



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

St. John in the Wilderness

THE VOICE

September 2023

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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

Growing by Sharing God's Gifts: Stewardship 2024 Begins This Month

It makes no sense to say that we grow most of all by giving away what we have, but that is exactly one of the core values of God's Kingdom according to the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth. When I look around at St. John in the Wilderness, it is easy for me to see growth happening in many ways: our Outreach giving has hit record highs in recent years, new faces are seen in worship services, and formation sessions are leading participants to deepen their faith, just to name a few.

Yet I know in my heart of hearts that all of the grace and growth we have experienced in recent years has happened because God has given us the most incredible gifts in the first place. When we break bread together on Sunday mornings, when we respond to the need of a young mother who is escaping a terrible situation, or when we gather newcomers for a special welcome dinner, we are doing nothing more than passing on the abundance that God has showered upon us in the first place.

This month, I would like to thank you for sharing so generously at St. John the gifts that God has given you. We hope to continue living into God's abundance in the years ahead. To that end, our stewardship theme for 2024 year is Growing by Sharing God's Gifts. We will be sending you a pledge packet in early September that we ask you to prayerfully return by Sunday, October 15, so we can bless our pledges that day in church. We will also be sending out a survey in an effort to better connect your gifts with the needs of the church and the world, and we'll offer thanks for the many ministries happening here each week. Speaking of offering thanks, we will also be distributing our United Thank Offering blue boxes this month to support missional needs around the Episcopal world.

Somehow all of that makes sense to me, even though the kind of generosity that you've shared with me at St. John is incomprehensible. I reckon that is kind of how the Kingdom of God works. We get to grow by giving away nothing less than the very goodness of God. God would not have it any other way.

In Christ,
Fr. Josh Stephens



FALL FELLOWSHIP FESTIVAL AND INGATHERING



Sunday, October 15, at Kanuga

Eucharist | 11:00am | Lakeside Chapel

Festival | 12:30pm - 5:00pm | Cuningham-Nevius Pavilion

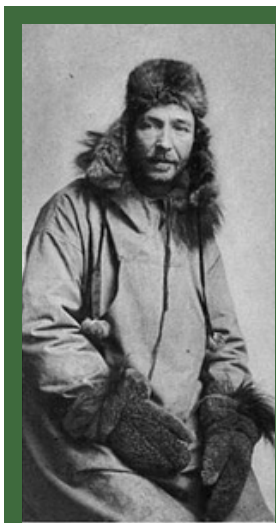
\$8/individual; \$20/family of three or more

(No cost to attend Eucharist)

WWW.STJOHNFLATROCK.ORG/FFF

Join Us on a Holy Hike Retreat

Sunday, October 22, through Wednesday, October 25, at Valle Crucis Conference Center



The Rev. Hudson Stuck

We invite you to register for the first-ever Holy Hikes of WNC retreat, to be held Sunday, October 22, through Wednesday, October 25, at Valle Crucis Conference Center. 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.

Visit www.vcconferences.org/programs to see more details and sign up.

Scenes from the Baring Society Appreciation Reception

August 20, 2023



The legacy society of St. John in the Wilderness is known as the Baring Society. It is simply a way of honoring those who have included the church in their estate plans. To offer our gratitude, St. John invited members of the Baring Society to meet for drinks and hors d'oeuvres on August 20 at Five Oaks, a beautiful property on Greenville Highway that has historic connections to the church. New parishioner, Jenny Bevan, and her husband, Christopher Liberatos, own the property and are running it as an inn. We hope you enjoy these photos and we hope you consider including St. John in your estate plans so the good work that God is doing here can continue for generations to come.

Join Us for a Parish Breakfast

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 to 10:30am in the Parish Hall



Join us for another Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John, this time with the Youth Group's assistance! In addition to the regular offerings of bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, and juice/coffee/tea, the youth and Chefs will serve up chicken and waffles with gravy.

This is a pay-as-you-please breakfast. Each year, the Chefs of St. John supports at least two charities: one picked by the men and one picked by the youth. Any proceeds from this breakfast will benefit a charity of the youths' choosing. We hope to see you there!

Good News Gardeners

Tuesday, September 26, 9:30 to 11:45am

The last Good News Gardeners workday of the 2023 season will be held on Tuesday, September 26, from 9:30am to 11:45am at the Foster Education Garden at Kanuga. We will harvest produce that we will bring to the Community Food Pantry in Edneyville. Supplies and tools will be provided, but please bring gloves and water. Afterward, we will enjoy a time of fellowship over lunch in the conference center.

For more information, please contact Kathryn Whitten at kaymwhitten@gmail.com. To register, visit bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners or email Kathryn. Directions and parking instructions are on the registration site. We hope to see you there!

