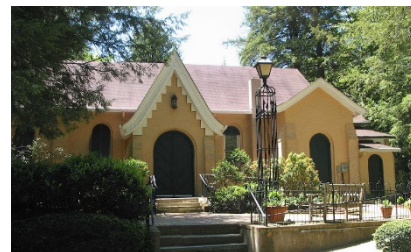


The Voice



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From the Rector's Desk

It's Time to Start Again: Advent is Here



*The Annunciation, Fra Angelico
1438*

I heard a recent late-night talk show host joking about how many years we have fit into 2020. For many if not all of us, things have really piled up this year. It seems that every couple of months there was a news story worthy of being *the story* of the year. If you're not so sure, then let me ask you this: do you remember the wildfires in Australia? They were huge, massive, devastating, unbelievable! Yes, that was 2020, too. I'll spare you the list of 2020's nodal happenings. I'm sure you're familiar.

Needless to say, it's been a lot, and I think we are all more aware than ever of how connected everything is. Anxiety moves through families, schools, towns, states, and countries -- as well as churches -- and it impacts our physical, emotional, mental, and our spiritual well-being.

Here's the thing: as anxiety increases, our focus on other people increases, also. We lose ourselves in the anxiety as we forget about our own functioning and well-being. We get drawn into the anxiety and look at others more and more rather than focus on ourselves. It's like having to look at the car accident on the other side of the interstate. We know we should just focus on our driving, but we just have to look to see what is causing the traffic, how bad the accident is, and if everyone's okay.

If you are anything like me, you have started to look forward to the new year so we can put 2020 behind us. Just as I was daydreaming of a better 2021, I remembered that we live by a different calendar which invites us into different sorts of events. As Christians, we know that the most world-altering event happened when God took on our humanity, gave his life for us, and was raised from the dead on Easter morning. Through our liturgical calendar, we share richly in the life of Christ and we find rhythms of grace. We live by a different calendar, my friends, and with Advent we begin a whole new year.

(Cont. on page 4)

Remember the Days of Old

Flat Rock's Kenmure: Glenroy and the King Family

The following article was written by Missy Schenck and was featured in the October 2020 edition of the Charleston Mercury newspaper.



Riding down the driveway of our family home, Rutledge Cottage, I am drawn to the neighboring estate, Glenroy — considered at one time to be the most beautiful home in Western North Carolina and now a private country club and gated community called Kenmure. Kenmure and Rutledge Cottage are steeped in Flat Rock history originating in the King family. Once part of the same estate, their stories are intertwined and infused with generations of family events and meaning.



In 1836, Dr. Mitchell Campbell King, the son of Susanna Campbell and Judge Mitchell King, a founder of the Flat Rock summer colony and builder of Argyle, purchased 293 acres from his father for 25 cents an acre to build his family estate, Glenroy. He hired Mr. Freeman, a Scottish architect and shipbuilder from Charleston, to design the house constructed of lumber harvested on the place and cured for three to four years. Situated on an elevated site with commanding views, the core of Glenroy is a two-story double-pile Greek Revival structure. Built by local mountain craftsmen, there were 23 buildings on the estate, including Dr. King's office — a handsome old rock building behind the main house. Surrounded by beautiful mountain vistas, Glenroy's original mile-long entrance curved through pleasant meadows, across a brook and by formal boxwood gardens enhanced by venerable pines and hemlocks.

Dr. King and his wife built a smaller cottage on the property to occupy during the years of Glenroy's construction. Designed in a German country style and completed in 1840, the Kings lived in "The Cottage" until Glenroy was finished around 1850. The Cottage and adjacent kitchen house were then placed on logs and pulled by oxen a mile down the hill to their present site.

