



THE VOICE

April 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 Curate's Desk

We Have Arrived: Holy Week is Upon Us

In preparation to encounter the risen Lord faithfully, the practices that we engaged in during the 40-day Lenten season have helped us humble ourselves so that we may recognize our frailty and dependence on God. Now we have arrived in Holy Week. There is a lot going on during these holiest of days, and it is very easy for everything to pass by in a blur, so let's take a closer look.

Starting with the Liturgy of the Palms on the Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with Matthew's gospel account. Some churches reenact this event in, around, or near their church. However, this practice should not be confused as "play acting." Rather, we are joining with the people in Jerusalem in joyfully welcoming the Lord into our midst. The gospel and collect then immediately go into the Passion of Jesus Christ. It is a confusing and strenuous day, and the character of Palm Sunday is ominous.

We then come to what is known as the Triduum, the three days that culminate with the celebration of Easter. The Triduum, which should be seen as one liturgy in three parts, begins with Maundy Thursday. Here we encounter what has become known as the Lord's Supper, a transformation of the Old Testament Passover. Although we often encounter the Passion narrative as described in the gospels, the oldest written account of the Last Supper is Paul's account found in 1 Corinthians. The Gospel is from John and includes the washing of feet. We follow Jesus' example of how to love by using our bodies to serve others. The gesture of foot washing helps us understand how demeaning this act was. In Jesus' time only non-Israelite slaves washed the feet of others. It was utterly shocking that a Jewish Rabbi would do this. This symbol of sacrifice foreshadows the prophetic and symbolic action of laying down Christ's life on the cross. After foot washing, we have the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the stripping of the altar, which symbolizes the stripping of Jesus as we remove the sacrament from the altar and place it on the pulpit for devotion during the vigil. This is the beginning of the Passion of Jesus Christ, and we leave the church in silence. At St. John we also engage in what is known as the "Gethsemane Watch" in which people take turns accepting Jesus' invitation to his disciples to sit in silence and wait with him throughout the night.

Good Friday is the day that Jesus Christ was crucified and died. We hear the Passion narrative from the Gospel of John as well as what are known as The Solemn Collects. These beautiful, powerful, and awe-inspiring words encapsulate the Christian life in a series of prayers. Holy Eucharist is never celebrated on Good Friday, and communion, if received, is from the reserve Sacrament.

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Find the Holy Week and Easter Schedule on Page 2.



Holy Week and Easter at St. John in the Wilderness

Palm Sunday, April 2

Join us in the church at 8:45 and 11:00 am as we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his Passion on the cross. The service begins outside the Carriage Entrance, weather permitting.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

At this 7:00pm service in the church, we will remember Jesus' humility by washing the feet of our neighbors and stripping the altar. You may wear sandals if you wish.

Gethsemane Watch, April 6 - 7

Beginning at the end of the Maundy Thursday service (9:00pm) and running until 8:00am on Good Friday, you are invited to sign up for an hour of prayer in the church at bit.ly/gethwatch2023.

Good Friday, April 7

Good Friday marks the day Jesus was crucified by people like us. We begin in the Parish House parking lot at 11:00am with the Stations of the Cross, traveling to the church as we recount the story of His crucifixion.

This journey will lead us to the church, where we will have Good Friday services at 12:00 and 5:30pm. Designated checks and loose offerings from our Good Friday services will be collected to send to our siblings in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Between 1:00 and 4:00pm, you are encouraged to participate in the Veneration of the Cross in the church.

Easter Sunday, April 9

Join us for Easter services in the church at 8:45 and 11:00am as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ in whom God has defeated death and established a new kingdom.

Bring flowers to decorate the cross, an instrument of shameful death that has become for us the tree of life. Loose offerings and designated checks from our Easter offering will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development to aid victims of natural disasters in the United States.

An Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 10:15am in the Rector's Garden and on the Parish Hall Lawn. All children are invited to take part.

From the Curate's Desk, Continued from Page 1

The Passion reading can be referred to as "anamnesis" because it is more than a memory: we take part in the Passion of Jesus Christ. Part of the liturgy in many Christian churches, including St. John, is to bring a large simple wooden cross into the church. This is a time of devotion where some choose to bow to or kiss the cross to express the sadness that comes with the crucifixion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. I encourage everyone to recognize the three sacred hours of veneration between 1:00 and 4:00pm on Good Friday, and to refrain from engaging in secular activities during that time so that we may fully honor the time in which Jesus died.

Holy Saturday, when celebrated, is entirely a service of the word. It is about the burial of Christ. We recall that Jesus really did die, he really was buried, and people really did mourn for him. The burial of Christ sanctifies the experience of mourning and grieving for all of us. Some Christian communities celebrate The Great Vigil of Easter either the night before Easter Sunday or in the morning hours before the sun rises on the First Day.

