



Inside this issue:

Holy Week	2
Parish Breakfast	3
Education for Ministry	3
ECW	4
Note from Fr. Deravil	5
Photos: Mardi Gras	5
Flower Memorials	5
Readers in the Wilderness	6
Pilgrimage to Québec	6
Good News Gardeners	6
Flower Guild	6
Holy Hike	7
Churchyard Tours	7
Birthdays	7

The deadline for The Voice is the 15th of each month.

Email submissions to officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org or deliver them to the church office.

From the Rector's Desk

"Sir, We Wish to See Jesus"

There's a story in John's Gospel about these Greeks who were curious about the God of Abraham and this rabbi named Jesus. They were at a festival in Jerusalem when they sought out one of the disciples and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." It's one of those simple and yet profound lines of Scripture that draws us into the heart of God with an urgency that we often forget. We all long to see Jesus. We long to know him. We long to live more fully into the love that he is bringing into the world. We long to share him and that love with others.

When I first began ministering at St. John, many of you will recall it was late February 2020. A few weeks after I started, our world abruptly changed with the beginning of a global pandemic. We canceled Sunday services starting in mid-March. Even after we began outdoor worship that summer, many folks were hesitant to leave their homes or be in crowds. During those weeks in Lent of 2020, a small group of us began streaming services at St. John using a cell phone so we could be in touch with our church community in order to support each other in Jesus' name. That group included our Deacon and Music Director. Eduard and Lynn Wiescholek often helped with the broadcast. Central to that team was also Joey and Catherine Popp who were eager to use their experience with media to share the worship and story of St. John in the Wilderness with our church members and others who were seeking Christ in difficult times.

Our ministry of broadcasting these services evolved since then. Now we have a small group of people, known as the "Stream Team," who rotate in to stream our services online. (They would love to talk with you about joining their efforts!) We learned a lot about how to stream services over these last few years and we were always glad to hear about homebound parishioners and new seekers finding us online. We realized after the dust settled on the pandemic, that we needed a better way to share our services, so we began getting quotes from professional companies for a more advanced system. We wanted to impact our historic space as little as possible while providing a multi-camera experience for viewers.

At the end of last year, we completed the installation of a \$25,000 system that includes three pan-tilt-zoom cameras, new microphones, new speakers, and new computer technology to run it all. Joey and Catherine Popp were eager to see this taken to the next level for the good of the church and generously paid for the entire project. Nelson Motes, Bill Walker, and Boyken Beard built out a desk in the pew nearest the sound closet. If you haven't tuned in yet, check out a Sunday service on Facebook or YouTube to see how far we've come. We are still working out the kinks, but the entire team has dedicated so much to sharing Christ and this Christian community with our neighbors. We are grateful to the Popp family, our Stream Team, and everyone who helped bring this to fruition. I'm especially grateful to God for this community – for each one of you – whose dedication to worship has made me eager to share St. John with the world.

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Now we have another way to make sure he is seen.

Fr. Josh Stephens+



Stream Team members Joey Popp and BJ McKee preparing to stream the Ash Wednesday service.



Examples of shots captured by the A/V System



Benefactors of the A/V System, Catherine and Joey Popp

We are grateful for our devoted and flexible Stream Team:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Eduard Wiescholek</i> | <i>Bill Morris</i> |
| <i>Tom Griswold</i> | <i>BJ McKee</i> |
| <i>Jennifer Shelton</i> | <i>Joey Popp</i> |

From Waving Palms to the Empty Tomb

Holy Week at St. John in the Wilderness

Palm Sunday, March 24

Join us for **services in the church at 8:45 and 11:00am**. On this day, we recall Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his Passion on the cross.

Gather outside the Carriage Entrance for the Liturgy of the Palms (weather permitting) and then process inside the church for the Liturgy of the Word.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 25, 26, and 27

Join us for **Evening Prayer in the Atrium Chapel at 4:30pm**.

