The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 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. While we are broken and incomplete in many ways, we find God making us whole through this parish community. Fill out a card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or talk to an usher, greeter, or member of the clergy to learn more about St. John. It is wonderful to be with you today!

Reminders for Worship

- Children of all ages are most welcome in our worship services. If parents prefer, nursery care is available for young children in the Parish House across Rutledge Drive.
- Formation for children and adults is held across the street during the 10:00 hour.
- 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

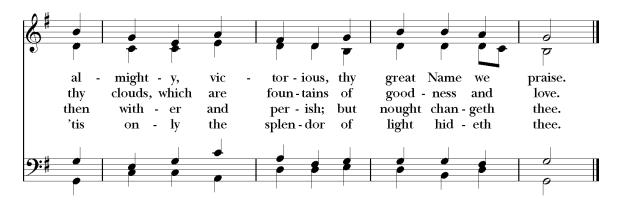
8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Pastorale in G

Samuel B. Whitney

Welcome and Announcements





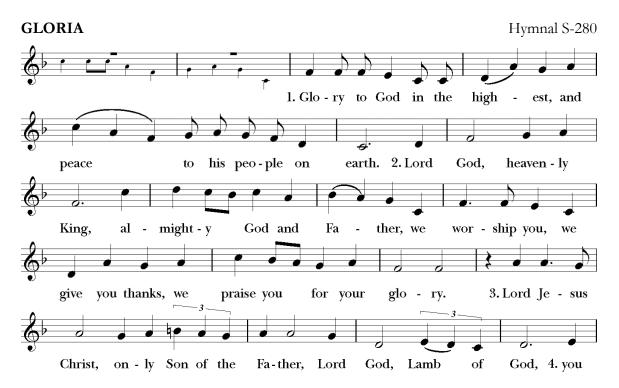
THE WORD OF GOD

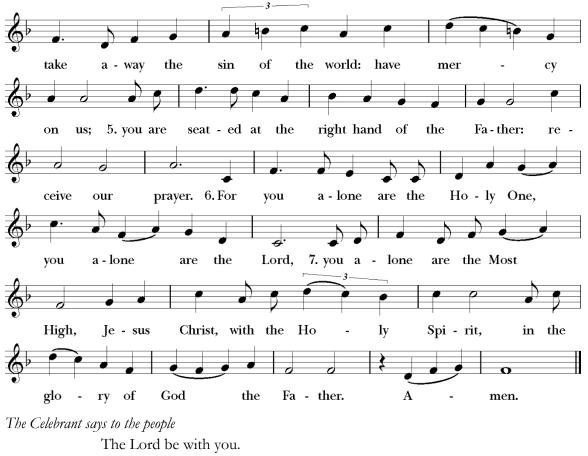
Acclamation & Response

People	And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
Celebrant	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Celebrant may say

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.**





People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10

Eructavit cor meum

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; * my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; * grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, * a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom; you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you * with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, * and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; * on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.

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: James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

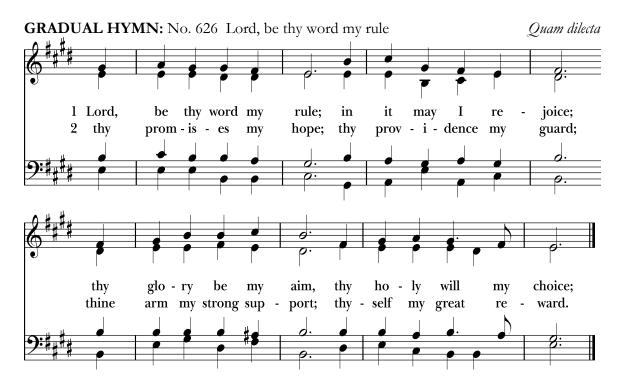
You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

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



The Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

The Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise 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 Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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.

Leader Lord, in your goodness People Hear our prayer.

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.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who minister in your Church, especially our diocesan bishop, José McLoughlin. And be with all lay and ordained people as they do your work in the world.

Leader Lord, in your goodness People Hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community, and for the beautiful Creation that surrounds us.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

We pray 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.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

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.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

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.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

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 Dottie, Christopher, Tom and Anna, Gene, Loretta, Betsy, Margaret, John, Charles, Hal, Chuck, Craig, Anne, Mary, Harriet, Lynne, Mason, Stephen, Tawana, Jack, Joyce, Judy, Herb and Ginger, Bobby, Robin, Leslie, Patty, Laurie, Glenn, Barbara, Dick, Ria, Emma, Katherine, Melissa, Joe, Mary Ellen, and Bob. Are there others?

