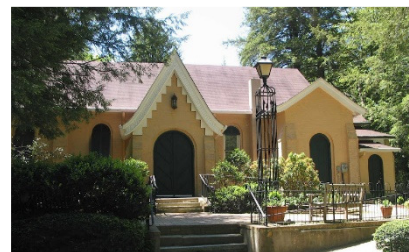


The Voice



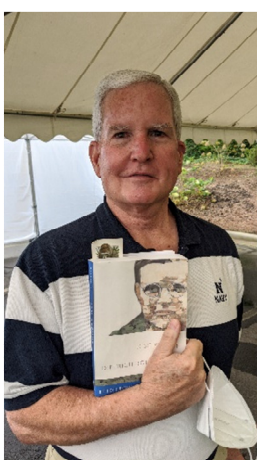
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From the Rector's Desk

The Call to Discipleship Is as Clear as Ever



About 25 parishioners participated in either an online or in-person study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* that lasted from July to September. Bonhoeffer's works are not exactly the stuff of Christian positivism that you often find on the shelves of Christian bookstores. He wrote as one watching Germany turn toward totalitarianism, prejudice, and national socialism. Our study groups consisted of about a half-dozen students online and about twenty in-person. Here are a few things that our parishioners had to say about their reading of Bonhoeffer and their struggle with understanding Christ's call on our lives. Each paragraph below is a reflection from a different parishioner.

"As Christians we are separated from the world and united with Jesus in his church. Baptism is a death to the world and a renewal through the cross—a new life. In communion we are sustained by regular renewal in his body."

"Reading Bonhoeffer has expanded my horizons, deepened my faith and stimulated self-examination. I had not previously thought of myself as a disciple; now I think I am one.... I'm now more willing to place my well-being in God's hands rather than trying to be self-reliant. I now understand 'his yoke is easy.' I hadn't thought of the church as 'the Body of Christ' and I now understand the concept. This makes involvement in the church more important to me."

"One [of my favorite Bonhoeffer quotes] is from [the section on] The Hidden Righteousness: 'Our activity must be visible, but never be done for the sake of making it visible.' 'Let your light so shine before men,' and yet, 'Take care that you hide it.' We live in this tautness."

"Sometimes Bonhoeffer makes it sound so simple, as when he states that the only answer to hearing Jesus' call to discipleship is to listen to the word that is preached and receive the sacrament (p. 180). Or that the gift Jesus gave his disciples is fully available to us too and is even more readily

(Cont. on page 6)

What's Happening at St. John



The Practice of Gratitude. Expressing gratitude on a regular basis is an amazing practice! It can be done by everyone regardless of your age or circumstances. Even very small children can be taught to stop and take a moment to express thanks for their blessings. This practice is at the heart of the United Thank Offering (UTO) program whose purpose is twofold: First, it is meant to foster a personal spiritual discipline of thankfulness through individual intentional prayer and gratitude for all

that God has done and continues to do by placing coins in the Blue Box. Then, through the combined collection of UTO Blue Box coins, bills, and checks, 100 percent of the money is awarded through grants to young adults, seminarians, parishes, and dioceses. The grants are for one-year projects designed to support transforming and innovative ministries. A complete list of grants for the last 127 years can be found at www.UnitedThankOffering.org but a few examples of grants given in 2019 are:

- to Louisiana for “Developing Adolescents for Workforce Navigation”
- to Maine for “Sophia’s House” (residential community for healing women)
- to Michigan for “Corner Shower Laundry” (renovations to enable homeless to shower and have clean clothes after a meal in their soup kitchen)
- to Mississippi for “Teach Them to Fish” (facilitating micro industries in Honduras)

As demonstrated by Jesus in the parable of the loaves and fishes, wonderful things can be accomplished when everyone puts in a little. The Blue Boxes are available during each service. They will also be available at the entrance to the St. John Administrative Building throughout the following week or until they run out.

You are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, to give thanks to God for those blessings, and to make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box.

On Sunday, October 18, there will be an in-gathering by Fr. Josh during all services.

Almighty God, I give you praise
for blessing me in many ways.
Create in me a grateful heart
and with this gift a blessing start. Amen.

