



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

The Newsletter

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

JANUARY 2024

FROM THE RECTOR

Epiphany

MANY OF US were introduced through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (*Día de los Reyes Magos*). It is also known as Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 Days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on January 6.



The word *Epiphany* means manifestation, unveiling, proclamation, announcement, realization, foreshadowing, actualization, unearthing, appearance, disclosure, opening, an inner knowing, a moment of surrender. Use of this word by some conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The Scriptures for the Sundays after Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through His Baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in His hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began “outside the circle” with the Magi.

Who were the Magi? Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the Wise Men. What can we learn from the Wise Men? First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs. Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory. We must remember that the Christian journey is often an off-road excursion. Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey, where ever the star might lead. In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God’s blessings in whatever form we find them.

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts. They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts. On the Twelfth Day, Three Kings, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion? Your commitment to Jesus and His Church? To all of our brothers and sisters?

The greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good News is for everyone.

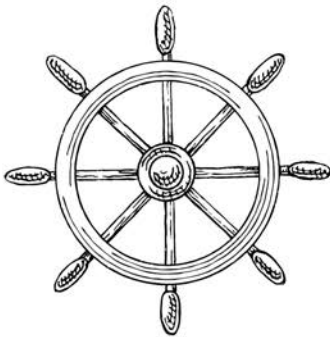
*Star of Wonder....Star of light....Star with royal beauty bright....
Westward leading....Still proceeding....Guide us to thy perfect light. (Hymnal 1982, 128)*

Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator and civil rights leader wrote:

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The Work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.”

*Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to church this Sunday!
See you in Church or online,
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. We currently have 75 pledges totaling \$169,690.00 of the required \$235,000.00.

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.

PASTORAL NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

- Thank you to the Church School teachers, Mark Trautman our Organist and Choirmaster, along with parents, who made our Christmas Pageant such a lovely celebration of Christmas.



- Thank you to the Parish Choir who offered their voices and hearts to enhance our liturgy, along with several of our young people offering their voices of song for Advent & Christmas services.
- Thank you to members of the Altar Guild, who served in this rich ministry of preparing the sacred vessels and vestments for services, along with those who helped pick up the poinsettias, carry flower stands to the altar area following Advent IV services and those who set up the Christmas trees.
- Thank you to the many members of our parish who provided food baskets, gift cards, toys and presents for those in need during the holiday season. Thank you to those who helped set up the gifts in the parish hall, those who delivered the toys and gifts and those who helped organize the distribution on the day of the give-away.
- Thank you to Mark Trautman for his leadership of our Parish Choir in offering such a lovely Advent Lessons and Carols Service, along with all the other Advent and Christmas services.
- Thank you to Chef Kir Rodriguez who once again made a gingerbread house replica of St. John's Church and provided many fabulous desserts at our Advent Lessons and Carols reception. The desserts were all amazing.
- Thank you to all who reached out to those who were home-bound, sick, or otherwise not able to attend Advent and Christmas services this year for whatever reason.
- Join me in continuing to pray for those on our sick list on a daily basis. Please pray for all who are currently serving in the U.S. Military and for their families. Pray for those who lost loved ones this past year.
- Join me in praying for those who are preparing to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 21 at the 10:15 am liturgy when The Right Reverend Sally J. French, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, will be here for her Episcopal Visitation.
- Join me in offering thanks to all involved in community outreach ministries: Meals To Go, Laundry Love, and Clothes Closet. Each of these ministries continue to be an important component in putting our faith into action. All are invited to participate. If you have any questions, please speak with me.
- Join me in thanking God for all those on the Stewardship Committee who worked hard to faithfully invite others to contribute to our 2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to all who have already made a financial pledge to St. John's for 2024. We are truly grateful.

- For those who have not made a pledge yet, would you prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2024? We thank you in advance for your support of our spiritual home! If you have any questions, please contact me.

To God be the glory!

Father Ron

Loose Change Sunday: First Sunday of every month

Our next scheduled date is **Sunday, January 7**. 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.

WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

Confirmation and Reception

The Right Reverend Sally French, Bishop of The Diocese of New Jersey, will be at St. John's on Sunday, January 21, 2024 for her Episcopal Visitation. For more information, please contact Father Ron. Please pray for all those who are preparing for Confirmation or Reception. — *Father Ron*



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

Take note of our regular schedule:

- On **Sunday, January 7**, 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 **Sunday, January 14**, all students will report to the downstairs Chapel for "Children's Chapel" with Father 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." *Christmas Pageant rehearsal follows.*
- On **Sunday, January 21** Church School will attend the 10:15 service of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist with our new bishop.
- There will be *no* Class or offered instruction on **January 28**.

Questions? Contact one of our Church School teachers, Mark Trautman (mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org) or Father Ron (frronpollock1@verizon.net).

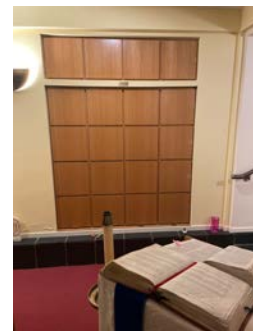
ST. JOHN'S COLUMBARIUM

"Nothing in death of life can separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:38-39).

When souls of our loved ones go from us into the hands of the living God, we remember them in God's love within the community of those still living.

The St. John's Columbarium, located in the downstairs Chapel, is open to parishioners and their families. Non-members will be considered by the Rector on an individual basis.

In our Columbarium, we place the ashes of those bodies which have now returned to the dust from which they came. Our Chapel itself and those who



worship within it become the living memorial to those who we have lost from among us, but know to be living in God's love.

The offering price for a niche is \$600, providing space for one interment. Adjoining niches are available for multiple purchase. The price is inclusive of the brass plaques provided by the parish, engraving of the name and dates of the deceased and interment fees. The Guidelines for the Columbarium, the Certification Form, as well as the Authorization Form from the family of the deceased will be provided by the Parish Office. *Applications for purchase may be addressed to: The Rector, c/o St. John's Episcopal Church, 158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876.*

Parish Commission on Ministry

In early 2022, Fr. Ron convened a new Parish Committee on Ministry, to work with any parishioner who is considering ordained ministry. A PCOM is a small group which, working under the revised diocesan guidelines, helps an inquirer look at their potential call to further ministry. The committee is one part of a larger process, most of which happens on the diocesan level.

Members of the committee are Dee Britt, Bob Fox, Sam Galpin, and Megan McNamara, with myself as chair. We meet and pray with anyone who enters the process through St. John's as they pursue their education and call. Any parishioner with such an interest should meet first with Fr. Ron about exploring their call to priestly, diaconal, or more involved lay ministry, and then they are recommended to us by him for broader discussions.

The PCOM started meeting with Mark Hernandez in early 2022 to discuss his ministry and his call to it. He has been taking classes in the diocese School of Ministry since that time. We have recommended him to the diocese for the next level in the ordination process. However, the diocesan process was put on hold at the end of Summer 2023 by our new bishop, pending some changes in personnel; we have been told that the process will resume in February 2024.

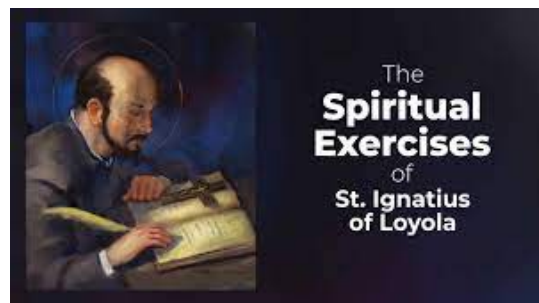
If you would like to know more about being more involved in the ministry of The Episcopal Church, or are interested in taking occasional classes on the Bible or the Church and its ministries, visit the Diocesan website at <https://dioceseofnj.org/school-for-ministry>.—*Deacon Keith McCoy*

A Morning Examen

In God's presence, think through the day ahead:

1. The work you will do.
 2. The people you will encounter.
 3. The dangers or uncertainties you face.
 4. The possibilities for joy and acts of kindness.
 5. Any particular resolutions you need to renew.
 6. Consider what might draw you from the love of God and neighbor.
 7. The opportunities you will have to know and serve God and to grow in virtue.
 8. Remember those closest to you and all for whom you have agreed to pray.
- Ask God's blessings, guidance and strength in all that lies before you.

