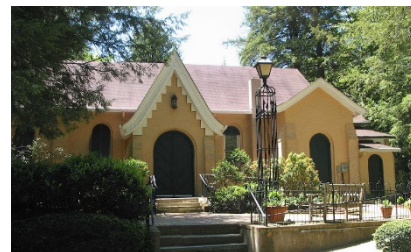


The Voice



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From the Rector's Desk



On the last Sunday in June, an important, challenging, and grace-filled step was taken in our common life as 50 or so parishioners, spread out over three services, gathered for in-person worship under a tent in our parish hall parking lot.

Attendance like this on any normal Sunday would be considered a failure, but everyone was in high spirits. We celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist after carefully considering how we might gather safely. Speaking of which, if you have not read our Plan for Reconvening then please click [here](#) or head to our website and do so.

At this service and in our Plan, I thanked everyone for being flexible and thoughtful as we wear in a new path through the wilderness. I wondered with your fellow parishioners what grace might be in store for us in this process. One observation about our past as we look towards our future is about our building. Whereas most congregations start small and grow until they can afford a building of their own, St. John in the Wilderness had a building prior to having a congregation! Yet we know that four walls and a roof don't make a Christian. Now we get to see what grace God has for us as we move beyond our sanctuary for a season -- a move that surely St. John the Baptist would approve of.

Of all the many summers in Flat Rock over the decades, I imagine that 2020 will prove to be one to remember (or perhaps one to forget)! I'm hoping that it is one of discipleship. What is left of our faith when we remove the trappings of Anglicanism that we so love? *Discipleship* -- that's what remains. We are left with the simplicity of following Jesus as we join with fellow disciples to wear in a new path through the Coronavirus wilderness. I hope you will walk with us and consider doing so in a smaller gathering of study by signing up [here](#). I am grateful for making this journey with you and for having Christ to guide us.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Josh+

What's Happening at St. John

Parish Pictorial Directory Update – Due to the coronavirus and the Church Office being closed, we have not printed the directory yet. Once the office reopens, the plan is to place the order and make the directories available to all who have ordered and paid for them. For those who have not seen them, the directories are printed in color, bound, and contain parish member and staff pictures, names, addresses, and contact information.

As this is the case, you still have time to order a directory simply by sending your check, made payable to St. John in the Wilderness with “directory” in the memo line, to the Church Office at P.O. Box 185, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Printed directories are \$16.00 each, and you can order as many as you like. Please mail your check to the Church Office as soon as possible, as we will go to print as soon as the church reopens!

The directory is also accessible via an app for smart phones and tablets and via a website for computers. If you need assistance accessing the directory online, feel free to contact Leslie in the Church Office via voicemail, and she will contact you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marti Smith at (828)-698-0631 or 3churchlady@gmail.com, or Kathryn Deyerle at (828) 808-2630 or krdeyerle@gmail.com.

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

Please check with church guidelines for reconvening groups that meet at St. John. At the time of this printing, the Book Group will not meet in July, but we give you the book chosen for that month anyway.

July 3 – *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum

Her debut novel is about three Palestinian women struggling to fit in in America. Addressing themes of identity, gender issues, and culture dislocation, the book touches on issues drawn from her own life experiences.

Do join us for lively discussions! For questions, contact Judy Petersen at (828) 697-1967 or jpsewnsew@aol.com.

The Younger Voice

Welcome to summer! I know everyone is enjoying the change of pace from school to the summer days that bring fun times with friends and family, even in a socially distanced way! It was so fun to have everyone come plant some additional tomatoes in our garden donated by Will Garvey, a fellow Backpacker with Debby Staton. A special thanks to Will for helping prepare the soil for the tomatoes so they will thrive. We have pictures showing your gardening skills on page 6. We look forward to watching our garden grow and harvesting even more to take to various food banks, truly sharing in the “fruits of our labor.”

In additional news, we joined with Debby Staton and the Backpack Program to help gather food and other supplies to our migrant community in Henderson County. We gathered as a group for the delivery of these items on June 24 and learned more about how to minister to this aspect of our community.

We had a great time tubing down the Green River on June 27 and look forward to ziplining down the Green River Gorge on July 18 and meeting for a fun picnic on August 15.

See you soon!
Mary Anne

July Flower Memorials

July 5:

In loving memory of Charles Neff
 By: His wife, Marjorie, and family
 In loving memory of Knight M. Fee
 By: Sally and Tom Books
 In loving memory of Frances Ravenel Grimbball MacLean
 By: Katherine Bart

July 12:

In loving memory of John Henry Dekker
 By: His wife, Virginia, and children
 In loving memory of Rose and Walter Montgomery
 By: Betty and Walter Montgomery
 In loving memory of Marshall Spry
 By Bonni and Jim Spry

July 19:

In loving memory of Charles (Chip) Hunter Laughton
 By: His family
 In loving memory of and for the blessing of our children and grandchildren
 By: Robin and Elaine Howe

July 26:

In loving memory of Joseph Maybank III, Jane H. Pelzer King, George Kirkwood King, Alicia Rhett Rudolph, and Emmy McIntire
 By: Their family



Fourth of July Holiday



In observance of Independence Day, there will be no Morning or Evening Prayer on Monday, July 6. The clergy and office staff will be on holiday. Have a safe and happy Fourth!

