



# Views from the Mountain

## From the Rector

*The Reverend Susan R. Ironside*

A friend of mine was working with a demanding personal trainer who instructed her to hold a complex yoga pose for five minutes to build strength and balance. For several minutes, she attempted to master this athletic feat, sweat pouring off of her body, pain creeping into her muscles.

Before the time was completed, the trainer stood above her and advised, "You should pray."

"I don't think God cares either way if I can do this or not," she said, through gritted teeth, as more sweat splashed on the mat.

"True," he replied. "But you have another minute to kill. And God probably would like to hear from you."

That is my invitation to all of you, the dear people of St. John's. ***God probably would like to hear from you.*** God probably would like to hear from me, too, at least more often. So many of us don't think we pray well enough or often enough. We wish a prayer guru could whip us into shape the way a personal trainer would do.

So here is good news: it's almost Lent! And God probably would like to hear from you.

In the season of Lent we can let God hear from us. The Church offers the weeks of Lent because God longs for us, misses us, and would love to hear from us. But we have dozens of reasons why this doesn't happen that often. We're busy. We're distracted. We don't think we are very good at talking to God. We don't know what to say or ask anyway.

This Lent we will be experimenting with some of the ways we let God hear from us when we gather on Sunday. The psalms—the ancient prayers of our people—will be different, using modern poetic language and different musical settings. We will use our beautiful worship space in unusual ways, practicing letting God hear from us in this holy room that we love so dearly.

In the weeks of Lent we will be sending portions of our weekly worship to your email, so you can practice letting God hear from you as you go about your day-to-day life. Let the sounds of our worshipping assembly surround you and gather you into God's presence wherever you are. You can listen to the ancient words and haunting music of Lent when you are going about your busy life. Pray in your car. Pray while cooking dinner. Pray when you can't sleep at night. It doesn't matter if you are good at it or not.

Just try anyway.



*Susan +*

## WORSHIP NEWS

### ASH WEDNESDAY February 14th

- ❖ 6 -8 am Ashes-to-Go at the Bernardsville Train Station
- ❖ 8:45 - 9:15 am Ashes-to-Go at the Nursery School drop-off
- ❖ 12 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II with Imposition of Ashes at St. Bernard's, Bernardsville
- ❖ 7 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II with Imposition of Ashes with music, Church



### 2018 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.

#### The 2018 dates for Holy Baptism

- ❖ Sunday, February 11
- ❖ Saturday, April 15th - The Great Vigil of Easter
- ❖ Sunday, June 4th - The Day of Pentecost
- ❖ Sunday, November 5th - All Saints' Sunday

### PARISH REGISTRAR

#### We welcomed into the Household of God through Holy Baptism

*Adeline Alice Swartz*  
*Margot Betsy Swartz*

#### We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest

*Florence B. Berry*



## ONGOING CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### MOUNTAINTOP MOMENTS Sunday, February 25th

On February 25, following the 10:00 service, our Mountaintop Moments group will have its first gathering of the new year and welcome a guest storyteller.

Tracey Heisler is executive director of CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties (CASA SHaW), a nonprofit which provides volunteer advocates in court for children living in the foster care system because of abuse or neglect. Tracey came to this work nearly 20 years ago as a volunteer and has made it her life's mission. Her mother grew up in foster care, and Tracey saw first hand the struggles she had as a result. She works to give other children in the same situation the voice that her mother never had.

### 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.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS****SOUPER BOWL**  
Sunday, February 4th

Confirmation students and their families will be preparing a variety of soups for you to purchase during Coffee Hour on February 4th. All proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

All Sunday school children are encouraged to bring a can of soup to the chapel on February 4th to donate to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

**COLLECTION  
for  
GRACE VILLA**

Grace Villa is a nurturing home and sanctuary for young girls who are orphaned and vulnerable in Uganda. Grace Villa's mission is to rebuild their young lives by providing these girls with a warm, loving home that fully meets their social, academic, psychological, and spiritual needs. Our Sunday school children will be making cards and collecting small trinkets that we can send in a care package to the girls of Grace Villa. Jewelry making supplies, art supplies, small stuffed animals, and any other fun items that your children would like to pick out for these girls would be greatly appreciated. Items can be brought to the chapel each Sunday in February. For more information about the organization, please visit <http://gracevillauganda.weebly.com/>

**SHROVE TUESDAY  
PANCAKE SUPPER**  
Tuesday February 13th

Join us from 5:30-7pm on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Parish Hall for some pancakes and sausage prepared by the confirmation students and families. A donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children is suggested (kids 3 and under are free). All proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

Volunteers needed to help with set up, cooking, and clean up. Please contact [Lynn Mitchell](#) if you're interested.



