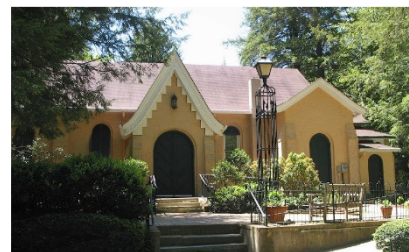


The Voice



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St. John's Incoming Rector



As has been previously announced, the Vestry has called The Rev. Josh Stephens to be the new Rector of St. John in the Wilderness. Father Josh is presently the Associate Rector for Family Ministry at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. He will be accompanied by his wife, Rosanna, who is an Emergency Room physician, and daughter, Arlo. Much work and prayerful consideration on the part of both the Discernment Committee and Vestry has gone into this process to call a rector who meets the expectations of the congregation.

Father Josh is the youngest of four siblings and was born and raised in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, where his family enjoyed all things beach, especially surfing. He was active as a teenager at Christ Episcopal Church in nearby Ponte Vedra Beach, and it was there Josh first felt a nudge towards ministry. After high school, Josh received a soccer scholarship to attend Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he graduated with a BA in Bible/Christian Ministry with a minor in Church History. From 2010-2013, Josh served as Director of Children's and Youth Ministry at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia. He was ordained to the diaconate at Bruton Parish on June 11, 2016, and his ordination to the priesthood took place in December of 2016.

Even though Father Josh has never lived in Western North Carolina, you will find him familiar with our area because his grandparents retired to Hendersonville in the 1980s. Each summer, the Stephens family looked forward to camping trips in Pisgah National Forest and visits with family. On these trips, Josh began to fall in love with the mountains, which made Milligan College in eastern Tennessee an attractive option for university. While at Milligan, Josh met Rosanna Couture, who was on a soccer scholarship from Canada, and the two were married in May 2009. From

(Cont. on page 2)

St. John's Incoming Rector *(Cont. from page 1)*

2013-2016, Rosanna completed her residency in Emergency Medicine in Chattanooga while Josh studied at The School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee, TN) for his Master of Divinity degree.

As a priest, Father Josh brings a passion for the kind of life in community that St. John in the Wilderness shares together. He loves church potlucks and eating together as a Christian community as well as gathering for worship and serving those in need. He sees our Episcopal liturgy as a gift of grace and as the lens through which we might see the world. He looks forward to getting to know the ins-and-outs of St. John in the Wilderness and the wonderful people who claim this beautiful, historic parish as their own. Josh, Rosanna, and Arlo are in the process of buying a home in the area and hope to be on the ground in Flat Rock in early February. Their first Sunday with us is February 23.

What's Happening at St. John

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

There is no book club meeting in January.

February 7 – *Carolina Bell* by Rose Senehi

Local author Senehi's book about apple production in Henderson County is well-researched and provides an interesting background for the story of two sisters who lost their parents in a tragedy which is gradually revealed throughout the story.

March 6 – *Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck

Steinbeck's last book written in 1961. Story of a character who must decide what morality is and if we abuse it, the consequences. Steinbeck is troubled by the times, and he is called the Woody Guthrie of American literature.

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

Bowl for Kids' Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Henderson County announces BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE to be held on Saturday, March 7, at Tarheel Lanes in Hendersonville. This is the largest annual special event in support of the Henderson County mentoring program.

St. John in the Wilderness has sponsored this event for the last few years. Each bowler raises or donates a minimum of \$50 (\$35 for students) before bowling on March 7 and receives two free games, shoe rental, a commemorative t-shirt, and the chance to be a part of the excitement at the lanes that day.

"Bowlers come out for a day of fun and camaraderie, so join us," says Joey Popp, Advisory Council Chairperson. "Your participation helps raise funds to support our unique one-on-one mentoring program for nearly 100 youth in Henderson County."

Registration or donations are available via the website www.bbbswnc.org. Teams consist of four to five members. Friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors can all come together and form a team.

If you have questions, reach out to parishioner Joey Popp at bbbshenderson@gmail.com or (828) 707-3133.



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Greetings, and Happy New Year on behalf of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). We begin 2020 with a nearly full slate of energetic Committee Chairpersons to lead us in this new year. I will repeat, for those who did not see the December *Voice*, the names of those people, who will lead our efforts in 2020.