—*Adapted from St. Ignatius Examen, www.IgnatianSpirituality.com*



CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S



MINISTRIES AROUND ST. JOHN'S

Altar Guild and the New Year

Looking for a New Year's Resolution that is do-able and rewarding and doesn't take a lot of time? How about considering Altar Guild? Altar Guild is a quiet ministry of the church, but this quiet ministry offers a big contribution.

Consider this:

- Membership in Altar Guild offers flexibility in time
- Membership in Altar Guild can be done as a couple
- Membership in Altar Guild is an avenue to introduce young people to stewardship at St. John's
- Membership in Altar Guild can be your introduction to church ministry.

Everyone is welcome to join Altar Guild. Contact Father Ron or Altar Guild Directress Diane Sireci (dianesireci61@icloud.com) to learn more.



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

ECW will meet on Monday, January 8 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Steve Katz from the Somerset Food Bank will be the featured speaker. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting as a donation to the Somerset Food Bank.

For more info contact Jennifer Kosensky.

ECW Winter Glove Collection for Those in Need

Thank you to all who participated in the fall diaper collection. Now it is time to begin our winter glove collection. A bin is in the Parish Hall. Adult and children's gloves are urgently needed. Hats and scarves will also be accepted. Your donations make a difference.

Questions? Contact the ECW officers:

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

Corresponding Secretary Linda Willard, (347-276-6491, nolaandboogie@aol.com)

Treasurer Paula Windus (908-526-7150, 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.

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Kyle Ferris: Vestry (3-year term)

Kyle Ferris was born and raised in Somerville and has been a Parishioner of St. John's since 2016. His parents are Thomas and Marybeth Ferris. Kyle was married to Renee Ferris in 2016 and the two reside in Somerville. Together they own a small business serving the Funeral Home industry. Kyle comes from a family that always believed strongly in serving one's community. He believes the best way to do so, is by serving God, his family, and his community. He knows firsthand just how wonderful God is.



Neva Rae Fox: Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention

Neva Rae Fox has been an active member of St. John’s for more than 30 years. Currently she serves St. John’s as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, a reader, an alternate delegate for Diocesan Convention, and a member of the St. John’s Task Force for Reopening. She serves as Coordinator for Province II of the Episcopal Church, a correspondent for the national Episcopal publication *The Living Church*, a member of the Diocesan Web Site committee, and was appointed by Bishop Chip Stokes to the advisory board of Episcopal Community Services—New Jersey. She is honored to serve the people of St. John’s as an alternate to convention.



Robert Fox: Deputy Diocesan Convention Delegate

Bob, a lifelong communicant of the Diocese of New Jersey started attending St. John’s after moving to Somerville in the 1980’s. He currently serves as Diocesan Convention Delegate and LEM/Reader. He previously served as Treasurer, Warden and Vestry. He also served on Diocesan Council, Stewardship Comm. and Deputy and Alternate Deputy to two General Conventions of the Episcopal Church. He looks forward to continuing to serve the Parish.



Carolyn Groff: Vestry (3-year term)

My name is Carolyn Groff, and I joined St. John’s in 2022 after moving back to New Jersey from Switzerland. I have served on the vestry at a former church, as well as serving for over a decade on the William Alexander Proctor Foundation Board under the leadership of the late Bishop George Councell. My favorite liturgical season is Advent because it is all about awaiting God’s perfection being made manifest in Christ, rather than our own perfection—I think about this a lot as I race to wrap presents on Christmas Eve and bake goodies that should’ve been baked weeks ago. I’m originally from Connecticut where I grew up at St. James’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford, singing in their Royal School Church Music program. In secular life, I hold a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University. I currently work for the Rutgers Division of Athletics in academic support, and I live in Somerset with my husband, daughter, and a very spoiled dog.



William Hoffman: Deputy Diocesan Convention Delegate

William Hoffman has been a member of St. John’s Somerville for more than 20 years and has served as a Convention Deputy multiple times. A consultant and advocate for the responsible use of emerging technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Bill lives in Bridgewater with his wife Niki and son Andrew.

