



# THE VOICE

March 2023

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## From the Rector's Desk

### *Finding New Rhythms of Grace*

We are supposed to switch things up during Lent. That is what the old clerics say. "Take time for silence and prayer," they instruct. "Give up sweets or alcohol, and pick up a daily devotional guide." Most of us are glad to have our own routines and rhythms. I'm not sure why we should switch it up for 40 days each year.

In church, we certainly do switch things up. All of a sudden our lips are tripping over those old *Rite I* prayers. This year we've removed the prelude and postlude organ music from Sunday worship so things are more simple and less celebratory. I sure miss saying those "A-words" already. We have added special classes, Lenten games, and a book of reflections just for you, all of which you can explore at [www.stjohnflatrock.org/lenten-journey](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/lenten-journey).

I suppose the point of taking on new things or giving up old things is not to just do something different. Switching things up is not an end in itself. It's about finding new rhythms of grace. It turns out that all of the stuff in our lives – all of the noise, the comforts, the busyness, and the plentitudes we enjoy – they actually serve to get in the way of our relationship with God more often than not.

There is a different rhythm out there that is calling to us all the time. It is, as a poet once said, "...a deep harmony thrumming in the mixture..." It is nothing less than the very drumbeat of the Kingdom which calls to us. If we can find it in Lent, then we can find it in life. I'm going to put my ear to the door to see if I can hear what is on the other side. I'm going to switch things up this Lent, and I recommend you do the same.

Your fellow pilgrim,

*Fr. Josh Stephens*

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

Email submissions to  
[officeadmin@  
stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)  
or deliver them to the  
church office.



**Good News Gardeners:  
A New Ministry of St. John**

*Tuesday, March 28, from 10am to 12pm  
Foster Educational Garden at Kanuga*



If you enjoy “playing in the dirt,” or just want to learn more about gardening, we hope that you will join us at our first “Good News Gardeners” workday on Tuesday, March 28, at the beautiful educational garden at Kanuga. We will incorporate prayer and liturgy into our time together.

Our plan is to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with a summer workday on a Saturday morning for those who can’t participate during the week. In collaboration with Kanuga, we will donate produce from the garden to our charitable partners.

For this first workday, we will help prepare the planting beds, assemble growing structures, mulch the walkways, turn compost, and plant lettuce seeds. Supplies and tools will be provided, but you are welcome to bring favorite gloves or tools.

Questions? Please contact Kathryn Whitten at [kaymwhitten@gmail.com](mailto:kaymwhitten@gmail.com) or Carrie Byars at [carrie.byars08@gmail.com](mailto:carrie.byars08@gmail.com).

To register, please sign up at [bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners](http://bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners). Parking and more detailed instructions will be sent out the week prior to those who have registered.

**Sunday Morning Lenten Formation:**

*Being Christian by Rowan Williams*

*March 12, 19, and 26 at 10:00 in the  
Wilderness Room*

Lent is a time when we simplify our lives to create more space for God and each other. It is fitting, therefore, to spend time with Rowan Williams through his book, *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer*. In this little book based on lectures given by Rowan Williams during Holy Week at Canterbury Cathedral, the former Archbishop of Canterbury breaks down the faith to these four essential elements. Indeed, we are a people who have been buried and raised with Christ through baptism; we read the Scriptures; we are nourished in Christ’s body and blood; and we pray that God’s Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Please join us for reflection and conversation on Sunday mornings at 10am in the Wilderness Room during Lent (March 12, 19, & 26). This class will also serve as the required newcomers' class for those who would like to be received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop José McLoughlin visits us on April 30th. Read more about the Bishop's Visit on page 5 of *The Voice*, and sign up for the class at [bit.ly/beingchristian](http://bit.ly/beingchristian).

**Join Us for the Parish Breakfast**

*Sunday, March 5, from 9:30 to 10:30am in the  
Parish Hall*

Join us for another Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John. They will be serving bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, French toast, ham, and juice/coffee/tea. The cost is \$6 per person or \$12 per family. No RSVP necessary. We hope to see you there!

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



*March 26  
(Refreshment Sunday)*

**My husband,  
George Carr, Sr.  
and Joe Carr**

*by  
Baynard Chamberlain*





## St. John Bowls for Kids' Sake

*Saturday, March 4, from 11am to 1pm  
Tarheel Lanes (3275 Asheville Hwy.)*



Bowl for Kids' Sake is back, this year with the theme "Once Upon a Time." St. John is once again sending two teams to this fundraiser supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS): one for adults and one for youth, both with a goal of raising \$500 for the programs of BBBS-WNC.

