



Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

It's good to be outside again, and to leave my house without a jacket. The winter was long and hard and there were days when I thought that I would be wearing fleece for the rest of my natural born life. It is good to wear flip-flops again, and let my toes see the light of day, and let my boots collect a layer of dust in the back of the closet. It is good to sleep with the windows open, and hear the birds when they wake me up too early in the morning. It is even good to hear my beloved spouse complain about allergy season in the middle of the night before slamming down our open window when he can't take it anymore. There were many nights over the winter when I slept in multiple layers and was buried under a heavy weight of blankets, shivering in the cold, listening to wind and ice batter my window, wondering if the earth would ever thaw.

The Great 50 Days of Easter return to us every year, just when we fear we might be stuck forever in a frigid world of purple. Just when we don't know if we can cope with one more penitential psalm, Mr. Morgan and the choir lead us in Alleluias. The moment when it seems entirely possible that sin and death really are all that is left for us, we hear the splash of the waters of baptism, and the impossibly true promise that the God who raised Jesus is still bringing forth new life, even in people like us who have been shivering and hiding inside for so very long.

Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, too, in my life and in yours, and in the life that we share together, we who have put away our coats for another year, we who gather on the top of the mountain surrounded by thousands of leaves bursting forth from hundreds of trees, each declaring what we say and sing: *Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

Susan +



MISSION OUTREACH

DUFFLE BAG DRIVE

The Morris County Youth Shelter has requested duffle bags for their residents. Most children arrive with their possessions in garbage bags which gives them a sense of homelessness. In an effort to boost their self-esteem and worth, they would like for each child to be able to place their belongings in a duffle bag. Any duffle bag will do. New or gently used. Corporate give-aways are welcome. Please consider going through your closets and attics. Drop your donations off in the entry way or at the Parish Office.

GRACE SOUP KITCHEN

Friday, May 29th
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, May 29th from 10 am – 1 pm. Sign-up sheets are on bulletin board outside kitchen or email Graham Argent-Belcher at gabelcher@msn.com.

GARDEN PROJECT

The four Conover churches - St. John's, St. Mark's, St. Bernards and St. Luke's - are joining forces this Spring at the Bernardsville Community Garden. We have leased two plots at the garden, which is located at the Dunster property on Spring House Rd. off 202 in Bernardsville (across from Old Quarry Road). The group will grow fresh organic produce to distribute to area families in need. Want to check out the garden or volunteer to help? Volunteers will be needed May through September, but must sign-up in advance. Volunteers must call Sally Hespe to sign-up (908) 875-1518. This is an excellent community service opportunity for older youth. For more information contact Sally Hespe at sallyhespe@aol.com.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP

July 19-21

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Join us at the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA Sunday, July 19 - Tuesday, July 21. Participants will work on the farm and stay in a global village, where they will assume the role of an impoverished family. Grades 6 and up are eligible to attend. Approximate cost will be \$100 per person. Additional program information can be found at Heifer.org. Please contact Sally Hespe at sallyhespe@aol.com or (908) 875-1518 for more information and registration materials.



FOOD BANK

*SJOTM volunteers
giving out turkeys,
hams, and groceries the
Saturday before Easter*



*Volunteers at the Community Garden,
from St. Luke's, St. Mark's,
and St. Bernards*



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**VBS SUMMER CAMP****SAVE THE DATE****June 22nd – 26th**

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 at G-Force. Join us for sports, games, music, snacks, Bible stories, and cool crafts! The cost is \$60 per child (with a \$150 cap per family). [Click Here to Register](#)

BAKE SALE

on
Sunday, May 31st

Join us for a bake sale on May 31st during coffee hour to help offset the cost of the youth trip to Heifer International camp.

**Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in May**

Tunji Emuleomo, Michael Sullivan, Jack Eckert, Charlie Lichtenfeld, Meredith Mitchell, Abigail Woodfield, Devon Hermes, Grace Sullivan, Kaili Lukacsko, and Sarah Iossa

**ST. JOHN'S
NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

Our preschoolers are busy this month with springtime activities. The children celebrated Earth Day by planting their flowering plant contributions outside of their classrooms. Chick eggs were recently delivered from Quiver Farms. The 4+ children are tending to the eggs and soon will be hatching! Our three year-old children walked a guided tour around the Environmental Education Center for a morning of nature discovery. Each class has caterpillars, and we will watch and wait patiently for painted lady butterflies to emerge!

Special events for May include honoring our nursery school Moms with a morning of special surprises. Also slated for

**VBS SUMMER CAMP
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****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 if you are interested.

