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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 VOICE

August 2022

From the Curate's Desk

Greetings, and may the peace of God be always with you!

What a whirlwind couple of months it has been! It has been my experience in life that some of the most important moments or periods of time pass by in a way that defies our natural sense of the passing of time. For example, I can vividly remember the very first day we had campers during my very first summer as Director of Camp Henry. From the moment I woke up until the moment I fell asleep, it felt like I was acutely aware of every passing second. I remember thinking towards the end of my day that I had just experienced the longest day in my life. Also, I remember thinking that if every day was going to be like this, I was in for the most intense couple of months in my entire life. Yet, by the end of that first summer as Camp Director, I was left wondering how it had gone by so quickly. Upon reflection, it occurs to me that our normal sense of how time passes by can be incredibly altered when we recognize the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

The past couple of months have been very similar to that experience. Graduating from the School of Theology at the University of the South in May after a three-year seminary experience unlike any that had ever happened before was surreal and beautiful. Moving back to my family home to follow three of my lifelong dreams all at once is a blessing beyond description. Those dreams are as follows:

1. Serve as an Episcopal Priest in an amazing community.
2. Farm my family's land.
3. Allow my parents and children to be with one another every day.

Being ordained on a Saturday and then celebrating Holy Eucharist for the very first time on the Sunday after will forever stand amongst the most importance experiences of my life. So, one might ask, "How does one follow up such a wild series of events?" You get to work!

For the past two weeks, I have been getting to know the staff and congregation of St. John. Serving at the Altar with Fr. Josh, Deacon Rex, various lay ministers, and recently The Rev. Dr. MacSwain has been spiritually uplifting, enjoyable, and full of growth. I have even messed up a couple times without (too) much kidding from Fr. Josh and Deacon Sandy! Visiting parishioners, writing sermons, planning various services and events, and attending meetings has kept me incredibly busy.

One of the most noteworthy experiences that I have had thus far is a visit I had with a parishioner who, due to some health challenges, has not been able to attend church in a while. After chatting and realizing that one of her family members is a childhood friend of mine, I laid hands on her and anointed her with Holy Oil, and we shared communion. It was plain to see that she had a deep hunger for the spiritual nourishment of participating in the Eucharist.

Continued on Page 5.



Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests on June 26, from left: The Rev. Logan Lovelace, The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, The Rev. Adam Nygren, and The Rev. Ian Williams



Fr. Ian's First Sunday at St. John

An Update from the Chefs of St. John

Jim Vint, Head Chef

The Chefs of St. John will be taking the month of August off from preparing the Parish Breakfast. The parish will hold a single church service on August 28th with a social immediately afterward, so we have decided to forego the breakfast. (See details about this service on page 5 of *The Voice*.)

Next month's breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 11, from 9:00 until 10:30AM in the Parish Hall. It will be hosted by the Youth Group, who will perform all of the preparation, cooking, and clean-up. (Sign up early at bit.ly/BreakfastSept2022.)

The Youth-led breakfast has been a big success and an enjoyable time for both the Chefs and the Youth of the parish each year. This will be a “free breakfast,” with all donations going to an outreach program that the Youth pick to support.

In the past, the Chefs have matched that donation, which brings us to the next topic. Quite a few parishioners have asked members of the Chefs why we do “free breakfasts” and where the monies we collect are spent.

Each year, we donate all of the collections from the Youth Breakfast to the Youth Group, so the Chefs absorb the cost of all the food and supplies for that month, which can be in excess of \$350. In addition, we make every effort to match what the Youth collect from the Youth Breakfast. That can amount to over \$400.

The costs of the breakfasts have risen over the past few years, and we are always looking for ways to improve our kitchen supplies and food choices. The additional monies we collect at these breakfasts help us to keep the price the same as it has been for the past 15 years.

At the end of each year, the cost estimate for the following year is decided. If our available funds permit, we make an additional donation to an outreach program that the men select. We have been able to do this every year for the past five years, so I am confident that due to the parish's generosity, we will be able to continue our outreach.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jimvintsr@gmail.com.

Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays at 10am in the Library

August 6: *The Reading List*

by Sara Nishi Adams

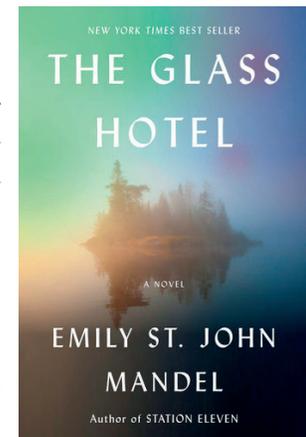
An unforgettable and heart-warming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb....an aging widower and a 17-year-old girl working in a library.



