

# The Voice



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## From the Rector's Desk

### Many Celebrations this May



Our Great Fifty Days of Easter is turning out to be a lovely time at St. John in the Wilderness. On May 2 we will have our first Parish Breakfast between the services in over a year. We are grateful to the Chefs of St. John who will serve us all the "fixin's" as we gather outside the Parish Hall for a feast (\$6/person and \$12/family). Our plan is to use the picnic tables outside

the Parish Hall and to set up other tables so we can safely take a moment to eat with one another.

On May 16 we will have a very special episcopal visitation on our hands as Bishop José McLoughlin will join us for both of our services. Our 8:45 service will be one of Confirmation and Reception as many of our students are confirmed and several adults are received into the Episcopal Church. Our 11:00 service will be my official Installation as Rector of St. John. We will also have an informal reception between services in the Parish Hall. Both of these services have long been delayed due to the coronavirus, and so we are thrilled finally to be gathering for these celebrations. Unfortunately, we are still unable to worship inside the church at full capacity as we wait for our communities to be fully inoculated against COVID and do our part in preventing the virus's spread. These services will take place outside of the Carriage Entrance on the driveway around the church (wear your hats!) so we do not have to turn away parishioners, friends, or family members. We will worship surrounded by our faithful departed in our beautiful churchyard with the spring azaleas in bloom. Stay tuned for details, but being outside allows us to not limit attendance for either of these services.

After the bishop's visit, we will celebrate Pentecost and Trinity Sundays in May also! We hope this Easter that the joy of Christ's resurrection be with you and that these festive occasions allow you to share all the more in the Easter mystery of our faith. May God bless you this Easter and always!

Fr. Josh Stephens  
Rector

## What's Happening at St. John

**To the Flower Guild** - Thank you to all who have continued to support the Flower Guild ministry with your memorials for loved ones! Those of you who would like to join in, please contact Gaston Motes at [gtmotes01@gmail.com](mailto:gtmotes01@gmail.com) or (828) 243-9091. She will tell you how to proceed. This ministry is not part of the Church budget, so it is solely funded by the generosity of parishioners. Join in the joy of adding to the beauty of our worship services.

An additional thank you to those who have been able to work with me through the necessary flexibility of the pandemic. Onward Christian soldiers!

Special thanks to our valiant and seemingly tireless Sexton, Kevin Hunt!

Blessings,

Bay Chamberlain

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## The Younger Voice

May is a busy month! We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop José on May 16 for the confirmation of our youth and a time of fellowship surrounding that special occasion. In looking forward to this special service, I am reminded of the verse in 1 John 3:1 that says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" We are thrilled to have been a part of the journey with this group of wonderful young people that will be confessing their faith publicly on this day.

In other news, we are excited to be returning to in-person times together on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. between the two services. We will be working on transitioning the garden to a summer garden during those times, as well as enjoying fellowship around God's word.

Many thanks to all who helped and participated in our Easter Egg hunt. It was a great success with 8-10 visiting families and 200 eggs found and enjoyed. Our own Mary Shelton was featured on WLOS news that evening talking about our Easter Egg hunt and traditions. Thank you, Mary!



## Ushers and Substitutes Are Needed for Both Sunday Services

Ushers and substitute ushers are greatly needed for the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Ushers are responsible for distributing bulletins, seating parishioners, taking the attendance count, taking up the offering, and opening the pew gates for communion. Training is available.

If you are interested in becoming an usher at the 8:45 a.m. service, please contact Clint Adams at (425) 478-2987 or at [cnav70@gmail.com](mailto:cnav70@gmail.com). If you would like to usher at the 11 a.m. service, please contact Bettie Orr at (828) 808-9820 or at [bettieworr@gmail.com](mailto:bettieworr@gmail.com).

## May Flower Memorials

### May 2

In loving memory of Jim and Fran MacDonald  
By: Susan, James, and Inna

AND

In loving memory of Robert and Jeanne Littlefield  
By: Their loving sons, Robert, Richard, and Donald



### May 9

In loving memory of our departed mothers

### May 16

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. John Cart, Henry Robinson Cart and Walter Montgomery Cart  
By Donna R. Cart

### May 23

In loving memory of all who have died of Covid

### May 30

In loving memory of all military personnel who died in the service of our country

## May Hike



The next hike will be on Sunday, May 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Green River Preserve near Cedar Mountain. This is a camp owned and operated by the Schencks, who will be hosting us. More information will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars to join us in hiking these beautiful trails!

