

The Messenger and Tidings

Combined Issue

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
Bat Cave, North Carolina
828.625.9244

Dear Transfiguration,

What a joy to celebrate this past Sunday with you! Both my family and I feel a deep sense of gratitude for your warm welcome, thoughtful (and Bat-Cave themed) gifts, and kind hospitality. Also, what a fantastic (and delicious) News Year's Party! I look forward to getting to know all of you more, and meeting those who I have not yet had a chance to meet. Transfiguration is an amazing community, and I cannot wait to grow together.

I love that this new season of shared ministry together is beginning in Advent, which is a season of preparation, joyful anticipation, and hope. I invite you to join me this Advent in finding new ways to live into this season of anticipation for the big gift (Christmas!) which is coming but not yet here. This means we get to look for joy and hope in the little things all around us, even as the daylight hours grow shorter, because we know the Light of the world is just around the corner. But first, we prepare ourselves by looking inward so that we can be a light that shines out. This is certainly easier said than done, I'll let you know how it goes on my end! For the moment, I am simply thankful that we get to do the work of preparation together.



Please reach out anytime! I will be working out of the church office on Thursdays and Fridays, but I am always available by email or phone. Again, I am honored and thrilled to be serving alongside all of you, and I look forward to living into this season of joyful anticipation for what God has planned for this amazing community.

Email: john@ectransfiguration.org

Fr. John

Advent Conversations with Fr. John

You are invited to the Saylor House on Sunday December 10th and 17th from 9:05 am – 9:40 am for conversations with Fr. John. Fr. John will be hosting casual conversations in between services with those parishioners that would like to meet and get to know Fr. John in the relaxing and comfortable setting of the Saylor House living room with the fireplace all a glow. We will be having coffee, tea and muffins.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 4:24-25

Tom



12/10 --- 2nd Sunday in Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:05-9:40 am Saylor House Formation: Muffins, Coffee, and Tea with Fr. John

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

12/17 --- 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:05-9:40 am Saylor House Formation: Muffins, Coffee, and Tea with Fr. John

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

12/24 --- 4th Sunday in Advent / Christmas Eve

Combined Morning Eucharist at 10:00 am

4:30 pm Christmas Carols

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

12/25 --- Christmas Day No Service

Christmas Poinsettias

Remembering / honoring a loved one(s) with a donation for the Christmas poinsettias has long been a tradition at Transfiguration. There will be a printed listing of those honored/remembered in our Christmas Eve program. If you would like to participate, there will be forms at church or you can do this online. If you choose to make a donation, please put Poinsettias in the memo line on your check and include it with your form.

If you would like to use the online option, go to [the Church Website](#) and fill out the form.



Thank You!!!!

Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach sends a huge thank you for our participation in the Thanksgiving food drive as well as the Angel Tree. Your generosity brings light to so many!

Keep up with Church events: Visit the Church Calendar on our website and link Church Events to your Google Calendar. **Direct Link to Calendar** and **Lay Ministry Schedule Link**

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 10th, 2023

The Second Week of Advent is the week of Peace and when we light the candle of peace. This is a time of coming together, of building a community of faith that is open to all. This is why we see Christmas movies telling a story of restoration, of broken relationships that are healed.

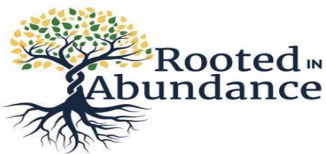
*"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will
be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace"* Isaiah 9:6



This verse tells us that Jesus came to be the Prince of Peace. The word peace is the Hebrew word shalom which means completeness or well being. Jesus did not come just to end wars, but to make us complete by saving us from our sinfulness. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

While the reign of peace Jesus brings begins during the Incarnation, God's kingdom will not be completed until Jesus returns again. May the Peace of the Lord be with you!!!

Tom



Our Rooted in Abundance Pledges for 2024

Thanks to the financial commitments promised by our parishioners our Finance Committee and Vestry will be able to plan for the mission and ministry of this part of God's Kingdom with hope and confidence. Final numbers are being tallied but the majority of parishioners have pledged including seven new pledging commitments which is a very positive sign as we start our new beginnings with Fr. John.

Don't forget that you can give online at <https://www.ectransfiguration.org/online-giving>.

Thank you.

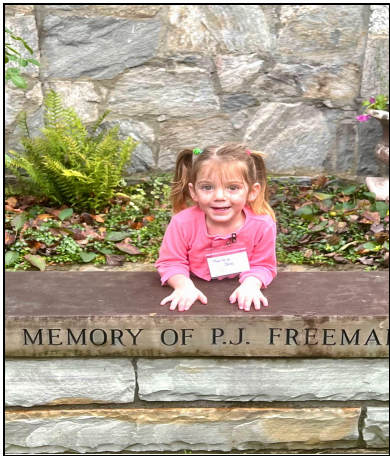
Tom

Did You Know? A QUAD can help!

People who are 70 1/2 or older can contribute up to \$100,000 from their IRA (other than ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) directly to a charity and save from paying income taxes on the distribution. This is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) or an IRA Charitable Rollover and it counts toward your minimum Distribution (RMD). If you are taking the IRS Standard deduction, this may provide a tax break for some or all of your contribution to the church.

Tom

Celebrating New Beginnings with Fr. John Roberts





Happy December Birthdays!

Michael Gray 6, Frankie Pearson 21, Bruce Jones 26,
Dawn Milachouski 26

Happy December Anniversaries!

Robert & Harriet Taylor 18, Carlann & Dave Scherping 29,
Rob Lundquist & Pamela Mumby 31



Praying for those who have asked for our prayers and whom we know to be in need

Sam Thompson, Harriet Taylor, Linda Carter, Lynn Morehead, Gary Seymour, Linda Munson, Sandra Chalker, Steve Gale, Carol Michael, J Michael, Robert Taylor, Marion Wilson, Jeanette Auld, Theodore Fassett, Michael Webster, Erna Scherping, April Schick, Heyward & Nancy Nettles, Bernice Liverett, Scott and Karen Meyers, Gracie Johnson Hutchinson, Harold Knipp, Tana Scheidt, Pam Keith, Cathie Dabrowski Lew Thatcher, Tony Maulden, Michael Okpych, Emily Wright, Toby Van Eyll, Annica Rogers, Joan Meade, Skip Smoak, Bobby Lang, Eva Heatherly, Amanda Cook, Fred Brehm, Tom Graham, Michele Yackel, Carlann Scherping, McCrea Wallace, Kristi Alipiak

Please pray for our men and women in the military and those serving in other areas of conflict.

If you or someone you know would like prayers, contact Kathy so we can include them on our list.

Please pray for our Vestry and Church Leadership

Rev. John Roberts john@ectransfiguration.org

Tom Scott Sr Warden 813-477-5430

Patti Glassen Jr Warden

Dawn Milachouski

Buddy Morrison

JoAnne Ellingson Finance 828-625-9637

Mattie Decker

Mike Maziarka

Charlene Cassidy

Carlann Scherping Clerk of Vestry



Serving Sunday, Dec. 10 2023

Chalice/ Lector at 8 Mattie

Lector at 10: Saundra/Julie

Chalice at 10: Patti

Altar: Sharon

Ushers: Gary/Linda

Music: Mike

Weekly Cleaning: Julie/Mike

Offering Counters: Dawn/Julie

Video: Dawn

Saylor House Cleaning: Debbie