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**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.

## From the Rector's Desk

### *Going Back to Our Charleston Roots*

In March of this year, I made my first trip to Charleston since having visited there nearly 20 years ago for my grandfather's 80th birthday. My reason for going this time was to research and build connections related to St. John in the Wilderness. I wanted to see where we came from to better understand the people, places, and stories that make us who we are. To that end, I began to talk to parishioners like David Dethero, Debby Staton, Eleanor Flowers, Missy Schenck, and Marty Whaley Cornwell about where to go and what to see. I had just preached my sermon entitled "Unsentimental Gardening" about Marty's mom and her book, *Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden*. Marty and her husband, Charles Cornwell, insisted I stay in their home on Church Street. It was the pre-revolutionary home that I had read and preached about with the special garden behind it. Staying there made quite an impression for this new Flat Rock rector getting to know the old "Charles Town." From the Whaley home, I was able to walk out my front door to take in one of the most historic and lovely towns on the East Coast.

On my first full day in Charleston, I walked over to St. Michael's Church which dates back to 1751, built by the South Carolina Assembly at that time. I spent time in the church and the churchyard. It wasn't hard to find names that I recognized on the walls or in the churchyard. Our schedules didn't line up for me to meet with their rector or historian, but I dropped off a copy of our Louise Bailey history book and a greeting card in their office which was warmly received. They were thrilled to hear from Flat Rock!

My next stop was to Grace Church Cathedral where a seminary classmate of mine, Fr. Rob Donehue, is serving as the Sub-Dean. He had invited me to celebrate the noontime Eucharist in the Cathedral, which was an honor and a privilege. While there, I met the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Michael A. Wright, and several other clergy, staff, and parishioners. As we were going in to do the service, I noticed a plaque on their wall to Rev. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, whom I recognized as a priest who served at St. John in the Wilderness in the 1840s and 50s. You can find his picture in the Parish Hall hallway. From what Rob and Michael said, Rev. Pinckney sounded like quite a character.

Next I went over to St. Philip's Church where I met with Tricia Moore, the parish historian. She welcomed me most warmly, and shared resources on the history of St. Philips. My main goal was to try to establish where our founding parishioners worshiped in Charleston and with what parishes we shared clergy. Ms. Moore wasn't able to help with those specifics, but she showed me around the church and churchyard and recommended resources for further research. *Continued on page 2.*



Scenes from Mrs. Whaley's Garden



### Charleston, Continued from page 1.

Later that day, I went and visited a longtime parishioner and historical source in her own right, Libby Maybank Wright. She lives at Bishop Gadsden retirement community and, while she misses Flat Rock so much, we had a wonderful time catching up.

On Friday, I had an appointment to meet with Caroline Howell, the Director of History and Programs at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens as well as their Archivist. I knew we had an historic connection with Magnolia, though I did not understand exactly the nature of it. Ms. Howell welcomed me to this beautiful and historic property and shared with me the story of Rev. John Grimké Drayton. Rev. Drayton's story is a fascinating one for a variety of reasons, including his interest in horticulture that led to Magnolia becoming a renowned natural garden and the originator of azaleas as we think of them today. Rev. Drayton was also the rector of Old St. Andrew's Parish Church on the Ashley River, and he served St. John in the Wilderness as our summer rector from 1863-1891. He is buried in our churchyard. You can find his picture hanging in our Parish Hall hallway. With Ms. Howell as my guide, not only did I get to see a good bit of the property, but I also was able to examine some of Rev. Drayton's personal effects. She shared with me some of their work to understand Rev. Drayton's views on black people and how Magnolia now tries to share the story of the slaves that shaped this property. (More about Rev. Drayton below.) After leaving Magnolia Plantation, I drove south to Edisto Island to visit John and Liz Ball, two parishioners who are trying out beach living for a while. Friday evening, I was welcomed by Chip Laurens to a driving tour of Charleston before being treated to dinner with his wife and dear friends at the Charleston Yacht Club. They all have Flat Rock in their blood and many stories to tell.

