

St. John's Winter Newsletter

January ~ February 2018



From the Rector....

A New Year: God's Holy Spirit Guiding Our Feet into the Paths of Jesus Christ

Take a blank piece of paper. Turn it sideways and draw a line the length of it. Imagine this line is your own spiritual journey, from your birth to today. Fill in the timeline to show the significant spiritual moments in your life: baptism, as a child, a teenager, confirmation, a young adult, marriage, an older adult. Be thorough. Be honest. What are your hopes for your own spiritual life in the New Year? How about five years from now?

Having spent some time thinking about your own journey, what hopes do you have for the spiritual life of children: your own children, your grandchildren, your God-child, your neighbors, your fellow parishioners at St. John's or some other special child in your life? Now, how will you help make these hopes come true? Should St. John's Church be at the center of your life? In her book, Real Kids Real Faith, Karen Yust offers practical suggestions for nurturing the spiritual lives of children. Or if you are like me and don't have children, think about yourself or your other loved ones.

- Set aside time to pray for those in need.
- Give your own stewardship of time, energy and/or money to those who struggle or need help.
- Worship regularly in church.
- Honor that which is ultimately important - Jesus Christ!

Take a mental "tour" of your home. How are you creating an everyday spiritual world for your child, neighbor or friend to inhabit or visit? What signs of your religious tradition are present - not separate and enshrined, but in a way that weaves evidence of God into the everyday activity of your home? As you think of gifts, what about....religious music, Bible stories, books and literature, books for young children, artwork depicting moments and miracles in the life of Jesus Christ, toys or games such as Bible Trivia, Bible Pictionary or other board games.

And always, create moments of silence in the busy life of today. Turn off the television, music, computers, and telephones. Take a rest from conversation and enjoy just five minutes of silence - together.

Warning: Nurturing spirituality is not something you do to or for someone. You do it with someone. If you choose to be intentional about nurturing the spiritual life of someone, you just may find your hopes for your own spiritual journey may be fulfilled!

Happy New Year and God bless you all,

Fr. Ron ☩



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Newsletter Editors

Fr. Ron Pollock

Neva Rae Fox

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CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Ronald N. Pollock, **Rector** (908-722-1250) (frronpollock1@verizon.net)

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

John Plesniarski, **Organist/Choir Master** (johnples82@gmail.com)

Lillie Hardingham, **Administrative Assistant** (908-722-1250) (stjohnsomerville@verizon.net)

MINISTERS - People of St. John's

Altar Guild

Pauline Boyer (908-722-1832) & Doreen Franko (dmf0505@yahoo.com), *Co-Directresses*
Dee Britt, *Treasurer* (brittchey@aol.com)

Kay Halsted, *Flowers, Weddings, & Funerals* (chalsted1@verizon.net) (908-526-0243)

Karen Whitmore, *Votive Candles* (dawit@optonline.net) Joan Sammartano, *Supplies* (908-526-0148)

Bread & Wine and Altar Candles ~ contact the parish office (stjohnsomerville@verizon.net)

Adult Choir: John Plesniarski, *Director & Organist* (johnples82@gmail.com)

Junior Choir: Tracey Jameson, *Director* (tkayj@aol.com).

Church Library: Deacon W. Keith McCoy (kmccoy1@optonline.net)

Church School: Marielena Cardinale, *Superintendent* (jcardinale123@comcast.net).

Daughters of the King: *President position - OPEN*

Endowment : Greg Pasquale, *Chair* (gpasquale@shainlaw.com)

Episcopal Church Women: Marianne Jalali, *President* (marianne.jalali@aol.com)

EYC (Youth Group): *Adult Advisors:* Fr. Ron, Kevin & Kim Buchanan (kbubwr11@yahoo.com)

"From the Heart" Thrift Shop: Judith Marine (Jmarine5@verizon.net)

Mary & Martha Guild: Marcia Bower, *President* (marciab6@verizon.net)

Mission Outreach: Father Ron (frronpollock1@verizon.net)

Parish Treasurer: Sam Galpin (samgalpin@aol.com)

Co-Treasurer: Anne Tom (annetom@comcast.net)

Red Door Ministries:

Baby Blankets for newborns and those baptized: Pauline Boyer (908-722-1832)

Casseroles for people in need: Marcia Bower (marciab6@verizon.net)

Loose-Change for Discretionary Fund, to help those in need: Andrea Dalrymple (adal227@verizon.net)

Planned Giving: Sam Galpin (samgalpin@aol.com)

Stewardship: Sam Galpin, Dee Britt, Diane Sireci | Fr. Ron

The Wardens

(class of 2018) Diane Sireci (dianesireci@comcast.net)

(class of 2019) Steve Mandraccia (Smandraccia@optonline.net)

The Vestry

(class of 2018) Position Open

(class of 2018) Ron Szumigala (Szumigala@optonline.net)

(class of 2018) John Newton (jnewton2001@yahoo.com)

(class of 2020) Jennifer Dorward (jmdorward@comcast.net)

(class of 2020) Marianne Jalali (marianne.jalali@aol.com)

(class of 2020) William Hoffman (william.hoffman@att.net)

(class of 2019) Rich Neff (rwnsail@yahoo.com)

(class of 2019) Leigh Meaders-Robinson (lmozelle@aol.com)

(class of 2019) Millie Barry (Mdbarry10@gmail.com)



St. John's Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 14

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 January 7.

