

# The Voice



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November 2020

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## From the Rector's Desk



You begin by crossing over the Green River on an old wooden bridge, its clear waters confidently flowing downward toward South Carolina as you begin driving up and up. You nearly slam on the brakes when a massive waterfall appears through the trees in the distance surrounded by fall colors. You are compelled by it to either get out of the car and take a picture or to stop long enough to file the scene away into your soul as a sign of God's goodness. The climb is just beginning, and so your drive continues with your foot finding the feel on the gas pedal to provide enough momentum to make it up the steep gravel road, around corners, along the edge of a ravine. Finally,

the road tops out, and to the right you see a small, rustic, open-air gazebo that even from the car you can look right through to ridges and blue-gray lines of the mountains. You have arrived at Falling Creek for church and for fellowship with God and each other.

For much of the year, your Stewardship Committee thought we would not be able to have a fall picnic this time. It seemed too challenging on a number of fronts in terms of COVID logistics for planning and hosting it. As September rolled around, Marisa and Yates Pharr reached out to say that they would be glad to have us back in whatever way was practical. One of our principles this year has been that just because things cannot be done as grand as we would normally do them does not mean they are not worth doing at all. We began making plans for a bring-your-own picnic lunch at Falling Creek, and this year we decided to host our 11 a.m. service on site as a special way of continuing our wilderness worship of late.

On October 18, 70 souls walked the five minutes from the car down to the wooden benches in the trees which gathered around our altar in front of a beautiful lake. It was cool out in the shade, and folks bundled up to stay warm for our worship in the woods. We shared in the most wonderful service together as the morning turned to afternoon. Our "Preparing the Way"

*(Cont. on page 6)*

## What's Happening at St. John

**Books for Good:** Books, books, books! With a raging pandemic all around us, it's obvious that people are rediscovering the joy of reading. Recently, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) received a check for more than \$685 from Books for Good for the last quarter. The monies were mainly thanks to Susan MacDonald, who has been dropping off at least six boxes of books and DVDs each week to Bettie Orr as she cleaned out her sold home. (Susan moved to Carolina Village at the end of October.) Many other parishioners have been leaving books and DVDs in the ECW box by the parish office.

Unfortunately, book donations are still outpacing purchases. Right now, only one box of donations can be accepted at a time at the bookstore. If you have more to donate, please call the store at (828) 989-4655 beforehand.

Books for Good will hold a sale on Friday, November 27 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Saturday, November 28 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) with all books, CDs, and DVDs available for 25 percent off. The bookstore is located at 50 Heritage Park Drive in Fletcher, behind the Subway near Butler Bridge. For further information, contact Bettie Orr at (828) 698-2357 or at [bettieworr@gmail.com](mailto:bettieworr@gmail.com).

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## Worship during COVID-19

We are working on developing a plan for worship as we need to transition inside for the winter and spring months. At the same time, we are aware of a huge spike in Coronavirus cases nationally, so we want to make this transition safely. Our vestry, rector, and a subcommittee have been looking at HVAC airflow, cleaning options, and scheduling possibilities. We hope to continue to offer an outdoor option for as long as possible, and of course we would love to offer worship in the church as we all miss that space which is at the heart of who we are. Any indoor worship offerings will be for 25 persons with masks on and physical distancing in effect. This month we will be announcing a new plan which will lay the groundwork for the months ahead. One success of these months is that we have managed to handle the Sunday worship logistics without asking our sexton, Kevin, to work on his day off. This has been made possible by a huge effort from a few ushers and vestry members. We thank you for your servant-leadership. It's likely that we'll need a larger team of ushers and cleaners to make indoor worship possible. Please stay tuned for details. I thank you for your patience, your support, and your flexibility so far, and I thank you advance for the same in the months ahead.

Fr. Josh Stephens

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## Annual Parish Meeting will be Virtual on November 19

Our Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, at 5 p.m. and will take place via video conference on Zoom. All members of the church are invited to participate as we elect our 2021 vestry, approve a budget, and take care of other important business. Parishioners may also participate by phone. We hope to offer a practice session for those who may need help logging into the Zoom meeting. We also hope to publish ahead of time the committee reports, budget, etc. Stay tuned for details on the meeting and how you can participate.

