Breakfast Dates

February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 1, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4

January Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of:

January 2

Jack Day
by *Carolyn Day*

January 9

Sara Henderson McCandless
and Edward McCandless
by *their sons, Richard and John*

January 16

Our parents
Johann & Cicilia Wiescholek
and Lyle & Arlene Ribley
by *Eduard & Lynn Wiescholek*

January 23

Katherine Clinton Bissell,
Sara and Hardee Butler,
Margaret Bissell,
and Hardee C. Bissell
by *their family*

January 30

Roderick Bryan Smith
by *his wife, Martha*

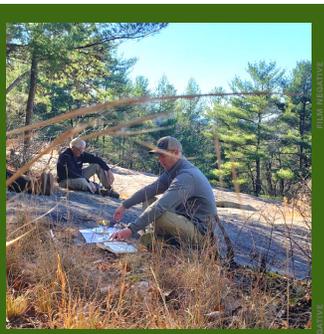
From the Flower Guild:

Thank you so very much for making possible the floral decorations for our beloved St. John in the Wilderness all year! Please remember to confirm your memorials for 2022 with Gaston Motes (gtmotes01@gmail.com or 828-243-9091). We invite new memorials as well.



Holy Hikes of WNC had a Sacramental Adventure at the Carl Sandburg Home

About 20 hikers – parishioners and neighbors – joined in a Holy Hike at the Carl Sandburg National Park Site on December 14. For this hike, we tried something different. We held a Eucharist service as we went up to the top of Big Glassy Mountain. We began with the opening acclamation and Collect for Purity before setting out from the parking lot. Two dogs prayed with us. As we hiked up, we took time for readings and prayers. We celebrated the Feast of St. John of the Cross and learned much about this 16th century mystic and writer. At the very top, we celebrated Holy Communion with the mountains in the background. It was a divine, 65-degree December day. As we ate and drank of the Lord, we experienced God in the beauty of Creation and the fellowship of Christ's Church. The hike down was fun and fast before we were dismissed from the parking lot to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."



Thank you, Angels!

Our year of Angel Tree giving has been a huge success. We have provided gifts for 75 children in Henderson County, who attend three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In addition to these children, we also provided \$25 gift cards to the parents of the Adolescent Parenting Program (APP) at the Community and Family Resource Center. Plus, we have given scholarships to at least 6 participants in the APP. Although it is impossible to know how much was spent on each child, even a conservative estimate, along with the donations to the APP, our total giving is at least \$12,700. I'm confident we have truly been a blessing to those in our community in need this holiday season.

A special thanks to Kevin (what would we do without him?!) and Debby Staton who generously loaned her truck to assist in buying and hauling bikes. And to all the volunteers who showed up on December 5th to sort and bag the gifts. We couldn't have done it without you!

--Betsy Tibbs



A Luncheon Celebrating Our Clergy and Staff

On December 15, the Vestry hosted a luncheon in the Parish Hall to honor the clergy and staff of St. John in the Wilderness. Honorees were told to sit at a place with a lit candle to celebrate the light they bring to the church.

Everyone was treated to a delicious meal prepared by Lynn Wiescholek and served by other Vestry members. After salad, each staff member was honored individually, with kind words said by Lynn, Elizabeth Christenbury, and Senior Warden Jennifer Shelton. Full- and part-time staff were included, and it was lovely to see everyone in the same room at the same time, especially Miguel Hernandez, who works in the historic churchyard, and Olga Escobar

and Martha Castro, who have seen many of the children of this church grow from toddlers to teens in their time here in the Nursery on Sunday mornings. We were sad that Eric Hunt, Assistant Sexton, couldn't make it, but he was honored nonetheless. The Vestry also recognized new members and a few hardworking volunteers who some might consider "unpaid" staff: Tom Griswold, Treasurer, and Margaret Barker, Clerk to the Vestry. Tom and Margaret have both been instrumental behind the scenes of the church, Tom by heading the Finance Committee and working closely with Stacy Knapp, our Parish Financial Assistant, and Margaret by documenting Vestry meetings as an impartial witness—a task that is very hard to do when you're a parishioner!

During dessert, clergy and staff were entertained by the Vestry's rendition of "Silent Night." Their voices filled the Parish Hall, and by the third verse, the spirit had moved through the room, with everyone singing along.

Thank you, Lynn, for organizing this wonderful chance for us to gather and relish in our St. John family, and thank you to those who answered Lynn's call for assistance in pulling the luncheon together. It was truly a delight to all who attended.



A Message from the Director of Music



Dr. Laura Thiel



Dr. Howard Bakken

Happy New Year to one and all!

