



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
**St. John in the Wilderness**

# THE VOICE

October 2023

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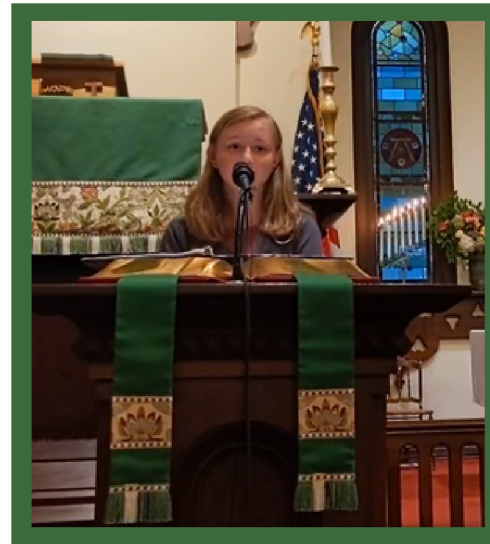
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## From the Curate's Desk

*Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 827)*

In this season of harvest, I feel it is appropriate to honor God for the abundance we have been given this year, so here it goes: At our home, we had gigantic blackberries and juicy blueberries that produced fruit for almost three months! We made enough jams and jellies to last the rest of the year, and we had more than enough to share with our friends and neighbors. Thank you, God, for such a gift! It is also important to recognize our call to be faithful servants of God's bounty. For our family, this will include a substantial amount of mulching, some pruning, and the creation of windbreaks if we have a particularly cold winter. This takes time, work, money, and planning. But, oh my goodness, those berries were delicious this year, let's do more of that!

On Sunday, September 18, I was moved by the words of the always thoughtful and committed high schooler, Danielle Pharr. Danielle is a person whom I have come to very much honor and respect in the almost year and a half that I have served at St. John. Danielle is a pledging member, and she gave a powerful message about what being a Christian and a member here has meant to her. She spoke about being Confirmed as an Episcopalian, the sense of community that comes with making this informed commitment to her faith, and the abundant opportunities to learn about and grow in her faith here at St. John in the Wilderness. Danielle has made a financial commitment to give what she can to support the mission of St. John, and she invited all of us to recognize that the abundance of opportunities and blessings that we encounter go hand-in-hand with our call to practice meaningful, intentional stewardship of God's gifts.



As we move through this agricultural season of harvest, we are also called to recognize the seasons of harvest throughout our lives and in the life of the Church. In the past year at St. John in the Wilderness, we have added dozens of new members, baptized and received others, hosted nearly 75 children for Creation Care Camp, and listened to stories and music together with the "Friends of Music" series. We hiked, gardened, and blessed animals together. We packed thousands of meals for refugees across the world and hungry children right here in Henderson County. We ate, danced, laughed, and cried together. We have buried beloved members of our community and visited those in need of comfort and care. I got to marry a 93- and 92-year-old! We have worshiped and taken communion together, and all of this to the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

We will continue to do these things and more. For example, I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Fellowship Festival at Kanuga on October 15! (See page 2 for more details.)

These experiences and blessings are fruits of God's bounty, and they all require us to be faithful stewards of God's gifts. While we celebrate and enjoy the abundant harvest of the past year, I hope that we, as wise, faithful, and prudent stewards see that at St. John we are "Growing by Sharing God's Gifts." Thank you for prayerfully offering what you can to support the mission of St. John in the Wilderness.

To the Glory of God,  
**Fr. Ian Williams**

## Growing by Sharing God's Gifts

As of the end of September, we have received 82 pledges towards our goal of 175. See page 5 for more details.

**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.

**RSVP by Thursday, October 5:  
Fall Fellowship Festival & Ingathering**  
Sunday, October 15  
471 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville  
Ingathering Eucharists:

8:45am at St. John / 11:00am at Kanuga

Fall Fellowship Festival:

12:30 to 5:00pm at Kanuga



Fall Fellowship Festival, 2022

Don & Lynne Stine, Tom Vellanti

You're invited! Register now for our 2023 Fall Fellowship Festival and Ingathering, to be held on Sunday, October 15. On this celebratory day, we will bless all of the pledges and United Thank Offering Blue Boxes.

On October 15, we will have our 8:45am service at St. John as usual. The 11:00am service will be at Kanuga, where, weather permitting, we will gather at the Lakeside Chapel for a service of Eucharist surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. After the 11:00am service, our Fall Fellowship Festival begins! Join us at Kanuga for a grand time with live music, hamburgers and hot dogs, face-painting, yard games, canoeing, and more.

