



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

# The Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2023

*From the Rector*

## **YOUR DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS IN YOUR LIFE AND AT ST. JOHN'S!**

**D**ISCIPLESHIP BECKONS US, CALLS US, INVOLVES US, to go out there into the world, the soccer field, coffee shops, local restaurants, schools, libraries, churches, your next-door neighbors' home, dinner parties and so many other places, where profound things are going on in the lives of other people. Being a disciple can be the way that allows others to begin to see faith in a whole new way. It could be that some are saying, "If you gently lead me, I will follow," or "Please model for me the Christian priorities that matter most to you," or "Please put into words what I am just beginning to feel." When a disciple exemplifies and boldly proclaims love, it can be liberating to someone who has not experienced justice and peace. When a disciple opens up his or her heart, it can be life-giving to someone who has given up hope. When a disciple is compassionate, understanding, and faithful in their use of words or actions, when they create an environment where people can feel safe, welcomed, and appreciated, one that resonates with those not familiar with the Christian tradition, then they are producing a divine Broadway play for which is experienced as balm or life-giving medicine to their soul.

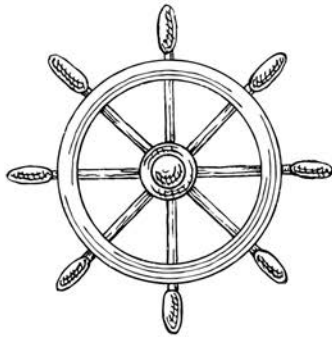


If we reflect on it, the Church is a theatre of meaning, and all actors need to keep in mind that the audience matters more than the actors themselves. The connection between theatre and Church, with disciples being actors of faith, is a theme that is front and center in our common life here at St. John's. We pray that the person who comes to our Church hears the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray the newcomer feels welcomed, accepted, loved and appreciated.

We are all actors—disciples who are called to influence those around us in holy, faithful and positive ways. Indeed, it may be imperative to think of ourselves as public actors for the faith, housed in a theatre of meaning, the Church, and putting on a divine Broadway play for which there is an eager audience. The audience may be made up of people from other faith traditions or none, some who have never set foot in a church building before, people who were mistreated in another church, people who are ready to learn more about infusing their daily life with faith. So often we find people don't know which way to turn. Actors point them to a healthy community of faith. Actors help others remember to turn to God. Actors seek to bring light and joy into another person's life. *Are you an actor? Are you a disciple witnessing the love of Jesus?* Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to St. John's this Sunday.

*See you in church or online — God bless!*  
*Father Ron*

# STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S



Think of our church as a ship.

We need the leadership and guidance of our "captain" and officers, but the ship does not function unless the crew are doing their part. We need your help.

*How can I help?*

Volunteer for one of our ministries. Attend or volunteer for one of our various events or clean-up dates. Join one of our groups such as the choir, the Episcopal Church Women, the Altar Guild. Volunteer to take on a role with the vestry or one of the church committees. Details are shared in the church newsletter and website, but please call the church office if you'd like to learn more.

In addition to your time, your financial contribution also helps with the operation and maintenance of the church, as well as providing funding to the ministries that are vital to our church and the community. Please consider making a pledge to help us serve.

*Why Pledge?*

By letting us know your expected contribution, we are better able to set budgets and plan for the following year.

*How Do I Pledge?*

Please use the method that works best for you.

Fill out a pledge card and either mail to the church or drop it in the collection plate. Or set up an automatic pledge by using this QR code.



## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

### 'Come and See'

St. John's 2024 Stewardship campaign will run through January 7. *As part of our campaign, we would love to hear from you!* Let us know if you would be willing to deliver a testimonial about why St. John's is special to you and why pledging is important? We encourage the entire congregation to make a pledge by December 3. All parishioners who make a pledge before that time will be entered into a raffle for a special prize. The winner of the raffle will be announced on the morning of December 10.

### Why Pledge?

By letting us know your expected contribution, we are better able to set budgets and plan for the following year. Your financial contribution also helps with the operation and maintenance of the church, as well as providing funding to the ministries that are vital to our church and the community. Please consider making a pledge to help us serve our church, our diocese, and our world.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

We got off to a great start last month, culminating with Christian Formation, Supper and Pumpkin Carving on Sunday, October 15. Take note of our regular schedule:

- ❑ On the **Sunday, November 5**, all students will be in Church where they are invited to participate by serving as an usher, acolyte, lay reader, chorister, and the like.
- ❑ On the **Sunday, November 12**, all students will report to the downstairs Chapel for "Children's Chapel" with Fr. Ron from 10 am to 10:10 am. Following that, students will go to



their respective classrooms for instruction. Students will join their families in Church, and the rest of the congregation, after “The Peace.”.

