



Views from the Mountain

From the Rector

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

Christmas Eve felt very much like a family dinner. It was packed and noisy and wonderfully boisterous. College students were welcomed home, and teenagers towered over their parents, and little children squirmed on the laps of grandparents. We made new friends and embraced our kin whose travels have taken them to exotic places, only to return home to Mount Harmony Road on Christmas Eve to hear again the story of our ancestors and to sing the songs our people have sung for generations.

It was a magical night. For me, it is always a gift when our parish family gathers together and we can again be reminded that we are bound to one another in a common life. We are very different, of course, and we don't always agree, but that can be said of every family I know!

On January 25 we will have another opportunity to gather as a united parish community for our Annual Meeting that will be held after worship. We will have one service on that day so that the whole community can worship together and then do the important work of discussing our ministry and mission here at St. John's.

God has called us into community, and God continues to send us out into the world. Ministry can be a daunting task, but have the Lord Jesus, and we have one another, our big, boisterous, imperfect, holy, beautiful family of God!

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting January 25th

Please join us for our Annual Meeting, on Sunday, January 25th, when we will have one worship service at 10 am with a meeting to immediately follow in the sanctuary.

- Coffee and light refreshments will be served.
- Nursery care will be extended until 12:30 pm.
- Children's Entertainment will be provided during the Annual Meeting. All children ages Pre-K and up are invited to Parish Hall to do crafts, while their parents attend the meeting.

STEWARDSHIP 2015

As of December 29th, we have 90 pledges \$278,131. If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact Jeff McKeon jeff@mckeon6.com or Bob Courtemanche bob.courtemanche@gmail.com. If you haven't already done so, please return your 2015 Pledge Card ASAP, as the Vestry needs them to make their budget decisions for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found on the web at www.sjotm.org, in the narthex or call the office 908-766-2282 to have one sent to you.

Don't Forget that You Can Donate Your Stocks to SJOTM

Take advantage of the tax benefits! To learn more, please contact Lisa Keenan in the office at 908-766-2282 ext 13 or by email at L.Keenan@SJOTM.org. We would be happy to accept stock donations for 2015 as form of pledge payment.

WORSHIP NEWS**FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

St. John on the Mountain continues the tradition of having fresh flowers on the altars. The arrangements enhance the sanctuary and are shared afterwards with the sick or divided to use again the following week in the chapel. Donations of flowers are made as memorials or in thanksgiving for special occasions. A date can be shared by more than one donor. The 2015 flower sign-up charts are now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the church building, opposite the entrance to the Chapel sacristy. For dedications and specific floral requests contact Jane Mercer at jpm Mercer@comcast.net or the office 908-766-2282 office@sjotm.org. The cost is \$100 for church altar flowers and \$70 for chapel altar flowers.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Fridays at 9:15 am

The Women's Bible Study group meets every Friday in the Parish House Meeting Room at 9:15 am. We are studying Bible Stories based on the E-100 (Essential One-Hundred Bible Reading Plan) curriculum. Books can be purchased for \$10 from the office.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 25th

Due to the Annual Meeting, on Sunday, January 26th, we will have one worship service at 10 am with a meeting to immediately follow in the sanctuary. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Nursery care will be extended to 12:30 pm.

HEALING SERVICE

Thursday, January 29th

The Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing will take place on Thursday, January 29th 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.

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.

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

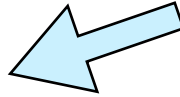
CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Thank you to the children of St. John on the Mountain
for a wonderful performance of
Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's
Good News of Great Joy

For more photos of the pageant visit

www.sjotm.org

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



Thank you to Margot Lewis for directing the pageant and to our volunteers:

Liam Baird, Tressa Baird, Vicki Bosie, Lisa Costello, Andrea DeMarco, Juliana DeMarco, Kelsey McKeon, Christina Rutz, Caroline Sullivan, Gabrielle Sullivan, Grace Sullivan, Caroline Zanardi, Spencer Zanardi, and the many volunteers who helped with the costumes, rehearsals, "herding" the children for the performance, and organizing coffee hour. Thank you to Jim Costello, Paul DeMarco, Michael Mitchell, Doug Rutz, and Steve Sbaraglio for putting the set together.

