



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

The Newsletter

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

APRIL 2026

From the Rector

Resurrection

“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain.”

—1 Corinthians 15:13-14.

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THIS. It would be a lot easier if it were more complicated, if the Christian faith were a matter of complex doctrines and rituals and long lists of do's and don'ts. But it really isn't. In one short sentence St. Paul puts it in a nutshell. Either God did enter history in the person of Jesus and did raise this Jesus from the dead into eternal life, or God didn't. That's it. You either buy it or you don't.

Here we are, living life as if it is all about us—what we do or fail to do, what we own or fail to own. Our principal task in life is the perfection of self. Oh, we may go to church and say our prayers. We go to the gym too—and to the bank and to the grocery store. But all of it is about maintaining our self in a world full of other selves.

But it is like a terrarium. Then it dawns on us that there really is a God, magnificent beyond our wildest conception, who creeps into our terrarium, not merely to prune the dead leaves and till the soil, but to break us out of self, to make everything new.

For this brief time here on earth we have a job, to let the Risen Christ grow in us and through us to others. In a world that so often chews itself up, we Christians can offer hope. Knowing the gift that we have been given, how can we not share that gift as loudly, lovingly, and passionately as possible?

Be gone God's frozen chosen; we have work to do! We'd best be at it, for we cannot be on both sides of the Good News at once; we either hide to our peril or we proclaim it. “Alleluia. Christ is Risen. The Lord and all God's people are Risen indeed. Alleluia!”

Come to St. John's Church. Invite a family member, neighbor or friend.

See you in Church or online!

Father Ron



The Day of Pentecost and the Sacrament of Baptism

The Day of Pentecost, this year on Sunday, May 24, is one of the four principal Baptismal days in the Church Year. If you or someone you know desires to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, contact Fr. Ron at frronpollock1@verizon.net. Find out more about the Sacrament of Baptism at St. John's here:

<https://stjohsomerville.org/baptism>

Easter Thanks

Once upon a time, Mark Twain was the highest paid writer in America, earning \$5 per word for a syndicated newspaper column. A reader sent him \$5 and requested his most important word. Twain responded with a letter bearing this single word: *Thanks*. Thanks may well be the most important word as well as the most important faith expression there is. Going through the depths of the liturgical season of Lent, Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter, I pause now to say thank you for all that you continue to do to build up the Body of Christ here at St. John's and in the world. Some things that stand out to me are:



- The faithful people who showed up and participated in the various Lenten offerings, such as the Thursday evening book on-line discussion group, the Wednesday book discussion "Roll Back the Stone" led by Tiffany Campbell and a hearty thank you to Dana Keefer for making wonderful soup dinners for us all to enjoy, Lent Madness on-line, Episcopal Church 101 Class, the Episcopal Church Women sponsored Lenten Communion Breakfast and presentation by Mother Joyce Scheyer.
- The Parish Choir for their faithfulness in making beautiful liturgical music on Sundays in Lent, Holy Week and Easter, as well as participating in the joint Lenten Vespers with the Presbyterian Church Senior Choir in Bound Brook. Special thanks to our new organist, Dennis Dell, for his leadership with the choir.
- The Altar Guild members for their quiet devotion in maintaining a sacred order in setting up the altar for corporate worship. Special thanks to Altar Guild Directress, Diane Sireci.
- Chef Kir and his team for the wonderful lamb dinner we will enjoy after the Easter Vigil.
- For the many who support our mission outreach efforts, particularly: Laundry Love, Clothes Closet, Meals To Go, those who supplied hams for families known to us in the community, socks and diapers collected by the Episcopal Church Women, so much more.
- For the strong support shown to Episcopal Relief & Development Fund, particularly in helping our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Russia, and the Holy Land.
- To our youth for their assistance putting together Laundry Love baggies filled with washer pods, dryer sheets, and rolls of \$10 worth of quarters.
- For all who will help the Easter Egg Hunt a grand success.
- For our excellent staff: Deacon Keith McCoy and Karen Abbatiello. We are deeply blessed to have these extraordinary leaders and servants of Christ.
- For our Ministry Intern, Tiffany Campbell, for her faithful participation in worship, education, mission outreach, property, and pastoral care.

