The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 12, 2025 8:45 & 11:00am



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

Est. 1836 | Flat Rock, North Carolina

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.

Welcome to St. John in the Wilderness

We welcome you warmly to St. John in the Wilderness and invite you to share in our songs, prayers, and eucharistic feast. If you do not have a church family at this time, then we invite you to join in this fellowship of faith as we share life together as the Body of Christ. See the note to our visitors on the back inside cover for more information about receiving Communion and joining the church.

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in our worship services.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.
- Please participate in the service by singing and praying with us. At the time of the Peace, please take a few moments to leave your pew and greet others in the name of our Lord.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: When Jesus Went to Jordan's Stream

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 116 "I come," the great Redeemer cries This Endris Nyght

THE WORD OF GOD

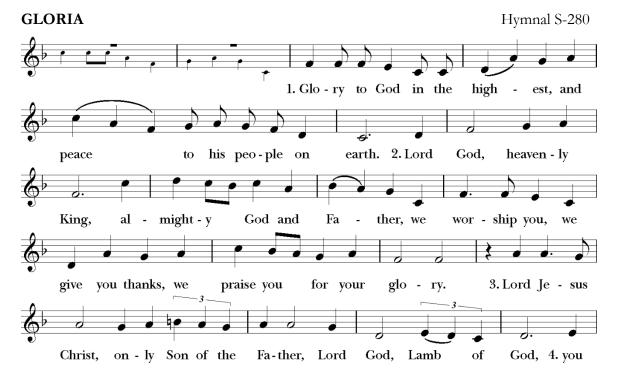
Acclamation & Response

 The people standing, the Celebrant says

 Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

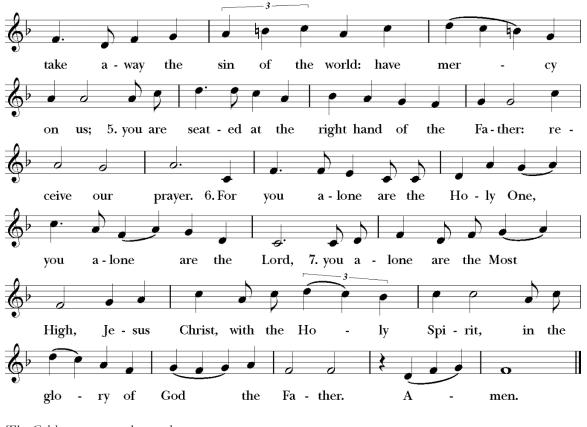
 People
 And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



BCP p. 355

German chorale



The Celebrant says to the people

PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm 29

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; * worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Afferte Domino

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; * the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; * the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; * the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, * and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; * the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe * and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord * all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; * the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

As the music begins, all stand for the gradual hymn and reorient themselves to the Gospel of our Lord as it is processed into the congregation.

GRADUAL HYMN: No. 121 Christ, when for us you were baptized Ca

Caithness

All remain standing as the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Ian Williams

After the sermon, there is a brief moment of silence. When the Celebrant rises, the congregation stands.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant Dear people of God: In Holy Baptism we have been made part of that great fellowship of believers in all times and places, the Communion of Saints. In baptism, God has adopted us as children and made us members of Christ's Body and inheritors of God's kingdom with the saints in light. Let us, therefore, renew the vows of our baptism by which God has made us a holy people.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People	I do.			
Celebrant	Do you believe in God the Father?			
People	I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.			
Celebrant	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?			
People	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.			

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

- People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting.
- *Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
- *People* I will, with God's help.
- *Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- *People* I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

- *People* I will, with God's help.
- *Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The priests now asperge the congregation with the following litany:

Celebrant	Remember your baptism!
People	I will, with God's help!
Celebrant	Remember your baptism!
People	I will, with God's help!
Celebrant	Remember your baptism!
People	I will, with God's help!

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively. The Leader begins Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life: for the love you have shared with us in your Son Jesus Christ, for our families, friends, and neighbors, for the gift of this parish family, and for all the abundance we know. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For the Holy Church of God across time and space, that your grace may increase among us as we seek to share Christ with each other and the world. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for all who minister in your Church. We especially pray for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and for José McLoughlin, our Diocesan Bishop. And be with all lay and ordained people as they do your work in the world. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for our local community of Flat Rock and Hendersonville, and be with other communities where life is fragile and people are hurting, especially the people of Southern California with these wildfires. Have compassion on them and help us to respond faithfully to the needs of our neighbors. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for our country and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for Joseph, our President, and Roy, our Governor. We pray for congress and the courts and for our state and local officials. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the people of this land. Grow in us a capacity for gratitude and patience, that we may encounter one another with open hearts and work together for the common good. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

- *Leader* We pray for our enemies. Reconcile us to nations and individuals who wish us ill and forgive us for the hurts we cause and the divisions we kindle. Lord, in your goodness,
- People Hear our prayer.

