

VIEWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN



The Reverend Melissa M. Hartley

A message from the Interim Rector

Believe it or not, the season of Lent is upon us. Actually, many of you may have wondered if we had forgotten about it, since the holy days fall particularly late this year with Easter Day coming on April 24, almost the latest date it can possibly be. (To find the future date of Easter Day, a table is given in the prayer book on page 880.) The Lenten season begins, of course, on Ash Wednesday, this year falling on March 9. In the early days of the Church, the season of Lent marked a time in which certain sinners who had been banned by the Church would sit in sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their penitence. After due penance, they would be allowed back into the community of faith, usually at the time of the Easter Vigil. A brief explanation of this is found in the Invitation to a holy Lent in the prayer book on page 264-265. It reads, "It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith..." Today we begin this season by putting ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our continual need for repentance and forgiveness.

The Lenten season then continues for approximately the next six weeks with noticeable changes to the liturgy and to the liturgical space. The colors change to purple, and there are no flowers at the altar, so as to remain simple and stark. Also, the "Alleluias" will drop out of the liturgy and the music, as we save them for the joyful acclamation at the Easter Vigil when we will proclaim, "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" But, we have quite a Lenten journey ahead of us before we can say those words.

As we prepare for Lent, many people choose to either give something up or take something on in an effort to help focus their Lenten discipline. I would suggest that whatever you do, ask if this is going to help draw you into a deeper relationship with God.

As in the past few years, we will be offering Evening Prayer at 6pm on the Tuesdays during Lent, followed by a potluck supper. I would encourage you to participate in these community events as part of your Lenten discipline.

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP 265).

Melissa

MARCH 2011

Sundays on the Mountain

Sunday, March 6

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Rite 13
Cherub Choir rehearsal
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
Sunday School
- 11:15 Healing Service, Chapel
Youth Choir rehearsal
Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Sunday, March 13

First Sunday in Lent

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Adult Formation, Parish House
Rite 13
Cherub Choir rehearsal
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
Sunday School
- 11:15am Bell Choir rehearsal
Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Sunday, March 20

Second Sunday in Lent

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Rite 13
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
Sunday School
- 11:15am Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Sunday, March 27

Third Sunday in Lent

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 9am Adult Formation, Parish House
Rite 13
- 10am Holy Eucharist, Church
Sunday School
- 11:15am Youth Choir rehearsal
Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

FELLOWSHIP**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Please join us on Tuesday, March 8th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm, in Parish Hall, for all of the pancakes and sausage that you can eat! A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

**Save the Date for Some Cinco de Mayo Fun!**

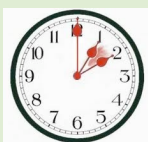
Friday, May 6 from 6 - 9 pm. Featuring a Mexican Marketplace for some shopping fun, great music, and fantastic food. Invite some friends and prepare to party the Mexican way! Ole!

**Tuesdays in Lent****Lenten Service and Supper**

A service of Evening Prayer with Taize music will be offered at 6pm on the Tuesdays during the season of Lent (beginning March 15). The service will be followed by a potluck supper at 6:30. Please join us and bring a friend!

Don't forget to *spring ahead* on
Sunday, March 13th!

Be sure to set those clocks one hour ahead!

**March Ladies' Luncheon**

Please join us for the ladies' luncheon, which will be hosted at the home of Kathy Christie on Thursday, March 17th at 12 noon. Please bring your sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided by the host. Kathy's address is 803 Farley Road, White House Station, NJ. Kindly RSVP to Kathy at 908-572-7048.

**March Birthday Wishes Go Out to the Following Parishioners:**

Morgan Giordano, Marion White, Dottie Vernimb,
Meredith Snyder, Susan Ironside, Diane Morash,
Mary Mason, Shannon Murphy, Baker Vanderveer, and
Bob Kielley

Happy Birthday to all!

SEARCH & DISCERNMENT NEWS

On Tuesday, February 22, your Search and Discernment Committee met in the Parish House to receive the names and professional information of 22 candidates for our rector position. The team welcomed Canon Lee Powers and Ms. Cecelia Alvarez as the Transition Ministry Officers from the Diocese of New Jersey who delivered the extensive amount of candidate information. The lively discussion centered on the structure of data and how to proceed with discernment to efficiently and correctly assess the candidates. Of the 22, six are from within the Diocese of NJ, eight outside the Diocese and another eight are those recommended by our Parish members. The Committee then continued to develop a detailed work plan and time line, consistent with Vestry expectations. The next step will be to communicate directly with the individuals to determine level of interest and to better understand their qualifications and fit.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

- Fenn Putnam

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Saturday, April 9th from 8:30am to 3:30pm for the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity in Bridgewater. 10 spaces are available. So, sign up early to get your spot! The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board near Parish Hall.

