The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 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.
- 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.
- Formation is available for children, youth, and adults most Sundays from 10:10 to 10:45am in our Parish House complex across Rutledge Drive.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:45 & 11:00am

PRELUDE: Fanfare, Chorale, Duo, and Trio on Azmon

Michael Helman

Welcome & Announcements

ENTRANCE HYMN: No. 544 Jesus shall reign

Duke Street

THE WORD OF GOD

Acclamation & Response

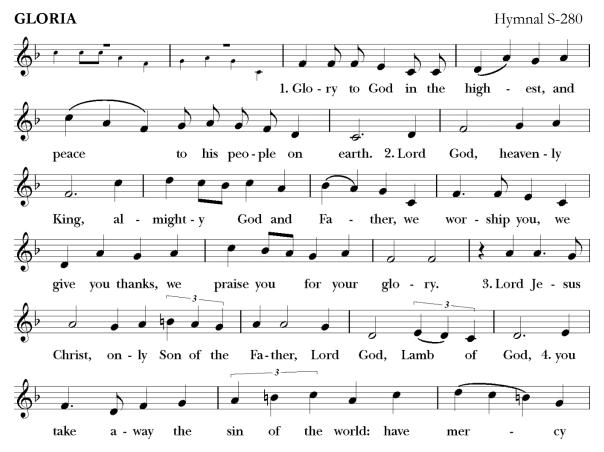
BCP p. 355

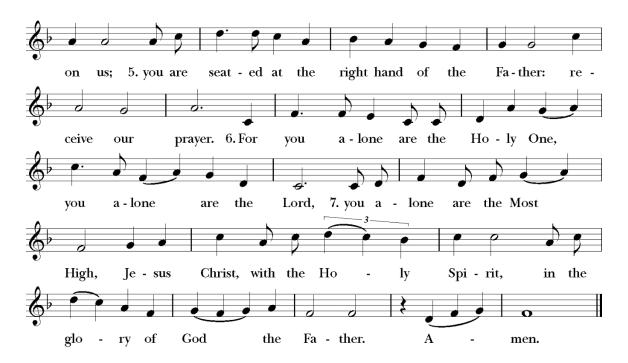
The people standing, the Celebrant says

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, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse--

who can understand it?

I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners,

Beatus vir qui non abiit

nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *

and they meditate on his law day and night.

- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; * everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, * nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, * but the way of the wicked is doomed.
- 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: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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. 440 Blessed Jesus, at thy word

Liebster Jesu

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 6:17-26

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephen Askew

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, and Peggy. 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 ____,] 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

The Peace

life. Amen.

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 Prelude on New Britain Peter Pindar Stearns

11:00 Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

K. Lee Scott

Text by Thomas T. Lynch (based on Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 5:16-25)

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me: I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;

And with words that help and heal Thy life would mine reveal; And with actions bold and meek, For Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me: I would truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;

And with wisdom kind and clear Thy life in mine appear; And with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me: I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee;

Separate from sin I would, And cherish all things good, And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be; Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;

'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, Be thou my strength and shield; Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

 $Old~100^{th}$

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.

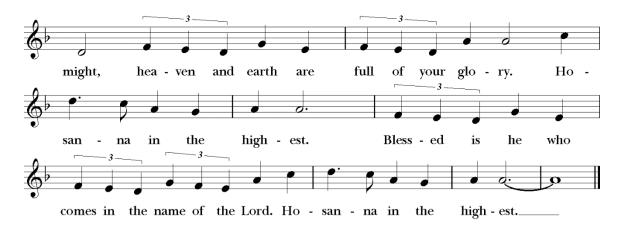
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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. 665 All my hope on God is founded *Michael*

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. 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Azmon

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: Rigaudon Andre Campra

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, and Peggy Rex.

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

	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16		Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 23	
	8:45am	11:00am	8:45am	11:00am
Lay Readers	Mary Shelton Judy Petersen	Bill Taylor	Sandra Jeffery	Lori Griswold
Acolytes	Laura Teel	Stan Rogan	Danielle Pharr	Susan Rex
Ushers	Marlin Sanders	John Knapp	Jerry Holt	Hilton Swing
	Debby Staton	Tom Savage	Clint Adams	Ned Curtis
Greeters	Lynne Miller	Carmen & Ned	Brenda Hillyer	Jann & Jim Cooper
	Ann Stringfield	Curtis	Lois Karcher	
Cart Drivers	Jim Olson	Nancy Cooper	Marlin Sanders	Jason Blackwell
Videography (Service)	E. Wiescholek	N/A	N/A	Tom Griswold
Videography (Formation)	N/A		BJ McKee	
Altar Guild	Cathryn Harrell	Becky Petersen	Sandra Jeffery	Susan Gibbs
	BJ McKee	Jann Cooper	Lynne Miller	Michael Jeffery
	v	Jim Cooper (Brass)	·	(Brass)
Flower Guild	Claudia Northrup & Galen Reuther		Jan Tanner	
Opening Gatekeeper	George Grzenda & BJ McKee		George Grzenda & BJ McKee	
Closing Gatekeeper	Kim Sanders		Kim Sanders	



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, Christian Education Director: 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

Lav 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

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