



THE VOICE

June 2023

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

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

From the Rector's Desk

Feasting Is the Christian Thing to Do

On Sunday, June 25, we celebrate the Feast of St. John with a special concert by Chatham Rabbits. You won't want to miss it.

For many pious American Christians, religion is serious business. It's serious in the sense that it's life or death, good vs. evil, and right vs. wrong. Jesus of Nazareth certainly took religion seriously – What an odd thing to say about God incarnate! – yet he also had time to play with children, poke fun at legalistic minds, and especially to eat with friends, strangers, sinners, and even enemies. It should be no surprise to us that eating together and telling stories about feasts and wedding banquets were some of his favorite things to do. He likened the Kingdom of God to a grand feast where all kinds of different and surprising people found a seat at the table. For us as a church, our entire lives center around the Eucharist where Christ is the feast. It's a sacred and beautiful gift for us to feast together as the Body of Christ.

On the last Sunday of June each year, we celebrate our patronal feast, the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This is a party for us and for our entire community. This year we have help celebrating from an amazing band called Chatham Rabbits. Austin and Sarah McCombie are husband and wife, banjo and guitar, singers and songwriters in an up-and-coming North Carolina band from Chatham County. They sing stories of old-time living, like "Abigail," about Eleanor Roosevelt's pack horse librarians, and "Foot of My Bed," about waste-not-want-not squirrel stew. They've been featured in *Our State, Garden and Gun*, and on PBS.

Rosanna and I heard Chatham Rabbits open for Steep Canyon Rangers at the Brevard Music Center last summer. There was something about their music, stories, and stage presence that made me instantly want to hear them at Hubba Hubba Smokehouse with chickens and children running around. Wiley Cash, the best-selling Appalachian novelist, had a similar experience when he first heard them play. He said, "I was both mystified and confused by what I was seeing. How could two young people so perfectly embody the sound and feeling of old-time music? How could two people so well-versed in old-time music recast it in a way that felt new and fresh?"

We hope you will help us keep the feast on Sunday, June 25, as we gather at Hubba Hubba Smokehouse to celebrate the gift of being the Body of Christ at St. John in the Wilderness. There is some seating available, but many will need to bring their own chairs. Music starts at 6:00pm but I'd recommend getting there by 5pm and ordering some BBQ. If it rains, we'll have the concert in the Parish Hall without the food. Invite your friends and neighbors, even strangers and enemies. Feasting, after all, is the Christian thing to do.

~ Fr. Josh Stephens



Chatham Rabbits



Feast of St. John 2022

Men's Social Picnic

Sunday, June 4, 12:00 to 4:30pm

Men of St. John in the Wilderness (including teens!) are invited to a very special summer social at a parishioner's cabin: 647 Rutledge Drive in Flat Rock. Burgers and brats will be provided for grilling out, as well as assorted salads, trimmings, and desserts. Learn more and sign up at bit.ly/menspicnic2023.

Tuesday Night Gathering: Join Us Any Time!

Tuesdays during the Summer 5:30pm in the Wilderness Room

Did you miss the first few sessions of the Tuesday Night Gathering this year? Not to worry--you can jump in to join us any time. Previous attendance is not necessary to understand the content of each session.

This spring and summer, the first half of our sessions will focus on "The Celtic World." The second half will cover "The American West: History, Myth, and Legacy." In short, our hybrid topic is "Celts and Cowboys."

For those not familiar with our format: we share a potluck dinner prior to watching a 30-minute Great Courses video from our selected course. We then have a short but lively discussion about what we've learned. The evening ends at 7:00pm. If you're not acquainted with Great Courses offerings, you should know that lecturers are selected not just for their extensive knowledge but for the engaging way they present it. Our Tuesday Night Gathering is informative and fun, and the food is always terrific. If you've not been before, do give us a try.

Questions? Please call or email Polly Morrice at 713-206-1036 or pamorrice@att.net.

Reminder: Summer Scholar-in-Residence

Dr. Phil Kenneson will be with us for most of June teaching and preaching on "Signposts of the Kingdom: Learning to Like into God's New Reality." See the full schedule, session overviews, and Dr. Kenneson's biographical information at www.stjohnflatrock.org/summer-scholar.

Sunday Formation

June 4 - 18
10:05am in the
Wilderness Room

Saintly Hors D'Oeuvres

Thursdays, June 1 - 22
5:00pm in the
Wilderness Room

Preaching

Sundays, June 4 and 18
8:45 and 11:00am Services



Join Us on Our Next Hike!
Sunday, June 11, at 2:00pm

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

*Trail Workday at
Dupont State Recreational Forest,
May 16, 2023*



Good News Gardeners Tuesday, June 27, 9:30 to 11:45am

We invite you to join us at our next “Good News Gardeners” workday on Tuesday, June 27, from 9:00 to 11:00am at the Foster Education Garden at Kanuga. Please note the earlier time due to the warming temperatures. We will be 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 stay for lunch in the conference center.