Terry McShane: Warden (2-year term)

I was received at St. John’s in 2016 after being introduced by long-time parishioner Marcia Bower. For several years I had been attending various fundraising functions and decided to try Sunday worship. When Father Ron, just before the Eucharist, announced that all baptized Christians were welcome to receive, I knew I was home. I’ve been a member of ECW where I’ve run successful Christmas wreath and



Mother's Day flower fundraisers for several years. I volunteered at the *From the Heart Thrift Shop* and served at our Wednesday Soup kitchen. Most recently, as a vestry member, I helped organize a successful Casino Night. My goal is to help St. John's thrive in every possible way.

Steven Sireci: Vestry (3-year term)

Dr. Steven Sireci is a radiologist who has spent the bulk of his professional career working in a Medical Affairs capacity for Bracco Diagnostics Inc., a Milan-based company that manufactures and sells pharmaceuticals and medical devices for use in diagnostic imaging. He resides in Hillsborough with his wife Diane, a registered nurse who is a former warden and vestrywoman, and current head of the Altar Guild, at St. John's, along with their youngest son Christopher, an environmental field technician. Their son James is a U.S. Navy aviator, who lives in Maryland with his wife Hannah, and their son Thomas is the in-house videographer for Janome America, and lives in West Milford. Steven has served in the past as a Sunday School teacher at St. John's, and has in recent years been a member of the Chaplaincy Committee for the Episcopal Ministry at Rutgers. He also served a term on the Hillsborough Township Committee in 2003-2005, filling the office of Mayor in 2004. Steven looks forward to contributing again to the great work of our parish.



Valerie Smith: Watchung Convocation Representative

I have been a member of St. John's for approximately 13 years. I come from a Roman Catholic background and was received to the Episcopal church after about two years at St. John's. I am a member of the Daughters of the King and was involved in the fundraising committee at St. John's for many years. Last year I finished a three-year term on the Vestry. I am a recently (mostly) retired Registered Nurse with a critical care and documentation improvement experience. I continue to do occasion per diem work. I am enjoying my retirement by doing quilting and cross stich and spending Zoom time with my now 2-year-old granddaughter. I would like to use my time and skills by representing St. John's at the Watchung Convocation this coming year.

Mark Trautman: Watchung Convocation Representative

I joined St. John's September 2021 when I accepted the call to be Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator. I'm a life-long Episcopalian and served on the Liturgy and Music Commissions of the Episcopal Dioceses of Washington, New Jersey, and Newark. Most recently I was Director of Music at St. Paul's, Englewood and served as Missioner for Music and the Arts of the Diocese of Newark for five years. I am currently a member of the Liturgy and Music Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey.



Karen Whitmore: Watchung Convocation Representative

I am a retired Clinical Nurse Specialist, educated at All Souls' Hospital School of Nursing (Nursing degree), Kean University (BSN), Rutgers University (MS). I have attended St. John's Church since 2008 and was received into the Episcopal Church on June 5, 2010. I have Served on Watchung Convocation, Vestry, Property Warden, Finance Warden, Task Force for Reopening, and most recently Senior Warden.



Linda Willard: Watchung Convocation Representative

I moved to Somerville more than 18 years ago with my husband Harold, from Staten Island, which is where I grew up. We visited St. John's one Sunday morning about ten years ago and attended the service, and we have been coming back ever since. I am on several ministries at St. John's which include, the Clothes Closet, Episcopal Church Women, Altar Guild Treasurer, Meals To Go, Watchung Convocation, Usher and Greeter. We also provide cleaning services to the church.

We have both met lovely people along the way and have developed cherished friendships over the years as church members.



Positions still open: One Vestry position unexpired, Diocesan Deputy, Diocesan Alternate, One Convocation Representative.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. John's Parish will be Sunday, January 14, in the Parish Hall following the 10:15 am Eucharist. Come cast your vote for your Warden, Vestry Members, Diocesan Convention Deputies and Watchung Convocation delegates.

All submissions for the Annual Report are due in the Parish Office by Monday, January 8; email to mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org.

The Canons of the Church (49:1) wisely require an Annual Meeting of every congregation in which to elect those whose duty it is to protect the church property, and see that all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the administration of the sacraments and Ordinances of the Church be provided. And further, to see that the funds of the Parish are expended properly (50:2,3). Those elected to the Vestry, and those elected to represent the parish in Diocesan capacities are expected to be faithful in their attendance at worship and to set an example in stewardship.