On Saturday, my introduction to Rev. Drayton continued as I visited Old St. Andrew's Parish Church to meet with their rector, Rev. Marshall Huey, and their historian, Paul Porwall. These two rolled out the red carpet for me by welcoming me to their Tea Room, which is an annual fundraiser that supports local outreach efforts by welcoming in guests for lunch and a craft fair. Rev. Huey and Mr. Porwall walked me over to their colonial church building where I was surprised to see a plaque to Rev. Drayton that included our church name right there on the wall! They shared the difficult history of Old St. Andrew's during much of the 19th and 20th centuries. Rev. Drayton's efforts at Old St. Andrew's stand out for a variety of reasons, including his time ministering to the enslaved. He was certainly a broken and incomplete person, seeing as he owned around 45 people at Magnolia Plantation, even while his aunts, the Grimké Sisters, became fierce abolitionists at the same time. Yet Rev. Drayton's ministry to the enslaved blacks on his property and elsewhere seems to have gone beyond what we see in most other places. After the Civil War, many of these freed men and women asked him to continue serving as their priest, and the church records indicate he had considerable success in this effort. Today, Old St. Andrew's Parish Church (a mostly white church) and St. Andrew's Mission (an historically black church) find themselves with this common spiritual ancestor. To this day, these two churches have a special relationship that speaks to God's power to bring people together who have every reason to mistrust each other. By God's grace, they continue to grow in love with one another.

All in all, this trip to Charleston was incredibly enlightening to better understand some of the people and places who have shaped St. John in the Wilderness. There is still a lot more to explore and many untold stories to discover, especially from people who are a part of our history but were not valued properly in their time. Perhaps we will better understand where God is calling us to go next if we can better understand where it is we've come from. Next time I go to Charleston, I hope to take you with me!

~ Fr. Josh Stephens



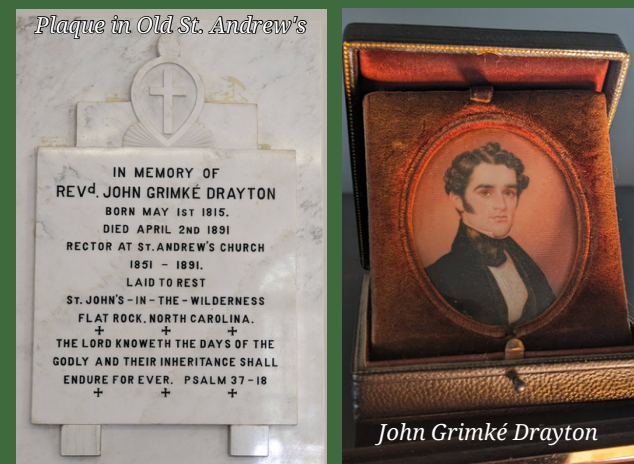
Magnolia Plantation and Gardens



Fr. Josh and Caroline Howell

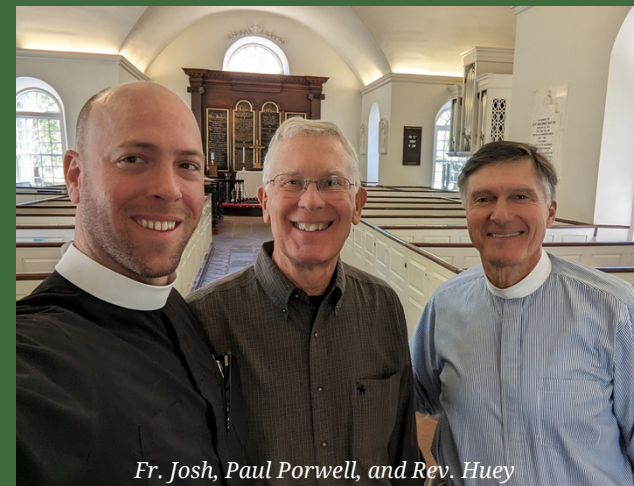


Fr. Josh and Liz Ball



Plaque in Old St. Andrew's

John Grimké Drayton



Fr. Josh, Paul Porwell, and Rev. Huey

## The July Altar Flowers Are Given in Loving Memory of:

July 2

**Charles Neff, Jr.**

*by Marjorie Neff and family*

AND

**Knight M. Fee**

*by Sally Books*

AND

**Frances Ravenel Grimball  
MacLean**

*by Katherine Bart*

July 9

**Tom Darnall**

*by his wife, Betsy*

AND

**Rose and Walter Montgomery**

*by Betty and Walter Montgomery*

AND

**Marshall Spry**

*by Bonni and Jim Spry*

July 16

**Charles (Chip) Hunter  
Laughton**

*by his family*

July 23

**In loving memory and for  
the blessing of our  
children and  
grandchildren**  
*by Elaine Howe*

July 30

**Joseph Maybank, III,  
Jane H. Pelzer King,  
George Kirkwood King,  
Alicia Rhett Rudolph,  
and Emily McIntire**

*by their family*

## Docents Announce New Churchyard Tour Dates

Tours of the church will be held the first and third Saturdays from July through September, and the third Saturday only from October through December. They will begin inside the Carriage Entrance of the church.

