



# Views from the Mountain

## From the Rector

*The Reverend Susan R. Ironside*

I have a friend who calls me every year around this time and asks, "What are you giving up for Lent?" I have no idea why he wants to know. He is a devout atheist, and finds much of my life as a priest confusing, archaic, or silly. But still, every year he asks.

Because of the timing of my Medical Leave last year, my Lenten observance was mainly long stretches of sleeping, and I gave up nothing. (Unless you count the kidney.) I did, however, play Lent Madness everyday, even in the hospital. Lent Madness is a project that was conceived a few years ago by an Episcopal Priest who describes it on the website ([www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org))

*"The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch."*

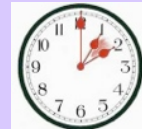
As silly as it sounds, it was actually fun, and, believe it or not, was a helpful prayer discipline for me, spending time each day contemplating the witness of saints whose lives were a continuation of Jesus' ministry in the world. I will play again this year, and invite you to join me. I will even let you see my bracket, which will hang somewhere near my office. (Although last year, my favorites were knocked out in early rounds, so my bracket was a bit of a mess by mid-Lent.)

My atheist friend has already called me this year, and has already asked what I am giving up. I will dodge his question for a few more days. I suspect that part of the reason for his curiosity is that he, like so many people, imagines Lent as a dreary season of misery, when Christians become dour and cheerless, trying to persuade God to ignore our sinfulness, attempting to fool the Almighty into forgetting about all the times we have turned away from God. That is foolish view of repentance, and misses the point.

Every Lent we are invited to return to the God who loves us, not because we can fool God, but because we know we can't. Lent is not about changing God's mind about us, but about changing our minds about God. There are many ways to do that, some silly, some serious. Give something up. Take something on. The goal is the same: Return to the One who has never stopped longing for you, and could never bear to give you up.

*Susan +*

Don't forget to *spring ahead* on  
Sunday, March 9th!  
Be sure to set those clocks  
one hour ahead!



## WORSHIP NEWS

### ASH WEDNESDAY March 5th

- ❖ 12 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II with imposition of Ashes, Chapel
- ❖ 7 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II with Imposition of Ashes, in the Church, with the Parish Choir



#### **Ashes to Go**

Mother Susan and Father Malloy will be offering ashes and prayers at the Bernardsville Train Station on Ash Wednesday from 6 am to 8 am

### HEALING SERVICE Thursday, March 27th

The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing will take place on Thursday, March 27th at noon in the chapel. This simple service of prayer, Holy Communion, and the laying on of hands for those who desire it, is an extension of the ministry of the Pastoral Care Committee. All are welcome.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Three-part Series on Initiation into the Body of Christ Through Baptism

March 23, March 30, and April 6,  
immediately following the 10:00 service

The season of Lent was thought of for centuries as primarily a time of self-denial. In the ancient Church, however, and now again, Lent is a season to prepare candidates for Easter baptism and a time for the Church to remember the grace God gave each of us in baptism. Acts of penance and self-denial are meant to make us aware of how we do not fully embrace and even reject God's grace. We do this, not to punish ourselves, but to learn how to "turn around," to "turn back" to God, the meaning of the word, "repent," and start afresh at Easter.

In Lectionary Year A -- the year that began on the First Sunday of Advent, 2013 -- the Lenten Gospels make the baptismal nature of Lent crystal clear. They are ancient Lenten Gospel readings, from the time when Lent still was seen as a baptismal season. They all have to do with water and healing (the Samaritan woman at the well, the healing

### EVENING PRAYER on TUESDAYS: Praying in Lent

March 11th, March 18th, March 25th,  
April 1, April 8

On Tuesdays evenings at 6 pm, the community will gather for Evening Prayer in the Chapel, followed by a simple pot-luck supper. Members of our community will preside at this simple service of prayer. Bring a dish to share for supper, and come and allow the word of God to wash over you, and pray with the assembled community, as our ancestors did before us.

### 2014 BAPTISM

We baptize primarily on those dates set aside for baptism, as listed in the Book of Common Prayer. Since the presence of the community of faith is essential for welcoming the newly baptized into the church, baptisms take place in the principal service on the appointed Sunday. Questions about baptism? Please contact the office 908-766-2282 or [office@sjotm.org](mailto:office@sjotm.org).

#### The 2014 dates for Holy Baptism

- ❖ Saturday, April 19th - The Great Vigil of Easter
- ❖ Sunday, June 8th - The Day of Pentecost
- ❖ Sunday, November 2nd - All Saints' Sunday

of the man-born-blind with Jesus' spittle), rebirth (Nicodemus, whom Jesus told that he must be born again), and the conquest of death by Jesus' power (the raising of Lazarus). On the First Sunday of Lent, we hear of Jesus' own baptism and the temptations that followed. All of these, of course, allude to our own baptism and the baptism of those who will be presented at the Great Vigil of Easter.