There are some days when I hear people say, "I've never seen such a high level of participation at any church!" The recruitment of volunteers to engage in sacred ministry, will always be hard work, but at St. John's it is also one of the marks that makes this parish as special as it is.

The head of the Church is Jesus Christ, but its soul is its people, people who continue to give of themselves beyond reason, even when they are tired, and who exceed all expectations. Thanks may be a single word, but is there any other that matters more? As we live more fully into these next 50 days of unbridled joy in Easter, allow me to add my thank you to all of you who make this Church as it is. By Christ's Spirit we surpass our individual abilities and form a body that gives hope to the world and honors our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks, and with God's love — Father Ron

Stewardship Campaign 2026

We currently have **58 pledges totaling \$156,044.00** of the required \$225,000.00. That is 69% of the congregation has pledged. Don't forget to send your pledge to the Church Office for a pledge card or give online using the symbol on the right.



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.



What is Stewardship? A Practical Meditation

Stewardship is **Everything I do after I say, "I believe."**

God calls us to share in God's mission of caring for the world, using all the gifts God has given us. We are stewards, caretakers of God's gifts. Everything we have was a gift from God, and God asks us to use it all for God's purposes. Generosity flows naturally out of our gratitude for the gift of love, family, and life itself.

In the church, we are stewards of the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We are called to share that good news with new generations. But we live in a world where sharing that news is becoming ever more challenging. In order to share the good news, we need financial and other resources.

Our worries about stewardship tend to focus on money. But stewardship is all about mission. Convince people that the church is doing God's mission and that it will truly transform our lives and our communities. Each of us is an integral part of that mission – heart, mind and body – and the money will follow.

Stewardship isn't just:

- Fundraising.
- Paying the light bills or maintaining a building.
- Paying a decent staff.
- Meeting the budget.
- Keeping the church alive.
- Paying our fair share of the dues.
- Passing on a legacy to our children.

Stewardship is:

- Sharing in God's mission with a glad, generous and grateful heart.
- Transforming lives in our community.
- Prayerfully responding to God's call.
- A deeply spiritual matter.
- Something that blesses the giver more than the receiver.

Stewardship is discipleship; it is a complete reorientation of our lives toward God, who calls us through Jesus Christ. Stewardship is **Everything I do after I say, "I believe."**

THE WORK OF MINISTRY

Clothes Closet—April 4 and 18

Spring is in the air!

Please stop by on Saturday, April 4 and April 18. We are open from 9am to noon. Sales! Sales! Sales! Our prices can't be beat! Sales on so many of our items

Our free rack is stocked with something for everyone. The \$1 and \$2 racks are overflowing with various items for the entire family. We offer a large selection of women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, accessories and so much more.

We have a selection of lovely tops, capris, pants, beautiful dresses, shoes, and handbags. Look for our beautiful classy women's suits for only \$5 and spring jackets for any occasion. Our women's plus rack has more new items and most of them are priced at \$1.

We have a sneak peek for our summer items. Most of the women's boutique items are specially priced at less than \$5, so much to choose from. Need some bling to go with your new wardrobe? Check out our jewelry display offering a great selection of colorful spring time items. Our men's rack has reduced items for only \$1. The mixed medley is back with lovely items that are special for you!

New arrivals come in weekly! We are currently accepting Spring and Summer clothes

Please contact Linda Willard with any questions or if you would like to make a donation. Cell: 347-276-6491 or email Linda at Nolaandboogie@aol.com. For more information, email clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org, and find us on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StJohnsSomerville.

Laundry Love News – April 16

Third Thursday of the month—Somerset Laundry, Division Street in Somerville. We can always use more quarter rolls and/or monetary support for the quarter rolls. Quarter rolls can be left in the alms basin on weekends, along with any cash/check donations—please just indicate Laundry Love donation in the memo line. If you have any questions about the ministry, would like to donate or to get involved in some way, just ask Ed Edwards or Paul Grzella in church, call 908-507-8020, or pgrzella@verizon.net.

