



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY

# The Newsletter

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 • 908.722.1258 • [stjohnsomerville.org](http://stjohnsomerville.org)

OCTOBER 2021

*From the Rector*

## RECOGNIZING CHANGE

FOR US MORTALS, change is inescapable. It may be dramatic and sudden, but it is more likely to be slow and gradual and, for that reason, to go unrecognized for a long time. A pre-Christian Greek philosopher described change by saying no one could “step into the same river twice.” He meant that the flowing river is constantly changing, and a human being is likewise changing.

The difficulty is that when life is very good for us, we resist the idea of change. Even though we know it is impossible, we wish that time, as we are experiencing it, could stop and our immediate life circumstances be guaranteed us forever. But to stop time would mean death.

Reluctantly accepting that kind of change, we ask if depth of a relationship can establish immunity to change. Robert Bridges, British poet laureate in the early 20th century wrote, “...let truth be told / That love will change in growing old.”

A church bulletin contained a quote from Anne Morrow Lindbergh, the beloved late 20th century writer: “When you love someone, you do not love them all the time in exactly the same way from moment to moment.”

What, then, must we do to relate to this possibility? First, we must recognize change is happening to **both** of us in the close relationship. Then we must concentrate together on making the relationship **now** the richest, deepest it can possibly be.

See you in Church!

*Father Ron*



## ST. JOHN'S 'LIVE' STREAMING

We are now offering LIVE streaming on Sundays, in addition to in-person Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:15 on Sunday mornings. Simply click on our St. John's Church YouTube page, then click SUBSCRIBE and then YouTube will notify you when the weekly service starts. Visit our website

[www.stjohnsomerville.org](http://www.stjohnsomerville.org) where you can find the Sunday Bulletin, Order of Service, including Scripture readings for each Sunday, links to our Facebook page and other resources. We are online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuUvGm3qLoDcgErzva2KP7A/videos>

*Please share on your personal Facebook page!*



From our Deacon

## THE SAINTS AT THE END

EVERY SUNDAY, in the last petition of the Prayers of the People, we invoke several saints. Chief among them is the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, followed by St. Francis (Fr. Ron's favorite saint), and concluding with the patron saint of our parish, St. John the Evangelist. Before his name is mentioned, we also hear about a saint of the week, some particular person from church history who made a difference. I take these names from the calendar of The Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic *rota* of saints, and occasionally from the Orthodox or Lutheran traditions.

On Sunday, September 26, our saint of the week was a group of people who weren't on any of those lists—yet. The Order of Deaconesses of The Episcopal Church is being proposed for inclusion on the church's calendar, and it will be voted on next year at General Convention in Baltimore. I have been part of a working group that has collected research and information about these intrepid women, who served the church at a time when women weren't supposed to take leadership roles.

Although General Convention only authorized the ordering of women as deaconesses in 1888, there is a record of them going back as far as 1857. That was when the Bishop of Maryland ordained (*they used that word!*) six women to serve as nurses in the Diocesan Infirmary. The proposed date for recognizing the deaconesses is September 27, in honor of that seminal event.

There were never more than about 550 deaconesses over the years, ending when The Episcopal Church allowed women to become deacons in 1971. If you want to know more about these women and what they did, ask me and I can go on for hours. Just know that, by adding them to our prayers that Sunday, St. John's was probably the first parish to recognize them as saints of the church. Here is the proposed collect for the feast day:



*O God of love, we bless you for calling and equipping the deaconesses of the Episcopal Church, who served people at risk or in need, at home and throughout the world. With grateful hearts we honor their hard work, perseverance, and leadership in following Jesus into places of suffering or hardship, injustice or un-championed hope. May we also bear the light of Christ to all people with humility and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

—Deacon Keith

## WATCHUNG CONVOCATION

There will be a special meeting of the Watchung Convocation to be held on Sunday, October 24 at 3 p.m., for the purpose of electing one clergy person and one lay person to represent the Watchung Convocation to the Diocesan Bishop Search Committee (a Zoom invitation is forthcoming). The six people elected at the special Zoom meeting held on September 26 to represent St. John's for the Convocation were: Alicia Gilmartin, Neva Rae Fox, Bob Fox, Marianne Salanik, Valerie Smith, and Mark Hernandez. *Congratulations and thank you to those willing to serve!*

## THE WORK OF MINISTRY

### *St. John's Clothes Closet*

St. John's Clothes Closet re-opened on August 7 and will continue to be open on the first Saturday of every month (9 a.m. to 12 noon) in the downstairs level of the Parish House.

Masks and social distancing will be mandatory and the number of shoppers at any one time will be limited. The proceeds of the Clothes Closet support St. John's ministries.

