



# Views from the Mountain

## A Message from .....

*The Reverend David L. Jones*

Friends,

Eventually unwrapped, it was an Avon bottle refilled with talcum powder. (The original label was still on the bottom.) Perplexed, I looked up. My mother's eyes were already focused on me. "You know how to do this," was written on her face.

"Thank you for the powder, Aunt Margaret," said cheerily to the maiden aunt for whom boys were an odd and unaccustomed species.

"Thank you for the frankincense, Gaspar," she says. Mary knows how to do this. Odd foreigners with odd gifts arrive at her son's odd nativity and she responds graciously and hospitably.

Thinking of Christmas gifts, this year we all received one. Not odd but wonderful, not valuable to others but inestimable to us. A nicely-wrapped package was outside the church early on Christmas morning.

I think the story is that members of one of our families were antiquing and somehow found a few items given to St John on the Mountain in appreciation for Father Niese's warm leadership and John Baldwin's beautiful music. We know that because the original note from Mrs. Babbott was still in the box. The items were purchased this time to "bring them back to where they belong."

Sometimes we get used bottles or useless incense. Other times we get gifts immeasurably valuable: reminders that we are recipients of a history and donors of a future.

Especially in these weird times, patiently and tenaciously, we know how to do this.

The star will bring us to where we belong.

*Dave+*



## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 9 at 10 am

Join Fr Dave, several Kings, and a LIVE camel on January 9th as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. Kids of all ages are invited to meet and get their picture taken with Clarence the Camel on the front lawn of the church prior to the 10 am service.

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Annual Meeting January 30

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of St John on the Mountain will be on Sunday, January 30 immediately following the 10am service. The 2022 budget will be affirmed and the Junior Warden, Members of Vestry and Delegates to Diocesan Convention will be elected.

All are able to attend. Members of the Parish in Good Standing are able to vote.

**There is not an 8am liturgy on this day.**

## VESTRY NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The following people are soliciting nominations for the incoming Vestry Class of 2024. If you yourself or someone you know might consider serving as a member of the vestry, please contact :

Doug Rutz [DougRutz@hotmail.com](mailto:DougRutz@hotmail.com)

Peter Clarke: [pl.clarke@verizon.net](mailto:pl.clarke@verizon.net)

Kathy Christie: [kathy.christie@att.net](mailto:kathy.christie@att.net)

Bea Daggett: [bdaggett@papermill.org](mailto:bdaggett@papermill.org)

Ward Dorer: [dorerhw@verizon.net](mailto:dorerhw@verizon.net)

## WORSHIP NEWS

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS

St. John on the Mountain continues the tradition of having fresh flowers on the altars. The arrangements enhance the sanctuary and are shared afterwards with the sick or divided to use again the following week in the chapel. Donations of flowers are made as memorials or in thanksgiving for special occasions. A date can be shared by more than one donor. The 2022 flower sign-up charts are now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the church building, opposite the entrance to the Chapel sacristy. For dedications and specific floral requests contact Sue Kennedy at [susankennedy0279@gmail.com](mailto:susankennedy0279@gmail.com) or the office 908-766-2282 [office@sjotm.org](mailto:office@sjotm.org). The cost is \$110 for church altar flowers and \$75 for chapel altar flowers.



### LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first performed in 1900 by a chorus of schoolchildren at the all-black Stanton School in Jacksonville, FL, as a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It was composed by their principal, James Weldon Johnson to introduce their honored guest that day, Booker T. Washington. The tune was later written by Johnson's brother John in 1905.

In recent years we have joined many parishes in singing the hymn at our liturgy on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, honoring the work of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" became the "African American National Anthem" because of its strong message of hope and freedom. The hymn continues to be popular and its message of hope and freedom continues to ring true.

## SJOTM NOW OFFERS ON-LINE GIVING

### Giving Via Text

1. Please have handy the credit card or checking account you will use.
2. On a text message:  
To: **73256**  
Message: **Mountain**
3. Click on the link.
4. Type the amount and choose the fund to which you will contribute  
*+ If the contribution is in honor or memory of a person or event, please indicate that on the Memo Line*  
*+ Note that you can donate to more than one fund by clicking on "+Another Fund."*  
*+Remembering the email address you include on this page will save you from re-entering information the next time you use this service.*
5. Click on "Continue" at the bottom of the page.
6. On the next screen, choose the credit or debit card or the bank account you will use and enter the requested information.  
*+ For a checking account: the routing number is the nine digits between the two sets of small vertical squares at the bottom of your check.*
7. Please consider checking the box that adds the cost of transaction fees to your donation.