Meals to Go – April 4 and 18

Meals to Go is offered the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9-10 am. If you know someone (including yourself) who would enjoy a meal, stop by the St. John's Parish Hall, use the ramp entrance and bring a bag. *Our days this month are April 5 and 19.*

Thank you to Janet Hahn and Linda Willard for shopping and packaging meals.

For more information or to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Christine Bean, cbean727@gmail.com. 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 on our website, www.stjohnsomerville.org.

Episcopal Church Women News

Next ECW meeting

Our next ECW meeting is Monday, April 6 at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall.

It's almost Tea Time. Please check out our Spring Tea flyer posted on the ECW bulletin board and the ECW table in the parish Hall. Tea is on April 25 from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall. Please reach out to Linda Willard or Paula Windus for tickets. They are \$35 per person. A savory or sweet food donation would be greatly appreciated. See the sign-up sheet on the ECW table.

Thanks to everyone who donated socks during our sock drive. We continue to accept socks, diapers for newborns and adults, and women's hygiene products. The donation boxes are on the stage in the Parish Hall.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Hope to see you then.

Plant Sale

Our Annual Spring Plant Sale is Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm on the front lawn, rain or shine. We have some great new plants, vegetables and herbs this year. \$5.00 for small plants and herbs, \$20.00 for hanging baskets and planters. Come by early to get the best selections!

Questions? Contact an ECW officer:

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

Paula Windus, Vice President at paulawindus@verizon.net

Loose Change Sunday: *First Sunday of every month*

Our next scheduled date is Sunday, April 6. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please feel free to bring a jar (or a Ziplock bag) 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 alms basin. 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.

Altar Guild Invitations for you to consider

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 (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.

Altar Guild

- Membership in Altar Guild offers flexibility in the 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.

If you are interested, please contact Diane Sireci, *Directress*, (908-256-5467 or dianesireci61@icloud.com) or the Parish Office.



WE CELEBRATE, WE REMEMBER: APRIL 2024

BIRTHDAYS

1. Christopher Khan
2. Ashley Tiano, Andrew Martinez, Luca DeMarinis
4. Amie Gilroy, Anjola Olawoye
5. Susan W. Huck
6. Jesse Daniel Agins
7. Courtney Bennett, Emilie Nawrock
8. Elizabeth Szumigala, Richard Lake,
9. Wyatt Fleming
10. Charissa Poklikuha
11. Justin Collins, Kinsley Golder
12. Tracey Miller
14. Christopher Fraser, Gail Saydek, Thomas Keefer
15. Carly McCabe, Tina Mandraccia
17. Carly Moor, Evan Jacino
18. Kaitlyn Chattin
19. Leigh-Anne Tom-Wolvertton, Christopher Frost, Jr., Colt Conceicao
20. Brandon Leonidas, John Hamer
21. Nicholas Britanek
22. Charles Agins, Robert Strano
23. Ron Jacob, Debbie Jameson Jelinek, Olumide Olawoye
24. Thomas DeLaney
26. Teresa McShane, Mila Drew Fletcher
27. Kerry Foderingham, Marilyn Meier Smith, Rachel Jacob, Kavitha Nirmal, Cynthia Dalrymple
30. Kimberly Buck, John Kotlarchick, Reilly Waworzyniak

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5. Steve & Toni Marchick
10. Stuart & Caryle Steggall
14. Jeffery & Donna Daugherty
16. Rajkumar & Kavitha Nirmal
17. Dina & Michael Sena
21. Edward & Amie Gilroy
22. Susan & Scott Bender
24. James & Wislene Edwards
28. Christopher & Samantha Venet
30. Patrick & Gloria Bower

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2. George Stone Thomson
3. Helen Randolph Long
4. Don Mistrik
5. Edith Foreman, John Chester Harris, Owen John Klosin
7. Lily Altamura
9. Charles Caruccio, Jean Moore
10. Cecil McConnell
12. Rosalie Cornelia, Willard Norman
13. Mary Pfauz
14. Harry A. Schamp
17. Lucy Agins
20. Henryk Jachim
21. Irene Glines
25. Carson Kendall
28. James Edward Holmes
29. Gretchen Long, Michael LaCosta
30. May Stok



Gift of Stunning New Vestments

The new vestments were presented by daughters, Deidra Britt, Cassandra Stewart, and Cheri Fox in honor of their parents Kermit and Shirley Saunders.

