The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

March 2, 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. Nursery care is available for children from infancy to pre-K across Rutledge Drive in our Parish House Education Building from 8:30am to 12:30pm.
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.
- 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.
- A restroom is available near the front of the church and can be accessed through an exterior door. Please see an usher for directions.
- You will find hand sanitizer in the pews and with the ushers. Please use it after the Peace and before receiving Communion.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 135 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Salzburg

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

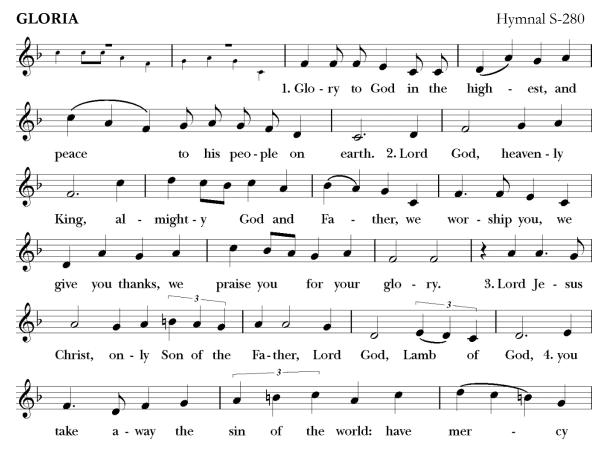
BCP p. 355

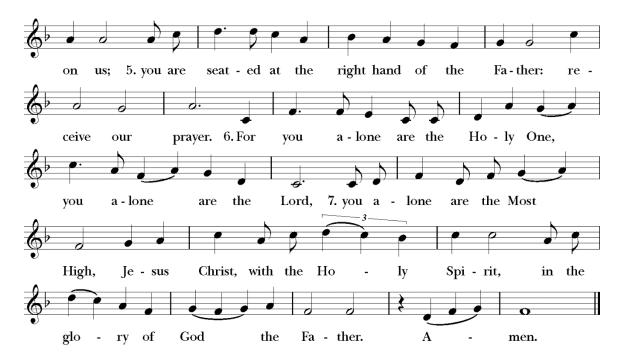
The people standing, the Celebrant says

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.**





The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all

that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99 Dominus regnavit

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; * he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; *

he is high above all peoples.

- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; * he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; * he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, * they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; * you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; * for the Lord our God is the Holy One.
- 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: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one

turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

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. 137 O wondrous type! O vision fair Wareham

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.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

People

Praise 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

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. 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 Donald, our President, and Josh, 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, Hal, Chuck, Harriet, Louise, Ann, Michael, Patty, John, Parker, Patsy, Marilyn, Daniel, Russ, Kirsten, Janet, Keyla, Susan, Wayne and Ann, Harry, Bennett, Patty, Amanda, Carol, Ryan, Peggy, Jan, Miguel, Jeff, Roger, and Carl. 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 Laura Sessions Stepp, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your goodness,

People Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin BCP p. 359

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

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 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright 11:00 Come, Holy Light, Guide Divine G.F. Handel arr. Marcus Wiley

Text adapted by Marcus Wiley

Come, Holy Light, Guide divine, o cause the word of light to shine, Teach us to know our God aright, from error, Lord, our souls defend. Come, Holy Light, Source of peace, grant that with joy and hope possessed, We always in thy service stay. Give us that peace, for which we pray.

Keep us, O Lord, forever thine.

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.

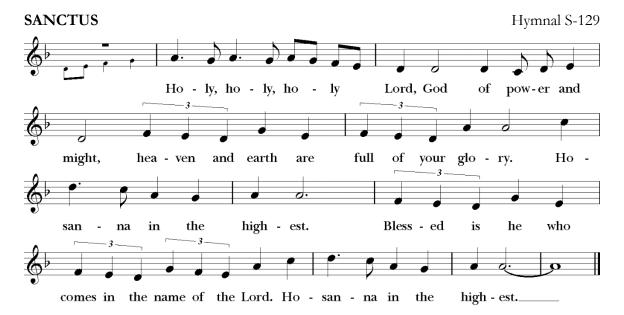
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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;

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. 336 Come with us, O blessed Jesus Werde munter

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.

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.

The Blessing

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones Laast uns erfreuen

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: In Thee is Gladness Johann S. Bach

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, Hal Reid, Chuck King, Harriet Huiet, 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, Bennett Stroman, Patty, Amanda Swan, Carol Black, Ryan McNeil, Peggy Rex, Jan, Miguel Hernandez, Jeff, Roger Gross, and Carl Sessions Stepp.

The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of my beautiful wife, Sandra, who is still in my heart and thoughts, by Jim Thaxton.

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, and Bill Taylor.

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				
	Last Sunday after the Epiphany March 2		First Sunday in Lent March 9	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Ann Stringfield	Candace Lewis	Mary Anne Inglis	E.R. Haire, Jr.
Acolytes	Mary Shelton	Anita Reid	Elaine Howe	Stan Rogan
Ushers	Jodi Sundeen	Bettie Orr	Jerry Holt	D. Christenbury
	Jim Spry	Jim Cooper	Stu Holcombe	Karen Conley
Greeters	Lynne Miller	Diane & Sandy	Lynne Miller	Becky & Scott
	Judy Petersen	Skelton	Cathryn Harrell	Petersen
Cart Drivers	BJ McKee &	John Knapp	Danielle Pharr	Tom Savage
	George Grzenda			
Videography (Service)	Jennifer Shelton	N/A	N/A	David Burge
Videography (Formation)	N/A - Parish Breakfast		BJ McKee	
Altar Guild	Candace Lewis	Laurie Morris	Cathryn Harrell	Lynn Savage
	Kathy Newbold	Jann Cooper	BJ McKee	Lucie Earhart
	Gibson Sims (Brass)	Lynn Redmond	Sally Hopper	Elaine Harris (Sat.)
		(Sat.)	(Sat./Brass)	
Flower Guild	Patrice German & Sandy Gulbrandsen		Lenten Branches	
Opening Gatekeeper	David Dethero		David Dethero	
Closing Gatekeeper	Jerry Holt		Jerry Holt	



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. Deacon Sandy Rex, Deacon: cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com

Ed Tompkins, Director of Music & Organist: music@stjohnflatrock.org

Mims Yeargin, Director of Parish Communication & Administration: officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Stacy Knapp, Finance & Administration: finance@stjohnflatrock.org
Missy Izard, Director of Christian Education: missy@stjohnflatrock.org

Kevin Hunt, Sexton: sexton@stjohnflatrock.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appointments: Carol Rector

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jerry Tanner

By Laws, Canons & Insurance: Jim Olson

Christian Formation: Missy Izard

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:

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: Catherine Popp 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