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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.

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness



THE VOICE

September 2022

From the Rector's Desk

Together for Joy

Our rallying cry for Stewardship 2023 comes from one of my favorite psalms. Psalm 98 begins in saying, "Sing to the Lord a new song for he has done marvelous things!" By the time the singing begins in this psalm, praises echo out from not just the people of God but from every corner of creation. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!" the psalmist says in verse 4. Let the very seas roar; let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing out!

For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear it, we discover all of creation singing **Together for Joy** to this God who created us and now makes us new. As we look around St. John in the Wilderness, we have much cause to sing and praise God as we gather for beautiful worship each Sunday, enjoy moments of connection and fellowship this year, and support each other in life's many ups and downs.

In September, you will receive information by mail, email, and in-person about Stewardship 2023: **Together for Joy**. Once you receive our mailer, please take time to reflect prayerfully and joyfully on your pledge for next year and fill out a pledge card by Sunday, October 16, so we can plan in faith for the year ahead. God has been so generous to us again and again. I look forward to being **Together for Joy** with you as we continue to grow in grace in the months and years ahead. Lastly, mark your calendars for our special Fall Fellowship Festival on October 16 (see below), and thank you in advance for your support.

In Christ,

Fr. Josh Stephens

*Let the sea roar
and all that fills it,
the world and those
who live in it.
Let the floods clap
their hands;
let the hills sing
together for joy
at the presence of
the Lord,
for he is coming to
judge the earth.*

Psalm 98:7-9



SAVE THE DATE!
COME TOGETHER FOR JOY AT
ST. JOHN'S



Sunday, October 16, at Kanuga

471 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville
Eucharist: 11:00am | Festival: 12:30-5:00pm

Learn more and RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 5
at www.stjohnflatrock.org/FFF

- HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
- DRINKS
- LIVE MUSIC
- CANOEING
- SWIMMING
- FACEPAINT
- YARD GAMES

COST: \$8/PERSON
OR \$20/FAMILY OF
THREE OR MORE.
BRING CASH FOR
THE BAR.

NO COST TO ATTEND
EUCARIST.

RAIN OR SHINE!

Youth-Led Parish Breakfast

Sunday, September 11, 9:00 to 10:30am in the Parish Hall

Join us for a Parish Breakfast hosted by the Youth Group with assistance provided by the Chefs of St. John. The Youth will serve up bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, pancakes, and juice/coffee/tea.

There is no cost for this breakfast, but donations are welcome and appreciated. Donations made at this breakfast will go towards future projects and events of the Young Family Ministry.

Please sign up by Wednesday, September 7, at bit.ly/BreakfastSept2022.

Opportunity to Serve: Packing Meals for our Global Neighbors

Sunday, September 25, 2 to 4pm in the Parish Hall



The Outreach Committee in conjunction with Rise Against Hunger will host a meal-packing event to provide healthy food to international communities on Sunday, September 25, from 2 to 4pm in the Parish Hall. Rise Against Hunger provides all the materials we will pack, and we have the opportunity to work together as a community to pack the boxes. We will need 40 volunteers to help pack meals. Please plan to join us in this great opportunity to serve others in the international community! Sign up at sforce.co/3wLHWA1

Backpack is Back!

Debby Staton, Backpack Program Coordinator

We are beginning our 14th year of packing food for six area schools and one daycare. It's hard to believe it has been that long.

We meet at Hubba Hubba Smokehouse on Thursdays, starting September 8. We crank up at about 8:30am, but usually do not start the packing line until 8:45am.

If you are interested in helping, or just want to check out a highly organized team, please feel free to join us, or call Debby at 828-551-2813 for more information.



