



Views from the Mountain

From the Desk of...

The Reverend David L. Jones

Dear Friends

I invite you to marvel with me at how unexpectedly and wonderfully grace appears.

I was "helping" the St John's weekend committee set up on Friday (the quotes are because that competent bunch required no help from me) when I got the first tentative call on my cell.

"Hi, Dave. How are you?"

It's always nice to have a call like that but a little unusual for the parishioner to call the priest instead of the other way around. We talked for a few minutes and then hung up.

Then I got the second call. The second of *six*. All wanting to know how I was doing.

You probably know the end of the story. Our parish, like our siblings down at St Bernard's, was being "phished." Half of you got an email asking you to get in touch with me right away and the other half got an email asking you to send me money.

Between the phone calls asking how I was and the emails asking where the money should be sent, I realized, again, what a hospitable, attentive bunch of people come up the mountain and again, I was grateful for the grace that gathers us here.

This is an action-packed week. We celebrated the 112th anniversary of our first gathering in the chapel, observed an exceptionally well-arranged exhibit of our beautiful "Hidden Treasures," had a great party and listened to excellent music. We raised money for our buildings and our Choral Scholar's Fund. And on Sunday next, we will thank God for the unexpected and wonderful grace that appeared in our parents in faith and continues in our family of today. We are indeed "knit together in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Christ our Lord," like it says in the Collect for All Saints. I gave thanks for that last Friday and we'll do it together this next Sunday and every day.

Dave +

STEWARDSHIP 2020

The **2020 Stewardship Campaign** is off to a strong start! If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact [Bob Courtemanche](#). Please return your 2020 Pledge Card. Your generosity will determine the budget for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found on the web at sjotm.org, in the narthex, or call the office 908-766-2282 to have one sent to you.



Don't forget to set you clocks on
Saturday, November 2

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING GATHERING

St. Mark's, Basking Ridge
November 26, 7 pm

The Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faith communities of the Somerset Hills will join in prayer, poetry, song, and refreshment. The event is sponsored by the still-forming group of faith leaders. You are also invited to join in the choir, which will rehearse at 6 pm.

WORSHIP NEWS

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

November 17



All the baptized are always welcome to receive the Holy Food and Drink, including infants!

Many children want to learn more about the Sacrament. On Sunday, November 17 at 9:15 AM, Father Dave will meet in the Chapel with any children who want to learn more about Holy Communion. All children are welcome, whether they have received Holy Communion before and wish to learn more about it, or if they have yet to receive Holy Communion. These children will have the opportunity to receive communion with their family at the November 10, 10:00 am Eucharist. Please email Lynn Mitchell at lynnmitchell@sjotm.org to let us know if you would like to participate.

VESTRY NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The following people are soliciting nominations for the incoming Vestry Class of 2022. If you yourself or someone you know might consider serving as a member of the vestry, please contact :

Jim Costello (jjcostellojr@norris-law.com)

Shellie Iossa (michelle.iossa@gmail.com)

Lindy Judd (lindyjudd@optonline.net)

Rich McGlynn (govvie@aol.com)

Kathy Tober (kathleentober@gmail.com)

RECTOR SWAP

November 10, 2019

On November 10th we will participate in the Watchung Convocation "Rector Swap" with area Episcopal churches. Rick Morley from St. Mark's, Basking Ridge will preach at SJOTM. Dave Jones will preach at St. Bernard's.

2020 HOLY BAPTISM DATES

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. The next dates for Baptism are:

- ✿ Sunday, January 12th at 10 am
- ✿ Sunday, April 19th at 7 pm
- ✿ Sunday, May, 31st at 10 am
- ✿ Sunday, November 1st at 10 am

Questions about baptism? Please contact Fr. Dave at djones@sjotm.org.

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVERSATION

Everyone is invited to a discussion about our future on Sunday November 10 after the 10 am liturgy. The most recent Strategic Planning Group Working Document will be emailed to you on Monday, November 4.

FIRST ANNUAL SJOTM WEEKEND
October 26-27
"Hidden Treasures on the Mountain"

On Saturday afternoon, many came up the mountain to see some of our "Hidden Treasures" on display. Included in the self-guided tour was information regarding our textiles, silver, stained glass, and art work. A Hymn Sing and festive reception followed in Parish Hall, celebrating SJOTM!



PARISH PROFILES

This is the first in a monthly series of profiles intended to help us get to know each other better. If you would like to have your profile included in the future, please email Hilary at hilarity31@gmail.com.

Profile Number One: Father Dave Jones

"Get to Know Your "New" Priest."

Talking with our Priest-in-Charge, Father Dave Jones, one often hears the word "Grace". Dave truly believes that his life has been, and is being, guided by God's grace. Even when saying he "lucked out" in being called to the churches in which he has served, he really means that God was working on his behalf.