- On **Sunday, November 19**, Church School will be held from 4 pm to 5 pm with instruction and activity. At 5 pm, there will be an informal intergenerational pot-luck supper in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! Please come! Invite a friend or neighbor. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so that we will know how many to prepare for.
- There will be *no* Class or offered instruction **November 26**.

As of this writing, the following adults have signed up to be teacher captains who will in turn teach on occasion so it matches the reality of their own busy lives: **Tracey Jameson, Michelle Hernandez, Taffy Scherr**. We hope to secure several more teacher captains. If you are interested, please contact me at [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net) and I will provide more information about the teacher captain job description. —*Father Ron*

## **WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH: Your Personal Invitation to be Confirmed or Received**

Our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Sally Johnson French, will be here at St. John’s on Sunday, January 21, 2024 to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation and to Receive people into The Episcopal Church.



I invite you to consider the calling of the Holy Spirit to be Confirmed or Received into The Episcopal Church or Re-affirm your baptismal vows. I was baptized six months after I was born and I was Confirmed when I was in the seventh grade. How about you? When were *you* baptized? Were you confirmed? Are you a life-long Episcopalian? Have you already been baptized and confirmed? Or perhaps, you came from another faith tradition or denomination. Have you been officially “received” into The Episcopal Church? Perhaps you have not heard God calling you until *now*! Would you consider re-affirming your baptismal vows? The time is *now* to listen to what the Holy Spirit may be calling you to do. Whether you have been here for a long time or are brand new and would like to be confirmed, please let me know! A spiritual director I knew used to say that a “living, conscious and active faith in Jesus is a gift of God.” I could not agree more. My relationship with God in Jesus Christ is the greatest gift in my life. Allow yourself an opportunity to seek a deeper relationship with God...a relationship founded in love. I think of this as any love process:

1. Falling in love;
2. A “getting to know you” phase;
3. A commitment to staying in love.

God is always there for us. God sustains us with grace. These three elements in any believer’s involvement with Jesus Christ helps in understanding self, others, the Gospel and the mission of the Church. It helps us deal more appropriately with the moral challenges we face in daily life. Our faith journey is toward God. “Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice” (Psalm 105:3). Perhaps St. Augustine said it best: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you” (*Confessions*, 1,1).

Please fill out a Registration Form (available from the Parish Office) and return it to me if you desire to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church. I will announce Confirmation Class dates soon.

Some people have been preparing for this grace-filled, prayer-soaked moment for a long time. I call upon every person at St. John's to pray for all those who desire to be Confirmed or Received into The Episcopal Church. God bless you in your journey in Jesus Christ! — *Father Ron*

**ALL SOULS OBSERVANCE**

*November 5 at 5 pm*

The Parish Choir and the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church Choir will sing Choral Evensong on All Saints' Sunday, November 5 at 5 pm. at St. John's. 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 5, 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 Friday, November 3 to:  
[mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org)

St. John's Church, 158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

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

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

## **MINISTRIES AROUND ST. JOHN'S**

### **Altar Guild**

#### **Sunday Flowers**

Do you wish to honor or recognize a loved one? A lovely way is to sponsor the Sunday Altar Flowers. Prominently placed next to the altar for both Sunday services, names are listed in the weekly worship bulletin and *Good News*, and included in the Prayers of the People. Many Sundays are available—contact Dana Keefer (908.448.6220, [dzkeefe@yahoo.com](mailto:dzkeefe@yahoo.com)) to reserve a Sunday or for more information. Weekly flowers are only \$75. Checks need to have “flowers” indicated on the memo line, and there is also a giving tab for *Altar Flowers* on our website.

Altar Guild is a special ministry, preparing the altar for worship and honor. Membership is open to women and men, adults and teens—anyone who would like to participate in and dedicate themselves to this ministry. Contact Fr. Ron or Altar Guild Directress Diane Sireci ([dianesireci61@icloud.com](mailto:dianesireci61@icloud.com)) to learn more.

