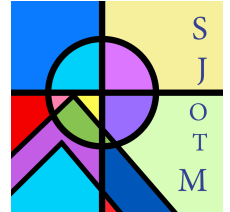


# THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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23 October, 2019

Dear Members of St. John on the Mountain

You never can know what will catch your eye and maybe climb into your heart. For some, it's that Nike commercial. For Dave, it was a prayer that he first heard at his priesting and then again at our Easter Vigil: *O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery . . .* It is the prayer with which he began every Vestry meeting during the year of leadership transition. It's from the Gelasian Sacramentary and people have been using these words to pray since the eighth century. It's not important because it's old. It's important because it's real.

*Things are being raised up . . . Things are being made new!* the prayer proclaims. That's always been the reality on the Mountain and this letter is sent to invite you to be part of that miraculous reality. Your generous participation is essential and worth doing. Marvelous things are being raised up:


- Our Nursery School splendidly negotiated a season of ambiguity and attracted two incredible co-directors to work with our skilled and loving faculty. Our program continues to provide a nurturing, creative and high-quality experience for the children of our area. Our scholarship fund meets the tuition needs of families who would otherwise be unable to attend. The large number of two and three-year olds who began the program this year cause us to expect a reassuring future.
- We continue to marvel at the scope and effectiveness of our Outreach opportunities. The Gardeners have sown and reaped more than a ton (a ton!) of fresh produce for our neighbors in need. Our people continue to regularly staff Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield and the Community Food Bank in Somerville. The English as a Second Language program at Bernardsville Library was able to continue only because of your generosity. Numbers in that essential offering have increased this year. We were especially grateful for the town-wide participation in our "First-Night" backpack initiative for children and youth in the local Foster Care system.
- Our music program continues in excellence because of the faithfulness of all of our skilled musicians. We appreciate how our Adult Choir brings us closer to God every week during the liturgy. Our choir has enthusiastically led Evensongs and Eucharists with other Conover parishes. We are ecstatic that a Cherub Choir has been reborn and will sing periodically through the year. We look forward to further opportunities to lift our voices in prayer and song throughout the year.
- The grounds and buildings on the Mountain are beautiful and well cared for. The Memorial Garden committee will be submitting a new master plan within the year that will suggest how to meet our needs for several generations.
- Ministries to children and youth bring us great joy. Our Summer Vacation Bible School sold out again. Faithful parents continue to staff our excellent weekly church school and at the typing of this letter, there are rumors of a group of youth and adults who are meeting regularly to create something meaningful in youth ministry. We continue to seek ways in which we can effectively minister to the families of our Nursery School.

- A Strategic Plan Committee is using the dreams and data you generously shared during the search for a Priest to discern what should be the future for our Parish. Their energy at the possibilities for this church's future is exciting indeed.
- We serve God's whole world through faithful participation in the Diocesan Marks of Mission Giving. Our stewardship supports emerging ministries throughout the Diocese and supports mission in many places where God's Kingdom is coming to life. Our partnership with the Bishop and his staff strengthens our identity as Episcopalians.

*Things are being raised up . . . Things are being made new . . .* That old prayer dares us to live in hope and act with energy. Therefore, a Pledge Card is enclosed with this letter and a budget is attached. The Finance Committee and the Vestry ask that you let us count on you by returning the card as soon as possible.

Thank you to those families who pledge yearly. The church leadership is grateful for your trust and support. Thank you also to those of you who are considering a pledge. Please think about even a small amount. Every dollar is vital. Saint John on the Mountain relies on pledges for our livelihood. We cannot live without you.

Faithfully,



David Jones  
Priest-in-Charge



Nina Dixon  
Senior Warden



Bob Courtemanche  
2020 Stewardship Co-Chairs



Jim Costello

	2019 Projected	2020 Preliminary
<b>Income</b>		
Stewardship Pledges	\$279,000	\$312,000
Other	\$72,000	\$83,000
Total Income	\$351,000	\$395,000
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel	\$202,000	\$225,000
Programs	\$31,000	\$32,000
Operations	\$110,000	\$106,000
Outreach	\$51,000	\$56,000
Total Expenses	\$394,000	\$419,000
Loss	\$<43,000>	\$<24,000>

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.