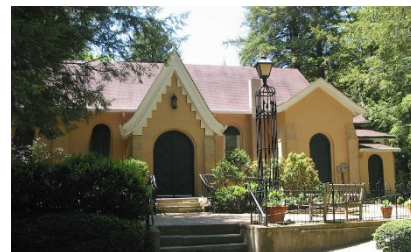


The Voice



Inside this issue:

November 2019

What's
Happening **2**

Discernment
Committee
Update **2**

Episcopal
Church
Women **3**

Annual
Meeting and
Parish
Christmas
Party **3**

The Younger
Voice **4**

The Baring
Society **4**

Friends of
Music "Accent
on Youth" **4**

Flower
Memorials **5**

Junior
Warden's
Report **5**

Birthdays **5**

Calendar **6**

Advent
Lessons and
Carols **7**

Parish
Breakfast **7**

From the Desk of Father Bill



A Season for Thanksgiving

As we near the end of the year, we enter a season with a special emphasis on thanksgiving. Of course, every day we live is reason enough for thanksgiving, but the calendar, and especially retail merchants, remind us that there is an official day for Thanksgiving – the fourth Thursday of November as proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 during the dark days of the Civil War when it was hard to find much for which to be thankful.

Most of us have grown up with a romanticized vision of that first Thanksgiving feast purportedly held in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts – Pilgrims with black, broad-brimmed hats and their family members, sitting around a large table with a few indigenous people (Indians), eating turkey and all the trimmings. But most historians agree that the Thanksgiving meal in Plymouth probably had little in common with today's traditional holiday spread.

More than likely, instead of turkey as the main entrée, the Wampanoag people brought venison along with lots of local seafood (mussels, lobster, bass) plus the fruits of the first pilgrim harvest, including pumpkin, which the Wampanoag taught them how to grow. It is also highly probable that the pilgrims were invited guests of the Wampanoag at their feast and not vice versa as we have been led to believe.

As I reflect on the past 15 months as your interim rector, I am thankful for many things, but especially the friendships Linea and I have made. To say St. John in the Wilderness is a "friendly church" is an understatement. As I read the visitor cards after Sunday services, invariably there are comments that speak glowingly about the warm, hospitable feeling people get from their encounters with all of you. I am also deeply grateful for the generosity you have shown in the sacrificial giving of your time, talent, and treasure during the Every Member Counts emphasis. The response to the Baring Legacy

(Cont. on page 7)

What's Happening at St. John

Books for Good Holiday Sale. Mark your calendar to come to the fifth annual Books for Good Holiday Sale to be held right after Thanksgiving. The dates are Friday, November 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, November 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All books, DVDs, and CDs will be 25 percent off. The bookstore is located at 50 Heritage Park Drive in Fletcher (right past Butler Bridge).

Please keep bringing your donations for BFG to the large box located under the coat rack by the Wilderness Room. Not accepted are tapes (VHS or cassette), magazines, *Reader's Digest Condensed*, and/or encyclopedias. **Your donations benefit the ECW Make A Difference outreach program.**

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

November 1 - *Varina* by Charles Frazier

Historical novel about Jefferson Davis's wife. "Her marriage prospects limited, teenage Varina Howell agrees to wed the much older widower Jefferson Davis with whom she expects the secure life of a Mississippi landowner." Intimate in its detailed observations of one woman's tragic life and epic in its scope and power, *Varina* is a novel of an American war and its aftermath. Ultimately, the book is a portrait of a woman who comes to realize that complicity carries consequences.

December 6 – *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Part coming of age story, love story, mystery, and the natural world of coastal North Carolina. "Owens surveys the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation the child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders and dangers of her private world."

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

Discernment Committee Update

The St. John in the Wilderness Discernment Committee is nearing the end of its nearly year-long task of identifying candidates for our rector position and making recommendations to the Vestry.

We were privileged to have a strong group of finalists, and the committee spent September and October conducting in-person visits and interviews with these priests. Afterwards, the committee spent considerable time in meetings to evaluate which of the candidates are deserving of consideration by the Vestry. These findings will be presented to the Vestry at the end of October.

At that point the Vestry will take responsibility for the final steps of the discernment process, which will be to invite each of the finalists to Flat Rock for an interview, a tour of the church and local community, and a meeting with the Bishop. Depending on the availability of all parties involved, hopefully this will conclude by the end of November. However, given the difficulty of arranging meetings around the Thanksgiving holiday, it could run into early December. Afterwards, the Vestry will have the responsibility of choosing a priest from among the final candidates and issuing the "rector call."