September 3: *The Glass Hotel*

by Emily St. John Mandel

From the award-winning author of *Station Eleven*, 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.



Two Summer Fellowship Meals Left: August 11 and 24

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us! Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

If you read the Gospels carefully, you might notice how often Jesus and his ministry revolve around food. For us today, our lives revolve around the Eucharistic feast. Indeed, for us as a church, Christ is the feast; he is ours to keep and to celebrate. Jesus always shows up when we eat together.

In recent months and years, we have come to value our relationships with one another in Christ very deeply as we reconnect in worship and fellowship. The Vestry and Rector would like to invite you, therefore, to *keep the feast* with us by signing up for a fellowship meal as a chance to connect more with each other. These meals will happen in various homes, at St. John, or even in restaurants.

Head to bit.ly/SJWSummerDinners to select a date that works for you, and a host will contact you to arrange the details.

ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS OUTREACH



August School Supplies Drive



TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN NEED IN THE HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



Items will be given to school social workers and counselors to distribute to students.

NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Pencils
- Notebooks
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Backpacks
- Scissors
- Pencil boxes/pouches

Please drop off donations in the collection boxes in the hallway outside the Church Office or in the entrances to the Church on Sundays.

Thank you for your support of these students!

A Note of Thanks: Historic Churchyard Committee

Ken Jones, Chair

With the recent passing of Mike Covell, it occurred to me that we often wait to say “thank you” until it is too late. Mike worked quietly for many years on the Committee, having served in every capacity working for the perpetual care of our sacred churchyard.

There are others who should be recognized while we can still thank them in person. As the current Chairman for the past five years and representing the other “newcomers” on the committee, we want to thank David Dethero, Malcolm McCormick, Debby Staton, Luann Ham, and Jim Olson for their work and commitment to make the churchyard the beautiful sanctuary that it is today. We also want to thank Nelson Motes for his many contributions that include the beautiful granite Columbarium and the Memorial Garden. Fr. Josh shares in this “thank you” on behalf of the entire congregation.

Holy Hike at Kanuga - July 12, 2022



Help Us Maintain Our Sacred Grounds

Luann Ham, HCC Member

The St. John in the Wilderness Historic Churchyard Committee welcome family members to help us with perpetual care of their family graves. We are dedicated to maintaining the sacred grounds and beauty of the wilderness setting. Our rules and regulations outline what flowers and decorations may be placed on the graves. For example, we remove seasonal flowers, wreaths, and other decorations as they degrade. Any spent flowers, cut or potted, are also removed. Of course, artificial flowers are also removed as they also lose their fresh look quickly, and they are not allowed per our rules and regulations. As committee member volunteers, we would appreciate your help in removing old flowers and decorations from your family graves. Thank you.



Join Us on Our Next Hike!

Green River Game Lands
Tuesday, August 9 at 10am

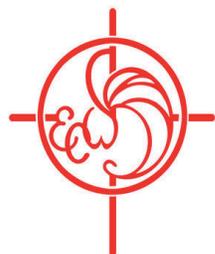
More information coming soon at stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Episcopal Church Women News

Linda Giltner and Vickie Taylor, Co-Chairs



Just want to start with a welcome to all of our new ladies joining ECW! You are included in our ECW just by being a part of the St. John in the Wilderness family. Our members are always looking for ways to "Make A Difference" in the lives of families who need just a little support. Usually this is done through financial donations, raised through projects of the ECW, to organizations that are already established and carrying out such services.

One of our creative ladies, Jinny Bell, has written a poem that expresses the purpose of **THE CAKELESS BAKE SALE**. You should have received a letter inviting all to be a part of this journey of sharing without baking. The return date is August 15. Thank you!

Another "Make A Difference" activity will be on September 24. Recently, some of us emptied out Fr. Alex's office which had held donations for the 2020 May Bazaar. As we sadly remember, the Bazaar did not happen as planned. Those items plus a few extra will be part of the **THE FALL THRIFT SALE** held at the Mission House. Joey Popp and the Communications and Publicity Committee have been hard at work in spreading the news to the wider community--see the full write-up below. We are trying to clean everything out so we will have room to start receiving items for the May 2023 Bazaar!

To offer us ladies a special time to reflect and engage with friends, **THE LADIES' FALL RETREAT** will be coordinated by Deacon Joyce Beschta and Kathy Newbold. Dates and details are forthcoming.

The Episcopal Church Women are such special contributors to God's World and His Mission. Join us with your presence and prayers. Please contact Vickie Taylor (828-577-9632) or Linda Giltner (864-680-2793) for more information or offers of help or ideas. Peace to you and a safe summer.