With a grateful heart,
Jan Tanner at jantanner@hotmail.com or 828-337-2753

The Communications Committee supports church activities by helping get the word out to the public through social media and regional media such as the *Hendersonville Times-News*. Social media messages are posted on the church's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts, and the committee encourages parishioners to share these social media posts from their individual accounts to help spread the message. Please subscribe to or like our social media pages to help build our reach.

When you have church events to publicize, please coordinate with the committee at stjohninfo@gmail.com.

October Flower Memorials

October 4:

In loving memory of Alice and Gilbert Doan and William H. Cox
By: Judy Cox

October 11:

In loving memory of Dolores Boykin Gunter and Jeffrey Hare Gunter, Jr.
By: The Jeffrey Hare Gunter, Sr. family

October 18:

In loving memory of Isabella and Kenneth A. LaTourette, Ann Hopkins and John R. Potter
By: Marianne LaTourette Potter and Martin H. "Hop" Potter

AND

In loving memory of Celeste E. Giblin
By: Daughters Mary and Sara Fiquet

AND

In loving memory of Sarah and Russ Gordon
By: Worth and Bill Gordon

October 25:

In loving memory of Wick Andrews
By: Martha Andrews and family

AND

In loving memory of Jack Lange
By: Sibyl Lange

Parish Register



Transfer In
Edward Blackburn

Deaths
Bobbie Auld
Madison Slusher

October Birthdays



1	Scott Shelton	9	Judy Bevan	13	Jasmine Pharr
2	David Hull	10	La Verne Hiatt	14	Dale Kern
3	John Hopper	10	Mike Covell	15	Linda Klopman
3	Julianna Savage	10	Marisa Pharr	16	Barbara Kovaz
5	Dennis Flanagan	11	Emma-Jo Staton	17	Nicole Forte
5	Geoff Hanff	11	Elizabeth Christenbury	17	Britton Swing
5	Susan Stone	11	Bob Inglis	18	Carolyn Day
6	Martha Andrews	11	Shelley Schiro	18	Polly Morrice
8	Harry Van Bergen	11	Hunter Ogletree	20	Lynne Miller
8	Brenda Hillyer	13	Herb Quarles	30	Barbara Smith
8	Nicholas Iosue	13	Dave Brown	31	Linda Hill

October Calendar

As the date for reopening the church is not yet available, it is not possible to provide a reliable calendar of events at this time. Please refer to our online calendar which we will keep updated as information becomes available. You can access the calendar by clicking on the link from the homepage of our website at www.stjohnflatrock.org.

The Younger Voice

Confirmation class has begun for the youth, and we are excited to have this opportunity to make this journey with them as they make their public affirmation of their faith. We are meeting every Sunday afternoon from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. under the tent until November 22. We are looking forward to Bishop José visiting St. John on Sunday, December 6, for the Confirmation Service. Thank you to all who are helping with this class – namely Father Josh and Deacon Sandy. Thank you to all the parents who are supporting their children on this next step in their journey of faith. Thank you to all who are praying for these youth in our midst who are taking this next step.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Mary Anne and Susan

Being Christian: A Class for New and Old Episcopalians



Joining a church is no small thing. In church, we hear the Good News about Jesus being proclaimed. We taste and see that the Lord is good when gathering around the altar. Here we join with a community of people to share fellowship and life together. We are excited to announce a class for new and old Episcopalians. If you have never officially joined the church or officially become Episcopalian by being received or confirmed by a bishop, then this is for you. The class is also for those who would like to be baptized or to renew their faith. Old Episcopalians are welcome to come also to hear Fr. Josh's spin on Being Episcopalian Christians.

We will meet on Sundays at 3 p.m. under the Tent of Meeting starting on September 20 and continue for six weeks. Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, is scheduled to visit us on Sunday, December 6, to confirm, receive, and renew the faithful. Learn about church history, sacraments, liturgy, Anglicanism, and more! E-mail Leslie at officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org to sign-up or for more info.

Empty Bowls Update



The Empty Bowls team, with Fr. Josh's guidance, has been struggling with how to proceed with our event previously scheduled for September 27. We decided that we will have the event, but in a very different format. Empty Bowls has been moved to Saturday, October 3. Those who have already purchased tickets will be contacted about choosing their bowls, and they will receive a homemade treat to take home. There will be no food provided on site, and there will be no further ticket sales.

