



# VIEWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN

*The Reverend Susan R. Ironside*

## **A message from the Rector**

Attending to small detail is sometimes a struggle for me. I take no pleasure in admitting this, but it is true. My mind sometimes wanders to many places at once, and small, subtle things occasionally go unnoticed by me. To the amusement of my family, I sometimes don't notice changes in our household right away, walking right past something new for several days before noticing. Some of you are like me, you have told me, and some of you, I realize, are very gifted when it comes to attention to detail.

Epiphany, this season after Christmas and before Lent, is a feast of the manifestation of God in Flesh. God in Flesh was revealed to us in Jesus' birth, in the visit of the Magi, in his baptism in the Jordan River, and in the beginning of his earthly ministry. But that was hardly the last time God in Flesh was revealed. Week after week, God in Flesh is revealed to us when we gather as Christ's Body. From now until the beginning of Lent, we are invited to watch for God's manifestation here and now, in our very midst; to look for our own epiphany.

This is no small challenge for someone like me, who can be so easily distracted, because the signs of God in our midst are often easy to miss. But when we gather on Sunday, we don't have to watch alone.

Some of the more attentive watchers among us have noticed that the readings and many of the prayers are no longer printed in our bulletins. When we assemble in God's holy presence on the Lord's Day, we gather to watch together, and to listen together, and to pray together. When a lector reads the Word of the Lord to us, or when a Eucharistic Minister bids us to pray for the needs of the world, we are being invited not to read along, but to listen carefully, to be fully present with the Risen One in our midst, who is made manifest in our worship. When a priest presides at the altar, she is hardly the only one celebrating the Eucharist. We are all praying together. We are all celebrants. Our task as celebrants is to be attentive, to watch, to listen, and to notice God made manifest.

Week after week, God in Flesh is revealed to me in all of you. I notice God in the silences that we share, in the psalms we chant together, and, above all, when we gather together around the Lord's Table to pray together, and to watch again as God is made manifest to us in Bread and Wine.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

**Happy Birthday to those celebrating in January:**  
Owen Baird, Molly Lukacsko, Hannah Spaeth, Charlotte Mitchell,  
Charlotte Silverman, Bee Gibson, and Courtney Schum

### The Christmas Pageant 2011

Once again the children of St. John on the Mountain put on a wonderful performance of Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's *Good News of Great Joy*.



#### Thank You to the Cast:

Emmy Baird, Liam Baird, Owen Baird, Sophie Bosie, Camille Chatwin, Regan Chatwin, Sarah Gudgion, Sophia Gudgion, Meredith Hespe, Caroline Lewis, Jane Lewis, Sarah Lewis, Brynn McKeon, Devon McKeon, Meredith Mitchell, Brady Morais, Grace Morais, Jack Morais, Sophie Ray, Emerson Schroeder, Charlotte Silverman, Hannah Spaeth, Lily Spaeth, Matty Spaeth, Phoebe Spaeth, Caroline Sullivan, Grace Sullivan, Katie Vollmar, Sydney Vollmar, Abby Woodfield, and Caroline Zanardi.

#### Thank You to the Crew:

Patti Lippman, Michelle Ray, Trish Sullivan, Sally Hespe, Vicki Bosie, and Margot Lewis who helped with the casting, rehearsals, and "herding" the children for the performance. As well as Joe Ray, Adam Lippman, Paul Zanardi, Jeff Bosie, Merritt Lewis, and Michael Mitchell who put the set together. Thank you to Robin McKeon who distributed the costumes.



### Building of the Crèche

Thank you to all children who participated in the building of the Crèche during the Christmas Eve Family Service this year.



### ST. JOHN NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The children at St. John's Nursery School had an exciting and eventful December! We loved performing for our families at the annual Christmas Sing, and truly enjoyed our Christmas parties. Mother Susan attended our Christmas Sing. It was a pleasure to introduce her to our nursery school families.

January will be filled with learning about children from other countries for our four and five-year-olds. It's an enjoyable part of our curriculum; class parents volunteer to teach the children about another country.

January is "open registration" month for new and returning families of St. John's Nursery School. Returning families and active parish members hold priority registration. There will be a lottery held on January 31<sup>st</sup> to include new nursery school families.

For further information, please call the nursery school at (908) 766-0374.

**MISSION OUTREACH COMMISSION****Mission Outreach: Who do we Help?**

One of several programs that Mission Outreach Commission (MOC) of SJOTM helps is the ESL Program at the Bernardsville Library. Almost 13% of the population in Bernardsville is Hispanic, and many are non-English speakers. The Bernardsville Library offers one of the few places where people can learn English as a Second Language at no cost.