Our Easter celebration recognizes that Christ's resurrection from the dead defeats our sins. The risen Lord releases the possibility of forgiveness in the world. Our hope, therefore, is in the risen Lord. Resurrection is not a metaphor or a memory; all bodies return to dust. Christ's spiritual body is what is transformed and what remains. It is not a ghost; it is a body imbued with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is no longer mortal; he is not beholden to the limits of time and space. It is our belief, our great hope, that through Christ, and in Christ, death and sin are ultimately defeated for us as well. We believe God the Father raised Christ from the dead on the First Day, and in the words of Jesus Christ, "This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day." Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! ~ Fr. Ian Williams

Willa and Her Shortbread

The Rev. Patricia Tanzer Askew, Homebound Ministry

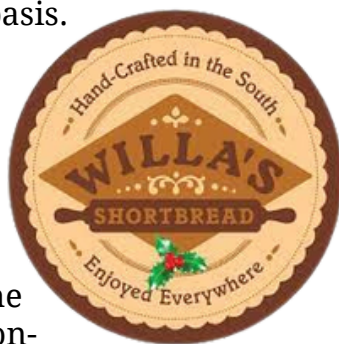


Willa Allen

It was a few days before Christmas last year when Stephen and I rang the bell at Willa's apartment and met this dynamic and joyful woman. At the end of our visit she presented us with a small box of "Willa's Shortbread." It got us thinking about how we would love to share these cookies with others in the parish.

So, we made a few phone calls and arranged to have two cartons of these fabulous cookies sent to us just before Easter, so that we could share them on behalf of St. John in the Wilderness with parishioners who aren't able to come to church on a regular basis.

Willa Allen, a parishioner of our church, started baking shortbread cookies around 1963 to offer as part of a Lenten luncheon after services at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham. When she and her husband moved to Henderson County, she started baking them for the Hendersonville Country Club and then opened a craft shop where she sold to the general public. She then went on to sell to Fresh Market here in town and then on to market them nationally and internationally!



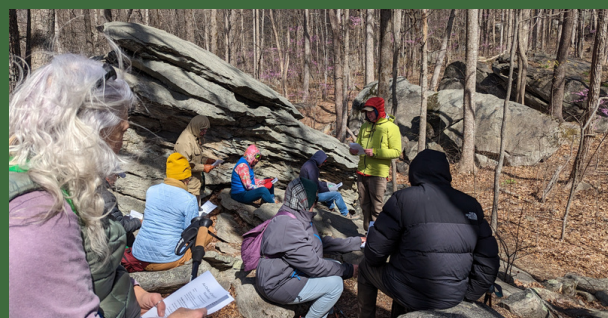
In 2006, Willa turned the company over to her son, Clark, and his brother-in-law, Eric. Eric's family now runs the "family business" out of their cookie factory in Middle Tennessee. A special thanks to Eric, who is sending us these cookies at no cost. What a treat! Thank you to Willa and the folks at Willa's Shortbread, to Katherine Gee who is creating bows to decorate the boxes, and to all the people of St. John in the Wilderness who will see to it that these are distributed.

Chefs Honor Arnold Smith with Donation to Meals on Wheels

At the February breakfast, a very generous donation was made by one of our parishioners, a retired chef, in memory of Arnold Smith.

Arnold was very involved in the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels Program, so the Chefs of St. John gave Meals on Wheels that \$500 donation in Arnold's name. The men of St. John will miss Arnold, and we wish to thank the parishioner for his generous donation.

Holy Hike at Rumbling Bald March 14, 2023



Join Us on Our Next Hike!
Tuesday, April 11

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

Save the Date!



YOU'RE INVITED!

WILD WONDER: CREATION CARE CAMP FOR KIDS

AT ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MONDAY, JUNE 12 - FRIDAY, JUNE 16
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Learn more and sign up:
www.stjohnflatrock.org/wild-wonder



ECW Action in April

The Mission House is open each Saturday in April from 10am until 12pm to receive your small donation items for the Bazaar on May 20! If you need someone with a truck to pick up your items, please call Linda Giltner, 864-680-2793, or Stephen and Patricia Tanzer Askew, 307-399-4412.

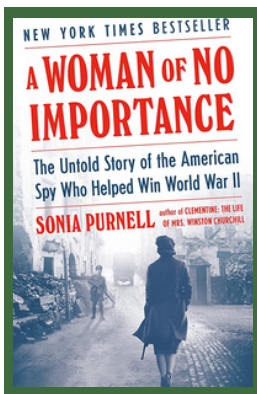
Furniture will be received May 15 through 19 in the Wilderness Room. Plants will be received that week as well. Bring them to the courtyard at the entrance of the Atrium Chapel in the Parish Hall.

