

The Voice



Inside this issue:

What's Happening	2
Episcopal Church Women	2
The Younger Voice	3
Never Again	4
Truman Capote's <i>A Christmas Memory</i>	4
Flower Memorials	5
Angel Tree	5
Birthdays	5
Calendar	6
Parish Register	7
Parish Breakfast	7
Growth in Transition Update	7

December 2018

From the Desk of Father Bill



During this time of discernment and transition at St. John in the Wilderness, it is vitally important that we continue to

grow in two primary areas.

First, we must continue to **grow in discipleship and commitment** to our powerful 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.”*** I strongly encourage each of us to memorize it, or at least the key verbs or action words – *know ... love ... bring ... serve*.

Knowing has to do with education and formation grounded in Holy Scripture. Look for more educational opportunities in the coming months as we expand our Bible study and adult Sunday School offerings.

Loving has to do with how we treat each other and our neighbors. Being God's agents of love and kindness to everyone we meet requires daily, intentional effort grounded in prayer.

Bringing challenges us to be witnesses to our unchurched friends and

neighbors, inviting them to worship and parish activities.

And **serving** is where we put our faith into action through various ministries. On the back page of the Sunday bulletin are listed 8 standing committees and 22 other mission and ministry opportunities in which to become involved. If you have an idea for a new ministry, speak to me about it.

Secondly, during this time of transition we must continue to grow in our understanding of **stewardship as a lifestyle**, a calling. As you've heard before, stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe. It is the recognition that we are not owners, but managers and caretakers of everything God has entrusted to us. Everything. With a strong commitment to **effective discipleship** and a **stewardship lifestyle** during this transition period, growth in membership and financial resources will be assured. God help us to do it.

Faithfully yours,
Father Bill+

What's Happening at St. John

Notes from the Junior Warden:

- As you have no doubt noticed, the new golf cart (aka the "Mills Mobile") is in full operation. We have a small heating unit in this one and have installed a wind barrier to control the flow of cold air under and over the windshield. It won't be toasty, but it will be better.
- The Garden Guild is not scheduled to meet during December through February, but they will resume with a passion in the spring. They could use some additional volunteers, so be alert for a new recruitment memo in February or March.
- Be sure and thank those who decorate our church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. A hundred eighty-two years old, and our church has never looked so good.

Readers in the Wilderness meets the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Library.

December 7 – *The Little French Bistro* by Nina George (2017)

From the *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of *The Little Paris Bookshop*, an extraordinary novel about self-discovery and new beginnings. Food, folklore and fulfillment with a French backdrop.

Do join us for lively discussions!

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The year is quickly drawing to a close, and there is one more ECW event worth noting on your calendar and attending. On Thursday, December 13, at 9:30 a.m., we will welcome Maggie Bailey's class from Foster Circle School for our annual Head Start Christmas party. If you have never attended one of these, please make the effort. The children entertain us with familiar Christmas songs – *Feliz Navidad* is a favorite! – and we in turn sing a few songs with them. Santa Claus (aka Fr Bill) and the elf (aka Elaine Harris) will distribute stockings filled with toys and books to the children as well as knitted caps and gloves. The children usually have the opportunity to do a simple craft, and this year they will be decorating blank journals which they will receive with their stocking.

The children leave at 10:30, and then the ECW will enjoy a potluck brunch with attendees sharing some of their favorite recipes. Your leadership team for next year will be introduced at this time, and Deacon Joyce will offer a blessing for their success and ministry. We will also enjoy a silent auction of Christmas jewelry and gently used holiday sweaters which perhaps are outgrown but still have many holiday seasons left! Check your closets and jewelry boxes for possible donations!

Looking ahead to 2019, we are considering an outing to The Oriole Mill in late January or early February.

As its website states, "At The Oriole Mill in Hendersonville, North Carolina, American textile manufacturing is thriving once again. Deep in an area of the South, once the heart of textile manufacturing, owner Stephan Michelson and artist Bethanne Knudson are proving, through creativity, expertise and sheer determination, that an industry can revive itself."

Our visit would include a tour of the Mill and shopping in its lovely store. More information will be forthcoming. You may learn more from the Mill's website: www.theorileomill.com.

I hope to see you at the upcoming events.

Blessings of the season to you and yours. Merry Christmas, and may your New Year be bright!

Kathy Newbold
ECW Coordinator

The Younger Voice

Young Family Ministry and EYC

Happy (late!) Thanksgiving and happy (early!) Advent to you all. It is my hope to share the next few weeks with all of you preparing for the season of Christmas to come! It is such a busy time of year, but it is important for me to take time to ready myself for the birth and return of our Lord - that is what Advent is all about. I hope all of you will consider doing the same. I am so thankful to walk this advent journey with all of you.