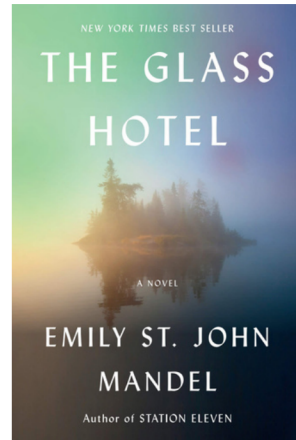
Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays at 10am in the Library

September 2: *The Glass Hotel*

by Emily St. John Mandel

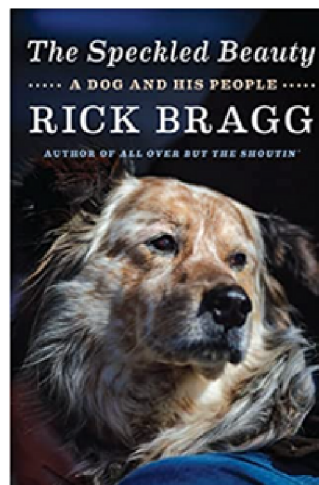
From the award-winning author of *Station Eleven*, this is an exhilarating novel set at the glittering intersection of two seemingly disparate events—a massive Ponzi scheme collapse and the mysterious disappearance of a woman from a ship at sea. Rife with love and delusion, ghosts and unintended consequences, and the infinite ways we search for meaning in our lives.



October 7:

The Speckled Beauty: A Dog and His People

by Rick Bragg



From the best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *All Over but the Shoutin'*, this is the warm-hearted and hilarious story of how Bragg's life was transformed by his love for a poorly behaved, half-blind stray dog. Written with his inimitable blend of tenderness and sorrow, humor and grit, *The Speckled Beauty* captures the extraordinary and sustaining devotion between two damaged creatures who need each other to heal.

Mission House Thrift Sale

Saturday, September 24, from 9am to 3pm

Save the date and join in on the shopping!

On Saturday, September 24, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will sponsor a one-day thrift sale. The location is the Mission House at St. John, formerly known as the Shed. Since its total renovation, shopping in the Mission House will be a pleasure.

The sale will be held between 9am and 3pm. Items for sale include gently used household and kitchen items, linens, garden supplies, tools, toys, and small pieces of furniture along with lots of Christmas and holiday decorations. Purchases can be made with cash, checks, or credit cards. All proceeds go directly to local charities in Henderson County selected by the ECW.

The Practice of Gratitude

United Thank Offering Collections:

September 25 - October 16



Expressing gratitude on a regular basis is an amazing practice! It can be done by everyone regardless of your age or circumstances. Even very small children can be taught to stop and take a moment to express thanks for their blessings.

This practice is at the heart of the United Thank Offering (UTO) program whose purpose is twofold: First, it is meant to foster a personal spiritual discipline of thankfulness through individual intentional prayer and gratitude for all that God has done and continues to do by placing coins in the UTO Blue Box. Then, through the combined collection of Blue Box coins, bills, and checks, 100 percent of the money is awarded through grants to young adults, seminarians, parishes, and dioceses. The grants are for one-year projects designed to support transforming and innovative ministries. Since 1983, 5,300 grants have been awarded totaling \$140 million. A complete list of grants can be viewed at www.UnitedThankOffering.com.

As demonstrated by Jesus in the parable of the loaves and fishes, wonderful things can be accomplished when everyone puts in a little. On Sunday, September 25, the UTO Blue Boxes will be available during each service. They will also be available in the Parish House throughout the following week or until they run out.

You are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. The UTO program 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.

On Sunday, October 16, there will be an in-gathering at both Eucharist services.

*Almighty God, I give you praise
for blessing me in many ways.
Create in me a grateful heart
and with this gift a blessing start. Amen.*

With a grateful heart,

Jan Tanner

JanTanner@hotmail.com or 828-337-2753

Partnership with BRSC

St. John in the Wilderness is excited to announce that we have entered a partnership with the Blue Ridge Service Corps (BRSC), an intentional Episcopal community of young adults whose goal is to serve the greater community through prayer and action. Through this partnership, we support the BRSC by praying for them and providing funding to assist in carrying out projects, traveling to churches across the Diocese, and covering the Corps members' basic needs as they embark on this year of service. They in turn will help us out with a TBD service project, and they will visit us during Formation Hour at some point in the next year. More details to come, but in the mean time, check out www.blueridgeservicecorps.com to learn more.



Welcoming Tay, Nat, Renee, and Wade: Cook a Meal/Pack the Pantry Event

Pack the Pantry is an inaugural event to support Corps members with basic household items and staple foods to kickstart their year of service. All the goods will be stacked on their dining room table at move-in. Their very first acts as an intentional community will be to receive the gifts we share with them and to pack their pantry! See the wishlist at bit.ly/BRSCPantry.

Another option is to sign up to cook a meal for the new members and bring it to their home in Hendersonville. You are more than welcome to stay and join the Corps members for dinner; they would love to meet you and learn more about the local community. More info and sign up at www.mealtrain.com/trains/ye445e.

Scenes from the Men's Social - August 21, 2022



September BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Thomas Mahoney
- 2 John Barker
- 3 Lynn Savage
- 3 Willa Allen
- 4 Dick Zecher
- 5 Bella Geiser
- 6 Wayne Kanipe
- 6 Hilton Swing
- 6 Lori Griswold
- 6 Harlan Frymire
- 7 Sally Hughes
- 7 Susan Shealy
- 9 Jack Mitchell
- 9 Louisa Wardlaw
- 12 Starr Teel
- 13 Addy Saltz
- 13 Harry Walker
- 14 Janet Roethle
- 14 Malcolm McCormick
- 15 Debby Staton
- 15 Helen Aschenbrener
- 15 Emily Fitzpatrick
- 17 Julia Cox
- 17 Susan Gibbs
- 17 Hadley Yelverton
- 18 Beth Miller
- 18 John Jacobs
- 18 Melody Shepherd
- 19 Kate Johnson
- 19 Gayle McHaffie
- 21 Terry Enslin
- 21 Linda Farrell
- 21 Carmen Curtis
- 23 Marjorie Neff
- 23 Jodi Sundeen
- 24 Carol Rector
- 24 Marie Hyder
- 24 Sharon Johnston
- 25 John Flowers
- 27 Kara Mack Waite
- 27 Cynthia Easterling
- 27 BJ McKee
- 28 Elaine Harris
- 28 Ben Geiser
- 30 Judy Petersen
- 30 Josh Stephens
- 30 Camille Camp

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.

Holy Hike at Green River Game Lands - August 10, 2022



Join Us on Our Next Hike!



**Pisgah National Forest
Tuesday, September 13**

More info coming soon at www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.

Garden Work Day at Kanuga's Foster Educational Garden

130 Kanuga Chapel Road, Hendersonville

Wednesday, September 14, 8:30am to 12:00 noon

Roll up your sleeves and come play in the dirt down at the garden! We need help with end-of-growing-season work such as cleaning out and weeding beds, adding soil, putting cardboard down and mulching walkways. Many hands make light work.

What to bring: Comfortable/appropriate clothing, water bottle, work gloves (not required but highly recommended), your favorite gardening tool (ex. hori hori, hand trowel, etc.), and a hat for sun protection/sunblock as needed.

RSVP to Mary Kait Brown, Environmental Programs Specialist at Kanuga, at mkbrown@kanuga.org or by calling 828-233-2739.



Holy Hikers saw and learned about the Educational Garden on their trip to Kanuga in July.

Life in Christ: Episcopal Discipleship and Spirituality

A Six-Week Formation Hour Study Beginning Sunday, September 18

With its great heritage from English mystics, The Episcopal Church has been "spiritual" since before it was trendy, and modern Episcopalians have been in the forefront of exploring practices beyond Anglican boundaries. Yet, perhaps only rarely do they grasp the implications of the theology embedded in these practices or in the liturgies of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, which has shaped Episcopalians in this country with its emphasis on baptismal spirituality and the centrality of the Eucharist.

Starting this September, Fr. Josh will lead a six-week study on Episcopal tradition, practices, and beliefs. This course is perfect for newcomers who would like to learn more about The Episcopal Church, as well as old timers who could use a refresher or are interested in diving deeper. The class will be offered during Formation Hour (10 to 11am in the Wilderness Room) on Sundays, September 18 through October 30, with the exception of October 2.