Easter Flower Memorials and Honorariums, Due Wednesday, March 27

You are invited to support the ministry of the Flower Guild this Easter season by sponsoring a lily in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or event. The suggested donation is \$75. Please put donations in the flower envelopes (available at church entrances and in the Parish Office) and deliver them to the office. Please print clearly the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to remember or honor. **Submit envelopes by March 27 for inclusion in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.**

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Join us for a **Maundy Thursday service with foot washing and stripping of the altar in the church at 7:00pm**. Part of the Triduum, or the three days before Easter, Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of the eucharist by Jesus on the night he was betrayed.

Wear your sandals and share in the radical servant ministry of Jesus of Nazareth! This service ends in darkness, and we leave the church in complete silence as our vigil begins.

Gethsemane Watch, March 28-29, 9:00pm-8:00am

Three times Jesus prayed. Three times Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay awake with me." Three times he found them asleep. The Gethsemane Watch is a vigil during which we, as disciples of Jesus, step into the story of his final hours and do something that the Twelve could not do: we stay awake for one hour and we pray.

*Beginning at the end of the Maundy Thursday service and running until the clergy gather for Morning Prayer on Good Friday, you are invited to sign up for an hour of prayer in the church. **Sign up for a shift at bit.ly/Gethsemane24.***

Good Friday, March 29

On Good Friday, we will commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at **11:00am with the Stations of the Cross**.

Meet in the Parish Hall parking lot to take turns carrying the cross up to the church as we complete the Stations and then enter the church for our Good Friday liturgy at noon.

We will have **Good Friday services in the church at 12:00 and 5:30pm**. Designated checks and loose offerings from our Good Friday services will be collected to send to our siblings in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. **The Veneration of the Cross will take place in the church from 1:00 to 4:00pm.**

Come by the church for time in silent prayer before the Cross, this instrument of shameful death that has become for us the means of life.



Holy Week, continued

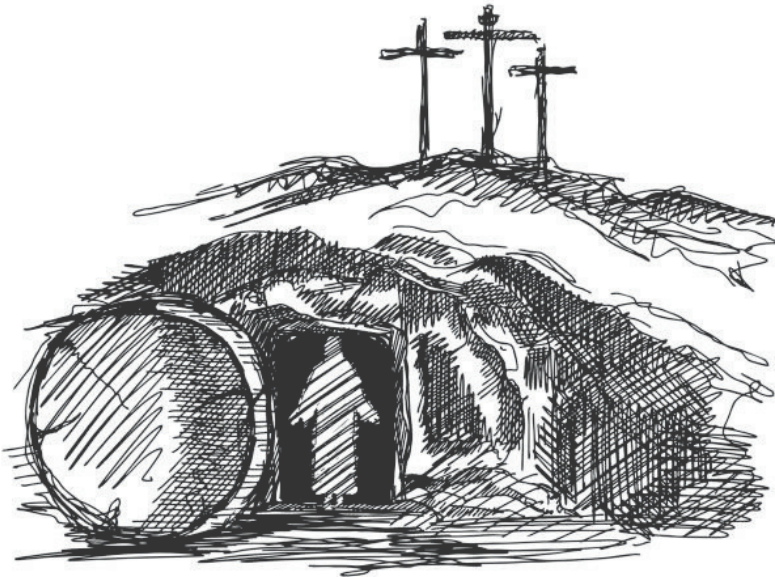
Easter Sunday, March 31

The story of Jesus did not end on the Cross, because the love of God cannot stay locked in a tomb. On Easter, we celebrate Jesus' conquering of death to bring new and abundant life to us all. Join in the celebration at one of our **Rite II Easter Eucharist services at 8:45 and 11:00am.**

Gather in the church. Bring flowers to share in the flowering of the cross.

The celebration will move across the street for St. John's annual **Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am**, hosted by the Young Family Ministry.

Bring your own basket and meet in the Rector's Garden.



Join Us for a Parish Breakfast

Sunday, March 3, 9:30-10:30am in the Parish Hall

Join us for another Parish Breakfast hosted by the Chefs of St. John, this time with the Youth Group's assistance! In addition to the regular offerings of bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad, potatoes, biscuits, and juice/coffee/ tea, the youth and Chefs will serve up French toast.