The cost for this event is \$8/person or \$20/family of three or more. We will have tables and chairs for lunch, but you may want to bring a camping chair or blanket to sit on, also. Parking is available nearby for those with mobility issues.

Visit [www.stjohnflatrock.org/fff](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/fff) for a full schedule of the day, a map of the property, and a link to the registration site. **Please RSVP by Thursday, October 5. Registration ahead of time is required for this event so that we can give Kanuga a headcount.** Registration and payment are not required if you only plan to attend the Eucharist.

We hope to see you there! Reach out to the Parish Office with any questions.

**Join Us for a Parish Breakfast**  
Sunday, October 1, 9:30 to 10:30am,  
In the Parish Hall

Join us for another Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John. They will be serving bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, French toast, ham, and juice/coffee/tea. The cost is \$6 per person or \$12 per family. No RSVP necessary. We hope to see you there!

**For the Love of Creation:  
The Blessing of the Animals**  
Sunday, October 8, at 4:00pm  
Parish House Parking Lot



Blessing of the Animals, 2022

From left: Candace Lewis and Penny Amerman, Joey Saltz

On Sunday, October 8, all furry, feathered, and scaly companions are invited to this special service in the parking lot behind the Parish House to receive a blessing. Cats, dogs, chickens, snakes, horses, goats, hamsters, bearded dragons, and all domesticated animals are welcome! Attendees may also present a stuffed animal or photo of a pet to receive a blessing. Our outdoor worship space is sure to create a lively Eucharist for all creatures involved. In the event of rain, the service will be relocated inside the Parish Hall.

Pets are an important part of family life. The Blessing of the Animals is an opportunity for parishioners and community members to express their shared connection with animals and with the God who made them all.

The Blessing of the Animals comes a few days after the annual Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a man with a true spirit of love and peace that could have only come from God. He turned the cerebral, inward-leaning theology and scholasticism of the Middle Ages on its head with his radical commitment to living a life of poverty and service in the pattern of Jesus of Nazareth.

Those who encountered St. Francis were drawn into the peaceable Kingdom of God to know more fully the Prince of Peace. Even animals, it is said, were attracted to his Christ-like gentleness. In one story, he preaches to a flock of birds. In another, he makes peace with a wolf that had been terrorizing a village, calling the creature "Brother Wolf" and reconciling him to the village.

As we thank God for the animals in our lives, we pray that the reconciling work of Jesus Christ might extend beyond our relationship with God to include all creation. We hope you will join us with your animal companions for this fun outdoor worship service.

**Friends of Music Presents:  
The B's, a Jazz Trio Playing Standard  
Classics of American Popular Music  
Sunday, October 22, at 4:00pm  
Parish Hall**

Join us on Sunday, October 22, for a toe-tapping performance by The B's, a jazz trio out of Asheville. The group will play standard classics of American popular music at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall as part of the 2023-24 Friends of Music series.

Known locally for their regular gig at the Omni Grove Park Inn, The B's are named for the first initial of all of their members:

Bill Covington, a North Carolina native and graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and UNC-Chapel Hill, is a freelance musician and piano teacher who has played at the Grove Park Inn since 2000 and has been a member of The B's for the past twelve years.

Bruce Lang, a transplanted New Yorker, relishes singing and playing upright bass, guitar, and mandolin. Bruce is also involved in theater productions and operating his family's recording studio, Big Creek Music ([www.bigcreekmusic.com](http://www.bigcreekmusic.com)).

Byron Hedgepeth, a noted percussionist and timpanist, has performed at Hendersonville's First Baptist Church, Brevard Philharmonic Orchestra, Asheville Symphony, plus the Charlotte and NC Symphonies.



*The B's: Bill Covington, Bruce Lang, & Byron Hedgepeth*

This concert is free and open to the public, with donations gratefully accepted to support the Friends of Music Fund.

Visit [www.stjohnflatrock.org/music](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/music) to learn more about the artists and for a full lineup of the Friends of Music season.