Jan Tanner and Kathy Newbold: Coordinating Team Co-Chairs

Mary Boys (Treasurer)

Patrice German and Linda Sizemore (Publicity)

Linda Giltner and Cindy Shannon (May Market)

Elaine Harris (Make a Difference (MAD))

Penny Amerman (Special Events)

Jerry Theron (Sunshine)

Lynne Miller and Mary Boys (Head Start Christmas Program)

Special Offerings and Retreat chairpersons are still needed

All of the people named above welcome your recommendations, ideas, skills, and participation in the various service and fellowship activities of ECW.

Planning for May Market will begin in January. Watch *The Voice* for more information.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our 2019 Head Start Christmas program. It is a highlight of the ECW year and so much fun. Eighteen preschoolers from Forest Circle School in Hendersonville descended on the Wilderness Room on December 12 bringing joy, laughter, and song. Santa (Fr. Bill) and his elf (Elaine Harris) distributed gift bags to each child, and the children completed a craft. This year, they decorated blank books with stickers, to their delight. A few rousing choruses of Feliz Navidad and Jingle Bells concluded a delightful morning. After the children left, the adults enjoyed a potluck luncheon. As is always true, food was abundant, and no one left hungry! Thanks to Mary Stephens and Lynne Miller for organizing the party and to everyone for their scrumptious contributions to the brunch.

As I related in my December *Voice* article, Elaine Harris and her committee distributed the MAD grant checks in November and early December. I'd like to share a few notes I received from recipients:

St Gerard House

"We are so appreciative of your continuing support of our children and their families! It's hard to believe it has been nearly 10 years since Caroline Long launched this mission to change the lives of those facing autism. And it is happening! Together we are 'Making a Difference!'

Forever grateful, Pat Robinson, Board member"

Children and Family Resource Center

"Thank you very much for your generous support of the Adolescent Parenting Program with your generous gift of \$1,000.

(Cont. on page 2)

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) *(Cont. from page 3)*

This gift will help fund the Adolescent Parenting Program assisting teen moms graduate from high school, develop a strong sense of self-worth, enhance their parenting skills, prevent a second teen pregnancy, and prepare for employment.

Thank you for your strong belief in our work and the positive long-term impact we strive to make in the lives of children and families.

Jamie Wiener, Executive Director”

SJIW Backpack Program

“The continued support of the ECW’s “MAD” fund is deeply appreciated. We are now serving seven schools, with approximately 155 students. Without the financial backing such as yours, we could not do this.

Thank you so much,

Debby Staton, Coordinator, Backpack Program”

Thanks go to Elaine, her team, and all the members of the ECW who support our various endeavors. 2020 promises to be a great year! You are invited and encouraged to play an active role!

Blessings and peace, and Merry Christmas!

Kathy Newbold, Coordinator

Pastoral Concerns until New Rector Arrives

Until Fr. Joshua Stephens arrives on February 23, 2020, please contact Deacon Sandy Rex at (847) 624-0103 or cwrexiii@rmimidwest.com if you have a pastoral concern. You may also call Leslie in the office at (828) 693-9783. She will, in turn, contact Deacon Sandy. Deacon Sandy will contact Father Bill if it is a pastoral emergency needing a priest. Thank you for following this procedure.

Bell Ringers Return



For the 12th consecutive year, St. John volunteers enthusiastically rang the Salvation Army bell in front of Harris-Teeter on Tuesday, December 3. Ringers enjoyed their winter day activity, but more important were the donations from shoppers who gladly placed coins and cash in the kettle. The funds go to assist residents of Henderson County who depend on the Salvation Army for assistance. Approximately \$250 was collected on our ringing day.

The 2019 ringers were: Margaret Barker, Scott Bell, Jerry Beschta, Joyce Beschta, Terry Enslin, Eleanor Flowers, Candace Lewis, Fr. Bill McCleery, Polly Morrice, Kathy Newbold, Catherine Popp, Joey Popp, John Ogletree, Debby Staton, Bill Taylor, Vickie Taylor, Betsy Tibbs, and Nancy V. Cooper, coordinator.

Plan to join us next year as one of the St. John ringers.