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray for all who are struggling to get by and we ask that you bring healing and hope to those on our parish prayer list; for Tawana, Mary, Bob, Dottie, Betsy, Margaret, John, Hal, Chuck, Harriet, Louise, Ann, Michael, Patty, John, Parker, Patsy, Marilyn, Daniel, Russ, Kirsten, Janet, Keyla, Susan, Wayne and Ann, Harry, and Bennett. Are there others?

The people may include the names of those for whom they are praying either silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for all who have died, especially Phyllis Brown, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A Prayer for Those Celebrating	BCP p. 830
Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in January	Prayer 50

Included in our prayers are those served by our Visitor Ministry: Joanie Brendle (January 9).

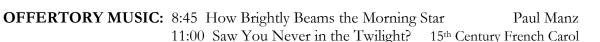
O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray on your servants who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries this month. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then shares an offertory sentence.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The ushers pass the offering plates and present the gifts of the congregation at the Lord's table. Online gifts may be made using the QR code to the right.



Text by Cecil Frances Alexander

Saw you never, in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies, up in heav'n the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes? So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star, and they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.

Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild, journeyed on by plain and mountain till they found the holy child? How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant King; gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh in offering?

Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning Star? He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar? And we, too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring; love and faith and true devotion for our Savior, God, and King.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God from whom all blessings flow Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

- *People* We lift them to the Lord.
- Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

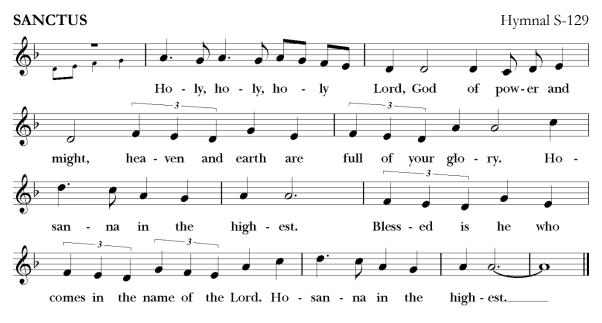
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.



Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you

and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_______ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People	Our Father, who art in heaven,
-	hallowed be thy Name,
	thy kingdom come, thy will be done
	on earth as it is in heaven.
	Give us this day our daily bread.
	And forgive us our trespasses,
	as we forgive those
	who trespass against us.
	And lead us not into temptation,
	but deliver us from evil.
	For thine is the kingdom,
	and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant continues

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;PeopleTherefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ushers immediately begin releasing the congregation to share in the Eucharistic feast. A gluten-free option is available upon request. For further instructions about Holy Communion, see the note to our visitors on the back inside cover of the bulletin.

The choir often begins by singing a hymn while the congregation receives the Sacrament. Following the choir's hymn, please join in as we sing the Communion Hymn together.

COMMUNION HYMN: No. 510 Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove St. Agnes

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel for the Post-Communion Prayer.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing.

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 135 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Salzburg

The Dismissal

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, may dismiss the people with these words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: From God Christ's Deity Came Forth

Ronald Arnatt

The Prayers of the People is that part of our liturgy which offers intercessions and thanksgivings to God. Worshippers, wherever they are in the church, are encouraged to offer aloud or silently their own such prayers during the appropriate part of the Prayers of the People. As we pray, please remember those who are ill or with other needs: Tawana Gibbs, Mary McCarty, Bob Sundeen, Dottie Dalzell, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, John Flowers, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Harriet Huiet, Dick Zecher, Louise, Ann Stringfield, Michael Jeffery, Patty Vint, John Taylor, Parker Mattern, Patsy Boehmer, Marilyn Jones, Daniel Mieras, Russ Adam, Kirsten Shepherd, Janet Thompson, Keyla Hensdill, Susan Rex, Wayne and Ann Kanipe, Harry Van Bergen, and Bennett Stroman.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Sara Hendersonville McCandless and Edward McCandless, *by their sons, Richard and John.*

Eucharistic Visitors share the Body and Blood of Christ with those who receive care from our Visitor Ministry. We thank God for the ministry of Clint Adams, Stephen Askew, Patricia Tanzer Askew, E.R. Haire, Art Mack, Bill Taylor, and Dick Zecher.