This is a pay-as-you-please breakfast. Each year, the Chefs of St. John supports at least two charities: one picked by the men and one picked by the youth. Any proceeds from this breakfast will benefit a charity of the youths' choosing. We hope to see you there!



EfM Nuts and Bolts

Don Stine, Class Mentor

In the last article, Education for Ministry (EfM) was introduced with the exciting news that a class is forming this year at St. John in the Wilderness. This article is intended to provide some specifics (the “nuts and bolts”) for people who are considering taking the course.

- EfM is a four-year certificate program in which adult learners (18+) commit to classes one year at a time.
- Curriculum progresses as follows: Year 1 studies the Hebrew Scriptures. Year 2 covers the Gospels, and the New Testament. Year 3 looks at Church History. Year 4 explores theology and developing and enhancing the learner’s own practice. All years will also have interlude readings to enhance the learning experience.
- Although the academic readings are important, the program also incorporates prayer, class discussion and Theological Reflection in helping each learner to discern their role in their personal Ministry.
- Class size is 6 to 12 learners.
- The class is administered and led by a trained Mentor (Don Stine).
- Enrollment is done on a “first-come-first-serve basis” by contacting Don Stine at 704-691-4089. **Enrollment requests can be made immediately.**
- Tuition for the class year is \$325 plus books. Scholarships may be available based on need. Those seeking such support should contact Father Josh Stephens at 828-693-9783.
- Classes will be held in the Library of St. John in the Wilderness.
- The first weekly class will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024, and for 36 subsequent Mondays thereafter. The class will review the calendar during the first couple classes to agree on holiday breaks and finalize the schedule.
- Classes will start at 6:00pm and run for 2.5 to 3 hours.

For further inquiries, please contact Don Stine at 704-691-4089.

Why ECW???

As described on www.ecwnational.org, “Episcopal Church Women exists to support all women in their Mission and Ministry in the world.” Your ECW Board met on Monday, January 29, to reflect on the Kick-Off Luncheon held on Saturday, January 27. The entire Board received many positive comments from those who attended, including:

- The atmosphere at the luncheon was a vibrant blend of long time ECW leadership, membership, and guests.
- New faces were present and first-time attendees were specially welcomed by all.
- All ages enjoyed food, fun, and fellowship, including the future ECW members who played in the nursery while ladies shared time together in the Parish Hall.
- Ladies were recognized for their work in all church ministries which support worship and outreach to those in need.
- Important information was shared regarding Prayer Shawl referrals and the importance of the church directory tool to connect all in our efforts to make a difference.

Many thanks to all for making the Kick-Off Luncheon a success!!!

Also, many thanks to the ladies who co-chaired our February project: Anne Hobbs, Jann Cooper, and Becky Petersen. With the help of multiple ladies who baked cookies and assembled goodie bags, the Friends of Music concert attendees received a wonderful treat as they enjoyed the Valentine Cabaret concert on the afternoon of Sunday, February 11.

Looking ahead to March, **we want to remind all to register for the March 16 Women’s Retreat: “Restore, Renew, Reconnect.” Please sign up at bit.ly/ECWretreat24 by Thursday, March 7.**

Your board will also be looking at the calendar for the year as we consider activity suggestions from our parish membership. We always welcome your ideas!

Sincerely,
Your ECW Board / Carmen Curtis, Chair



The ECW Board honored past ECW Presidents by presenting them with flowers. Pictured here are Brenda Hillyer (2013), Worth Gordon (2005-06), Debby Staton (1973-74), and Eleanor Flowers (2007-08) with current Chair Carmen Curtis. Not pictured: Linda Gilmer (2021-23), Kathy Newbold (2018-20), Mary Stephens (2016-17), Jan Wanben (2009, 2014-15), Bettie Orr (2011-12), Carol Black (2009-10), Joanie Covell (2003-04), and Jinny Bell (2001-02).



Greetings from Fr. Deravil+

St. John in the Wilderness has partnered with Fr. Jean-Jacques Deravil, a Haitian priest at work in Lascahobas, a community in rural Haiti, for many years. A couple of months ago, we sent \$1,000 his way to support St. Esprit, the Episcopal parish and school he helps run. The following is a note Fr. Deravil sent after the most recent donation, along with photos of the projects we've helped fund in the past.

January 29, 2024

Dear Fr. Josh Stephens, the Vestry, and Parishioners of St. John in the Wilderness,

I'm so glad to send you this note to thank you for all we have done together to the benefit of the Community of the Holy Spirit in Lascahobas. I hope you received the pictures just to have an idea. I would like as well to let you know that I received the check of \$1,000 on January 23rd that you have sent as a participation in the work of the parish. It will be used to do some work in the two guest rooms. Once again, thank you. I ask your prayers for Haiti and for my ministry in Haiti as I continue to pray for your ministry at St. John and for your parishioners at St. John in the Wilderness.

May God continue to bless and protect you.

Yours in Christ,
Father Jean Jacques Deravil+



Underground tank for rain collection, storage, and retrieval



New school building



The March Altar Flowers are Given in Loving Memory of:

March 10

Refreshment Sunday

My beautiful wife, Sandra, who is still in my heart and thoughts

by Jim Thaxton

AND

My husband, George Carr, Sr. and Joe Carr

by Baynard Chamberlain

March 24

Palm Sunday

Alice and Wick Andrews, Lawrence and Betty Lee, and Larry Lee

by their family

March 31

Easter

See page 2 for information on giving a Flower Memorial or Honorarium for Easter.

In emailing back and forth with Fr. Josh, Fr. Deravil mentioned that he will seek to visit us when he comes to the United States again. We look forward to his visit and are glad to be connected to this community of Episcopalians over 1,300 miles across the ocean.

Scenes from the Mardi Gras Potluck - Tuesday, February 13

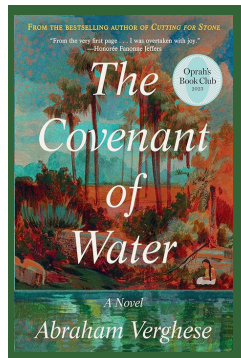


Readers in the Wilderness

First Fridays (except January)

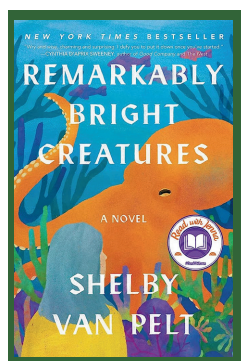
10:00am in the Library

March 1: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



At the turn of the century, a 12-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl--and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi--will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.

April 5: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt



This debut novel is a heartwarming, charming, and unconventional story about the friendship between a lonely widow, a down-on-his-luck-young man, and, yes, a giant Pacific octopus. It is an exploration of friendship, reckoning and hope. The story is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can

help uncover a future that once felt impossible.

Good News Gardeners Returns

Tuesday, March 26, 10:00-11:45am

Foster Education Garden at Kanuga

It's time to pull out those gardening gloves! The Good News Gardeners (GNG) will meet for the first time in 2024 on March 26 in the Foster Education Garden at Kanuga Conference Center. We will start at 10:00am with liturgy and prayer, followed by work in the garden led by Mary Kait Brown, Kanuga's Environmental Programs Specialist. There will be tasks for every interest and ability level. At this time of year, we are preparing planting beds, assembling growing structures, making repairs, organizing items in the garden shed, planting cool-weather seeds, and working in the greenhouse.

For this first meeting, we invite you to bring heirloom seeds to swap with others and/or to incorporate into the Foster Garden.

As is our pattern, we will enjoy lunch together afterward in the Kanuga cafeteria at half-price.