## Living with Dementia Next Door

A MEMORY CARE PROGRAM AT  
ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Featuring Mary Donnelly, Dementia Consultant and Educator,  
MemoryCare of Asheville

<p><b>THURSDAYS</b> IN THE <b>WILDERNESS ROOM</b></p> <p><b>2:00 - 3:00PM</b> LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT 1:45PM</p>	<p>OCT. <b>19</b>    AWARENESS <i>Could this be Alzheimer's?</i></p>
	<p>OCT. <b>26</b>    RECOGNITION <i>Common early signs</i></p>
	<p>NOV. <b>2</b>    UNDERSTANDING <i>How can I help?</i></p>

RSVP: [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) or 828-693-9783  
Visit [www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org) to learn more.

### Living with Dementia Next Door: A Memory Care Program at St. John

Whether you call it dementia, Alzheimer's, or memory loss, the result is the same: it's a disease that changes everything. With our growing aging population, and without a cure anywhere on the horizon, we are called to learn all we can about a condition that will affect at least 50% of us. Join us for this three-part series with Mary Donnelly, who will help you better understand the challenges of dementia and how you can reach out to the families in your community who are living with this condition.

Mary Donnelly is a nationally recognized dementia consultant and educator from MemoryCare of Asheville. Her presentation will address the most common questions that arise about dementia and Alzheimer's: how to define it, recognize it, and accept it. The program is appropriate for adults of all ages and will offer relevant information and realistic strategies for caring for those affected by this condition.



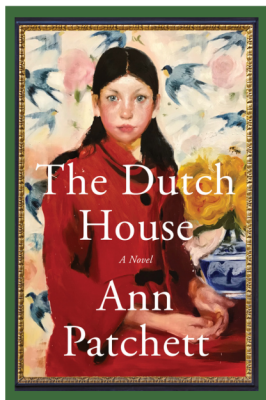
*Mary Donnelly*

Each session will be held in the Wilderness Room from 2:00 to 3:00pm, with light refreshments served at 1:45pm. Please RSVP to the Parish Office by email ([officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)) or by calling 828-693-9783. Visit [www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org) for more information.

## Readers in the Wilderness

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

### October 6: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett



Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Commonwealth*, delivers her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are.

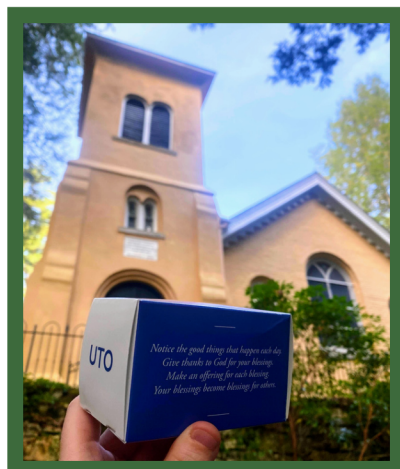
### November 3: *Light Perpetual* by Frances Spufford



The novel follows the fictionalized lives of five children murdered in a Woolworth store during a V-2 attack on London in 1944, imagining an alternate universe in which the five children lived. Spufford was inspired to write the novel after walking by a plaque commemorating the deaths of the 168 people whose lives were lost during the attack. Of those killed, 15 were children.

## United Thank Offering Continues this Month Through October 15

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive and distribute the offerings to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.



This fall, St. John in the Wilderness is once again participating in the UTO. Blue Boxes and UTO Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church and the Parish Office until supplies run out. You are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude by picking one up and placing spare change in it each day until Sunday, October 15, when we will collect the United Thank Offerings during our Ingathering at both services.



## The October Altar Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of:

*October 1*

**Alice & Gilbert Doan and  
William H. Cox**  
*by Judy Cox*

*October 8*

**Dolores Boykin Gunter and  
Jeffrey Hare Gunter, Jr.**  
*by the Jeffrey Hare Gunter, Sr. Family*  
AND  
**Mike Covell**  
*by his wife, Joanie*

*October 16*

**Isabella & Kenneth A. LaTourette,  
Ann Hopkins, and  
John R. Potter**  
*by Marianne LaTourette and Martin H.  
"Hop" Potter*

AND

**Sarah & Russ Gordon**  
*by Bill & Worth Gordon*

AND

**Charles S. Harrell**  
*by his wife, Cathryn, and children*

*October 22*

**Wick Andrews**  
*by Martha Andrews and family*

*October 29*

**Celeste E. Giblin**  
*by daughters, Mary & Sara Fiquet*



## Coming Soon: Spiritual Gifts Inventory to Help Us Grow by Sharing God's Gifts

*Look Out for the Time and Talent Survey,  
Coming this Fall!*

You may be well aware of the talents and interests God built into you—or maybe you haven't thought much about them. As stewardship season gets underway and you make your financial commitment to the Church, consider stewardship also in the form of how your skills and interests can be used to serve God and our community of faith at St. John in the Wilderness.