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.

Join us for St. John's Annual Meeting on January 14. Child care will be provided during the meeting.

Please plan to attend!

To all heads of organizations and their treasurers:

Heads: Please prepare a written report about the ministry and activities of your group or committee and have it to Lillie Hardingham, the Parish Administrator in the parish office no later than **Sunday, January 7** (preferably before that date).

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.

Thank you in advance for your continued leadership, cooperation, and timeliness.

Faithfully, *Fr. Ron*

St. John's Nominating Committee Report ...

*Committee Members: Fr. Ron Pollock, chair / Diane Sireci, Warden / Marianne Jalali, vestry / Jennifer Dorward/
William Hoffman / 2 members at large*

Nominating Committee Slate:

Warden: 2 year term - Marianne Jalali

Vestry - 2 year term - Brad Moor

Vestry: 3 year term - Karen Whitmore

John Cunningham

Valerie Smith

Diocesan Convention: 3 year term - Deputy - Dee Britt

Alternate - open

Watchung Convocation Representatives: 1 year term:

Linda Gimbut

Anne Tom

William Hoffman

Paul Akins

Faithfully submitted, Fr. Ron, *Chair*

Bios for Candidates

Marianne Jalali (Warden – 2 year term)

I have been a member of St. John's for three years. I was introduced to St. John's by Judy Marine. I found the people so warm and welcoming that I decided to join the church and become involved. I am a counter, member of ECW and Mary Martha Guild, volunteer at both the Thrift Shop and the Soup Kitchen where I serve and donate food for the meals.

I grew up in New York City, moving to New Jersey 40 years ago. I am a widow and live in South Plainfield. I have two adult daughters, Elizabeth, a first grade teacher living in New Jersey and Susan, HLN Senior Producer for Morning Express with Robin Meade living in Atlanta, GA. I am honored to be considered to serve as a member of the Vestry.

Marianne Jalali

Brad Moor (Vestry - 2 year term)

Brad Moor is a lifelong Episcopalian and has lived in Somerville and worshipped at St. John's for the past 15 years.

Married with 2 daughters, Carly and Peyton, I am a teacher in the Branchburg School District. I have served on the vestry in the past and am currently filling a one year vacant vestry seat. I have been a Watchung Convocation delegate representing St. John's and I am also serving as one of St. John's delegates to the Diocese of New Jersey's Convention. If elected for a three year term, I look forward to serving the parish community again faithfully.

Karen Whitmore (Vestry - 3 year term)

My name is Karen Whitmore. I am a retired RN and live in Bridgewater. I have been a member of St. John's Church for approximately 10 years. Those of you who attend the 10:15 Eucharist may not know me since I attend the 8:00 service. I previously served on the Watchung Convocation and have been involved in Fund Raising for several years. I currently manage the Votive Candle ministry and would very much like to serve on the St. John's Vestry.

Valerie Smith (Vestry - 3 year term)

I joined St. John's church about 10 years ago. I found the church to be warm and welcoming and knew I had found a family here. I live in Hillsborough and have 2 children. My son, Marc lives with his wife in California and my daughter, Blair lives in Bound Brook. I work as an RN for Kindred Healthcare. In my time at St. John's I have been a member of the fundraising committee and I am a member of the Daughters of the King. I am honored to be considered to serve as a vestry member.

John Cunningham (Vestry - 3 year term)

I work for a design firm in NYC - working both from home and in the city. I am a pastor from another protestant tradition . I am a former church music director. I am a pilgrim on The Canterbury trail for over 20 years. I would be honored to serve on the Vestry.

Dee Britt (Deputy to Diocesan Convention – 3 year term)

Deidra (Dee) Britt has been a member of St. John's for over 20 years. She serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and is the Altar Guild Treasurer. Dee has served as a Watchung Convocation Representative, Vestry member, and Greeters & Ushers.

Open - (Alternate Deputy to Diocesan Convention – 3 year term)

William Hoffman (Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

William (Bill) Hoffman resides in Bridgewater, with his wife Nihoko and son, Andrew and has been a parishioner of St John's for more than 10 years. He is seeking election to serve on the Vestry for a second time. He previously served as a Vestry member from 2009-2012

Bill has worked within the technology sector for more than 25 years focusing on developing innovative new services. Currently employed at a Swiss non-profit (The World Economic Forum), Bill works to ensure the use of communications technologies can be used to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the complex challenges of extreme poverty, hunger and infectious disease

A lifelong Episcopalian, Bill grew up in Hershey, Pennsylvania where he was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church. He looks forward to serving the congregation and the mission of the church.

Anne Tom (Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

I have been a member of St. John's since 1988. I am married with four children and one granddaughter. Presently I am employed as a sales consultant at Fried Beans Toyota/Scion in Flemington.

Over the years, I have been involved in a myriad of ministries: Food Bank Network of Somerset County (current board member); lay reader; counter; acolyte; and Sunday school teacher; Vacation Bible School director; and recording secretary for the ECW; choir; Capital Campaign committee; and volunteer coordinator for the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Linda Gimbut (Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

My name is Linda P. Gimbut. I have been an active member of St John's for 25 years. I live in Hillsborough with my husband, Ed, and our dog "Petey". We have three children and six grandchildren, three of whom have just been confirmed by Bishop Chip Stokes. I am a member of ECW and the Mary-Martha Guild and also serve as a volunteer with the "From the Heart" Thrift Shop. In addition I help feed our brothers and sisters who come to the SHIP's Galley. I provide technical assistance to Church School's Christmas pageant as well. I look forward to this new ministry as I continue my faith journey as a delegate to the Watchung Convocation.

Open _____(Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

Open _____(Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

Open _____(Watchung Convocation Representative – 1 year term)

St. John's Columbarium

"Nothing in death or life can separate us from the love of God"

(Romans 8:38-39)

When the 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.

In response to a strong expression of interest by the community at St. John's, the Rector and the Vestry are pleased to announce that the St. John's Columbarium, located in the downstairs Chapel, is open to parish members and their families. Non-members will be considered 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 whom we have lost from among us, but know to be living in God's love.

The offering price for a niche is \$450, providing space for one interment. Adjoining niches are available for multiple purchase. This 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 St. Somerville, NJ 08876

Attn: The Columbarium

Planned Giving

The thread of generosity through this beloved church of ours...St. John's church!

St. John's has a deep and faithful history of folks who have left behind money for St. John's and for the ministry of the Church. All kinds of people hear the call of God to give to this place and to make offerings for the church's well-being! People come to St. John's from various places. But their first gift to St. John's Church is their presence. Returning to home, work, church and world, they give a second gift, sharing with others deepened faith, renewed ministry and refreshed selves. Moved by all that they and their family and/or friends have received through St. John's, many respond with a reflexive gesture of generosity.

Some respond by answering our call for prayers or referring other people to St. John's. Others respond with service, helping to lead programs and other church services, by serving on committees or joining a group here. Many respond with financial gifts and other forms of support that advance the Kingdom of God here on earth at St. John's.

When St. John's engaged Holliman & Associates (a professional capital campaign fund raising firm) many years ago now, we also entered into the development of a more formal structure for Planned Giving. It was *Dr. Paul Foreman* who helped to get this program up and running, along with former member, *Linda Jones Bailes*, as a result of our closer examination and need for Planned Giving here at St. John's. I can still remember *Paul* putting together a beautiful and engaging program for other churches in our Diocese at a Cathedral sharing day with the Bishop. *Paul* and his excellent Planned Giving Committee members, happily shared our story here at St. John's and what brought us to where we are today. Still further, *Paul* shared St. John's beautifully done Planned Giving brochure. It was a really big hit in our Diocese and several significant leaders around the Diocese held it up as being a perfect example.

Sam Galpin, a long time and faithful member here at St. John's has served faithfully as the chair for Planned Giving since 2007. We are so grateful for his on-going enthusiasm and sense of "call" to respond and lead St. John's further along the path in Planned Giving. Many of you probably know Sam, who serves as our parish Treasurer, Eucharist minister and reader at 8 am, but moreover, as the coordinator for *The Blessing of the Animals* in October.

If you have an interest in becoming part of Planned Giving here, please talk with me.

234 Diocesan Convention: will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill NJ 08002 on March 2-3, 2018.

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us as we worship, conduct business, view and listen to presentations, socialize, and network.