This month's tours are on July 1 and 15. Each tour starts at 11:00am and lasts about an hour. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. There will be no rain dates. The tours are free, but advanced reservations must be made online through the church's website, [www.stjohnflatrock.org/tours](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org/tours).

## Tickets on Sale for Sixth Annual Empty Bowls Sunday, August 13, in the Parish Hall

The Flat Rock Backpack Program is hosting its sixth annual EMPTY BOWLS event on Sunday, August 13, in the Parish Hall of St. John in the Wilderness. As our only active fundraiser, it goes a long way to meeting the \$25,000 budget needed each year to provide weekend sustenance for up to 180 children from six area elementary and nursery schools.

While the collected event fees raise much of the budget, we ask our friends to help close the gap. So, when purchasing your tickets, please consider including an additional amount as a donation. By donating, you'll know that your extra amount has gone to help area children in need. (Also: Let us know if you work for an organization that matches donations; every little bit helps!)

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$50 per family. Children under 12 enter and eat free. **There are two seating times this year: 12:30 to 2:00pm and 4:30 to 6:00pm.**

Tickets may be purchased from St. John by calling Sarah Yeargin in the Parish Office at 828-693-9783 with your credit card information, or by stopping by with a check made out to St. John in the Wilderness (with a note indicating Empty Bowls). You may also mail your check to Flat Rock Backpack Program, St. John in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

**If purchasing by mail, please include a note stating the number of tickets, your phone number, and preferred seating time.** Telephone and mail-ordered tickets will be held at Will Call at the event.

Do you own or work for a business that might like to sponsor Empty Bowls this year? Reach out to Sarah at the phone number above or [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) to learn more.



## Good News Gardeners

Tuesday, June 29, 9:00 to 11:00am

The Good News Gardeners will host a workday on Saturday, July 29, in hopes that children and families will participate. We will have activities for all age groups and activity levels.

As a special treat after working in the garden, volunteers may go swimming in the lake at Kanuga. A lifeguard will be on duty. Kids can play at the beach/kiddy pool area while parents and others can lounge at the lakeside pavilion.



For more information, please contact Kathryn Whitten at [kaymwhitten@gmail.com](mailto:kaymwhitten@gmail.com). Register online at [bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners](http://bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners) or email Kathryn. Directions and parking instructions are on the registration site. We hope to see you there!

## July School Supplies Drive

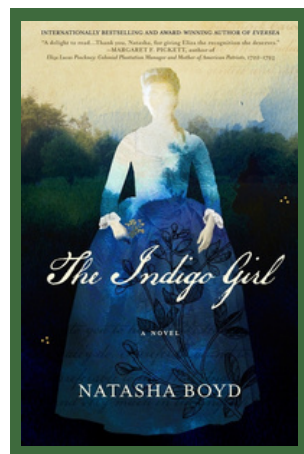
Students return to school in Henderson County on Monday, August 14. During July, we will hold a school supply drive to support our students and schools. Please see the list of suggested items to donate to the right.

Items can be placed in the donation area of the hallway leading to the Wilderness Room through July 31. Thank you for your support of the students in our community!



### Suggested Donations Include:

- 24-packs of crayons
- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pink erasers
- Loose-leaf notebook paper
- Dry erase markers
- Composition books
- Pocket folders



## Readers in the Wilderness

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

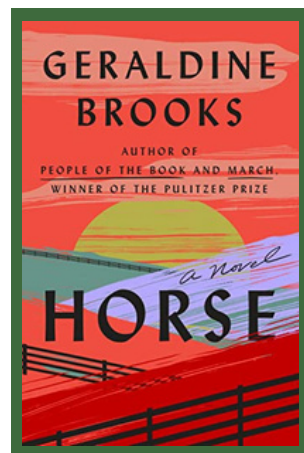
July 7: *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd

The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is 16 years old when her father leaves her in charge of their family's three plantations in rural South Carolina. Tensions with the British, and with the Spanish in Florida, just a short way down the coast, are rising, and slaves are starting to become restless. Her mother wants nothing more than for their South Carolina endeavor to fail so they can go back to England. Soon her family is in danger of losing everything. So begins an incredible story of love, dangerous and hidden friendships, ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice. Based on historical documents, including Eliza's letters, this is a historical fiction account of how a teenage girl produced indigo dye, which became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina, an export that laid the foundation for incredible wealth of several Southern families who still live today.