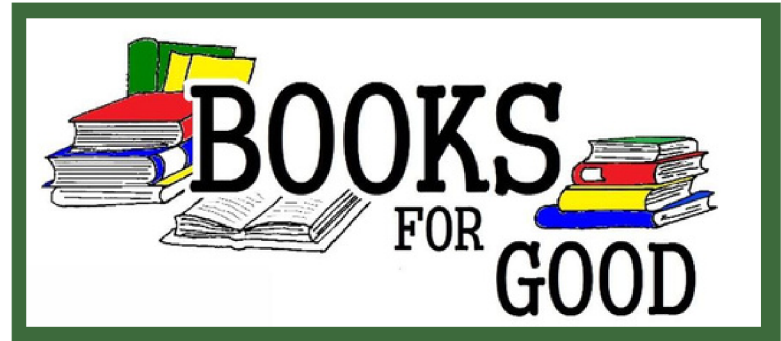
Many ministries and activities of the Church need your talents and skills, from teaching to flower arranging, financial management to caring for members who are homebound, hands-on work to greeting guests. Do you enjoy knowing you have helped someone by supporting them as they work through life challenges? Have you had experience managing finances and other resources? Are you a hands-on person? Do you teach, or have you taught young people? Do you feel a special joy when you share your faith with others? Whatever your skills or interests, there is a place for you to contribute.

Soon, you will receive a Spiritual Gifts Inventory Survey, to which we ask that you respond. This will help us to know where your gifts might be best used. We will be grateful to know of your specific interests and skills, and where you might like to help.

If your light is hidden under a bushel, take it out and let it shine! If you are already involved in any of the many volunteer opportunities at St. John, we thank you warmly for all you contribute. By sharing our God-given talents, we can enhance the worship and outreach that are so deeply at the heart of who we are and the God we serve.

## 10,000 Books for Good to Support Episcopal Church Women of St. John

*Bettie Orr, Books for Good Volunteer*



On August 28, I processed the 10,000th book donated to Books for Good (BFG) for the Episcopal Church Women of St. John in the Wilderness. Books, CDs, or DVDs go to the Fletcher bookstore through either the box located near the Parish Office, donations taken to my home, or donations picked up by me at parishioners' homes. The box was installed in July of 2016. Since that time, the ECW has received more than \$21,000 from BFG.

The annual sale at BFG will be held on Friday, November 24, from 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday, November 25, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. On sale for 25 percent off will be all books, CDs, and DVDs. Gift cards are not included.

Books for Good is located at 50 Heritage Drive in Fletcher, behind the Subway at the intersection of Butler Bridge Road and Highway 25 (Hendersonville Road). Regular store hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:00 to 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For more information about the annual sale, contact BFG at 828-989-4655, or visit [www.booksforgoodinc.com](http://www.booksforgoodinc.com).

## Growing by Sharing God's Gifts

2024 Stewardship Campaign

*"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air make nests in its branches." -- Luke 13:18-19*

**As of the end of September, we have received 82 pledges towards our goal of 175.** One of our convictions as Christians is that all good things come from God who gives to us most generously in so many different ways. As stewards of these gifts, our job is to keep sharing what God has already given to us. We are to sow the seeds. We are to work the yeast into the dough.

We have experienced and seen God's kingdom on the loose at St. John in the Wilderness because of the gifts God has given us that you have shared. We now ask you to continue that work by pledging for 2024 so our life and ministry together can keep growing by God's grace.

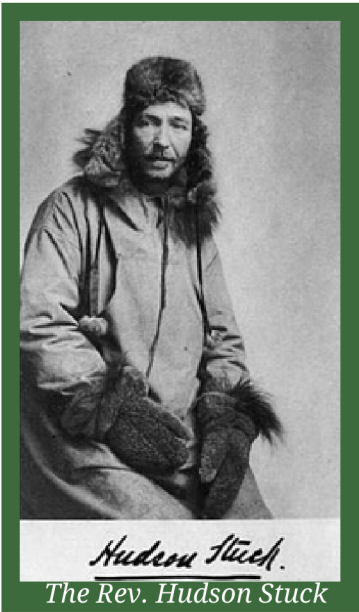
**Make your pledge today at [www.stjohnflatrock.org/pledge](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/pledge), or pick up a pledge form in the Parish Office. Thank you for your prayerful generosity!**



**Join Us on a Holy Hike Retreat**  
*Sunday, October 22, through*  
*Wednesday, October 25*  
*Valle Crucis Conference Center*

We invite you to register for the first-ever Holy Hikes of WNC retreat, to be held Sunday, October 22, through Wednesday, October 25, at Valle Crucis Conference Center. The topics of the retreat are wilderness, discipleship, and Rev. Hudson Stuck, an Episcopal priest who was the first person to summit Mt. Denali in Alaska and who spent much of his ministry advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples in the early 1900s. Patrick Dean, author of *A Window to Heaven: The Daring First Ascent of Denali, America's Wildest Peak*, is the featured speaker. This retreat is open to both hikers and non-hikers, as well as parishioners and non-parishioners.

Visit [www.vconferences.org/programs](http://www.vconferences.org/programs) to see more details and to sign up.



- 1 Scott Shelton
- 2 Dave Hull
- 3 Julianna Savage
- 3 John Hopper
- 5 Dennis Flanagan
- 5 Susan Nilsson
- 5 Geoff Hanff
- 6 Martha Andrews
- 8 Brenda Hillyer
- 8 Harry Van Bergen
- 9 Jo Stahle
- 9 Judy Oldenburg
- 9 George Grzenda
- 9 Meagan Caldwell
- 10 LaVerne Hiatt
- 10 Marisa Pharr
- 10 Eve Gregg
- 11 Hunter Ogletree
- 11 Emma-Jo Staton
- 11 Shelley Schiro
- 11 Elizabeth Christenbury
- 11 Bob Inglis
- 13 Herb Quarles
- 13 Jasmine Pharr
- 13 Dave Brown
- 14 Dale Kern
- 15 Linda Klopman
- 15 Janelle Walker
- 16 Barbara Kovaz
- 17 Britton Swing
- 18 Carolyn Day
- 18 Polly Morrice
- 20 Lynne Miller
- 26 Jonathan Fitzpatrick
- 30 Barbara Smith
- 31 Linda Hill



*On September 12, Holy Hikers took their second annual "Urban Walk" around the Rhododendron Lake Nature Park in Laurel Park. Led by parishioners and residents of Laurel Park, Joey and Catherine Popp, the group explored some of the town's history and the newly placed historical markers while walking along the shaded paths and roads and taking time for Morning Prayer under the gazebo.*



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

*Please email Sarah at  
[officeadmin@  
stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)  
to update your information.*

## Angels Watchin' Over Me

*Lori Griswold, Lay Eucharistic Visitor*

Joan Brendle leads a multi-faceted life. A constant feature of that life is using her many talents to bring joy and encouragement to others.

Because she is unable to get out much, she streams our Sunday services. Meanwhile, her energetic mind is always alert for opportunities to serve God and His people. When she sees a need, she does what she can to fulfill it, or at least make it easier to carry.

Joanie's professional career was in interior design, and her résumé is impressive. Among her projects was the palace of King Faisal's sister—someone who could hire any designer in the world.

She has made her own apartment beautiful, cozy, and comfortable, and she wants that for others too.

For instance, she loves her home at Carolina Village, but has seen that making the decision to move to an assisted living community can be tough. She helps people work through that decision and the many that follow, using her talent and decades of design experience. Some of the toughest decisions people face are about what possessions to keep and what to let go. Joanie helps them envision what they want for their new home, so that it truly supports how they want to live.

Joanie also paints and plays piano. She puts these talents, and her bright and outgoing personality, into offering others comfort and hope. She paints angels on canvas in different sizes and colors, all with the same purpose: to be a visual reminder of God's love and care. She adds a written message on the back of these small but meaningful gifts, adding her own words of encouragement.

If she notices that a neighbor seems depressed or ill, she reaches out when the time seems right. One neighbor had been ill and wouldn't leave her apartment. One day, Joanie started playing the piano in the hallway, old songs that her neighbor would know. Soon, she noticed the woman had come into the hall, and was sitting in a recliner with her eyes closed, listening. Another time, a couple came out of their apartment and started dancing.

That's the kind of person Joanie is—she makes people want to dance! If there were ever a person who takes joy in reaching out to others, to lessen their troubles and remind them that God—and His angels—are watching over them, it is Joan Brendle.



*Joanie Brendle (left) and two of the many angels she has painted (below).*



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, 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](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

[officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)