July Birthdays

6 Kira Dillin	16 James Hodge
8 John Almert	16 Thomas Griswold
9 Rivers Stone	17 Kathryn Deyerle
10 Marti Smith	18 Joyce Beschta
10 Larry Miller	19 Daria Morgan
10 Gaston Motes	19 Martin Johnson
12 Sallie White	20 Ludwik Bochynek
13 Chuck Johnson	20 Ruth Morton
13 CC Blackburn	21 Susan Bullard
14 Ned Curtis	23 Fred Boehmer
16 Margaret Mellott	27 Jeannie Gooch
16 Kitty Olson	27 Margaret Robinson



28 Joe Giltner
28 Nathan Paul Dees
28 Brogan Dillin
29 Worth Gordon
29 Patrice German
30 Joey Popp
31 Edward Eriksen
31 Pete Petersen
31 Linda Roberts
31 Brenna Garber

July 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.

Our Graduating Seniors

2020 has been a challenging year for students and teachers alike, and we want to especially honor our graduating high school seniors. We have three members who graduated this year.



Mackenzie Joseph Savage is a member of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) class of 2020. At NCSSM, he participated in the Men's Varsity Swim Team, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Rocketry Club, and he founded the Southern Appalachian Culture's Club. During his senior year at NCSSM, he took advanced science and math courses including Astrophysics and Electrical Engineering. He even assisted a professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill design a cube satellite to search for planets in other solar systems. His passion for space exploration and design is leading him to North Carolina State

University in August where he will major in Aerospace Engineering as a member of the University Scholars Program. Mackenzie's ultimate goal is to explore the cosmos firsthand as an astronaut. Wherever Mackenzie goes, he will take with him the wonderful memories and foundation of faith from growing up at The Episcopal Church of Saint John in the Wilderness. He is thankful for the love and support that his church family has provided him throughout his life.



Everyone who knows **Helena Wheless** knows that dance is her passion. She will be attending the International Honors College and the School of Dance/College of Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Helena plans to study Dance Education and earn her teaching certificate. Helena is graduating with honors from East Henderson High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, dance team, and track team. She is the recipient of the CFWNC's Captain John Gardner, USMC Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Scholarship. Helena says, "I have enjoyed being a part of the St. John parish for the last five years. I want to say a huge thank you to the clergy at St. John who supported Dean and me in going to Camp Kanuga. I have wonderful memories of my time there, and being a part of the

Kanuga experience was really important in my faith as a young Episcopalian. That generosity will never be forgotten! My faith gives me comfort in knowing that God always loves me, no matter how many times I falter or fail as a human."



Dean Patrick Wheless is an artist and honors student who will be attending the University of North Carolina Asheville in the fall. He will study Art and Education. Like his twin sister, he hopes to be a teacher! We are so proud of him and all his achievements while at East Henderson High School. He has been awarded the WNC Quilters Guild Award scholarship and the CFHC's Matching Scholarship, both for his achievements in the arts. Dean has been a member of the EHHS track team and has performed in several drama productions. He has earned four Scholastic Art Awards for photography and mixed media art. You can even see one of his art pieces downtown on a banner for the 2020

(Cont. on page 5)

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

Will Farrell
Assistant 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.

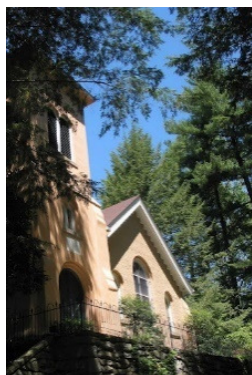
Our Graduating Seniors *(Cont. from page 4)*

Artscape project. Dean Patrick says, "I have always been proud to be an Episcopalian. The church has been a source of comfort and support for me as a child. I will always be thankful to have gotten to know Fr. John Morton, Mother Paula, Fr. John Charles, Deacon Joyce, and the parishioners at St. John. When I go off to college, I will have fond memories of St. John and the people there. 'Peace be with each of you.' My faith gives me strength in knowing that there is always grace for my mistakes. God is good each and every day."

Young Families Add to Giving Garden



Young Families Add to Giving Garden (Cont.)



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday (Registration required)

7:30 am Rite One Eucharist
8:45 am Rite Two Eucharist (live streamed)
11:00 am Rite Two Eucharist

Monday through Thursday

9:00 am Online Morning Prayer
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.