



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
**St. John in the
Wilderness**

Est. 1836

**“Empty Bowls” Benefiting Flat Rock Backpack Program
Scheduled for May 18, 2025**

FLAT ROCK, N.C. Still recovering from the aftermath of the devastating storm Helene, local ceramic artists will once again fire up their kilns for the eighth year to help hungry children in the greater Flat Rock area. On Sunday, May 18, 2025, “Empty Bowls,” a community meal benefiting the Flat Rock Backpack Program, will take place in the Parish Hall at the Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness.

Advance tickets are strongly recommended for the two seatings: 12:00pm-2:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm. Each ticket includes one hand-crafted bowl donated by area potters, a soup-based meal, with soups and breads donated by local restaurants and bakers, plus homemade cookies baked by church members. For those wishing to eat at home, take-away is an available option.

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 for a family of two adults and children under 12. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.stjohnflatrock.org/empty-bowls.

“Hurricane Helene dealt a major blow to our area. All of our support system—the potters, food vendors, and sponsors—were all impacted, as was MANNA FoodBank, our main source of food for the Flat Rock Backpack Program,” said Debby Staton, Flat Rock Backpack Program Coordinator.

“Needless to say, the students we serve were also affected. We are deeply appreciative of our community who keep us on their radar, always willing to pitch in as we continue meeting the needs of those who are 'food insecure,'" Staton said.

Please join us for this fun community event. Donations are gratefully accepted throughout the year. The Flat Rock Backpack Program has 501c-3 status. 100% of the money collected goes to feeding at least 150 children in eight schools every weekend.

We thank our sponsors, Wildbirds Unlimited, Stuller Power Solutions, Benton Roofing, Epperson Tree, Knox Law, Hendersonville Community Co-op, Merrell Paint & Decorating, Homestead, Bryan Easler Toyota, Dale Lorens Art, Boyd Chevrolet, Pisgah Pest Control, Hendersonville Family Dental, WTZQ and Flat Rock Cinema.

Participating restaurants and food vendors donate various soups and baked goods including AlyKat, Hubba Hubba Smokehouse, Champa, Hot Dog World, Kenmure Country Club, Cuisine Team, Mini Batch Bakery, Champion Hills Club, Ruby Blue Bakery and Episcopal Church Women.

Special thanks go to local potters donating their crafted goods including Honey Burrell, David Voorhees, Cathey Chet, Audrey Stelloh, Carol Freeman, Tami Barker, Phillip Hacker, Kathleen Cameron, Hannah Faeben, M Rathack, Hannah Gambino, Gayl Manthei, artists of Givens Estates, Glassman Studio, Art League of Henderson County and students of Blue Ridge Community College.

The Parish Hall is located across the street from the church at 1905 Greenville Highway. For more information write to emptybowls@stjohnflatrock.org or visit www.stjohnflatrock.org.