In April, Gardeners mulched walkways, filled raised beds with soil and compost, cleaned garden signs, and sowed wildflower seeds.

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

Register online at bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners. Directions and parking instructions are on the registration site. We hope to see you there!

Do You Need a Nametag?

Wearing a nametag at St. John services and events is a nice way for us all to remember a forgotten name and help others to remember ours. If you would like one of our attractive nametags, please contact Sarah in the Parish Office: (828) 693-9783 or officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org. You can pick it up from her, or she can arrange to have it waiting for you at whatever entrance you use for worship services.

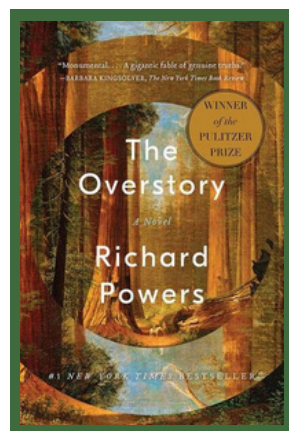


Are You in the Directory?

Our secure online directory is a great way for parishioners, clergy, staff, and associates to put names to faces at St. John. You can contact Sarah in the Parish Office for this, too, and she can arrange for you to have your picture taken. Alternatively, you can send or bring in a photo you would like used for this purpose. The directory is a helpful tool to have on your computer and/or cell phone, as having pictures and contact info readily available comes in handy in any number of circumstances. Sarah can help you get the directory added to your device(s)--just reach out!

Readers in the Wilderness

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



June 2: *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

When one of Powers's characters goes to a small grove outside her office window to determine the tree's species, "She stands with her nose in the bark, perversely intimate. She doses herself for a long time, like a hospice patient self-administering the morphine." Powers is devious in that he first immerses the reader in the lives of his characters before delicately oxygenating his story with the devastation of Dutch elm disease, the enduring strength of the sequoia, and the communication methods trees use to warn of predators and to lure allies. This gorgeously written novel will seduce you into looking more closely at not only our fellow human beings, but also the towering bio-kingdom that is too often merely a backdrop to our days.

Bringing Church to Newell

Lori Griswold, Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Newell Doty is a parish member who receives visits from our Homebound Ministry volunteers. He was born with a spirit for adventure and action, but now his health makes many favorite activities impossible. His joy now comes from visits with friends and family. His face still lights up when he sees the love of his life, Ronnie, his bride of 58 years.

As a young couple, Newell and Ronnie lived all over the Northeast and raised their three daughters in Rochester, New York. Newell spent most of his career in the insurance industry, but in 1993 that bug for adventure bit, and the Dotys moved to Saluda to own and operate the Orchard Inn. They ran the Inn until 1997, and, loving the area, decided to stay here after they retired from innkeeping.

Throughout his life, Newell enjoyed and participated in many sports—skiing, fishing, golf—but especially running. He ran in all weathers and took up marathon running. All told, he ran in 16 marathons, including Boston, NYC, San Francisco, and Toronto. He and Ronnie also loved to travel, both in the US and Europe.

Above all else, Newell has always treasured his roles as a husband and father. He and Ronnie have always loved to visit their daughters, now dispersed throughout the country with families of their own. Newell and Ronnie created a beautiful life together, and shared it generously—with each other and with their loved ones.

Because Newell's condition is such that he can no longer attend church in person, the church needs to come to him. And we do. With God's help, we support Newell and Ronnie in this new way of living, so different from the busy and active lifestyle they lived for many decades. It is a blessing to share God's love with them.

Are you interested in ministering to our members who are homebound as a Eucharistic or Pastoral Visitor? Reach out to Stephen Askew (307-399-4412; stephenaskew@gmail.com) or Patricia Tanzer Askew (307-275-2733; ptaskew@gmail.com) to get involved!





**Total Raised at the Bazaar:
\$12,583**

The ECW Bazaar held on Saturday, May 20, was a wonderful bonding experience. The Holy Spirit was at work amongst church members and the community in so many ways.

Church women and many of their spouses donated, hauled, polished, set up, took down, wrapped, unwrapped, made food, served food, managed check-out stations, and, most importantly, prayed for the success of this mission to raise money for assisting women and children in our community.

Our sincere thanks to all!

*~ Linda Giltner and Carmen Curtis,
Co-Chairs*

Episcopal Visitation



Bishop José received 12 people and reaffirmed the faith of 1 on Good Shepherd Sunday. Congratulations to our newest Episcopalians: Bill Morris, Gregor Pickral, Rita Antonelli, Susan Allen, Jon and Emily Fitzpatrick, Anne Vogler, Ross Sprout, Jim and Jann Cooper, and Virginia and Rick Rehn. Congratulations, also, to Laurie Morris who reaffirmed her faith. It is a joy to be the church with all of you!

June BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Becky Goodman
- 3 Hal Reid
- 3 Joanne Adams
- 5 Jackie Hornsby
- 5 Tommy Vellanti
- 5 David Christenbury
- 6 Ginny MacNeil
- 7 Dale Llewelyn
- 7 Gibson Sims
- 8 Nelson Motes
- 8 Diane Skelton
- 11 Bridget Swing
- 12 Barbara Bowers
- 12 Laura Ghahreman
- 13 Joe Kovaz
- 14 Anne Vogler
- 17 Tom Green
- 17 Janet Smith
- 18 Tom Bullard
- 18 Bill Bowers
- 19 Cathryn Harrell
- 20 Newell Doty
- 20 Bettie Orr
- 21 John Ball
- 21 Lucy Pharr
- 22 Marlin Sanders
- 23 Luann Ham
- 24 Mary Edwards
- 24 Susan Dobson
- 25 Alan Ward
- 25 Sandra Jeffery
- 25 Peter Fricke
- 26 Katherine Gee
- 29 Matthew Bullard
- 29 Rosanna Couture

Friends of Music Presents
Musical Friendships, Old and New: Introducing Dr. Lucy Owen Hoyt, Soprano, and Dr. Deborah Hollis, Piano
Sunday, June 18, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall



Dr. Hoyt

Dr. Hollis

This month, Friends of Music will feature a concert in the Parish Hall on Sunday afternoon, June 18, at 4:00pm. Three musicians will perform in what they call their “meant-to-be moment!”

The vocal portion of the recital, with soprano Dr. Lucy Owen Hoyt and pianist Dr. Deborah Hollis, includes sections of intimate French art song and romantic Scandinavian song. Dr.

Deborah Hollis and Dewitt Tipton will play compositions by Felix Mendelssohn and Maurice Ravel. The recital concludes with a medley of American standards by Jerome Kern.

“We are delighted about our collaboration in this final concert of the season at St. John in the Wilderness,” said Dr. Hoyt. Dr. Hollis added, “We can't imagine a nicer way to spend Father's Day than by making beautiful music with dear friends.”



Ascension Day Eucharist And Potluck

We had a glorious time celebrating the Ascension under the pavilion at Flat Rock Park. We worshiped surrounded by God's creation: proclaiming the Good News, blowing bubbles, climbing trees, and enjoying fellowship over a delicious potluck feast. Thanks to all who joined us for this special day.



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.

The Younger Voice

Rogation Sunday Planting

On Rogation Sunday, May 14, the elementary-age Youth Group met to bless and plant our Giving Garden beds with a wide array of flowers, greenery, and herbs.

The idea was to create a sensory pollinator garden--one that attracts and sustains ecologically beneficial insects and birds, while also stimulating the human senses. By engaging all five of our senses--sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste--we become more connected to God's creation and aware of our positions as caretakers of this fragile earth, our island home.

Sensory gardens are also a great way to practice mindfulness: try noticing the texture, color, shape, aroma, noise, and flavor of the plants in the garden, and feel the tight coils in your brain and body unravel as you spend time paying attention to the present moment. This garden is for all to enjoy!



Volunteers Needed: Wild Wonder
Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16
9:00am to 12:00pm

Wild Wonder: Creation Care Camp for Kids is just around the corner! Please consider offering your time and talents to make this year's camp run smoothly. We are expected to have a record number of campers this year, and we could really use your help as a counselor, bathroom breaker, or Daily Feast provider. Please contact Fr. Ian Williams (ian@stjohnflatrock.org) if you would like to get involved.

The June Altar Flowers Are Given in Loving Memory of:

June 4

**Margarita Fitzsimons, Mather
 Fitzsimons, Frank and Millie
 Fitzsimons, and Candy Priest**

by

Hank, Dunk, Pam, and Mindy

June 11

Reed Finlay

by

*Lucretia and children,
 Reed III, Lucretia, and Douglas*

June 18

All Fathers

June 25

**Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dethero,
 John and Carter Dethero**

by

David L. Dethero



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



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Ian Williams
Curate

The Rev. Dea. Charles Rex
Deacon

Sarah Yeargin
*Director of Parish Communication
& Administration*

Stacy Knapp
Parish Financial Assistant

Dewitt Tipton
Organist and Director of Music

Kevin Hunt
Sexton

Vestry

John Barker
Senior Warden

Will Rodriguez
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

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

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

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

**St. John uses Rite I liturgies during Advent and Lent and Rite II during
the rest of the year.*

Monday through Thursday

9:00am - Morning Prayer (live-streamed on Facebook)

Wednesday

10:30am - Healing Service in the Wilderness Room

4:30pm - Evening Prayer in the Atrium Chapel

Our Mission Statement

To know and love God as He is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, to bring others
to His saving love, and to serve the world in His name.

828-693-9783

www.stjohnflatrock.org

officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