I wanted to let you know how grateful and thankful I am for your marvelous support of music at St. John in the Wilderness. It is indeed a special place and space to worship God. We owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Parish Choir who, week after week, give of themselves with love and dedication to lead you in praise of Him who gives us voice to sing. Thanks be to God!!

Your Vestry has granted me a sabbatical from my duties for the months of January and February. In my stead, Dr. Laura Thiel and Dr. Howard Bakken will serve as supply musicians. Dr. Thiel is new to the Parish with her husband, Doug. (Both are singing in the choir.) Her degree is in Piano Pedagogy. Dr. Bakken has retired to Hendersonville, but is quite active as a supply organist throughout Western NC. His degrees are from Yale University and my Alma Mater, the University of Illinois. I deeply appreciate their service, the Vestry's graciousness, and the opportunity to have a breather after 8½ years of Sundays.

I will return on the First Sunday of Lent to prepare our festival Easter music and for the rest of the year.

Again, Happy 2022, may it be one of renewal and growth for everyone at St. John in the Wilderness.

Love and blessings,
Dewitt Tipton

St. John's Partner in Edneyville Makes a Big Holiday Impact, and You're Invited

Season's Greetings! I hope this article finds you happy and healthy. I am a regular volunteer at the Edneyville Community Food Pantry and wanted to share my experience.

I have served on the SJW Outreach Committee for approximately 4 years. Several years ago, the Committee was the recipient of additional funds, and we were tasked with finding local agencies to support financially. A former parishioner and I went to visit the Edneyville Community Food Pantry and Calvary Episcopal's Food Pantry to assess their possible needs

for financial support. Both facilities were equally impressive in their mission and commitment to their communities, but it was clear to us that Edneyville had neither the funding nor the volunteer base that Calvary did. We decided to financially support Edneyville's Food Pantry. Despite the difference in funding and volunteer base, Edneyville often serves as many, if not more, clients than Calvary. We were frankly amazed at the difference between the two facilities and that they feed the same number of families. Edneyville Community Food Pantry serves an average of 100-150 families per week, with an all-time high of 211 families this past Thanksgiving.

It was amazing to see, both heart-wrenching and heartwarming at the same time. There is a constant need for volunteers. The schedule of weekly events at the Food Pantry is as follows:

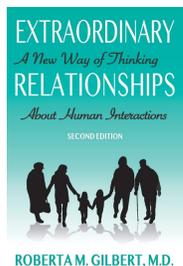
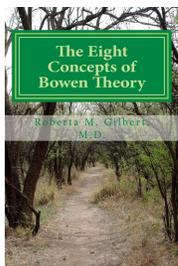
- On Wednesdays they pick up their food order from Manna in Asheville, which consists of several thousand pounds of food, both fresh and dry/canned. They bring the food back to the food pantry to unload and shelve. On Wednesday evenings for an hour or two, another team of volunteers packs boxes of food for distribution.
- Thursdays beginning at 2:30, another team of volunteers distributes the packed boxes of food, as well as fresh eggs, frozen meat, milk, and fresh produce, when it is available.

Once distribution has occurred, another team of people cleans and restocks the pantry to prepare for the following week. I have been on the cleanup/restocking crew for the last couple of years. I also had the opportunity to participate in the Thanksgiving week food distribution this year. We handed out turkeys, dressing, and assortment of holiday food, in addition to the regular weekly disbursement of food. It was such a festive atmosphere, and you could sense the anticipation of the volunteers and clients alike for the start of the holiday season. The clients are forever grateful for the friendship, encouragement, and of course, the food. I cannot speak highly enough of this little grassroots organization that so greatly supports the Edneyville community. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We would love to have you!

Beth Melton, 828-577-3079



The Parish Library Adds New Volumes on Bowen Family Systems Theory



by Fr. Josh Stephens

St. John is blessed to have a Parish Library. It is a great space to find some quietness to read and it is often used for ministry meetings as well. If you are a lover of books or learning, you will find a familiar and welcoming feel in our library. I am excited to add some volumes to the Library over time that I believe will be good resources for the people of St. John. (At the moment, the Library does not have a “check-out” system, so readers are encouraged to find a comfy place to read on site.)

This month I would like to highlight two books by Roberta M. Gilbert, M.D.. Dr. Gilbert is an expert in what is often called “Bowen Family Systems Theory” or simply “Family Systems Theory.” Developed by the work of psychiatrist Murray Bowen with the National Institute of Health in the 1950s, Family Systems Theory seeks to better understand how individuals function in a series of interlocked relationships, such as a family, workplace, or church. The theory was later developed further by Rabbi Ed Friedman.