In 1857, The Cottage land was separated from Glenroy and purchased for \$4,000 by Frederick Rutledge of Hampton Plantation for his daughter, Elizabeth Pinckney Rutledge. She called The Cottage "Forest Hill" and, along with her sister Sarah, she enjoyed this dwelling for more than 50 years. In 1908, Elizabeth Rutledge gave the house to her niece, Alice Rutledge Felder. I.K. Heyward purchased it and 50 acres known as the Forest Hill Tract in 1917 and renamed it Heyward House. Today, it is known as Rutledge Cottage for the two Rutledge sisters and has been owned by the Schenck family for more than 55 years.

Born in Charleston in 1815, Mitchell Campbell King studied medicine at the Charleston Medical College and at Gottingen University in Germany where he became close friends with fellow student Otto Von Bismark. The two corresponded for years and letters and photographs of Bismark, highly prized by Dr. King's descendants, are now kept in The Library of Congress.

(Cont. on page 5)

December Flower Memorials

December 6:

In loving memory of The Reverend and Mrs. John R. Little, Albert Moreno, and S. Lee Moreno

By: Their family

December 13:

In loving memory of Pat Wardlaw's daughter, Felicia Wardlaw Spier

By: Her many friends

December 20:

In loving memory of Wesley Welborn Smith

By: Gayle and Bill McHaffie and Megan and John Durlach

December 27:

Blessings to all our dear, departed loved ones at St. John in the Wilderness



Parish Register



Transfers Out

Michael Shannon
Cynthia Shannon
Natalie Cato
Elizabeth Johnston

Death

Cliff Stalter

December Birthdays



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

21	Betty Franks
22	Jane Irwin
24	Virginia Teel
26	William Rodriguez
26	Isabel Schiro
27	Sara Mooney
27	Emma Guth
30	Rita Castline
31	Penny Amerman

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

It's time to start again. It's time to reset our souls with silence and simplicity. In the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, we encounter God like never before. Advent exists simply because if we actually know that God is going to visit us, then we might take some time to prepare our hearts and our homes. We might let go of what is distracting us and causing our anxiety. There is no sense in looking at everyone else, as alluring as it may be. We look inward with joyful expectation so we might learn to sing Mary's song. It's time for Advent. It's time to start again.

December Calendar

As restrictions are subject to change on short notice, 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

Advent, marking the beginning of the Christian year, has special significance for some of our youth this season as they embark on new beginnings in their walk with Christ after completing their Confirmation class. We look forward to celebrating their step in faith when Bishop José can join us in the New Year.

Many of our youth and young families gathered on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, to make advent wreaths for their homes and sprays for the slave graves. They placed the sprays on the graves that afternoon. We also hope all youth and young families can join in putting together care packages on Sunday, December 13, for those in our parish who have not been able to come to in-person services due to the COVID or for other health reasons. We look forward to this being a tangible way of expressing our unity through the Holy Spirit during this time of waiting for the celebration of the birth of our Savior and the many good things in the year ahead.

Mary Anne and Susan



Worship & Safety Updates for Advent and Christmas 2020

Advent and Christmas are contemplative and joyous times when worship calls to us as God comes near. We are thrilled to be moving back into our beautiful sanctuary on Sunday, December 6. We plan to have our 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services there from now on. We would like you to join us in pausing to remember COVID safety as we make this transition. We will be instituting some new practices and technology to help with this as well as continuing our usual routine.

- Please refrain from in-person worship if you are in the high-risk category for COVID according to the CDC.
- RSVPs will continue with a goal of 25 total worshippers. We know with worship leaders this doesn't leave very many spots, but we hope to worship with you soon.
- If you come to a service and find out that you have COVID, please contact our Rector, Fr. Josh, right away so we can let other attendees know to quarantine.
- Masks (including covering your nose) and physical distancing will remain.
- Please keep hands sanitized, especially upon entering and leaving the church.
- As you enter, an usher will take your temperature. If you have a fever of 100.4°F, then the usher will kindly ask you to not worship with us this day and to check with your doctor.
- Please enter through the Carriage Entrance and leave through the Bell Tower door.
- We will provide bulletins which include the entire service. You can bring your own *Book of Common Prayer* and *Hymnal*, but the pews won't have them for now.
- We'll have some pews roped off. Please keep your distance from people not in your family.
- You may sing along softly or speak the words, but please don't "belt out" any hymns.
- We'll continue to receive communion in one kind (consecrated bread only).