## November Flower Memorials



**November 1:**

In loving memory of Fran and Jim MacDonald  
By: Susan, James, and Inna MacDonald

AND

In loving memory of my father and mother, Brian and Gladys McCarty  
By: Mary Alice McCarty

**November 8:**

In loving memory of Zelda Drayton Grimke Roberts, Alice Lowndes Andrews, and William Parker Andrews  
By: Their family

**November 15:**

In loving memory of Bill and Majary Taylor  
By: Bill and Vickie Taylor

**November 22:**

In loving memory of R. I'On Lowndes and Elizabeth Plumb Lowndes and Richard I. Lowndes III  
By: Their families

**November 29:**

In loving memory of all past volunteers who served in our parish through the years

## Parish Register



**Transfer In**  
Anne Hobbs

**Transfers Out**  
Art Swygard  
Jean Swygard

**Deaths**  
Carol Hawbaker  
Charles Harrell

## November Birthdays



- |                    |                      |                        |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Alicia Wallace   | 17 Clint Adams       | 26 Karen Pryde         |
| 3 Philip Green     | 17 Maria Johnson     | 27 Edwina Burger       |
| 4 Dina Larsen      | 17 April Wilson      | 27 Richard Lockhart    |
| 6 Kelly Laughton   | 19 Bill Taylor       | 27 Douglas Llewelyn    |
| 8 Sharon Frymire   | 20 Gary German       | 27 John Knapp          |
| 8 Liza Phillips    | 22 Bernie Fox        | 27 Elizabeth Johnston  |
| 9 Linda Sizemore   | 23 Betty Montgomery  | 28 Martha Jean Liberto |
| 12 Eleanor Flowers | 23 Amanda Woodard    | 28 Jade Ogletree       |
| 14 Greg Newbold    | 24 Darla Green       | 29 Legaré Head         |
| 14 Jan Tanner      | 24 Michelle Geiser   | 29 Jerry Beschta       |
| 16 Liesl Yelverton | 25 Chris Kanipe, Sr. |                        |

## November 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](http://www.stjohnflatrock.org).

## The Younger Voice

Fall is here, and with the coming of cooler weather comes the need to clean out the garden beds and bring in the fall greens. We had a great time planting collards, kale, and cabbage in the beds and look forward to watching them grow throughout the fall and winter, reminding us that for everything there is a season.

We are also continuing our Youth Communicants class and had a special time at Falling Creek Camp to initiate those in the class and introduce them to the church as a whole. It couldn't have been a prettier time or place to have such a special ceremony. Thank you, Marisa and Yates, for opening up your beautiful place for us to gather.

We have so much to be thankful for in this month of Thanksgiving. I am thankful for each young person in our midst - for your energy, your talents, and your love of life. Thank you for sharing your lives with us as we journey forward together at St. John in the Wilderness.

Mary Anne and Susan



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing Time



Do you need a healthy outdoor activity? The holidays are approaching, and once again St. John volunteers will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Fun for us, funds for the needy. One hour of your service can bring in donations to support an essential agency in Henderson County. Our ringing day will be in early December, exact date to be announced.

New and experienced ringers are welcome. No training needed! To participate contact Nancy V. Cooper at [nvtree997@gmail.com](mailto:nvtree997@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

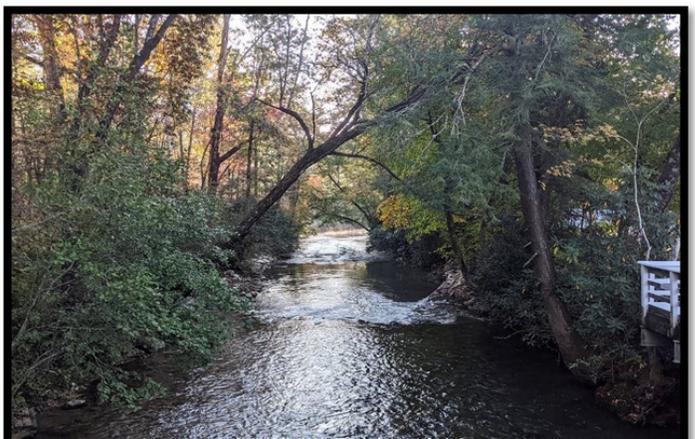
## All Faithful Departed on November 2 at 3 p.m. in the Churchyard



All are invited to join us for the feast of All Souls, also known as the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, on Monday, November 2 at 3 p.m. The service will be held outside at the crest of the hill on the drive around the church so we might be surrounded by those who have died in the Lord. We will be reading the names aloud of those who have died over the last year or so. Please join us. We plan to have the golf cart available to help folks up the hill. Please bring your own chair if you have one. Bulletins will be provided.