August 4: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Despite the simplicity of the title, Geraldine Brooks's latest novel is a heart-pounding American epic that gallops backward and forward in time to tell a story about race and freedom, horses and art, and the lineage of not just ancestors but actions.



# July BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dewitt Tipton
- 4 Don Stine
- 5 Edwina Costley
- 7 Meg Holt
- 10 Gaston Motes
- 10 Larry Miller
- 10 Marti Smith
- 12 Sallie White
- 13 CC Blackburn
- 14 Ned Curtis
- 16 Kitty Olson
- 16 Margaret Mellott
- 16 Jim Hodge
- 16 Tom Griswold
- 16 Rita Antonelli
- 17 Nora Williams
- 18 Joyce Beschta
- 19 Martin Johnson
- 19 Barney Lamar
- 19 Dasha Morgan
- 23 Roslyn Fitzpatrick
- 27 Jeannie Gooch
- 27 Margaret Robinson
- 27 Cynthia Rome
- 28 Nathan Dees
- 28 Joe Giltner
- 29 Worth Gordon
- 29 Patrice German
- 30 Edgar Ham
- 30 Joey Popp
- 31 Pete Petersen
- 31 Brenna Garber
- 31 Linda Roberts
- 31 Edward Eriksen



## Join Us on Our Next Hike! Sunday, July 16, at 2:00pm

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

**Save the date and sign up now for the first-ever Holy Hikes of WNC retreat**, to be held Sunday, October 22 through Wednesday, October 25, at Valle Crucis Conference Center in Banner Elk. The topics of the retreat are wilderness, discipleship, and Rev. Hudson Stuck, an Episcopal priest who was the first person to summit Mt. Denali in Alaska and who spent much of his ministry advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples in the early 1900s. Patrick Dean, author of *A Window to Heaven: The Daring First Ascent of Denali, America's Wildest Peak*, is the featured speaker. This retreat is open to both hikers and non-hikers, as well as parishioners and non-parishioners. See details and sign up at [www.vcconferences.org/programs](http://www.vcconferences.org/programs).



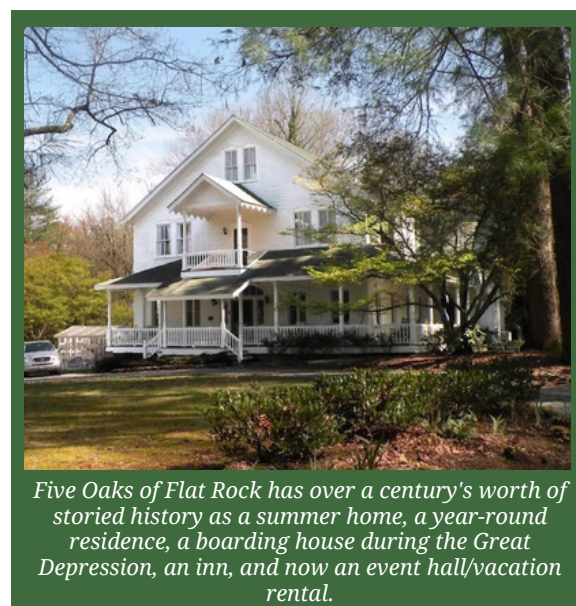
The Rev. Hudson Stuck

## Join Us for a Parish Breakfast Sunday, July 2, 9:00 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, waffles, ham, and juice/coffee/tea. The cost is \$6 per person or \$12 per family. No RSVP necessary. We hope to see you there!

## You're Invited: Baring Society Appreciation Reception Sunday, August 20, 4:00 to 6:00pm at Five Oaks of Flat Rock 2810 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock

We are pleased to announce the third Baring Society Appreciation Reception, to be held at Five Oaks of Flat Rock, a grand historic home built in 1888 by the Memminger family and located just down the road from St. John. All 99 members of Baring Society and their families are invited, as well as any parishioners who are interested in learning more about legacy giving to our beautiful church and churchyard. We hope you will join us for this evening of hors d'oeuvres, education, and fellowship.



Five Oaks of Flat Rock has over a century's worth of storied history as a summer home, a year-round residence, a boarding house during the Great Depression, an inn, and now an event hall/vacation rental.

**Please RSVP for this event online at [bit.ly/baringsociety](http://bit.ly/baringsociety) by Tuesday, August 15.** You may also RSVP to Sarah Yeargin in the Parish Office at 828-693-9783 or [officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org).



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.