As always, thank you for your ongoing support as we collectively discern the future of St. John in the Wilderness.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Before I share news of upcoming events, I'd like to express profound thanks to our retreat Chairperson, Susan Nilsson, and the C. Rivers Stone Foundation for hosting a truly remarkable retreat. Over 40 ECW members attended and were treated to an absolutely beautiful venue, scrumptious food, and a wonderful, thought-provoking message from Deacon Joyce. Sharing the Eucharist at the program's conclusion was especially moving.

I also note, with some regret, that recruitment for May Market leadership was unsuccessful, so **there will be no May Market in 2020.**

The calendar for the remainder of the year lists several significant events for the ECW. We are planning a Harvest Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, November 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Wilderness Room. There will be no program; this is intended to provide an opportunity for fellowship—to meet and mingle with other women of the church. Mark your calendar, and plan to be there with your favorite dish to share!

Plans are also underway for the annual Head Start Christmas Party. The date is Thursday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Wilderness Room. Santa and his helpers will be there to share the joy of the season with 18 Head Start children. You don't want to miss this! After the children have departed, we will enjoy a Christmas brunch. Plan to be there! If you wish to help, contact Mary Stephens.

ECW needs your presence and participation to fulfill its dual missions of fellowship and service. The requirements are not onerous, but the rewards are great. It is time to recruit new ECW Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons. I think the best way to do that is to provide a description of each position, including the name of the incumbent, so that you may communicate directly with that person should you have questions. For the ECW to continue to be a viable, productive organization, it needs your support. Watch your email for detailed descriptions of Team Chair positions.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the leadership team. If at this time you are unable to serve in a leadership role, please consider joining us in any of the activities ECW supports. You will enrich and be enriched by the experience.

Blessings and peace,
Kathy

Annual Meeting and Parish Christmas Party



The Annual Meeting of St. John in the Wilderness will be held on Tuesday, December 3, beginning at 5 p.m. **Ministry chairs, please submit your annual reports to Leslie (by email if possible) by Wednesday, November 20.**

We will follow with fun and food at the Parish Christmas Party. The party will be catered by Cuisine Team, and tickets will be \$25 per person. Children under 12 eat free. Reservations are required, so please send your check to Tracie Lutz at the Parish Office by Monday, November 25, to reserve your seat.

The Younger Voice



Fall is here! We are enjoying planting the fall garden and continuing to learn about the faith of our fathers in the Young Families class and Prayer with the Youth. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 17, for shopping for our Christmas family. We look forward to seeing you!

Diana and Mary Anne

The Baring Society



This summer, the Vestry approved the establishment of a legacy organization to recognize those who have included St. John in the Wilderness in their estate planning. It was given the name of the Baring Society to honor Charles and Susan Baring, who in 1836 donated their family chapel to the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. It is their legacy which is now ours to perpetuate.

Over 75 people have joined in this commitment to our future, and they were recognized at a special event hosted by Debby Staton at her historic home. Named Brookland when built by Charles Edmondston in 1836, Charles and Susan Baring were guests at Brookland on many occasions. A Baring Society plaque was unveiled during the event, and others are encouraged to join by making this same commitment in their estate planning. The plaque now hangs in the entry hall of the administration building of St. John in the Wilderness. For more information, please contact Leslie in the office.

Friends of Music “Accent on Youth”



The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness Friends of Music will present tenor Alexander Harrelson as the first in a series of concerts entitled "Accent on Youth" on Sunday, November 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Alex is a J. Estes Millner scholar at Davidson College and is a student of Jacquelyn Culpepper. He studied this past summer at the Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy, and at the International Vocal Artists Academy in Payerback, Austria. In the spring semester of 2020, Alex will attend the International Exchange Student Music Program in Vienna, Austria.

The 19-year-old junior will sing a varied program of sacred and secular music from Handel, Schumann, Verdi, Leonard Bernstein, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted, all of which will go to the concert artist.

November Flower Memorials

November 3:

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 10:

In loving memory of Zelda Drayton Grimke Roberts, Alice Lowndes Andrews and William Parker Andrews

By: Their family

November 17:

In loving memory of Bill and Majary Taylor

By: Bill and Vickie Taylor

November 24:

In loving memory of R. I'On Lowndes and Elizabeth Plumb Lowndes and Richard I. Lowndes, III

By: Their Families

AND

In loving memory of Ted J. Oliver

By: Ann Oliver

Junior Warden's Report

We will be reroofing the Sanctuary beginning Saturday, December 2. Hopefully, weather permitting, the work will be completed in a little over a week. As a safety measure, during the work period the area north of Rutledge Road, including the parking lot, will be closed to everyone except roofers. Hopefully, only the service on Sunday, December 8, will be affected. We are presently planning to have one service at 11 a.m. that day, to be held in the Parish Hall.