## Holy Hikes

Enjoy these pictures from October's Holy Hike led by Jim Olson that went up to John Rock in Pisgah National Forest. Our next Holy Hike is on Wednesday, November 18. Details will be announced in the next week or two. Get in touch with Leslie to be added to the email list for this new ministry at St. John in the Wilderness. We hope to schedule monthly hikes of varying difficulty that create the space to fellowship with God and each other in a prayerful and fun way.



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

stewardship theme, inspired by the wilderness man of John the Baptist, fit right in as we gathered up pledge cards and United Thank Offering boxes to present before God. Our youth confirmation class stepped to the front to publicly acknowledge the nature of their journey of faith. "What do you desire?" I asked them. "Life in Christ," they each said as we handed them a new study Bible.

If early Christians always shared the Eucharist in the context of dinner meal, then they would have approved of our picnic luncheon immediately after Communion. We walked up to a terrace with a soft grass field where we sat down and ate together. The Lord smiled upon us with warm sunshine, and everyone leaned back and looked up to soak it all in. Our service and picnic at Falling Creek was a true highlight for this year. We missed the ministry fair and grilled food but made up for it with our church service, a hike up to a beautiful view, and kids running around with one another. We hope you enjoy these pictures, and we hope you know that we so look forward to more moments of fellowship and worship with you in the months and years ahead. God bless you, now and always.

Fr. Josh+



## Focus on Pastoral Care

At the October vestry meeting, Fr. Josh expressed concerns that as people get older, it becomes harder for them to participate in a church community; yet this is also the time when church friends and fellowship, as well as God's word, are often needed most. This has never been truer than during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To address this need, St. John is re-establishing a Pastoral Care Committee to provide regular contact with parish members who are struggling to come to church, stay in touch with the church, and/or who are struggling to live independently. At this time, the vestry is collecting names of SJIW parishioners who would like to work on the committee and make Pastoral Care contacts. It is also collecting names of parishioners who would welcome or benefit from Pastoral Care contact, regardless of their age.

Please email the names of people falling under either category to vestry member Janet Johnson at [janet.johnson@cjconsult.com](mailto:janet.johnson@cjconsult.com).

## 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*

1905 Greenville Highway  
P.O. Box 185  
Flat Rock, NC 28731  
Phone: 828-693-9783  
officeadmin@stjohnflatrock.org

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.stjohnflatrock.org](http://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 Enslin,  
Marie Hyder, Dick Zecher,  
Gibson Sims

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  
or deliver them to the  
church office.

## No Thanksgiving Day Service This Year

We will skip our usual service on Thanksgiving Day this year. All are welcome to join in Evening Prayer on Wednesday, November 25, at 4:30 p.m., where we will use the readings for Thanksgiving. Weather permitting, we will meet in the Rector's Garden. Otherwise, we will meet in the Wilderness Room.

## Donate Items by November 20 to Serve Homeless Episcopalians in Asheville



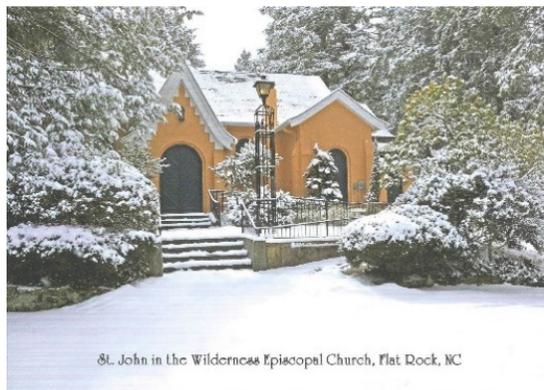
THE RED DOOR  
Church of the Advocate

Nourishing Mind, Body & Spirit Since 1997

The Red Door Ministry at  
the Church of the Advocate  
(more commonly known  
simply as "The Red Door")

is a worshipping community that has served the marginalized and those living outside in downtown Asheville since 1997. Join us in supporting their ministry by dropping off items at the Parish House by November 20. The Red Door is looking for items to help those who live outside during the winter and other year-round items as well. Specifically, please donate dome tents (one or two person), sleeping bags, waterproof tarp/groundcover, blankets, backpacks, coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, socks and shoes (warm & sturdy), hand and foot warmers, travel size toiletries, toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant, laundry pods, new underwear, small writing pads and pens, paperback books, and notes of prayer written by you.

## 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 out-reach project, Make A Difference.

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

## Eucharist and Picnic at Falling Creek Camp



### 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.