Donations must be fall or winter clothing. Appropriate donations include women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, and accessories (jewelry, ties, scarves, belts, handbags, gloves, and hats). Donations on hangers are especially appreciated. Socks and underwear must be new and in original packaging. Volunteers may decline to accept any items that are out of season or not in good condition.

Donations may be brought in during the hours that the Clothes Closet is open. You must bring donations personally to the Clothes Closet when someone is available to accept them; please do not drop off anything outside or inside the church or Parish House. Contact Linda Willard at [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com) or 347.276.6491 and she will make an appointment to meet you at a mutually convenient time.

If you would like to volunteer to sort donations or help the day of the sales, please contact Paula Windus at 908.526.7150 or [paulawindus@verizon.net](mailto:paulawindus@verizon.net). The Clothes Closet council includes Linda Willard, Marianne Salanik, Liz Eisinger, Valerie Gibson, and Paula Windus.



### *'Meals to Go'—A caring ministry*

This ministry provides a free meal for those in need each Saturday morning, and menus are published in the *Friday Good News and Notices*. If you are interested or know of someone who might enjoy receiving a nice meal, simply arrive on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. People enter via the ramp door entrance, come inside, share contact tracing information, walk to the main kitchen to receive food items, then leave the Parish Hall via the back glass door and then depart from the church property. Wearing masks is mandatory. For more information, contact Fr. Ron [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net). Sign up to volunteer your time: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45afad2ba2f8c70-meals1>



### *Episcopal Church Women*

The St. John's ECW will be welcoming a special guest speaker on Monday, October 4 at 7 p.m. Cynthia Blumenkrantz will appear in Revolutionary War garb to talk and walk us through a presentation on the Middlebrook Encampment. The Middlebrook Encampment was a seasonal encampment of

the Continental Army, commanded by General George Washington, during the Revolutionary War in our area in 1777 and again in 1778–79. ECW will meet in the Parish Hall, socially distanced with masks.

### *Coming up with ECW:*

- At the November 1 meeting, ECW will welcome a special guest for a meditation via Zoom from Texas—the Rev. Joanna George, Deacon. Details to come.
- United Thank Offering (UTO) in-gathering will be Sunday, November 14.
- Coming in Advent: *Helping Hands!* ECW will be collecting new gloves and mittens for women, men, children for warmth, work, and well-being.

For more information, contact President Judy Marine, [jmarine@verizon.net](mailto:jmarine@verizon.net), or Vice-President Neva Rae Fox, [nevarae@aol.com](mailto:nevarae@aol.com).

### *SACRED GROUND: A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE & FAITH*

*Sacred Ground* is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of the United States' history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

*Sacred Ground* is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.

St. John's and St. Martin's in Bridgewater began meeting on September 23 and will continue through November 11. These Thursday evening meetings are held via Zoom. Contact Fr. Ron [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net) if you are interested. *We are pleased to report that 12 people have signed up, thus far!*



### *PARISH CHOIR*

The Parish Choir began rehearsals in mid-September. Each Thursday evening at 7:30 we gather for rehearsal and sing a wide range of music from chant to newly composed works. Currently we are rehearsing music by Herbert Howells and Ralph Vaughan Williams, and newer pieces by Bobby McFerrin,

Melissa Dunphy, and Victor Johnson. Some of our members are quite experienced, and some of our members are new to choir. We are also preparing to sing a special Evensong on Sunday, November 7 in observance of All Souls.



We conclude each rehearsal with sung Compline. The name of the service means “completion,” and it has been observed as the last service of the day for centuries. Sung prayers, scripture readings, and psalms conclude with the *Nunc dimittis*, Simeon’s song from the Gospel of Luke. When you check your watch on Thursday evenings around 8:30, know that the St. John’s Choir is praying for you—feel free to open your *Book of Common Prayer* to page 127 and pray with us.

If you’d like to know more about the Parish Choir, and you’d like to try us out, reach out to Mark Trautman, [matrautman304@gmail.com](mailto:matrautman304@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office. *Everyone is welcome!*

### YOUNG MUSICIANS: WHY CHOIR?

The scriptures call on us to make music to the Lord. St. Paul wrote: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16).” In our Episcopal tradition, young singers are referred to as *choristers*, and they play an important role in leading worship. Choir is also Christian formation—at their heart, choirs are Christian communities that spread the Gospel and grow the church.

I have had the opportunity to work with some of the young singers from St. John’s at the Diocesan Choir Camp at Cape May (we are pictured here with Bishop Stokes), and I am scheduled to direct the camp in the summer of 2022. During this academic year, we plan to sing for the entire 10:15 service one Sunday per month. We have also purchased hand chimes (they made their debut on September 5)—they’re a lot of fun to play. And I know that some of our youths are talented vocalists and instrumentalists. There’s a place for everyone, grades K through 12.