"Through the grace of God," he says, he found his home in the church. Having graduated from Montclair State University with a degree in Music Education and a considerable facility singing and playing 1st clarinet and bassoon that he had developed in High School, he set out to find a job teaching music in New Jersey. But New Jersey had just abolished the music program for Kindergarten through Grade 8; no job was to be found. What next?

Dave applied to Seminary. In 1985 he graduated from Drew University with a master's in divinity and was called to the first of several United Methodist Churches and institutions in which he served for the next ten years. During this decade, Dave was responsible for everything from summer camps to entire pastorates in four Methodist Churches in New Jersey and one (his first) in New York State. "My emotional wellbeing " he says, "was determined by my first church, where I was sometimes paid in food, sometimes not paid at all, but I was loved, empowered and forgiven".



After spending the next decade as Vice President, Dean and Chaplain of Centenary College in Hackettstown, Dave decided to return to the Priesthood – as an Episcopalian. He entered the General Theological Seminary and took courses in Anglican Studies both there and at Drew. He was ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark in June 2018 and served at the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown and St. Paul's in Chatham before coming to St John on the Mountain.

Asked "Why Episcopalian?" he confessed to a love of the Anglican Eucharist and the Book of Common Prayer. There are hints that he enjoys the music too!

What made Dave want to be a priest? He explains the he grew up in a religious family where not going to church on Sunday was not an option. Two sisters were considerably older than he. His mother raised him alone after his father died when he was three. A self-described "hyperactive twerp", she didn't push him or make him anxious but encouraged, loved and supported him. In 5th grade he discovered the clarinet and would spend hours practicing, which, he says, taught him to deal with tedium! Not an athlete in Middle School, he found soccer in High School and became Captain of the Soccer team. In his Junior Year – his first year as Captain – the team scored no goals!

Although he doesn't play soccer or the clarinet anymore (LOL), he still loves music and singing. He also loves dogs. His first church gave him a Golden Retriever puppy who lived for 17 years. Now he and his husband, Bob have three adopted dogs one of which is thought not to be a dog but a dingo!

Bob and Dave have been together for over 25 years; they now live in Califon.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

December 22

Get Your Forms in by November 24th

The pageant is open to all interested Pre-K – 12th grade students. Please take the time to discuss with your child(ren) the time commitments involved with each type of role and their willingness to perform it. In order to participate they must be able to attend the required practices. See below.



- Mandatory practices for those with SPEAKING PARTS and MUSICAL ROLES:
 - Saturday, December 21st at 9:00 am (with a parent)
- Mandatory practice for the ENTIRE cast:
 - Saturday, December 21st at 10:00 am (with a parent)

Beginning November 3rd sign-up forms will be located on the table in the narthex, in the Parish House Church Office, on www.sjotm.org, or via email (lynnmitchell@sjotm.org). Forms must be returned no later than November 24th. Roles will be announced and scripts will be available on Monday, December 2nd.

Parent volunteers are also needed.

ADVENT ARTS & CRAFTS

December 8th

**ADVENT ARTS & CRAFTS**

You won't want to miss Coffee Hour on December 8th! Please join us for some creative seasonal arts and crafts.

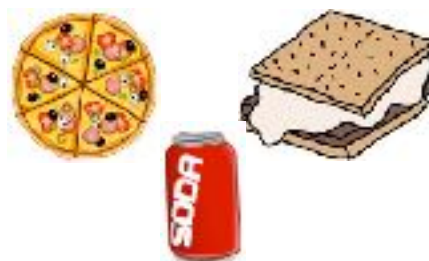
Best Wishes
as you celebrate your
birthday in November

Spencer Singlevich,
Adeline & Margot Swartz,
Konrad von Hollenn,
Sumner Putnam, & Sean Robinson

**YOUTH GATHERING
MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA &
S'MORES**

November 3

All youth from 6th – 12th grade are invited to enjoy pizza and s'mores in Parish Hall from 5pm-6:30pm on Sunday, November 3rd.

**ADVENT WREATH MAKING
FOR ALL**

December 1st

ADVENT WREATH MAKING FOR ALL

Please join us on Sunday, December 2nd as we make Advent Wreaths (in Parish Hall). All materials will be supplied. A \$5 donation to help off-set the cost of supplies is greatly appreciated.



- Children will make their wreaths at 10:00 (in lieu of Sunday School).
- Adults are welcome to make theirs immediately following the 10:00am service.