We have invested in new air filtration technology which may help filter out COVID. (Thanks for giving to the church so we could afford this!)

Fr. Josh Stephens

Remember the Days of Old *(Cont. from page 2)*

Dr. King married Elizabeth Laura Middleton of Charleston and they had 11 children. He grew up spending summers in Flat Rock and eventually moved there year round to begin a medical practice lasting more than sixty years. A well-loved physician, King traveled throughout the mountains to care for the sick and attend to the poor from whom no compensation was ever expected. While studying in Europe, King discovered that elevation and clean mountain air were a wondrous cure-all for the sick. During an epidemic in Florida he convinced area town fathers to send their sick to the mountains where they did, indeed, recover: Floridians continue to flock to the mountains today.

Following King's death, Glenroy was transferred to his sister, Susan Campbell King, according to the terms of an 1882 agreement. Miss King almost immediately sold the house to Dr. King's daughter, Henrietta King Bryan. **The article continues on charlestonmercury.com.**

"Remember the Days of Old" is a column about the history that has shaped St. John in the Wilderness. The title comes from Deuteronomy 32:7, "Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you."

Christmas Worship Schedule

We would like to offer you the gift of worshiping in the church at Christmas time. This is very challenging, because it would be unsafe to host large services. In order to give you a chance to enjoy worship in our beautifully decorated church, we have come up with the following schedule for Christmas. This will be a lot of work for the clergy, staff, and lay leaders, but we hope you appreciate our intention. We will send out an RSVP link on December 10. We will not be able to take RSVPs for these services prior to December 10.

Each of the following services will be the same liturgy, homily, and music. They will each be the liturgy we celebrate on Christmas Eve.

Monday, December 21 - 4 and 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22 - 4 and 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23 - 4 and 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 24 - 4:00, 6:00, and 10:30 p.m.

Friday, December 25 - No in-person or online worship

Sunday, December 27 - No in-person or online worship

Worship will resume on January 3 at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Blessing of the Animals October 2020



**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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Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 828-693-9783
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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.

Ushers Needed for Christmas Services

Often the warmth of an usher's ministry is the difference between visitors finding a church home or moving on. Join our team of ushers who have been quite key in keeping us worshipping safely these past months. We will be worshipping in the Church and could use a few folks who are comfortable serving as ushers for indoor worship with about 25 souls, especially during the week of Christmas. Contact Bettie Orr for more info at (828) 698-2357 or bettieworr@gmail.com.

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

Truman Capote's beloved short story
as performed by E.R. HAIRE, JR.



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AND 20TH, 2020

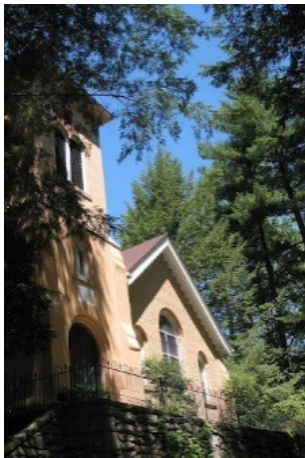
SHOWTIME: 2:30 PM

**FREE ADMISSION
PARISH HALL**

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church
1895 Greenville Hwy. | Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 693-9783
www.stjohnflatrock.org

Attendance is limited to 25 people per performance, and RSVP is required. To sign up go to our website at stjohnflatrock.org, scroll down to "Upcoming Events," and click on the link provided. Face masks (covering nose and mouth) and physical distancing are required, and temperatures will be taken at the door.

St. John Bell Ringers



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:45 am
11:00 am

Rite One Eucharist (live streamed)
Rite One 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.