#### **Ushers**

Are you looking to help grow our St. John's community? Please consider becoming an usher. This work is important as we are the first impression people have as they arrive at Church. Your impression helps us to continue to grow and make our Church home a friendly and welcoming place. The commitment is once per month and schedules are worked around your availability. Please reach out to Steve Mandraccia at [smandraccia@verizon.net](mailto:smandraccia@verizon.net).

#### **Acolyte News**

On October 7, I got to go to the National Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. There were so many other churches and acolytes from 15 states, including Lutheran and AME churches. Lots of churches had streamers/kites in their procession which I had never seen before but were really pretty. The sermon was by the Rev. Melanie Mullen, the Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care of the Episcopal Church. After the service I added one brick to the Lego Cathedral which will be the biggest Lego cathedral in the world when finished. I also got to make a streamer and tour the Cathedral. It's such a beautiful building and I'm so happy I got to be part of the festival. —*Ellie Holerca*



#### **TAKE NOTE!**

### **Somerset County Sheriff's K9 Squad Receives Blessings**

The Somerset County Sheriff's K-9 unit visited St. John's for the Blessing of the Animals, in honor of St. Francis on October 24. Fr. Ron Pollock



greeted each dog—and their humans!—and offered a blessing for all. St. John’s has celebrated the Blessing of the Animals, which recognizes the importance of pets and animals in people’s lives for 25 years.

### **Casino Night A Success!**

The Vestry and Fundraising Committee wish to express their deepest appreciation for the support of Casino Night. While more than 100 people—hailing from NJ, PA, and NYC—laughed and played games and had a great time, \$7500 profit was raised for the 2023 Church Budget.



There are so many people to thank—those who organized the event, those who worked it, set it up, broke it down, provided lots and lots of yummy food, those who donated the wonderful baskets, and all who sold tickets. *Thank you!*

St. John’s is truly blessed by the generosity of many. A special thanks to Terry McShane and her team for her leadership in chairing this event.

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW), November 6**

Join ECW for an informative presentation by Steve Katz, Director of the Somerset Food Bank, at the group’s next meeting Monday, November 6 at 7 pm. Please bring a non-perishable (canned) food item for the Food Bank. Zoom info for those not able to attend will be available closer to the meeting. For more info contact Jen Kosensky, ([jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com)).

- Be sure to place your order by **Sunday, November 5** for the homemade chocolates from ECW. Cranberry clusters, nonpareils, pretzel rods, Christmas shapes, and toffee almond bark—in both dark and milk chocolate—are offered. Samples are available for tasting during Sunday coffee hours after both services. Attractive containers make them perfect for gift giving—\$10 for half pound. Payment is due at pick up time, starting December 10.
- The order deadline for the \$25 Christmas Wreaths is **Sunday, November 5**. To place an order, text Terry at 908-217-6888. The fresh wreaths will be delivered to St. John’s and may be picked up the end of November.
- This is the last week for donations to the Diaper Drive. Thank you to those who have already been so generous. Donations of diapers for babies, children, and adults are greatly appreciated. Please place your donation in the basket located on the stage in the Parish Hall. The diapers for all ages will be distributed through social service agencies and through the St. John’s ministries. St. John’s was so generous during the 2022 diaper drive, ECW is sponsoring it in 2023. For more info contact Karen Whitmore [karwhit46@gmail.com](mailto:karwhit46@gmail.com) or Neva Rae Fox [nevarae@aol.com](mailto:nevarae@aol.com).

### **Questions? Contact the ECW officers:**

Vice-President Jen Kosensky (908-386-6152, [jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com))

Recording Secretary Marianne Salanik (908-229-9368, [marianne.salanik@icloud.com](mailto:marianne.salanik@icloud.com))

Corresponding Secretary Linda Willard, (347-276-6491 or [nolaandboogie@aol.com](mailto:nolaandboogie@aol.com))

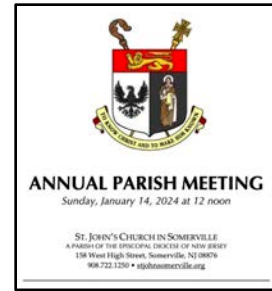
Treasurer Paula Windus (908-526-7150, [paulawindus@verizon.net](mailto:paulawindus@verizon.net))

# VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**POSITIONS OPEN INCLUDE:**

- One (1) Warden;
- Three (3) Vestry positions for three-year terms;
- Six (6) Representatives to Watchung Convocation for one year term;
- One (1) Deputy to Diocesan Convention for a three-year term;
- One (1) Alternate to Diocesan Convention for a three-year term.



## **CALLED TO SERVICE: VESTRY**

*WHAT DOES THE VESTRY DO?*

It's the legal governing body of the parish, the "board of directors." With the rector as its leader, it sets policy and goals and oversees the finances and property. But it has another equally important role: providing leadership to implement the ministries that serve the parish and the community. It actively supports the work and ministry of the Rector.

*WHO CAN RUN FOR VESTRY?*

Any baptized member of the Episcopal Church who has been a member of our parish in good standing for at least one year, is at least 16 years old, makes a regular financial contribution to the parish, and worships regularly with us.

*IS THERE AN EXPECTED TIME COMMITMENT?*

Yes. A term runs for three years. The Vestry meets once every month. Vestry members are also members of either the Property Committee or Finance Committee. We have one all-day Vestry Retreat once a year. And since every vestry member's voice matters our goal is for members to have no more than three unexcused absences from regular meetings in a year.

*WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN A VESTRY MEMBER?*

Someone who is involved in some parish ministry, and preferably (but not necessarily) has shown some leadership ability. He or she should keep informed about the parish and be willing to contribute to working out solutions to issues that arise. Every Vestry member should work respectfully with other members and participate in discerning the parish's vision and encouraging its ministries. The Vestry affords people the opportunity to share a variety of their own gifts and talents.

*HOW ARE VESTRY MEMBERS CHOSEN?*

They are nominated by the Nominating Committee, whose recommendation must be approved by the Vestry, and they are elected at the annual meeting.

*HOW DOES THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WORK?*

It accepts suggestions from parishioners, discusses possible candidates, decides who it thinks should be nominated, makes sure people are willing to run, and presents a proposed slate to the Vestry. The approved nominees are then announced to the parish. Each nominee will then be asked to prepare a statement of qualifications of no more than 100 words.

*HOW CAN I NOMINATE SOMEONE?*

You may complete and give this form to Fr. Ron or a member of the Nominating Committee, or put it in the collection basket, or leave it with Mark Trautman in the Parish Office. You may nominate yourself or someone else.

*HERE ARE MY SUGGESTIONS FOR SOMEONE TO RUN IN JANUARY FOR VESTRY, DIOCESAN CONVENTION, WATCHUNG CONVOCATION:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*I RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) FOR:*

Vestry \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Diocesan Convention \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Watchung Convocation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please make sure each nominee is willing to be considered.  
Deadline for nominations is the end of November.***

***SOMERVILLE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE***

*Saturday, November 4, 12 pm-4 pm (rain date November 5)*

*Division Street, Somerville*

*Featuring Young Blood Drum, Red Blanket Drum, Native American Cultural Dances*

*With Authentic Regalia, Native Vendors, and more!*

***November is Native American Heritage Month***

November is Native American Heritage month, a time to set aside to celebrate our Native American brothers and sisters and the contributions they make to enrich our society today. It is also a time to learn the truth about how they have been mistreated throughout the history of our country and the injustices they suffer even today. Imagine what it would be like if these injustices were addressed and we prepared ourselves to engage in the work of loving these neighbors as Jesus loves us. Consider how we might work together to right the wrongs of racism that harm our Indigenous family members.

This month, and every month, we are invited into the journey of striving for justice and peace with our Native American neighbors as we pray for God's blessing on our journey. —Fr. Ron



## THE RELIGIOUS LIFE IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Have you ever considered entering the Religious Life?  
What are the “religious” communities in The Episcopal Church?  
What can religious life do for me and for my faith journey?  
How can I connect with an Episcopal religious community?

*Talk to Father Ron for more information*

[www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/religious-orders-and-christian-communities/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/religious-orders-and-christian-communities/)

## ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

*Sunday, December 17*

Join us for our annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service, Sunday, December 17 at 5 pm. Lessons and Carols was developed by Dean Eric Milner-White for King’s College Cambridge, England at the end of the First World War. He wrote: “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ... seen through the windows and the words of the Bible.” The service will be followed by a Dessert Extravaganza in the Parish Hall, and featuring the unveiling of the St. John’s Gingerbread Church made by Chef Kir. *Everyone is welcome – invite a friend to this festive community event!*



... seen through the windows and the words of the Bible.” The service will be followed by a Dessert Extravaganza in the Parish Hall, and featuring the unveiling of the St. John’s Gingerbread Church made by Chef Kir. *Everyone is welcome – invite a friend to this festive community event!*

## Christmas Flowers and Music

Special flowers and music adorn our worship, especially at Christmas. If you wish to write a check, please mark “Flowers” or “Music” in the memo line. Please let the Parish Office know if you are giving your gift in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones, and clearly print or type each name or intention. Send names to [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org) or send via regular mail to the Parish Office. *Please make sure to deliver your gift and names no later than Friday, December 22.* Poinsettias, greens, and special music are cherished traditions at St. John’s and remind us of the joy of the birth of Jesus. Gifts to the **Brent F. Miller Memorial Music Fund** will fund a string quartet for the late Christmas eve service.