Somerville Food Bank

St. John staffs the Food Bank every Saturday in April, to work from 10am-12noon. Sign-up to reserve your space. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board near Parish Hall.

Adopt-a-Family for Easter

Please help bring Easter smiles to your neighbors by buying and delivering an uncooked Easter meal to those in need. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just outside of Parish Hall. For more information, contact Pete Ackerman (908) 537-9905.

Diocesan trip to Ecuador

Save the date September 27 – October 4, 2011 for the Diocesan trip to live, work and worship with our companions and partners in the Diocese of Ecuador Central. Details to follow soon.

If you are interested in joining
The *Mission Outreach Commission*
Contact Sally Hespe or Fenn Putman.

**With Gratitude and Thanks
From Debbie Hennel**

To the St. John on the Mountain 'Village'

It is with gratitude that I write to my family here at St. John on the Mountain to express my thanks for your care of me and of my daughters. Life as a single parent can be lonely and exhausting and it's even harder when blood family don't live nearby. You are my family and I thank you with my whole heart. Not only have you taken a personal interest in Charlotte and Katya, their comings and goings and their dreams and goals, but you have supported me through the joys and bumps of raising them. Some of you have seen through my 'Oh, I'm fine.' response to questions how I was doing and have lent your ear to hear my heart. Some of you have been the local grandparents that my girls haven't had. You have patted me on the back when my girls have shined and you have shown your parenting perspective when I've felt frustrated or worn out. I am extremely proud of their present independence in college and how they are pursuing their interests. Know that you are part of their grounding and success. And know how much the St. John's family means to me.

*Love,
Debbie*

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL



Pat Moody **Recognized for Co-Founding** **St. John's Nursery School**

By Peter Mercer



This year the 50th anniversary of the founding of our St. John's Nursery School is being celebrated. Our own Pat Moody was one of the co-founders and early drivers of the establishment of the School as part of the mission of our Church. Pat has consented to share her early recollections of the beginnings of 50 years of successful growth and operation of the School.

Pat and a close friend, Ms. Cornelia Eyre, as concerned parents of young children in Bernardsville, conspired to deal with the closing of the Gill Nursery School in 1960. They recognized their own need as well as those of other young parents in the area and began by travelling to and observing schools in Mendham, Basking Ridge and Millington. At the same time, they became very familiar with the New Jersey requirements (less stringent then) for minimum space, lavatories and other regulations for nursery schools. Our Church was a natural place for a School by utilizing existing Sunday school space and being part of the Church insurance coverage. After working to gain the support of the Church Vestry and Rev. John Wing, then Rector, the two were granted permission to start operation with one teacher, an assistant, and a few children in the Parish Hall of the old Church (now the main Sanctuary space). With support from a few local parents, the School was established and furnished with minimal equipment purchased from a catalog. The founding days featured children at age two attending for two mornings each week and children at age four at four mornings each week. As revenues from tuition fees were realized, the School was able to purchase more needed equipment each year. At the same time, parents worked to save expenses by building their own shelves which they then painted themselves. Early, active supporters included Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Englehard, Jr. and our Gina Moyer Dillon.

Over the 50 years, the Church did not charge for rent or utilities expenses but the School has voluntarily make annual, generous contributions to the Church, when possible. Tuition receipts were used to pay teachers and purchase additional equipment for use by the children both in class rooms and in the outdoor play areas. Over the years, the School has consistently worked to provide a safe, clean, bright, child-friendly environment for young Bernardsville families. Additionally, it always worked to comply with State teacher accreditation, facility and environmental regulations. Several generations of local families have enjoyed the School, many of which have gone on to become active Church members.

