



Views from the Mountain

A Message from ...

The Reverend David L. Jones

It's never Groundhog Day (the Bill Murray movie, not the holiday) for the followers of Christ. We value our history highly, but we friends of Jesus are always given second chances and presented with new opportunities to do new things. Bishop Stokes is coming up the Mountain at the end of the month to mark that very reality. We'll celebrate beginnings and pray for our ministry together.

Many of the people who will be confirmed that day have been around here since they were born. Several of them were baptized at our font and most of them have been either Mary or Joseph in our play. Yet they too will experience the perpetually new possibility inherent in our faith. According to the Book of Common Prayer, they will "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." That's a new thing for them, a new beginning as mature and committed members of the Parish.

We'll observe another new reality that day. Even though you've already put up with me for 67 weeks and I've already signed the Register of Church Services 158 times, we'll thank God for the ever-present possibility of new ministry that is ours together. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new," according to the first letter to the Corinthians. That's a reality worth celebrating all the time.

Peace to you,

Dave+

CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, & INSTALLATION

Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 11:00 am

Bishop Stokes will be on the Mountain to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with our 2018-2019 class, receive adults into the Episcopal Church, and install Fr. Dave as our Priest-in-Charge.

WORSHIP NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26th



PARISH REGISTER

- ❖ 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 Distribution of Ashes
- ❖ 7 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II with Distribution of Ashes with music

We Pray God to Grant Eternal Rest

Mary Young Mason



Fostering Love

Fill up First Night Bags, February 16

We will be (finally!) creating bags for children in their first night of foster care after the 10 am service on Sunday, February 16. You are invited to help in this joyous activity during coffee hour. Thank you indeed for your incredible generosity! This is the culmination of work from hundreds of big-hearted parishioners, Nursery School families, Girl Scout Troops and community partners. We fully expect that we have enough for more than a hundred bags for children of all age-levels.

2020 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 2020 dates for Holy Baptism

- ❖ Sunday, April 19th - The Second Sunday of Easter
- ❖ Sunday, May 31st - The Day of Pentecost
- ❖ Sunday, November 1st - All Saints' Sunday

SIMPLE REFRSHMENTS FEBRUARY 22nd

If you would enjoy baking (or buying), we would enjoy eating! Cookies and crackers and cheese are solicited for the simple reception following the Service of Confirmation, Reception and Installation on February 22. Please email the [office](#) if you can provide something edible for that morning. It will be great if your whatever arrives that morning already plated and ready to serve.



February Birthday Wishes to

*Mary Courtemanche,
Alexandra Davidson, Dulcy Green,
Shea Lukacsko, & Thomas Paluck*

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Ladies' Luncheon January 23, 2020

The women of the parish met at Kathy Christie's home to kick off the new year....and celebrate Marion White's 100th birthday!

Even though Marion's birthday is in March, the ladies thought, "Why Wait?"



LADIES' LUNCHEON Thursday, February 20

All are welcome to join the *Ladies Luncheon* on Thursday, February 20th at noon. Nina Dixon will host at her home, 43 Old Wood Road, Bernardsville. Please RSVP to Nina at rosinadixon@verizon.net.

Bring a sandwich or salad; beverages and dessert will be provided by Nina.

MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, February 6th

Please join us on Thursday, February 6th 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.

CHEFS SOUGHT !

We are seeking three (we already have the first) people to cook for our Wednesday night Lenten dinners. You are invited to prepare a main course for c. 30 people. We have dinner together on the first four Wednesday evenings of Lent beginning at 6pm and then go into church for Sung Evening Prayer at 7pm. We will share dinner and prayer on March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Please talk to Dave if you are interested. It is expected that you will accept reimbursement for your costs.

The Chef supplies the main course and sets the serving table. The Church supplies the salad, bread, dessert, and soft drinks. Everyone supplies beverages and conviviality.