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, [especially _____,]

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Leader Lord, in your goodness *People* Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

People

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Flute Voluntary

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

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

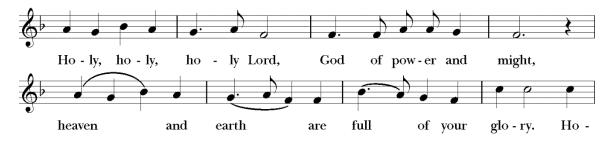
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

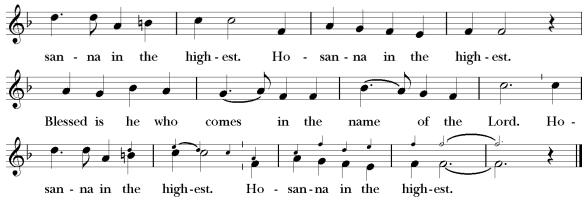
SANCTUS

Hymnal S-125



Benjamin Carr

Eucharistic Prayer A



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

Celebrant and 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

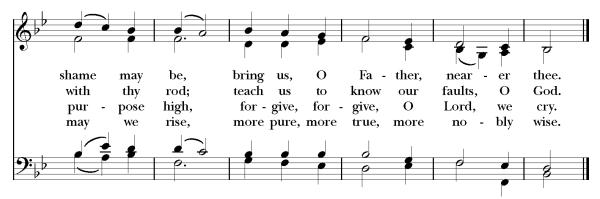
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant continues

	Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;			
People	Therefore 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.





Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors respond with the names of those to whom they will go.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup.

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 Blessing



The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Variations to the Sicilian Hymn

Benjamin Carr

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: Dottie Dalzell, Christopher Carlson, Tom and Anna Joiner, Gene Banks, Loretta Orentas, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, John Flowers, Charles Cornwell, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Craig Whitham, Anne Vogler, Mary McCarty, Harriet Huiet, Lynne Bruno, Mason Richmond, Stephen Bruno, Tawana Gibbs, Jack Reeves, Joyce Beschta, Judy Oldenburg, Herb and Ginger Quarles, Bobby, Robin, Leslie Gagnon, Patty Vint, Laurie Staples, Glenn Layfield, Barbara Kovaz, Dick Zecher, Ria and Emma Gulbrandsen, Katherine Baker, Melissa, Joe and Mary Ellen Morison, and Bob Sundeen.

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.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of John Mellott, by his family, and in loving memory of Bettie Friedell Watford, by Charles Lee Orr and Bettie Watford Orr.

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. 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

	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 1		Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	John Barker	Mark Delk	Sandra Jeffery	Candace Lewis
Acolytes	Mary Shelton	Anita Reid	Mary Shelton	Anita Reid
Ushers	Jodi Sundeen	Bettie Orr	Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury
	Clint Adams	Edgar Ham	George Grzenda	Karen Conley
Greeters	Lynne Miller	Diane & Sandy	Lynne Miller	Becky & Scott
	Judy Petersen	Skelton	Cathryn Harrell	Petersen
Cart Drivers	BJ McKee & George Grzenda	John Knapp	Marlin Sanders	Tom Savage
Videography	Jennifer Shelton	N/A	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Altar Guild	Brenda Hillyer	Laurie Morris	Candace Lewis	Laurie Morris
	Virginia Rehn (Sat.)	Anne Hobbs	Kathy Newbold Gibson Sims (Brass)	Lynn Redmond (Sat.)
Refreshment Time	Cathryn Harrell Sandra Jeffery	Kristi, John, & Jade Ogletree	N/A – Parish Breakfast	
Flower Guild	Patrice German	• •		
Opening Gatekeeper	Jill & Mark Owen		Jill & Mark Owen	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jon Fitzpatrick		Jon Fitzpatrick	

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: Ned Curtis Episcopal Church Women: Carmen Curtis, Elizabeth Christenbury 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

Senior Warden: Jerry Holt Junior Warden: Will Rodriguez

> 2024 E.R. Haire, Jr. Marisa Pharr Kim Sanders Clint Adams

2025 Laura Teel Patrice German

2026 Jim Gibbs Jill Owen Jon Fitzpatrick Sandy Skelton

PARISH OFFICERS

Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry Tom Griswold, Treasurer