BBBS selects and matches mentors with children facing adversity and provides ongoing activities, training, and support services for both families and volunteers to foster a lasting and beneficial connection.

Help our teams meet their fundraising goals by donating to BBBS at either [bit.ly/2023BFKS](https://bit.ly/2023BFKS) (Adult Team) or [bit.ly/2023BFKSyouth](https://bit.ly/2023BFKSyouth) (Youth Team).

## "Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy"

*A Lenten Learning Series with Fr. Ian Williams  
Tuesdays in Lent in the Wilderness Room*

What does it mean to remember to or keep the Sabbath holy? How might we deepen our experience of Sabbath in worship? How might we expand our understanding of Sabbath beyond going to church regularly? How might our understanding and practice of Sabbath draw us nearer to God?

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" is the fourth of the Ten Commandments. With slight but important linguistic differences, the fourth commandment is found in both Exodus 20:8 and Deuteronomy 20:12. On Tuesday evenings in Lent, in the next edition of "Saintly Hors D'oeuvres," Rev. Ian Williams will lead an exploration into our understanding of the Sabbath and the concept of Sabbath rest. This Lenten formation program will draw on biblical understandings of the Sabbath as well as historical and cultural practices of observing the Sabbath. Finally, it will explore how we, in our modern contexts, may incorporate more full, meaningful, and transformative ways to remember and keep the Sabbath holy.

Please join us in the Wilderness Room from 5:00 to 6:15pm on Tuesdays in Lent, and bring some hors d'oeuvres to share!

**Class Schedule: March 7, 14, 21, 28**

**5:00 to 5:30pm - Fellowship and Hors D'oeuvres**  
*(Bring something to share. St. John will provide drinks.)*

**5:30 to 6:00pm - Sabbath Teaching with Fr. Ian**

**6:00pm - Break for those who need to leave for dinner**

**6:05 to 6:15pm - Conversation & further reflection**

## Holy Hike at Ellicott Rock Wilderness February 14, 2023



**Join Us on Our Next Hike!**  
*Tuesday, March 14*

More information is forthcoming at [www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike).



# THE YOUNGER VOICE



## Youth Recycling Center Update *Lynn Wiescholek, Sunday School Teacher*

St. John's Elementary Sunday School Class gathered on Sunday afternoon, February 5, to share a light lunch and continue working on the recycling project they sponsor.

They have been collecting eyeglasses to be donated to the local Lions Club for distribution worldwide. The Sunday School Class, with the assistance of some of the older youth, delivered 42 pairs of glasses to the donation box on 5th Avenue in Hendersonville. They also taped the ends of dead single-use batteries to prevent leakage. In a team effort, they taped exactly 500 batteries that were delivered to the recycling center in February, along with four cell phones.

After an hour of steady work, the children enjoyed some fun time on St. John's playgrounds.

Our youth are committed to sustaining a clean environment and giving to those less fortunate than we. Through their recycling project they are fulfilling their promise to take care of God's gifts to us.

A huge "thank you" goes out to our parishioners for bringing in the eyeglasses and batteries. We will continue to accept both, as well as old cell phones. The collection boxes are located in the hallway between the Sunday School rooms and the Parish Hall.

## Youth Group Returns to St. John

Sunday, February 5 was a very busy day at St. John in the Wilderness. After the 11am service, our elementary-age parishioners gathered for lunch to fuel up for service projects (recycling batteries and eyeglasses) and unstructured play time with Lynn Wiescholek and Father Ian.

Later in the day, the St. John Youth Group gathered to make pizzas that we delivered to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission to serve dinner to our neighbors who are in difficult and transitional times of their lives. Afterwards, we returned to church for dinner and time to talk about our faith, our lives, and our hopes and goals for the future. What a great day, thanks be to God!



# Preparing for an Episcopal Visitation

Fr. Josh Stephens

I am excited to share with you that our bishop, The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, will come to St. John on April 30th for an Episcopal Visit. He will be celebrating and preaching at both services that Sunday, as well as speaking to you during formation between the services. Although we call such occasions an “Episcopal Visitation,” I was taught that we do not “welcome” our bishop as we would a guest, since St. John is one of his parishes. Indeed, I serve 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.