The Library's next session of classes will begin on Monday, January 16. Classes are offered twice a week in the afternoon and evening through the end of April. One day a week students practice conversation and role play daily tasks that have to be executed in English. On the other day, the format is based on lessons and practice. Trained community volunteers teach the classes.

Our recent grant to the Library's ESL program will be used to buy textbooks and electronic dictionaries to assist both teachers and students. While the majority of students speak Spanish, there are also Japanese, Chinese and Korean students. The Library program also helps students get ready for the U.S. citizenship test. Our donation will enable the library to purchase necessary citizenship preparation materials.

If you would like to learn more about this Outreach initiative please contact Sally Hespe at (908) 696-1213 or stop by the library on a Monday or Thursday evening around 7:15 to see how many individuals benefit from these free ESL classes. If you know someone interested in taking the class, registration is online at [www.bernardsvillelibrary.org](http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org) (follow the link under Adult Programs), or call the library at 908-766-0118 to sign up.

Volunteers are currently needed to teach in any of the four classes (Mondays and Thursdays, 3 pm and 7:15 pm). For those interested, there is an organizational meeting for volunteers at the library on Thursday, January 12 at 7 pm.

In addition to the library, we gave \$ 12,000 to the following organizations:

- ❖ Grace's Soup Kitchen
- ❖ Homesharing
- ❖ Mrs. Wilson's House
- ❖ Nothing-But-Nets
- ❖ Preschool Advantage
- ❖ Somerset County Food Bank
- ❖ Heartworks

We gave our first gift to *Heartworks*, a Bernardsville charity that gives small gifts to those with need in our community, such as assistance with rent money, to someone who has just lost their job. This well run organization makes a difference in our community.

MOC also gave a gift to our Companion Diocese of Ecuador and money to buy hand made items by the Indian natives to sell as gifts this spring to the people of our parish. We did this successfully in 2010 and made a small profit. Watch for the spring sale announcement.

The members of MOC and many parishioners also gave many hours to Habitat for Humanity, the Somerset County Food Bank, Grace's Soup Kitchen, and Adopt-a-Family. We thank you all. The MOC is looking for new members who are involved in local charity organizations who can use our time, talent and treasure. Please contact us and get involved. Again many THANKS for the wonderful support from the people of St John to fulfill the Church's tenant that we are here to help other people that are in need.



## Mission Outreach You Can Help!

### January Mission Outreach Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, January 8th immediately following the 10am service in the choir room. Please let us know of any organizations or local charities that are in need of money or volunteers, by contacting Sally Hespe, Fenn Putman or any other commission members.

### Grace Soup Kitchen

We will work at Grace's Soup Kitchen, at Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, on Friday, January 27th from 10am to 1pm. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board near Parish Hall. Please sign-up so that we know how many will be there.

## FELLOWSHIP

### Ladies' Luncheon January 19th

Please join us on Thursday, January 19th at noon for the *Ladies Luncheon* at the home of Mary Courtemanche, 6 Deer Ridge Drive, Morristown. Please bring your sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. Please RSVP to Mary at 973-267-0166. We hope to see you there.

### Two Special Coffee Hours in January

Please join us on Sunday, January 8th to honor and thank our Interim Organist, James McGregor, who is leaving us to serve his next parish.



*and again on ...*

Sunday, January 15th as we welcome our new Organist & Choir Director, Richard Morgan.



### January Birthday Wishes to the Following Parishioners:

For those who celebrate their birthday in January, here is a verse from the *Gregorian Birthstone Poem*.

*By her who in this month is born  
No gem save garnets should be worn;  
They will ensure her constancy,  
True friendship, and fidelity.*

*Graham Argent-Belcher, Joy Baird, Helen Brunet,  
Sandy Freas, Michael Giordano, Bill Hespe, Heather Leef,  
Jon Leef, Jeff McKeon, Katya McCoy, Tom Murphy,  
Blake Putnam, Summy Putnam, Marilyn Rogers,  
Hilary Thomas-Dorer, Claire Virtue, Pete Vollmar,  
Harry Wilmerding, & Marissa Young*

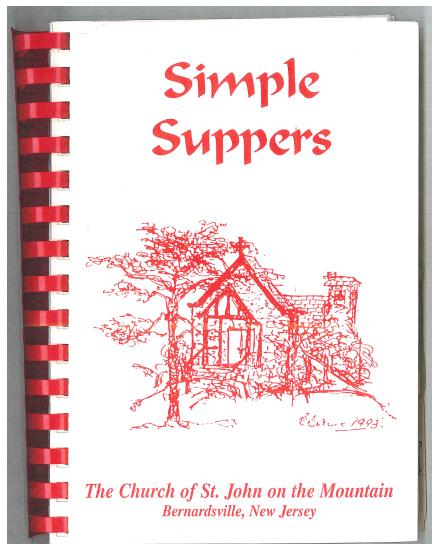
*Happy Birthday to all!*

### ***Greening of the Church for Christmas***

Thank you to the Altar Guild who prepared the church for Christmas.