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

*Mattie Sbaraglio, Trevor Lukacsko,  
& Brady Morais*

## OUTREACH NEWS

### CASA SHaW PROJECT FOLLOWUP



*Just a few of the 66 "1st Night bags" donated to CASA by the SJOTM Outreach Committee. Many thanks to those who donated toiletries, blankets and other supplies that fill each bag destined for children in foster care in Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties.*

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Kathleen Tober and the cooperation of our Vacation Bible School, St John's Nursery School, the Palmer School and three local Girl Scout Troops, we delivered on three different projects to CASA SHaW this year. CASA SHaW, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates in Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, cares for children in these three counties ranging from toddlers to teens who are placed in foster care. In December, SJOTM Sunday School, along with Meredith Panik's Girl Scout Troop and SJNS, helped the Outreach Committee to collect toiletries, stuffed animals, blankets, books and small toys/crafts, etc. to fill duffel bags to create 66 "1st Night bags" for the children who are being removed from their homes to live in foster care. The bags are intended to help ease this very difficult transition and help the children just a bit to settle into their new homes.



### February Birthday Wishes to

*Mary Courtemanche, Dulcy Green,  
Betty Heitmann, Shea Lukacsko, &  
Thomas Paluck*

### GRACE SOUP KITCHEN

Friday, February 26th  
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, February 24th from 10 am – 1 pm. The dates for the remainder of 2017 (all Fridays) are: March 31; April 28th; May 26th; June 30; July 28th; September 29th; October 27th; December 29th. For more info, email Graham Argent-Belcher at gabelcher@msn.com.



## MUSIC NEWS

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

We invite all children of the parish in grades 3 through 8 to join us after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy for a brief rehearsal with Mr. Jennings in the Choir Room. Boys' & Girls' Choir will sing at the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on February 11, April 1, and May 13.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Antioch Chamber Ensemble**  
*20th Anniversary Concert*  
 Sunday, February 11, 2018, 5pm  
 Church of St. John-on-the-Mountain  
 Bernardsville



The **Antioch Chamber Ensemble** is renowned for presenting a wide and inclusive representation of the world's great choral literature. On February 11, at the Church of St. John-on-the-Mountain in Bernardsville, it will continue that tradition by looking back to some of the great baroque and classical works in its repertoire, and forward to what choral music may sound like in another twenty years. Tickets are available at [MusicSH.org/concerts](http://MusicSH.org/concerts) or by sending checks to Music in the Somerset Hills at P.O. Box 729, Bernardsville, NJ 07924. All sales are final.

### LADIES' LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 15th

All are welcome to join the *Ladies Luncheon* on Thursday, February 15th at noon.

If you would like to host, contact [Wendy Argent-Belcher](#) for details. Hostess info will be posted on the website and bulletins once confirmed.

Please bring a sandwich; beverages and dessert will be provided.

### MEN'S LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 1st

Please join us on Thursday, February 1st 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](mailto:aenos4@verizon.net).

## 2018 Annual Meeting Election Results

### Candidate for Jr. Warden (2 year term)

#### Steve Sbaraglio

Steve and his family have been members of St. John since 2012. His youngest daughter Mia attended St. John's Nursery School from 2007 to 2009. He served as head of the Buildings and Grounds committee at St. Bernard's Church from 2002 to 2004 and on the Vestry from 2004 to 2008. He is a State of NJ licensed electrician and after being a long standing member of the IBEW has been in the position of General Forman for the last 13 years.

### Candidates for the Vestry

#### Christiana Masucci

Christiana has been a member of St. John since 1990, having left New York City and St James Church, pregnant with her husband Ferdy in tow. She and her husband are residents of Bernardsville and have four children (young adults). Christiana was a former foreign exchange trader at Credit Suisse, and attended Cooper Hewitt Museum for a Master's degree in European Decorative Arts. Christiana has served on the board of the YMCA, the art show at SJOTM, the scholarship committee at SJOTM, ARC Foundation of Somerset County, USET and is currently working with the Community in Crisis and is a CASA. She is also passionate athlete in all sports.