This year at St. John's we will have a three-part adult formation series on initiation into the Body of Christ through Baptism. We will also talk about the Eucharist as the ongoing way God strengthens the once-and-for-all bonds established in baptism. We will also spend one Sunday exploring Confirmation: a rite that was originally part of baptism but for many cultural reasons was split off into a separate thing. The Church is still trying to figure out what it is and what to do with it!

## MISSION OUTREACH

**SOUPER BOWL**

Sunday, February 2nd

The church kitchen was abuzz with energy and mouth-watering smells on February 2nd as the Confirmation Class chopped and sliced and poured and stirred and boiled and blended all the delicious soups for *Souper Bowl* Sunday. Coffee hour guests were treated to five varieties of soup including Potato Leek, Mexican Chicken, Lemon Chicken Orzo, and two types of Butternut Squash. Some guests ate their soup during Coffee Hour while others purchased *to go* containers to take home. The group collected \$410 for the Somerset Food Bank. Canned goods were also collected by the Sunday School children. Many thanks to Jeff and Brynn McKeon, Sally and Meredith Hespe, Julian and Louise Asper, Trish Sullivan, Grace Sullivan, Gabby Sullivan, Caroline Sullivan, Clyde Leef, Patti Lippman, and the 5th and 6th grade class who helped serve.



For more photos of the *Souper Bowl* visit

[www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org)

go to *Welcome* tab and then to *Photo Gallery* tab

**GRACE SOUP KITCHEN**

Friday, March 28th

10 am – 1 pm

600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

Grace Soup Kitchen serves 1,000 hot nutritious meals the last five days of each month to the hungry of Plainfield. St. John on the Mountain parishioners help on the last Friday of each month. Join us one Friday as we prepare and serve lunch. The next day scheduled for St. John on the Mountain to serve is on Friday, March 28th from 10 am – 1 pm.

Sign-up sheets are on bulletin board outside kitchen or contact Fenn Putnam at [fennironia@earthlink.net](mailto:fennironia@earthlink.net) or Sally Hespe at [sallyhespe@aol.com](mailto:sallyhespe@aol.com).

**Easter  
ADOPT-a-FAMILY**

Help a struggling family this Easter, by providing an uncooked meal. It's easy! Just buy the makings for a meal, and deliver to your *Adopt-a-Family*. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. For more information, please call Sue Kennedy at 908-234-0267 with any questions. If there is a particular family that you have been supporting, please let Sue know so that she can inform the Food Bank.

**FOOD SHORTAGE  
at the Food Bank**

The number of people needing food assistance in our area is way up. The long lines of needy people at the Bank is very noticeable and the supply of food is low. The combination of high unemployment, termination of federal benefits for the long term unemployed, and the frigid weather has made recent times very difficult for many neighbors in our community. Here's how you can help. Bring a few food items to church. There is a special need for canned meats, stews, soups, tuna, and Spam. Donations are delivered weekly to the Food Bank warehouse.





## CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS



### VBS SUMMER CAMP RETURNS TO SJOTM

#### SAVE THE DATE FOR

**JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Children ages 3 through rising 4th graders are welcome to join us from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon. Kids will learn, create, and have fun. Join us for sports, games, music, snacks, Bible stories, and cool crafts! The cost is \$60 per child (with a \$150 cap per family). Registration forms will soon be available on the church website and in the Children's Library. Space is limited.

## ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The color red filled the classrooms and halls at St. John's Nursery School during the month of February. Celebrations included Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. March brings the color green and silly shenanigans by "Larry the Leprechaun."

Many thanks to our social chairs Megan Schroeder and Annie Ferrante for hosting a fun-filled Family Pizza Night! School of Rock entertained the children, and a good time was had by all!

Mr. Dom, Rizzo's Reptiles, trekked up the mountain with his exotic animals, captivating every student, ages 2-5 years.

In March our pre-K children will take their first school bus ride to the RVCC Planetarium for a "Rockin' Rocket Ride."

We will welcome the beginning of Spring with our chick-hatching project. The 4+ class will keep the baby chicks for a week. This is such an exciting experience for our preschoolers!

Nursery School Dads are invited to spend the morning in nursery school later this month. This is one of our favorite events; the children love bringing Dad to school!