## MINISTRIES IN THE COMMUNITY

### St. John’s Clothes Closet

Check out the array of \$1 and \$2 fashion items at the Clothes Closet on Saturday, November 4 from 9 am to noon. And, don’t miss the seasonable styles for both women and men.



The Clothes Closet features reasonably priced seasonal clothing and accessories for all ages—men and women, boys and girls, infants, and toddlers. We accept men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, shoes, and accessories 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, bathing suits, pajamas (unless they are new), or any non-clothing items. We are accepting only fall and winter items now. 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 347-276-6491. You may bring your items in on the Saturday sale days or Linda will schedule a mutually convenient time to drop them off during the week.

If you would like to help on sale days, or during the week to sort and hang clothes, please contact Linda (contact information above), or email [clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org). The remaining days for Clothes Closet in 2023 are November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16.

### **Meals to Go News**

Since early 2021, we have offered meals on a weekly basis to our community, thanks to our partners at Branchburg Rotary and most especially because of the efforts of one extraordinary person, Chef Jim McGrady, affectionately known as “Papa Jim.” It was “Papa Jim’s” idea to step in and feed people when the pandemic hit, starting the “Not Just Soup Kitchen” with an army of volunteers cooking up a storm in the kitchen at Bound Brook Presbyterian Church. Sadly, “Papa Jim” McGrady passed away on October 17, leaving behind an amazing legacy and a huge hole in the hearts of all who knew him. A memorial service is being planned. We encourage you to find out more about his life and legacy: [www.cusickfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Jim-McGrady?obId=29586557](http://www.cusickfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Jim-McGrady?obId=29586557)



Meals to Go continues to be a valued ministry at St. John’s. We have a consistent number of people who stop by on Saturdays, and Fr. Ron also is able to give meals to people during the week as well as deliver to some of our parishioners who are limited in their ability to get out. Your prayers, time and donations help us nourish our community and are very much appreciated.

### **November-December: New Schedule**

Moving forward, Meals to Go will be offered the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9-10 am. Upcoming dates are November 4, November 18, December 2 and December 16. If you know someone (including yourself) who might enjoy a meal, stop by St. John’s Parish Hall. Use the ramp door entrance and bring a bag.

### **Meal Donations Needed**

In the near term, we plan to continue to offer store-bought meals and we are actively exploring prepared meal options. In the meantime, we would be grateful for your donations of either frozen dinners that serve 1-2 people and/or financial donations to support the purchase of prepared meals. It’s best to donate store-bought meals so that we can ensure compliance with health department regulations.

Financial contributions can be made via check, cash or online (select *Meals to Go* from the drop-down menu). Any amount is very much appreciated. Ideally, we would receive enough to support the \$50-60/week in expenses.

### **Volunteers**

We are currently signing up volunteers for November and December. Please consider joining us in this ministry! It’s a short time commitment that yields big dividends. All you need is a welcoming spirit. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up here: [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFAD2BA2F8C70-45780794-meals](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFAD2BA2F8C70-45780794-meals)

Thank you to our October volunteers: *Janet Hahn; Niki Hoffman; Linda Willard; Christine Bean.*

For more information about volunteering, donations or publicity, please contact me, Christine Bean, [cbean727@gmail.com](mailto:cbean727@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office.

### **ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

#### **HELP FEED A FAMILY THIS THANKSGIVING AND/OR CHRISTMAS.**

*Families within our own parish and others in our local community are struggling to make ends meet.*

***A basket of non-perishable food items plus a \$40 gift card\* to ShopRite\*\* will provide Thanksgiving or Christmas Dinner for a family of four.***

*\*any amount will be gratefully accepted*

*\*\*any kind of gift card will be gratefully accepted*

*Please deliver the food basket and gift card to:*

***St. John's Church, 158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876  
by Sunday, November 19 and Saturday, December 16 respectively—  
no later than 9 am SHARP!***

*You may also bring your basket and gift card to church on Sunday,  
Or contact the Parish Office for drop off during the week.*

Contact: Fr. Ron at [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net) or 908.722.1250

### ***Laundry Love News***

Laundry Love ministry will be offered once, on November 9. On average, the ministry assists 45 people each month.