St. John's will be represented by Fr. Ron and Deacon Keith, Deputy Bob Fox, Deputy William Hoffman, Alternate Deputies are Neva Rae Fox and whoever is elected at our Annual Meeting here at St. John's, on January 14.

by *Fr. Ron*

All clergy and deputies are invited to attend one or more of the pre-convention hearings to learn more about the budget, resolutions, and canons being presented at convention. Meetings will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated as 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

January

30 - Christ Church, Toms River

31 - St. Barnabas, Mon. Junction (1:30-3:30 pm)

31 - Trinity, Princeton

February

1 - Grace, Plainfield 6 - St. Luke, Gladstone 8 - St. Augustine, Asbury Park

15 - St. Stephen, Whiting (1:30-3:30 pm)

15 - St. Thomas, Glassboro 20 - Christ Church, Somers Point

Angel Christmas Tree

We give thanks to God that we collected the most toys we ever have this year! God is Good! Hundreds and hundreds of toys. Special thanks to the ***Bridgewater Eagles***, the ***Martinsville Mom's Group***, ***Artisnal Tattoo***, ***Bodhi Fitness Team***, and many anonymous givers, and of course all of the wonderful generous people from St. John's Church and this community.

Toys went to:

- ✦ The children of inmates at Somerset County Jail
- ✦ The Home for Temporarily Displace Youth in Bridgewater
- ✦ Children in our own community of St. John's and Somerville Borough.
- ✦ Agape House in Somerville

Thank you to all of those who volunteered to help sort through toys and food items that were a part of our Adopt-a-Family ministry program. I am so proud of this joy-filled community effort making a difference in the lives of many others.

Faithfully and Joyfully,

Fr. Ron

***Acolyte Festival! Saturday, February 10,
At Trinity Cathedral, Trenton***

The event starts at 9:30 am and runs til 3:30 pm. It is a lot of fun! There are workshops and games to enjoy. Let Fr. Ron know if you are able to go and represent St. John's before January 24, so we can register you.





From the Heart Thrift Shop

Thank you for all your coat contributions and other winter outerwear. We sold about 20 coats on Thursday and we still have many to sell. Coats will still be on sale for \$5.00.

We will be accepting only fall and winter clothing.

Remember to bring in January your \$5.00 coupon off anything in the thrift shop.

We are looking for help to set-up and work on the day of the Thrift Shop. Helping hands are greatly appreciated. Please contact me at any time.

Since its inauguration 12 years ago, the St. John's From the Heart Thrift Shop has donated more than \$84,900 to community and regional social services and non-profits organizations and agencies.

January

Set up is January 3rd (between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.).

From the Heart Thrift Shop will be January 4th (from 11 am to 6:00 pm)

February

Set up is January 31st (between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.).

From the Heart Thrift Shop will be February 1st (from 11 am to 6:00 pm)

If you have any questions please contact Judy Marine (908-722-5531) or jmarine5@verizon.net

Ship's Galley at St. John's

Established in the fall of 1992, Ship's Galley is a service provided by the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program as a response to the increase in need for an on site meal program to feed the hungry in our region. It is operated through the efforts of faith communities and other volunteers whose purpose it is to provide a nutritious meal, to any person in need regardless of age, race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, residence or any other qualification. Our "open door" policy means that anyone is welcome to partake of this service on any Monday, Wednesday and Friday at St. Johns. Please remember that St. John's assignment for Ship's Galley is **Wednesday, Jan.10th and Wednesday, Feb. 14th**. Our assignment is always the **2nd Wednesday** of the month.



Clients at the Soup Kitchen have told us how much they look forward to *our* day, as they enjoy the food we serve. We like to provide a variety of dishes that makes some choices available. This is a small but welcome pleasure for folks who have not had many choices available to them. Here, they receive not only nourishment for their bodies, but also an hour of fellowship and rest in a safe place. The entrees, soups and casseroles that have been brought in are outstanding and enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all those who have been providing food during 2017 and to everyone who volunteers to serve on our day. We have had a successful year in serving those in need and with God's Blessing and your help we will continue in 2018. We would encourage anyone to please add your name to the list and donate a casserole or any item on the list to share with those who come to the Soup Kitchen. Remember that the sign-up sheet contains *suggestions*, but if anyone has a favorite they would like to make please feel free to do so. Just write it in on the sheet. This support is truly a generous outreach by the parishioners of St. John's.

If you have any questions please contact Dot Spolarich 908 526-3987.

REMEMBER THE FOOD BANK

Once again, it is St. John's turn to staff the Somerville pantry for the Food Bank on Saturdays for the month of February. Please help St. John's fulfill our commitment to the Food Bank Network as we distribute food to those in need every Saturday during the month of February. Distribution is at the United Reformed Church, Main Street, Downtown Somerville, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. A minimum of six volunteers are needed each Saturday for distribution. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Mission-Outreach bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please contact either Anne Tom or George Mullen with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help.



Ash Wednesday Schedule: February 14

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the church, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word."

(from "The Liturgy for Ash Wednesday" The Book of Common Prayer, p. 264-269)

7:00 am - Holy Eucharist

12:00 noon - Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

All services include the Imposition of Ashes.

Mark the beginning of Lent by attending one of these services.

By Fr. Ron



From Deacon Keith:

Last August, several parishioners helped me send out a mailing to all 3100 deacons in The Episcopal Church, in conjunction with my being president (and managing director) of the Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church.

The mailing included the annual ballot for the board, and they were to be returned to St. John's to Lillie Hardingham's attention.

One ballot came back with a note that some at St. John's might be interested in:

Dear Ms. Hardingham,

Sending my proxy to you at St. John's brings back many memories as a parishioner there from 1947 until 1968 when I moved to Florida. I was active as a Sunday School teacher for eleven of those years.

I was Director of Christian Education for my parish in Miami and continued in that position until 1996 when I moved to Leesburg Florida. I was ordained a deacon in 1988 and still serve actively -- at 86. God has indeed been good.

My name at St. John's was Janet Vollert. My maiden name was Janet McDonald (daughter, Nancy, was baptized in 1966). Since 1979, I have been married to Ronald (Chuck) Clarke.

The Rev. Hollis Smith was rector while I attended St. John's.

Please know that I continue to keep St. John's in my prayers. My best wishes to you, your rector and Deacon McCoy.

Yours in Christ,

Janet Clarke

Also From Deacon Keith:

I need help with another mailing for the Fund for the Diaconate, this time only going to the 110 bishops of The Episcopal Church, but the envelopes will need labels, stamps, and stuffing with a letter and some bookmarks. If anyone can join me on Saturday, January 27 from 11 am to about 1 pm or so, I promise lunch and other refreshments.

Finance/Endowment meeting Jan 24, at 700 pm. – Our endowment investment advisor, Victoria Clarke from UBS will be coming to St John's to meet with members of our Vestry and Finance/endowment committee. All are invited to attend. This will be an interesting and informative meeting. We will discuss our investments, our endowment fund and market happenings. Please come out.

Steve Mandraccia

Faith Steps for Children

What are your children learning about God? How do your children view the Bible? What are your boys and girls learning about their role in ministry and the Church? How about at St. John's? How knowledgeable are your children about the Bible and its wonderful stories of faith? How knowledgeable are your children about the sacraments of the Church? Children are asking important questions about faith . . . and what they learn matters!

The approaches used to teach children matter. Age appropriate activities for preschoolers and children are critical to effective learning and growth. Appropriate artwork and images also aid understanding of the characters, settings, and stories in the Bible.

Bible study for preschoolers and children matters. Through Bible study they discover captivating stories about God's people and lay foundations for their next steps in faith. Young learners also benefit from a broad and balanced exposure to the many stories in the Bible.

Respect for children matters. By being sensitive to the needs and abilities of our children, teachers, parents, and friends of children can make Bible study as interesting as it is informative.

A child's faith journey is important. If you are a parent, *do you know what your child is learning? Are you familiar with the content? Would you ever consider helping teach Sunday School at St. John's?* If you are over 16 years old, and have been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, you are qualified to teach Sunday School at St. John's!

When it comes to worship, children must be taught what is happening in church, what behaviors are acceptable, what behaviors are NOT acceptable, how they can participate in the service, what prayers they can help pray, what hymns they may help sing, as well as greeting their neighbors. While it is imperative that our church be child-friendly, we must also uphold and remember that church is a place of quiet and prayer. Not everyone in church can relate to children easily.

I ask your prayers for our children at St. John's. They are a gift from God. May we hold them up as icons to the love we know in Jesus Christ. I ask your prayers for continual help in teaching our children. Pray for the teachers and staff. Pray that others will hear the call from God to teach Sunday School. May God bless our beloved church!

Faithfully & Joyfully, ***Father Ron***

First Holy Communion Class

Children will have the opportunity to make their First Holy Communion at either the 7 PM Great Easter Vigil (Saturday, March 31) or on Easter Sunday (April 1). Remember that all baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communionthis is not an Episcopal Table, it is the Lord's Table.

On Saturday, February 27 at 11 AM, class will be held in the Guild Room for children preparing for their First Holy Communion. They must be accompanied by at least one of their parents or an adult sponsor. If your child has recently begun to receive Holy Communion, but has not had instruction, it would be appropriate for them to attend this class too.

Materials will be provided. Certificates will be presented to the children during whichever Easter liturgy your child attends. Please complete the form below and return it to Father Ron in the Parish Office. The information may also be e-mailed to frronpollock1@verizon.net

Name: _____ Age: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Place of Baptism: _____

Parent (who will attend with child): _____

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

2018 January/February Newsletter

The past months have been busy for the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). We started September off with a pot-luck dinner; our guest speaker in October demonstrated techniques for getting fit; and in December we had our yearly Yankee Swap and holiday desserts.

In November ECW lost a much loved and devoted member, Deanna Jameson. Deanna will be dearly missed by all. ECW extends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to her family.

Our first meeting of the New Year is **Monday, January 8 at 7 pm**. We will meet in the Guild Room to share refreshments and have a general meeting where we will discuss our plans for the coming months.

On **Monday, February 5 at 7 pm** we will gather in the parish hall for an informal culinary lesson given by our own Chef Kir Rodriguez. His lessons are always very informative as well as delectably delicious. Following his lesson, we will continue with our general meeting at 7:30 pm.

All the women of the church are cordially invited to join ECW. The fellowship gained through ECW is both rewarding and supportive of the church. We look forward to meeting you, so please join us.

Episcopal Church Women Sponsor Fundraiser

ECW is holding a fundraiser during the month of January for Chef Kir and Deacon Keith's renowned dinner party held at their home in Edison.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 for a chance to win a dinner for 4. The winner can bring up to four people and each person then pays \$75.00. There will be two winners drawn. Dinner includes appetizers to dessert with wines for each course. Date of party is decided by the winner and hosts. Raffle drawing is February 4. Tickets will be sold after each service starting January 1. Good Luck.

If you have any questions please see Judy Marine or call at 908-722-5531

Alisa Dupuy Returns as a Civil War Soldier's Mother

Historical Storyteller Alisa Dupuy will be at St. John's again on Saturday evening, February 10. If you saw her presentation last spring as the Czarina of Russia, you know how entertaining she is, and she won't disappoint giving her "Reflections of a Civil War Soldier's Mother".

Ms. Dupuy will portray a mother whose son was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. She will also talk about influential women from that time including Clara Barton, Dorothea Dix, Julia Ward Howe, and some female Civil War spies from both sides. Fashion, photography, and the death photos that were commissioned will be explored as well. We hope to have some Civil War re-enactors present that evening, too.

Tickets for only \$25 will go on sale in mid-January and special pricing for students and families will be available. The program will begin at 7:00 in St. John's parish hall and refreshments will be served.

Paula Windus

paulawindus@verizon.net

"A Weapon-free St. John's Episcopal Church and Campus"

A Vestry Declaration

"Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness ..."
(The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, p.815).

The Rector, Clergy, Wardens and Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church do hereby declare St. John's Church and campus, 158 West High Street in Somerville, New Jersey, as "weapon-free" (inclusive of all worship, fellowship, mission-outreach, administration and education spaces).

In deference to Christ's command that disciples turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39), consonant with the Church being a member Congregation having Parish status in The Diocese of New Jersey, (per Canon 46, Sec.I, The Constitutions and Canons in The Diocese of New Jersey) and informed by the Parish's commitment "To Know Christ And To Make Him Known" (as per our Mission Statement) we direct that no gun or other instrument of violence shall be carried by church members, clergy, staff, or visitors on the church campus.

When the Episcopal Church consecrates a building and campus for worship, the work of the Church and mission-outreach efforts, the Bishop uses the Pastoral Staff to mark the threshold of the Church with the sign of the Cross saying, "Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here." (Book of Common Prayer, page 568). This peace that passes understanding (Book of Common Prayer, page 339, 830; Philippians 4:7) distinguishes property consecrated for the use of a congregation from property dedicated to secular purposes.

Approved and Endorsed by The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes,
Bishop of New Jersey

Approved and Endorsed Vestry Meeting November 11, 2015
Fr. Ronald N. Pollock, XV Rector

JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- January 7** Mr. & Mrs. Edward Gimbut in loving memory of her mother, ***Linda Perrone***
- January 14** by Paula Windus in loving memory of her mother, ***Marian B. Lyle***, and her father, ***Paul H. Chapman***.
- January 21** by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Polito in loving memory of ***Michael & Annie Scoppetta*** and ***James & Dorothy Polito***
- January 28** by Carol, Robert and Ryan Nelson in loving memory of her husband and their father, ***John Brooks Nelson***

January Altar Candles

- January 7** Open
- January 14** Open
- January 21** Open
- January 28** Open

January Bread & Wine

The offerings of bread and wine for the month of January are given to the Glory of God by John & Marielena Cardinale in thanksgiving for their grandson,
Noah John Brown

Lectionary for January

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>LESSON</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>
January 7	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1-10, [11-20]	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- February 4** by The Episcopal Church Women in loving memory of
The Rev. Hollis S. Smith & Anne Piper Smith, who founded the *St. Elizabeth's Guild*,
and *All the Deceased Members of the Episcopal Church Women*.
- February 11** by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fox in loving memory of her sister, *Celeste Check*
- February 18** Open
- February 25** by Charles & Kay Halsted in thanksgiving for their granddaughters, *Maitland & Caroline Halsted*

FEBRUARY ALTAR CANDLES

- February 4** Open
- February 11** Open
- February 18** Open
- February 25** Open

February Bread & Wine

The offerings of bread and wine for the month of February are given to the Glory of God

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>LESSON</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>
February 4	Isaiah 40:21-31	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 11	2 Kings 2:1-12	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Welcome Newcomers! We're So Glad You Came!

