The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 29, 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. 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.

Prayer List: Just a reminder that the Sunday prayer list will be updated at the end of the quarter. On Sunday, January 5, the list will be comprised of only the names submitted or updated in December.

Offering Envelopes are available in the Bell Tower Entrance of the church for those who requested them for 2025. Please pick them up from the Bell Tower Entrance by January 5, 2025.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Celebrate the Season with St. John in the Wilderness

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 29

Christmas Potluck Feast

5:00pm in the Wilderness Room

Join us for a chance to enjoy good food and great company as we continue the spirit of the season together. Whether the holidays have been busy, quiet, or somewhere in between, we'd love for you to join us in celebrating the love of Christ that continues to shine brightly this season and always.

Bring a dish to share if you can, but most importantly, bring yourself. There's always a seat at the table for you. Please RSVP at bit.ly/SJWChristmasPotluck or by using the QR code to the right.

All end-of-year giving must be <u>received by</u> the Parish Office no later than December 31. Thank you for giving so generously to God's work at St. John in the Wilderness in 2024!

TWELFTH NIGHT | SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 and 11:00am in the Church

Burning of the Greens and Other Revelry

4:00-6:00pm at Camp Kanuga 120 Camp Kanuga Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Bring Christmas trees and other greens to burn! St. John will provide food and beverages as we gather around the fire to sing songs and celebrate the last night of Christmas. No RSVP necessary.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD | MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Feast & Celebrate at Kanuga

5:00-8:00pm

471 Kanuga Chapel Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the Hendersonville Deanery at Kanuga! The event begins with Eucharist in the chapel, followed by a delicious potluck where Kanuga will provide the main entrée. Guests are invited to bring a side dish to share. After that, enjoy starthemed crafts, a mobile planetarium, stargazing, and a candlelight labyrinth walk. Register at bit.ly/KanugaEpiphany2025 or by using the QR code to the right.



Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Gesù Bambino Pietro Yon

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 97 Dost thou in a manger lie Dies est laetitiae

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

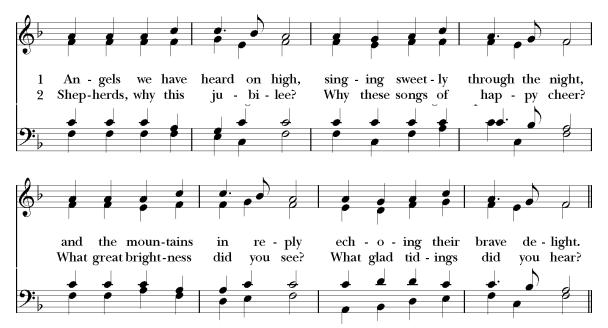
Alleluia! To us a child is born!

People Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

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: No. 96 Angels we have heard on high

Gloria





The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication,

and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147 Laudate Dominum

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 Hallelujah!

People

How good it is to sing praises to our God! * how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; * he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted * and binds up their wounds.

- 4 He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground.

- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains * and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds * and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; * he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, * in those who await his gracious favor.
- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; * he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; * he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; * who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; * he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; * to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!
 - 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: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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. 82 Of the Father's love begotten

We will sing this hymn in equal note values as suggested in the performance note.

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

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The SermonThe Rev. Ian Williams

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

The Nicene Creed BCP p. 358

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

The Leader and People pray responsively. The Leader begins
During this Christmastide, let us pray for the Church and for the world as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the holy Church of God – for all Christians gathered to celebrate the nativity of our Lord – that we may make room for God in our hearts, homes, and neighborhoods, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José, our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may share the Good News of God's incarnation with joy and love to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and compassion may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For those who, like the shepherds, work while others sleep, and for all those whose labors make our lives our possible, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For this congregation, for those who are present and those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health. We pray especially for Bob, Dottie, Betsy, Margaret, John, Hal, Chuck, Ann, Laurie,

Marcia, Slava, Sandy and Ginny, Stephanie, David, Christina, Mari, Amanda, Mary, Jean Ann, Stephen, Katherine, Harriet, Randall, Dick, Tawana, Louise, Ann, Michael, Patty, John, Parker, Patsy, Marilyn, Daniel, Russ, and Kirsten. We pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where this no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

People Lord, 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. 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): Sussex Carol Raymond Haan

OFFERTORY HYMN (11:00): No. 78 O little town of Bethlehem Forest Green

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

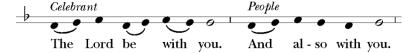
Old 100th

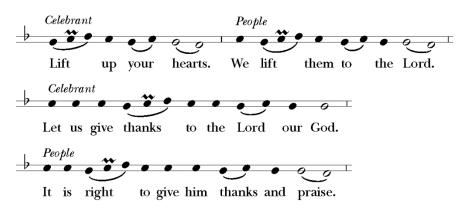
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says (8:45) or sings (11:00)



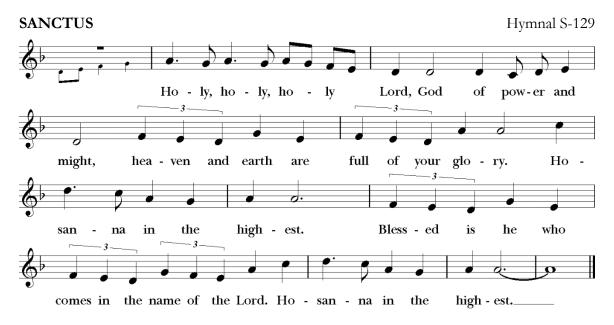


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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;

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.

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. 94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night Winchester Old

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 Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen God Rest You Merry

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: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen arr. Barbara Owen

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: Bob Sundeen, Dottie Dalzell, Betsy Thagard, Margaret Barker, John Flowers, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Ann Kanipe, Laurie Staples, Marcia Jacobs, Slava Morris, Sandy and Ginny MacNeil, Stephanie, David, Christina, Mari Alper, Amanda Swan, Mary McCarty, Jean Ann Rushton, Stephen Bruno, Katherine Gee, Harriet Huiet, Randall, Dick Zecher, Tawana Gibbs, Louise, Ann Stringfield, Michael Jeffery, Patty Vint, John Taylor, Parker Mattern, Patsy Boehmer, Marilyn Jones, Daniel Mieras, Russ Adam, and Kirsten Shepherd.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of all our dear, departed loved ones who passed in 2024.

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 Christmas Day December 29		Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Sandra Jeffery	E.R. Haire, Jr.	Mary Anne Inglis Judy Petersen	E. Christenbury
Acolytes	Susan Rex	Stan Rogan		
Ushers	Clint Adams	Bettie Orr	Jodi Sundeen	
	George Grzenda	Karen Conley	Jim Spry	
Greeters	Brenda Hillyer	Patty Vint		
	Worth Gordon			
Cart Drivers	Marlin Sanders	Jason Blackwell		
Videography (Service)	BJ McKee	N/A	Jennifer Shelton	N/A
Videography (Formation)	N/A			
Altar Guild	Brenda Hillyer	Laurie Morris	Candace Lewis	Laurie Morris
	Rick Rehn (Brass)	Sally Hopper	Kathy Newbold	Diane Skelton
		Virginia Rehn (Sat.)	Lynn Redmond (Sat.)	
Flower Guild	All Flower Guild Members		Patrice German	
Opening Gatekeeper	George Grzenda & BJ McKee		Jill & Mark Owen	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jim Gibbs		Jonathan 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

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

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