### ***Simple Suppers Kick-Off Brunch on Sunday, February 12th***

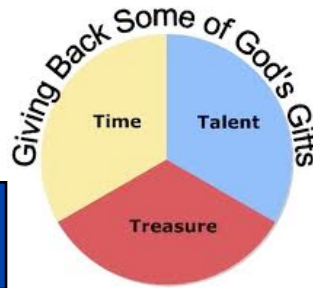


It's that time of year again for Simple Suppers fun! For those new to the parish, Simple Suppers is a long standing tradition here at SJOTM. All you need to do to participate is to fill out a sign-up slip and drop it into the box located near the restrooms. The week prior to February 12th, groups of 10 - 12 will be formed and team leaders chosen. On February 12th, at the Simple Suppers Kick-Off Brunch, groups will be revealed and will have the opportunity to meet and find a date for their first gathering.

These Simple Suppers need not be only dinner, but can also be brunch, lunch, or cocktails. Choose whichever format fits your group. Generally, each group meets about twice. Simple Suppers is a great way to meet new people, reconnect with old friends and enjoy great food during the bleak months of January, February, and March. Consider participating in a Simple Suppers group and sharing in some wonderful SJOTM fellowship.

The *Simple Suppers* Cookbook (circa 1996).





## 2012 EMC Campaign ~ Almost There...

This year's EMC campaign has made significant progress towards the goal of at least \$350,000 in pledges. As of January 3, we have received 103 pledges for a total of \$327,422. We are encouraged to see 29 families increasing their pledge, 49 families maintaining their 2011 levels, and 10 pledges from new or returning members.

The Vestry will meet in the next few weeks to finalize the 2012 budget for presentation at the annual meeting at the end of January, so we have an urgent goal to wrap up the 2012 campaign in the next two weeks. To those who have already pledged, we graciously thank you for your support. For those who have not yet pledged, please let us know your intentions as soon as possible.

### ~ MATCHING PLEDGE ANNOUNCEMENT ~

As an added incentive to achieve our goal, we have a member of the parish who will match pledges made as of January 1st. The match is also valid for those who would like to increase their pledge. If you need a pledge card or wish to increase your pledge, please contact the Parish Office.

## Many, Many Thanks

*Thank you* goes out to  
the following for their time & talent:

- ❖ Louise Vivona-Miller for organizing all of the Lectors.
- ❖ Fenn Putman for organizing all of the Ushers.
- ❖ Katie Porter for organizing all of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)
- ❖ The Altar Guild for the Greening of the Church.
- ❖ Mary Courtemanche for the Special Coffee Hours in January.
- ❖ The Mission Outreach Commission would like to thank all the members of the parish for giving their TIME, Talent and Treasure. Many, many in the Parish have given these three gifts to many wonderful charities that help people in need. In these difficult times this is more important than ever.

### Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!

If you still have your metal wreath form and any of the decorations from Advent Wreath making, please consider bringing it back to church so that we may use it again next year.

**ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN**

379 MOUNT HARMONY RD  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

909-766-2282

Office Hours Monday-Thursday  
8am-3pm

**PARISH STAFF**

The Reverend Susan Ironside  
Rector

[rector@sjotm.org](mailto:rector@sjotm.org) x11

Organist & Choirmaster  
Richard Morgan

[richardmorgan@sjotm.org](mailto:richardmorgan@sjotm.org) x14

Lynn Mitchell

Director of Children's Ministries

[lynnmitchell@sjotm.org](mailto:lynnmitchell@sjotm.org)

Patti Lippman

Parish Administrator

[office@sjotm.org](mailto:office@sjotm.org) x10

Lisa Keenan

Bookkeeper

[L.Keenan@sjotm.org](mailto:L.Keenan@sjotm.org) x13

To see more photos of  
❖ *The Greening of the Church*  
❖ *The Christmas Pageant*  
❖ *The Building of the Crèche*  
please visit our website [www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org)



Welcome  
»» St. John on the Mountain  
clergy & staff  
the wardens & vestry  
photo gallery  
directions  
contact us

the institution  
News & Info  
Worship  
Stewardship  
serving & giving  
Parish Life  
Children & Youth

**St. John on the Mountain**

Come and worship with us

8 am with Holy Eucharist, Rite I in the chapel  
10 am with Holy Eucharist Rite II, with music and babysitting

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN  
379 Mt. Harmony Road  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1414