### Giving Via Desktop or Laptop

1. Please have handy the credit card or checking account you will use.
2. Visit our website at [www.SJOTM.org](http://www.SJOTM.org)
3. Click on the green circle ("Give Today") at the top right of the screen.
4. Type the amount and choose the fund to which you will contribute  
*+ If the contribution is in honor or memory of a person or event, please indicate that on the Memo Line*  
*+ Note that you can donate to more than one fund by clicking on "+Another Fund."*  
*+Remembering the email address you include on this page will save you from re-entering information the next time you use this service.*
5. Click on "Continue" at the bottom of the page.
6. On the next screen, choose the credit or debit card or the bank account you will use and enter the requested information.  
*+ For a checking account: the routing number is the nine digits between the two sets of small vertical squares at the bottom of your check.*
7. Please increase your generosity by checking the box that adds the cost of this transaction to your donation



Fr. Dave and Graham Argent-Belcher  
welcome parishioners to Christmas Eve Service

## AMAZON SMILE

### Looking for After Christmas Sales? Consider Shopping on Amazon Smile

*Amazon Smile* is a program on the Amazon.com website by which you can donate a percentage of your eligible order to our church. It is a *very small* amount (one half of one percent of eligible items) but doesn't increase any cost to you and is very easy to do.

[Click here](#) to go to the Amazon Smile page and change/designate our church as your Amazon Smile recipient. It's that easy.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS****CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2021**

This year the children of St. John on the Mountain put on a wonderful performance of Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's *Good News of Great Joy*.

**THE FEAST of the EPIPHANY**

Sunday, January 9

Join us at 10am in Parish Hall as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when the Magi visited the Baby Jesus and recognized him as the Son of God. There will be a live camel for everyone to see and take a picture with and a Sunday school lesson and activity for children ages 4-11.

**YOUTH GROUP**

Sunday, January 23, 5 pm

All 6<sup>th</sup> graders – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us in the Parish House for pizza, s'mores, and fun at 5pm on January. 23rd at 5 pm.



Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in January

Meghan Robinson, James Gilmartin, Mia Sbaraglio, Grace Tober, Owen Baird, Garrett Davidson, Sheridan Davidson, Charlotte Mitchell, Alex Rutz, and Caspar Von Hollen

Thank you to Margot Lewis for directing the pageant. Thank you to Merritt Lewis, Michael Mitchell, Steve Sbaraglio, Peter Tober, and Pete Vollmar for putting the set together and breaking it down. Thank you to Christina and Doug Rutz for setting up and cleaning up coffee hour and to all of our pageant parents for their delicious contributions to coffee hour.

**We would also like to recognize and thank the cast:**

*Elliot Goulding, Faith Harlow-Jennings, Xavier Harlow-Jennings, Zachary Hays, Aidan Joyal, Sarah Lewis, Andrew McGovern, William McGovern, Charlotte Mitchell, Meredith Mitchell, Patrick Mitchell, Alex Rutz, Jack Rutz, Grace Tober, Caspar von Hollen, and Konrad von Hollen.*

**PAGEANT COSTUMES**

If you still have a costume at home, please return it to the church office or contact Lynn Mitchell for pick up ASAP!

**REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE!**

If you have your metal wreath form and any decorations from your Advent wreath, please consider bringing it back to the church so that we may use it again next year.

**STEWARDSHIP 2022**

If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact [Bob Courtemanche](#). If you haven't already done so, please return your 2022 Pledge Card ASAP, as the Vestry needs them to make their budget decisions for the upcoming year. Extra pledge cards can be found on the web at [www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org) or call the office 908-766-2282 to have one sent to you.

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	Andrew & Jocelyn Gilmartin	Peter & Jane Mercer
Dan Anderson	Margaret Griggs	Michael & Lynn Mitchell
Doris Aufschlager	David & Cookie Goulding	Pat Moody
Sharene Azimi	Brian & Christopher Harlow-Jennings	Rachel Mullen
Joy Baird	Al Hauéis	Eric & Beth Murphy
Grove & Betsey Blair	Stephanie Hauéis	Barbara Mushalko
Mike & Jen Bohr	Gates & Mary Ellen Hawn	Marty & Margo Packouz
Nancy Carson	Brian & Kyle Hays	Katie Porter
Charlie & Jeanie Chapin	Wood Huntley & Beirne Donaldson	Cynthia Potter
Kathy Christie	Pat & Shellie Iossa	David & Joan Powell
Sally Chubb	Frank & Mary Johnson	Frank Pratt
Tabby Cochran	Dave Jones	Sandy & Jane Putnam
Bob & Mary Courtemanche	Debra & David Joyal	Doug & Christina Rutz
Peter Courtemanche	John & Abby Kean, Jr.	Lindley & Christine Scarlett
Christian & Gerry-Jo Cranmer	Anne Kearns	Barbara Scillia
Michael & Allison d'Amboise	Joe & Jocelyn Keefe	Dorothy Smullen
Alessandro & Sarah DeGregori	Ron & Sue Kennedy	Lynda Stadtmueller
Chris & Bea Daggett	Lois Lark	Peter & Kathy Tober
Dick & Nina Dixon	Jon & Heather Leef	Pete & Patty Vollmar
Ward Dorer & Hilary Thomas	Merritt & Margot Lewis	Gail Wragg
Dan & Deborah Ely	Patti Lippman	Bill & Marie Young
Alan & June Enos	Rich & Vicky McGlynn	Paul & Valerie Zanardi
Kit & Kathy Falcon	Jeff & Robin McKeon	
Jody Flegal	Bill & Jane McKnight	

### Did You Know You Can Donate Your Stocks to SJOTM?

The tax advantages of giving stock, instead of cash, to church can make doing so very worthwhile. We would be happy to accept stock donations for 2022 as form of pledge payment. To learn more, please contact Lisa Keenan in the office at 908-766-2282 ext 13 or by email at [L.Keenan@sjotm.org](mailto:L.Keenan@sjotm.org).



