

# The Voice



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September 2021

## From the Rector's Desk

### Stewardship 2022: Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow



The Stewardship Committee and I are thrilled to announce *Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow* as our theme in giving for 2022. St. John is a community with a rich history and sacred traditions. These traditions remind us of who we are as the people of God and shape us in worship and service. Our traditions also compel us forward to meet the future with a conviction that the Kingdom of God is breaking into the world here and now

and that our fellowship has a role in sharing this Good News.

You will be hearing more about *Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow* in the month ahead. We will be mailing out a packet with more information. We will also have parishioners share why St. John matters to them at Sunday services. We will participate in the larger Episcopal Church's United Thank Offering over the next month with Blue Boxes being distributed on Sunday, September 5. See the UTO article on page 5 for more information. On Sunday, October 3, we will celebrate our ministries during worship with banners and a chance to learn more about these ministries during our breakfast that morning. Best of all, we will gather for a special picnic on the afternoon of Sunday, October 10, to mark the in-gathering of pledge cards and to rejoice in being a part of a community *Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*. Please know that the vestry, Stewardship Committee, and I are privileged to share life with you at St. John. We thank God for you and the grace we have known here as we look forward to all that God has in store for us in 2022 and beyond.

Christian Formation will continue at 10 a.m. in the Wilderness Room in September. Join us to grow in faith each week.

- September 5 & 12 – No formation due to Labor Day and Parish Breakfast.
- September 19 – The spirituality of AA at St. John in the Wilderness. Hear from church member Dale Llewelyn.
- September 26 – Gather to hear about our Altar Guild and Acolyte ministries and why serving in the House of the Lord is such a gift.

In Christ, Fr. Josh+

## Readers in the Wilderness

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

September 3 – *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste NG

A riveting story that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

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

October 1 – *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright

The story of a young family living in "the largest municipal waste dump in Cambodia." Through the first-person narrative of Sang Ly, Wright explores the ways in which the acquisition of language alters or illuminates the most difficult of human circumstances. It is a tale of discovery and redemption in which Sang Ly learns that literature, like hope, is found in the most unexpected places. Though a book of fiction, it is based on real people living in this dump.

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## Ministry Opportunities

**Call for Altar Guild members** – Setting the table for our Lord's supper is a peaceful and gratifying ministry which members do once a month. New members are paired with experienced ones so they can learn the procedure over a period of time, and this partnership can sometimes become a permanent arrangement. The Altar Guild has lost a number of members due to illness, death, or parishioners moving away. If you would like to serve our church in this way, please contact Kathy Newbold at [ktnew@live.com](mailto:ktnew@live.com) or (703) 626-9706.

**Call for Lay Eucharistic Visitors and Acolytes** – Lay Eucharistic Visitors take the Holy Eucharist as well as greetings from and news of the parish to those who cannot get to church on Sundays to participate in the Communion. We currently have 15 recipients who look forward to our visits and to connecting with the parish. The visitors also love administering the Eucharist and seeing and chatting with these folks. For more information about this rewarding ministry, please contact Deacon Sandy at [cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com](mailto:cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com) or Dick Zecher at [rtzech@gmail.com](mailto:rtzech@gmail.com) or (828) 808-0169.

We are also seeking adult **Acolytes** to serve in the House of the Lord. Contact Deacon Sandy to sign up for training.

**Consider a Ministry of Finance** – Our Finance Committee and Endowment Trustees are each crucial to our life as a church, and both are looking for new members. If you have experience in finance or are gifted at budgeting, learn more by contacting our Treasurer, Tom Griswold at (828) 513-6850 or [thgriswold@gmail.com](mailto:thgriswold@gmail.com).

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## Tuesday Night Summer History Series Continues

This group meets over a potluck dinner on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilderness Room of the Parish House. The attendees watch a videotaped lecture by an award-winning professor on our chosen topic for the season, and then they have a short discussion afterwards. The session usually ends by 7 p.m. The topic for this season is "Years that Changed History: 1215 – the Magna Carta." Enjoy good food, fellowship, and some interesting history—all in an hour-and-a-half! For more information, contact Mike Covell at (828) 242-6816 or [mjcovello409@gmail.com](mailto:mjcovello409@gmail.com).

