



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
St. John in the Wilderness

THE VOICE

August 2023

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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.

From the Curate's Desk

On Transfiguration and Listening

This month, on August 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, a principal feast of the liturgical year. The word “transfiguration” means a change of form, a metamorphosis. Yet, Jesus does not change into something he was not before, and the disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration of Our Lord Christ are not simply spectators but participants in this event.

According to St. John of Damascus, at the moment of transfiguration, Christ “was not assuming something that he was not, nor changing into something which he was not, but manifesting what he already was to his own disciples.” St. Gregory Palamas said it this way: “Jesus did not become what he was not already, but appeared to the disciples as he was, opening their eyes, giving sight to those who were blind.”

Thus, this story is not only about the transfiguration of Christ, but also the transformation, the transfiguration, of the disciples. The transfiguration shows us the archetypal beauty of our image. The glorified Christ is the model and prototype of who we are and who we are to become. The transfiguration reveals our origin and our telos—our completion and fullness. Like the disciples we are not simply spectators. We, too, participate in this event. So how does that happen? When was the last time you experienced transfiguration of yourself or another?

Often our reading of this story focuses on what is seen: the change in appearance of Jesus’ face, clothes that became dazzling white, the appearance of Moses and Elijah, the glory of Christ, and the overshadowing cloud. These, no doubt, are central to the transfiguration. But I wonder if we sometimes emphasize the light of transfiguration to the exclusion of the voice of transfiguration. We are looking, but are we listening?

“Listen” is the only thing the disciples are told to do throughout this whole event. Listening is central to transfiguration. A voice came from the cloud and said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” Yet Luke records no words or teaching from Jesus during this event. Jesus is silent. So, it must be about more than words, instructions, and lessons. Listening always is. True listening is an interior quality, a way of being. It is more about the heart than the ears. And it is more about silence than words. Ultimately, listening is about presence.

The disciples are being told to be present, to be open, to be receptive to the one who is already and always present to you. Listening creates an opening through which the transfigured Christ enters and transforms us. Listening asks of us intention, attention, and letting go of the things that deafen us. Anything that destroys or limits presence is a form of deafness. The following are just a few examples: holding onto the past (guilt, sins, regrets, disappointments, sorrow, and losses); perfectionism, self-doubt, and self-hatred; fear, anxiety, and the resulting need to control; competition, comparison, expectation, and judgments; anger, resentment, and condemnation.

Whether it is listening to God, our spouses, friends, children, coworkers, the poor and needy, strangers, or enemies, listening will be some of the most difficult work we do. Listening is our spiritual practice. It opens us to healing, reconciliation, and union. Ultimately, listening takes us back to the Mount of Transfiguration. So, in a world full of distraction and noise, my prayer, my hope for all of us is to follow the same instructions that God gave to Jesus’ disciples: listen. ~ Fr. Ian Williams

Tickets on Sale for Empty Bowls

Sunday, August 13, in the Parish Hall

Local pottery artists are firing their kilns for the sixth year to help hungry children in the greater Flat Rock area. On Sunday, August 13, "Empty Bowls," a community meal benefiting the Flat Rock Backpack Program, will take place inside the Parish Hall.

Advanced tickets are recommended for the two seatings: 12:30pm-2:00pm and 4:30-6:00pm. Each ticket includes one hand-crafted bowl (all donated by area potters) and a soup-based meal (a variety of soups, breads, and desserts). For those wishing to eat at home, take-away is an available option.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$50 for a family of two adults and children under 12. They are available at Parish House Office, from Backpack team members, or 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 tickets in the memo line.

Please join us for this fun community event. Donations are gratefully accepted throughout the year. The Flat Rock Backpack Program has 501(c)(3) status, and 100% of the proceeds of this event go to feeding the children.

Thank you to the local restaurants donating soups: AlyKat Deli, Cuisine Team, Hot Dog World, Kenmore Country Club and Hubba Hubba Smokehouse.

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors: Hendersonville Community Co-op, Wild Birds Unlimited, Homestead, Boyd Chevrolet Buick Inc, Art Mob Studios & Marketplace, Merrell Paint & Decorating, Raymond's Garden Center, First Bank, Dry Falls Brewing Co., and Publix.

Join Us for a Parish Breakfast

Sunday, August 6, 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!

You're Invited: Baring Society Appreciation Reception

Sunday, August 20, 4:00 to 6:00pm
Five Oaks of Flat Rock (2810 Greenville Highway)



Five Oaks of Flat Rock

We are pleased to announce the third Baring Society Appreciation Reception, to be held at Five Oaks of Flat Rock, a grand historic home built in 1888 by the Memminger family and located just down the road from St. John. All 99 members of Baring Society and their families are invited, as well as any parishioners who are interested in learning more about legacy giving to our beautiful church and churchyard. We hope you will join us for this evening of hors d'oeuvres, education, and fellowship.