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Kathy Tober

The children and teachers of SJNS have been hard at work undertaking a study of trees. Teachers have been busy using the beautiful SJOTM campus as a classroom by taking their students on nature walks, allowing them to ask questions and taking the opportunity to learn more about trees as they go. Such fun for everyone! This is a wonderful first unit study, as it provides opportunities to get outside and explore. Additionally, children have been encouraged to go home and find things related to trees from their own yards and share their findings, such as leaves, branches, seeds, and bark, with their friends at school. These collected items have provided the materials for students to be able to construct trees in their classrooms. The children have also been exposed to and are now using the vocabulary words to which they have been exposed in their studies and read aloud; roots, trunk and crown. Teachers have also introduced the comparison of deciduous trees (which lose their leaves) to evergreen trees (which retain their leaves all year long). The word deciduous may seem too complex to teach to preschoolers. However, research shows that using new and unusual words in conversation is helpful for later literacy development.

In conjunction with the tree study, each class has started their first KWL chart. This stands for what the children know (K), what they want to know (W) and what they have learned (L). By asking children what they know about a topic (trees), the teacher is able to activate background knowledge so they know where to begin the study. The W (what you want to know), creates the questions for which the children will find the answers throughout the study. The teachers role is to set up experiences and opportunities for the children to find answers in a child-led manner. The study ends with the children completing (L), what they have learned. KWL charts help children and teachers organize their thoughts and make connections, as well as work on literacy skills. Interactive writing, where the teachers write each child's ideas and questions with them, is a main component of KWL charts. This develops children's knowledge of print including left to right directionality, correspondence between the spoken and written word, and phonological awareness. It also boosts children's self esteem, when they see their ideas in print. They know that their thoughts and ideas are valued. This social-emotional development is the foundation of our curriculum. The next part of the tree study will involve an investigation that will guide learning around "Who Lives in Trees?" Classes will learn about birds, insects, and animals that use trees as their home. Children will be offered hands on activities and once again use the whole SJOTM campus, as well as books, to research their questions.

SJNS will be closed on Monday, November 4 for fall conferences with our 3s, 4s and 4+ parents. These meetings will allow teachers and parents to have a dialog around where the child is in terms of their development at this early point in the year. Second conferences will be offered to parents in the early spring to once again touch base on their child's progress and development.

Since it is never too early to begin teaching children about the importance of giving to others and putting more kindness into the world, SJNS families are being asked to participate in two separate Community Outreach projects: (1) Bundles of Love benefiting pediatric cancer patients at Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Hospital; and (2) CASA SHaW benefiting children in foster care, within Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, who are removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect.



MISSION OUTREACH

TURKEYS WANTED



We are collecting frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving at the Food Bank.

Please bring a frozen turkey or turkey breast to church (or place in the freezer in the garage) from November 15 - 21. They will be distributed on Saturday, November 23rd to the Somerset County Food Bank.

ADOPT - A- FAMILY

Help save a struggling family's Thanksgiving and Christmas by providing an uncooked meal. It's easy! Just buy the makings for a meal, and deliver it uncooked to your *Adopt-a-Family*. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near Parish Hall. Please call Sue Kennedy at 908-234-0267 with any questions. If you have a particular family you have been supporting in the past, please let Sue know so that she can inform the Food Bank.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY

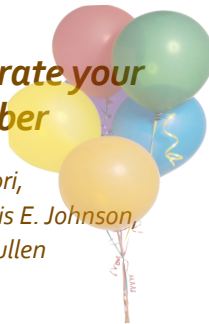
Saturdays in November

Thank you to all of you who have already signed up to work at the Food Pantry on Saturdays in November. If you have not, please check to see which Saturday you are available. You only need to be there from 9.15 - 11.45 a.m. It's at the Shiloh Pentecostal Church, 139 Davenport Street in Somerville. Children are welcome if they are old enough to help a bit. Our youth have accepted November 23rd. We are looking for volunteers for November 9th, November 16th, and November 30th. Contact Hilary Thomas Dorer at hilarity31@gmail.com for more info.



Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in November

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



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

BISHOP CUNCELL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, October 14

The Fifteenth Annual Bishop George E. Cuncell Memorial Golf Tournament was held to support the Cathedral of The Diocese of New Jersey. There were about 75 golfers and Paul Zanardi and Peter and Jane Mercer represented SJOTM. Although they performed brilliantly, the Cup was won by St. Luke's, Gladstone, who will hold and display the Cup over the next year. Our SJOTM last won the Cup in 2006.

Our team was surprised to see that many golf carts were in honor of our Vestry members. Each cart was labeled with a Vestry member's name and the name of our church. Peter reported that many golfers commented positively.

SAVE THE DATE LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday, December 19

Save the date! The Ladies' Christmas Lunch will be at Roxiticus Country Club on Thursday, December 19. All women of the parish community are welcome to join us at noon for a holiday buffet lunch. Details, including menu and price, will be available soon.



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