To Our Visitors: We welcome you with all our hearts! You are also invited to come forward at the time of Communion to receive the Sacrament or a blessing. All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive Communion, including infants and children. To receive Communion, simply come forward to kneel at the altar if you are able. Put one hand in the palm of the other and the Celebrant will share the Body of Christ with you. You may then intinct or drink from the Chalice. A gluten-free option is available upon request. If you are not baptized, please come forward and kneel at the altar while crossing your arms over your chest to receive a special blessing, and we invite you to talk to the priest at any time about entering discernment for being baptized. Won't you join with Christ and his Church on this journey of faith?

If you do not have a church home at this time, then we hope you will make St. John in the Wilderness your church family. We find that through sharing life together as the Body of Christ, we are made whole and renewed daily. Talk to an usher or member of the clergy about joining this parish, or you are welcome to simply fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate. We welcome you!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

	First Sunday after Epiphany January 12		Second Sunday after Epiphany January 19	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Sandra Jeffery	Lori Griswold	John Barker	Bill Taylor
Acolytes	Danielle Pharr	Susan Rex	Laura Teel	Anita Reid
Ushers	Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury	Marlin Sanders	John Knapp
	Debby Staton	Karen Conley	Clint Adams	Edgar Ham
Greeters	Worth Gordon	Becky & Scott	Cathryn Harrell	Carmen & Ned
	Judy Petersen	Petersen	Lois Karcher	Curtis
Cart Drivers	Marlin Sanders	Nancy Cooper	Jim Olson	Scott Bell
Videography (Service)	N/A	David Burge	E. Wiescholek	N/A
Videography (Formation)	BJ McKee		Tom Griswold	
Altar Guild	Ann Stringfield	Lynn Savage	Cathryn Harrell	Becky Petersen
	Brenda Hillyer	Lucie Earhart	BJ McKee	Jann Cooper
	Elaine Harris (Sat.)	Sally Hopper (Sat./Brass)	Jim Cooper (Brass)	
Flower Guild	Jan Tanner	er Galen Reuther & Claudia Northru		laudia Northrup
Opening Gatekeeper	Jill & Mark Owen		Jill & Mark Owen	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jonathan Fitzpatrick		Jonathan Fitzpatric	k

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS



PO Box 185, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731 828-693-9783 | www.stjohnflatrock.org In the case of a pastoral emergency, call the Parish Office and dial 5. Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00am | Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-F Sunday School for Adults, Youth, and Children: 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays 10:30am in the Wilderness Room

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop The Rev. Josh Stephens, Rector: rector@stjohnflatrock.org The Rev. Ian Williams, Curate: ian@stjohnflatrock.org The Rev. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org Stacy Knapp, Parish Financial Assistant: finance@stjohnflatrock.org Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson Christian Formation: Communications & Publicity: Joey Popp Finance: Gary German Historic Churchyard Committee: Sandy Rex New Member Ministry: Brenda Hillyer, Judy Petersen Outreach: Jennifer Shelton Personnel: Margaret Barker Stewardship: Jerry Holt

OTHER COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Acolytes: Betsy Tibbs Altar Guild: Cathryn Harrell, Laurie Morris Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint Churchyard Trustees: Pete Petersen Docents: Polly Morrice & Scott Bell Endowment Trustees: Mike Teel Episcopal Church Women: Elizabeth Christenbury, Cava Sittnick Flower Guild: Patrice German Flower Memorials: Gaston Motes Funeral Reception Ministry: Brenda Hillyer Gatekeepers: Dick Zecher Golf Cart Ministry: Jill Owen Good News Gardeners: Kathryn Whitten, Luann Ham Greeters: Betsy Tibbs Heritage, Archives & Gift Committee: John Barker Holy Hikes-WNC: Cynthia Easterling Lay Readers: Mark Delk Meal Ministry: Janelle Walker Needle Work Ministry: Judy Petersen Newsletter Editor: Mims Yeargin Sustainability: Elizabeth Christenbury Ushers: Clint Adams, Bettie Orr Visitor Ministry: The Revs. Patricia Tanzer Askew and Stephen Askew Wedding Coordinator: Elaine Howe

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jerry Holt, Senior Warden Jim Gibbs, Junior Warden

2025

Kim Sanders Patrice German Laura Teel

2026

Jill Owen Jon Fitzpatrick Sandy Skelton

2027

Jim Cooper Kitty Olson Catherine Popp Steve Sittnick

PARISH OFFICERS

Marlin Sanders & Bill Williams, *Treasurers*

Kim Sanders, Clerk