## May Birthdays

- |    |                   |    |                    |  |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|--|
| 1  | Jim Olson         | 13 | Dottie Dalzell     |  |
| 1  | Mary Pharr        | 13 | Sandy Harris       |  |
| 2  | Peg Van Bergen    | 14 | Lauren Kanipe      |  |
| 2  | Michael Redmond   | 15 | Bonni Spry         |  |
| 5  | Thomas Shepherd   | 16 | Margaret Pharr     |  |
| 6  | Kathy Limmiatis   | 17 | Elaine Hull        |  |
| 7  | Jerry Tanner      | 17 | Wilder Stephens    |  |
| 8  | Danielle Pharr    | 18 | Charles LeGault    |  |
| 9  | Josephine Saltz   | 19 | Lindsey Bettendorf |  |
| 11 | Ann Kanipe        | 19 | Eliza Perry        |  |
| 12 | Charles Cannon    | 20 | Joanie Covell      |  |
| 12 | Eduard Wiescholek | 21 | Donna Cart         |  |
| 13 | Sally Books       | 22 | Sandy Rex          |  |
|    |                   | 24 | Gordon Smith       |  |
|    |                   | 24 | David Delk         |  |
|    |                   | 25 | Derrick Pace       |  |
|    |                   | 26 | Jim Thaxton        |  |
|    |                   | 26 | John Ogletree      |  |
|    |                   | 28 | Lois Karcher       |  |
|    |                   | 30 | Anne McCormick     |  |
|    |                   | 31 | Beverly Creely     |  |
|    |                   | 31 | Virginia Dekker    |  |

## The Bishop's Visitation



Bishop José McLoughlin will be celebrating with us on Sunday, May 16. As we prepare for the Bishop's visit, please keep the following people in your prayers:

**Youth being confirmed:** Bella Geiser, Ben Geiser, Lane Melton, Jade Ogletree, Danielle Pharr, Jasmine Pharr, Julianna Savage, Mary Shelton, Abigail Stephens, and Hilton Swing.

**Adults being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church:** Jim Gibbs, Susan Gibbs, Chad Melton, Eduard Wiescholek, Lynn Wiescholek

**Father Josh** as he prepares for his formal Installation as Rector of St. John in the Wilderness.

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## Ministry Meetings in the Administrative Complex

Now that meeting restrictions are relaxing a bit, ministry meetings will be allowed once again in the Administrative Complex (Parish Hall, Wilderness Room, Conference Room and Library) providing space allows for physical distancing and masks are worn. If you choose to meet outdoors, masks need not be worn in small groups. To schedule or resume meetings, please contact Leslie at the Church Office at [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) or (828) 693-9783.

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## Shuttle Drivers Needed

Additional drivers are needed on Sunday morning before the 8:45 and the 11:00 a.m. services to drive people from the parking lot to the door of the church. The work is easy, and the passengers are lovely! If you would be interested in helping out with this supportive ministry, please contact Nancy Cooper for the 8:45 service at (828) 698-4716 or [nvtree997@gmail.com](mailto:nvtree997@gmail.com), or Mike Covell for the 11:00 service at (828) 242-6816 or [mjcovello409@gmail.com](mailto:mjcovello409@gmail.com).

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## Let's Remember Our Name Badges Again!



Now that many of us are attending Sunday services again in our beautiful church, let's try to remember to wear our name tags. With masks we may be harder to recognize, so name tags will help. If you need a new name tag, contact Leslie in the Church Office so she can make you one.

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## Boxwood Alert

A disease is affecting the English boxwood throughout the Eastern United States. We have many here in our Historic Churchyard. The fungus is spread by both human and animal contact, so please DO NOT touch or allow your pets to make any contact with any of the plants until this disease is under control. The fungus has been detected at the Sandburg property, so the Churchyard Committee has begun a program of spraying a fungicide on our boxwood with the hope to prevent its spread. Once affected, the only remedy is to remove the plant entirely. Thank you for your help.

## St. John in the Wilderness Summer Scholar Program to Begin This Year

St. John in the Wilderness has a history of summer clergy visiting the community to share in the ministry of the church and in our common life together. For the first century and a quarter of St. John, the church reopened when a summer rector arrived each year. This summer, we are excited to reclaim some of that tradition by beginning the St. John in the Wilderness Summer Scholar Program. For the month of July, we will have a scholar-priest with us who will preach at both services and share offerings in Christian formation. We will announce our 2021 Summer Scholar in next month's *Voice*! Stay tuned!

## St. John Members in the News

Articles about two of our members were recently in the news! Missy Schenck wrote about [Sandy Hunter Jones's](#) lovely smocking and heirloom sewing and about [David Dethero's](#) life and involvement with St. John. Click the links to read more.

## Welcome to St. John!

Please help us welcome these new members at St. John in the Wilderness.



**Ann Hobbes** came to us from Mooresville, North Carolina, and began attending under the Tent of Meeting last spring.



**Mike, Bess, Faith, Channing, and Knowlton Lee** moved here from Spartanburg and enjoyed services in the Rector's Garden last fall.



**Susan and Len Conapinski** moved here from the Low Country and began attending this spring.



**Shirley and Randall Crowson** moved to the area recently from Atlanta and began attending the Bonhoeffer book study last year.