Upon completion of the Sanctuary, the Education Building will be reroofed. This work should be completed in a couple of days.

November Birthdays

3	Alicia Wallace	17	Clint Adams
3	Philip Green IV	17	Maria Johnson
4	Dina Larsen	17	April Wilson
6	Kelly Laughton	19	Bill Taylor
8	Sharon Frymire	20	Gary German
8	Liza Phillips	21	Jessica Boeh
9	Linda Sizemore	22	Bernie Fox
12	Eleanor Flowers	23	Betty Montgomery
12	Bill Farrell	23	Amanda Woodard
14	Greg Newbold	24	Darla Green
14	Jan Tanner	25	Chris Kanipe
16	Sandra Thaxton	26	Karen Pryde



27	Edwina Burger
27	Richard Lockhart
27	Douglas Llewelyn
27	John Knapp
27	Elizabeth Johnson
28	Martha Jean Liberto
28	Jade Ogletree
29	Legaré Head
29	Jerry Beschta

November 2019



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack 10:00 Readers in the Wilderness 11:00 Eucharist at Lake Pointe Landing	2 7:30 AA/Early Birds 5:30 pm Hutcherson 50 th Wedding Anniversary
3 8:45 Eucharist 9:00 Parish Breakfast 11:00 Eucharist	4 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 3:30 pm PLDC 6:45 AA/Newcomers	5 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Voices for Youth 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	6 7:30 AA/EB 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 4:00 Stewardship Committee 7:00 Choir	7 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 ECW 11:30 ECW Potluck Luncheon 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	8 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack	9 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 United Church of Christ retreat
10 8:45 Eucharist and Baptism 10:00 Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:00 Eucharist	11 Office closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	12 7:30 AA/Early Birds 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	13 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 3:00 Staff meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 7:30 AA/Early Birds 4:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	15 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack 10:00 Caregivers	16 7:30 AA/Early Birds
17 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:00 Eucharist 3:30 pm FOM Concert	18 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	19 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:30 Garden Guild 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	20 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Needle Work Ministry 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	22 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack	23 7:30 AA/Early Birds
24 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School/Adult Forum 11:00 Eucharist	25 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:45 pm AA/Newcomers	26 7:30 AA/Early Birds 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	27 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 Office closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	29 Office closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds 4:00 pm Wheless/Ericksen Wedding Rehearsal	30 7:30 AA/Early Birds 4:00 pm Wheless/Ericksen Wedding

**The Episcopal Church of
St. John in the
Wilderness**

The Rev. Bill McCleery
Interim 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*

Diana Byrd, *Youth and
Families Coordinator*

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Vestry

Carol Rector
Senior Warden

Jerry Tanner
Junior Warden

Jodi Sundeen
Treasurer

Kathryn Deyerle
Clerk

Jodi Sundeen, Jim Olson,
Margaret Barker, Debby
Staton, Susan MacDonald,
Greg Newbold, Michael
Shannon, Janet Johnson,
Shelley Schiro, Cindi
Easterling

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.

(Cont. from page 1)

Society has been most encouraging and will ensure the future ministry of the parish for generations to come.

It is indeed a "season for thanksgiving," and I give thanks to God daily for each of you!

Blessings abound!

Fr. Bill

Advent Lessons and Carols with Eucharist

On **Sunday, December 8**, we will have Advent Lessons and Carols **in the Parish Hall at 11 a.m.** There will be **only one service on this date**. It is being relocated to the Parish Hall because the church building will be inaccessible in early December while roofing work is done. We hope you will join us during this time of watchful waiting to hear God's message in sacred Word and music.

Parish Breakfast



November 3, 2019 | 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Parish Hall between the services

**Eggs, bacon, potatoes, grits, gravy,
biscuits, tomatoes, fruit, juice, and coffee**

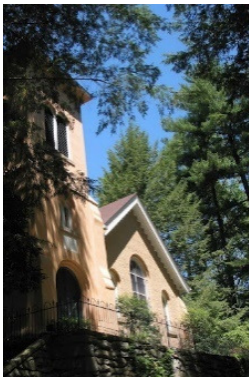
Plus sausage and pancakes

All this for \$6/person or \$12/family!

Church and Cemetery Tour 10/20/19



Mentors & Ministry Game Night 10/20/19



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:45 am

Holy Eucharist

10:00 am

Adult Forum

Sunday School for Children & Youth (during the school year)

11:00 am

Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

10:30 am

Healing Service with Holy Eucharist 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.