The Battle with Boxwood Blight

Ken Jones, Historic Churchyard Committee Chair

It is with a heavy heart that I report the bad news of losing our battle with the Boxwood Blight. We first became aware of a blight that was spreading down the East Coast when the blight was detected on the Carl Sandburg property last summer. We began a weekly spraying operation in our own churchyard and found that the blight had affected a few of the boxwoods around the church, including the Rutledge plot near the Bell Tower. These were removed and burned, since the disposed plants will not be taken by the landfill in the area.

We felt that we were making progress with the burning, but in early July of this year we discovered another 15 plants were dying. They were removed, but the signs were ominous. Despite the spraying operation, in late July we found that the blight was affecting plants across the entire cemetery. A boxwood plant that appeared healthy and hardy on a Monday could be withered and dying by Friday. We have all been stunned at how quickly the blight has taken over our beautiful churchyard.

A plan has been developed to replace all 250+ boxwood plants with two varieties of hollies. Fortunately, the blight does NOT affect other varieties of plants, according to advice from the Henderson County Cooperative Extension Agent and other governmental agencies.

We plan to work in sections: the first area will be the cemetery plots adjoining the area where people who were enslaved are buried. We will remove all 46 plants there. We will also be removing diseased plants in other areas as required, to be put in a pile at the rear of the cemetery and hauled off to a local burning pit.

Sustainability Progress at St. John

There has been a great deal of progress at St. John toward more sustainable practices.

The transition from paper and plastic products to sustainable dishware has been well-received. Groups are using glasses, cups and saucers, plates, and utensils. Several groups are using cloth napkins. The Chefs' Breakfast, Tuesday Night Gatherings, Sunday School, Formation Class, and Readers in the Wilderness are supporting sustainability efforts, and our staff practices sustainable use of dishware.

As we finish one area, we will move on to the next until the entire churchyard has been completed. Jim Olson and David Dethero are coordinating this work with Herb Quarles, who has been instrumental in the landscaping of the Parish Hall lawn and Rector's Garden.

The cost will be significant, but we have no other option to preserve our beautiful and sacred churchyard. Cemetery funding is not part of the church's operating budget; it is provided by the sales of burial easements, interest on portfolio investments, and private donations. If you want to help defray some of this cost, please send a check in any amount payable to St. John in the Wilderness, noting "Churchyard plants" on the memo line.

Further reports will be made as the program moves forward into the fall months.



1. Sign warning churchyard visitors of the blight.
2. Effects of the disease on the boxwoods.
3. Hollies that will replace the boxwoods (from left: "Hoogendorn" & "Soft Touch").

As you meet in small ministry groups, please use the items in the church kitchens available to you. Place them in the Wilderness Room kitchen dishwasher after use, and they will be washed when the dishwasher is full. We are requesting that paper and plastic plates, cups, and utensils not be brought to church gatherings. Additionally, fabric tablecloths have been purchased or donated to replace single-use plastic cloths.

The paper and plastic products on campus will be gathered and stored in labeled boxes. They will be available should the need to use them arise (outdoor event, dishwasher failure, etc.). *Continued on page 6*

Save the Date: ECW Retreat

Friday, October 7, 9am to 4pm in the Parish Hall

Women of the church—mark your calendars for October 7, for a rollicking time with lots of laughter as we learn about humor in our lives and in the Bible. Yes! There is humor in the Bible. This is Session One of a two-part retreat (second session to be held in the Spring of 2023). Pastor Linea Warmke will share the basic elements of humor, and together we will search the Scriptures to find out where it is. Humor is both therapeutic and spiritual. Bring your smiles and senses of humor, and be prepared to laugh until your cheeks hurt.

We welcome Pastor Linea Warmke as our presenter: Linea was born and raised in Lancaster, Ohio. Although she felt called to be a pastor at an early age, she did not pursue ordained ministry until later in life.

Following graduation from Ohio University, she was an elementary school teacher for 8 years, a flower shop owner/operator for 5 years, and a real estate broker/appraiser/instructor for 22 years. In 2006, she began serving St. John Lutheran Church, Racine, Ohio, as a Lay Worship Leader. In 2009, she began seminary studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and was ordained a pastor in 2012. She continued to serve St. John, Racine, until 2016 when she and her husband, The Rev. Bill McCleery, a third-career Episcopal priest, retired and moved to Brevard, North Carolina.