Please RSVP for this event online at bit.ly/baringsociety by Tuesday, August 15. You may also RSVP to Sarah Yeargin in the Parish Office by dropping in, calling 828-693-9783, or emailing officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org.

Drivers Needed: Steer the St. John "Uber!"

The Golf Cart Ministry ("St. John Uber") is in need of a few more drivers to lend their time before and after Sunday services to help churchgoers get up and down the hill safely.



Volunteers are especially needed for the 8:45am service.

If you have a driver's license, you can help! Please contact Jill Owen at jillyowen44@gmail.com to learn more.

Behind the Logo: LS Creative

Lyndsey Simpson, a local graphic artist, was thrilled and honored when she was asked to create a new logo for the Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness in the last few months of 2022. As a Hendersonvillian, she was well aware of the iconic nature of St. John in Flat Rock and Hendersonville. She found it "magical" to be a part of the new project.

Working with the Rev. Josh Stephens and Parish Administrator Sarah Yeargin, and in consultation with church members, Lyndsey absorbed much of the history and feel of our historic church. Absorbing everything from the stone cross in the cemetery to the beloved church on the hill, she produced at least four visual options with differing views, angles, and typeface, all in black and white, before the winning combo emerged. Colors were a given: pale yellow to match the walls of the church and green for the verdant hillside.

The cross in the logo is actually the monument to the enslaved and freed persons who were buried in the churchyard. It pays them homage and invites us to visit that part of our history.

The final design, a visual nutshell of St. John in the Wilderness, was rolled out in February 2023. The logo has been well received and serves many uses on publications within the congregation and in generating public awareness.

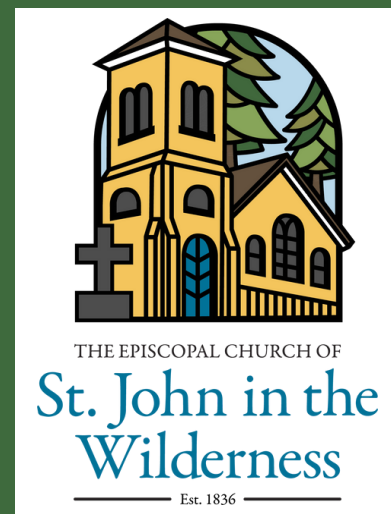
Lyndsey admits she was a bit nervous during the creative process, but is pleased with the final result. She is glad to have been allowed to participate in this project.

"With such a rich history and beautiful grounds, the church is extremely iconic to the community and it was important that we communicated that through the new branding," Lyndsey said.

Lyndsey holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design with a minor in Advertising from Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida. In 2016 she established LS Creative in the old Federal Building on 4th Avenue West. She is owner and chief creative genius of her firm, working with small businesses and non-profits who want to put their best foot forward in the community.

For more information, consult her website: www.LScreative.studio/ or call (828) 233-5612.

Thanks Lyndsey, for sharing your talent with us!



In addition to the St. John logo, LS Creative's work includes the branding of many area establishments, such as Zen Hen, Blue Ridge Pride, Sacred Living Wellness, and the Council on Aging of Buncombe County.

Good News Gardeners

Tuesday, August 22, 9:30 to 11:45am

The Good News Gardeners invite you to join us for our next work day on Tuesday, August 22, from 9:30am to 11:45am at Kanuga's Foster Educational Garden. We will have activities for all ages and physical ability levels, including weeding and harvesting. Supplies and tools will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your favorite gloves or tools. Please bring a water bottle. Afterward, we will enjoy a time of fellowship over lunch in the conference center.

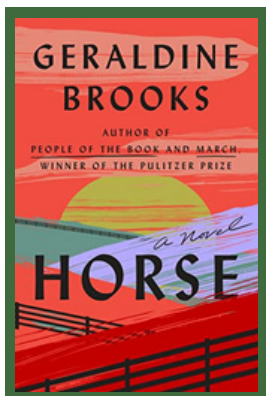
For more information, please contact Kathryn Whitten at kaymwhitten@gmail.com. To register, visit bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners or email Kathryn. Directions and parking instructions are on the registration site. We hope to see you there!