I invite you to join me on Saturday, October 9 at 11 a.m. outside the Parish Hall. Even if you’ve never sung in choir, come. It’s fun! Contact Mark Trautman at [matrautman304@gmail.com](mailto:matrautman304@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office. *Everyone is welcome!*



### COMING IN NOVEMBER

#### *Silent Auction, November 6-13*

A Silent Auction containing lots of great products and gift ideas, will be displayed in the Parish Hall starting Saturday, November 6, ending Sunday, November 13; bidding will end one half-hour after the end of the 10:15 that day.

Please consider donating a basket, soliciting a gift card from your favorite restaurant, hairdresser, or your other favorite businesses, and do consider placing bids on one or more items to help support St. John’s ministries.

All raffle items must be brought to the Parish Hall by Friday, October 29 with a description of each item and its exact value. If possible, please have each ready to display. Groups may consider doing a theme basket with each member contributing an item, such as spa products, wine, and the like.

A box will be set up in the Guild Room for each group and members can drop their contributions off. Please include the sales receipt or a note with the value. All items will be displayed in the church hall from November 6-13 when the highest bidder for each item will be announced. For more information, contact Karen Whitmore at [karwhit46@gmail.com](mailto:karwhit46@gmail.com).



### *Choral Evensong, November 7*

The Parish Choir will sing Choral Evensong on All Saints' Sunday, November 7 at 5 p.m. Traditionally the feasts of All Saints and All Souls (November 1 and 2) are times to remember the saints who have gone before us. This is an opportunity for us as a community to remember those we have lost, especially members of our community who have died in the past year. There will be an opportunity to remember

Choral Evensong lies at the heart of the Anglican tradition. The pairing of the *Magnificat* (The Song of Mary) and the *Nunc dimittis* (The Song of Simeon) remind us that the fulfillment of God's promises are ever new and ever present. Please join us for this service as we remember those loved ones who have gone before us.

### *All Souls' Observance*

*During Evensong on November 7, we will remember in prayer the names of those who have been buried from St. John's Church during the past year.*

*In addition to reading the list of names of those who died this year, you are invited to share with us the names of those you have loved and lost.*

*Please send us those names, and we will remember them before God.*

*Please print names without titles, using first and last:*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*It is not necessary, but if you would like to include a contribution in memory of those remembered, kindly enclose your check for any amount made payable to:*

*St. John's Church, Memo: "Music Fund"  
or you may donate on-line.*

Please return your dedication by Wednesday, November 3 to:  
[frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net) and/or [matrautman304@gmail.com](mailto:matrautman304@gmail.com)

*St. John's Church  
Attn: Fr. Ron Pollock  
158 West High Street  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 9 am, Clothes Closet 9 am, Meals to Go
3 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist 3 pm, Animal Blessing	4 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting	5	6	7 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	8	9 9 am, Meals to Go 11 am, Choristers
10 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	11 8 pm, AA Meeting	12	13 7 pm, Vestry	14 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	15	16 9 am, Meals to Go
17 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	18 8 pm, AA Meeting	19	20	21 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	22	23 9 am, Meals to Go
24 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist 3 pm, Watchung Conv.	25 8 pm, AA Meeting	26	27	28 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	29	30 9 am, Meals to Go
31 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	1 November All Saints' Day 7 p.m, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting	2 November All Souls' Day	3 November Deadline for names for All Souls	4 November 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	5 November	6 November 9 am, Meals to Go

## STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

IT IS WITH GREAT JOY AND EXCITEMENT that we share with you the good news of our 2022 Pledge Campaign ***Doing What Love Requires***. One definition of the word love is concern for the good of another. At a time when so many outside forces feel like they are separating us and keeping us apart there is great joy in knowing that God's love is everlasting and so is our love for one another and our wonderful St John's parish family. Starting today we are asking that all Parishioners prayerfully consider how they can make these next 12 months the best yet. We are looking to grow St. John's membership as well as increase our reach in the community and show what love truly is at a time in the world when love is truly needed.

We have two very exciting launch dates coming up: October 10 and October 17, after our services. Our Pledge 2022 campaign will begin next week, and we are very excited about all the opportunities for ministry and growth that this campaign will create. While we cannot know what lies ahead of us, we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our parish walls.



If you have any questions or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to St. John's, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Faithfully,

St. John's Stewardship Committee

Jean Stamets, Marianne Salanik, Dee Britt, Brad Moor, Mark Hernandez,  
and Alicia Gilmartin

## A PRAYER FOR MISSION

*Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.*

## STAY CONNECTED!

Webpage: [www.stjohnsomerville.org](http://www.stjohnsomerville.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsSomerville>

## STAFF CONTACTS

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, Rector, [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net)

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Deacon, [wkeithmccoy@gmail.com](mailto:wkeithmccoy@gmail.com)

Mark A. Trautman, Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator, [stjohnsomerville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsomerville@gmail.com)

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