Hopefully, we can plan more traditional Empty Bowls event soon. Thank you for all your support.

Debby Staton, Coordinator

St. John to Celebrate the Feast of All Faithful Departed on November 2



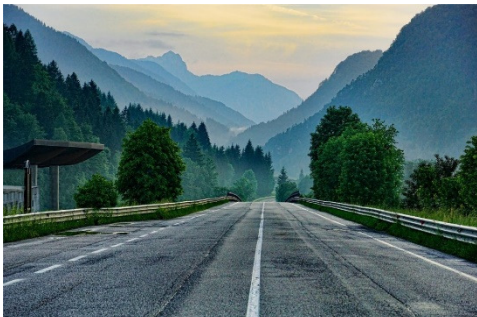
In so many ways, the Christian life is about preparation for death. When we face the wilderness of death, will we be ready? Will we be able to proclaim resurrection, like the martyrs of old, in our dying? Will we be able -- if our frail bodies will allow us -- to look at loved ones with a hope-filled smile that says life is changing but not ending? One of the ways we prepare for our final earthly witness to God's goodness is by keeping our mortality close to us. The Rule of St. Benedict, a rule of life from the

sixth century that is still followed today, instructs monks and nuns about this by saying, "keep death daily before your eyes." As disciples of Jesus, we are engaged in this discipline because we have found that the more we allow parts of ourselves to die, the more Christ's redeeming work takes root in our lives.

One way the church keeps death daily before our eyes is by keeping close to the church -- spiritually and physically -- the faithful who have gone on to glory. From cathedrals to village parishes, churches have buried their dead in and around their buildings for centuries. In doing this, we are visually reminded that our earthly pilgrimage will one day cease and that the saints who have gone before us are still a part of our fellowship. This is a truth we know in our bones at St. John in the Wilderness.

On Monday, November 2, at 3 p.m., we will gather in our churchyard for a special feast known as All Souls or the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed. We would like to invite you to share in this Eucharist with us. This is a feast in which we remember all those whom we have entrusted to God, but especially the faithful who have died over the last year. We will read the names of our dead who have recently departed this life, and we will make an effort to contact their families to share in the service. Typically, we would just read the names of those who have died since the last time the service was held. Since this is the first time (at least in recent history) that we have celebrated this feast, we invite you to submit the name of any loved one whom you continue to grieve. Of course, we will also ask for names to be shared aloud during the service. If the weather causes us to cancel the service, we hope to hold it the next day at the same time. Please join us.

Mission and Ministry 2021: Preparing the Way



Our time of discernment continues into October as we offer thanks to God for the gifts we have been given and prayerfully commit to sharing those gifts with the Church. You should have received a mailer about our Mission and Ministry Campaign, which is themed "Preparing the Way." You may fill out your pledge card online at www.stjohnnflatrock.org/ pledge, mail it in, or bring it to church on Sunday, October 18. We are so thankful for your generosity this year, next year, and beyond. Thank you!

From the Rector's Desk *(Cont. from page 1)*

available due to Jesus' ascension, transfiguration, and the Holy Spirit. Yet maybe discipleship is that straightforward and not as complicated as we want to make it."

"To be a member of the community body of Christ we must be Baptized and receive the Lord's Supper (communion); 'we are brought into one body by baptism.' 'The Church is one, it is the body of Christ.' The body has many members who are unique in their own identity. 'The church of Christ is Christ present through the Holy Spirit.'"

"Bonhoeffer was such an example of having so much trust and confidence in God through his intimate relationship with Jesus that he stayed committed to his Christian community even in hard times to the point of death."

"It has made me realize that discipleship must be a daily if not hourly exercise in discernment. Prior to this reading, I had considered the assessment of discipleship to be a weekly (Sabbath) contemplation of how my actions could be improved."