If you would like to help move the donations to set up for the event, work the event, or help distribute posters for the Bazaar, please sign up today at www.bit.ly/bazaarhelp.



Readers in the Wilderness

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

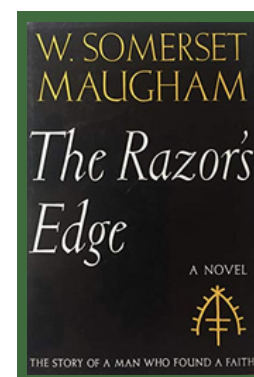


April 7: *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her." The target was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Churchill's "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare." She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it. Based on new and extensive research, Sonia Purnell has for the first time uncovered the full secret life of Virginia Hall—an astounding and inspiring story of heroism, spycraft, resistance, and personal triumph over shocking adversity.

May 5: *The Razor's Edge* by W. Somerset Maugham

Larry Darrell is a young American in search of the absolute. The progress of this spiritual odyssey involves him with some of Maugham's most brilliant characters—his fiancée Isabel, whose choice between love and wealth has lifelong repercussions, and Elliot Templeton, her uncle, a classic expatriate American snob. The most ambitious of Maugham's novels, this is also one in which Maugham himself plays a considerable part as he wanders in and out of the story to observe his characters struggling with their fates.



The Endowment: Reflecting God's Love for Future Generations

As we sit in our lovely sanctuary on a Sunday morning or help on a project or committee during the week, we are grateful for the unseen and silent efforts of the many hands and hearts that support our ministries and our worship. Countless hours and much talent sustain our life as a parish and as followers of Christ.

Similarly, our financial support is largely unseen and unheard, but nevertheless is essential to our ordinary operations and to the good we do in the world and for our parish. The Endowment performs the practical and essential function of supporting our financial needs year after year, generation after generation. Contributions to our Endowment provide a stream of income in the present while building a bridge to our future, and ensuring that St. John in the Wilderness will continue to do God's work in coming generations.

Gifts to our Endowment can be made in a number of forms. You may choose to make a gift of cash or other assets now so your contribution can be put to work immediately. Or, you may defer your gift until after your lifetime by leaving a legacy in your will. A wisely planned gift benefits both the receiver and the giver and glorifies God.

If you designate St. John as a beneficiary in your will, please let Fr. Josh know so that we can welcome you to The Baring Society. The Endowment Fund is not the same as The Baring Society which recognizes those who leave legacy gifts of all types to St. John in their wills. To leave a legacy gift specifically to the Endowment, the Endowment Fund must be designated.

To learn more, take a look at www.stjohnflatrock.org/endowment-funds, or pick up the Endowment brochure on the table outside the Parish Office. Then, prayerfully consider making your gift. Endowment Trustees are happy to answer any questions you may have.



Preparing for an Episcopal Visitation

Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, will be with us on Sunday, April 30, for worship and formation. He will celebrate and preach at both services that Sunday, and he will speak to you during formation between the services. Although we call such occasions an "Episcopal Visitation," we do not "welcome" our bishop as we would a guest, since St. John is one of his parishes. Indeed, Fr. Josh serves as your rector on behalf of Bishop José, who is the chief celebrant and preacher in our diocese. Together with him and all of our Episcopal siblings in these mountains and foothills, we make up the Episcopal branch of Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

An Episcopal visitation does require some preparation on our part. The clergy and staff will be planning ahead to make sure we are prepared for that special day in Eastertide. For your part, there are two things you can do to ready yourselves. First, continue to pray for the Church throughout the world, including our bishop and the church in Western North Carolina. Look forward to spending time with Bishop José who embodies in his person our lineage with the apostles. Be open to hearing the Gospel proclaimed by him and receiving his episcopal blessing.

Secondly, please let us know if you would like to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed by the bishop during his visit. While any baptized person can join the parish of St. John, a further step in faith and communion happens when we are blessed by the bishop through the laying on of hands. Those who have recently taken a Newcomers' Class (such as *Life in Christ* or *Being Christian*) may **sign up to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed by Bishop José at www.bit.ly/bishopsjw by Monday, April 24.**

We hope you will consider taking a deeper step into the faith during the upcoming Episcopal Visitation if the above applies to you. Please let the office know if you have any questions.



On March 4, St. John sent two teams to Bowl for Kids' Sake, helping to raise over \$152,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC.

April BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kim Sanders
- 2 Arlo Stephens
- 3 Jeff Adams
- 4 Jeff Gunter
- 4 Mark Owen
- 4 Vicky Bochynek
- 6 Lynn Wiescholak
- 6 Margaret Barker
- 8 Alex King
- 9 Allan Smith
- 10 Mary Boys
- 11 Paul Robinson
- 11 Jim Gibbs
- 12 Danny White
- 12 Jill Owen
- 13 David Dethero
- 13 Mia Schiro
- 15 Jan Knapp
- 16 Galen Reuther
- 16 Charlie Liberto
- 16 Will Trotter
- 17 Sara Kester
- 17 Mary Anne Inglis
- 18 Cosmo Ghahreman
- 19 Martha Moreno
- 19 Jim Wagner
- 21 Tommy Newell
- 21 Anne Hobbs
- 21 Chad Melton
- 25 Sandy MacNeil
- 25 Stu Holcombe
- 25 Jennifer Shelton
- 26 Bud Fish
- 26 Ola Bochynek
- 27 Halina Bochynek
- 27 Katja Edgar
- 28 Marci Plati
- 30 Bill Gordon

Friends of Music Presents: **Becky Stone, Storyteller** *Sunday, April 23, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall*



Becky Stone

Join us on Sunday, April 23, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall for a unique program of storytelling and music with Becky Stone, a talented musician, actor, and teller-of-folktales.

Each performance of Becky's is one-of-a-kind created with a specific audience in mind. As she explains, "I love world tales and bringing the music of language and other dialects to the audience. And there is always the possibility that I will bring an African version of a Bible story."

Becky incorporates music and audience participation in her programs, which frequently leave attendees enthralled. For over 30 years she has performed in the Carolinas and Tennessee with drama, educational, and religious groups as well as at storytelling festivals.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming performances!

Sunday, May 21, 4:00pm in the Parish Hall:

David Weigel, baritone, and Dewitt Tipton, piano
A Benefit for the Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Foundation

Sunday, June 18, at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall:

Lucy Owen Hoyt, soprano, and Deborah Lee Hollis, piano

Tuesday Night Gathering Will Return Next Month

Tuesday, May 9, at 5:30pm in the Wilderness Room

Tuesday Night Gatherers: Now that spring has officially arrived, it's time to mark your calendars for another seasonal highlight! Our first meeting of 2023 will be on May 9 at 5:30pm in the Wilderness Room.

We're trying something new this year. Since the popular vote for this year's topic was equally split between two interesting subjects, we'll be doing both. The first half of our sessions will focus on "The Celtic World." The second 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.



*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.*

Sauntering Into Connection: A Journey Toward Wholeness

Friday-Sunday, April 21-23, at Valle Crucis Conference Center

Join the Rev. Karla Woggon and Dr. Beth Lamb in a retreat to reconnect with ourselves, others, and the Holy led by the original spiritual director: the Earth. The retreat will begin with dinner; afterwards, we will create a sacred circle and space for holy conversation. On Saturday, we will have group and individual soul sauntering hikes to choose from, as well as time to walk the labyrinth and explore our

interior lives using art, writing, silence, and other contemplative practices. Sunday, April 23, will begin with an optional early morning sunrise hike followed by breakfast, reflection, and Holy Eucharist, concluding after lunch.

Learn more and/or sign up at vcconferences.org/programs. Financial assistance is available from St. John: contact the office for more information, and be sure to let Fr. Josh know if you plan to attend.

The April Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of:

April 2

**Alice and Wick
Andrews, Lawrence
and Betty Lee,
and Larry Lee**
*by
their family*

April 9

Loved Ones

April 16

Wick Andrews
*by
his wife, Martha,
and family*

April 23

**Vickie Livingston
Shaw**
*by
Francis and Cal
McMeekin*

April 30

**Doris, Earl, Mark,
and Pat**
*by
Candace Lewis*

Flower Memorial Form for 2023



It is important for ALL flower memorial donors, both new and existing, to complete the following form to provide and/or update their information so we can honor your loved ones properly. Please send completed forms to Gaston Motes at 116 Stonebridge Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739, or email your response to her at gtmotes01@gmail.com. You may also email Gaston to stop your existing flower memorial. Thank you!

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or Email: _____

Indicate when you would like your memorial (*month/date*): _____

Please note that this form must be turned in at least one month prior to the requested date.

How would you like your memorial to read?

(Circle) In loving memory / In honor of _____

by _____

Please mail your contribution directly to the Parish Office at P.O. Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Remember to indicate "Flower Memorial" on your check. A contribution of \$75.00 is suggested but not mandatory.

Thank you for your support of our Flower Memorial Ministry!

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