#### Pete Vollmar

Pete is the least conspicuous member of the Vollmar family. They have been members of the parish since 2007. Patty taught Sunday school and is a past Vestry member. Sydney and Katie participate in choir when their busy schedules allow. They are both freshman, Katie at Basking Ridge High School and Sydney at the University of Michigan. Pete is Vice President of Sales and Special Channels for GAF a division of Standard Industries the world's largest manufacturer of roofing products. In addition to a busy professional life he coached soccer for Somerset Hills for many years and is currently an active Band Parent. He enjoys sailing, skiing and RVing to beaches and big 10 football games. He is a graduate of the Penn State University.

#### Bill Young

Bill and his family joined St. John on the Mountain when they relocated from Connecticut to New Jersey in 2004. They had been active members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church|Darien for 15 years. He currently serves as Managing Director at Tetenbaum & Associates in Greenwich, CT, where he leads consulting practices in communications|advertising, pharma|healthcare and private banking. Previously, he was EVP, Chief Administrative Officer and CHRO for the Interpublic Group's leading healthcare|pharmaceutical agencies. He was also Global VP for the Chicago-based ComPsych Corporation, the world's largest provider of behavioral health services. Bill lives in Basking Ridge, NJ with his wife of 30 years, Marie and their daughter, Marissa. In addition to his board memberships, his volunteer work includes disrupting the cycle of intergenerational poverty by business mentoring & interview-coaching women who have been victims of abuse & extreme poverty.

**THANK YOU to the 2018  
Annual Convention Delegates**

*Bob Courtemanche, Nina Dixon, &  
Rich McGlynn*

**THANK YOU to  
the Retired 2017 Vestry Class**

*Sally Hespe, Sue Kennedy,  
Clyde Leef, Paul Zanardi*

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

by Bob Courtemanche  
2018 EMC Chair

As of January 22nd we have received 94 pledges for a total of \$338,041. On behalf of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry we are moved and excited by your financial commitment to the St. John's Community. The underlying trends in our numbers are very healthy as we have 6 first time pledging members and 7 members resumed pledges. Our average pledge is \$3,596.

I want to thank the team who have worked with me on the Stewardship process. Mother Susan Ironside, Nina Dixon, Steve Sbaraglio, Joe Ray, Chip Baird, Jim Costello and Margot Lewis have all been faithful stewards to reach out to members regarding their pledges.

We still have members who have not yet pledged and we would love to hear from you.

The Stewardship process is a year- round event and you can reach out to me or anyone on the committee to let us know you would like to make a financial commitment to support our ministry at St. John on the Mountain. All we need is a verbal commitment or an e- mail. Thank you for your generosity.

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

February is registration month at SJNS! Any families that are interested in enrolling their preschooler for next year, please contact St. John's Nursery School for a school tour and registration materials.

Thanks to our social committee, SJNS families enjoyed a fun Friday night with pizza, crafts, and entertainment by Preschool of Rock. The social event was well attended, and provided a nice evening for both children and parents to socialize with other nursery school families.

Please don't hesitate to contact the nursery school director, Jeanne Williams, [jwilliams@sjotm.org](mailto:jwilliams@sjotm.org), with any questions about next year's student registration.

## **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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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### PARISH STAFF

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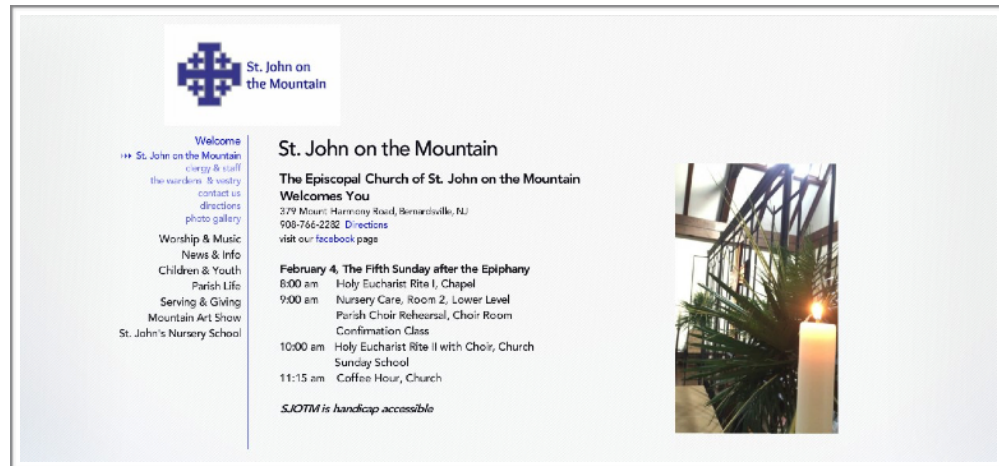
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FOR DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION,  
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[www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org)  
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