## Parishioner Profile: Joanne Adams

*Clint Adams, Lay Eucharistic Visitor*

Joanne Adams was born on June 3, 1949, in Ware, Massachusetts, the second child of four and the first daughter of two wonderful parents. After a short stay in Ware, the family moved to Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and eventually to Silver Spring, Maryland, where Jo spent most of her growing-up years.

In September 1968, Jo met the love of her life, Clint Adams, while on a blind date at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. They dated for the next two years and were married June 6, 1970. Always supportive of her husband's career, the next few years were filled with adventure, including her traveling to meet Clint during various port visits in Athens, Greece, and a full six weeks of exploring the various countries of South America, catching up with Clint during his ship's port visits. In 1975, they moved to San Diego and shortly thereafter began the expansion of the family resulting in three daughters and one son. Throughout the next several years, Jo focused primarily on raising the family. With her parents moving to the West Coast, she took advantage of their support and was able to see many other parts of the world by visiting her husband in Hawaii, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and Mexico. Over the course of her life, Jo has traveled to all 50 of the United States. Through all of this, Jo was an avid kayaker around the country.

While the kids were in school, Jo was very active as a volunteer and spent time working with young children needing help with their reading. Additionally she became very active in the PTA and eventually was elected as the District President. As the couple grew older, Jo began volunteering in hospice care and, following Clint's retirement from the Navy and their move in 1995 to Roanoke, Virginia, she began a long and dedicated journey spanning 20 years as a Guardian Ad Litem/Court-Appointed Special Advocate with the Juvenile Court in Roanoke and later Snohomish, Washington. She supported many young children during this time. As a Nana, Jo has enjoyed the love of her 11 grandchildren as she has shared in their spirited lives.

Our move to Hendersonville was a result of her long-term medical needs which resulted in her joining the community at Carolina Reserve-Hendersonville, where she has flourished in the love and warmth of the care she receives.

*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](mailto:stephenaskew@gmail.com)) or Patricia Tanzer Askew (307-275-2733; [ptaskew@gmail.com](mailto:ptaskew@gmail.com)) to get involved!*



## Reaching Out to the World: The Communications and Publicity Committee of St. John in the Wilderness

In the fall of 2019, the Communications and Publicity Committee was established to share information about parish activities with the broader community via print, television, and radio, as well as through social media. Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube accounts were established, and the existing Facebook account was resurrected. Committee members began crafting news releases for distribution to newspapers and magazines, as well as broadcast stations in Western North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina. The Committee was off and running!

We've all heard that timing is everything. Less than six months after the Committee's inception, the COVID-19 pandemic upended everything and restricted our ability to worship in person. The newly formed Committee was well-positioned to pivot, and its focus shifted to delivering live feeds of services on Facebook, providing much-needed outreach to parishioners and the community at large. Worship services were then uploaded to YouTube for viewing at any time by anyone, near or far.

Recording and disseminating worship services and special events is still a vital part of the Committee's efforts. Led by Lynn and Eduard Wiescholek, a team of parishioners records worship services and special events on a rotating basis. Volunteers typically record one service a month and spend approximately five minutes before and after the service to set up and break down. The system is easy to learn, and training is available for anyone interested in helping with this valuable ministry. Please consider spending a few minutes before and after you worship to assist in this important outreach.

Lynn said, "We are always seeking more folks to join this effort to put our services online and make them available for all to enjoy."

The Committee's mission continues, as it promotes special events like the Friends of Music concert series, Holy Week services, and fundraisers such as Empty Bowls and the ECW Bazaar, to name a few.

St. John in the Wilderness has been featured in regional magazines like *The Laurel of Asheville* and *Bold Life*, with stories printed in the *Hendersonville Lightning* and *Hendersonville Times-News* among others. News coverage on WLOS-TV's News 13 has highlighted our Holy Week services, and parishioners have appeared live on WTZQ Radio's "Local Focus" to promote our fundraisers.

If you would like to help "spread the word" about St. John in the Wilderness or have an interest in writing, proofreading, editing, photography, or videography, we could use your help! Call the church office at 828-693-9783 or email [media@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:media@stjohnflatrock.org) to discuss how you can join the team.



Guided by chair Joey Popp, Committee members Nancy V. Cooper, Betsy Darnall, Catherine Popp, and Lynn Wiescholek (not pictured) collaborate to research, write, and edit dozens of news releases each year. Eduard Wiescholek's videography (bottom left) and Abby Stephens's photography (bottom right) enhance our efforts.



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](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

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

