



Views from the Mountain

From the Desk of...

The Reverend David L. Jones

Friends,

I can't think of another time when I have prayed while writing that my prose might be found irrelevant by its readers. My hope for us all is that even as you are reading this, the end of our period of national indecision is peacefully concluding. Such is not the reality on Tuesday night, so allow me to share a Collect (prayer) with you that seems to serve our current reality.

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP Collect 17. For the Nation

Peace to you through this night and through these days,

David

VESTRY NOMINATION COMMITTEE

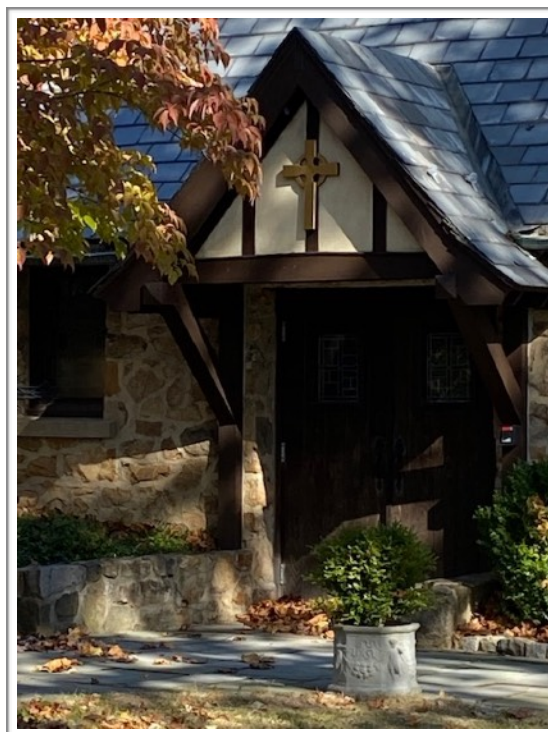
The following people are soliciting nominations for the incoming Vestry Class of 2023. If you yourself or someone you know might consider serving as a member of the vestry, please contact :

Peter Mercer: jpmercer@comcast.net

Sophie Ray: smophie.ray@gmail.com

Mattie Sbaraglio: mattiesbaraglio@gmail.com

Bill Young: bjyoung150@gmail.com



WORSHIP NEWS

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE on the Mountain

Sunday, November 29

The First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

Sunday December 6

The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

Sunday December 13

The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 20

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

Thursday, December 24

The Eve of the Nativity

3:00 pm Blessing of the Crèche, (Outdoors)
4:00 pm Blessing of the Crèche, (Outdoors)
7:00 pm Festal Eucharist (Web-based only)

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

9:00 am Christmas Blessing

Sunday, December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 am Sung Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 3

Second Sunday after Christmas

10:00 am Sung Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 10

The Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Choir
11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour

STEWARDSHIP 2021

The **2021 Stewardship Campaign** is off to a strong start! If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact [Bob Courtemanche](mailto:Bob.Courtemanche@sjotm.org). Please return your 2021 Pledge Card. Your generosity will determine the budget for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found on the web at sjotm.org. For your convenience you may email your pledge information directly to our accountant, [Lisa Keenan](mailto:Lisa.Keenan@sjotm.org).

MUSIC NEWS

by Christopher Harlow-Jennings

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE & LOSS AS MUSICIANS DURING COVID

Last weekend, the Choir and Staff Singers sang Choral Evensong to celebrate the feast of All Saints' Day, a day when we remember the saints — living and deceased — who have made a mark in our lives because of their Christian example. The service was constructed with pre-recorded material from each person recording at home and then everything put together virtually. What would normally involve about 20 hours of group rehearsal was translated into about 40-50 hours of individual video recording + video editing.

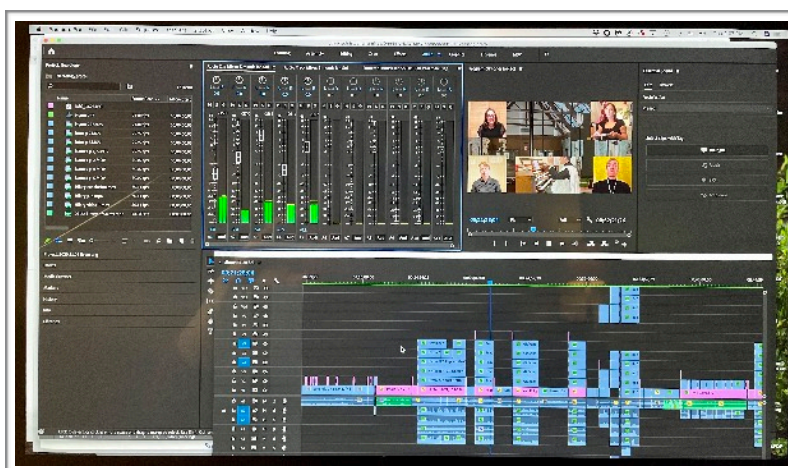
There are so many people who have been sorely affected by the pandemic in real and challenging ways — unemployment, food insecurity, childcare, remote schooling, the list goes on. The Choir of St. John on the Mountain has been a closely-knit community for many years, welcoming new members but always having a core of singers who have been 'on the Mountain' for quite a long time. To suddenly have our community cease to exist has been more than a small challenge for the Choir.