Please mark your calendars for these following GNG dates:

- April 23
- May 10: We will volunteer for a gardening project for the United Way Day of Caring. Details TBA.
- June 25
- July 23
- August 27
- September 24
- October/November: TBD

For more information, contact Kathryn Whitten at kaymwhitten@gmail.com. Please register at bit.ly/goodnewsgardeners or email Kathryn so that we have a good idea of the number of people participating and can plan our time together accordingly. See you in the garden!

Flower Guild Members Needed

Ever wanted to be a part of the creative team that provides beautiful floral arrangements for our worship space? Now is your chance! The Flower Guild is seeking 2-3 new members. Training is provided, and Guild members generally serve once a month. Contact Bay Chamberlain at mbcgbkc@yahoo.com or by calling 202-258-0431.

Scenes from Our Last Holy Hike

Daniel Ridge Loop Trail | February 13



- 1 Nancy Rogan
- 2 Yates Pharr
- 3 Liz Ball
- 3 Sophie Guth
- 4 Vick Murdaugh
- 4 Jim Vint
- 4 Emily Ann Caldwell
- 4 Jason Blackwell
- 4 Steven Byrd
- 10 Phyllis Smith
- 10 Charles Laughton
- 11 Marion Mitchell
- 13 E.R. Haire, Jr.
- 14 Mark Delk
- 15 Eleanor Liberto
- 16 Catherine Mills
- 16 Laura Hanff
- 17 Harper Swing
- 17 Kathy Newbold
- 17 Candace Lewis
- 18 Ginger Quarles
- 18 Bob Staton
- 19 Marge Smith
- 19 Ted Hipp
- 19 Missy Izard
- 20 John Pace
- 20 Steve Sullivan
- 20 Don Hessemer
- 21 Rori Ghahreman
- 21 Chris Caldwell
- 22 John Roth
- 22 Mike Teel
- 25 Jinny Bell
- 25 Ross Sprout
- 25 Pat Petillo
- 26 Katharine Hoffman
- 27 Nancy King
- 27 Elaine Howe
- 28 Cora Fitzpatrick
- 28 Tom Robertson
- 30 Grayson Garber
- 30 Laurie Morris



Join Us on Our Next Hike!

*Tuesday, March 12, at 11:00am
Wilkie, Tower, and Twixt Loop*

See more information about this hike, including directions, registration, and trail features, at www.stjohnflatrock.org/upcoming-hike.

Tour the Historic Church & Churchyard

Tours are again available beginning in March. They start inside the Carriage Door entrance of the church. The tours are free, but advanced reservations must be made online through the church's website, www.stjohnflatrock.org/tours. Space is limited for each tour.

The guided tours will be held the third Saturdays from March through December and the first and third Saturdays from June through September. They begin promptly at 11:00am and last about an hour. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. There will be no rain dates.

*Don't see your birthday here?
That means we don't have a
record of it!*

*Please email Sarah at
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org
to update your information.*

Flat Rock, NC 28731
PO Box 185
**St. John in the
Wilderness**
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Ian Williams
Curate

The Rev. Dn. Charles Rex
Deacon

Sarah Yeargin
*Director of Parish Communication &
Administration*

Stacy Knapp
Parish Financial Assistant

Dewitt Tipton
Organist and Director of Music

Kevin Hunt
Sexton

Vestry

Jerry Holt
Senior Warden

Will Rodriguez
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

Clint Adams, Patrice German,
Jim Gibbs, Jon Fitzpatrick,
E.R. Haire, Jr., Jill Owen,
Marissa Pharr, Kim Sanders,
Sandy Skelton, and Laura Teel



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45am - Rite II Eucharist (in person)

11:00am - Rite I Eucharist (in person)

**Services are live-streamed to Facebook on a rotating schedule.*

**St. John uses Rite I liturgies during Advent and Lent, and Rite II during the rest of the year.*

Monday through Thursday

9:00am - Morning Prayer (live-streamed on Facebook)

Wednesday

10:30am - Healing Service in the Wilderness Room

4:30pm - Evening Prayer in the Atrium Chapel

Our 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.

828-693-9783

www.stjohnflatrock.org

officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org



[@stjohnwildernessflatrock](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwildernessflatrock)