Views from the Mountain

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all. Isaiah 61:11

Dear friends,

Here on the Mountain we are excited about fall possibilities. This mid-summer newsletter announces some specific events and some hopes and dreams. We look forward to seeing you on the Mountain on September 12th.

Join us in our garden,

Dave+

IMPORTANT FALL DATES

Sunday, September 12th

- Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes
  - 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I in the chapel
  - 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the church with Choir
- 8:45 am Child Care, lower level
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- Blessing of Those in Program Ministry
  - Altar Guild members, Church School teachers, musicians and Eucharistic Ministers will be blessed during the 10:00 am liturgy

Sunday, September 26th

- 10 :00 am The Rt. Rev. Jack McKelvey celebrates the sacrament of Confirmation with the class of 2021

Sorta* Second Sunday Simple Supper & Short Service

- 5:00 pm Free catered meal and a short service in Parish Hall

  August 8
  September 19
  October 17
  November 14
  December 12

*moved to the *third* Sunday of September and October

Sunday, October 3rd

- 12 noon - 1:00 pm The Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn

Sunday November 7th

- 8:00 am & 10:00 am The Feast of All Saints' and Reading of the Necrology
- 4:00 pm All Saints' Choral Evensong

SUMMER NEWS

UNDER THE TENT
July 4, 2021

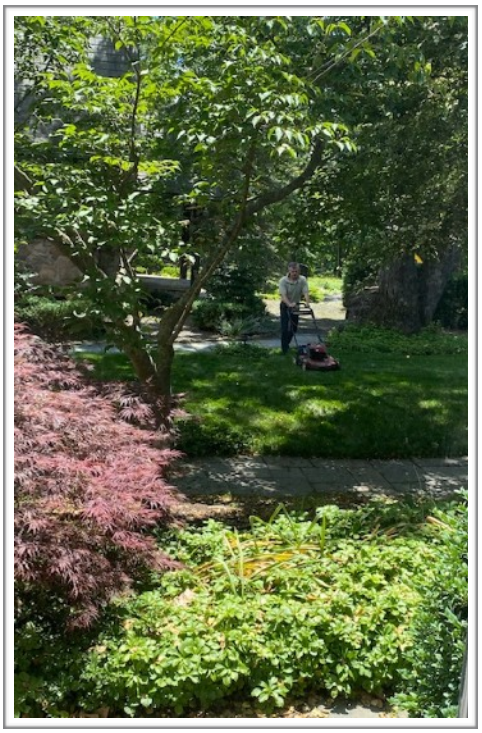
Over 140 people from SJOTM, St Mark's, St. Luke's and St Bernard's assembled under the tent at Moorland Farms to worship together, sing hymns, share breakfast, and enjoy fellowship.

SECOND SUNDAY SIMPLE SUPPER & SHORT SRVICE
July 11, 2021

On July 11, about 30 parishioners gathered at 5 pm in Parish Hall for a Short Service and a Simple Supper. Our meal was BBQ, provided by the Minuteman Restaurant in Harding.

Please join us on August 8 as we assemble again for another Simple Supper and Short Service.

All are welcome - bring the kids!



Fr. Dave gently mowed the newly planted front lawn, June, 2021

MUSIC NEWS

THE CHOIR IS BACK

We are ecstatic to welcome back the SJOTM Choir this Fall after a long Covid hiatus. The Choir is made up primarily of dedicated volunteers who have been a part of the ensemble for a great many years. We are also happy to be welcoming four new singers/ section leaders.

The Choir rehearses on Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m. most weeks September through May and sings on Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. liturgy. We are always looking for new members. Please contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for questions or more information.

Parish membership is not required, and the Choir is open to anyone ages 15 to 105 who can commit to our rehearsal schedule.

EVENING PRAYER
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Chapel

Wednesday Evening Prayer will continue at SJOTM. Please note its **new time and location**, beginning September 8. In the chapel at 6:30 pm and, as always, the SJOTM Zoom Room.

FAVORITE HYMN SUNDAY
September 5, 10:00 am

Each Sunday through July & August one of your favorites has been closing hymn. On Labor Day weekend, the top vote getter will be highlighted as the closing hymn....followed by a Quiche & OJ Brunch in Parish Hall.

Please Join Us

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Be on the lookout for new initiatives to engage our youngest parishioners in singing again on the Mountain.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong is a beloved tradition in the Anglican Communion and is sung at churches and cathedrals throughout the world at the close of day. The music for the liturgy is mostly sung by the choir, allowing the assembly to let it wash over and be "a prayer rising as incense" on our behalf.