We're thrilled to see you! As a matter of fact, we've been waiting for you!

We believe that every person who comes to worship with us is a special gift from God. We are all better off from you being here amongst us. We want to express the love we know in Jesus Christ with one another. And we're excited to share it with you, and to grow together in our pilgrimage of faith.

St. John's is a place for all people - no matter where you may be on the journey - and it won't take you long to discover that we are a vibrant and caring community of faith, journeying from different places and life-experiences, but who desire to grow together.

We are a people ultimately, of faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, relationships are paramount - especially when we consider our baptismal covenant, "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as our self."

Our doors are open to you! If you have been praying, thinking, searching, church - shopping, and hoping for a place to belong - we say ***"Welcome!"***

God's blessing be upon you now and always, Fr. Ron

St. John's Episcopal Church

158 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Parish Office (908) 722-1250

Fax (908) 541-0705

Office: StJohnSomerville@verizon.net

Rector: FrRonPollock1@verizon.net

www.StJohnSomerville.org



Wise Ones Still Follow His Star

"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

JANUARY ~ 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1 <i>The Holy Name</i> New Year's Day Office is closed.</p>	<p>2 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>3 SHIP'S Galley Thrift Shop set-up 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm.</p>	<p>4 10:00 am Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting Thrift Shop 11am - 6pm</p>	<p>5 SHIP'S Galley</p>	<p>6 <i>Epiphany!</i> 5:00pm - Epiphany Party in the Parish Hall !</p>
<p>7 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Children's Chapel 10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Baptisms Deadline for Annual Reports !!</p>	<p>8 7 pm - ECW Meeting SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting Deadline-Reports for An- nual Meeting!</p>	<p>9 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>10 SHIP'S Galley St. John's assignment. 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 10:00 am Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting</p>	<p>12 SHIP'S Galley</p>	<p>13 9:30 am - Daughters of the King Eucharist and meeting</p>
<p>14 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Children's Chapel 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am - Annual Meeting</p>	<p>15 .Dr. Martin Luther King Day... Office is Closed SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting</p>	<p>16 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>17 SHIP'S Galley- 7:30 pm - Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 10:00 am Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting</p>	<p>19 SHIP'S Galley</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Children's Chapel 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>22 SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting</p>	<p>23 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>24 SHIP'S Galley 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 10:00 am Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting</p>	<p>26 SHIP'S Galley</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Children's Chapel 10:15 am Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>29 SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting</p>	<p>30 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>31 SHIP'S Galley Thrift Shop set-up 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>			

JANUARY ~ INTERCESSIONS



Birthdays

January 1 ~ Kir Rodriguez, Heather Marshall, Timothy Hussey
January 2 ~ Summer Andricsak
January 3 ~ Caroline Loftin, Victor Marshall, Sasha Rogalsky
January 4 ~ Derek Mathews
January 5 ~ Anthony Liberatoscioli
January 6 ~ Suzette Miller
January 7 ~ Noah Brown, Matthew Tom-Wolverton, Toni-Jo Kolupanowich,
Rolando Ruiz
January 8 ~ Paul Grzella
January 9 ~ Kimberly Edwards, Thendrel Beth Nirmal
January 10 ~ Millicent Barry, Kyle Kiernan, Della Grace Piperata
January 11 ~ Jennifer Wickham, William Windus, Lisa Tipton,
Jean Edwards, Nicole Casamassimo
January 12 ~ Ken Morrow, Richard Mathews, Hailey Lynn Bender
January 13 ~ Donna Lazartic, Andrew Mehring
January 14 ~ Miah Lucia Chavez
January 15 ~ Claudia Brown, Janine Tirrito
January 16 ~ Jenna Potts, Matthew Daugherty, Kory Soden, Michael Paladini
January 17 ~ Brian Mathews, Deacon Keith McCoy
January 19 ~ Victoria Albani, Addison Kurzawa
January 20 ~ James Wilson, Aurelia Anobile
January 21 ~ Harry Dowden
January 22 ~ Suzanne Vaucher, Meredith Barry, Nathaniel Bender, Janet Eager,
Susan Miller Rogalsky, James Ball, Manuel Ovando
January 23 ~ Rebecca Mullen, Kathleen Conceicao, Brian Nauer
January 24 ~ Mae Kinst
January 25 ~ Mary McMullen, Meghan McMullen, Judy Marine, Thomas Morrow,
Christopher Frost
January 26 ~ Brandon Kurzawa, Guy Scott, Kathy Dowden
January 28 ~ Andrew Hoffman, Peyton Moor, Aubrey Alston
January 29 ~ Lauren Krueger
January 30 ~ Valerie Gibson, Patricia Potts, Lucas Matthews
January 31 ~ Lucas Huntley



Wedding Anniversaries

January 2 ~ Tiffany & David Raphael
January 3 ~ Barry & Katherine Stuart
January 9 ~ Charles & Ruth Kletz
January 10 ~ Robert & Neva Rae Fox
January 13 ~ Gary & Carol Boyer
January 16 ~ Brian & Amy Nauer



Anniversaries of Death

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

FEBRUARY ~ 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting <i>Thrift Shop 11am - 6pm</i>	2 SHIP'S Galley <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 Food Bank
4 <u>8:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>9:30 am</u> Adult Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 am</u> Children's Chapel <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	5 7 pm ECW Meeting SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting	6 <i>Fr. Ron's 53rd Birthday!</i> 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	7 SHIP'S Galley	8 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Mary & Martha Guild Meeting	9 SHIP'S Galley	10 9:30 am - Holy Eucharist ~ Daughters of the King Food Bank <i>Alisa Dupuy -Civil War Mother</i>
11 <u>8:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>9:30 am</u> Adult Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 am</u> Children's Chapel <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	12 SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting	13 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	14 Ash Wednesday <i>7 am - Holy Eucharist</i> <i>12 Noon - Holy Eucharist</i> <i>7 pm - Holy Eucharist</i> SHIP'S Galley <i>St. John's assignment.</i> <i>Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm</i>	15 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting	16 SHIP'S Galley <i>Chinese New Year - Dog</i>	17 Food Bank
18 <u>8:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>9:30 am</u> Adult Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 am</u> Children's Chapel <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	19 <i>President's Day</i> <i>Office is closed.</i> SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting	20 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	21 SHIP'S Galley 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Mary & Martha Guild Meeting	23 SHIP'S Galley	24 Food Bank
25 <u>8:00 am</u> Holy Eucharist <u>9:30 am</u> Adult Choir Rehearsal <u>10:00 am</u> Children's Chapel <u>10:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist	26 SHIP'S Galley AA Meeting	27 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	28 SHIP'S Galley 7:30 pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal			

FEBRUARY ~ INTERCESSIONS



Birthdays

February 1 ~ Susan Bender
February 2 ~ Emily Newton, Candy Mullen, Ella Schueler
February 3 ~ Zoe McCabe, Deborah Duffy, Wesley Cookingham
February 4 ~ Kyle Kurzawa, Daniel Venet
February 5 ~ Dylan Mathews
February 6 ~ Crawford Britt, Father Ron Pollock
February 7 ~ Bill Wickham, Mindy Wolfmayer, Ruth Altamura-Roll
February 8 ~ Peggy McMahan, Tara Kelly
February 9 ~ Kyle Powell, Harold Willard
February 10 ~ Madeline & Victoria Jones, Ryan Wickham,
Kiara Vacchio
February 11 ~ James Knowles, Gretchen Troup, Samantha Venet
February 12 ~ Sarah Strano, Dick Schaub
February 13 ~ Tyler Hamby, Peter Hillman
February 14 ~ Peter Miller
February 15 ~ Hunter Troup, Tracy Andricsak,
Jennifer Dorward-Centolanza
February 17 ~ Neva Rae Fox, Richard Wilson, Henry Szumigala,
Leigh Meaders-Robinson
February 19 ~ Mathew Smith, Cheryl Mastyskarz
February 21 ~ Kim Post, Jeremiah Burton Kelly
February 22 ~ Robert Massey, Gabriella Barkin
February 23 ~ David Soden, Sinead Normant
February 24 ~ Nicholas Jones, Jill Brodsky
February 26 ~ Scott Bender
February 27 ~ Emily Hewett, Andrea Dalrymple, Tamara Billy,
Jake August Agins
February 28 ~ Ruth Kletz, Nicholas Apgar-Fehring,
Danielle Liberatoscioli, Parker Mehring,
Preston Polonyi



Wedding Anniversaries

February 1 ~ Roopal & Verna Tonk
February 11 ~ James & Connie Van Arsdale
February 17 ~ Charles & Kay Halsted
February 21 ~ Debi Apgar & Robin Fehring
February 22 ~ Bill & Caroline Lofton



Anniversaries of Death

February 3 ~ Irene Sidell
February 4 ~ Eleanor Bonham, Allan R. Streeter
February 9 ~ Bob Vitullo
February 11 ~ Jean L. Mathews, Ray Bomberger
February 13 ~ Steven H. Spolarich
February 14 ~ Bob Brady
February 15 ~ Madeline Prodromo
February 16 ~ Noel Haywood, George Bond
February 17~ Vera Nazarenko
February 25 ~ Jane H. Goldsack
February 27 ~ Ethel D. Barry, Walter Edwards
February 28 ~ W. Raymond Jones, Arthur Flinn