Representatives of the ministry will return to Somerville Express Wash Laundry, 20 Division St., Somerville, from 5 to 6 pm. Each guest receives a bag containing \$10 in quarters along with laundry pods and dryer sheets. The ministry needs donations of quarter rolls. They may be dropped off on Sundays in the collection baskets or left during the week at St. John's.

Guests who are interested in signing up can contact, beginning in October, Paul Grzella at 908.507.8020 or email [pgrzella@verizon.net](mailto:pgrzella@verizon.net). For more information how you can support the Laundry Love ministry, call St. John's at 908.722.1250 or email [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org).

### ***Loose Change Sunday: First Sunday of every month***

Our next scheduled date is ***Sunday, November 5***. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please feel free to bring a jar (or a Ziplock sandwich baggie) filled with loose change to church and put it in the designated baskets in the Narthex (front door area of church) or on the little table by the side door that leads to the Parish Hall. Or, simply put whatever loose change you may have into the baskets. This money will be placed into the Discretionary Fund and used to answer the needs of the many who reach out to St. John's for assistance.

### ***St. John's Church Christmas Cards on Sale***

Ten festive Christmas cards along with envelopes may be purchased for \$15. The cards feature artwork created by Somerville artist Les Floyd. The proceeds benefit St. John's Church. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall, or contact Fr. Ron at [frronpollock1@verizon.net](mailto:frronpollock1@verizon.net). Checks made out to *St. John's Church*. Cash is also accepted. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season and support St. John's ministries!



### **St. John's Christmas Gift Giveaway**

Mark your calendar-Saturday, December 16, 11 am-1 pm for the annual St. John's Christmas Gift Giveaway in the Parish Hall. There are stacks of gifts we will distribute to families in need and tons of smiles to be found. Volunteers will be needed beginning at 9 am to prepare. If you are available, please consider helping with this festive event. For more information, contact Jennifer Kosensky, [jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com). A sign-up sheet will be out in the Parish Hall in the coming weeks.



### **Father Ron's 25th Anniversary**

*Save the date!* Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 18 for the celebration of Fr. Ron's 25th Anniversary at St. John's. There will be Evensong at 5 pm, followed by a gala reception the Parish Hall. The Rt. Rev. Sally Johnson French, our new bishop, will be here for Evensong. For more information, contact Mark Trautman, [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org). The deadline is November 12 to offer a gift to Fr. Ron.

### **Bishop Neil Alexander to Visit**

We are thrilled to welcome The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, D. D., XI Bishop from the Diocese of Atlanta, and former Dean of the School of Theology at Sewanee, University of the South on Sunday, November 18 at both services. Bishop Alexander is a longtime friend of St. John's, and most recently administered the Sacrament of Confirmation here in September 2021.



Bishop Alexander is currently the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer in The Episcopal Church. He is Professor of Liturgy, Emeritus, and Quintard Professor of Theology, Emeritus, in the School of Theology of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. He served as dean of the School of Theology at the University of the South from 2012 to 2020, and is Dean Emeritus. From 2001 to 2012, he was the ninth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

### **Looking Ahead**

**Saturday, November 4:** Clothes Closet, 9-noon

**Saturday, November 4:** Meals to Go, 9-10 am

**Sunday, November 5:** All Saints Sunday—Holy Baptism and Eucharist

**Sunday, November 5:** All Souls Evensong and Remembrance, 5 pm

**Monday, November 6:** ECW Meeting at 7

**Thursday, November 9:** Laundry Love, 5 pm

**Saturday, November 11:** 11 am, Veteran's Day Ceremony, 20 Grove Street, Somerville.

*Fr. Ron offering Invocation and Benediction*

**Sunday, November 12:** Appreciation Day, Special Coffee Hour

**Saturday, November 12:** Watchung Convocation, 3 pm at St. John's

**Saturday, November 18:** Clothes Closet, 9-noon

**Saturday, November 18:** Meals to Go, 9-10 am

**Saturday, November 18:** Father Ron's 25th Anniversary at St. John's

**Sunday, November 19:** Special Guest Preacher: The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, IX Bishop of Atlanta. Custodian of The Book of Common Prayer. Former Dean of The School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN

**Wednesday, November 22:** Wedding in the Church, 3 pm

**Thursday, November 23:** Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist with music, 9 am  
**Saturday, December 2:** Clothes Closet, 9-noon  
**Saturday, December 2:** Meals to Go, 9-10 am  
**Sunday, December 3:** First Sunday of Advent  
**Monday, December 4:** ECW Meeting at 7 pm  
**Saturday, December 9:** Diocesan Convention  
**Sunday, December 10:** A viewing of the film Philadelphia 11 at St. John's  
**Saturday, December 16:** Clothes Closet, 9-noon  
**Saturday, December 16:** Meals to Go, 9-10 am  
**Sunday, December 17:** Advent Lessons and Carols, 5 pm; Unveiling of Gingerbread Church and Dessert Extravaganza Reception  
**Sunday, December 24:** Christmas Eve, Services at 5 (pageant) and 11 pm (Choral Eucharist)  
**Monday, December 25:** Christmas Day, Service at 9 am  
**Sunday, December 31:** Eve of the Holy Name/New Year's Eve, Service at 5 pm  
**2024**  
**Sunday, January 7:** Epiphany Evensong, 5 pm  
**Wednesday, February 13:** Ash Wednesday, services at noon and 7 pm  
**Saturday, March 9:** ECW Lenten Eucharist/Breakfast/Program in Parish Hall, 8-11 am  
**Sunday, March 24:** Palm Sunday  
**Sunday, March 31:** Easter Day  
**Saturday, April 13:** ECW fundraising event (Brunch) in Parish Hall, 9 am-2 pm.  
**Saturday, May 11:** Plant Sale on front lawn of church, 8 am-3 pm

**Watchung Convocation Meeting at St. John's**

Thursday, November 30, 6-7:30 pm—Bishop Sally French will be with us.  
 Contact the Parish Office for more information

**WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER, NOVEMBER:  
 BIRTHDAYS**

1. John Cunningham
3. Peter Tom-Wolverton, Gregory Krueger, Ivan Latanision
5. Susan Mathews, David Blue
6. Danielle Barry, Olivia Massey
7. Zachary Hillman, Ronald Szumigala
8. Emery Pierson
9. Nancy Spolarich, Eva Normant, Sarah Ann Metaxas
11. Anthony Pinto, Leo Campos
12. Allan Tom-Wolverton, Charles Halsted II, Mark Jameson, Katie Fletcher
14. Cecilia Lande, Isabelle Thorpe
15. Kurt Jelinek
16. Jeff Daugherty, Tia Maria Viola Yingst
17. Ed Edwards
19. Anais De LosSantos, Damien Dodds
20. Emma Dupuis
21. Margo Ellis Christou, Julianna Barkin
22. Brian Hamer
23. Douglas Mathews
24. Thom Boyer, Derek Pasquale
27. Charlotte Newton, Marie Teresa Vendettuoli, Amber Leibold, Mark Ansbro
28. Jane Henderson-Glick
30. Antonio Saunders, Jesse Smith, Michael

*Marshall*

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

1. Howard & Michelle Barkin
3. Rafael & Gretchen Rivera
9. Anthony Pinto & Christian Carrillo
11. Christine & Jon Anobile
13. Mark Trautman & Ben. Sifuentes
17. Mark & Pamela Ansbro
26. Robert & Patricia Potts
29. Peter Miller & Christine Kelly

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

1. Robert Yingst
2. Russell Bedford
4. Carol Caufield
5. Wilbur Wood Goldsack, John H. Croll
8. Frances Powers, Eleanor Giordano
9. Colleen Goldsack
10. David Robert Andricsak, Rose Kletz
11. Clara Weill, William McCoy
12. Dorothy Kenvin
16. Caroline Chandler Hewett
17. Marian Crooler, Patricia Anne Miller
19. Joseph G. Hoff Sr., John Agins
21. Mary Rozenberger
23. Mary Beth Ferris
24. Raymond Frazer, Sr., James Streeter
25. Walter Ivas
29. Sylvia Foo-Ying