We would also like to recognize and thank the cast:

Emmy Baird, Owen Baird, Sophie Bosie, Rose Costello, Daniel Daggett, Tucker Daggett, Ava DeMarco, Oyinda Emuleomo, Tunji Emuleomo, Catherine Ferrante, James Ferrante, William Gilmartin, Sarah Iossa, Caroline Lewis, Jane Lewis, Sarah Lewis, Charlie Lichtenfeld, Summer Lichtenfeld, Scott Lukacsko, Meghan Lukacsko, James McKeon, Trevor McKeon, Charlotte Mitchell, Meredith Mitchell, Grace Morais, Jack Morris, Sammy Morris, Audrey Panik, Jack Panik, Reagan Panik, Alex Rutz, Jack Rutz, Mattie Sbaraglio, Mia Sbaraglio, Michael Sullivan, Grace Tober, John Tober, Katie Vollmar, Caspar von Hollen, Konrad von Hollen, and Benjamin Wiley

Pageant Costumes

If you still have any costumes,
please return ASAP!

**Christmas Eve
Building of the Crèche**

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



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

James Gilmartin, Mia Sbaraglio, Grace Tober,
Owen Baird, Molly Lukacsko, Garrett Davidson,
Sheridan Davidson, Charlotte Mitchell,
Charlotte Silverman, Bee Gibson, Alex Rutz, and
Caspar Von Hollen

MISSION OUTREACH

KIDS HELPING KIDS Results

by Katherine Hermes

As the parish coordinators, Sandy Keegan and I were brought to tears on more than one occasion during this year's *Kids Helping Kids* Christmas campaign. We cried when we read about the children and how they end up placed at Somerset House. We cried when we learned about the kids called "frequent flyers" who show up at youth shelters pretty regularly. We cried when we learned that kids get placed at an orphanage in Denville - and that there is an orphanage in Denville! The *Kids Helping Kids* Mission has had a direct and very positive impact on the lives of all of the children we touched.

And when we received all of your generosity we cried again. Not only did the parish and nursery school donate almost \$4,000, but parents purchased an incremental \$1,500 - \$2,000 worth of gifts for these kids. To say we were blown out of the water by your generosity is an

understatement. While we can't show pictures with children to protect their privacy, I can share with you that the coordinators of both the Somerset Home for Displaced Children and the Morris County Youth Shelter are in awe of all of your generosity. When the world is such and angry and confusing place, this amazing outpouring of love and support for our local children has lit a fire in both Sandy and me. We wish you all a very wonderful, happy and healthy new year and thank you again for your help with the *Kids Helping Kids* Mission!



Some of the bags of donations, for the residents at Somerset Home, ready to be delivered

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY Results

Thank you to all who donated food to their *Adopt-a-Family* for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we provided meals to 13 families at Thanksgiving and 16 families at Christmas. Thank you to all of you who made a monetary donation to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The next opportunity for *Adopt-a-Family* will be in April for Easter.

GRACE SOUP KITCHEN
Friday, January 30th
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, January 30th from 10 am – 1 pm.

Mark your calendar for the **2015 dates** for the Soup Kitchen:

2015 Dates: January 30, February 27, March 27, (No April), May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30, November 27, (No December)

Sign-up sheets are on bulletin board outside kitchen or email Graham Argent-Belcher at gabelcher@msn.com.

THANK YOU NOTE

(written to Katherine Hermes)

From the Coordinator of the
Somerset Home

Words cannot express how much we appreciate the two of you and your fellow parish members at St. John on the Mountain for the AMAZING AMAZING donation of gifts to our residents at Somerset Home. You often hear about the problems of the world but it is always refreshing to know there are many people out there who want to help and are willing to help make a difference. Thank you for being some of those people and for helping to bring some joy to our youth at Somerset Home during the holiday season and beyond.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jemia

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy 2015 from the teaching staff at St. John's Nursery School!

We are starting off the new year with an addition to our teaching staff. Candida Keller, a parent of two SJNS alumni, has been connected to our nursery school for many years. Candida has substituted for us in the past, but now will be assisting our teachers and children on a regular basis. We are happy to have one more adult on hand, and appreciate her willingness to join our staff.

This month our 4 and 4+ classes will learn about some other countries through crafts, stories, food, and games. The nursery school parents will volunteer to teach our children about another country. This is a great opportunity for our nursery school parents to contribute their time and talents to our classes. The children love having their parent come to school for the day.

January will also be a time for our Winter Festival from The Travelin' Tumblers. The children will have an active day of "skiing," "sledding," and "snow ball" tossing!

This month we open our nursery school to interested visitors. For anyone wishing to inquire about the 2015-2016 school year, please call the nursery school at 908-766-0374, or email the director at jwilliams@sjotm.org.



Happy New year from the SJNS teaching staff

Candida Keller, Denise Hawkins, Jeanne Williams, Karen Skoglund, Susan DeGasperis, & Janet Moose

KNITTING NEEDLES & THREAD

Thank you to the Knitting Needles & Thread Group for their beautiful blankets they made for the Plaid House girls for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKE-DOWN Monday, January 5th

The Altar Guild will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 5th at 10 am. Any and all hands are much appreciated. You do not have to be a member of the Altar Guild to help.



Gifts ready for delivery to the Plaid House girls

COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP NEWS

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 15th

All are welcome to join the *Ladies Luncheon* on Thursday, January 15th at noon at the home of Jody Flegal 26 Roberts Circle, Basking Ridge. Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided. Kick-off the New Year with fun and fellowship. We hope to see you there. RSVP to Jody at 908-766-7890.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Sunday, December 1st



*Jonathan and Reagan Panik
making an Advent wreath*



January Birthday Wishes to

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

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 8th

Please join us on Thursday, January 8th 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.

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

Christmas Plants, Flowers, & Special Music have been Given to the Glory of God and

In Thanksgiving for

Sunday School Teachers and
Musicians
by Lynn Mitchell

Our family and friends
by Beime Donaldson & Wood Huntley

Our daughter,
Christina M. Johnson,
Family and friends
by Mary & Frank Johnson

Our family, friends,
Many blessings
The Leef Family

My family and friends
by Lois Lark

The Rev. Susan Ironside
by Mary & Bob Courtemanche

Family and friends
By Joan & David Powell

The Morais kids,
The blessings all around us
by Jaimie & Michael Morais

Our grandchildren,
Liam, Emmy, Owen, Colin, Ryan,
Charlie, Ben, and Georgie
by Joy & Denny Baird

Our children and grandchildren,
Caroline, Whitney, and Tad
by June & Alan Enos

Our family and friends
by the Kennedy Family

Many friends
by Cam Cavanaugh

My beloved family and good friends
who bless my life everyday
by Kathy Christie

Wonderful friends,
Our church family,
All our blessings
Jane & Bill McKnight

My wonderful family
by Betty Heitmann

The St. John's Choir,
Rick Morgan
by Susan Ely

My wonderful three sons!
Carl, William, and Jack
by Claire Chamberlain

Robert Brown,
My great granddaughter, Khloe Brown
by Suzanne Brown

Family and friends,
Collins,
by Pat Moody

In Memory of

Fritz Lark
by Lois Lark

Eugene W. Mason, Jr.,
Eugene W. Mason, IV,
Robert D. Johnson,
Cope and Libby Walbridge,
Helena and Frank Johnson,
Harry Wise
by Mary & Frank Johnson

Robert G. Faux,
Mabel Ash Steiniger
by Dorothy Faux

Harold B. Robinson,
James H. Higgins,
Elysabeth C.B. Higgins
by Martha & James Higgins

Judy Johnson Jones
by Harry Jones

John Landon Lee,
John Ludlow Lee
by Binx Lee

Mary How,
Fenn Putman
by Jane & Peter Mercer
Eugene W. Mason,
Eugene W. Mason, Jr.
by Mary Y. Mason

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ely,
Alfred Ely, Jr.,
Mr. & Mrs. G. Christian Bromberg
by Deborah & Danforth Ely

Marguerite and Howard Bock,
Evelyn and Lawrence Van Ingen
by Mary & Bob Courtemanche

Robert Heitmann,
Gladys Fox,
Bea and Frank Heitmann,
Grace and Eric Hopkins
by Betty Heitmann

John Low Baldwin
by Susan Ely

Fenn Putman,
Alloe and Alan Enos,
Miriam and Hubert Graves
by June & Alan Enos

Catherine H. Sutcliffe
by Lynn Sutcliffe

Arnold W. Kolkebeck,
David W. Flegal,
Caroline C. Silverman
by Jody Flegal

Fenn Putman
by Katie & Jim Porter

Mary and Joseph Zebedeo,
Christine Z. Smith
by Debbie Smith & Ron Keefe

Mary Lou and Raymond Landry
by the Lippman Family

Roberta and Malcolm Forbes,
Gerardus Beekman
by Sabina & Steven Forbes

Our sister, Babs Shrader
by Barbara Mushalko

Grandma Dot,
Grandma Umbie,
Uncle Ray,
Jason Brownell,
Dustin Hanna
by the Morais Family

Babs Shrader,
William G. Meekings,
Fenn Putman
by the Kennedy Family
Fay Todd,
Clarissa and Andrew Marckwald,
Katherine and Merrill Chapin
by Jeanie & Charlie Chapin

Melanie White
by Marion White

Family members we have lost
by Jane & Bill McKnight

Elizabeth and Ray Murphy,
Estelle and Alan Giles
by Margaret & Brad Murphy

Nancy and David Orselet,
Mary Ohidy,
Donna Preziosi
by the Deombeleg Family

Edythe and Meade Brunet,
Sally B. Beyen,
Sally H. Brunet,
The Geoffrey Tower Family
by Helen & Stuart Brunet

Family and friends,
Sid Moody
by Pat Moody

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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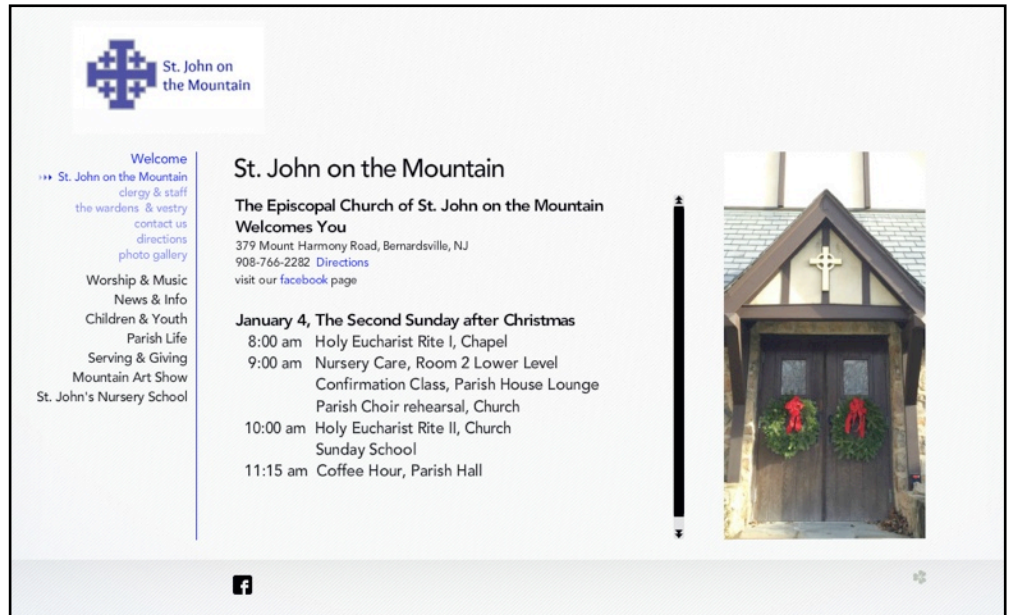
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Sexton

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

www.sjotm.org
and be sure to *like us* on facebook



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