Many psychological theories center around the individual and the issues or gifts of each person. Family Systems Theory seeks to look at the system of relationships as a whole and how anxiety moves from person to person within a system. Central to the theory is the premise that one learns how to function from one’s family of origin and functioning in all of life’s relationships – for better and for worse – is shaped by these early familial patterns. If someone becomes motivated to better understand how they are functioning and how they fit into their family systems, that person can often achieve a level of “self-differentiation” that relieves anxiety in the system. Self-differentiation is a process towards emotional maturity in which one learns to remain an individual with one’s own thoughts and feelings without having to be reactive or subject to the anxiety of one’s family, church, nation, or world.

If you would like to learn more about Family Systems Theory then stop by the library and check out Roberta Gilbert’s *The Eight Concepts of Bowen Theory* or *Extraordinary Relationships: A New Way of Thinking about Human Interactions*. Or, you may enjoy one of the other new books on this subject found there. Other titles in this section include:

Growing Yourself Up by Jenny Brown
A Failure of Nerve by Edwin H. Friedman
Generation to Generation by Edwin H. Friedman
Bowen Theory Secrets by Michael Kerr

10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Teenager by Israel Galindo
10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Child by Israel Galindo
A Family Genogram Workbook
 by Israel Galindo, Elaine Boomer, and Don Reagan
Everything Isn’t Terrible by Kathleen Smith

Ushers Needed for Sunday Services

Ushers shape the worship experience of visitors and parishioners by (1) helping to establish a warm and welcoming environment for worship; (2) providing a friendly first impression of our parish family to visitors; and (3) assisting in the smooth operation of the service. Currently, there are seven ushers and one substitute for the 8:45am Sunday service and seven ushers and one substitute for the 11am service. In most instances, they are asked to usher on Sundays once a month. They may, however, also be asked to usher at special services, such as for holidays and funerals.

Right now, ushers and substitute ushers are needed for all services. Training is provided along with written guidelines. Contact Bettie Orr at (828) 808-9820 or bettieworr@gmail.com if you wish to join this dedicated group of servants of God.

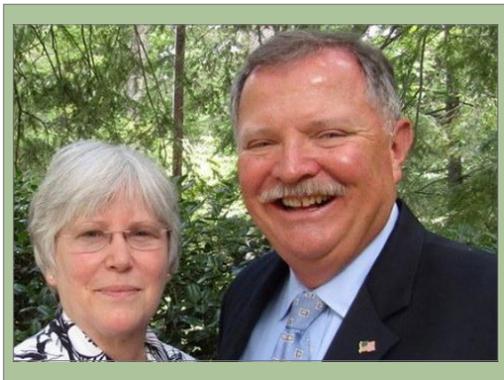


- 1 Howard Highsmith
- 1 Jane Sherrill
- 3 John LeGault, Jr.
- 4 Ingrid Heegaard
- 4 Sandy Schenck
- 5 Tom Savage
- 7 Susan MacDonald
- 9 Joan Brendle
- 10 Malcolm Allen
- 16 Melanie Pace
- 16 Rhett Kanipe, Jr.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 18 JoAnn Ebbs | 26 Faith Baker |
| 18 Nancy Dobson | 26 Lynn Redmond |
| 19 Mary Alice McCarty | 29 Mary Stroman |
| 19 Kristie Ogletree | |
| 19 Victoria Flanagan | |
| 22 Judi Bettendorf | |
| 25 Dean Wheless | |
| 25 Helena Wheless | |

Meet the Vestry Class of 2024



Will Rodriguez

Will and his wife, Allet, have been members of the Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness since June 2014. He is currently a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Reader, and a member of the Choir. His "Episcopal roots" go back to his great grandfather, Primitivo Rodriguez, who was an Episcopal Priest in Clarksville, Tennessee. Further, Will spent his last two years of high school at Sewanee Academy in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is a 1977 Graduate of The Citadel and a 1984 Graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School. After spending 32 years in the Navy driving ships and working in the field of computer and communication engineering, he retired from the Navy in 2008 as a Rear Admiral. Will and his wife moved to Flat Rock from San Diego, CA in June 2014, and they have enjoyed the beauty of this mountain community. Since retiring from the Navy, Will has served in a number of leadership positions including CEO, San Ysidro (CA) Education Vanguard Foundation; National President of the Association of Naval Services Officers; board member of the Hispanic Veterans Leadership Alliance; Trusted Advisor for the Chief of Naval Personnel and the Chief of Naval Operations; Vocational Solutions Board of Directors here in Flat Rock; and as an Executive Consultant for Suss Consulting. Not only does he sing in our choir, but you will also find him singing with the show chorus of the Flat Rock Playhouse.