**COINS FOR
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

Thank you to all who so generously donated and supported our Lenten campaign for Heifer International. Our grand total was \$210.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
We are heading into a busy time of year!

- May 22nd** Deadline to register for "G-Force" VBS
- May 24th** No Sunday School – Memorial Day Weekend
- June 14th** Last day of Sunday School
- June 22nd – 26th** All children ages 3 through rising 4th graders are invited to join us from 9:30am - 12:00noon at the "G-Force" VBS. [Click here to register.](#)

May is our annual Art Show and Circus, and "Fun Day" at Pleasant Valley Park.

Our second annual SJNS-SJOTM spring fundraiser was quite successful. We are so grateful for the support of some very special, dedicated volunteers!

Looking ahead to next year, our classes are filling up. There is still limited space available. If interested in enrollment information, please contact the director, Jeanne Williams at jwilliams@sjotm.org or 908-766-0374.

WORSHIP NEWS

2015 BAPTISM at St. John on the Mountain

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.

2015 Dates for Holy Baptism

Sunday, May 24	10 am	The Day of Pentecost
Sunday, Nov 1	10 am	All Saints' Sunday

NEW DAY/ TIME

HEALING SERVICE Sunday, May 17th

The Healing Service will take place on Sunday, May 17th just following the 10 am service in the chapel. This simple service of prayer 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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 8:15 am

Please join us every Wednesday in the Parish House Meeting Room from 8:15 am - 9:15 am.

A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER!



Many thanks to the Event Committee and all of our amazing volunteers for their time, energy, and effort on the Spring Fundraiser held on Saturday, April 18th:

- **Co-Chairs:**
Kim McLean and Aimee Stull
- **Silent auction and Raffle:**
Heather Gallagher and Vanessa Larsen
- **Wine Pull:**
Blake Putnam
- **Food and beverage:**
Jamie Daggett, Shelly Iossa, and Christina Rutz

The beautiful evening was fantastic and well-attended, as our community gathered to celebrate the coming of warmer weather and to support the important work and mission of our community. The hard work and diligence of the planning team paid off as approximately \$18,005 was raised, to be divided evenly between the Nursery School, the Scholarship Fund, and St. John on the Mountain. Plus, everyone had a blast! We are proud of and grateful for the many people who helped make this such a wonderful night.



A big thank you to all of you for making the Spring Fundraiser a huge success! Whether you donated money, wine, or silent auction items; whether you bid or bought; or came to the event to support 3 great causes- We could not have done it without you!

COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18th



May Birthday Wishes to

*Jim Christie, Alan Enos,
Craig Johnston & Jim Porter*



LADIES' LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 21st

All are invited to the *Ladies' Luncheon* on Thursday, May 21st at noon at the home of Kathy Christie 803 Farley Road, White House Station. Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. We hope to see you there. RSVP to Kathy at 908-572-7048.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 7th

Please join us on Thursday, May 7th 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. The favor of a reply is requested in order that a place may be reserved for you at the table, but last minute drop-ins are always welcome. Hope to see you there. For more information please contact Alan Enos at 908-234-1321 or aenos4@verizon.net.

MUSIC NEWS

**THE CHOIR OF
ST. PHILIP'S ACADEMY**
Sunday, May 31st

On Sunday, May 31st at the 10 am worship service we are delighted to welcome The Choir and members of the faculty of St. Philip's Academy, Newark. We look forward to hearing from Miguel J. Brito, Executive Director, Philip's Education Partners CEO & Lead Founder; Charity Ferreira, Director of Development; and Eileen Jahn, Music Director. The Choir will sing during worship and following the service, Miguel will be host a forum; including a question and answer segment regarding this wonderful school and its work in Newark.

**THE COMMUNITY OF
ST. JOHN BAPTIST
CONCERT**
Sunday, May 3rd

On Sunday, May 3rd at 4 pm, at the Convent St. John Baptist in Mendham, will have a concert featuring Thomas Robertello on the flute and Janet Palumbo on the Harpsichord. This concert, with a suggested donation of \$25, is a fundraiser for the Community of St. John Baptist.

ST. LUKE'S SPRING CONCERT
Saturday, May 9th

St. Luke's Episcopal Church presents masterworks of Mozart and Vivaldi in a Spring Choral Concert. On Saturday May 9th at 8:00 pm. The semi-professional choir of St. Luke's will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Sparrow Mass" and Laudate Dominum and Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria, accompanied by members of the New Jersey Festival Orchestra conducted by Dr. Brian Harlow. A free-will offering will be taken. St Luke's is located at 182 Main Street in Gladstone and is handicapped accessible. For information call the church at 908-234-0002.