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**SCENES FROM THE
SOUPER BOWL**

Sunday, February 2nd



We had a very successful Souper Bowl on Feb. 2nd. Youth members and their families prepared seven delicious soups for the congregation to taste and purchase during Coffee Hour. All profits will be donated to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.



Best Wishes as you celebrate
your birthday in February

Mattie Sbaraglio,
Darcy May Anderson, Trevor Lukacsko,
& Brady Morais

ALLELUIA BANNER

Sunday, February 23rd

Children are invited to decorate the *Alleluia Banner* during the annual pancake meal. This banner will be "buried" in the church, and it will be hung in Parish Hall on Easter Sunday.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 23rd

On Sunday, Feb. 23rd directly after church in Parish Hall, everyone is invited to enjoy pancakes and sausages prepared by our youth as we head into the season of Lent. A donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children is suggested (kids 3 and under are free). All proceeds from this event will be added to the proceeds from the Souper Bowl, and they will be donated to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

**ROCK CLIMBING**

Sunday, February 9th

Sixth – twelfth graders are invited to a youth outing for some fun climbing! We'll meet no later than 3:30pm in the church parking lot on Sunday, Feb. 9th. We are hoping to be able to provide transportation to the Randolph Climbing Center where kids will climb from 4pm-5pm. On the way home we'll stop for pizza. Please send \$20 for climbing and pizza. Meet us back in the church parking lot for pick up at 6pm. RSVP to [Lynn Mitchell](#) by Wednesday, Feb. 5th.

PARISH PROFILE

By Hilary Thomas

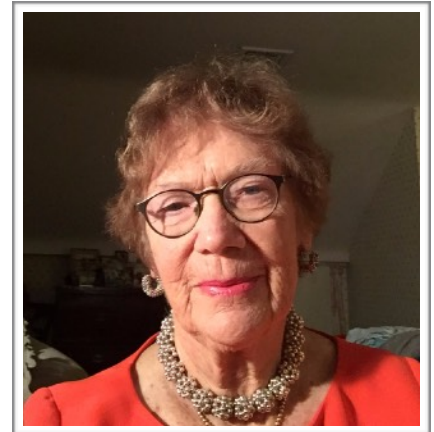
Profile. Rachel Mullen and Sue Ely One hundred years of singing!

A friendly rivalry exists in the choir, between the two longest-standing members. Rachel Mullen and Sue Ely cannot quite agree on who started first! Suffice it to say that together they have been singing at St. John on the Mountain for almost 120 years.

Rachel moved to Bernardsville from Boston in the early 1960s. At that time, she was not a regular churchgoer; "Christmas and Easter at most" she confesses. Shortly after moving to Bernardsville, her second son, Timothy, developed an acute form of leukemia. Jimmy Johnson, then Rector of St John's Church, was a regular visitor at Morristown Hospital where Timothy was undergoing treatment. It was then that Rachel and her husband, George Mullen, decided to join St. John's.

Sue Ely came to Bernardsville from Long Island. After attending Wellesley College, she married Bernardsville native, Dan Ely, and came to the local church that Dan's family attended – St. John on the Mountain.

Sue and Rachel both joined the choir in the early 1960s. That was before John Low Baldwin became Music Director. Most of us don't remember "before JLB" since he was music director here for almost 40 years. The tradition of excellent music that John began has continued to this day and Sue and Rachel have made an important contribution to it.



Rachel Mullen

Singing has always been in both women's lives. Rachel says, "Since joining St. John's, the parish choir has been an incredibly important part of my life, starting in the chapel and later in the "new" church." She adds, "I feel lucky to have sung under musicians such as John Baldwin, Andrew Moore and now Christopher Jennings. These excellent choral directors make singing a joy."

While raising their families, Sue and Rachel each became active in church life. Sue directed the Children's Choir, served on the Vestry and organized a Horse Show that was a significant fundraiser for four consecutive years. The show attracted equestrians from around the area, including Jackie Kennedy and her children.