"I am deeply honored to be called to the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness, and I will endeavor to do my utmost to serve God, our wonderful congregation, and the ministries that we offer, our community at-large and our church."



Earle Ross (E.R.) Haire, Jr., PhD.

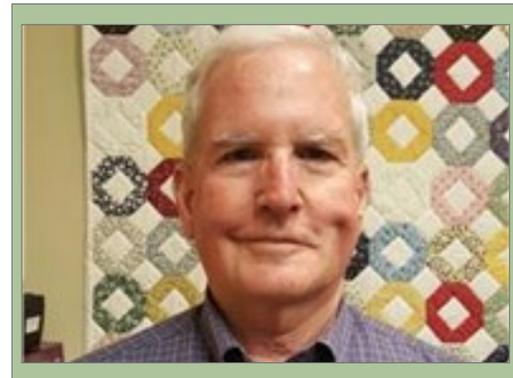
E.R. is a native of North Carolina. His professional achievements combine acting and theology. In Los Angeles, he worked as an actor and at Paramount Studios. Haire earned a Master of Divinity at Duke University and a Master of Sacred Theology from Yale University Divinity School, focusing on drama and worship. In 2017, he earned a PhD. in Theology and Ethics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. After doing some teaching in Edinburgh, he returned home in May 2018 and has been very active in church affairs serving as Lay Reader, part-time Acolyte, part-time usher, and occasional preacher. He teaches the men's Bible study and serves on the Christian Formation Committee, as well as being Chair of the newly resurrected Docent Committee and the Chefs of St. John. E.R. has served on the Vestry, presented lectures on Advent and Lent and, on occasion, leads Christian Formation.



Kim Sanders

Kim joined St. John in the Wilderness in 2017 with her husband Marlin. Due to his job transfers, they lived in eight different states before retiring to Flat Rock. Kim and Marlin both knew they wanted to live in the mountains. Kim had attended church camp at Kanuga as a child and had many happy memories of this beautiful area.

Kim's working life has varied, from administrative positions, to human resources, to textile conservation, to teaching hand embroidery. The best part of every job was the people she worked with. Since attending St. John, Kim has participated in Needlework Ministry, served with the Funeral Reception Ministry, worked on the ECW May Market, and served on the Stewardship Committee. Something she finds very special about our parish is no matter what one's skills and experience, St. John offers an opportunity to use those skills. She hopes that by serving on the Vestry she can be more deeply involved and will be able to make a greater contribution to our parish.



Clint Adams, Captain US Navy (Ret.)

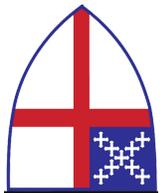
Born in Bethesda Naval Hospital November 1947, Clint spent his growing-up years moving back and forth between Groton, CT and Pearl Harbor, HI as the son of a career submariner. Following a year at the University of the South, he entered the Naval Academy in June 1966 and graduated in June 1970. Three days later, Clint married his wife, Joanne, and they set out on their long journey together starting in Charleston, SC. From there, they traveled to various parts of the country, but mostly San Diego, where three of their four kids were born. Following retirement in 1995, Clint worked for ITT Industries at their Night Vision Division. In 2004, he joined a consulting company and worked with many different industries helping to implement their Lean Six Sigma Program. After really retiring in 2013, Clint and Joanne have spent time traveling visiting family and friends. They moved to Hendersonville in early 2019, moving Joanne into a memory care facility to be near family and friends. Clint has been with St. John since then, and he enjoys time as an usher and member of Backpackers and the Chefs of St. John. He is also in training as a Eucharistic Visitor. Clint enjoys reading, hiking, beach time, and spoiling his 11 grandkids.



Marisa Pharr

Marisa and her husband Yates have been members of the St. John of the Wilderness family for about seven years after transferring from All Souls in Biltmore Village, Asheville. They have five daughters and live in the Green River Valley area as owners and directors of Falling Creek Camp, a residential boys' summer camp. Marisa enjoys being part of the activities and fellowship of this church community: helping with coffee hour, meals ministry, and supporting their youngest acolyte daughters. Marisa would be honored, if provided the opportunity, to serve on Vestry.

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

*Vestry minutes are available
on the website:
www.stjohnflatrock.org*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (In person & livestreamed)

11:00 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (In person)

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer (Live streamed)

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Healing Service (in the Wilderness Room)

4:30 p.m. 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.

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