Weekly emails will be sent out with the details about our Advent Series. The general schedule is below for your planning purposes. If you were not part of our Advent Series last year and would like to be this year, please get me your contact information. Just email Father John at fr.john.roberts@gmail.com. See you all soon!

Wednesday, November 28	5:30-6:45 p.m.	Dinner and Advent Wreaths
Wednesday, December 5	5:30-6:45 p.m.	Dinner and Slave Grave Sprays
Sunday, December 9	10:00 a.m.	Decorate Slave Graves
Wednesday, December 12	5:30-6:45 p.m.	Eucharist and Pageant preparation
Sunday, December 23	10:00 a.m.	Gather in Parish Hall to prepare for service
	11:00 a.m.	Young Family-led Eucharist and Pageant



Last month, I wrote about some of the planned changes for our Pageant this year. We will introduce some of the changes and get you all signed up on the first two nights of our Advent Series for whatever role you would like for our Young Family-led Eucharist on December 23. Or feel free to talk with me in advance! Thanks all!

December EYC: Our annual Youth Group Christmas Shopping trip was planned for November 18, but because of folks' schedules, we needed to postpone it until Sunday, December 2. We will gather in the church parking lot at 12:20 p.m. Please let me know if you can make it! We will continue to support the same family for whom we have shopped in years past with wonderful gifts. Thank you all for your generosity of time!

Thank you all for your involvement and support. As always, let me know how I can be a support in your lives.

Peace, Father John

Never Again



On October 31, an interfaith meeting was held at St. John where about 65 people came together to demonstrate solidarity, to pray, and to have conversation about the tragic shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. We invited Rabbi Rachael Jackson from Agudas Israel Congregation in Hendersonville to join us and share her own feelings and what we might be able to do to support her and her congregation. Below are the powerful words Rachael spoke:

Yesterday afternoon, after going through dozens and dozens of emails which addressed the horrors of the murders on Saturday, I had a meeting. I had a meeting with a person who wanted to talk about a personal relationship and how to heal it-- having nothing to do with Pittsburgh. An hour or so later, I received a voicemail letting me know that someone's parent had passed away. I have meetings scheduled, lessons to plan, services to conduct. So does everyone here have something to do.

The more hours which pass since Saturday, the more the mundane aspects of our lives take their place of prominence. And this is my plea to you. Don't forget. Please don't forget what happened to those beautiful souls. Please don't forget that this was an attack on a group of people who were praying; and they were attacked because of how they prayed as Jews. Please don't forget that they were slaughtered because they were hated simply for their religion. In their home.

Since the holocaust ended, we have said "Never again". We prayed this would be an emblematic statement, but we realize that it is a statement of action. This is a statement in which we can interfere with hate. Never again means making friends across all perceived differences such as religion, age, race, culture, orientation, gender. Never again means correcting our tendency to be tone deaf to cultures which are not our own. Never again means going the extra step to be an ally. Never again means speaking up when someone makes a derogatory remark about anyone. Never again means never letting hatred get the best, or even the worst, of us.

But it means something more too. It means that we don't live in fear. We don't, and won't, allow fear to dictate and run our lives. We will not let it be the "new normal". There are plenty of other people and situations which have that power. Fear and hatred, bigotry and racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, will not have that power.

Once we realize that we will not yield the power of our emotions and safety to someone else's hateful agenda, we come to realize hope. And then we realize that hope, too, is a statement of action. I use my ballot to vote for hope. I use my heart to give and receive love. I use my hands to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to provide relief for aching spirits. I use my voice to spread words and messages of love and connectedness. I use my spirit to bolster others so together we may find the way to a future better than the present day. A day when "never again" is truly used as an emblem rather than a call to action.

Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*



On Sunday afternoon, December 9, at 2:30 p.m., E.R. Haire, Jr. will present a performance of Truman Capote's holiday classic *A Christmas Memory* in the Wilderness Room. Funny, touching, and spiritual, *A Christmas Memory* is a frankly autobiographical tale of Capote's childhood growing up in rural Alabama during the Great Depression. The story follows Capote and his elderly cousin on a Christmas adventure that is heartwarming and perfect for getting into the spirit of Christmas. Please join us for a memorable afternoon of storytelling. The performance is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!

December Flower Memorials

December 2:

In loving memory of my parents, The Reverend and Mrs. John R. Little,
and my devoted husband, Albert Moreno

By: S. Lee Moreno



December 9:

Open

December 16:

In loving memory of Wesley Welborn Smith

By: Gayle and Bill McHaffie and Megan and John Durlach

December 23:

Christmas Blessings!