# November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <i>All Saints Day</i>	<b>2</b> <i>All Souls Day</i> 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>4</b> 9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet
<b>5</b> <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist <b>Loose Change Sunday</b> 5 pm, <i>All Souls Evensong</i>	<b>6</b> 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>7</b> 7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>8</b> 7 pm, Vestry	<b>9</b> 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5 pm, Laundry Love 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i> <b>Office Closed— Veterans' Day</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Pentecost 24, Proper 27A</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10 am, Church School 10:15, Eucharist Tree planting	<b>13</b> 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>18</b> 9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet
<b>19</b> <i>Pentecost 25, Proper 28A</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist 4 pm, Church School potluck	<b>20</b> 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>21</b> 7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9 am, Thanksgiving Day Eucharist	<b>24</b> <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <i>Last Pentecost, Proper 29A</i> 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	<b>27</b> 8 pm, AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 pm, Watchung Conv. 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal	<b>1 December</b> <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	<b>2 December</b> 9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet

# ALL SOULS VESPERS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023, 5 PM

St John's Choir

Mark Trautman, Organist-Choirmaster

Bound Brook Presbyterian Choir

Benjamin Berman, Director of Music

*MUSIC BY HOYLE, STANFORD, BARKOSKIE, SCHUBERT*

ST JOHN'S CHURCH IN SOMERVILLE  
158 West High Street • Somerville, NJ  
908.722.1250 • [stjohnsomerville.org](http://stjohnsomerville.org)

## St. John's in Somerville, Leadership 2023

### 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*, [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org)

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

#### Altar Guild

Diane Sireci, *Directress*, [dianesireci61@icloud.com](mailto:dianesireci61@icloud.com)

Tom Keefer, *Treasurer*, [thomasekefer@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasekefer@yahoo.com)

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

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

#### Music Program

Mark A. Trautman, [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org)

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

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

#### Church School

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

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

Taffy Scherr, [tafrika@aol.com](mailto:tafrika@aol.com)

#### Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Jennifer Kosensky, *Vice-President*, [jrkosensky@gmail.com](mailto:jrkosensky@gmail.com)

#### Mary & Martha Guild

Joanne Polito, *President*, [jozpolito@gmail.com](mailto:jozpolito@gmail.com)

#### Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser

Fr. Ron

#### Clothes Closet Council, [clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org)

Valerie Gibson, Marianne Salanik, Taffy Scherr, Linda Willard, Paula Windus

#### Laundry Love

Paul Grzella, [pgrzella@verizon.net](mailto:pgrzella@verizon.net)

#### Meals to Go

Christine Bean, [cbean727@gmail.com](mailto:cbean727@gmail.com), Niki Hoffman, [nikihoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:nikihoffman@hotmail.com)

#### Red Door Ministries

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

**Loose-Change for Discretionary Fund:** position open

**Happy Mealers:** Parish Office, [mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org](mailto:mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org)

#### Finance Committee

Kenneth Miller, *Chair*, [kemiii3@yahoo.com](mailto:kemiii3@yahoo.com)

#### Stewardship

Fr. Ron, *Adviser*; Kenneth Miller, *Chair*, [kemiii3@yahoo.com](mailto:kemiii3@yahoo.com), Barbara Christel, Carolyn

Gioia, Michelle Hernandez, Leigh Meaders, Devron Robinson, Linda Willard

#### 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) (2025); Kenneth Miller, *Junior*

*Warden*, [kemiii3@yahoo.com](mailto:kemiii3@yahoo.com) (2024); Carolyn Gioia [cgioiabella@gmail.com](mailto:cgioiabella@gmail.com) (2024); Michelle

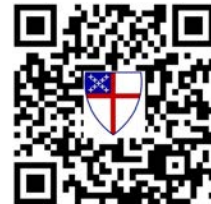
Hernandez, [mhernandez718910@gmail.com](mailto:mhernandez718910@gmail.com) (2024); George Mullen, [bigbrown11@optimum.net](mailto:bigbrown11@optimum.net)

(2024); Jean Stamets, [Jasoz08887@gmail.com](mailto:Jasoz08887@gmail.com) (2024); Megan McNamara,

[meganmcnamara1@yahoo.com](mailto:meganmcnamara1@yahoo.com) (2025); Leigh Meaders-Robinson, [Leigh.meaders1@gmail.com](mailto:Leigh.meaders1@gmail.com)

(2025); Barbara Christel, [barbarachristel@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarachristel@yahoo.com) (2026); Sheila Fuhrmann,

[jfuhrmann00@aol.com](mailto:jfuhrmann00@aol.com) (2026); Terry McShane, (2026) [t1m49@comcast.net](mailto:t1m49@comcast.net)



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