Pat has recently remarked that she is thrilled with the long term success of the School, the new facility and the teachers. She sees it as a natural and effective way to attract new families to our Church community. Finally, Pat did attend the special anniversary fund raiser at the Somerset Hills Country Club on March 4 during which she was recognized for her founding work. Special thanks to Pat and all of the contributors to the School, both in the early years and recently.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

-Jeanne Williams

The biggest news coming from the nursery school is the 50th anniversary celebration to be held on Friday, March 4th! We are hoping to raise enough funds to revamp the front entrance of the nursery school. Projected projects include driveway paving and awnings for the exterior entrances.

Upcoming events for the children include a visit from the dentist, our annual "Dad's Day", when the Dads come to school for a Saturday morning, St. Patrick's Day parties, and a school bus trip to the Raritan Valley Planetarium!

We are all looking forward to warmer days and more time to play outside!

There is still a few spaces left in some of the classes for the 2011-2012 school year. Please call the nursery school director, Jeanne Williams, for further registration information at 908-766-0374.

Anyone interested in further nursery school information, please call the director, Jeanne Williams, at 908-766-0374. You can reach her via email, at jeannewilliams@sjns.org.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RITE 13 CELEBRITIES**

*Fletcher Ewing
Ian Feeley
Marshall Hespe
Holly Lippman
Natasha Lukacsko
Spencer Zanardi*



Pictured from left to right are Natasha Lukacsko, Holly Lippman Marshall Hespe, Fletcher Ewing, Ian Feeley, and Spencer Zanardi

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE KIDS WHO ARE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF MARCH:

Caroline Zanardi, Gracie Morais, Morgan Giordano, Fletcher Ewing,
Spencer Zanardi, Josephine Carifa, Natasha Lukacsko, Lucy Drinkwater,
Sydney Vollmar, Annabel Carifa, and Andrew Lippman

SUPER SUCCESS FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Kudos to the Rite 13 class who made four types of soups on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6th, that raised \$388.50. The money will be donated to Grace's Soup Kitchen. Thanks to Debbie Hennel for her leadership, along with Katie Porter, Constance Silverman, and Allison Lukacsko.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, on Tuesday, March 8th from 5:30pm-7:30pm, in Parish Hall. Please join the Youth Group as they raise money for Mission Outreach. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested for all of the pancakes and sausage that you can eat!

LENT AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Look for changing weekly displays, in the Children's Library. These *Take Home* Activities are a way to help your kids acknowledge Lent at home.

Ash Wednesday

Services will be held on March 9th at 12noon (chapel) and at 7pm (church) for Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

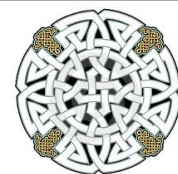


Upcoming Baptism Dates

We have three upcoming dates scheduled for Baptism: Saturday, April 23rd at 7:00pm (Easter Vigil), Sunday, May 8th at 10:00am, & Sunday, June 12 at 10:00am. If you're interested please contact the office at 908-766-2282.

LENTEN LINKS

Be sure to check out www.sjotm.org website for Lenten Devotional links. Go to "Worship" then "Lent" and click on the links.



Parish Records Updates

We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest

Catherine Havig Sutcliffe

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Feb 6	8:00 am	5	10am	99
Feb 13	8:00 am	8	10am	115
Feb 20	8:00 am	13	10am	67

WEBSITE ACTIVITY

Past 30 Days 469 hits

Power Outage Forces Worship to Parish Hall

On Sunday morning, February 20, after a fierce windstorm on Saturday, the morning worship for our 10:00a service was moved to the Parish Hall. A very large, fallen tree in the back of the Parish Hall, near the Memorial Garden, apparently took down electric service as well as the Nursery School playground fence. As a result, the 8:00a service in the Chapel was conducted in the cold without heat or lights. Similarly, the 10:00a Service was moved to the Parish Hall under the same conditions; it was the first such event that long-time members remember!

A hearty crew of Ushers, Altar Guild and Choir members and volunteers arranged an Altar, flowers, chairs, hymnals and Books of Common Prayer so that the service could proceed. We even enjoyed hot coffee from Dunkin Donuts and good snacks after the service! Thanks to these quick acting members as well as Mother Melissa, a very special and memorable service was held with nearly 60 members. Thanks also to members who braved the wind and cold to worship that morning.



Service in the Parish Hall



Peering out of the memorial window to peek at the fallen tree that caused the power outage.

ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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VIEWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

is published monthly. Articles for submission should be emailed to

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Prayer List

If you would like to have someone
added to the Prayer List,
please call or email the Parish Office.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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