Readers in the Wilderness

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

August 4: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks



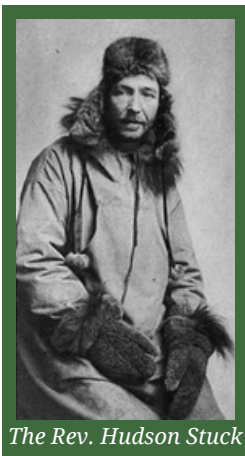
A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Despite the simplicity of the title, Geraldine Brooks's latest novel is a heart-pounding American epic that gallops backward and forward in time to tell a story about race and freedom,

horses and art, and the lineage of not just ancestors but actions.

Join Us on a Holy Hike Retreat

*Sunday, October 22, through Wednesday, October 25
Valle Crucis Conference Center, Banner Elk, NC*

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.vcconferences.org/programs to see more details and sign up.



The Rev. Hudson Stuck

Save the Date: Rise Against Hunger Sunday, October 1

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, October 1, St. John in the Wilderness will host a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event in the Parish Hall. Last year we packed 10,000 meals for people in need, and we look forward to doing it again! More information on how to sign up will be available soon.



The August Altar Flowers Are Given in Loving Memory of:

August 6

Tom Darnall

by his wife, Betsy Darnall

AND

Mrs. Jane Ashworth Robertson

*by Jane Swanson, Charles Robertson,
and Thomas Robertson*

AND

Wendell Rector

*by Carol Rector and the Taylor
Family, the Walker/Kendall Family,
and the Shamley Family*

August 13

**Christopher Eugene (Gene) Staton, Jr.
and his parents, Gene and Helen
Staton**

*by Debby Staton, their children, and
grandchildren*

August 20

**Dorothy and Dale Henderson,
Susan Henderson Meyer, and
Ronald P. Corum**

by Robin Henderson Corum and family

AND

Gerald (Jerry) Nelson USMC, Ret.

by Victoria Nelson

August 27

Stephen Plati

by Marcelene Plati

AND

**Al and Delsie Welch and
Bonnie and Perry Gibby**

by Charles and Vickie Taylor



August BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sheri Brown
- 3 Bill Hiatt
- 3 Lii Lii Viola
- 4 David Richeson
- 4 Kay Vickery
- 4 Susan Mack
- 5 Carol Black
- 7 Ken Jones
- 7 Liam Ghahreman
- 7 Meade Inglis
- 8 Anna Kinsey
- 9 Linda Giltner
- 9 Athena Brooks
- 10 Phyllis Brown
- 10 Susan Conapinski
- 11 Bonnie Dees
- 12 Roy Smith
- 13 Art Mack
- 14 Betsy Darnall
- 19 Lisa Wills
- 20 Patty Adams
- 21 Ronnie Doty
- 23 Tom Vellanti
- 25 Marianne Potter
- 26 John Hayes
- 26 Diana Byrd
- 27 Kay Arnold
- 28 Lee Covey
- 28 Kathryn Brown
- 31 Susan Allen
- 31 Spencer Ogletree
- 31 Ann Stringfield
- 31 Ed Blackburn



Join Us on Our Next Hike!

Tuesday, August 8, Time TBD

More information is forthcoming on our website at www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.



On July 16, a large crowd of Holy Hikers visited Bullington Gardens and were delighted with a tour of the diverse flora by Patrice German and Stan Rogan, parishioners who volunteer at Bullington. In addition to the 10 gardens with various purposes that are regularly maintained by the volunteers and staff of Bullington, hikers had the chance to experience the whimsical Fairy Trail, a summertime family favorite. After the Fairy Trail, hikers gathered under the shade of the pavilion for lemonade and afternoon prayer. Thank you, Patrice and Stan, for sharing your knowledge of this special place with us!

Video Streaming Ministry Seeks Volunteers

The Communications Committee of St. John is in need of folks able to assist with Sunday streaming of worship services. No experience necessary. The training is simple. The set up for the service is an easy, five-minute task for either service, once a month.

Please contact Lynn Wiescholek at 407-738-9887 or the church office at 828-693-9783 if you can help!



*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.*

The Altars of St. John in the Wilderness

Most of us will recognize the main altar in our church. Because of its significance in our worship as the place where the Holy Eucharist is prepared and consecrated, it is a very holy place. There are several other altars in our church as well - one in the Wilderness Room and one in the atrium near the Parish Hall.

What might not be so widely known is that there are many altars being set up and used as part of the outreach to our homebound parishioners in many different homes each month. As you can see in the photos below, altars are placed on top of chairs, others on coffee tables, and others placed wherever space can be found.

It is the gracious and caring ministry of our Eucharistic Visitors that makes this possible. They come to the altar at the end of Holy Eucharist on Sunday to receive their communion kits and then process out with them as they prepare to take the body and blood of Jesus the Christ to someone who can not get to church.