This season at SJOTM we will offer Choral Evensong on the following dates:

11/7	All Saints' Sunday
12/5	Second Sunday of Advent
3/6	First Sunday in Lent
5/22	Ascension Sunday

Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in July and August

Wendy Argent-Belcher, Doris Aufschläger, Chip Baird, Sally Chubb, Tabby Cochran, Sue Ely, Kathy Falcon, Steve Forbes, Binx Lee, Vicky McGlynn, Michael Mitchell, Pat Moody, Barbara Mushalko, Joan Powell, and Trish Sullivan

MISSION OUTREACH

HUNGER NEVER TAKES A VACATION

By Hilary Thomas Dorer

This sign hangs in the warehouse of the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. For me it is a fitting reminder of three things; my good fortune, the tragedy of hunger in the United States and around the world, and the dedication of so many people who work tirelessly to try to feed them.

If the coronavirus pandemic brought any benefits, one may be the increased awareness among Americans who do not live in poverty of the fate of those who do. Our parish has demonstrated not only that awareness but willingness to act. We have received hundreds of donations and raised unprecedented funds for those living with food insecurity in our area. Thank you!

Despite pandemic restrictions, some members of our community have spent countless hours laboring in the Giving Garden, transporting food to the Food Banks, and helping at the Food Pantries. Now that restrictions are lifting a bit and vaccinations are available, it is time to get out again and VOLUNTEER.

Many organizations are in need of volunteer help. The Outreach Commission is compiling a list of local non-profits that could use a few hours of your time. If you know of one, please email Hilary.

GIVING GARDEN AT ROSS FARM

Our Garden needs more volunteers for the late summer and fall harvests. Need to get the kids out of the house? Harvesting is a fun family activity and weeding develops patience and persistence!

In August, September and October, workdays are Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Hilary or Nina Dixon.

The green beans planted by the Nursery School students in the spring are growing strong!

Shelter

Funded by a generous parishioner, we are still pursuing the purchase of a two-family house in Bernardsville with help from the Mayor and Town Council. We plan to repurpose and sell the house as Affordable Housing. As soon as the purchase is complete, we will need volunteers to help clean-up the property and prepare it (alongside professionals) for habitation. Please keep an eye out for requests for volunteers in September/October.

Grace's Kitchen has not yet opened its doors to volunteers but the staff are still feeding over 100 people per day one week a month. Funding has taken a hit during the pandemic and, in response to a request, we have donated $3,500 which we hope will help to keep the kitchen open until a longer term solution is found.

On behalf of St John on the Mountain, the Outreach Committee has funded the sponsorship of a Little League team that will be called the **St John's Angels**. We hope that you will follow and support our team.

GO ANGELS!

Our annual **First Night Program** will start again in Advent, when we will be collecting items for children being taken into Foster Care.

MISSION OUTREACH, cont'd

PROJECT FIRST CLASS

We are asking your support of "Project First Class" which is being launched by Somerset County. This is a drive to collect school supplies for children in need. The items requested are:

New school supplies such as notebooks, three-ring binders (1½ to 3 inches), pencil cases that fit inside of binders, paper, glue sticks, safety scissors, index cards, highlighters, markers, pens, pencils, crayons and new or gently-used backpacks will be accepted. Non-perishable and canned food will also be accepted.

All donations will be distributed by the Food Bank Network of Somerset County to families and students who are in need. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office throughout August.

Note: It seems that among the items affected by the breakdown of supply chains, there is a shortage of backpacks. If you find one, or a duffel bag for our First Night project, it may be a good idea to buy it now, before they all disappear.

GOLFERS WANTED TO HELP OUR CATHEDRAL

Our Church is seeking participants for the 17th Annual Bishop George E. Councell Memorial Golf Outing and Community Day to be at the Mercer Oaks Golf Club in West Windsor, NJ on Monday, October 11. Please help us enter foursomes to represent St. John on the Mountain and to support our Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Our Church members have participated every year!

The day begins with worship at 10:00 am and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. Golfers (about 80) will be from churches across the Diocese of New Jersey. It has always been a very good day in support of a very good cause. Cost per player is $175.

Please contact Father Dave or Jane and Peter Mercer for information and how to register, play, have fun or financially support the event.

5k Fun Run sponsored by Bernardsville Township
The event takes place in downtown Bernardsville on Sunday, September 5, from 9:00 am - noon.
Details for this event are coming soon.

FOOD PANTRY
Update

The Food Pantry at Good Shepard Church served 340 families in June. The bulk of our clients are Hispanic immigrants for whom we purchase oil and Maseca flour for tortillas and rice and dry black beans, the other staple in their diet. Also served are 15 seniors at the Ridge Oak subsidized housing community in Basking Ridge and 40 vets at the Veterans Administration in Lyons. Records show the following distribution:

- 508 adults served
- 213 children served
- 340 families served
- 394 general bags distributed
- 114 senior bags distributed
- 5 new clients in June

For details on how and what you can donate, visit our web site, www.sjotm.org.

In November we will be seeking volunteers to serve at the **Food Pantry on Saturday** mornings and will collect turkey breasts, small hams and frozen lasagnas for Thanksgiving.