Our class ended with some time reflecting on a hymn with lyrics credited to Dietrich Bonhoeffer in our hymnal -- hymn 695/696. I passed out copies of the hymn for us to read the lyrics. At our in-person session on Wednesday morning, we had an impromptu hymn-sing when Marie Hyder offered to play the hymn for us on the piano. We gathered around to sing of God's unfailing grace and -- truly -- we felt this grace surround us. Verse three of that hymn says, "And when this cup you give is filled to brimming with bitter suffering, hard to understand, we take it thankfully and without trembling, out of so good and so beloved a hand." This is discipleship.

Blessing of the Animals on October 4 and 5



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi falls annually on October 4, which is a Sunday this year. While all Sundays are reserved as feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ (BCP, pg. 16), this October 4 we will remember St. Francis by inviting you to bring your furry companions to either the 8:45 or 11:00 a.m. service for a special blessing. Cats, dogs, snakes, chickens, horses, and goats are all welcome! Children may also bring a stuffed animal to be blessed. Our outdoor meeting space will mean a lively Eucharist for all creatures involved.

The stories about St. Francis say that he was a man with a true spirit of love and peace that could have only come from God. Those who encountered him were drawn into the peaceable Kingdom of God to know more fully the Prince of Peace. Even animals, it is said, were attracted to his Christ-like gentleness. One story about St. Francis says that he made peace with a wolf who had been terrorizing a village. He called the animal "Brother Wolf" and reconciled him to the village that wanted the wolf dead. As we thank God for the animals in our lives, we pray that the reconciling work of Jesus Christ might extend beyond our relationship with God to include all creation. We hope you will join us on October 4.

Due to COVID-19, we will also have a short Blessing of the Animals liturgy on Monday, October 5th at 4 p.m. in the Rector's Garden for those who are not comfortable coming to church on Sunday mornings or are not comfortable letting their pets bring them to church.

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

The Rev. Josh Stephens
Rector

The Rev. Dn. Charles Rex
Deacon

Leslie Stott, *Parish Office
Administrator*

Tracie Lutz, *Administrative
Assistant for Finance*

Dewitt Tipton, *Organist
and Director of Music*

Kevin Hunt, *Sexton*

Mary Anne Inglis, *Youth
and Families Coordinator*

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Visit us on the Web at
www.stjohnflatrock.org

Vestry

Carol Rector
Senior Warden

Jerry Tanner
Junior Warden

Tom Griswold
Treasurer

Margaret Barker
Clerk

Elizabeth Christenbury,
Greg Newbold, Michael
Shannon, Janet Johnson,
Shelley Schiro, Cindi
Easterling, Terry Enslen,
Marie Hyder, Dick Zecher,
Gibson Sims

Vestry minutes are posted
on our website at
www.stjohnflatrock.org

Deadline for *The Voice* is the
15th of each month. Email items
to your editor, Leslie Stott, at
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org
or deliver them to the
church office.

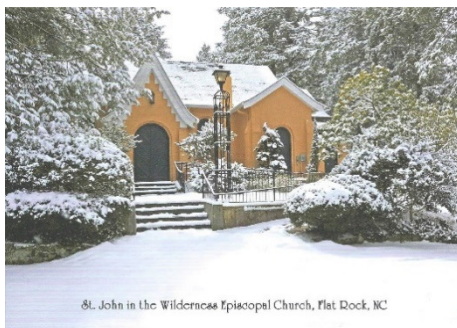
Holy Hikes



fellowship with God and one another.

Our Holy Hikes group has dates set for the mornings of Tuesday, October 20, and Wednesday, November 18. The hike details will be announced in the weeks prior. Email Leslie to be added to the Holy Hikes email list. So far, the hikes have been physically demanding, prayerful, and filled with

St. John Christmas Cards for Sale



The ECW is reprising a favorite Christmas card for sale this year. The card features a picture by David Vandre of the Carriage Entrance in the snow. A package of 10 cards sells for \$10, and the proceeds go to support the ECW's outreach project, Make A Difference.

If you are interested in purchasing cards, please contact Kathy Newbold at ktnew@live.com or 828-693-5596. Other sale options are being explored and will be advertised soon.

Youth Confirmation Class



Youth Bike Trip September 20



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45 am

Rite Two Eucharist (live streamed)

11:00 am

Rite Two Eucharist

Monday through Thursday

9:00 am

Online Morning Prayer (live streamed)

Wednesday

4:30 pm

Evening Prayer

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.