We gather weekly on Zoom to rehearse as best we can, though synchronous singing is not possible so we have to all sing on mute. We send videos as we are able to be a part of the weekly liturgical music offerings for the parish. But for many choir members, this new normal has made choir feel more of a burden than a joy and delight. The communal aspect has been taken away and we have all felt it deeply.

I want to acknowledge with gratitude everyone who has tried to adapt to our Virtual Choir reality. And I also want to acknowledge everyone who has said that it is just too much for them right now and that they will re-join "after the pandemic," whenever that may be. There is something indescribable about singing together as a community, working together on a group project, and coming together to make an offering of prayer to God on behalf of our whole parish.

Though I have considered all of these challenges for a long time, it didn't "hit home" fully until we were in church on Sunday morning for the first time and the congregation was specifically asked NOT to sing. The humming of the Psalm antiphon as people accidentally forgot eventually fell silent.

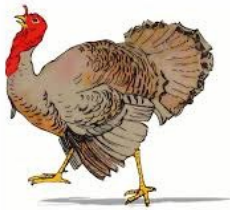
My prayer for us as a choir community is that we will continue to find ways to lift each other up and stay connected while we are virtual. If you have the time, please call someone in the choir to say hello and tell them how much you appreciate their musical contributions to our parish — especially if you haven't seen them recently on our virtual choir videos. Some are singing and praying louder than ever but need now, more than ever, to have their voices heard.



The editing process as it unfolds for our virtual liturgy videos each week.

MISSION OUTREACH

(SMALL) TURKEYS WANTED



Our request for frozen turkeys has changed for this Thanksgiving. Large groups will not be gathering, and so the Somerset Food Bank **requests donations of turkey breasts and roaster chickens**. Large turkeys are less useful.

Your generosity is legendary. The freezer in the Parish House awaits your contribution; do not place items in the garage freezer, as it is out of order. It would be great if you could drop them off by Wednesday, November 18.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY UPDATE

SJOTM is not Adopting Families this year, but we are asking that you donate food for Thanksgiving dinners for everyone who attends the food pantry. Since family gatherings will generally be smaller this year because of the pandemic, we are not asking for large turkeys. We would prefer turkey breasts and chickens. Food bank families currently seem to prefer chicken. Please bring your donations to the church and put them in the refrigerator or freezer in the Parish House. For your convenience, Hilary Thomas Dorer will also shop for or pick up your donations. Please [contact Hilary](#) for details.

We realize that we have asked a lot of you this year on behalf of our hungry neighbors. Thank you for your never-ending generosity.

Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in November

*Sarah Hitchcock-DeGregori,
Mary Johanna Mason Johnson, Francis E. Johnson,
Ron Kennedy & Dorothy Smullen*



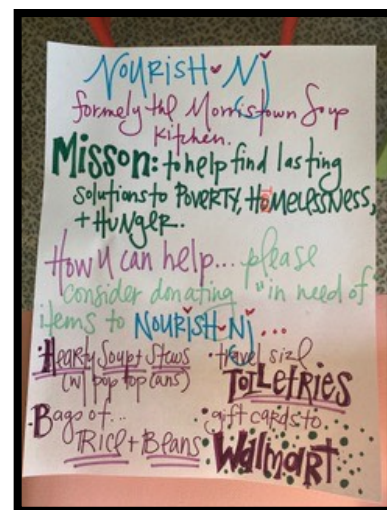
SATURDAYS AT THE FOOD BANK

It's November! Your neighbors need your help!

Despite elections, pandemics, and other distractions, the Food Bank needs us in November. SJOTM is scheduled to send 4 people each Saturday in November to serve at the Food Pantry. It is held outside and masks are mandatory for everyone. If you are youngish and healthy and willing to serve for a few hours, please let [Hilary Thomas Dorer](#) know which date you can make. **Saturday 7th, 14th, 21st or 28th.** We need one driver each Saturday. Please contact [Hilary](#) if you are willing and able to arrive at 8.15 am and to drive the van to the Pantry from the Food Bank. Others should arrive around 9 a.m. and expect to star for 2 - 3 hours. Full details when you sign up.



NOURISH NJ COLLECTION



Grace Morais, a junior at Morristown Beard, is collecting food and trial-sized toiletries for Nourish NJ (formerly the Morristown Soup Kitchen). A collection box is inside the Parish House hallway.

MISSION OUTREACH, cont'd

COLLECTION FOR CASA SHaW



Children being placed in the Foster System because of abuse and/or neglect must usually leave their homes immediately. Often they are offered not much more than a garbage bag into which they may hastily put their personal belongings. **Fostering Love** provides these children with a tiny bit of dignity and hopefully shows them that the world around them loves them during this most difficult time. During the season of Advent, we will be collecting items for **Fostering Love**, which benefits foster children supported by CASA SHaW (Court Appointed Special Advocate of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties).