A few years ago, the SJOTM team were the Champions! Let's go for a win in 2021

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

THE PARABLE PROJECT

September 12th begins a new and exciting Sunday school experience for our youth. Students will be learning about some of the parables that Jesus shared, singing new songs, and working on creative projects based on these parables. There will be Sundays when students are baking, creating and constructing, participating in service projects, and more. Parents are invited to coffee hour and see what their children have been working on. In fact, on September 12th, Sunday school students will be preparing coffee hour to welcome everyone back for a new program year!

All Pre-K-4 students through 4th graders will be invited to meet in Parish Hall every Sunday at 10am. After Sunday school, children will join their parents in church for the Eucharist.

More programs for more grades will be announced in the next newsletter.

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, September 26, 10:00 am

On September 26th at the 10am service The Rt. Rev. Jack McKelvey will be confirming the members of the confirmation class of 2021. Please join us for cake in Parish Hall following the service.

CHILD CARE RESUMES

Sunday, September 12, 8:45 am
Lower level

Mark Your Calendar for the first day of Sunday School Sunday, September 12th

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Sunday, October 17, 9:30 am

On Sunday, October 17 at 9:30 am, Father Dave will meet in the Chapel with any children who want to learn more about Holy Communion. All children are welcome, whether they have received Holy Communion before and wish to learn more about it, or if they have yet to receive Holy Communion.

Please email Lynn Mitchell at lynnmitchell@sjotm.org to let us know if you would like to participate.

Best Wishes as you celebrate your birthday in July and August

Meghan Lukacsko, Elliot Goulding, Reagan Panik, Jack Panik, Summer Lichtenfeld, Jack Morais, James McKeon, Jack Rutz, Audrey Panik, and Tucker Daggett

ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

SJNS will open its doors and welcome students back into the classroom for the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, September 13 for our 3 and 4 year old classes and then on Tuesday, September 14 the 2-1/2 year old class will return. Student Orientation will be held prior to the official first day and take place on Friday, September 10. This will give the children and parents the opportunity to meet their teachers and their peers prior to walking into their new classrooms. Staff Orientation and Training will occur on Thursday, September 9 although teachers will be working on setting up their classrooms from mid-August onward.

In terms of students, our current enrollment is as follows:

- 2s class (2 days / week) - 11
- 3s class (3 days / week) - 12
- 3s class (5 days / week) - 12
- 4s and 4+ classes (5 days / week) - 18

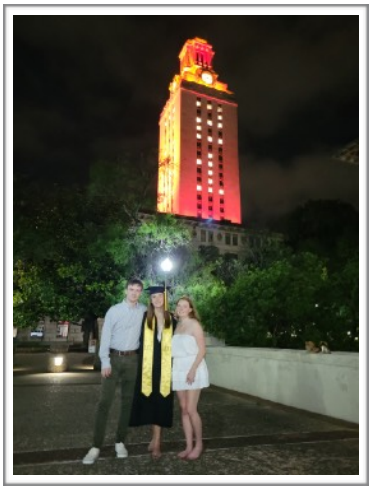
There are still several spots available in the 4s and 4+ classes and any referrals would be most appreciated.

In terms of our teachers, we are very pleased to have the majority of our staff returning. All 5 of our Lead Teachers will be back. Those include Julie Bosworth (4+), Patricia Porter (4s), Karen Skogund (3s), Evelyn Kissel (3s) and Heather Koehler (2s). Three out of five Teacher Assistants are returning which include Danielle Brinkley (4+), Michelle Conover (3s) and Diane Ernst (2s). We are also excited to be welcoming two new Teacher Assistants - Alisa Ryan and Gladis Menare.

The three SJNS Administrators are still working on finalizing the logistical details based on state requirements and guidelines.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Fletcher Ewing



Emma Ewing

Fletcher Ewing graduated from Clemson University with Bachelors of Science degree in Marketing from the Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business. He has taken a position with Techtronics Industries Co. Ltd. as a Field Sales & Marketing Representative.in Avon, Colorado.

Emma Ewing graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors of Science and Arts degree in Biology from the College of Natural Sciences. Emma plans to remain in Austin and pursue a Masters degree program as a Physician's Assistant.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN
379 Mount Harmony Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
908-766-2282

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend David L. Jones
Priest-in-Charge
djones@sjotm.org x11

Christopher Harlow-Jennings
Director of Music & Organist
cjennings@sjotm.org x14

Lynn Mitchell
Director of Children's Ministries
lynnmitchell@sjotm.org

Lisa Coakley
Parish Administrator
office@sjotm.org x10

Lisa Keenan
Finance Manager
L.Keenan@sjotm.org x13

Carey Kane, Kathy Tober
Directors, St. John Nursery School
director@sjotm.org

Summer Liturgical Schedule

August Sunday Schedule
- 8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Chapel
- 10 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, Church

August 8
- 5 pm Simple Summer Supper & Short Service

Evening Prayer
- 5 pm Wednesdays, Zoom, through August 25

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN
379 Mt. Harmony Road
Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1414