The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 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.

Special Summer Eucharist and Reception for Dewitt: Join us on Sunday, August 25, at 11:00am for a special combined-service Eucharist in the Parish Hall. We invite one and all to join us for a festive and casual time when our two services can come together for worship and fellowship. *There will be no 8:45am service on this date. Nursery care will be available beginning at 10:00am.*

After the service, we will stay in the Parish Hall for a reception celebrating the ministry of Dewitt Tipton and wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his life-retirement! *Please bring a plate of finger food to share.* We hope you will join us for this opportunity to witness the joyful abundance in our parish and celebrate Dewitt.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

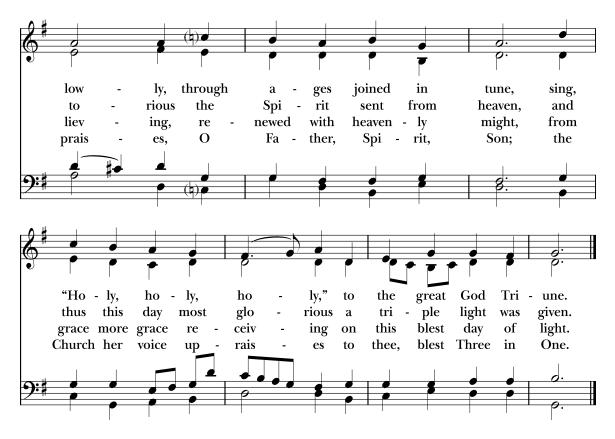
8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Voluntary in A minor

John Stanley

Welcome and Announcements





THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

CelebrantBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.** **GLORIA**



The Celebrant says to the peopleThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The king, David, ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.

Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PropleThanks be to God.

Psalm 130

De profundis

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; * let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, * O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; * therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; * in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, * more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, * for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, * and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

PeopleThe Word of the Lord.PropleThanks be to God.

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



Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

The Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Stephens

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; and we ask you to be with our students, teachers, and parents as the school year begins. Bless them in their learning and in their work.

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, Scotty, Joyce, Judy, Jim, Herb and Ginger, Bobby, Robin, Leslie, Patty, Laurie, Glenn, Barbara, and Dick. 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 Deacon Jerry Beschta,

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

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 CelebratingBCP, p. 830Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries in AugustPrayer 50

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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: 8:45 Now Pray We to the Holy Spirit 11:00 Lord, as the Grain Text by George Seaver Based on the *Didache*, 2nd century Dietrich Buxtehude Carl Schalk

Lord, as the grain which once on upland acres scattered abroad was gathered into one in this one loaf whereof we are partakers in the blest fellowship of thy dear Son.

So may thy Church dispersed through all creation, seed of the living bread, thy holy Son, broken for us and for mankind's salvation, from the world's ends be gathered into one.

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 A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

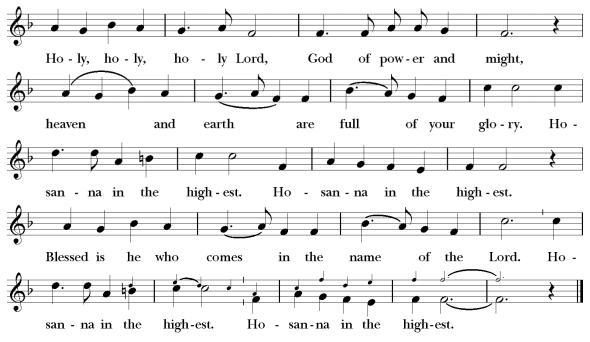
PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.CelebrantLet us give thanks to the Lord our God.PeopleIt is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