Pastor Linea enjoys working at Sharing House, oil painting, bridge, reading, and facilitating Bible studies. She has three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Linea will educate, elucidate, and entertain us with her program: Laugh Your Way to Grace. More information to come in the days ahead.

-Joyce Beschta and Kathy Newbold,
Retreat Co-Chairs

Sustainability, continued from page 5

Kevin Hunt, our Sexton, has begun using a homemade natural weed killer instead of more toxic commercial products. He is happy to report great success. Great job, Kevin! Sarah Yeargin, our Director of Parish Communication and Administration, has been recycling St. John's Konica copier ink cartridges. They are picked up by Konica Minolta's Clean Planet Program. Sarah did some research and has begun another sustainable practice at no cost to St. John. Thank you, Sarah!

Duke and Dominion Energy will be coming to St. John to tour our church property. Both businesses will provide recommendations to help improve our energy usage.

Single use water bottles will soon be replaced with water dispensers and reusable tumblers.

The Sustainability Committee is in contact with Canon Augusta Anderson from the Diocese to set up a meeting in which we will discuss St. John's sustainable progress and find out what other churches in our diocese are doing as well. We are constantly investigating additional opportunities to take better care of the earth, and we encourage each of you to join in every effort.

For further information and suggestions please contact Elizabeth Christenbury (828-676-7163) or Lynn Wiescholak (407-738-9887).

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 2, at 4pm in the Rector's Garden

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness will offer a "Blessing of the Animals" on Sunday, October 2. Furry and feathered companions are invited to this special service to receive a blessing. Cats, dogs, snakes, chickens, horses, birds, and goats are all welcome! You may also bring a stuffed animal or photo of an animal to be blessed. Our outdoor meeting space will mean a lively Eucharist for all creatures involved. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and all the creatures of God's earth.



Each animal is blessed by name and either sprinkled with Holy Water or has hands laid upon it to impart God's power into the creature.



The Younger Voice

Greetings from the Curate's Desk! There is quite a bit going on with the St. John in the Wilderness Young Family Ministry.

We have had very active and growing Sunday School classes throughout the summer and look forward to continuing to offer this important spiritual foundation for our younger members in the fall.

The first Young Family Ministry (YFM) gathering with Fr. Ian Williams took place on Sunday, August 21, when he taught the group how to make their own pizzas and led a discussion about dreams for the future of the YFM.

On Sunday, September 11, the youth and parents will prepare the monthly Parish Breakfast. This event will help us raise funds for our program and have a good time doing it, a win-win situation all around.

The Diocese of Western North Carolina is hosting a Middle School (6th-8th grade) Retreat on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, at Camp Henry in Canton. They will host another retreat for High Schoolers (9th-12th grade) from Friday, November 18 through Sunday, November 20, also at Camp Henry. You can register for any of the Diocesan retreats by visiting their website: www.diocesewnc.org/upcoming-events.

Finally, the Outreach Committee will host a Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event on Sunday, September 25, from 1 to 5pm in the Parish Hall.

May the peace of God be always with you,

Fr. Ian Williams



The Children's Sunday School class has been visiting with Fr. Ian, Deacon Sandy, and Dewitt Tipton to learn about what it means to be a leader in the church.



Pizza Feast with Fr. Ian on August 21: Families made their own pizzas and discussed what they'd like to see happen in the YFM.

The September Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of:

September 4

**Bettie Friedell
Watford**

*by Charles Lee and
Bettie Watford Orr*

September 11

**Those who died on
September 11, 2001**

*by BJ McKee and
brother, Davey Campbell*

**Col. and Mrs.
Kermit W. Fix**

*by Gibson and Carol Fix
Sims, their daughter*

September 18

**Sarah I'on Lowndes
Davis, Alicia Davis
Burke, and James O.
Burke**

*by Henry Burke and
family*

September 25

Janet Chaudrac
by her family



The Episcopal Church of
St. John in the Wilderness
Post Office Box 185
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731



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

Jennifer Shelton
Senior Warden

Gibson Sims
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

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

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

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

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

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