January Flower Memorials

January 5:

In loving memory of Jack Day
By: Carolyne Day

January 12:

In loving memory of Sara Henderson McCandless and Edward McCandless
By: Their sons, Richard and John

January 19:

Open

January 26:

In loving memory of Katherine Clinton Bissell, Sara and Hardee Butler, Margaret Bissell, and Hardee C. Bissell
By: Their family



Many Thanks and Farewell to Jan Wauben

Six years ago when Fr. Morton asked me to be Altar Guild chair, I said that I would love to do that ministry, but only if I could find a co-chair. I was pleased when Jan Wauben volunteered to help in this silent ministry. Jan was responsible for scheduling teams and bringing the Altar Guild manual up to date among other duties that she took on. Together we had training sessions for new members, instructed members of how to hand iron linens (without an iron), and hosted brunches once or twice a year for members. My main duty was to check and order supplies. When I retired three years ago, Sandra Jeffrey stepped up to co-chair, taking over my duties.

Now we bid Jan farewell after moving to her new home in Burlington, NC. A thousand thanks to Jan for being an “angel of the altar” as well as a friend. For the time being I told Fr. Bill that I will come out of retirement and handle the scheduling until a new chair steps up to this ministry. Sandra has graciously offered to continue her work, again until a new co-chair is installed.

I invite all people of the parish to consider this valuable and fulfilling ministry.

Marti Smith, Co-Chair

January Birthdays

1 Jane Sherrill
3 John LeGault
4 Ingrid Heegaard
4 Sandy Schenck
5 Vicki Bell
5 Tom Savage
6 JL Holloway
7 Susan MacDonald
9 Tom Head
9 Joan Brendle

10 Malcolm Allen
11 Barbara Auld
11 Ken Forte
16 Melanie Pace
16 Rhett Kanipe, Jr.
18 JoAnn Ebbs
18 Nancy Dobson
19 Mary McCarty
19 Kristie Ogletree
19 Victoria Flanagan



22 Judi Bettendorf
25 Sonja Neely
25 Dean Patrick Wheless
25 Helena Wheless
26 Faith Baker
26 Carol Steingrandt
27 Mary Stephens
28 Lynn Redmond
29 Erin Mitschow

January 2020



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Office Closed 7:30 AA/Early Birds	2 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	3 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack 10:00 Readers in the Wilderness 11:00 Eucharist at Lake Pointe Landing	4 7:30 AA/Early Birds
5 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	6 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:30 AA/Newcomers	7 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Voices for Youth 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	8 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir	9 7:30 AA/Early Birds 4:00 pm Finance Committee 5:00 Vestry 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	10 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack	11 7:30 AA/Early Birds
12 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	13 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:30 pm AA/Newcomers	14 7:30 AA/Early Birds 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	15 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	17 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack 10:00 Caregivers	18 7:30 AA/Early Birds
19 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	20 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:30 pm AA/Newcomers	21 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 Pardee Hospital 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	22 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 1:30 Churchyard Committee 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:00 Needle Work 7:00 pm AA/Spiritual Awakening	24 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack	25 7:30 AA/Early Birds
26 8:45 Eucharist 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Eucharist	27 7:30 AA/Early Birds 9:00 AA/Sober Sisters 6:30 pm AA/Newcomers	28 7:30 AA/Early Birds 3:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 AA Men's Group	29 7:30 AA/Early Birds 10:30 Healing Service 12:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30 AA/Early Birds 7:00 AA/Spiritual Awakening	31 7:30 AA/Early Birds 8:45 Backpack	

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

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

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.

Quilts

Some of you have noticed the beautiful, liturgically-themed quilts hanging in the office. This is the beautiful quilt Betsy Tibbs just hung for the Christmas season. Thanks so much to Betsy for her beautiful work!



Thank You!

To the Parishioners of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church,
Thank you so much for welcoming me into your wonderful fellowship hall for my recital. I had been told by Dewitt that you were a wonderful congregation of music lovers, but I nevertheless was shocked by the overwhelming support you showed me. You certainly have a beautiful facility inhabited by an extraordinary congregation. Your donations will be a great help to me as I spend the next semester in Vienna. I can't wait to visit St. John once again when I return.

Thank you once again for your support!

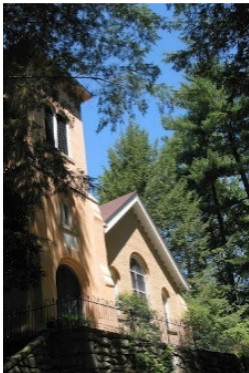
Sincerely,

Alexander Harrelson

No Parish Breakfast in January

As usual, there will be no Parish Breakfast in January. It will resume on February 2 at 9:00 a.m.

ECW Head Start Party and Brunch



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.