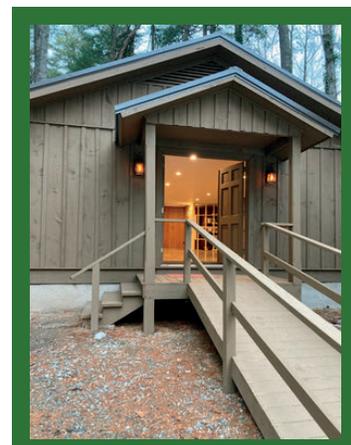
Mission House Thrift Sale

Saturday, September 24, from 9am to 3pm

A one-day thrift sale will be held at the Mission House on Saturday, September 24. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will sponsor this event running from 9am to 3pm. All proceeds will go directly to local charities.

The Mission House, formerly known as the Shed, has been remodeled and refurbished in the past year creating a pleasant ambience for shopping. Items for sale will include gently used household and kitchen items, linens, garden supplies, tools, toys, and small pieces of furniture. Christmas and other holiday decorations will also be available. Purchases may be made with cash, check, or credit cards.

"The ECW have several events so they can collect money to give to the community," said co-chair Linda Giltner. Some of the local organizations we have helped include the Flat Rock Backpack Program, Safelight, St. Gerard House, IAM, Project Dignity, and Children & Family Resource Center. We strive to help those who are in need and are looking for a helping hand."



- 2 Sheri Brown
- 3 Bill Hiatt
- 3 Lii Lii Viola
- 4 Kay Vickery
- 4 Susan Mack
- 5 Carol Black
- 7 Ken Jones
- 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 Terry Bettendorf
- 14 Betsy Darnall
- 16 Edward Izard
- 19 Lisa Wills
- 20 Patty Adams
- 21 Vikki Nelson
- 21 Ronnie Doty
- 22 Megan Dillin
- 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 Ed Blackburn
- 31 Ann Stringfield
- 31 Spencer Ogletree

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.



SJW Meal Ministry Wants You!!

Janelle Walker, Chair

We are a collection of enthusiastic home cooks, not culinary professionals. When a need is identified (i.e., return from a hospital stay, birth of a child, recovery from illness, or loss of a loved one), the Meal Ministry is activated. The chairperson will communicate what is needed via email and brief the volunteers on specifics before they begin. If the volunteer can offer a meal at that time, the volunteer will respond they can do it. Typically, volunteers will prepare and deliver three to four meals per year.



When dealing with the tragedies of life, we can overlook the necessities of life. Help fill the void, share our love, and be a volunteer with the meal ministry.

To get involved, please contact Janelle Walker at 864-386-1524 or hcwiii007@gmail.com.

Thank You, Kathy!

On behalf of the congregation of St. John and the Altar Guild, we would like to extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Kathy Newbold for her many years of service as the Altar Guild Scheduler. Kathy will continue to serve on the Altar Guild, but she has passed scheduling duties on to Sally Hopper. Thank you, Sally, for taking over the schedules for this important ministry!



Cathryn Harrell, the other leader of the Altar Guild who handles the supplies, and Kathy Newbold.

From the Curate's Desk, Continued

I am continually amazed at the depth of faith that I have encountered in the people at St. John in the Wilderness, and experiences such as that are at once strong evidence for the existence of God and confirmation that I am doing exactly what God intends for me to do. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the wonderful people of St. John, and I hope that our shared journey of faith continues to be as enriching and rewarding as my first few weeks here have been.

~ Fr. Ian+

You're Invited: Special Summer Eucharist and Coffee Hour

Sunday, August 28, at 11am in the Parish Hall

We are excited to announce that we will have a Parish Hall Summer Eucharist and Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 28, at 11am. 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. The idea came to us after a snow day event when we canceled our first service and gathered at 11am for worship and fellowship in the Parish Hall last January. It was a moving experience to worship in our lovely Parish Hall and to take time just after the service to connect with one another.

On August 28, 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.

Please join us for this special service. We ask that you do your best to adapt your worship ministry schedules and routines so that we still are able to have the wonderful support we enjoy on Sunday mornings. Take a few minutes to think through any logistical changes you need to make for your ministries on that Sunday, and let your folks know that we are grateful for this chance to have a special service in our beautiful parish hall. We will still need all of the same helpers that would usually provide for an 11:00am service, including golf cart drivers. Thank you for making our life and ministry together so abundant and joyful.