The Episcopal Church provided for a democratic method of governing itself and the annual elections are proof of that method. It takes seriously the responsibility laid upon people to support, to suggest, to extend the Kingdom of God through the Church. Canon 49:2, 4 defines the qualifications of votes and officers to be elected:

- The voters shall be baptized, at least 16 years of age, domiciled in the Parish, of good moral character, adhering to this Church and to no other religious body, regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish, meaning thereby those who are more frequently present than absent, and regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish in the manner prescribed by the Vestry.
- The qualified voters shall elect such officers who shall be communicants in good standing. The term "communicant" shall be taken to mean a person who has been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop of a Church in communion with this Church, or has been received into this Church by a Bishop of this Church, and who shall have received the Holy Communion at least once during the preceding year.

To all heads of organizations and their treasurers:

Send materials to mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org by Monday, January 8

HEADS: Please prepare a written report about the ministry and activities of your group or committee.

TREASURERS: Please prepare your financial report including: receipts—opening balance, receipts, (list categories, not single items), total receipts, balance and

total. Disbursements (list categories, not single items), total disbursements, year's closing balance disbursements, and closing balance. Treasurers must include reports of monies in all saving accounts using the same information above. Many thanks in advance for your continued leadership, cooperation, and timeliness.

MINISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

St. John's Clothes Closet

Celebrate the new year with a new wardrobe at the January 6 Clothes Closet at St John's in Somerville from 9 am to noon.

All women's sweaters are half-price, plus a selection of free women's tops and jeans. And, don't miss the sale on fashionable boots.

The Clothes Closet features reasonably priced seasonal clothing and accessories for all ages—men and women, boys and girls, infants, and toddlers.

Shoppers should bring their own bags. Masks suggested and social distancing is required. Cash only; small bills appreciated.

Upcoming Clothes Closet dates are January 20 and February 3 and 17. If you are interested in donating any clothes, shoes, or accessories, you must contact Linda Willard at 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.



Meals to Go News

Meals to Go is now offered the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9-10 am. Upcoming dates are January 6 and 20. 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.



Updates

We are grateful for your financial donations to support the ministry during this interim period. Any amount is very much appreciated—a few dollars, combined with that of others, will go a long way to serving our customers. If you wish to donate online, go to Meals-to-Go on the dropdown menu.

Volunteers

Thank you to Janet Hahn and Linda Willard for shopping and packaging meals. If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, or if you would like to provide suggestions for this ministry please contact me, Christine Bean, cbean727@gmail.com or call the Parish Office.

Laundry Love News

Laundry Love ministry will be offered on January 11 and 25. 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 Paul Grzella at 908.507.8020 or email pgrzella@verizon.net. For more information how you can support the Laundry Love ministry, speak to Paul Grzella or Ed Edwards.

Somerville Scholarship Challenge

When I was a teenager back in the 70's, I worked after school as a library page to save money for college. With that and a half scholarship, I managed to go to a very nice school. Today, I would have to work after school as a stockbroker or a professional athlete to be able to afford further education on my own. College has become very expensive, especially for those from blue collar homes.

As everyone knows, education of most any sort is the pathway to a better economic life. "The dignity of every human being" is based on being able to support oneself and one's family. If you don't have those tools, you'll fall behind. Some of the people we see in our various ministries to the community here at St. John's are those who have fallen behind. Perhaps we need to get "upstream" and give people help early on, so they won't need our assistance later.

After the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, Fr. Ron, Dee Britt, and myself began talking about how St. John's can do something different to change the usual narratives in regard to how whites and Blacks live together. We settled on education as the best avenue, and the possibility of this congregation sponsoring a scholarship which would support a local Black teen in their education goals.

Fortunately, there is already such a scholarship in place. In 2018, the Somerville Area Ministers' Association (SAMA) and Clergy United for Christian Ministry cooperated on the establishment of a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. Due to the 2020-22 pandemic, it hasn't had a sustained push for support, but the time is right to make it grow. Rather than reinvent the wheel, we think that St. John's should connect with other congregations in town to provide a bigger and better impact and give more local teens the resources to get ahead.