Specific items are requested based on age and gender. Please [use this link](#) to review the available slots on the list and see if there are any items you would care to donate. In past years, generous friends have ordered in quantity from Amazon and had items directly delivered to SJOTM. Send to:

St. John on the Mountain, Fostering Love
379 Mount Harmony Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity!

BERNARDSVILLE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Hi all,

I hope that you are doing well! I'm writing with an update on the Bernardsville Food Pantry: this Friday, October 30th, will be our last Friday food distribution. This decision was made for several reasons: many individuals have returned to part or full-time work and a number of other organizations in the nearby area have scaled up their operations. We will evaluate need as we progress into Winter and be prepared to restart in the case of need in the community.

However, this is not the end of our community involvement! We will be delivering diapers to families with children twice a month, offering meal vouchers during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and exploring opportunities to provide learning space and long-term mentoring for high school students. We will also continue to assist families who still need support in a variety of ways.

I will continue to pass along opportunities to stay involved. We will still need to shop for diapers periodically, and will need volunteers to help with deliveries, meal vouchers, and other initiatives. If you have an idea for another community initiative, please let me know.

As we transition into this new phase, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, commitment, and support for this community operation. We have served anywhere from 150-325 families a week since April due to your continual involvement. We could not have operated without your support, and are incredibly grateful for your willingness to step forward in this time of unprecedented need.

*Thank you,
Rachel Richards*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

It's not too late to join this year's confirmation class. We meet through Zoom two times a month on Sunday evenings. Email Lynn Mitchell for more information lynnmitchell@sjotm.org.

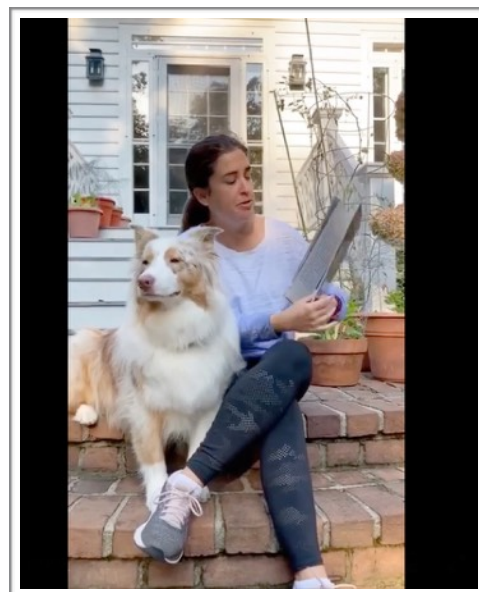
CRAFTS IN A BAG

Be sure to pick up a bag of crafts from the bin on the front porch of the Parish Office. There are festive fall crafts and all of the supplies to make an advent wreath minus the greens.



Best Wishes
as you celebrate your
birthday in November

Spencer Singlevich,
Konrad von Hollenn,
Sumner Putnam, & Sean Robinson

WEEKLY STORY TIME

Check out our Facebook page each week for a new children's story read by Lynn Mitchell.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Mrs. Mitchell is organizing a Virtual Christmas Pageant that will be pre-recorded and shown during Advent. We are looking for families who are interested in participating. If your family is interested, please email Lynn Mitchell

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Kathy Tober

The students at SJNS are fully engrossed in our first official study of the year - Trees! We are so lucky to live in a climate that has a change of seasons which lends itself well to our tree investigation. Math and literacy concepts are taught naturally through this topic by counting leaves, labeling from biggest to smallest, and adding words to our environmental print word wall. Science concepts are also naturally integrated as it allows the children to find the answers to their questions through natural investigations and experimentation. Instead of the teacher being the source of information, their role is to create experiments and experiences to encourage student's innate curiosity and discovery. We are hoping that this foundation, especially this year with all of our outdoor play, creates a love of the natural world.

We at SJNS invite curiosity by providing the children with the scientific framework to explore and investigate the natural world. We believe that another great component of science is that the best investigations happen when you might be wrong! It encourages children to take risks and make predictions without knowing whether the outcome will be right or wrong. Science is a hands-on way to discover that learning is enriched through error. Albert Einstein said, "I have never felt I was wasting time. Science is a process of trial and error. The only sure way to avoid making mistakes is to have no ideas."

We also believe in and work hard towards promoting a strong school-home connection and partnership. Therefore, we actively encourage our families to read books to their children about science, talk about the objects in the book and how they are used or made, and how they work. We tell parents to encourage their children to use their five senses when exploring objects. It is important for parents to give children new words to describe what they notice and encourage them to draw what they see.

Although so many things are different this year in the world around us, we wanted to give our students some semblance of normalcy as it relates to Halloween. We were not able to celebrate this year with the traditional all-school Halloween parade but instead treated the students to exciting class scavenger hunts culminating in a class party. A fun time was had by all!



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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Bernardsville, NJ 07924
908-766-2282

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Carey Kane, Kathy Tober
St. John's Nursery School, Co-Directors
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908-766-0374

JOIN US

SUNDAYS

8:00 am
10:00 am
10:45 am

Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sung Morning Prayer Rite II
Coffee Hour in the Zoom Room

WEDNESDAYS

5:00 pm

Evening Prayer in a Time of Pandemic

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED