



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

# The Newsletter

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 • 908.722.1250 • stjohsomerville.org

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2

*From the Rector*

## THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GRACE

THERE IS AN ICON in St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, which holds together in one picture a number of answers to the question of where God's inspiration is to be located. At first sight, the icon is about John the Evangelist composing his Gospel. The halo around John's head reminds us of his holiness and God's presence in his life. Above, there is the image of a dove: the Spirit being sent from heaven to overshadow John. On the other side of the icon, there is the figure of Prochorus, who is traditionally regarded as John's scribe. The figure appears to balance that of the Evangelist. So, inspiration is to be located in the hearing and recording as well as in the original speaking. In the center of the icon there is a table; on this you can see the manuscript on which Prochorus is writing, thus affirming the importance of the written text. Yet, if you look closely, you can see the manuscript holds the words (in English translation): "In the beginning was the Wo...." The look on John's face is that of "How shall I put this?" The icon seems to be affirming that the text is still in the process of being composed (even in our own day), and so warns us against closing down the period of inspiration. Finally, underneath the table, you can see some rolled-up parchment—as yet unused—implying that there is more inspiration still to come. This icon brilliantly affirms God's inspiration, past, present, and future—God's presence above us, in us, and in those we affect by the words which we speak.



With this emphasis on the continuing presence of God among us, I ask you to consider the many examples of God's presence and inspiration in our midst. Consider for example, our beloved St. John's Church and the work of ministry to which we are all called to engage. In my work as priest and pastor I can point to countless examples of people whose path through life helps me keep on track, often because they themselves received life-giving encouragement from our corporate life together and the unending witness of so many. There is an obvious level of trust in the presence and connectedness of God, some of which is made visible in the hearts of God's many and varied people. We live in a world that is saturated with God's grace, and yet don't acknowledge as often as we should. How often do we hear someone say, "I love St. John's and am continually inspired by the wonderful people here!" But sometimes we forget to put our experience into words. One of the roles that a faithful disciple can have is to be the sort of person who can take the moment to condense God's grace into actions so that it can be seen, heard and spoken about by others. Poet and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins once wrote: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God; disciples are people where inspiration happens and who make grandeur

become visible." Making the grandeur of God visible! That fits in beautifully with our mission: "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known." *The consciousness of grace matters!*

As we continue our journey in the season after the Epiphany, and look around the corner to the season of Lent, may we place special emphasis on our own consciousness of God's inspiration and share it?

*See you in Church or online!*

*Father Ron*

## **STEWARDSHIP 2022**

***Update as of January 24:***

***103 pledges totaling \$199,720***

***toward our goal of \$235,000***

**E**ach of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7

The Finance and Stewardship Committees would like to offer a reminder in how parishioners and friends of St. John's alike can give to support the vital work and ministry of our beloved Church.

The pandemic has encouraged many to use our virtual services. Due to Covid precautions the ushers are currently not passing a donation basket during in person services. There is a basket located in the Narthex and on a table as parishioners are leaving the church towards the parish hall exit.

With the increased number of parishioners using the St. John's website giving option the decision was made to no longer provide envelopes. The envelopes are costly and very few used them.

If you wish to make your donation with a check, it can be placed in one of the baskets provided at in-person services. Checks can also be mailed to the church. You may prefer to do this monthly to save postage. Please do not submit multiple checks. If the check is towards your pledge, it does not matter how many weeks it is for; multiple checks are unnecessary. Please provide your pledge envelope number in the memo area of the check along with the designation, if it is for something other than your pledge. If you do not have an assigned number, or do not know your number, please contact Mark Trautman in the Parish Office and he will provide one for you.

*For those who wish to try the online giving, here is a tutorial:*

- The website is [www.stjohnsomerville.org](http://www.stjohnsomerville.org)
- Select *Giving*, click the little arrow
- Select *Give Online Now*
- You will be given two options: *Give Now* or *Sign In*
- If you select *Give Now* you will be asked to provide your information
- If you select *Create One*, you will create your Giving account. That will enable you to sign in whenever with your email and password
- Select *One-Time* or *Recurring*
- Recurring enables you to set up the frequency and start date of a donation
- Select Fund *General Budget* or *Toward My Pledge*

*Doing  
What  
Love  
Requires*

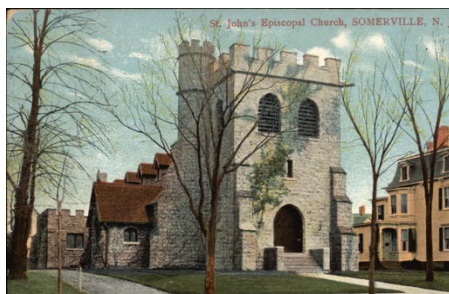
- Click Submit and you will receive a confirmation. If you do not receive a confirmation, contact the Parish Office ([stjohnsomerville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsomerville@gmail.com), phone 908.722.1250). *Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of St. John's!*

### **PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND FAITH**

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree. —*Martin Luther*

PLANTING SEEDS for future fruit is both an act of hope and an expression of faith. We plant in hope that the small seeds will one day produce a tree whose fruit will bless future generations. We plant in faith by entrusting those who follow us to nurture our tree, harvest the fruit properly and use it for the best purposes.

Making a planned gift to our church is a similar undertaking. A planned gift is a seed whose promised fruit will support St. John's well beyond our lifetime. Planned giving is often part of an overall estate plan to distribute your assets and possessions to the people and causes most dear to you. Planned gifts come in several forms. The simplest planned gift is to make a bequest to St. John's in your will. Other options, such as charitable gift annuities through the Episcopal Church Foundation, provide a guaranteed income for life and substantial tax savings.



Planned gifts are funded from the assets you have accumulated during your lifetime. When you make a planned gift to the church, it typically does not impact your current income. In fact, there are several types of life-income gifts that can actually supplement your income for the rest of your life.

Planned gifts are generally used to foster the long-term health of the church. These gifts empower ministry beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. They provide future parishioners with the means to continue to worship, learn, and serve the community and the world as we have been blessed to do.

Planned giving is a powerful opportunity to ensure your most sacred values and commitments are part of your legacy. Your planned gift represents your hope for the future mission of our church and your faith in generations to come. We hope you'll prayerfully consider St. John's during your estate planning so that your dreams—and the dreams of others—might live on well into the future.

If you are interested in learning more about St. John's Planned Giving Program, please contact Sam Galpin, Treasurer ([sam.galpin@outlook.com](mailto:sam.galpin@outlook.com)) or Fr. Ron ([frronpollockl@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollockl@verizon.net)).  
—*Father Ron*

### **THE WORK OF MINISTRY**

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

Even though the St. John's Clothes Closet has briefly closed due to Covid, we were able to distribute clothes at the Immigrant Monument behind Newark Penn Station in Peter Francisco Park on January 16. We gave out at least 50 coats. We also gave out lots of sweaters, shoes/boots, gloves, hats and scarves, toiletries,

and some additional gloves and blankets. Thanks to Barbara Christel and all of the Clothes Closet council for their ministry!

If you are interested in donating any clothes, shoes, or accessories, you must contact Linda Willard at [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com) or 347.276.2491. We accept men's, women's, and children's clothes for all ages. They should be clean, gently used, and in current fashion. Please do not donate clothing with damage, stains, or signs of heavy wear. Not acceptable are underwear, socks, pajamas (unless they are new), or any non-clothing items.

The Clothes Closet council includes Liz Eisinger, Valerie Gibson, Marianne Salanik, Linda Willard, and Paula Windus. Valued volunteers are Barbara Christel, Mike Christel, Carolyn Gioia, Niki Hoffman, Jean Stamets, and Taffy Scherr.



### *Episcopal Church Women News*

Be sure to join ECW at our February 7 Zoom meeting for a special speaker! Bud Rich from Somerville's *Inner Balance Acupuncture* is going to provide members with ideas to help with anxiety, anger, impatience, and other negative feelings we may be experiencing during our current Covid stress. Our meeting begins at 7 pm, and the Zoom credentials are below. We look forward to you joining us as we learn how to deal with today's stress.

*Neva Rae Fox*

*ECW Vice-President*

Topic: Episcopal Church Women Meeting

Time: Feb 7, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81201348438?pwd=SjhxWkFsZjhiQ2pRclg3VUV3TENKQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 0134 8438

Passcode: 764239

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81201348438#,,,,\*764239# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,81201348438#,,,,\*764239# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 812 0134 8438

Passcode: 764239

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81201348438?pwd=SjhxWkFsZjhiQ2pRclg3VUV3TENKQT09>



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 2022

### Election results

- Ken Miller: *Two-Year Term, Warden*
- Michelle Hernandez: *Vestry, Two-year Term*
- Leigh Meaders-Robinson: *Vestry, Three-year Term*
- Megan McNamara: *Vestry, Three-year Term*
- George F. Mullen: *Vestry, Three-year Term*
- Neva Rae Fox: *Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention*
- Robert Fox: *Deputy Diocesan Convention Delegate*
- Kaitlyn Khan: *Watchung Convocation Representative*
- Marianne Salanik: *Watchung Convocation Representative*
- Valerie Smith: *Watchung Convocation Representative*
- Mark Trautman: *Watchung Convocation Representative*
- Karen Whitmore: *Watchung Convocation Representative*
- Linda Willard: *Watchung Convocation Representative*

### VESTRY UPDATE

#### January 2022

The Vestry had its first meeting of the year on January 19. We welcomed newcomers to the Vestry: Ken Miller (Warden, two-year term); George Mullen (Vestry, three-year term); Megan McNamara (Vestry, three-year term); Leigh Meaders-Robinson (Vestry, three-year term); Michelle Hernandez (Vestry, filling a two-year unexpired term). We offered thanks to outgoing members: Karen Whitmore (Warden), Alicia Gilmartin (Vestry); Anthony Pinto (Vestry).

Items on the agenda included: appointing a Clerk of the Vestry (which will be decided upon before the next vestry meeting in February), the appointment of Sam Galpin to serve as Parish Treasurer, and setting a date for the vestry retreat. We noted that 100 pledges have been received totaling \$197,000. Our budgeted goal is \$235,000. Other notes of interest:

- The Parish Office has a new Apple computer and a new Canon copy machine is due to arrive at the end of January.
- Thanks were offered to Justin Mastyskarz for his extraordinary leadership in developing our new website.
- Thanks were offered to Mark Trautman for his very fine music ministry leadership, as well as that of the Parish Choir and the youth Choristers.
- Both the Property Committee and the Finance Committee will soon be organized and get to work in their respective areas of ministry. Each committee will extend an invitation to members at large to help serve in various capacities. *Stay tuned.*

### FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY

It's St. John's turn to assist with the Food Bank's distribution at the Somerville Pantry. Three volunteers each Saturday, February 5, 12, 19, and 26 outside Shiloh Pentecostal Church, 139 Davenport Street, 8:30-10:30 am. Safety protocols will be observed, and masks are required. The coordinator would appreciate some help to pick up fresh donations from Whole Foods at 8 am. If you are available and willing to distribute and/or help pick up donations at Whole Foods, contact Anne Tom at 908.938.2875 (call or text) or [annetom@comcast.net](mailto:annetom@comcast.net).

## Music at St. John's

Thanks to our musicians for the beautiful music this Christmas! Our choristers Zoe and Ian sang beautifully, and Luke played an ancient Christmas carol on trombone for the prelude at the 5 pm service. Thanks to our soloists Leo Campos, Debbie Jelinek, and Tracey Jameson for their beautiful singing at 11 pm. Thanks to the many folks who donated to the Brent F. Miller Memorial Music Fund, we were able to welcome violinists Catherine Yang and Adam Daryl, and cellist Daryl Nuccio.

In response to the recent rise of Covid, we have suspended Parish Choir and Chorister meetings until February. The Parish Choir and friends have been meeting for Compline on Thursday evenings via Zoom. Please reach out to Mark Trautman if you'd like to join us. Everyone is welcome to give choir a try!



—Mark Trautman

## FEBRUARY: WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

1. Susan Bender
2. Emily Newton, Candy Mullen
3. Zoe McCabe, Barbara Christel
4. Kyle Kurzawa, Daniel Venet
5. Dylan Mathews
6. Crawford Britt, Father Ron Pollock
7. Bill Wickham, Mindy Wolfmayer, Ruth Altamura-Roll
8. Peggy McMahon
9. Kyle Powell, Harold Willard, Emil Fried
10. Madeline Jones, Victoria Jones, Ryan Wickham
11. James Knowles, Gretchen Troup, Samantha Venet
12. Sarah Strano
13. Peter Hillman, Maureen Gullo
14. Peter Miller
15. Hunter Troup, Tracy Andricsak, Jennifer Dorward-Centolanza
16. Ian Latanision
17. Neva Rae Fox, Richard Wilson, Henry Szumigala, Leigh Meaders-Robinson, Zoe Latanision
18. Erik Fried
19. Mathew Smith, Cheryl Mastyskarz
21. Kim Post
22. Robert Massey, Gabriella Barkin
23. David Soden, Sinead Normant

24. Nicholas Jones, Jill Brodsky
25. Kylie Barna, Rory Normant, Joe Poklikuha
26. Scott Bender
27. Emily Hewett, Andrea Dalrymple, Jake August Agins, Tamara Billy, Catherine O'Shea
28. Danielle Liberatoscioli, Parker Mehring, Preston Polonyi

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11. James & Connie Van Arsdale
17. Charles & Kay Halsted
22. Bill & Caroline Lofton

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

3. Irene Sidell
4. Eleanor Bonham, Allan R. Streeter
9. Bob Vitullo
11. Jean L. Mathews, Ray Bomberger
13. Steven H. Spolarich
14. Bob Brady
15. Madeline Prodromo
16. Noel Haywood, George Bond
25. Jane H. Goldsack
27. Ethel D. Barry, Walter Edwards
28. W. Raymond Jones, Arthur Flinn

# February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30 January</b> EPIPHANY 4 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>31 January</b> 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>1 February</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>2</b> Presentation of Our Lord (Candlemas)	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> No Clothes Closet Meals to Co
<b>6</b> EPIPHANY 5 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>7</b> 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> THE EPIPHANY 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 am, Meals to Co
<b>13</b> EPIPHANY 6 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>14</b> 3 pm, Dio, NJ Pre-conv. hearing online 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9 am, Meals to Co 11 am, Dio, NJ Pre-conv. hearing online
<b>20</b> EPIPHANY 7 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>21</b> 8 pm, AA Meeting 7 pm, Pre-conv. hearing online Office closed	<b>22</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>23</b> 7 pm, Vestry 7 pm, Dio, NJ Pre-conv. hearing online	<b>24</b> 7 pm, Dio, NJ Pre-conv. hearing online 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9 am, Meals to Co
<b>27</b> LAST EPIPHANY 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>28</b> 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>1 March</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>2 March</b> ASH WEDNESDAY 7 am, Noon, 7 pm	<b>3 March</b> 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>4 March</b>	<b>5 March</b> 9 am, Clothes Closet 9 am, Meals to Co 9 am, Dio. Convention
<b>6 March</b> LENT 1 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>7 March</b> 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>8 March</b> 7 pm, Eucharist	<b>9 March</b> 7 pm, Vestry	<b>10 March</b> 7:30 pm, Parish Choir	<b>11 March</b>	<b>12 March</b> 9 am, Meals to Co

## *Stay Connected to St. John's in Somerville*

### PARISH STAFF

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

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, [kmccoy1@optonline.net](mailto:kmccoy1@optonline.net)

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

### *Ministers: The People of St John's*

#### **Altar Guild**

Paula Windus, *Directress*, [paulawindus@verizon.net](mailto:paulawindus@verizon.net)

Linda Willard, *Treasurer*, [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com)

Dana Keefer, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals*, [wpmulan@gmail.com](mailto:wpmulan@gmail.com)

Bread & Wine and Altar Candles, [stjohnsomerville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsomerville@gmail.com)

#### **Music Program**

Mark A. Trautman, [stjohnsomerville@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsomerville@gmail.com)

#### **Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library**

Deacon Keith, [kmccoy1@optonline.net](mailto:kmccoy1@optonline.net)

#### **Church School**

Marielena Cardinale, *Superintendent*, [jcardinale123@comcast.net](mailto:jcardinale123@comcast.net)

Michelle Hernandez, *Teacher*, [chellehernandez1@gmail.com](mailto:chellehernandez1@gmail.com)

Tracey Jameson, *Teacher*, [tkayj@aol.com](mailto:tkayj@aol.com)

#### **Endowment and Planned Giving**

*Finance Committee*

#### **Episcopal Church Women**

Judy Marine, *President*, [jmarine5@verizon.net](mailto:jmarine5@verizon.net)

Neva Rae Fox, *Vice-President*, [Nevarae@aol.com](mailto:Nevarae@aol.com)

#### **Mary & Martha Guild**

*Coming back from hiatus soon!*

#### **EYC (Youth Group)**

Liz Eisinger, *Adult Adviser*, [emailtoliz@gmail.com](mailto:emailtoliz@gmail.com)

Leigh Meaders-Robinson, *Adult Adviser*, [lmozelle@aol.com](mailto:lmozelle@aol.com)

#### **Mission Outreach**

Father Ron, [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net)

#### **Red Door Ministries**

**Baby Blankets for newborns and those baptized:** Pauline Boyer, 908.722.1832

**Loose-Change for Discretionary Fund:** Andrea Dalrymple [adal227@verizon.net](mailto:adal227@verizon.net)

#### **Stewardship**

Fr. Ron, *Adviser*; Dee Britt, Alicia Gilmartin, Mark Hernandez, Brad Moor, Jean Stamets, Marianne Salanik

#### **Treasurer**

Sam Galpin, *Parish Treasurer*, [Sam.Galpin@outlook.com](mailto:Sam.Galpin@outlook.com)

Anne Tom, *Parish Co-Treasurer* [annetom@comcast.net](mailto:annetom@comcast.net)

#### **Vestry (Class year)**

Steve Mandraccia, *Senior Warden*, [Smandraccia@verizon.net](mailto:Smandraccia@verizon.net) (2023); Kenneth Miller, *Junior Warden*, [kemiii3@yahoo.com](mailto:kemiii3@yahoo.com) (2024); Dee Britt, [brittchey@aol.com](mailto:brittchey@aol.com) (2023); Jon Anobile, [Jonathan.anobile@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.anobile@gmail.com) (2023); Marianne Salanik, [msalanik@optonline.net](mailto:msalanik@optonline.net) (2023); Jean Stamets, [Jasoz08887@gmail.com](mailto:Jasoz08887@gmail.com) (2024); Justin Mastykarz, [jmastykarz@me.com](mailto:jmastykarz@me.com) (2024); Michelle Hernandez, [mhernandez718910@gmail.com](mailto:mhernandez718910@gmail.com) (2024); Megan McNamara, [meganmcnamara1@yahoo.com](mailto:meganmcnamara1@yahoo.com) (2025); Leigh Meaders-Robinson, [lmozelle@aol.com](mailto:lmozelle@aol.com) (2025)