While Sue organized horses and riders, and "blackmailed the men of the parish to work in the show ring," Rachel was one of the first co-chairs of the Mountain Art Show, the very successful fundraiser that was introduced after the horse shows. Rachel and several others also initiated a lecture series on Black Studies, in response to the race riots of the 1960s.



Sue Ely

Now octogenarians, Rachel and Sue each have a remarkable perspective on life on the Mountain. They remember a dozen or more Rectors, thousands of services and many changes in church life. Both value the continuity created by this unique community and its spiritual support.

Neither is giving up on an active and independent lifestyle. Rachel plays tennis regularly and goes on bicycling holidays in Europe. "Flat countries like the Netherlands, these days," she admits. Sue has raised champion Norfolk Terriers for over 50 years, and after retiring from teaching (in Brooklyn and at Gil St Bernard's), she owned antique stores in Gladstone and Peapack.

St John on the Mountain is grounded on pillars of strength and longevity like Rachel and Sue. They will stay with us and influence us to the grave and probably beyond! They are both planning spectacular Memorial Services for which they have already selected their favorite hymns. But they are not going anywhere yet. The choir needs them! We all need them. God bless and keep them both.

ORGAN UPDATE

by Christopher Jennings

We are continuing to work with four qualified organ builders to seek bids that will allow us to put together a plan for rebuilding the pipe organ in the church. Though this is a time-consuming process, it is an important one because we want to do all of the right things so that the organ can be an instrument that will lead worship for decades to come.

Every aspects of the pipe organ at SJOTM is custom built for our space. Each individual pipe has been voiced for our acoustic, and the combination of ranks of pipes designed specifically for our instrument. No two instruments are the same. Though some organs can be relocated to new buildings or rooms, they often require "revoicing," a technique whereby the organbuilders will manipulate the mouth openings and toe openings of each pipe to adjust its volume or the character of its sound.

In addition to the mechanical issues that have to be addressed in the organ console, which now lacks any working combination action, we have spoken with a number of organ builders who have discovered falling pipes and pipes that were improperly revoiced in the 1990s rebuild of our instrument. Additionally, the windchests that were installed in the 1960s have all of their original leather. The small leather pouches underneath each pipe are what opens the air channel to allow air to travel up the pipe. Over time the leather dries out and has to be replaced. This has never been done and if left any longer, the leather will stop allowing notes to sound or cause ciphers (when pipes play without keys being depressed).

A comprehensive plan to include this important "deferred maintenance," along with a new console and some other tonal modifications that make the organ more suitable for accompanying singing are in the works. Organ tours and demonstrations after church on upcoming Sundays will also soon be announced so that the parish can learn about the instrument and about the important work that now has to be done.

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Kathy Tober

January has been a busy month at SJNS for our staff with the launch of our clothing study, the start of 2020-2021 registration, the scheduling of many, many visitors over the next several months, and planning for our upcoming Valentine's celebration.

The SJNS Social Committee planned a wonderful "drive in movie" themed Family Pizza Night on Friday, January 31. Children were given cardboard boxes and used their imagination and creativity to transform them into cars. They were then served pizza and popcorn in their vehicles and watched a Valentine's themed-movie. Our Social Committee Chair, Allicen Librera, worked incredibly hard to pull together a fun-filled night for both children and parents.

The 2020-2021 Priority Registration period closed on January 28th for SJNS current and alumni families, along with SJOTM families. Parents will receive confirmation of their registration on February 4 at which time general registration opens. SJNS staff is most grateful to all the families who have decided to entrust us with the most important task of caring for and educating their children.

On a separate note, Lauren Diemar, the SJNS Head of Curriculum, in conjunction with the SJNS Social Committee, is currently planning a fun morning to celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 12. All SJNS parents are invited to attend the fabulous party with their children as parent involvement is a valued component of the SJNS experience.