## September Flower Memorials

### September 5

In loving memory of Bettie Friedell Watford  
By Charles Lee and Bettie Watford Orr

### September 12

In remembrance of those who died on September 11, 2001  
By B. J. McKee and brother, Davey Campbell

AND

In loving memory of Col. and Mrs. Kermit W. Fix  
By Gibson and Carol Fix Sims, their daughter

### September 19

In loving memory of Sarah I'on Lowndes Davis, Alice Davis Burke, and James O. Burke  
By Henry Burke and family

### September 26

In loving memory of Janet Chaudruc  
By her family



## Parish Register

**Deaths**  
Dina Larsen

## Holy Hikes

The next Holy Hike is Tuesday, September 14. We will be volunteering with the Friends of Dupont to do trail work in the Sate Forest. Stay tuned for more details.

## September Birthdays

1 Thomas Mahoney	12 Starr Teel	
2 John Barker	14 Malcolm McCormick	
2 Alden Perry	14 Janet Roethle	23 Jodi Sundeen
3 Willa Allen	15 Helen Aschenbrener	24 Carol Rector
3 Lynn Savage	15 Debby Staton	24 Marie Hyder
4 Dick Zecher	17 Julia Cox	24 Sharon Johnson
5 Bella Geiser	17 Susan Gibbs	25 John Flowers
6 Wayne Kanipe	17 Hadley Yelverton	27 Cynthia Easterling
6 Harlan Frymire	18 Beth Miller	27 BJ McKee
6 Lori Griswold	18 Melody Shepherd	27 Kara Mack
6 Hilton Swing, Jr.	19 Gayle McHaffie	28 Elaine Harris
7 Sally Hughes	19 Kate Johnson	28 Ben Geiser
7 Susan Shealy	21 Terry Enslen	29 Hamrick Perry
8 Anne Beers	21 Linda Farrell	30 Josh Stephens
9 Jack Mitchell	21 Carmen Curtis	30 Camille Camp
9 Louisa Wardlaw	23 Marjorie Neff	30 Judy Petersen





## The Younger Voice

The youth of St. John are shifting into high gear as we get ready for the fall season! Here's what's coming up.

- Mark your calendars for Friday, September 10, for a social gathering. Details will be forthcoming.
- The youth will help serve the Parish Breakfast on Sunday, September 12. This breakfast is free of charge, but all donations will support our youth outreach efforts.
- Christian Formation for children and youth resumes on Sunday, September 19.

The St. John Outreach Committee has awarded a grant to our youth group to assemble hygiene bags for migrant workers. These essential items will provide much-needed supplies to our seasonal neighbors. Please stay tuned for more details on putting the bags together.



*The youth donated vegetables from their Giving Garden to The Rev. Deacon Tim Jones of Hendersonville Rescue Mission, shown here with Laura and Mary Shelton and Tim's wife, Kerry.*

## Welcome to St. John



**Piff Piffarerio** moved to Hendersonville from Sanibel, Florida, in April. Piff is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, and he and his wife have five children scattered across the country.

## United Thank Offering 2021



The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals 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, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. It can be done by everyone, regardless of age or circumstance. Even very small children can be taught to stop and take a moment to express thanks for their blessings.

This is at the heart of the UTO program, whose purpose is twofold. First, to foster a personal spiritual discipline of thankfulness through individual intentional prayer and gratitude for all that God has done and continues to do. Placing coins in the Blue Box is emblematic of this discipline. Then, through the combined collection of the UTO Box coins, bills, and checks, The Episcopal Church will be able to award grants to adults, seminarians, parishes, and dioceses for one-year projects that support transforming and innovative ministries.

UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings and to distribute 100 percent of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

This fall, we at St. John in the Wilderness will participate in the UTO, whose theme this year is *Recovering with Love and Gratitude: An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts*.

Blue Boxes will be distributed at each service on Sunday, September 5, and collected on Sunday, October 10. 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 pursue a daily spiritual discipline of gratitude and thankfulness, acknowledging and thanking God for our daily blessings, and making an offering for each blessing using the Blue Box.