So, please join us in supporting the Somerville Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. Contributions, with the notation Scholarship, can be made to St. John's by Sunday January 28, so we can aggregate the donations and make it as one check from all of us. Let's try to be proactive in how we live together. You can also give online on our website; pull down "Somerville Scholarship Giving" in the Funds menu.—*Deacon Keith McCoy*

27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ecumenical Community Service

2024

"NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE"

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Lunch: 1:00 pm. -2:45 PM
Ecumenical Community Worship Service: 3:00 PM

Join Us in Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Old Testament: Isaiah 26: 3-4
New Testament: Luke 18: 1-8

Sponsors:

- Christian Clergy Ministry Association (CCMA)
- Somerville Area Ministry Association (SAMA)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr.

- Former Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta Georgia
- Former Professor of Religious Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Former Pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama

Live Streaming: bit.ly/3RBviwQ
Meeting ID: 834 8605 3533
Passcode: 204881

For additional information, please contact
First United Methodist Church at
908-725-1473
Visit us at:
<http://www.firstumcso.com>

Host Church and Pastor:
First United Methodist Church
145 High Street, Somerville NJ
Pastor, Ben Lee

**WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER, JANUARY:
BIRTHDAYS**

1. Kir Rodriguez, Heather Marshall, Timothy Hussey, Chase Miller
2. Summer Andricsak
3. Sasha Rogalsky, Aubriella Stuart
4. Derek Mathews, Sally Falls Agins
5. Anthony Liberatoscioli
6. Suzette Miller
7. Noah Brown, Matthew Tom-Wolvoertton, Toni-Jo Kolupanowich, Rolando Ruiz
8. Paul Grzella
9. Kimberly Edwards, Thendrel Beth Nirmal
10. Millicent Barry, Kyle Kiernan, Della Grace Piperata
11. Jennifer Wickham, William Windus, Lisa Tipton, Jean Edwards, Nicole Casamassimo, Jerry Skillicorn
12. Ken Morrow, Richard Mathews, Hailey Lynn Bender
13. Donna Lazartic, Andrew Mehring
15. Claudia Brown, Janine Tirrito
16. Jenna Potts, Matthew Daugherty, Kory Soden, Michael Paladini, Patricia Mlenak
17. Brian Mathews, Deacon W. Keith McCoy
19. Addison Kurzawa, Joseph Clymore
20. James Wilson, Aurelia Anobile
21. Harry Dowden
22. Suzanne Vaucher, Meredith Barry, Nathaniel Bender, Janet Eager, Susan Miller Rogalsky, Manuel Ovando
23. Rebecca Mullen, Kathleen Conceicao, Brian Nauer
24. Carmen Rizza
25. Mary McMullen, Meghan McMullen, Judy Marine, Christopher Frost

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, January 7:** Epiphany Evensong, 5 pm
Monday, January 8: ECW, 7 pm
Sunday, January 14: Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 21: Episcopal Visitation and Confirmation
Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday, services at 7 am, noon and 7 pm
Saturday, March 9: 240th Diocesan Convention, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 31: Easter Day
Saturday, April 13: ECW fundraising event, 9 am-2 pm.
Saturday, May 11: Plant Sale, 8 am-3 pm

Regular Ministries

- Clothes Closet:** First and third Saturdays
Meals to Go: First and third Saturdays
Laundry Love: Second and fourth Thursdays

26. Brandon Kurzawa, Guy Scott, Kathy Dowden
27. Melisande Skillicorn
28. Andrew Hoffman, Peyton Moor
29. Lauren Krueger, Karolyn Clymore
30. Valerie Gibson, Patricia Potts, Lucas Mathews
31. Lucas Huntley

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3. Barry & Katherine Stuart
4. Jorge & Sarah Benitez
10. Robert & Neva Rae Fox
13. Gary & Carol Boyer
16. Brian & Amy Nauer

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1. Henry Kane, Isabelle Caruccio, Roy Barry, Richard Meier
2. Gerald Gaughan
3. Kenneth Osinski
4. Michael A. Cinelli, Brent Miller
5. Cora Wilcox, Eugene Kielar
7. Ernest E. Hewett
9. Joseph J. Balint
10. Lou Leight, Frank Eakin
11. Garrett M. Wyman
12. Arnold Von Horn
13. Harry Leight,
16. James J. Gardner, Jr.
18. Dorothy Gaughan
19. Melissa J. Schamp
25. Robert Powers
26. Margaret Comiskey
28. Helen Hilda Reich, Idabell Collins Demaray, Paul H. Chapman
29. J. Stanley Ebel
30. Margaret Hicks, John B. Nelson, Gertrude Vanderbeek, Marlyn Hudicka
31. Victor Marshall



January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7 pm, ECW</i>	2 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	3	4 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	5 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	6 <i>THE EPIPHANY 9 am, Meals to Go 9 am, Clothes Closet</i>
7 <i>EPIPHANY 1: Baptism of our Lord 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Loose Change Sunday 5 pm, Evensong</i>	8 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	9 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	10	11 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5 pm, Laundry Love 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	12 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	13 <i>10 am, Requiem, Lt. Varis K. Babris</i>
14 <i>EPIPHANY 2 8 am, Eucharist 10 am, Church School 10:15, Eucharist</i>	15 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting Parish Office closed</i>	16 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	17 <i>7 pm, Vestry</i>	18 <i>Confession of St. Peter 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	19 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	20 <i>9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet</i>
21 <i>EPIPHANY 3 Episcopal Visitation 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Confirmation and Eucharist</i>	22 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	23 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	24	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul 10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5 pm, Laundry Love 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	26 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	27
28 <i>EPIPHANY 3 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist</i>	29 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	30 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	31			

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	2 <i>Candlemas Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	3 <i>9 am, Meals to Go 9 am, Clothes Closet</i>
4 <i>EPIPHANY 4 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist Loose Change Sunday</i>	5 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7 pm, ECW 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	6 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	7	8 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5 pm, Laundry Love 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	9 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	10
11 <i>LAST EPIPHANY 8 am, Eucharist 10 am, Church School 10:15, Eucharist</i>	12 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	13 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	14 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes, 7 am, 12pm, 7 pm</i>	15 <i>Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	16 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	17 <i>9 am, Meals to Go 9 am Clothes Closet</i>
18 <i>LENT 1 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist</i>	19 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting Parish Office closed</i>	20 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	21 <i>7 pm, Vestry</i>	22 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5 pm, Laundry Love 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>	23 <i>Fr. Ron's Day off</i>	24 <i>St Matthias the Apostle</i>
25 <i>LENT 2 8 am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist 5 pm, Lenten Vespers at Bound Brook Presbyterian</i>	26 <i>12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8 pm, AA Meeting</i>	27 <i>7 pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)</i>	28	29 <i>10 am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 7:15 pm, Parish Choir Rehearsal</i>		

St. John's in Somerville, Leadership, January 1, 2024

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*, frronpollock1@verizon.net

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Mark A. Trautman, *Organist-Choirmaster and Administrator*, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Altar Guild

Diane Sireci, *Directress*, dianesireci61@icloud.com

Tom Keefer, *Treasurer*, thomasekefer@yahoo.com

Dana Keefer, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals*, dzkeefery@yahoo.com

Bread & Wine and Altar Candles, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Music Program

Mark A. Trautman, mtrautman@stjohnsomerville.org

Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library

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Church School

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Mary & Martha Guild

Joanne Polito, *President*, jozpolito@gmail.com

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser

Fr. Ron

Clothes Closet Council, clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org

Valerie Gibson, Taffy Scherr, Linda Willard, Paula Windus

Laundry Love

Paul Grzella, pgrzella@verizon.net

Meals to Go

Christine Bean, cbean727@gmail.com, Niki Hoffman, 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

Finance Committee

Kenneth Miller, *Chair*, kemiii3@yahoo.com

Stewardship

Fr. Ron, *Adviser*; Kenneth Miller, *Chair*, kemiii3@yahoo.com, Barbara Christel, Carolyn

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

Treasurer

Sam Galpin, *Parish Treasurer*, sam.galpin@outlook.com

Anne Tom, *Parish Co-Treasurer* annetom@comcast.net

Vestry (Class year)

Steve Mandraccia, *Senior Warden*, Smandraccia@verizon.net (2025); Kenneth Miller, *Junior*

Warden, kemiii3@yahoo.com (2024); Carolyn Gioia cgioiabella@gmail.com (2024); Michelle

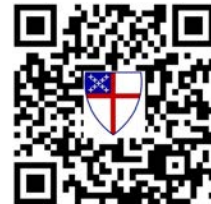
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