



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

St. John in the Wilderness

THE VOICE

November 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

The Difference You Make that We Never Talk About

As our Stewardship efforts have continued, I have been humbled and amazed by your response to support God's ongoing work through St. John in the Wilderness. God does powerful things through this community – through you – and oftentimes these acts of grace and transformation are quiet or altogether unknown.

For example, those little blue United Thank Offering boxes that we collected in October totaled \$1732 to support missional projects in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. This marked nearly a \$700 increase compared to last year. In 2022, United Thank Offering gifts and grants from parishes like ours totaled \$1,051,154 in support of people in need of funding to do God's work. Past projects have included creating the Anglican Pilgrimage Center in Santiago, Spain or a water and sanitation project in Haiti or a Cherokee Heirloom Garden in Alabama. Well done, St. John in the Wilderness! You set a new record!

Another difference you make that you may not know about is through our clergy discretionary funds. Fr. Ian and I both have funds that we use to help those who are on the margins of society. You fund these accounts through your giving to St. John. They are in addition to our Outreach Committee and other outreach projects like Angel Tree and the Backpack Program. So far in 2023, Fr. Ian and I have given away \$8500 to do things like prevent people from becoming homeless, buy food for families who are experiencing serious medical issues, and send kids to camp who wouldn't be able to go otherwise. You probably did not realize that, through you, God helped a local family with school-aged children keep their heat on in early 2023 when it was terribly cold. The pandemic had deferred their payments and now their power was going to get cut off until you stepped in. You might not have realized that you bought a recliner for a local disabled student who was spending the entire school day in a wheelchair until you took action. Another family ran out of savings while staying in a local hotel to be with their child during medical treatment. God worked through us to cover those costs and provide food and gas cards to get them through this tough time.

It is truly an honor for Fr. Ian and me to be a part of the good work you are doing to serve our parishioners and our neighbors. Thank you for making this possible. I am also grateful for Carol Rector who meets with local social workers monthly and helps us stay connected to the needs of the community. We also have many school counselors who get in touch regularly with specific needs. I'm grateful to Sarah Yeargin in our office who has a heart to see the Church living out its calling where people are hurting. Most of all, I thank God for being so generous to us in loving us so well and giving us each other. I truly believe that through our life together at St. John, God does more good than we could ever name or know.

~Fr. Josh Stephens

Salvation Army Bell Ringers: Sign Up for a Shift

*Tuesday, December 5, 10:00am to 6:00pm
Belk (1800 4 Seasons Blvd., Hendersonville)*



Sandy and Diane Skelton ringing bells for the Salvation Army in December 2022.

“Ding Dong! Merrily on high the Christmas bells are ringing!” Actually, the bells will ring during Advent, when St. John volunteers will once again don blue aprons and Santa hats to collect donations for the Salvation Army. This year’s date, time, and place: Tuesday, December 5, from 10:00am to 6:00pm in front of the Belk department store in the Blue Ridge Mall. Shifts last one hour, and all volunteers are paired with a partner. Find a friend and join us — a perfect ring is all in the wrist motion! For more information or to select your shift, please contact Polly Morrice at pamorrice@att.net or 713-206-1036.

Community Food Pantry in Edneyville Seeks Volunteers

The Community Food Pantry in Edneyville distributes goods to our neighbors facing food insecurity on Thursday afternoons beginning at 12:00pm. They especially need volunteers from 3:00 to 6:00pm. If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about, please call Brenda Jones at 828-674-9571.

Join Us for a Parish Breakfast Sunday, November 5, 9:30 to 10:30am in the Parish Hall

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

Friends of Music Presents: Howard Bakken, Organist

Sunday, November 19, at 4:00pm in the Church

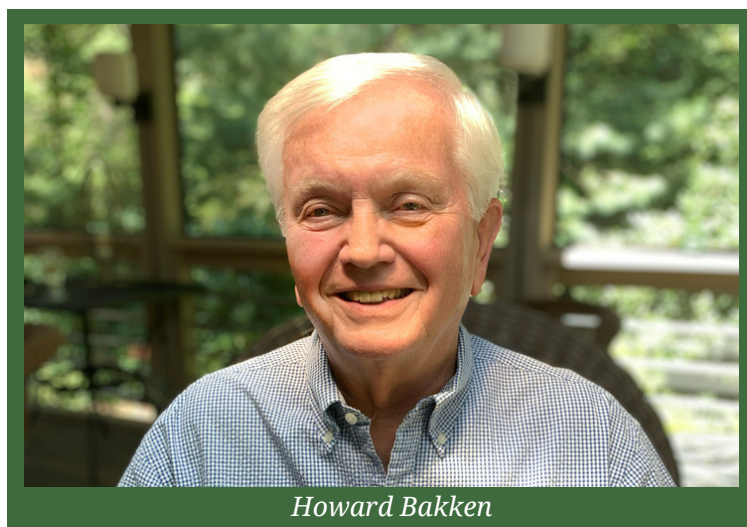
St. John in the Wilderness will be filled with the wonderful sounds of its magnificent organ, mastered by Howard Bakken on Sunday, November 19, at 4:00pm.