Blessings, peace, and health,  
Kathy Newbold, ECW Coordinator

## Pisgah Legal Services Looking for House Hunters!

**St. John in the Wilderness has worked with Pisgah Legal Services to assist people in finding and staying in their homes. Now you can help put a roof over someone's head from your own home!**

Finding affordable housing is almost impossible. It should not be this way. You can help families find a home – from your home! *Pisgah Legal Services*, a local nonprofit that provides free civil legal aid to the most vulnerable people in Western North Carolina, invites you to join our newest volunteer program. Created by the social work team, *House Hunters* gives volunteers a chance to help neighbors find a home. Volunteers choose a few affordable properties to call – and record availability on a simple Google Form. Members of the social work team will share this information with clients and assist with the application process. *Why is this needed? Sometimes our clients are living in terrible conditions, or their home is being sold, or they must leave for safety reasons.* Volunteers will receive training and support. We anticipate volunteers making calls weekly or every other week. To find out more, contact Sandy at (828) 210-3459 or [sandy@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:sandy@pisgahlegal.org), and let Father Josh know about your work with Pisgah Legal.

## Your Communications Committee Is Ready to Help

Are you planning an event sponsored by one of our groups or missions at St. John in the Wilderness? Would you like help publicizing that event?

Our Communications Committee, headed by Joey Popp, can help with generating press releases and other promotional materials. Then we can make sure they wind up in the right hands at area radio and print venues in plenty of time to get the information in the public eye.

A form is available for you to fill out with event information. You can find it [here](#) on the church website under "About Us," then "Forms and Requests." If you prefer paper, you can pick up a printed form in the Communications Committee mailbox outside the Church Office.

## Seasons of Grief Being Offered



Seasons of Grief is a workshop/support group that helps a person walk through a time of grief following the death of a loved one. The group will meet weekly for seven weeks on Wednesdays beginning October 6 and concluding November 17. We will meet in the Parish House Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. If you have experienced the death of a loved one, please consider joining us. Registration forms are available in the office. If you have any questions, please call Mary Anne Inglis at (864) 630-8813 or Deacon Joyce at (828) 388-1199.

## Blessing of the Animals on October 3



St. John will offer a blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3, at 4 p.m. in the Rector's Garden. Furry and feathered companions are welcome 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 service comes the day before the annual Feast of St. Francis, 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 that 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 3.



**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*

Stacy Knapp, *Parish  
Financial Assistant*

Dewitt Tipton, *Organist  
and Director of Music*

Kevin Hunt, *Sexton*

Mary Anne Inglis, *Youth  
and Families Coordinator*

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**Vestry**

Jennifer Shelton  
*Senior Warden*

Jerry Tanner  
*Junior Warden*

Tom Griswold  
*Treasurer*

Margaret Barker  
*Clerk*

E.R. Haire, Jr., Shelley  
Schiro, Cynthia Easterling,  
Terry Enslen, Marie  
Hyder, Dick Zecher,  
Gibson Sims, John Barker,  
Elizabeth Christenbury,  
Lynn Wiescholek

Vestry minutes are posted  
on our website at  
[www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org)

Deadline for *The Voice* is the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email items  
to your editor, Leslie Stott, at  
[officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org](mailto:officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org)  
or deliver them to the  
Church Office.

## Parish Breakfast on Sunday, September 12



**September 12, 2021 | 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

**Food will be served in the Parish Hall with  
tables outside for COVID safety**

**Bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, gravy, fruit salad,  
potatoes, biscuits, and juice/coffee/tea**

**Plus pancakes**

**This breakfast is free of charge, but donations  
will support the youth outreach projects.**

**For planning purposes, please sign up at  
[bit.ly/septbreakfast](https://bit.ly/septbreakfast) by Wednesday, September 8.**

## Baring Society Appreciation Event



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday**

8:45 a.m.

Rite Two Eucharist (In-person and live streamed)

11:00 a.m.

Rite Two Eucharist (In-person)

#### **Monday through Thursday**

9:00 a.m.

Online Morning Prayer (Live streamed)

#### **Wednesday**

10:30 a.m.

Healing Service (In the Wilderness Room)

4:30 p.m.

Evening Prayer (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.