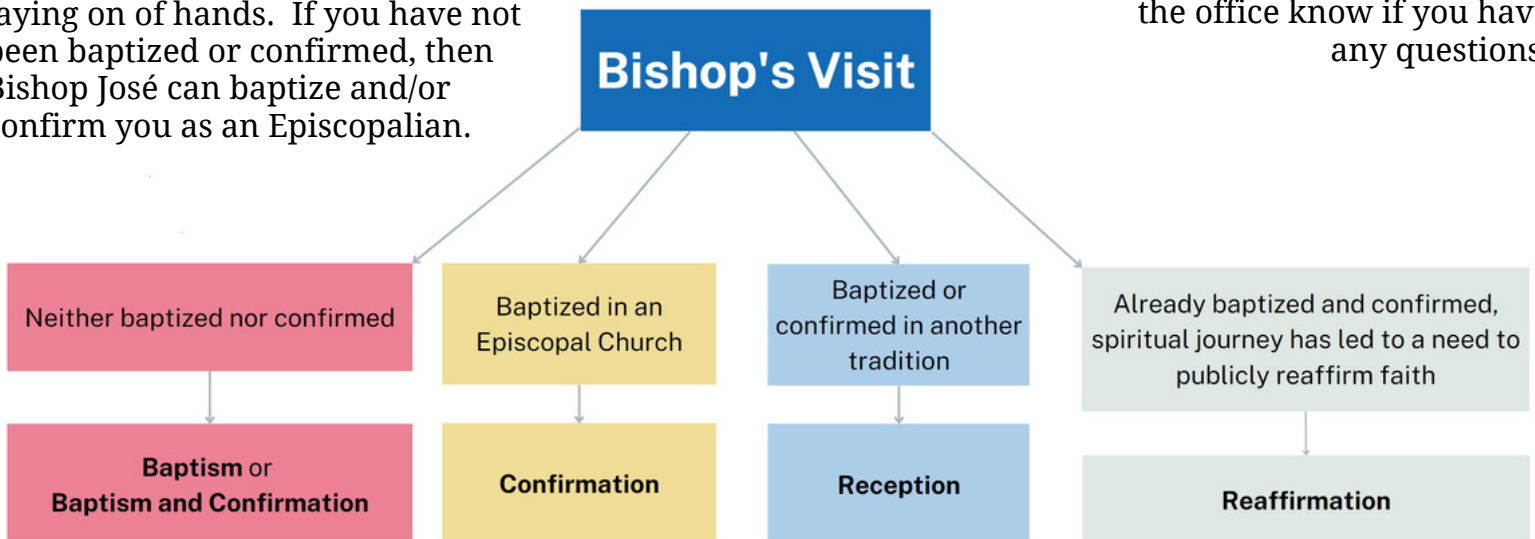
Secondly, **please let Sarah in the office know if you would like to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed by the bishop during his visit by signing up at [bit.ly/bishopsjw](http://bit.ly/bishopsjw).** While any baptized person can join the parish of St. John, a further step in faith and communion happens when we are blessed by the bishop through the laying on of hands. If you have not been baptized or confirmed, then Bishop José can baptize and/or confirm you as an Episcopalian.



If you were baptized in another tradition or confirmed in another tradition, you may be received into the Episcopal Church in the same way. Lastly, if your spiritual journey has led to a need for you to publicly reaffirm your faith to start anew or claim who you are as God’s beloved, you can be reaffirmed by the Bishop at this same service.

While no class is required to join St. John, we do require a class for the mature commitments of faith as described above. With this in mind, we are offering a class during formation on Sundays during Lent (March 12, 19, & 26) which will serve as the necessary catechism for becoming Episcopalian. You can sign up for this class at [bit.ly/beingchristian](http://bit.ly/beingchristian).

As I say often, it is a gift to be Christ’s Church with you. I 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.