Enrollment continues to grow for the upcoming school year. We have a few spaces remaining in some classes. If interested in further information, or to request a nursery school tour, please contact the nursery school director, Jeanne Williams at (908)766-0374 or [jwilliams@sjotm.org](mailto:jwilliams@sjotm.org).

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On "Souper" Bowl Sunday, Sunday School children donated 20 cans of soup to the Food Bank of Somerset County.

### ALLELUIA BANNER

Children are invited to decorate the Alleluia Banner during the pancake supper on March 4<sup>th</sup>. This banner will be "buried" in the church on the First Sunday in Lent, and it will be hung on Easter Sunday.

### COLLECTING COINS DURING LENT

Sunday School students will be given canisters in which to collect coins during Lent. The proceeds will benefit the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The Food Bank Network distributes as much as 25,000 pounds of food each month to hundreds of local families. The cans should be returned anytime after April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### YOUTH AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR CAMP

Rising 5th grade (and up) volunteers are needed to make camp a success! Credit for community service hours for school, scouts, and/or honor societies is available. Email Lynn Mitchell at [lynnmitchell@sjotm.org](mailto:lynnmitchell@sjotm.org) if you are interested.



*Fun at Family Pizza Night with  
School of Rock*





**COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS****LADIES' LUNCHEON**  
**Thursday, March 20th**

All are welcome to join the Ladies' Luncheon on Thursday, March 20th at noon at the home of Sue Catlett located at 20 Tanners Brook Road, Chester. Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. We hope to see you there. RSVP to Sue at 908-955-7109.

**MEN'S LUNCHEON**  
**Thursday, March 6th**

Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 12:15 pm at the Morristown Club at 27 Elm Street in Morristown. The luncheons are open to members of the parish and their guests. For more information please contact Alan Enos at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

**March Birthday Wishes**  
**to**

*Juliana DeMarco, Oyinda Emuleomo,  
Fletcher Ewing, Riordan Farley,  
Susan Ironside, Bob Kielley,  
Andrew Lippman, Natasha Lukacsko,  
Mary Mason, Trevor McKeon,  
Gracie Morais, Diane Morash,  
Thomas Paluck, Dottie Vernimb,  
Sydney Vollmar, Caroline Zanardi, &  
Spencer Zanardi*

**SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**

Tuesday, March 4th



Please join us on Tuesday, March 4th 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.

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

If you would like a Parish Directory, please stop by the Parish House. Directories can be found on a clipboard posted on the bulletin board. To have a digital copy sent to you call the office 908-766-2282 or email office@sjotm.org



Youth Group members Mattie Sbaraglio, Mia Sbaraglio, and Sophie Ray visit the Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge to learn how to make maple syrup on Sunday, March 2nd

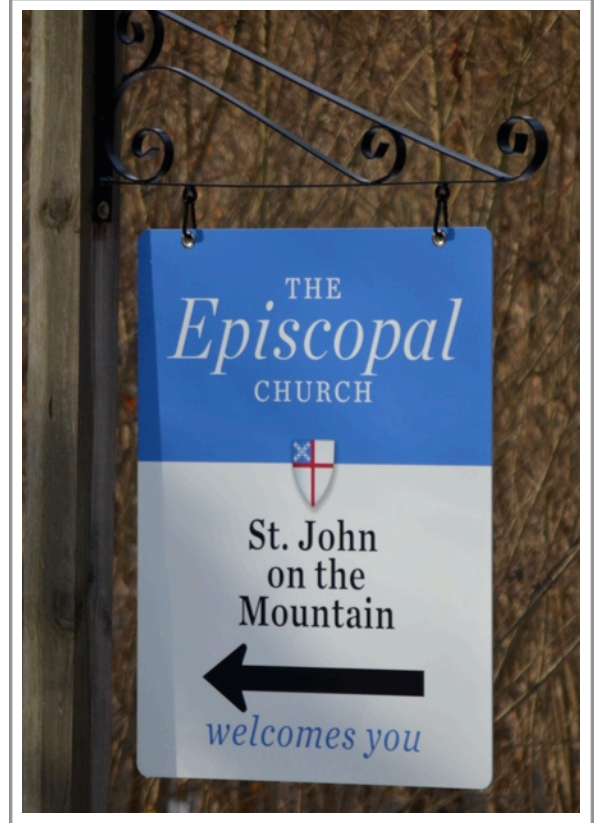
**FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN***Heather Leef***Welcome!**

It seems like it has been a very long, hard winter and I can't wait to welcome SPRING! I imagine that many of you who have also been in NJ all winter may feel the same way. I can't wait to be able to walk out of the door without worrying about hats, scarves, and mittens. The warmth of the sun and seeing the daffodils will make me smile.

So while we wait for the weather to change, let's be sure to help each other feel sunny and warm in our community. Please welcome our visitors and maybe make a new friend or two during coffee hour. The Vestry members have been asked to wear name tags and I would encourage all of you to wear name tags during coffee hour, too. Let's be sure that everyone knows your name.

Also, get involved. It will make you smile. Participate in the Lenten activities, join a committee, or volunteer. There is a wide range of ways to embrace our community. Some are large and some are small, but all will be rewarding. If you're looking for ideas as to how to get involved, please speak with one of the Vestry members about your interests.

Wonderful things are happening on the mountain and soon it will be Spring!

*Heather***PARISH REGISTRY & UPDATES****We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest**✠ *Patricia Gilpin***BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Thank you to Stuart and Sheila Christie for the three new street signs (on the top and bottom of Mt. Harmony Road and on Mountain Top Road)

**PRAYER LIST**

If you would like to have someone added to the Prayer List, please call 9098-766-2282 or email the Parish Office [office@sjotm.org](mailto:office@sjotm.org).



The 230th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey was held in Cherry Hill, NJ February 28 - March 1, and our 12th Bishop, the Rt. Rev. William Stokes, presided at his first convention. He challenged and inspired us, and our delegates were able to spend time with his wife, Susan Martin Stokes, who is a gifted Christian Educator in her own right, passionate about the Christian Formation of children.

The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile was the keynote speaker, and delivered a brilliant address about the possibilities that await us in God's future, which is already unfolding. We are grateful for the service of our delegates Sue Catlett, Bob Courtemanche, and Alessandro DeGregori, and the willingness of our alternate, Alan Enos.



*The floor of the convention*

## MUSIC NEWS



*Sue Catlett, reviewing materials between business sessions of the convention*

## The Chorus of Communities

Presents its  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert

Requiem by Gabriel Fauré  
and  
Music of César Franck



Sunday, March 30, 2014  
4:00 PM

St. James' Episcopal Church  
Upper Montclair, NJ

Richard Morgan, Director  
Brian Harlow, Organist



*The Rev. Susan R. Ironside and The Rev. Dr. Dwight J. Zscheile, author of People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity and Keynote Speaker of the 2014 Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey*



**ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN**

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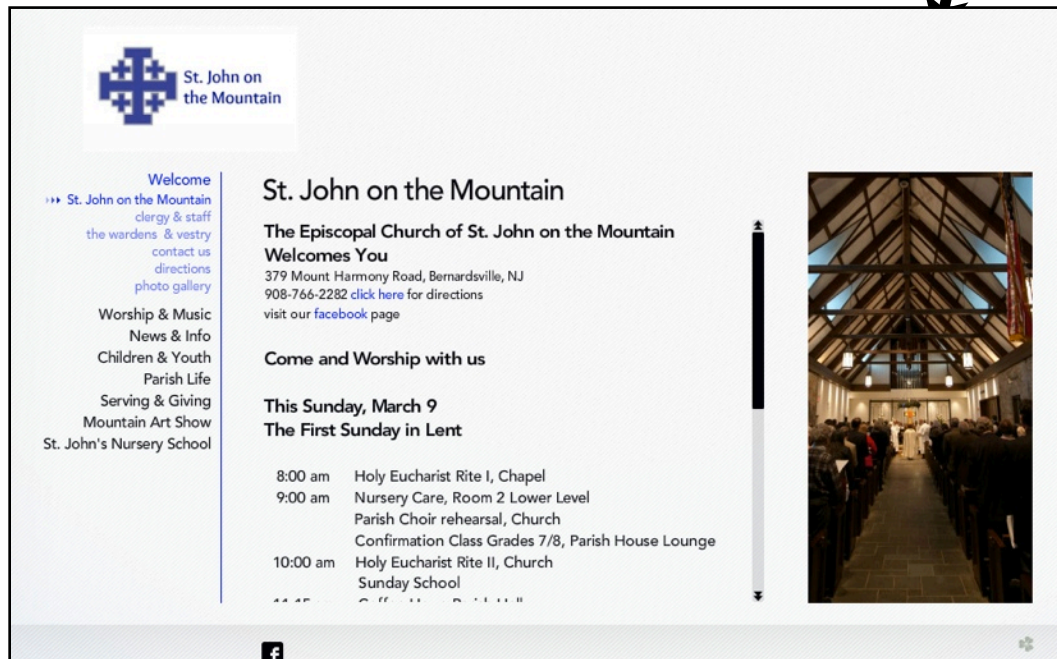
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**FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION,  
DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org)

and be sure to *like us* on facebook



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