Currently we have not only 10 Eucharistic Visitors (not counting our staff clergy), but also 10 Pastoral Visitors whose ministry is to visit our homebound parishioners on a regular basis.

If you know of someone who would love to have a visit or communion brought to them, please let us know. And if you are interested in this wonderful ministry, also give us a call. We would love to discuss it with you!

The Rev. Patricia Tanzer Askew

307-275-2733
ptaskew@gmail.com

The Rev. Stephen Askew

307-399-4412
stephenaskew@gmail.com



You're Invited: Special Summer Eucharist and Coffee Hour Sunday, August 27, at 11:00am in the Parish Hall



*Combined Service Summer Eucharist
in the Parish Hall, August 2022*

We are excited to announce that we will have a Parish Hall Summer Eucharist and Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 27, at 11:00am. We invite one and all to join us for a festive and casual time when our two services can come together for worship and fellowship. This idea came after a snow day in 2022, when we canceled our first service and gathered at 11:00am for worship and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

On August 27, we will not have an 8:45am service, but we will gather for the 11:00am service in the Parish Hall for a more informal Eucharist. We ask that you bring a plate of finger food to share for just after the service, when we can have a special coffee hour and time to connect with one another. Our 10:00am formation time will continue

as scheduled on that Sunday. Thank you for making our life and ministry together so abundant and joyful!

Churchyard Chatter: Set in Stone

Luann Ham, Historic Churchyard Committee Member

St. John's historic cemetery marks its sacred grounds in stone, paying tribute to those members who have died and are buried close to church. Headstones, field stones, the Columbarium, the Memorial Garden, and the cross commemorating those who were enslaved and freed all use stone, a lasting tribute that reaches out to us, informs us and future generations about our history. The cemetery stone markers are personal, too. The markers tell our story and represent a lasting spiritual bond between church members and St. John's Christian roots. Part of our story comes from Elberton, Georgia.

Erecting a stone churchyard monument takes skill, strength, and inspiration. Two of our largest cemetery stones are the Columbarium and the cross honoring early church members who were enslaved and freed. Both granite monuments were made by Nelson Motes, a master stone cutter and member of St John. Nelson hails from and lived 40 years in Elberton, Georgia, practicing his craft where a vast vein of granite runs through the land. Granite is one of the hardest stones, built to last and sought for cemetery markers. In the late 1800s, when Elberton's population was under 5,000, it was named the "granite capital of the world." Nelson continued to cut granite in Elberton even after he moved to the mountains in NC, where he and his wife, Gaston, became members of St. John. Now retired, Nelson has passed his local stone cutting business, the Stone Connection, on to his son John.

In 2001, Churchyard Committee member and engineer Malcolm McCormick contracted Nelson to construct the three-section Columbarium out of Elberton granite. Nelson, inspired by the cemetery, cut and carved the stone to reflect the cemetery's age, rather than making it stand out from the surrounding headstones. Nelson also carved crosses into the two end pieces, one bearing the date and the other bearing the names of Charles and Ann Clark, whose beautification fund made the construction possible. The Columbarium sits peacefully, housing burial niches for urns. You'll find it among the trees and some of the oldest cemetery gravestones, just south of the church building.



In 2015, Nelson carved, constructed, and—along with his son John and a huge crane—erected the only large cross we have on the north side of the church. Near the lower parking lot, the monument honoring the enslaved and freed black people who built St. John and were some of its earliest members is based on an old rugged cross design and carved from Elberton granite. A plaque on the base honors the enslaved and freed people who are buried in this segment of the churchyard. Simple field stones mark many individual graves. Some graves have small cement crosses made in the 1970s that are now crumbling, lacking granite's strength. In a spiritual culture where we freely give our time and talents, taking credit for the work done can feel boastful. If you look closely at the base of this large cross, you will find initials, reluctantly carved by Nelson after the insistence of the Churchyard Committee. For Nelson, who feels he only played his part, the cross was meant to stand on its own for all to see.

Nelson's attention to the stonework at St. John extends to other projects he has undertaken for the church: the stone steps leading up the carriage entrance, the flagstone path around the church, and many other stone repairs. We all benefit from Nelson's care and service to St. John.

The Historic Churchyard Committee invites you to become a committee member. We gather for indoor meetings four times a year, once each quarter. We also have outdoor projects that are fulfilling for those who like getting their hands dirty. If you'd like to help us keep our churchyard the sanctuary it is, please contact Ken Jones at jkennethjones1@cs.com.

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



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



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