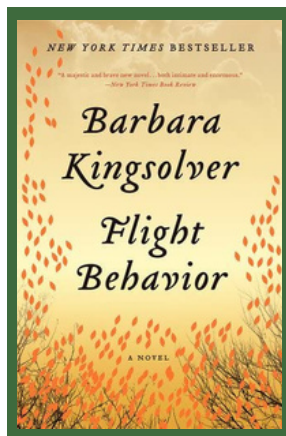


# March BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Yates Pharr
- 3 Liz Ball
- 3 Sophie Guth
- 4 Vick Murdaugh
- 4 Jim Vint
- 4 Jason Blackwell
- 4 Steven Byrd
- 4 Emily Ann Caldwell
- 8 Caitlyn Iosue
- 10 Phyllis Smith
- 11 Marion Mitchell
- 11 Nicole Iosue
- 13 E.R. Haire, Jr.
- 14 Mark Delk
- 15 Eleanor Liberto
- 16 Catherine Mills
- 16 Laura Hanff
- 16 Ellis Pace
- 17 Candace Lewis
- 17 Kathy Newbold
- 17 Harper Swing
- 18 Ginger Quarles
- 18 Bob Staton
- 19 Marge Smith
- 19 Missy Schenck
- 19 Ted Hipp
- 20 Steve Sullivan
- 20 John Pace
- 21 Chris Caldwell
- 21 Rori Ghahreman
- 25 Jinny Bell
- 25 Pat Petillo
- 27 Nancy King
- 27 Elaine Howe
- 28 Jerry Theron
- 28 Tom Robertson
- 28 Cora Fitzpatrick
- 30 Laurie Morris
- 30 Grayson Garber

## Readers in the Wilderness

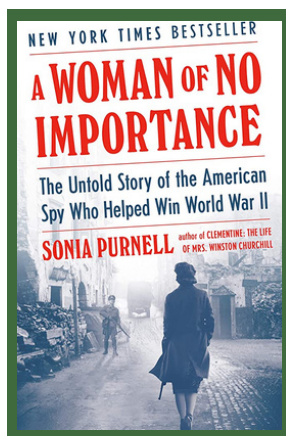
*First Fridays (except January) at 10am in the Parish Library*



### March 3: *Flight Behavior*

by Barbara Kingsolver

*Flight Behavior* is a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present-day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths. Kingsolver's riveting story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain, and how her discovery energizes various competing factions, trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world.



### 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.

## Robes Donated for Global Distribution

*Lynn Wiescholek, Sustainability Committee*

In a recent clean-out effort, we found several choir, acolyte, and clergy robes that were in very good condition but not needed at St. John. Fr. Ian did some research and found a non-profit organization that collects and distributes robes worldwide to churches, missions, and other organizations in need.



We proudly boxed up and sent the robes to Robe Gifting International in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. We sent along a message offering prayers for the good work of the organization and for the recipients of the robes.

Thank you, Fr. Ian, for helping St. John find yet another opportunity for outreach, sharing, and caring for the greater mission of spreading the love of God worldwide.



*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.*



**Friends of Music Presents:  
Solemn Choral Evensong**  
*Sunday, March 19, at 4pm in the Church*



*The St. John Choir*

There will be a traditional and simple service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 4pm in the church. The service will include prayer as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, and will be sung by the clergy, choir and congregation.

“Evensong is one of the great liturgical traditions of Christianity. This service will be similar to those celebrated in the Church of England and by Anglican churches around the world,” said Fr. Josh Stephens. “We hope it enriches your journey through Lent as we set aside this sacred time for evening worship.”

Dialogues between Priest and congregation, Anglican Chant Psalm, ancient canticles sung to plainsong tones, scripture lessons appointed by the lectionary, prayers, choral anthems and organ music will be a part of this meditative mid-Lenten Friends of Music offering.

***Don't forget to mark your calendar for these upcoming performances!***

**Sunday, April 23, at 4pm in the Parish Hall:**  
Becky Stone, storyteller

**Sunday, May 21, at 4pm in the Parish Hall:**  
David Weigel, baritone, and Dewitt Tipton, piano  
*A Benefit for the  
Eric Anderson Weigel Memorial Foundation*

**Sunday, June 18, at 4pm in the Parish Hall:**  
Lucy Owen Hoyt, soprano, and  
Deborah Lee Hollis, piano

**Looking Ahead:  
Holy Week at  
St. John in the Wilderness**

*Palm Sunday*

**April 2 at 8:45 and 11:00am**

Join us in the church 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 7:00pm**

On this day, we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus on the night he was betrayed. At this service in the church, we will remember Jesus' humility by washing the feet of our neighbors and stripping the altar.

*Gethsemane Watch*

**April 6 - 7, 9:00pm - 8:00am**

The Gethsemane Watch is a vigil during which we, as disciples of Jesus, step into the story of his final hours and do something that the Twelve could not do: stay awake for one hour and pray. Beginning at the end of the Maundy Thursday service and running until the clergy gather for Morning Prayer at sunrise on Good Friday, you are invited to sign up for an hour of prayer in the church at [bit.ly/gethwatch2023](http://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.

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



Flat Rock, NC 28731  
PO Box 185  
**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 I Eucharist (in person)

11:00am - Rite I 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](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

[officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)