**January Birthday Wishes to**  
Graham Argent-Belcher, Joy Baird, Helen Brunet,  
Heather Leef, Jon Leef, Jeff McKeon, Blake Putnam,  
Summy Putnam, Hilary Thomas, Pete Vollmar, &  
Harry Wilmerding

## OUTREACH NEWS

### CASA SHAW UPDATE

Many thanks to all our generous SJOTM parishioners, SJNS families and our surrounding community members who kindly donated to our Advent CASA program. SJOTM was pleased to be able to deliver to our friends at CASA SHaW (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties) almost \$4,000 in gift cards, a large supply of diapers and wipes, as well as items for their holiday shop which allows foster families to obtain holidays gifts for their children. Below is a detailed list of the items delivered to this worthwhile organization thanks to the generosity of so many:

- \$2,810 worth of Shop Rite gift cards
- \$575 worth of Target gift cards
- \$450 worth of Walmart gift cards
- \$100 worth of gas gift cards
- \$25 worth of Visa gift cards
- 17 case of diapers
- 9 package of diapers
- 5 cases of baby wipes
- 6 containers of wipes
- 27 stuffed animals
- 13 arts and craft kits
- 6 Lego sets
- 12 puzzles
- 32 books
- 9 other various child related items



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### SIMPLE BRUNCH

January 9, 11:30 am

**It's not a Simple Supper; it's not a Short Service  
This month, it's a Simple Brunch!**

All are welcome to join us after Coffee Hour for a Simple Brunch.

Same rules apply....

- All are welcome; bring the kids
- Enjoy a delicious prepared meal (no cooking!)
- It's free!
- RSVP to [office@sjotm.org](mailto:office@sjotm.org) so we don't waste food
- Lemonade, soda & Prosecco provided

### NEEDLES, PINS, YARN, etc...

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Join us Wednesdays

from 10-12 in Meeting Room!

Bring yarn, needles, individual projects or start a Prayer shawl to donate to the Atlantic Health Hospice program.

Questions? Please call Jody Flegal  
908-766-7890

## ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

December was a busy but fun month at SJNS. Our halls continually rang with holiday cheer and the sound of the children rehearsing for the Christmas Sing definitely put everyone in the holiday spirit. The Christmas Sing took place on Friday, December 17 which was the last day of school before break. The event was held outdoors and the weather certainly cooperated with us as it was a beautiful morning. Father Dave read an age-appropriate story to the children surrounding the nativity and afterwards the children sang their hearts out with a few Christmas songs. The parents all beamed with pride as the children had fun and the event sure spread tons of Christmas joy to the entire SJNS community.

In December we also focused on the holidays by having the students make gifts for their families and having them decorate ornaments for our SJNS festival of tree display that was proudly showcased at the Environmental Center. Art is an important part of the curriculum in not only December, but throughout the year. Every day, children find a variety of art materials available to them. Drawing, painting, cutting, pasting and playing with clay and playdough are not only enjoyable, but also provide opportunities for learning. Children express original ideas and feelings, improve their coordination, develop small muscle skills and most importantly develop creativity and pride in their accomplishments by exploring and using art materials. In school, the teachers ask questions that encourage students to think about their ideas and express feelings. For example, we might say:

- “You worked a long time on playdough today. What did you like doing best?”
- “Tell me about your picture” instead of “What did you make?”
- “What materials did you use to make this?”
- “How did you make that new color?”

At SJNS we focus on the process of creating their art rather than the product. By asking the types of questions listed above, the teachers place value on how the children get to the final product, not the result. Most children naturally delight in art. From the 2's class stamping dot art, to the 4+ class expressing how they feel, think and view the world through their journal pages, art enables them to learn many skills, express themselves, appreciate beauty and have fun-all at the same time.

With the start of the new year, our administrators will be turning their attention to the registration process for the 2022-2023 school year. Priority registration for current students, SJNS families (current and past) and SJOTM parishioners will begin on Jan 31 and run through Feb 4. The open registration period will begin Feb 14 until all open spaces are filled. Please contact us, or have anyone you know that might be interested contact us, at [director@sjotm.org](mailto:director@sjotm.org).



*Christmas at  
St. John's Nursery School*



**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

*Assisting Clergy*  
The Rev. Mary E. Davis  
mdavis@sjotm.org  
The Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Mulder  
tmulder@sjotm.org

Christopher Harlow-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  
*Nursery School Co-Directors*  
director@sjotm.org

**January Liturgical Schedule**

- 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Chapel
- 10 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir, Church

**January 9**

- 11:30 pm Second Sunday Brunch

**Evening Prayer**

- 6:30 pm Wednesdays, Chapel & Zoom