A VIRTUOUS CYCLE
Joe Ray Bikes for St. John's

A Virtuous Cycle to Benefit St. John on the Mountain

Parishioner, Joe Ray, will ride 1500 kilometers in four rides (April 18, 25, May 16 and June 6) in order to qualify to ride in the Paris-Brest-Paris Randonneur ("PBP") which will be held this August in France. Each ride must be completed within a set time limit. The time limit includes stops for rest, flat tires, food and drink, etc. Rides are unsupported, so whatever you need you bring with you on the ride or you find it along the route. There is no "team car" handing out food and performance drinks. So, what makes this *Virtuous*? You!! Joe is inviting fellow parishioners to pledge \$x.xx per kilometer to sponsor him. All money raised at the end of the journey will be paid to St. John on the Mountain to support the church's operations for 2015. The total amount of money will be based on the total kilometers completed. Assuming Joe successfully completes all four rides, here are some examples of pledges:

\$/km	Total	\$/km	Total	\$/km	Total
\$1.00	\$1,500	\$0.50	\$750	\$0.20	\$300
\$0.75	\$1,125	\$0.33	\$500	\$0.10	\$150
\$0.67	\$1,000	\$0.25	\$375	\$0.05	\$75

Joe Ray on one of
his training rides



If you would like to pledge your support for Joe there are several ways to do so. Call in your pledge to the office 908-766-2282, email office@sjotm.org or cut and return this portion of the newsletter. Please indicate your name _____ and the amount \$_____/km. Place your pledge in the offering plate on Sundays or mail to the office 379 Mount Harmony Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924. Thank you in advance!

DIOCESAN NEWS

On April 18th, our Diocesan community gathered in Trenton for the Bishop's Spring Conference, which focused on Christian Formation. Our Rector was in attendance, and it was an inspiring day of meeting with neighbors throughout the Diocese and learning from people from other parts of the country whose work and passion is Christian formation and discipleship in an ever-changing word. In the coming months, we will be learning more from our new Canon for Congregational Development, the Rev. Canon Rob Droste, whose work in our Diocese will focus on congregational vitality and growth. Canon Droste worshipped with us on Easter morning, which was a high honor for us! What a gift it is to be in community with our Bishop and his staff!

AN EXCERPT FROM A LETTER FROM BISHOP STOKES

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey,

Wow! The first Bishop's Spring Conference was really a wow! Nearly 400 people gathered last Saturday to hear three outstanding speakers raise the roof.

The Rev. Canon Angela Ifill, Canon Missioner for Black Ministries for The Episcopal Church, talked about moving the people in our churches from "membership" to "discipleship."

Dr. David Anderson presented a high energy and compelling case for re-establishing the home as the primary locus for faith formation. Reminding us of the Benedictine foundations of our Anglican/Episcopal way, he offered concrete ways to strengthen the partnership between the home and the congregation. David introduced "Taking Faith Home" leaflet inserts that encourage families to engage in the "four keys" of "caring conversation," "rituals and traditions," "devotions" and "service." David also emphasized blessing the milestones of life in the home and in the congregation with intentional "milestone ministries" that capture the sanctity of these turning point moments.

John Roberto reminded us that in our world with a population of 7.21 billion people, more than 3 billion are active users of the internet. He stated: "Our world is personal, portable and participatory, our faith formation needs to be personal, portable and participatory as well." He urged us to recognize that "God is blessing us with an abundance of new resources and tools for faith formation and that it is incumbent upon us to use these tools." John offered practical ways every parish can

communicate the Christian story and faith more effectively using technology resulting in vibrant congregations living vibrant faith.

Those who attended the Bishop's Spring Conference last Saturday were energized and received practical suggestions for addressing the very real challenges facing all congregations today. If you weren't at Trinity Cathedral last Saturday, you really missed an important event.



Fortunately, we can put into practice what we learned last week. Those who missed the Conference can connect with it by watching John Roberto's talk online and listening to Angela Ifill and David Anderson's talks [which are now available on our website](#). I urge you to do this. It's really about a cultural change going on in our diocese and our church that will help us deepen faith in our congregations and beyond.

I hope that vestries and Christian formation committees will watch or listen to the talks and then engage in conversations about them. I hope you will find ways to implement what you learn from them into your congregation's practices. It's an exciting time to be the church.

I pray that your Eastertide continues to be joyful.

Blessings and peace,

The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes, D.D.
Bishop of New Jersey

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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