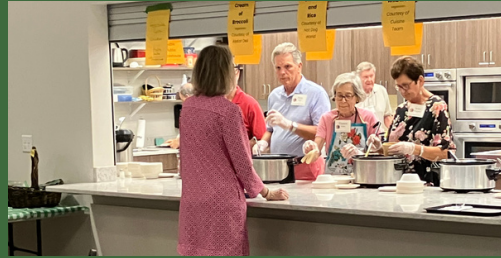
Thank You for Filling Empty Bowls!

Debby Staton, Backpack Program Coordinator

What can I say except "WOW!" This year was by far our most outstanding event. The total number of tickets turned in at the door was 373, more than we have had at any of our previous events.

Thanks to so many for your support. While I have a great Backpack Team that jumps right in, we also have parish members as well as some from the surrounding community who roll up their sleeves for this event each year. Thanks to our ECW cookie bakers, our soup providers, the bread bakers, and of course, the potters.

Without all of you, this event would not be possible. To you I say, "Thank you." We are still calculating the exact total; however, we know we raised over \$20,000 that will go a long way in funding our ministry expenses for the Backpack Program as we begin a new school year.



Sign Up for Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event

Sunday, October 1 in the Parish Hall

On Sunday, October 1, the Outreach Committee, in collaboration with Rise Against Hunger, will host a meal-packing event to provide healthy food to international communities. Last year we packed 10,000 meals to meet the needs of people facing food insecurity, and we look forward to doing it again!

Rise Against Hunger provides all the materials, and we work together to pack the boxes with nutritious food for our international neighbors. We will need 40 volunteers for this massive effort. There are three shifts:

12:30-2:00pm (Setup) 2:00-4:00pm (Packing) 4:00-5:00pm (Cleanup)

Please plan to join us! Sign up for one or more shifts at bit.ly/StJohn-RAH23.



Medical Supply Closet Donations

In 2022, St. John in the Wilderness initiated an informal list and gathering of medical support items such as wheelchairs, walkers, knee scooters, and more. Several of our members are already using some of the items we have collected.

Our goal is to maintain a list of support equipment that can be loaned out as needed to members of St. John. If you have any type of medical equipment that you would like to donate for us to store and supply on request, please contact Clint Adams at cnav70@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of this growing ministry!

Readers in the Wilderness

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

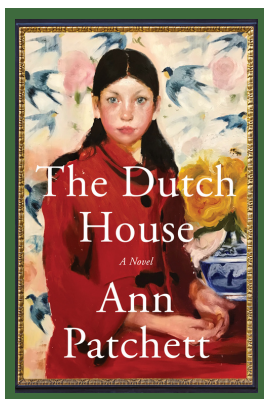
September 1: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson



On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Adolf Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons. It was up to Churchill to hold his country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally—and willing to fight to the end.

In *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson shows, in cinematic detail, how Churchill taught the British people “the art of being fearless.” It is a story of political brinkmanship, but it's also an intimate domestic drama, set against the backdrop of Churchill's prime-ministerial country home, Chequers, his wartime retreat.

October 6: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett



Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Commonwealth*, delivers her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are.

Seasons of Grief: A Support Group for those in Mourning

Wednesdays, beginning September 20, from 3:30 to 5:00pm in the Lower Conference Room



Seasons of Grief is a Christian support group/workshop that helps a person walk through the time of mourning that follows the death of a loved one. There are seven sessions of one and a half hours each. This facilitator-led program provides the opportunity to share with others who have experienced a time of grief.

The group will meet once a week for seven weeks beginning on Wednesday, September 20. Meetings will be in the Lower Conference Room from 3:30 to 5:00pm. Punctual weekly attendance is vital to the success of the group, as it encourages the building of community around our shared grief.

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, please consider joining us. Contact Mary Anne Inglis, group facilitator, at maryanne.inglis@gmail.com or 864-630-8813 for more details. To register, please pick up a form from the Parish Office, or access one online at www.stjohnflatrock.org/seasons-of-grief.

The September Altar Flowers Are Given in Loving Memory of:

September 3

John Mellott
by his family

AND

Bettie Friedell Watford
by Charles Lee Orr and
Bettie Watford Orr

September 10

**Those who died on
September 11, 2001**
by BJ McKee

AND

Col. and Mrs. W. Fix
by Gibson Sims and Carol Fix Sims,
their daughter

September 17

**Sarah I'on Lowndes David, Alicia
David Burke, and James O. Burke**
by Henry Burke and family

September 24

Janet Chaudrac
by her family





Join Us on Our Next Hike!

Sunday, September 12, at 10:00am
Laurel Park Urban Walk

Look out for more information at
www.stjohnflatrock.org.



On August 8, Holy Hikers explored Strawberry Gap Trail, a relatively new trail of the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge network. Thank you to Jerry and Meg Holt for leading this hike, which offered incredible views of the Craggy and Black Mountains.

What is a Prayer Shawl, and Who Receives Them?

Judy Petersen, Needlework Ministry Coordinator



Prayer shawls – and their smaller counterparts, prayer squares – have been made for centuries and are considered a universal and embracing symbol of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. Their purpose is to wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, hug, shelter, celebrate, and beautify. Prayer squares are small enough to be tucked away in pockets or purses and taken anywhere.

Blessings are knitted or crocheted into every shawl. Both those who make the shawls and the people who receive them are loved and blessed. Those made by the women in the Needlework Ministry of St. John in the Wilderness are given to our parishioners and people close to them. Although we in this ministry knit or crochet shawls without a particular person in mind, we pray during the making of each shawl that the eventual recipients will receive God's blessings and guidance as they face the challenges in their lives.

Who are the recipients of prayer shawls and squares? Usually, they are someone dealing with serious medical issues, recovering from an illness or surgery, longing for comfort after a loss, or needing encouragement during a challenging time.

Prayer squares are made in the same manner as a shawl, with blessings in every stitch, and like the prayer shawl, are given for spiritual comfort. Knitted, crocheted, loomed or sewn, prayer squares are small enough to go everywhere.

Next month, *The Voice* will feature how making prayer shawls and squares blesses and benefits the maker as well as the recipient. Perhaps YOU might be interested in joining this rewarding and spiritual ministry. Contact Judy Petersen at jpsewnsew@aol.com to get involved.

September BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tom Mahoney
- 2 John Barker
- 3 Lynn Savage
- 3 Willa Allen
- 4 Dick Zecher
- 5 Rick Rehn
- 5 Bella Geiser
- 6 Wayne Kanipe
- 6 Hilton Swing
- 6 Lori Griswold
- 6 Harlan Frymire
- 6 Lynne Stine
- 7 Sally Hughes
- 7 Susan Shealy
- 9 Jack Mitchell
- 9 Louisa Wardlaw
- 10 Phil Earhart
- 12 Starr Teel
- 13 Addy Saltz
- 13 Harry Walker
- 14 Janet Roethle
- 14 Malcolm McCormick
- 15 Debby Staton
- 15 Helen Aschenbrener
- 15 Emily Fitzpatrick
- 17 Julia Cox
- 17 Susan Gibbs
- 18 Henry Burke
- 18 Beth Miller
- 18 John Jacobs
- 18 Melody Shepherd
- 19 Kate Johnson
- 19 Gayle McHaffie
- 21 Terry Enslin
- 21 Carmen Curtis
- 23 Marjorie Neff
- 23 Jodi Sundeen
- 24 Carol Rector
- 24 Sharon Johnston
- 24 Margie Holcombe
- 25 John Flowers
- 27 Kara Waite
- 27 Cynthia Easterling
- 27 BJ McKee
- 28 Elaine Harris
- 28 Ben Geiser
- 30 Judy Petersen
- 30 Josh Stephens
- 30 Camille Camp

*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.*

United Thank Offering Collection

September 10 - October 15

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings and distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Everyone can participate in the UTO, regardless of age or circumstance. Even children and youth can be encouraged to stop and take a moment to express thanks for their blessings. The heart of the UTO program is to foster a personal spiritual discipline of thankfulness for all that God has done and continues to do. Placing coins in the Blue Box is emblematic of this discipline. Then, through the collection of the Blue Box coins, bills, and checks, UTO awards grants to adults, seminarians, parishes, and dioceses for one-year projects that support transforming and innovative ministries. Since its founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,428 grants for a total of \$143,235,480. All that change changes lives!

This fall, St. John in the Wilderness will participate in the UTO as we have in years past. This collection will go towards UTO's 2024 grant cycle, which will award funds to programs focusing on welcoming and including "the stranger" Jesus mentions in Matthew 25.

Blue Boxes will be distributed at each service on Sunday, September 10. They will also be available at the entrance to the Parish Office throughout the following week, or until they run out. You are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude by picking one up and placing spare change in it each day until Sunday, October 15, when we will collect the Boxes during our Ingathering at both services.



The Blue Box Prayer
*Almighty God, I give you praise
 for blessing me in many ways.
 Create in me a grateful heart
 and with this gift a blessing start.
 Amen.*

Friends of Music Presents Accent on Youth IV: Musicians from The SC Governor's School for The Arts and Humanities

Sunday, September 17
 4:00pm in the Parish Hall



A&H SC Governor's School
 for the Arts and Humanities

The 2023-2024 Friends of Music series will kick off this month with an Accent on Youth, featuring four outstanding students from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (SCGSAH). The performers are Xavier Galloway, piano; Benjamin Stickney, piano; Kate Tolchinsky, oboe; and Peyton Mann, bassoon.

SCGSAH gives young emerging artists the opportunity to explore their talents in a unique arts-centered community. The state-funded school, located in Greenville, gives artistically talented students the opportunity to receive professional training in one of five arts areas: Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts. These high school students from South Carolina also receive an intense and innovative education and exploration in the Humanities.

Sarah Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication and Administration at St. John and Creative Writing graduate of SCGSAH, says, "The school provides pre-professional arts instruction to prepare students for careers making art that matters. The appreciation for great art that was instilled in me there will never leave me, nor will the ideals of living in community with other passionate people who value feedback and want to leave a positive mark on the world."

There is no charge for this event, but donations to the Friends of Music are gladly accepted.

Altar Guild: Join Us in Setting the Lord's Table

Cathryn Harrell, Altar Guild Co-Chair



At the moment, there are 20 members of the Altar Guild. This includes three gentlemen who faithfully check the oil in the candles you see glowing when services are in progress.

Most of the time we work in pairs. We have a detailed checklist of instructions. We begin our preparations in the Sacristy, a very peaceful place to serve. We organize the items needed for Sunday services: the silver is polished, the linens are cleaned, the Communion wafers are counted, and the wine and water are measured. All these preparations make it easier to prepare the setting of the altar on Sunday.

Our aim is to make the Sunday services as effortless for the clergy as possible. The same may be said for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and the special services throughout the year, which can be a little more complicated. The Healing Eucharist on Wednesdays in the Wilderness Room is also covered by a few members of the Guild.

If you are interested in being part of this important ministry, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Cathryn Harrell (828-606-3785; thredbenda@gmail.com) or Elaine Harris (828-697-1018; 2eharris2@gmail.com) to learn more!

A Taste of the Vineyard: BBBS Fundraiser

Thursday, October 5, 6:00pm at Point Lookout Vineyard

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Henderson County is thrilled to announce that our annual fundraiser, *A Taste of the Vineyard*, will be held on Thursday, October 5, from 6:00 to 9:00pm at Point Lookout Vineyard. This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of *A Taste of the Vineyard* with a Roaring 20s theme. Costumes are highly encouraged!

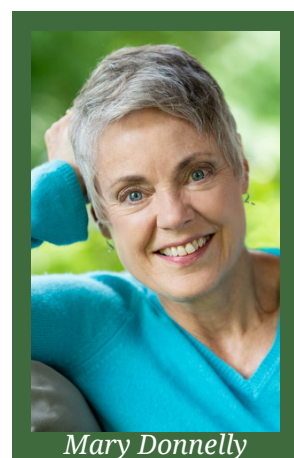
Attendees will enjoy dinner by Amanda's Catering, live music by Dinah's Daydream Trio, wine from Point Lookout, and access to a silent auction filled with gift cards, local handmade crafts, vacation getaways and so much more. Tickets and online bidding packages are available at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/roaring20s-totv/>.

All event proceeds go directly to supporting BBBS's mission of igniting the power and promise in youth. In Henderson County, there are currently 34 youth waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. For more ways to get involved with BBBS, visit bbbswnc.org or contact Erin at erine@bbbswnc.org

Living with Dementia Next Door: A Memory Care Program at St. John Thursdays, October 19, 26, and November 2 2:00 to 3:00pm in the Wilderness Room

Whether you call it dementia, Alzheimer's, or memory loss, the result is the same: it's a disease that changes everything. With our growing aging population, and without a cure anywhere on the horizon, we are called to learn all we can about a condition that will affect at least 50% of us. Join us for this three-part series with Mary Donnelly, who will help you better understand the challenges of dementia and how you can reach out to the families in your community who are living with this condition.

Mary Donnelly is a nationally recognized dementia consultant and educator from MemoryCare of Asheville. Her presentation will address the most common questions that arise about dementia and Alzheimer's: how to define it, recognize it, and accept it. The program is appropriate for adults of all ages and will offer relevant information and realistic strategies for caring for those affected by this condition.



Each session will be held in the Wilderness Room from 2:00 to 3:00pm, with light refreshments served at 1:45pm. Please RSVP to the Parish Office by email (officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org) or by calling 828-693-9783. Visit www.stjohnflatrock.org for more information.



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, 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

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