SJNS would certainly welcome any members of the church community to come into our classrooms to share their expertise on a topic or area of interest or to simply read a book to our students. Our children love meeting visitors and learning new things! Please reach out to our Co-Directors, Carey Kane and Kathy Tober, at director@sjotm.org.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

by Bob Courtemanche
2020 EMC Chair

As of January 26, we have 78 confirmed pledges with \$292,260 financial support for St. Johns for 2020. We had strong underlying giving numbers with 29 increased pledges, 2 pledges from returning members, and 1 new member pledge.

Thank you to all who have supported our community with a pledge. We still are following up with members who pledged last year but have yet to confirm for 2020. You can do this by emailing me, Father Dave, or Jim Costello or returning a signed pledge card to the Church Office.

I want to thank our Stewardship Team for their efforts to follow-up with various Parishioners. Nina Dixon, Joe Ray, Kathy Christie, Margot Lewis and Fr. Dave all deserve our gratitude for their time contributing to the financial health and sustainability of the St. John on the Mountain community.

Fr. Dave, the Wardens and Vestry are grateful for
the faithfulness and generosity of the following people whose gifts
support the mission of our parish.

Anonymous (3)
Dorota Anderson
Beau & Gretchen Atwater
Doris Aufschlager
Joy Baird
Grove & Betsey Blair
Mike & Jen Bohr
Stuart & Helen Brunet
Cam Cavanaugh
Charlie & Jeanie Chapin
Kathy Christie
Sally Chubb
Peter Clarke
Tabby Cochran
James & Lisa Costello
Bob & Mary Courtemanche
Peter Courtemanche
Christian & Gerry-Jo Cranmer
Alan & Erin Deombeleg
Richard & Nina Dixon
Ward Dorer & Hilary Thomas
Sue Ely
Uchente Emuleomo
Alan & June Enos
Michael Ewing
Kit & Kathy Falcon
Jody Flegal
Steve & Sabina Forbes

Andrew & Jocelyn Gilmartin
Al Hauis
Stephanie Hauis
Gates & Mary Ellen Hawn
Bill & Sally Hespe
Wood Huntley & Beirne Donaldson
Pat & Shellie Iossa
Frank & Mary Johnson
Craig Johnston
Dave Jones & Bob Dannhauser
Lindy Judd
John & Abby Kean, Jr
Anne & Bill Kearns
Ron Keefe & Debbie Smith
Ron & Sue Kennedy
Lois Lark
Jon & Heather Leef
Merritt & Margot Lewis
Patti Lippman
Jeff & Robin McKeon
Joan Millspaugh
Michael & Lynn Mitchell
Rich & Vicky McGlynn
Bill & Jane McKnight
Peter & Jane Mercer
Steven & Lori Morris
Rachel Mullen
Pat Moody & Collins Snyder

Margaret Murphy
Barbara Mushalko
Marty & Margo Packouz
Katie Porter
Cynthia Potter
David & Joan Powell
Joe & Michelle Ray
Robert & Lisa Rich
Doug & Christina Rutz
Steve & Antoinette Sbaraglio
Lindley & Christine Scarlett
Barbara Scillia
Doris Ramshaw-Singlevich
Dorothy Smullen
Peter & Kathy Tober
Pete & Patty Vollmar
Marion White
Jim Williams & George Mellendick
Gail Wragg
Kurt Wulfekuhler & Sharene Azimi
Paul & Valarie Zanardi

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

379 Mount Harmony Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
908-766-2282

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend David L. Jones
Priest-in-Charge
djones@sjotm.org x11

Christopher Jennings
Director of Music & Organist
cjennings@sjotm.org x14

Lynn Mitchell
Director of Children's Ministries
lynnmitchell@sjotm.org

Lisa Coakley
Parish Administrator
office@sjotm.org x10

Lisa Keenan
Finance Manager
L.Keenan@sjotm.org x13

Carey Kane & Kathy Tober
Directors, St. John's Nursery School
director@sjotm.org
908-766-0374

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