## Bee Adams's Painting of St. John in the Wilderness



In September 2020, a group of artists gathered outside St. John to paint our historic church. The work of one of the artists, Bee Adams, was recently brought to our attention, and we wanted to share (with her permission) her lovely painting and her experience in her own words:

“The name and the location tucked into the forest both drew my husband and me to stop and explore the grounds numerous times. When my Plein Air group (Asheville Plein Air Painters) announced they were painting there I jumped at the chance. I had not been out painting much due to the pandemic,

but the St. John location was perfect for us to socially distance. I adore the color and style of the building itself and the churchyard is magical. My husband and I lived in Belgium for several years and I fell in love with painting interesting buildings. St John in the Wilderness felt very like the quaint and charming churches we would enjoy in our travels in Europe and was a delight to capture on canvas. I look forward to visiting the interior as I have heard that it is beautiful as well.”

Bee's painting is 16"x20" on a wrapped canvas with painted edges, ready to hang, for \$500. You may see the painting along with other works at [badamsart.com/exhibition.html](http://badamsart.com/exhibition.html).

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## Focus on Outreach: Thrive



Thrive is a local nonprofit that receives donation money from the St. John Outreach fund. Recently, I met with Kristen Martin, Executive Director of Thrive. Our meeting was at the Thrive Club House off 64W in the Shaws Creek area. Their offices are located at 218 West Allen Street. Their focus is on helping people who are mentally challenged and struggle with independent life skills. Their programs provide opportunities to learn skills needed to get back on their feet.

Operating funds for Thrive are from private/organizational donors, Henderson County, Medicaid and their annual Bids & Blues Fundraiser. Volunteer opportunities are available in five categories: Professional, Partner/Employment, Student, Intern and Social, and Recreational.

Because of my work with Medicaid Transportation, I have seen the fine, good work of Thrive since 2008. For information on their volunteer needs, contact Kristen at (828) 697-1581 or [kmartin@thrive4health.org](mailto:kmartin@thrive4health.org), or check them out on the web at [thrive4health.org](http://thrive4health.org)

John Ogletree

The Rev. Josh Stephens  
*Rector*

The Rev. Dn. Charles Rex  
*Deacon*

Leslie Stott, *Parish Office  
Administrator*

Stacy Knapp, *Parish  
Financial Assistant*

Dewitt Tipton, *Organist  
and Director of Music*

Kevin Hunt, *Sexton*

Mary Anne Inglis, *Youth  
and Families Coordinator*

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### Vestry

Jennifer Shelton  
*Senior Warden*

Jerry Tanner  
*Junior Warden*

Tom Griswold  
*Treasurer*

Margaret Barker  
*Clerk*

Janet Johnson, Shelley  
Schiro, Cynthia Easterling,  
Terry Enslin, Marie  
Hyder, Dick Zecher,  
Gibson Sims, John Barker,  
Elizabeth Christenbury,  
Lynn Wiescholak

Vestry minutes are posted  
on our website at  
[www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

Deadline for *The Voice* is the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email items  
to your editor, Leslie Stott, at  
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.or  
g or deliver them to the  
Church Office.

## Parish Breakfast



May 2, 2021 | 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Parish Hall between the services

Bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad,  
biscuits, and juice/coffee/tea

**Plus pancakes**

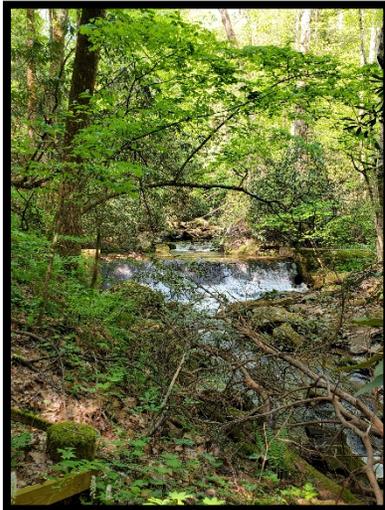
All this for \$6/person or \$12/family!

## Vestry Recognition of Dewitt Tipton

On Wednesday, April 28, Father Josh presented Dewitt Tipton, our Organist and Director of Music, with a certificate expressing the Vestry's deep appreciation for his extraordinary services to our parish during the COVID crisis. Dewitt adapted to provide music for the constantly changing service arrangements, offered great support and encouragement to the choir during lockdown, organized and performed a Friends of Music concert online, and coordinated a complete refurbishment and upgrade of the church organ. In recognition of his tireless efforts, the parish offers its thanks and appreciation.



## May Hike to Pearson's Falls



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday (Registration required for in-person worship)**

8:45 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (In-person and live streamed)

11:00 a.m. Rite Two Eucharist (In-person)

#### **Monday through Thursday**

9:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer (Live streamed)

#### **Wednesday**

4:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (In the Wilderness Room. Bring your mask and *Book of Common Prayer*.)

### **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.