~ Fr. Josh+

Make-Your-Own-Pizza Party For Families with Children

Sunday, August 28, at 4pm in the Parish Hall

Families with children and youth are invited to join in the Parish Hall on the last Sunday in August for an event full of fun, dreaming and planning about the future, exploring our relationship with Christ, and perhaps most importantly, a lesson in pizza-making from Fr. Ian! We will learn how to toss and spin dough in the air (hopefully) without hitting ceiling fans or dropping it on our neighbors' heads. Then we will sauce, cheese, and top our pies with with the ingredients that are nearest and dearest to our hearts. You can even put pineapple on your pizza free of judgement!

Parents, please RSVP to Fr. Ian (ian@stjohnflatrock.org) by Thursday, August 25, with the number of people from your household who will attend and any dietary needs we should be aware of.

Please also be thinking about your schedules for the upcoming year. We would like to offer gatherings for families with children and youth at least once a month, and it will be helpful to know what days and times work with your schedules.

Fr. Ian looks forward to spending time with you as we explore this journey of faith together!



Men's Social

*Sunday, August 21, from 12 to 3pm
647 Rutledge Drive, Flat Rock*

Men of St. John in the Wilderness are invited to a very special summer social at Bill and Ida Walker's cabin on Rutledge Drive, about a tenth of a mile from the church. This is an opportunity for the men of the church--old faces and new--to gather in fellowship and break bread while doing something OTHER than cooking breakfast for the whole parish!

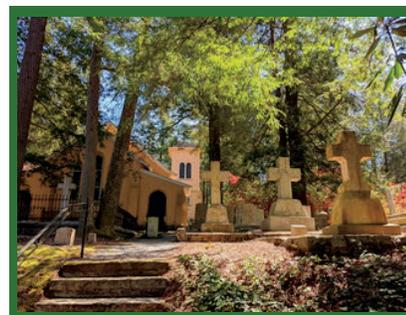
Burgers, franks, and brats will be provided for grilling out, as well as assorted salads, trimmings, and desserts. Please bring your own beverages. Plan to park at St. John and walk or catch a ride on a golf cart for the rest of the way.

Please RSVP at bit.ly/MensSocial by Wednesday, August 17 to aid in planning.

Churchyard Tours Have Returned

Third Saturdays at 11am | Sign-Up Required

Tours of the historic church and churchyard of St. John in the Wilderness have started back up this summer, and reservations are now being accepted through June of next year. Tours are filling up fast, so don't wait to sign up!



"We are pleased to renew our tours of the historic church and cemetery. As a vibrant congregation, we welcome all to come to this sacred place and share in the story of St. John in the Wilderness," says E.R. Haire, lead docent.

Tours are free of charge, begin at 11am, and are limited to 30 people to avoid overwhelming the churchyard and the additional spread of the boxwood blight. Please wear comfortable shoes and meet at the Carriage Entrance of the church. More information and sign-up at stjohnflatrock.org/tours.

Scenes from Our Visit with Summer Scholar-in-Residence, The Rev. Dr. Rob MacSwain

Thank you, Dr. MacSwain, for spending a month sharing your knowledge with us and guiding us through our exploration of "the saint as evidence."



*The Feast of St John: Celebrating Flat Rock
June 26, 2022*



**The August Altar Flowers
are given in loving
memory of:**

August 7

**Mrs. Jane Ashworth
Robertson** by Jane Swanson,
Charles Robertson,
and Thomas Robertson

Wendell Rector
by Carol Rector and
the Taylor Family, the
Walker Kendall
Family, and the
Shamley Family

Tom Darnall
by his wife, Betsy

August 14

**Christopher Eugene
(Gene) Staton, Jr. and
his parents, Gene and
Helen Staton**
by Debby Staton, their
children, and
grandchildren

August 21

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

**Gerald (Jerry),
USMC, Ret.**
by Victoria Nelson

August 28

Stephen Plati
by Marcelene Plati

**Al and Delsie Welch
and Bonnie and
Perry Gibby**
by Charles and Vickie
Taylor

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

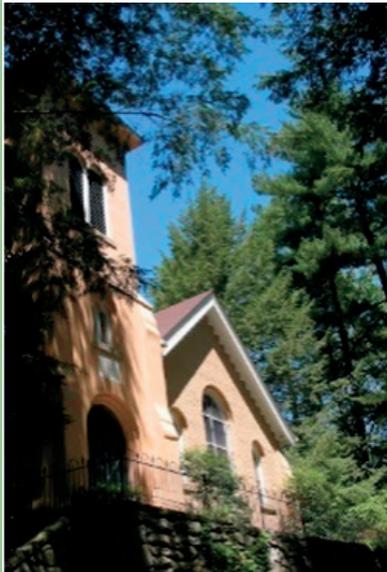
The Rev. Dea. Charles Rex
Deacon

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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officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