December 30:

Open

Angel Tree

- Pick an angel from the tree in the Wilderness Room and take her home with you.
- Shop for the child listed on the angel.
- Either wrap your gift and use the angel tag as a gift tag, or place your gift in a large plastic bag with a roll of wrapping paper with the angel as a gift tag.
- Please bring your gifts (with angel tag attached) and place them under the tree **no later than Wednesday, December 5.**
- If the gift request on your angel says "\$25 gift card" or "\$50 scholarship donation," please place the angel and the gift card or check in an envelope and give it to Leslie in the Church Office or place it in the Bookkeeper mailbox in the Parish House no later than Wednesday, December 5. ***PLEASE DO NOT PLACE THESE ANGELS UNDER THE TREE WITH THE OTHER GIFTS.***
- **If you are unable to return your angel with a gift by December 5, please call Betsy Tibbs at (828) 329-6952.**

Thank you for helping to make Christmas happier for so many children!

December Birthdays

2	Pepper Moreno	10	Beau Singletary
2	Vickie Taylor	11	Anita Reid
3	William McHaffie	11	Patty Vint
4	Catherine Popp	12	Hilton Swing
6	Henry Mills	14	Mary Shelton
7	McCollough Perry	15	Beth Ann Melton
8	William Green	16	Carol Sims
9	John Wyatt	17	Michael Jeffery
10	Caroline Fowler	18	Hop Potter
10	Nancy Cooper	19	Andrew Bullard
10	Ruth Kern	20	Betsy Tibbs



21	Betty Franks
24	Virginia Teel
25	Gregor Pickral
26	William Rodriguez
26	Isabel Schiro
27	Sara Mooney
27	Emmery Guth
30	Rita Castline
31	Penny Amerman

December 2018



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 7:30 AA/Early Birds
2 8:45 Eucharist 9:00 Parish Breakfast 11:00 Eucharist 12:20 pm Youth Christmas Shopping	3 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 10:00 Empty Bowls Planning 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	4 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Voices for Youth 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 Parish Christmas Party 6:45 AA Men's Group	5 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 5:30 pm YFM Advent Series 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	7 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack Group 10:00 Readers in the Wilderness 11:00 Eucharist at Lake Pointe Landing	8 7:30 AA/Early Birds
9 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist 2:30 pm "A Christmas Memory"	10 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	11 7:30 AA/Early Birds 1:00 pm Betsy's Book Club 3:30 Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	12 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 5:00 pm Finance Comm. 5:30 YFM Advent Series 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:30 ECW Head Start Party 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	14 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack Group	15 7:30 AA/Early Birds
16 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	17 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	18 7:30 AA/Early Birds 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	19 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	21 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Caregivers Group	22 7:30 AA/Early Birds
23 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist & Pageant	24 Office Closed 7:30 AA/EB 9:00 AA/SS 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 6:45 AA/Newcomers 10:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Christmas Service 6:45 AA Men's Group	26 Office Closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 Office Closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Needle Work Ministry 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	28 Office Closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds	29 7:30 AA/Early Birds
30 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Lessons & Carols with Eucharist	31 Office Closed 7:30 AA/EB 9:00 AA/SS 6:45 AA/Newcomers					

**The Episcopal Church of
St. John in the
Wilderness**

The Rev. Bill McCleery
Interim Rector

The Rev. John Roberts,
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Joyce Beschta,
Deacon

Leslie Stott, *Parish Office
Administrator*

Tracie Lutz, *Administrative
Assistant for Finance*

Dewitt Tipton, *Organist
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Vestry

Carol Rector
Senior Warden

Greg Newbold
Junior Warden

Marie Hyder
Treasurer

Jinny Bell
Clerk

Beth Melton, Tom Savage,
Nancy Cooper, Tom Head,
Jodi Sundeen, Jim Olson,
Margaret Barker,
Debby Staton,
Susan MacDonald,
Michael Shannon

Deadline for the
January *Voice* is
Friday, December 14.
Email items for *The Voice* to
your editor, Leslie Stott, at
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org
or deliver them to the
church office.

Parish Register



Transfers In

E.R. Haire, Jr.
Kelly Laughton (returned to
Chip Laughton active status)
Mary Boys

Death

Ken Howard
Anne Fry



December 2, 2018 | 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Parish Hall between the services

Eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, grits, gravy,
tomatoes, fruit, juice, and coffee

Plus Waffles

All of this for \$6/person or \$12/family

Growth in Transition Mission & Ministry Campaign Update

(As of 11/27/18)

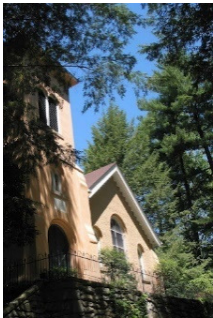
147 pledges received



84.6% of goal of \$500,000!

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please do so as
soon as possible so that the 2019 budget can be finalized.

Service Honoring Tree of Life Victims



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:45 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Sunday School for Adults and for Youth
11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

10:30 am Healing Service with Holy Eucharist in the Wilderness Room

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.