Bakken is currently the organist of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Hendersonville, and regularly takes the bench at several other churches in the area, including St. John in the Wilderness.

An ardent interest in genealogy is the genesis for this concert. Bakken’s background is 91% Norwegian. He plans to perform Nordic and American music.

Bakken moved to Hendersonville in 2003 after a three-decade career in the public schools of Geneva, Illinois. Bakken earned degrees at Augustana University (Sioux Falls, SD), the Yale University School of Music, and the University of Illinois. For twenty years, he was the organist for the “Do-it-Yourself Messiah” in Chicago. This annual tradition was begun by the late Margaret Hillis, founder and director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and attracted thousands of singers to Orchestra Hall for the ultimate Hallelujah.

When not on a bench, Bakken can be found in the goat pasture at the Carl Sandburg Home, where he is the longest-serving volunteer at the park.



Howard Bakken

This concert is free and open to the public, with donations gratefully accepted to support the Friends of Music Fund.

Visit www.stjohnflatrock.org/music to learn more about the artists and for a full lineup of the Friends of Music season.

Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays (except January)

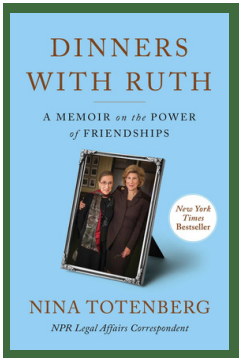
10:00am in the Library

November 3: *Light Perpetual* by Frances Spufford



The novel follows the fictionalized lives of five children murdered in a Woolworth store during a V-2 attack on London in 1944, imagining an alternate universe in which the five children lived. Spufford was inspired to write the novel after walking by a plaque commemorating the deaths of the 168 people whose lives were lost during the attack. Of those killed, 15 were children.

December 1: *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir of The Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenburg



Celebrated NPR correspondent Nina Totenburg delivers an extraordinary memoir of her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships, including her beautiful friendship of nearly fifty years with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Together these two women paved the way for future generations by tearing down professional and legal

barriers. It is also an intimate memoir of the power of friendships as women began to pry open career doors and transform the workplace.

Summer Coffee Hours: Recap & Thanks *A Quiet Ministry Serving the Entire Parish*

The “quiet ministries” at St. John are an important part of making our church special. One such ministry is the much-enjoyed coffee hour after services from May through September. As you know, coffee time is an informal opportunity for the fellowship we all enjoy – and it is also an important way we as a church and as individuals connect with visitors, new members, and our parish family.

Many of you enjoyed coffee and goodies thanks to those who graciously volunteered their time and talents to buy, set up and serve us:

Brenda Hillyer
Karen Conley
Gib and Carol Sims
Kathryn Whitten
Margie and Stu Holcombe
Catherine and Joey Popp
LaVerne and Bill Hiatt
Lynn Redmond

Kim and Marlin Sanders
Elaine and Sandy Harris
Kristi, John and Jade Ogletree
Betsy Tibbs and Debby Staton
Jill and Mark Owen
Meg and Jerry Holt
Anne Vogler and Isabel Salaverria
Bettie Orr and Sandy Gulbrandsen
Athena Brooks and Jason Blackwell

Elizabeth and David Christenbury
Jan and Jerry Tanner
Athena Brooks and Jason Blackwell
Vickie and Bill Taylor/Debbie Lee
Sandra Jeffery and Cathryn Harrell
The Fitzpatrick Family
Lori and Tom Griswold
Lynn and Tom Savage
Patrice and Gary German

Caregivers Support Group

Third Thursdays

10:00am in the Wilderness Room

Providing care for a loved one who requires daily help is a holy calling. And it is hard work! Caregivers experience their own physical, emotional and spiritual needs. It is helpful to receive the support, understanding and encouragement of other caregivers

The St. John Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00am in the Wilderness Room. Members are offered a safe, confidential place to share their struggles, victories, and ideas with each other. (Included in the group are some former caregivers who continue to attend and have become “caregivers to the caregivers,” offering the perspective of their experience.)

If you are a caregiver, please come join us. For more information, contact Debby Staton at 828-551-2813 or debby.staton13@gmail.com.



Summer Coffee Hour Teams this year included Joey and Catherine Popp and the Ogletree Family.



Join Us on a Holy Hike
Tuesday, November 14, Time TBD

More information is forthcoming at
www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.



Scenes from the Holy Hike Retreat

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



The November Altar Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of:

November 5

Fran and Jim MacDonald
by Susan, James, and Inna MacDonald

AND

My father and mother,
Brian and Gladys McCarty
by Mary Alice McCarty

November 12

Zelda Drayton Grimke Roberts,
Alice Lowndes Andrews, and
William Parker Andrews
by their family

November 19

R. I'On Lowndes,
Elizabeth Plumb Lowndes, and
Richard I. Lowndes II
by their families

AND

Bill and Majary Taylor
by Bill and Vickie Taylor

November 26

All past volunteers who
have served our parish in
all ministries





On Sunday, October 8, St. John held a Ministry Parade and Blessing to celebrate and invite our parish family to take part in our many ministries. Ministry Leaders were asked to mobilize their teams to create banners to process at both services and receive a blessing on behalf of the ministry. The most “creatively evangelical” banner, as decided by our qualified judge, was the Altar Guild, who constructed a three-dimensional altar complete with a bread basket and sparkly chalice made by Laurie Morris’s son in Sunday School many years ago. The judge wishes to assure everyone that this was not an easy decision to make! All of the banners were so creative and unique, each wonderfully capturing the spirit of the represented ministry. Thank you to all who participated!



Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory

www.bit.ly/SJWgifts

You may be well aware of the talents and interests God built into you—or maybe you haven’t thought much about them. As stewardship season gets underway and you make your financial commitment to the Church, consider stewardship also in the form of how your skills and interests can be used to serve God and our community of faith at St. John in the Wilderness.

Many ministries and activities of the Church need your talents and skills, from teaching to flower arranging, financial management to caring for members who are homebound, hands-on work to greeting guests. Do you enjoy knowing you have helped someone by supporting them as they work through life challenges? Have you had experience managing finances and other resources? Are you a hands-on person? Do you teach, or have you taught young people? Do you feel a special joy when you share your faith with others? Whatever your skills or interests, there is a place for you to contribute.

In October, you should have received a Spiritual Gifts Inventory Survey, to which we ask you to respond. You can also access the survey at this link: www.bit.ly/SJWgifts. This will help us to know where your gifts might be best used. We will be grateful to know of your specific interests and skills, and where you might like to help.

If your light is hidden under a bushel, take it out and let it shine! If you are already involved in any of the many volunteer opportunities at St. John, we thank you warmly for all you contribute. By sharing our God-given talents, we can enhance the worship and outreach that are so deeply at the heart of who we are and the God we serve.

Scenes from Our Fall Fellowship Festival & Ingathering

November BIRTHDAYS



On Sunday, October 15, we gathered at Kanuga for worship in the Chapel of the Transfiguration before our annual Fall Fellowship Festival. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the many gifts God has given us that we now get to share with the world!

- 3 Alicia Wallace
- 6 Kelly Laughton
- 7 Jann Cooper
- 8 Sharon Frymire
- 9 Lucretia Finlay
- 9 Linda Sizemore
- 9 Kathryn Whitten
- 10 Hugh Fitzpatrick
- 11 Marty Cornwell
- 12 Eleanor Flowers
- 14 Greg Newbold
- 14 Michael Wills
- 14 Jan Tanner
- 17 Maria Johnson
- 17 Clint Adams
- 17 April Wilson
- 17 Len Conapinski
- 19 Bill Taylor
- 20 Gary German
- 21 Michael Burge
- 22 Bernie Fox
- 23 Betty Montgomery
- 23 Amanda Woodard
- 24 Darla Green
- 24 Michelle Geiser
- 25 Chris Kanipe
- 27 Edwina Burger
- 27 Douglas Llewelyn
- 27 John Knapp
- 27 Elizabeth Johnston
- 28 MarthaJean Liberto
- 28 Jade Ogletree
- 29 Jerry Beschta
- 29 Legare Head
- 29 Greyson Williams
- 30 Bob Vickery

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.

Scenes from the Blessing of the Animals

October 8, 2023



Looking Ahead: Advent and Christmas

December 3 | First Sunday of Advent

8:45am & 11:00am
10:00-11:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Annual Meeting & Parish Breakfast

December 10 | Second Sunday of Advent

8:45am & 11:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

December 17 | Third Sunday of Advent

8:45am & 11:00am
10:00-11:00am
4:00pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Advent Lessons & Carols
Laying of Sprays in the Churchyard
Friends of Music: Tom Hudgin & Andy John

December 24 | Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

8:45am & 11:00am
5:00pm & 10:30pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Advent 4)
Festival Eucharist, Rite II (Christmas Eve)

Monday, December 25 | Christmas

11:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II



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

Clint Adams, Elizabeth
Christenbury, Patrice German,
E.R. Haire, Jr., Jerry Holt,
Marissa Pharr,
Kim Sanders, Jennifer Shelton,
and Laura Teel

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

officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