People

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

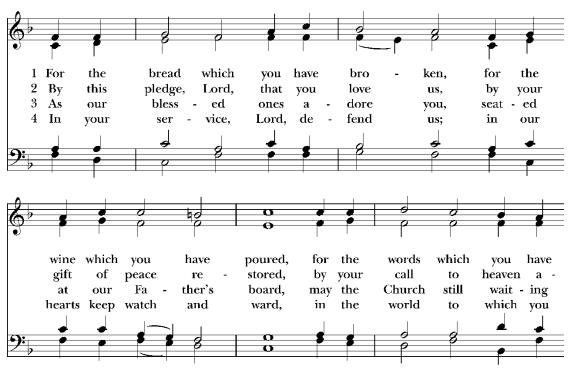
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: No. 341 For the bread which you have broken

Omni die





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

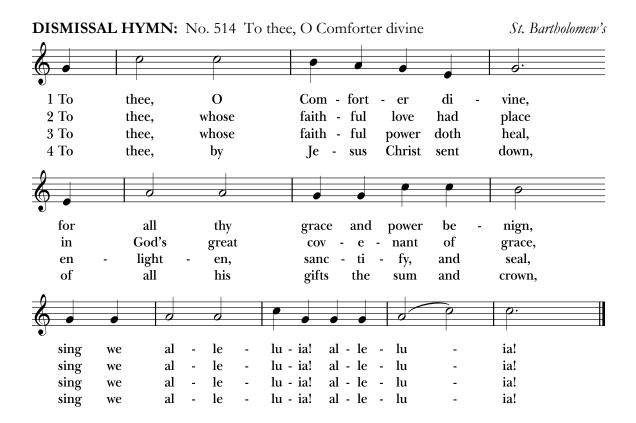
Let us pray.

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: Voluntary in G major

John Stanley

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, Church King, Craig Whitham, Anne Vogler, Mary McCarty, Harriet Huiet, Lynne Bruno, Mason Richmond, Stephen Bruno, Tawana Gibbs, Jack Reeves, Scotty Wood, Joyce Beschta, Judy Oldenburg, Jim Kehl, Herb and Ginger Quarles, Bobby, Robin, Leslie Gagnon, Patty Vint, Laurie Staples, Glenn Layfield, Barbara Kovaz, and Dick Zecher.

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 Terry Bettendorf, by his family, Judi, Elizabeth, Hillary, and Lindsey; and in loving memory of Christopher Eugene (Gene) Staton, by Debby Staton, their children and grandchildren.

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 TOO FOR SERVING IN WORSTIN			
	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 11		Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 18	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Bob Inglis Judy Petersen	E.R. Haire, Jr.	Judy Petersen	Stan Rogan
Acolytes	Sandra Jeffery	Susan Rex	Mary Shelton	Susan Rex
Ushers	Debby Staton	D. Christenbury	George Grzenda	Bettie Orr
	Stu Holcombe	Karen Conley	Clint Adams	John Knapp
Greeters	Cathryn Harrell	Diane & Sandy	Lynne Miller	Carmen & Ned
	Judy Petersen	Skelton	Judy Petersen	Curtis
Cart Drivers	Jim Olson	Jason Blackwell	Steve Hutcherson	Tom Savage
Videography	N/A	Bill Morris	E. Wiescholek	N/A
Altar Guild	Elaine Howe	Lynn Savage	Cathryn Harrell	Laurie Morris
	Brenda Hillyer	Lucie Earhart	BJ McKee	Jann Cooper
	Sally Hopper (Sat./Brass)	Elaine Harris (Sat.)	Jim Cooper (Brass)	
Refreshment Time	Eleanor & John	Karen & Doug	Luann & Edgar	Anne Vogler
	Flowers	Olson	Ham	Jo Stahle
Flower Guild	Jan Tanner		Claudia Northrup & Patrice German	
Opening Gatekeeper	Dick Zecher		Dick Zecher	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jim Gibbs		Jim Gibbs	

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

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 Dewitt Tipton, Organist/Director of Music: dewitt.tipton@furman.edu 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, Elaine Harris Chefs of St. John: Jim Vint Churchvard 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