“The St. John’s community is pleased to join Deidra, Cassandra, and Cheri in honoring their parents who were lifelong dedicated members of St. John’s,” commented the Rev. Canon Ron Pollock, rector. “The vestments will be used throughout Lent, and we are thankful for this special gift from the Saunders family.”

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Wednesday of Holy Week 7pm, Holy Eucharist	2 Maundy Thursday 10 am, Eucharist 6pm Agape Supper 7pm, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar 8:30pm, Vigil	3 Good Friday 7am Liturgy of the Day 7pm, Stations of the Cross	4 Holy Saturday 9am, Meals to Go 9am, Clothes Closet 7pm, the Great Easter Vigil 8:30pm Lamb Dinner
5 EASTER SUNDAY 8am, Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist, egg hunt Loose Change Sunday	6 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 7pm, ECW 8pm, AA Meeting	7 NO 7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	8 10am Funeral 7pm Vestry	9 NO 10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	10 Fr. Ron's Day off	11 Parish Hall in use from 8am to 10pm for outside groups.
12 EASTER 2 8am, Eucharist 9:15 Fundraising Mtg 10:15, Eucharist	13 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	14 7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	15	16 10am Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild 5pm Laundry Love 6pm Agape Supper 7pm Holy Eucharist	17 Fr. Ron's Day off	18 9am, Meals to Go 9am, Clothes Closet
19 EASTER 3 8am, Eucharist 9:15 Property mtg 10:15, Eucharist	20 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Meeting 8pm, AA Meeting	21 NO 7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	22	23 10am, Eucharist Mary-Martha Guild	24 Fr. Ron's Day off	25 2pm ECW Tea Saint Mark, The Evangelist
26 EASTER 4 8 Eucharist 10:15, Eucharist	27 12:30-1:30 All Recovery Mtg 8pm, AA Meeting	28 NO 7pm, Holy Eucharist (chapel)	29	30		

St. John's in Somerville, Leadership

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Canon Ronald N. Pollock, *Rector*, frronpollock1@verizon.net
The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, *Deacon Associate*, kmccoy1@optonline.net
Tiffany Campbell, *Ministry Intern*, skylw6@gmail.com
Dennis H. Dell, *Organist*, dennishdell@gmail.com
Karen Abbatiello, *Administrative Assistant*, admin@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, admin@stjohnsomerville.org



Music Program

Dennis H. Dell, *Organist*, dennishdell@gmail.com

Canon Chancellor John W. Goldsack Church Library

Deacon Keith, kmccoy1@optonline.net

Church School

Michelle Hernandez, chellehernandez1@gmail.com
Tracey Jameson, tkayj@aol.com
Taffy Scherr, tafrika@aol.com

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Linda Willard, *President*, nolaandboogie@aol.com

Mary & Martha Guild

Fr. Ron, convener

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Adviser

Fr. Ron

Clothes Closet Council, clothescloset@stjohnsomerville.org

Taffy Scherr, Linda Willard, Paula Windus, Barbara Christel, Karen Whitmore

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:

Happy Mealers: Fr. Ron

Finance Committee

Stewardship

Treasurer

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

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

Vestry

Terry McShane, Sr. Warden

Steve Sireci, Jr. Warden

Thomas Albee, Vestry

Donna Lazartic, Vestry

Ken Miller, Vestry

Christine Anobile, Vestry

Tim Walsh, Vestry

Liz Eisinger, Vestry

Anthony Pinto, Vestry

Kyle Ferris, Vestry

Carolyn Groff, Vestry